

IELTS Animal Vocabulary: Gap Fill Exercise

Animals have proved a popular IELTS Speaking topic over the years.

Below you will find questions about animals for each part of the Speaking test. We have removed some of the keywords and placed them at the bottom of each section.

Try and place each word in the correct place. When you have finished go to this page and check your answers. You will also find a glossary at the bottom of the answer page.

Part 1-style questions

Examiner: Do you like animals?

Candidate: It depends on what kind of animal we are talking about. I like farm animals - the kind you encounter when having a walk in rural areas. _____ is an extraordinary time of the year - and I love to see the lambs _____ to their mothers.

Examiner: What kind of animal would you like to have as a pet?

Candidate: I love dogs. In fact, I have a dog that I got from an _____. It had been a _____, so even though it was no longer a _____, it needed to be _____. I love dogs because they are very _____ and obey commands like "Sit!" "Heel!" or "Fetch!"

Examiner: What animal don't you like?

Candidate: I don't like _____ pets. Snakes scare me to death. I don't like the way they _____ around; I always think they might try to sink their _____ into me or wrap themselves around me.

Lambing *stray* *exotic* *fangs*

animal shelter *puppy* *suckling up*

house-trained *companionable* *slither*

Part 2

Describe an interesting animal you have seen.

You should say:

- *where you saw it*
- *what the animal looked like*
- *what happened*

and explain why you think the animal was interesting.

Candidate:

There aren't many large cats _____ wild in Europe, but I once saw one in the Scottish highlands!

It was a Scottish wildcat. It looks similar to a large _____ cat, but its tail is thicker and has a _____ tip with black stripes. Scotland has _____ of _____ farmland - which is precisely the kind of territory wildcats prefer.

They are fairly shy animals and have been on the _____ for a while. Because of this, conservationists have _____ and have been slowly releasing them into the wild. A lot of farmers complained initially, but they have only really posed a threat to _____. In fact, they have proved useful in reducing populations of _____ such as rabbits and _____, their favoured _____.

Wildcats cannot be **tamed** under any circumstances. This is very special.

In Scotland, there has been a high degree of **hybridisation** with **domestic** cats - which is how I met one. A male wildcat was showing an interest in my pet tabby!

well-hedged

prey

tabby

roaming

bred them in captivity

free-range chickens

mosaics

pests

blunt

rodents

brink of extinction

Part 3-style questions

Examiner: How can animals cause problems for humans?
[Evaluate]

Candidate: They only really pose a problem when they pose a threat to our safety or hunt animals we _____. The wildcat I mentioned earlier is very shy, but it was hunted by farmers who felt they posed a threat to their _____.

Examiner: What kind of animals do people keep as pets in your country? [Identify]

Candidate: In my country, many people keep birds - for example, parrots or _____. They keep them in a cage, and sometimes they even take them for walks. At times they are allowed to fly free within an apartment - but you have to make sure you keep all the windows closed, or they may escape.

Examiner: Do you think animals will still be important in the future?[Predict]

Candidate: Absolutely - they are essential for a balanced _____. It's a tragedy that we have pushed many animals into extinction. Maybe in the future, we can start to bring some of them back with _____.

herd

ecosystem

livestock

cloning technology

budgies

Now check your answers on this page.