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The chicken-fearing tigers

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

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091124-being_afraid.html

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24th November, 2009

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091124-being_afraid.html

Zoo-keepers at a zoo in China are worried their tigers are too tame. In fact, they are so tame that they are afraid of their dinner – chickens. Feeding time for the tigers is a scary occasion. The keepers throw in live chickens for the big cats to eat, but the tigers stay away from them. One worker said: "The tigers were so scared that they wouldn't go near them. One chicken passed out and the tigers did eventually go towards it, but then it woke up and made a noise so the tigers ran away." The tigers have lost the ability to hunt.

Imagine a tiger being afraid of a chicken. I wonder if the chickens are scared of the tiger. It would be funny if a chicken found out the tigers were frightened. It could have a lot of fun chasing the tiger. That would make people at the zoo laugh. On the other hand, it might not. Tigers don't belong in zoos. It sounds like the zoo has harmed the tigers. It is not right that a tiger should be scared of a chicken. The zoo should take the tigers back to the wild. But they should go to a jungle where there are no chickens.

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091124-being_afraid.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. their tigers are too | a. passed out |
| 2. they are afraid | b. time for the tigers |
| 3. Feeding | c. tame |
| 4. live chickens for | d. hunt |
| 5. One chicken | e. of their dinner |
| 6. the ability to | f. the big cats |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. I wonder | a. a lot of fun |
| 2. It could have | b. back to the wild |
| 3. On the other | c. in zoos |
| 4. Tigers don't belong | d. if the chickens are scared |
| 5. the zoo has harmed | e. hand |
| 6. take the tigers | f. the tigers |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091124-being_afraid.html

Zoo-keepers _____ China are worried their tigers are too tame. In fact, they are so tame that they are afraid _____ – chickens. Feeding time for the tigers is a scary occasion. The keepers throw in live chickens _____ to eat, but the tigers stay away from them. One worker said: "The tigers were so scared that they wouldn't _____. One chicken passed out and the tigers did eventually go towards it, but then it woke up and _____ so the tigers ran away." The tigers have _____ to hunt.

Imagine a tiger being afraid of a chicken. _____ chickens are scared of the tiger. It _____ if a chicken found out the tigers were frightened. It could have a lot of fun chasing the tiger. _____ people at the zoo laugh. On the other hand, it might not. Tigers _____ zoos. It sounds like the zoo _____ tigers. It is not right that a tiger should be scared of a chicken. The zoo should take the tigers back to the wild. But they _____ jungle where there are no chickens.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091124-being_afraid.html

Zoo-keepers at a zoo in China are (1) _____ their tigers are too tame. In fact, they are so tame that they are afraid of their (2) _____ – chickens. Feeding time for the tigers is a scary occasion. The keepers throw in live chickens for the big cats to eat, but the tigers stay (3) _____ from them. One worker said: "The tigers were so scared that they wouldn't go near them. One chicken passed (4) _____ and the tigers did eventually go towards it, but then it woke up and made a noise so the tigers ran away." The tigers have lost the (5) _____ to hunt.

Imagine a tiger being afraid of a chicken. I (6) _____ if the chickens are scared of the tiger. It would be funny if a chicken found (7) _____ the tigers were frightened. It could have a lot of fun chasing the tiger. That would make people at the zoo laugh. On the other (8) _____, it might not. Tigers don't belong in zoos. It sounds like the zoo has harmed the tigers. It is not (9) _____ that a tiger should be scared of a chicken. The zoo should take the tigers back to the (10) _____. But they should go to a jungle where there are no chickens.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. | (a) worries | (b) worry | (c) worried |
| 2. | (a) dinner | (b) diners | (c) dining |
| 3. | (a) stay | (b) staying | (c) stays |
| 4. | (a) out | (b) in | (c) up |
| 5. | (a) able | (b) ability | (c) capable |
| 6. | (a) wander | (b) wonderful | (c) wonder |
| 7. | (a) out | (b) in | (c) in |
| 8. | (a) foot | (b) leg | (c) hand |
| 9. | (a) left | (b) right | (c) middle |
| 10. | (a) tame | (b) house-trained | (c) wild |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091124-being_afraid.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. tigers are too tmae
2. they are radiaf of their dinner
3. eegidFn time
4. so sdrace
5. go rsatdwo it
6. tigers have lost the byiiatl

Paragraph 2

7. I drnwoe
8. gainhsc the tiger
9. On the rtoeh hand
10. drmaeh the tigers
11. It is not htrig
12. go to a nlugej

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091124-being_afraid.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () chickens for the big cats to eat, but the tigers stay away from them. One worker said: "The tigers were so scared
- () has harmed the tigers. It is not right that a tiger should be scared of a chicken. The zoo should
- () that they wouldn't go near them. One chicken passed out and the tigers did eventually go
- () of their dinner – chickens. Feeding time for the tigers is a scary occasion. The keepers throw in live
- () funny if a chicken found out the tigers were frightened. It could have a lot of fun chasing the tiger. That would
- () take the tigers back to the wild. But they should go to a jungle where there are no chickens.
- () Imagine a tiger being afraid of a chicken. I wonder if the chickens are scared of the tiger. It would be
- () towards it, but then it woke up and made a noise so the tigers ran away." The tigers have lost the ability to hunt.
- (**1**) Zoo-keepers at a zoo in China are worried their tigers are too tame. In fact, they are so tame that they are afraid
- () make people at the zoo laugh. On the other hand, it might not. Tigers don't belong in zoos. It sounds like the zoo

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. - Zoo China in zoo a at keepers.

2. dinner their of afraid are They.

3. Feeding tigers the for time.

4. the big Live cats chickens to for eat.

5. lost the The ability tigers to have hunt.

6. afraid Imagine of a a tiger chicken being.

7. It could have a lot of fun chasing the tiger.

8. the It the harmed like has tigers sounds zoo.

9. wild the to back tigers the Take.

10. jungle are a there chickens to where no Go.

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. _____

WRITING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/0911/091124-being_afraid.html

Write about being afraid for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

[illegible]

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. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about being afraid. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about a tiger who is afraid of a chicken. Include imaginary interviews with them. 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 the tigers. Ask them three questions about being afraid. Give them three of your opinions on how to get over their fear of chickens. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.