

A day at the spa – for dolphins

Listening comprehension

1. Listen to the first part of the text. This version contains 12 mistakes. Underline each wrong word and write your corrections in the right column. You will hear the text twice.

It seems humans aren't the only species that likes to have a good skin treatment.	(01)
Dolphins had been observed (and filmed) queueing up, like people at a popular	(02)
spa, to swim over corals so they can rub different parts of their bodies against them.	(03)
Researchers think dolphins might be doing so because it helps their skin.	(04)
Angela Ziltener is a wildlife biologist at the University of Zurich that has been	(05)
swimming with bottlenose dolphins in the northern Red Sea near Egypt for many	(06)
years. Being with the dolphins for quite a long time has meant she has gained their	(07)
trust, becoming an "adopted member of the pod", as she puts it.	(08)
Because they think of Ziltener as one of them, the dolphins act actually around her,	(09)
doing things they would normally do when other dolphins are around. This means	(10)
Ziltener can observe behaviours that other humans cannot. One behaviour in	(11)
particular interested the biologist. She saw the dolphins crushing up against certain	(12)
types of coral and sponge again and again, as if on purpose. If there is more than	(13)
one dolphin doing this in the same space, they don't fight each other to rub against	(14)
the coral, but change their turn and then go, Ziltener says. It was often after having a	(15)
nap that the dolphins would perform the coral rubbing behaviour, Ziltener said:	(16)
"It's almost like they were showering, cleaning themselves ... [after they] get up for	(17)
the day". And it seems the behaviour is something the dolphins are keen to teach	(18)
their young: calves over one year old have been observed watching adults brush	(19)
them against the coral.	(20)

2. Listen to the second part of the text (paras. 7–15), and tick (✓) the right answers.

a) Angela Ziltener and other researchers ...

- didn't publish their analysed results. ()
- published their analysed results. ()
- weren't able to analyse their results. ()

b) In corals and sponges, researchers found ...

- 17 compounds. ()
- 70 compounds. ()
- no compounds. ()

c) Ziltener and her team ...

- have finished their studies about dolphins and coral. ()
- will now study the eating habits of dolphins. ()
- will go on with their studies about dolphins and coral. ()

d) Ziltener's study has proven ...

- the importance of protecting coral reef systems. ()
- that dolphins are destroying coral reef systems. ()
- that dolphins are getting skin problems from coral. ()

Reading comprehension

1. Read the first part of the text (paras. 1–7), and decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F), or not mentioned (N). Check the correct box.

Statement	T	F	N
a) Dolphins like a special kind of skin treatment.			
b) Angela Ziltener is an expert on many fish species.			
c) The dolphins didn't accept Ziltener as one of them.			
d) Ziltener found out that dolphins have a coral rubbing routine after napping.			
e) The cleaning behaviour of dolphins seems to be something they're born with.			
f) Dolphins are not only rubbing against corals but also against stones and rocks.			

2. Lies den zweiten Teil des Textes (8–15) und beantworte die folgenden Fragen (stichpunktartig) auf Deutsch.

a) Was denkt Angela Ziltener, warum sich die Delfine an den Korallen reiben?

b) Können die Forscher ihre Theorie über den lindernden Schleim beweisen? Begründe.

c) Was plant Ziltener noch zu untersuchen? Nenne zwei Aspekte.

Vocabulary

1. Find a word or expression **that means the same** as each of the words (a–k) below. The paragraphs where you can find the words in the article are indicated in brackets.

a) illness (para. 0)	
b) to line up (para. 1)	
c) confidence (para. 2)	
d) to see (para. 3)	
e) to battle (para. 4)	
f) eager (para. 6)	
g) obvious (para. 7)	
h) quality (para. 10)	
i) to relieve (para. 11)	
j) to keep safe (para. 12)	
k) to vary (para. 14)	

2. Look at the text again. Match the following words (a–h) with their definitions (A–J). There are two definitions that you will not need.

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Word	Definition
a) treatment (para. 1)	A an official rule
b) behaviour (para. 3)	B the reason for which something is done or created
c) purpose (para. 4)	C a chemical combination of two or more ingredients
d) report (para. 9)	D to protect something from harm or destruction
e) compound (para. 10)	E a usually detailed account or statement
f) sample (para. 11)	F medical care given to a person to cure them of an illness
g) regulation (para. 11)	G a small amount of something taken for scientific testing or analysis
h) conserve (para. 15)	H to put something at risk
	I the way someone acts, especially towards others
	J to continue to exist in spite of a particular danger



a)	b)	c)	d)	e)	f)	g)	h)

Grammar

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one. Use the **KEYWORD** in brackets and do not change it. You must use between three and five words.

1 Most people think that dolphins behave totally differently from human beings. **(ARE)**

Dolphins _____ behave totally differently from human beings.

2 Wildlife biologist Angela Ziltener chose her fellow researchers very carefully. **(BY)**

Her fellow researchers _____ wildlife biologist Angela Ziltener.

3 In the last few years, hardly any research on dolphins has been as important as Angela Ziltener's. **(MOST)**

In the last few years, Angela Ziltener's research on dolphins has been one _____ ones.

4 Nowadays, there is a lot of interest in research about the function of coral reef systems by both scientists and politicians. **(INTERESTED)**

Nowadays, both scientists and politicians are _____ the function of coral reef systems.

5 Not many species are as endangered as dolphins. **(MORE)**

Dolphins are _____ many other species.

Answer key

Listening comprehension

- (2)** had → have • **(4)** might → may • **(5)** that → who • **(7)** quite → such • **(9)** actually → naturally • **(10)** other → only • **(12)** crushing → brushing • **(14)** space → place • **(15)** change → wait • **(17)** were → are • **(19)** over → under • **(20)** them → themselves
- a)** published their analysed results. (para. 9) • **b)** 17 compounds. (para. 10) • **c)** will go on with their studies about dolphins and coral. (para. 13) • **d)** the importance of protecting coral reef systems. (para. 15)

Reading comprehension

- a)** T (para. 1) • **b)** N (-) • **c)** F (para. 3) • **d)** T (para. 5) • **e)** F (para. 6) • **f)** N (-)
- a)** möglicherweise haben die Korallen heilende Eigenschaften, die Hautreizungen lindern können (8) • **b)** nein; dazu müssten sie Hautproben von den Delfinen nehmen, was aufgrund der Bestimmungen zum Schutz der Delfine unmöglich ist (12) • **c)** wie sich das Korallenreiben der Delfine hinsichtlich Geschlecht und Alter unterscheidet und welche Körperpartien die Delfine am meisten reiben (14)

Vocabulary

- a)** condition • **b)** queue(-ing) • **c)** trust • **d)** observe • **e)** fight • **f)** keen • **g)** clear • **h)** property • **i)** soothe • **j)** protect • **k)** differ(s)
- a)** F • **b)** I • **c)** B • **d)** E • **e)** C • **f)** G • **g)** A • **h)** D

Grammar

- (1)** ... are thought to ... • **(2)** ... were chosen very carefully by ... • **(3)** ... of the most important ... • **(4)** ... are interested in researching ... • **(5)** ... are more endangered than ...



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