

NEWS ENGLISH LESSONS.com

Koalas at risk in Australia

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

<http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120501-koalas.html>

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1st May, 2012

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120501-koalas.html>

Many of Australia's koalas are at risk and need to be protected. The country's spokesman for the environment Tony Burke told reporters that he would protect koala populations in the states of Queensland and New South Wales, and in areas around the capital Canberra. Koala lovers are very happy with this new decision. A top koala expert, Professor Alistair Melzer, said it was "a big step forward". However, he believes the country needs to do more to help koalas from attacks by dogs and being hit by cars.

Mr Burke said his decision to help the koala was because of a three-year study that looked at koala numbers and the dangers they faced. He explained "People have made it very clear to me that they want to make sure the koala is protected for future generations." He said his actions alone might not be enough to save the koalas. He added: "Koala numbers vary significantly across the country, so while koala populations are clearly declining in some areas, there are large, stable or even increasing populations in other areas."

PHRASE MATCH

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120501-koalas.html>

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. at risk and need to | a. the environment |
| 2. The country's spokesman for | b. are very happy |
| 3. protect koala | c. forward |
| 4. Koala lovers | d. be protected |
| 5. a big step | e. by cars |
| 6. being hit | f. populations |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. his decision to | a. faced |
| 2. the dangers they | b. the koalas |
| 3. protected for future | c. help the koala |
| 4. might not be enough to save | d. declining |
| 5. vary | e. generations |
| 6. populations are clearly | f. significantly |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120501-koalas.html>

Many of Australia's koalas are at risk and need _____.

The country's _____ environment Tony Burke told reporters that he would protect koala _____ states of Queensland and New South Wales, and in areas around the capital Canberra. _____ very happy with this new decision. A _____, Professor Alistair Melzer, said it was "a big step forward". However, he believes the country needs to do more to help koalas from attacks by dogs _____ cars.

Mr Burke said his decision to help the koala was because of a _____ that looked at koala numbers and the _____. He explained "People have made it very _____ they want to make sure the koala is protected for future generations." He said _____ might not be enough to save the koalas. He added: "Koala numbers _____ across the country, so while koala populations are clearly declining in some areas, there are large, stable or even increasing populations _____."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120501-koalas.html>

Many of Australia's koalas are at risk and need to (1) ____ protected. The country's spokesman (2) ____ the environment Tony Burke told reporters that he would protect koala populations in the states (3) ____ Queensland and New South Wales, and in areas around the (4) ____ Canberra. Koala lovers are very happy with this new decision. A (5) ____ koala expert, Professor Alistair Melzer, said it was "a big step forward". However, he believes the country needs to do more to help koalas from (6) ____ by dogs and being hit by cars.

Mr Burke said his (7) ____ to help the koala was because of a three-year study that looked at koala numbers and the dangers they (8) _____. He explained "People have made it very clear to me that they want to make sure the koala is protected for (9) ____ generations." He said his actions alone might not be enough to (10) ____ the koalas. He added: "Koala numbers (11) ____ significantly across the country, so while koala populations are clearly declining in some areas, there are large, (12) ____ or even increasing populations in other areas."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) do | (b) be | (c) have |
| 2. | (a) at | (b) by | (c) for |
| 3. | (a) at | (b) of | (c) up |
| 4. | (a) capital | (b) lower case | (c) letters |
| 5. | (a) bottom | (b) middle | (c) top |
| 6. | (a) attacks | (b) muggings | (c) beatings |
| 7. | (a) decide | (b) decision | (c) decider |
| 8. | (a) nosed | (b) headed | (c) faced |
| 9. | (a) future | (b) past | (c) perfect |
| 10. | (a) pave | (b) wave | (c) save |
| 11. | (a) vary | (b) every | (c) very |
| 12. | (a) tables | (b) stable | (c) stubble |

SPELLING

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120501-koalas.html>

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. need to be ttereocpd
2. eaknsmops for the environment
3. around the aiacplt Canberra
4. happy with this new ndseoiic
5. a big step afdrowr
6. kcaatts by dogs

Paragraph 2

7. the ernsagd they faced
8. People have made it very eacrl
9. eufrut generations
10. be gehnuo to save the koalas
11. populations are lrleayc declining
12. in other rsaea

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: <http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1205/120501-koalas.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () Mr Burke said his decision to help the koala was because of a three-year study that
- () the capital Canberra. Koala lovers are very happy with this new decision. A top koala
- () made it very clear to me that they want to make sure the koala is protected for future
- () looked at koala numbers and the dangers they faced. He explained "People have
- () expert, Professor Alistair Melzer, said it was "a big step forward". However, he believes
- () the country needs to do more to help koalas from attacks by dogs and being hit by cars.
- (**1**) Many of Australia's koalas are at risk and need to be protected. The country's
- () generations." He said his actions alone might not be enough to save
- () spokesman for the environment Tony Burke told reporters that he would protect koala
- () populations in the states of Queensland and New South Wales, and in areas around
- () clearly declining in some areas, there are large, stable or even increasing populations in other areas."
- () the koalas. He added: "Koala numbers vary significantly across the country, so while koala populations are

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

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

1. be risk protected and Koalas need are to at.

2. areas the Canberra In around capital.

3. lovers happy new Koala very this are with decision.

4. country needs He to believes do the more.

5. by koalas attacks dogs Help from.

6. study that looked at koala numbers A three - year.

7. sure protected Make is koala . the

8. be not might alone actions His enough.

9. areas some in declining clearly are Populations.

10. populations increasing even or stable , Large.

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

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about koalas and their falling numbers. Include an imaginary interview with a koala in danger. 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 koala expert. Ask him/her three questions about koalas. 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.