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Obese Indian elephants put on a diet

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1209/120918-diet.html>

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18th September, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1209/120918-diet.html>

Elephants working in temples in India's southern Tamil Nadu state are to go on a diet. They may seem to have a relaxing life, but they are too heavy and are becoming unhealthy. The elephants are obese and need to lose kilos. In fact, one temple reports it has an elephant who is 700kg overweight. A temple official told the BBC that he was worried about his elephants and their health. He said the female elephant at his temple was 500kg overweight and that she is now on a diet to reduce her weight.

There are several reasons why the elephants are obese. One is that they do not get enough exercise – they spend long hours chained up inside the temples. Another cause is their diet – people feed them sweets, rice and bread, which are all high in calories. A large number of tourists, including religious pilgrims, visit the temples every day, so the elephants are generally overfed. The animal is worshipped in India as a god. Many Hindus feed them because they believe it will bring them good luck in business.

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1209/120918-diet.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. go on | a. kilos |
| 2. They may seem to | b. elephant |
| 3. need to lose | c. overweight |
| 4. 700kg | d. her weight |
| 5. the female | e. a diet |
| 6. on a diet to reduce | f. have a relaxing life |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. several | a. enough exercise |
| 2. they do not get | b. worshipped in India |
| 3. people feed | c. in calories |
| 4. high | d. reasons why |
| 5. The animal is | e. good luck |
| 6. it will bring them | f. them sweets |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1209/120918-diet.html>

Elephants (1) _____ in India's southern Tamil Nadu state are (2) _____. They may seem to have a relaxing life, but they are too heavy and are becoming unhealthy. The elephants are (3) _____ to lose kilos. In fact, one temple reports it has an elephant who is 700kg overweight. A (4) _____ the BBC that he was (5) _____ elephants and their health. He said the female elephant at his temple was 500kg overweight and that she is now on a diet (6) _____.

There are (7) _____ the elephants are obese. One is that they do not (8) _____ exercise – they spend long hours chained up inside the temples. Another (9) _____ – people feed them sweets, rice and bread, which are all (10) _____. A large number of tourists, including religious pilgrims, visit the temples every day, so the elephants (11) _____. The animal is worshipped in India as a god. Many Hindus feed them because (12) _____ will bring them good luck in business.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1209/120918-diet.html>

Elephants working in temples in India's southern Tamil Nadu state are to (1) _____ on a diet. They may (2) _____ to have a relaxing life, but they are too heavy and are becoming unhealthy. The elephants are obese and need to lose kilos. In (3) _____, one temple reports it has an elephant who is 700kg overweight. A temple official told the BBC that he was worried (4) _____ his elephants and their health. He said the (5) _____ elephant at his temple was 500kg overweight and that she is now on a diet to (6) _____ her weight.

There are (7) _____ reasons why the elephants are obese. One is that they do not get enough exercise – they spend (8) _____ hours chained up inside the temples. Another cause is their diet – people (9) _____ them sweets, rice and bread, which are all high in calories. A large (10) _____ of tourists, including religious pilgrims, visit the temples every day, so the elephants are generally overfed. The animal is worshipped in India (11) _____ a god. Many Hindus feed them because they believe it will bring them good luck (12) _____ business.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) come | (b) go | (c) leave |
| 2. | (a) seen | (b) seep | (c) seem |
| 3. | (a) fact | (b) facts | (c) factual |
| 4. | (a) of | (b) about | (c) from |
| 5. | (a) girl | (b) feminine | (c) female |
| 6. | (a) reduce | (b) deduce | (c) induce |
| 7. | (a) servants | (b) several | (c) starving |
| 8. | (a) long | (b) deep | (c) wide |
| 9. | (a) food | (b) feud | (c) feed |
| 10. | (a) number | (b) size | (c) type |
| 11. | (a) has | (b) as | (c) was |
| 12. | (a) on | (b) by | (c) in |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1209/120918-diet.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. India's trhsueno Tamil Nadu state
2. have a lrniegax life
3. becoming leythuhna
4. a temple ficfloai
5. afleem elephant
6. reduce her igtehw

Paragraph 2

7. vselaer reasons why
8. get enough reiexecs
9. cihdean up
10. high in oraleisc
11. the elephants are generally roeedfv
12. good luck in ssienbsu

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1209/120918-diet.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () exercise – they spend long hours chained up inside the temples. Another cause
- () unhealthy. The elephants are obese and need to lose kilos. In fact, one temple
- () about his elephants and their health. He said the female elephant at his temple was
- (**1**) Elephants working in temples in India’s southern Tamil Nadu state are to go
- () There are several reasons why the elephants are obese. One is that they do not get enough
- () a god. Many Hindus feed them because they believe it will bring them good luck in business.
- () reports it has an elephant who is 700kg overweight. A temple official told the BBC that he was worried
- () calories. A large number of tourists, including religious pilgrims, visit the temples
- () every day, so the elephants are generally overfed. The animal is worshipped in India as
- () is their diet – people feed them sweets, rice and bread, which are all high in
- () 500kg overweight and that she is now on a diet to reduce her weight.
- () on a diet. They may seem to have a relaxing life, but they are too heavy and are becoming

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. Tamil southern India's in Temples state Nadu.

2. relaxing seem life to have They a may.

3. elephants to and are lose need The kilos obese.

4. was about elephants He worried his.

5. now on a diet to reduce her weight She is.

6. are elephants the why reasons Several obese.

7. not enough do get exercise They.

8. long inside Spend up chained temples hours the.

9. as is India god animal in a The worshipped.

10. good It luck will in bring business them.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. DIETS: Search the Internet and find more information about the elephants and their diets. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about diets. Include an imaginary interview with a temple elephant. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a diets expert. Ask him/her three questions about diets. Give him/her three of your opinions on them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.