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## THE USE OF PRESS ARTICLES IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING – A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE

I consider reading press articles an indispensable element of a foreign language teaching. Reading newspapers is beneficial in many ways and it makes learning both more attractive and effective. Press articles are an invaluable source of information and can be used to teach many aspects of language: grammar, vocabulary, idioms, collocations as well as styles and registers. They allow you and your students to keep in touch with technological advances, trends in art, music, fashion, literature as well as grasp cultural idiosyncrasies.

The usefulness of press articles has been confirmed by several experts, such as Joe Pemagbi, Associate Professor and head of the Department of Language Education, Njala University College, University of Sierra Leone, who is a strong advocate of teaching a foreign language through reading all kinds of texts that are published in newspapers. His opinion can be summarised in the following quotation:

*(...) Editorials and gossip columns, serious and light-hearted newspapers can be used to teach formal and informal varieties of English; editorials and feature articles can provide passages for summary and comprehension; letters to the editor can demonstrate good features of letter writing; reports on court proceedings can illustrate questioning techniques; and various articles can provide direct and reported speech for grammar samples of study. Of immediate benefit is the fact that one issue of a newspaper may contain material for teaching various types of writing: description, analysis and synthesis, comparison and contrast, and process description; and they provide models of good written form: paragraphing, topic sentence, introductions, conclusions, etc. (Pemagbi 2007).*

This supports the claim that press articles are enormously helpful in teaching writing skills (various types of texts and registers), yet they are obviously effective in teaching reading skills as well as speaking skills (as they stimulate discussions). For these reasons reading newspapers provides a sense of achievement and is a measure of your students' progress.

The two articles I present below, namely *Aiming at the Elephants* and *The Forgotten Beast* deal with the situation of two endangered species – elephants and hippopotamuses. They are a great illustration of the issues dealt with in almost

every course book, and should be read towards the end of a series of classes devoted to environmental issues.

When I teach English to my students, I aim at the integration of skills. For that reason, I always try to combine reading with speaking, vocabulary work and writing, if possible. That is why, apart from original articles, I also include:

- Teacher notes 1 & 2 where I suggest my own idea and the way in which I dealt with these texts in class;
- Handouts 1 & 4 being collections of words and phrases which should be introduced before reading in order to facilitate students' work;
- Handouts 2, 3 & 5 which teach and revise target vocabulary as well as check comprehension and trigger discussion;
- Handout 6 which is a concise revision of how to write a report.

Press articles reflect reality. Students have a feeling that what they read and discuss in class is an authentic issue. The discussions based on the two articles have always been successful. Some students were enthusiastic about finding ways to help protect endangered species; some were sceptical saying that nothing could be done to improve the situation, but nobody remained indifferent. In most groups all the students were involved, which I consider the ultimate goal of every class devoted to speaking. I believe that my students' involvement was so great because the discussions were based on authentic materials and a genuine issue.

I recommend these articles for advanced learners as the problem the two texts deal with is quite complex and requires a considerable language competence.

## Bibliography

- Emerson T., 1994. *The Forgotten Beast*, „Newsweek”, 21 November, p. 55.  
 Masland T., 1999. *Aiming at the Elephants*, „Newsweek”, 13 December, p. 59.  
 Pemagbi J., 2007. *Using Newspapers and Radio in English Language Teaching* in <http://exchanges.state.gov/forum/vols/vol33/no3/p53.htm>, 27 th May 2007.

## Aiming at the Elephants

*Long after an emotional worldwide campaign to ban ivory sales, poaching is on the rise again in Africa.*

By Tom Masland



**Photo 1:** Taken by Schuyler Shepherd in the Ngorongoro crater, Tanzania.

**Source:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Tanzanian\\_Elephant.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Tanzanian_Elephant.jpg)

[1] THE KILLERS WERE PROFESSIONALS. The prey – a herd of 10 elephants – had huddled together in a group, the giant animals’ instinctive defense against predators. Each fell in turn, killed instantly by a single high-velocity bullet to the brain. Game scouts came upon the heap of warm carcasses the next morning, during a patrol in the dense bush of Zimbabwe’s Zambezi Valley. The tusks of eight elephants had been hacked out; the poachers apparently fled before finishing the work. The scouts were disgusted, but no longer surprised. “Poaching is going on all over the place—it’s almost like an armed insurrection”, said one local hunter.

“We’ve not seen anything like this in our area before”. [2] Elephant poaching, largely checked a decade ago after an emotional worldwide campaign to ban ivory sales, is on the rise again in Africa. And once again the issue has polarized the region. Advocates of a total ban say the problem stems from a decision three years ago to permit three elephant-rich southern African countries to sell ivory collected legally during herd management. They say that the sale last April of 59 tons of tusks stockpiled by Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe has reinvigorated smuggling networks. The southern African countries, which want to expand sales, suspect they’re the object of

a PR offensive by advocacy groups based in Europe and the United States. The two camps will collide in April, at a meeting in Kenya of the United Nations’ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species to decide on whether to renew the total ban.

[3] The fight may focus on Zimbabwe. A new census conducted last month found elephant carcasses strewn the length of the Zambezi Valley, the country’s best-known wildlife preserve. The World-wide Fund for Nature study, leaked last week to a U.S. reporter, estimated that poachers have killed at least 350 elephants in the last year, a twofold increase. Zimbabwe’s wildlife authorities, who had reported 81 elephants killed, didn’t respond to faxed messages about the report. But one official earlier suggested Western groups were paying poachers in order to further calls for a new ban on ivory sales. “We sus-



pect that someone is paying a very big mischief with our country”, said Deputy Environment Minister Daniel Chininga-Chindori.

[4] A better explanation is corruption within the troubled country. (...) South African police, who seized three truckloads of financial documents from Billy Rautenbach’s Johannesburg mansion last month, suspect he has been permitted to use hunting and fishing concessions along the Zambezi as a cover for ivory dealing. Billy Rautenbach is a 40-year-old heir to a multinational empire begun by his father, who

founded a transport company in partnership with Mugabe’s<sup>1</sup> Zanu-PF party. Rautenbach couldn’t be reached for comment.

[5] Once demand for ivory rose, the smuggling epidemic may have been inevitable. For murky reasons, the black-market price of ivory quadrupled in the past six months. The region already was rife with smuggling: gold, diamonds and cobalt finance rebels and governments alike. Noteworthy busts are on the rise. Kenyan police caught a North Korean diplomat on his way home with 700 kilos of tusks and Chinese customs

agents intercepted nearly two tons shipped from South Africa.

[6] In the Zambezi Valley, the riverside safari camps close and even the hunters move out by December, when the rains begin and the heat, often over 40 degrees Celsius, sets in. There are no roads in most of the vast territory, only elephant tracks. The few poorly-equipped game scouts can’t cover the whole area. In the wilderness, the elephants are on their own.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Mugabe – president of Zimbabwe.

## HANDOUT 1

### Aiming at the Elephants – GLOSSARY

predator (n, C) – an animal that kills and eats other animals

prey (n, U) – animals hunted for food; *be/fall prey to something, beasts of prey, birds of prey*

carcass (n, C) – the dead body of an animal

flee (v) fled, fled – escape; *you flee from something / somebody or you flee a person /place-* run away from the person, place, especially of danger or fear

ban (n) – an official statement that something must not be done;

*you impose a ban, enforce a ban, obey a ban, evade a ban, break a ban, disobey a ban, ease a ban, lift a ban*

*you ban somebody from doing something*

*effective ban, ineffectual ban, partial ban, rigid ban, strict ban, total ban*

*a ban applies to something, comes into force, (still) holds, stays in force*

ban (v, reg.) – state officially that something must not be done; **forbid**;

*you ban somebody from doing something*

tusk (n, C) – (of an elephant, wild boar, walrus) tusks are long pointed teeth often carved and fashioned into jewellery

game (n, U) – wild animals and birds hunted for sport or food; *a game reserve, big game* – the larger animals like elephants, lion, tigers, etc., *to hunt wild game*

advocate (n, C) – /ædvəkət / **supporter**

advocate (v, reg.) – /ædvəkeit / **support**

advocacy group – a group of strong supporters of a certain policy or idea

invigorate (v, reg.) – make vigorous, give strength or courage to do something;

**strengthen, liven, enliven, refresh, restore**

collide (v, reg.) – 1. (people, things) hit one another violently while moving very quickly

2. (people) come together and have a big argument about something; **clash**

census (n, C) – an official survey of the population of a country carried out by the government in order to get information about people living in that country; *you carry out / conduct / hold a census*

strew (v) /stru: / strewed, strewed / strewn – **scatter**

seize (v, reg.) – take possession of something, take hold of something suddenly and violently; **grasp, capture, confiscate**

intercept (v, reg.) – stop somebody or something traveling from one place to another before they reach the destination

**HANDOUT 2**

## Aiming at the Elephants

**A) In the text, find words and phrases that mean.**

1. gathered (para.1) \_\_\_\_\_
2. one after another (para.1) \_\_\_\_\_
3. immediately, on the spot (para.1) \_\_\_\_\_
4. removed by rough cutting (para.1) \_\_\_\_\_
5. stopped (para.2) \_\_\_\_\_
6. divided into two opposing groups (para.2) \_\_\_\_\_
7. originates from (para.2) \_\_\_\_\_
8. stored (para.2) \_\_\_\_\_
9. enlarge (para.2) \_\_\_\_\_
10. reintroduce (para.2) \_\_\_\_\_
11. double growth (para.3) \_\_\_\_\_
12. unavoidable (para.5) \_\_\_\_\_
13. unclear (para.5) \_\_\_\_\_
14. became four times bigger (para.5) \_\_\_\_\_

**B) Paraphrase or explain what the following expressions mean.**

1. is on the rise (para.2) \_\_\_\_\_
2. leaked (para.3) \_\_\_\_\_
3. a troubled country (para.4) \_\_\_\_\_
4. as a cover (para.4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. was rife with smuggling (para.5) \_\_\_\_\_

**C) Arrange these events chronologically as described in the article.****D) Answer the following questions.**

1. Why, in your opinion, did the partial lifting of the ban on selling ivory reinvigorate smuggling networks?
2. Why did the permit polarise the region?
3. What are the two opposing camps?
4. Is the total ban on killing elephants in the wild being fully obeyed?
5. Are the authorities of the countries in question interested in reducing the scale of poaching and smuggling?
6. What conclusion do you draw from the information presented in the fourth paragraph?
7. Present the connections between the country's authorities and smugglers.
8. Why is the current situation called an epidemic?
9. Is the situation any better in other African countries?

**E) What measures would you suggest to improve the situation?****F) Write an emotional appeal against wearing ivory jewellery.**

**HANDOUT 3****G) Fill the blanks with appropriate words and phrases.**

1. It is high time the government *i* \_\_\_\_\_ a ban on smoking in public places.
2. Hundreds of zebras and antelopes fall *p* \_\_\_\_\_ to *p* \_\_\_\_\_ such as lions and tigers every single day.
3. Tom was caught driving under the influence and that is why he was *b* \_\_\_\_\_ from driving for three long years.
4. A national *c* \_\_\_\_\_ conducted in Poland in 2002 showed that 15 percent of our society live in dire poverty.
5. Tom has always been a strong *a* \_\_\_\_\_ of the introduction of school uniforms.
6. Psychologists say that children's aggressiveness *s* \_\_\_\_\_ from their parents' lack of attention.
7. The world of politics has always been *r* \_\_\_\_\_ with corruption and bribery. Unfortunately it seems to be an intrinsic element of it.
8. In this year's Oscar Awards the name of the winner for the best male part was somehow *l* \_\_\_\_\_ to the press and was known two days before the ceremony itself.
9. The question whether to build a motorway through a nature preserve is *p* \_\_\_\_\_ both politicians and local people.
10. The company has been successful in the last two years and now the management is planning to *e* \_\_\_\_\_ exports.
11. The local authorities are hoping that the latest discovery of the world's largest dinosaur graveyard will allow the *r* \_\_\_\_\_ of the tourist industry in the whole region.
12. It is an open secret that the bakery is just a *c* \_\_\_\_\_ for his shady business in Belarus.
13. At the UN convention, the President of Laos made a desperate appeal for financial aid for his *t* \_\_\_\_\_ country where fighting hasn't ceased for the last 7 years.
14. As police statistics show the number of juvenile crimes has been on the *r* \_\_\_\_\_ for the last ten years.
15. The *b* \_\_\_\_\_ *-m* \_\_\_\_\_ price of diamonds is three times as high as the official one.
16. When they saw our new cannon, the enemy *f* \_\_\_\_\_ in fear.

## TEACHER NOTES 1

### Aiming at the Elephants

1. Introduce the subject.
2. Ask your students if they can provide examples of endangered species (Siberian tigers, wolves and beavers in Poland, panda bears in China).
3. Pre-teach some vocabulary – handout 1.
4. Distribute handout 2.
5. Ask your students to read the article and concentrate on ex. C and D.
6. Having dealt with the factual side of the article, go through ex. A and B.
7. Initiate a discussion about the ways of improving the situation of elephants, ex. E.
8. As homework ask your students to write a letter, ex. F.
9. Postpone the last vocabulary exercise till the next class.

#### A) In the text, find words and phrases that mean.

1. gathered (para.1) – **huddled**
2. one after another (para.1) – **in turn**
3. immediately, on the spot (para.1) – **instantly**
4. removed by rough cutting (para.1)– **hacked out**
5. stopped (para.2) – **checked**
6. divided into two opposing groups (para.2) – **polarized**
7. originates from (para.2) – **stems from**
8. stored (para.2) – **stockpiled**
9. enlarge (para.2) – **expand**
10. reintroduce (para.2) – **renew**
11. double growth (para.3) – **twofold increase**
12. unavoidable (para.5) – **inevitable**
13. unclear (para.5) – **murky**
14. became four times bigger (para.5) – **quadrupled**

#### B) Paraphrase or explain what the following expressions mean.

1. is on the rise (para. 2) **is growing**
2. leaked (para. 3) **became known to the public against someone's will or without permission**
3. a troubled country (para. 4) **a country full of conflicts**
4. as a cover (para. 4) **as something that seems to be respectable or legal, but is actually intended to hide secret or illegal activities**
5. was rife with smuggling (para. 5) **there was a lot of smuggling going on** rife (adj.) – if something bad or unpleasant is rife, it happens very frequently; **common, widespread**

#### C) Arrange these events chronologically as described in the article.

- elephants killed on a large scale (implied in the text, something we deduce)
- emotional worldwide campaign to ban ivory sales
- imposition of a total ban on trade in ivory

- a decision to permit three elephant-rich countries to sell ivory collected legally during herd management
- smuggling reinvigorated due to lack of a strict ban
- need to expand sales
- a strong veto of the advocates of a total ban
- two opposing parties are supposed to collide upon the issue in April

**D) Answer the following questions.**

1. Why, in your opinion, did the partial lifting of the ban on selling ivory reinvigorate smuggling networks?  
**Most probably because the partial permit to sell some ivory is used as a cover to sell much more than originally allowed.**
2. Why did the permit polarise the region?  
**Because there are advocates of a total ban there and those who would like to expand the sale.**
3. What are the two opposing camps?  
**The southern African countries which would like to expand sales and advocacy groups based in Europe and the USA which would like to renew the total ban.**
4. Is the total ban on killing elephants in the wild being fully obeyed?  
**Of course it is not. Elephants are killed even in wildlife preserves. Dead elephants were found along the whole length of Zambezi Valley, the country's best known wildlife preserve.**
5. Are the authorities of the countries in question interested in reducing the scale of poaching and smuggling?  
**No, the figures they present in their reports are much lower than those presented by independent sources. Zimbabwe's wildlife authorities reported 81 elephants killed last year whereas the Worldwide Fund for Nature reported at least 350 elephants poached last year. The country's officials refuse to comment on the discrepancies, and suspect a mischief is being paid to the country.**
6. What conclusion do you draw from the information presented in the fourth paragraph?  
**The highest country's authorities are involved in the shady business and they derive benefits from poaching and smuggling ivory.**
7. Present the connections between the country's authorities and smugglers.  
**Billy Rautenbach was permitted to use hunting and fishing concessions as a cover for ivory dealing. Rautenbach is an heir to a multinational empire begun by his father, who founded a transport company in partnership with Mugabe's ZanuPF party.**
8. Why is the current situation called an epidemic?  
**Even diplomats smuggle; a North Korean diplomat was caught smuggling 700 kilos of tusks; Chinese customs officers intercepted nearly two tons of tusks shipped from Africa.**

9. Is the situation any better in other African countries?

**No, because money gained from smuggling not only ivory but also gold, diamonds and cobalt is used to support rebels and governments alike-Kenya.**

**E) What measures would you suggest to improve the situation?**

Here are some of the ideas my students came up with

ARGUMENTS	COUNTERARGUMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reintroduce a total ban on ivory sales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>this will not stop poaching</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reinforce guards, equip game scouts with guns and vehicles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to do this you need money</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop tourist industry – this will help raise money</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>it is evident from the article that reinforced patrols are not a sufficient solution</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raise people's awareness of the problem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>how?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>repeat campaigns in Europe and the USA to convince people not to buy ivory jewellery (similar to the campaign against wearing fur coats; now it is very passé to wear a fur coat, the same can be done about ivory jewellery)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>this will not stop poaching totally, the locals will keep killing for money</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raise awareness of local people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>they need money to live, they won't bother about elephants if they have no resources to feed their children</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>let the locals have their share in incomes from tourism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tourism means devastation of the natural environment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>punish poaching severely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>severe punishment has never been a sufficient deterrent</li> </ul>

### F) HOMEWORK

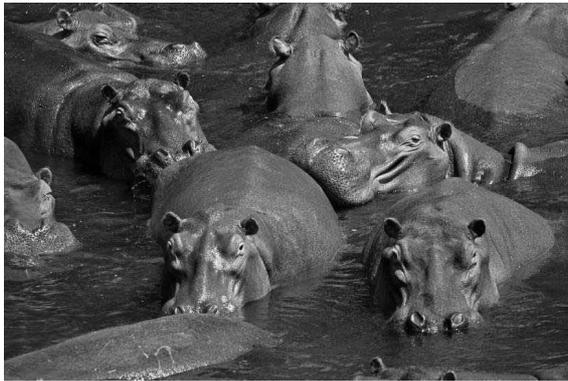
Ask your students to write an emotional appeal against wearing ivory jewellery.

**G) Fill the blanks with appropriate words and phrases.**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. imposed         | 9. polarizing      |
| 2. prey; predators | 10. expand         |
| 3. banned          | 11. reinvigoration |
| 4. census          | 12. cover          |
| 5. advocate        | 13. troubled       |
| 6. stems           | 14. rise           |
| 7. rife            | 15. black-market   |
| 8. leaked          | 16. fled           |

## The Forgotten Beast

Environment: Ivory hunters go after the hippo



**Photo 1:** They like to gather in herds at muddy pools and just sit there, virtually motionless.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hippo\\_pod\\_edit.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Hippo_pod_edit.jpg)

[1] SAVE THE MIGHTY ELEPHANT! Who could argue? Well, the hippopotamus might. In 1989, with the elephant facing the threat of extinction, the nations of the world agreed to ban trade in elephant ivory. Now, ivory hunters who once shot elephants for their tusks are shooting hippos for their teeth. If nothing is done, experts say, the hippo may be wiped out in some areas of Africa. „The hippo”, laments Dr. Simon Lyster of the World Wide Fund for Nature, „is the forgotten beast”.

[2] Unfortunately for hippos, they're easy targets. They like to gather in herds at muddy pools and just sit there, virtually motionless. Hunters simply shoot the hippos in the water. The carcasses soon expand with gas and literally explode. Then, says

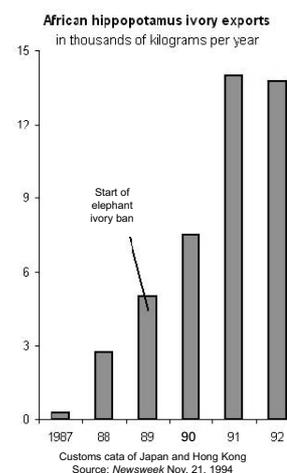
Lyster, it's just a matter of picking up the teeth.

[3] Not surprisingly, there's a new campaign to Save the Hippo. At the annual Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Florida this week, France, Belgium and Benin will propose strict quotas and monitoring of the hunting and trade in hippos and hippo parts. Current rules require only that nations keep records on the trade. The data so far are spotty – but generally gloomy for the hippo. From 1988 to 1992, the number of hippo teeth carved in Hong Kong and re-exported rose from 224 to 3,868 – with most of those shipments bound for the United States.

[4] The trade in hippo ivory follows much the same route as the old trade in elephant tusks – from hunters in

Africa (mainly the Congo, Burundi and Tanzania) through middlemen in Europe (France, Belgium, Spain) to carvers in Hong Kong and Japan. Hippo ivory is a bit more brittle and less desirable than elephant ivory, so it sells for a good deal less – about \$50 to \$70 per kilo wholesale, compared with \$400 to \$500 for elephant ivory. Once it is fashioned into trinkets and jewelry, however, few consumers can tell the difference. The trade is booming. In a rare census of African hippos last year, conservationists were alarmed to find a population of only 160,000, or about a quarter the estimated number of elephants.

[5] Some conservationists now argue for imposing the same restrictions on hippo and elephant ivory. They



would simultaneously tighten the trade in hippo teeth and ease the total ban on trade in elephant ivory. These proposals are backed by Zimbabwe, Botswana and other southern African countries that say the elephant-ivory ban has created an excess of elephants. These nations want to thin the herds but don't want to get stuck with piles of unsalable ivory. Nations like Sudan and Malawi are already sitting on large store of elephant ivory and waiting – more or less dutifully – for an end to the trade ban. (...)

[6] **Poaching spree:** And an open market for hippos, which live mainly in national parks in southern and eastern Africa. Even there, protections are failing, in part because many nations, including Zaire and Malawi, had used proceeds from the sale of elephant tusks to pay park

police. Now that income is gone, and some parks have become hunting grounds. Zaire's Virunga National Park was one of the largest hippo homes in Africa as of 1989, with more than 22,000 hippos. Traffic, a wildlife conservation group, reports that following the imposition of the trade ban on elephant ivory there was a hippo-poaching spree by Zairean soldiers, which has reduced Virunga's hippo count by more than half.

[7] Many African villagers don't pity the poor hippo. They hunt it for food, hides and traditional medicines (made from the fat and gallbladder) – or for self-defense. Hippos, when riled, are dangerous. They kill dozens of Africans each year – more than any other animal – by trampling, biting or upending boats. In one small village in

Cameroon, says Tom De Meulenaer of Traffic Europe, the seemingly ponderous beasts killed six fishermen just last year, and the villagers are now ambushing hippos at their watering hole. (...)

[8] Malawi is among many African nations that support new hippo protections; some are even moving unilaterally to save the herds. Zambia restricts hippo hunting to safaris in national parks and gives local people 35 percent of the safari revenues. That should encourage locals to help fend off poachers and to quit hunting hippos themselves. And if ivory hunters do leave the hippo alone? They'll probably move on to other animals with carvable teeth, like walrus or whales.

Tony Emerson *with*  
Sudarsan Raghavan  
*in New York*

## HANDOUT 4

### The Forgotten Beast

#### GLOSSARY

quota (n, C) – 1. a limited number or quantity of goods allowed to be manufactured, sold, or imported

2. the number of immigrants allowed to enter a country

brittle (adj.) – fragile, breakable, delicate

wholesale (adj.) – refers to the activity of buying and selling goods in large quantities and therefore at cheaper prices, esp. the activity of selling goods to shopkeepers who then sell them to the public

trinket (n, C) – a piece of jewellery or small ornament that is worth very little money; a small fancy article

spree (n, C) – a fairly short period of doing something enjoyable in an excessive way

proceeds (n, pl) – profits of an undertaking; money obtained from some event or activity

hide (n, C) – the of a large animal such as a cow, horse, or elephant, which can be used for making leather

gallbladder (n, C) – a vessel attached to the liver containing and discharging gall, a bitter liquid

trample (v, reg.) – tread heavily

rile (v, inf.) – annoy, irritate

ponderous (adj.) – 1. very dull and serious with no excitement; *a ponderous style of writing*

2. large and heavy; *a table with ponderous legs, ponderous royal tombs*

3. very slow and clumsy

unilateral (adj.) – one-sided; done by or affecting one side only;

*a unilateral declaration*

revenue (n, U or pl) – 1. the money that a company or organisation receives over a fixed period of time

2. the money that the government receives through taxation, the total annual income of the State

walrus (n, C) – a large sea-animal of the arctic regions with two long pointing-down tusks, and which looks like a huge seal

**HANDOUT 5****The Forgotten Beast****A) Answer the following questions.**

1. In what way did the ban on trade in elephant ivory affect the situation of hippos?
2. Why are they easy targets?
3. What measures are being taken to save the hippo from extinction?
4. What route does hippo ivory take to the end user?
5. How does hippo ivory compare with elephant ivory?
6. What proposals have conservationists come up with?
7. Who supports these proposals and why?
8. What is the paradoxical effect of introducing a total ban on trade in elephant ivory?
9. What is the attitude of local people towards the hippo? Are they likely to cooperate in the fight against poachers?
10. What steps have already been taken to save the hippo and where?

**B) What facts and figures are used to describe the situation?****C) In the text, find words and phrases that mean.**

1. exterminated (para.1) \_\_\_\_\_
2. collecting (para.2) \_\_\_\_\_
3. heading for (para.3) \_\_\_\_\_
4. flourishing (para.4) \_\_\_\_\_
5. at the same time (para.5) \_\_\_\_\_
6. supported (para.5) \_\_\_\_\_
7. obediently (para.5) \_\_\_\_\_
8. overturning (para.7) \_\_\_\_\_
9. apparently (para.7) \_\_\_\_\_
10. scare away (para.8) \_\_\_\_\_

**D) Use your own words to explain the following.**

1. to ease \_\_\_\_\_
2. to tighten \_\_\_\_\_
3. to thin \_\_\_\_\_
4. to ambush \_\_\_\_\_

**E) In the light of these facts, suggest some ways to protect the both species.****F) Write a report for the annual Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Combine the data from both *Aiming at the Elephants* and *The Forgotten Beast* to describe the situation of the two species.****NOTE**

Remember that you are writing to people familiar with the situation. Do not try to include every single piece of information, choose the most striking figures. In the closing paragraph, suggest some measures to be taken but be brief and do not become emotional.

## HANDOUT 6

### REPORT

- ◆ is a formal piece of writing based on research with arguments supported by figures;
- ◆ is the most impersonal kind of writing with the use of present tenses, reported speech and passive structures;
- ◆ is written for a person in authority (a manager, a committee), for an informed reader;
- ◆ has a clear structure: information is presented in separate sections; each section has a heading.

### Structure

- In the introductory paragraph you state the purpose of the report, its content and source of information;
- In the main body, you present findings, report observations; you may quote, speculate, generalise;
- In the final paragraph you summarise the main points presented in the main body; you may present your recommendation; the closing paragraph is often called *Conclusion*.

### Writing a report

- Present information in a clear, objective way;
- Be brief, avoid irrelevant details and expressing personal opinions;
- Use linking words.

Useful expressions

#### Introductory paragraph

*This report is intended to describe/present*

*The aim /purpose of this report is to*

*This report describes*

*It is based on / it draws on*

#### The main body

To report observations: *it seems that it appears that*

To quote: *according to X in the words of X*

To comment: *interestingly oddly surprisingly not surprisingly predictably  
as might be expected as might have been expected*

To generalise: *in general on the whole in the main*

#### The closing paragraph

*To conclude/to summarise*

*It is recommended that*

*In conclusion*

*To sum up / all in all*

To make a recommendation: *one solution might be it is/would be advisable  
all things considered taking everything into account*

Compiled from:

Acklam R., 2003. *First Certificate. Gold*. Harlow, Essex, England: Longman.

Obee B., Evans V., 2003. *Upstream, Upper Intermediate*. Express Publishing. New Greenham Park, Newbury, Berkshire: Liberty House.

O'Connell S., 2003. *Advanced English C.A.E.* Harlow, Essex, England: Longman.

## TEACHER NOTES 2

### The Forgotten Beast

1. Start the class with exe. G, handout 3.
2. Ask some students to read their appeals in defence of elephants.
3. Inform them that now they will read an article from which they will find out how a ban on trade in elephant ivory affected some other species.
4. Pre-teach some vocabulary – handout 4.
5. Distribute the text and handout 5 asking your students to concentrate on exe. A and B.
6. Deal with vocabulary exercises C and D.
7. Initiate a debate, exe. E.
8. Ask your students to write a report, distribute handout 6.

### A) Answer the following questions.

1. In what way did the ban on trade in elephant ivory affect the situation of hippos?

**Poachers who once shot elephants for their tusks are shooting hippos for their teeth.**

2. Why are they easy targets?  
They gather in pools and remain motionless.
3. What measures are being taken to save the hippo from extinction?  
**A campaign to save the hippo has been launched. At the annual Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, France, Belgium and Benin will propose strict quotas and monitoring of the hunting and trade in hippos and hippo parts.**
4. What route does hippo ivory take to the end user?  
**The same as elephant ivory.**



5. How does hippo ivory compare with elephant ivory?  
**Hippo ivory is a bit more brittle and less desirable than elephant ivory but when fashioned into jewellery it does not differ much. Still it is much cheaper than elephant ivory; hippo ivory sells for \$50 – \$70 per kilo whereas elephant ivory for \$400 – \$500 per kilo.**

6. What proposals have conservationists come up with?  
**They want to impose the same restrictions on hippo and elephant ivory. They would simultaneously tighten the trade in hippo teeth and ease the ban on trade in elephant ivory.**
7. Who supports these proposals and why?  
**Zimbabwe, Botswana and other southern African countries. They would like to thin their herds but do not want to get stuck with plenty of unsaleable ivory.**
8. What is the paradoxical effect of introducing a total ban on trade in elephant ivory?  
**Many African countries used proceeds from the sale of elephant ivory to pay park police and thus provide protection to animals. Now this source of money is gone and some national parks have become hunting grounds.**
9. What is the attitude of local people towards the hippo? Are they likely to cooperate in the fight against poachers?  
**The locals hunt the hippos for food, hides, and to produce traditional medicines. Besides, they kill them for self-defence because when riled hippos are dangerous to people.**
10. What steps have already been taken to save the hippo and where?  
**Zambia restricts hippo hunting to safaris in national parks and gives local people 35 per cent of the safari revenues in the hope that that will motivate locals to fend off poachers. Malawi and other African countries support new hippo protections.**

**B) What facts and figures are used to describe the situation?**

- 1989 a total ban on trade in elephant ivory
- poachers start killing hippos for their teeth
- in the span of three years from 1989 to 1992 the amount of hippo teeth sold grows dramatically from 224 to 3,868 shipments
- hippo ivory much cheaper than elephant ivory \$50 – \$70 per kilo for hippo ivory \$400 – \$500 per kilo for elephant ivory
- according to the last year's census the population of hippos reduced to 160 000, population of elephants – 640 000
- conservationists appeal to impose the same restrictions on both hippo and elephant ivory, tightening the trade on hippo ivory and easing the total ban on trade in elephant ivory
- these proposals backed by Zimbabwe, Botswana and other African countries
- paradoxically in Zaire, Malawi and other countries the total ban on trade in elephant ivory led to the worsening of those animals' situation due to the fact that these countries used money obtained from selling ivory to protect their national parks; imposition of the trade ban on elephant ivory led to a hippo-poaching spree by Zairean soldiers

- there is little hope for co-operation in protecting hippos from local people, who themselves hunt them for food, hides, medicines and for self-defence
- in some African countries measures have already been taken
  - ◆ Zambia restricts hippo hunting to safaris in national parks and gives local people 35 per cent of the safari revenues in the hope that that will motivate locals to fend off poachers
  - ◆ Malawi and other African countries support new hippo protections

**C) In the text, find words and phrases that mean.**

1. exterminated (para.1) – **wiped out**
2. collecting (para.2) – **picking up**
3. heading for (para.3) – **bound for**
4. flourishing (para.4) – **booming**
5. at the same time (para.5) – **simultaneously**
6. supported (para.5) – **backed**
7. obediently (para.5) – **dutifully**
8. overturning (para.7) – **upending**
9. apparently (para.7) – **seemingly**
10. scare away (para.8) – **fend off**

**D) Use your own words to explain the following.**

1. to ease – **to make less strict**
2. to tighten – **to make stricter or more efficient**
3. to thin – **to reduce the number, to become less crowded**
4. to ambush – **to attack after hiding and waiting**

**NOTE**

Draw your students' attention to the fact that this text comes from Newsweek and that is why is written in American English

<b>American English</b>	<b>British English</b>
self-defense	self-defence
unsalable	unsaleable
jewelry	jewellery
spotty	patchy