

Phrases for Agreeing and

Task: Zoos

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 8.

You are going to hear a talk about **zoos**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

So what other place do you get to see wild animals without leaving your country, then at a zoo? Zoos get many visitors every year. There is controversy with zoos though, having both benefits and drawbacks.

Zoos are a favourite place for many people. So to continue, it is a great place to go and see many different wild animals that come from other countries. In this way, people can learn new things about animals that they may otherwise not know. In addition to this, zoos are typically an affordable activity to do, so there are many visitors every year. One really wonderful aspect about zoos is that they had protected endangered species from extinction after facing danger, by providing them a safe environment to live and procreate. Something else that is beneficial to zoos is that many zoos say that they protect animals from poachers that would have killed them otherwise. Keeping all that in mind, another positive thing is that it is a great place for school excursions and family trips. Zoos are places that motivate exercise by having visitors walk around, as well as having an educational influence on these visitors.

In spite of all the benefits, zoos also have some negative aspects. For one thing, animals are in an unnatural environment since they were removed from their natural environment. This could cause animals to have difficulties in adapting and might even make them feel depressed. Also, this could be because the animals have limited space to move. Therefore, they are unable to move around as much and do exercise that they would have done in their natural environment. Another disadvantage is that some zoos are crowded with too many animals, although it might be for a reason of trying to save a particular species or offsprings that were produced within the zoo. Unfortunately, not all zoos are as good as others. Some of the zoos are in poor conditions, with a need for improvements in it's facilities. Considering this, these sorts of zoos have been needing to rely on donations and government support. For this reason, it might be difficult to improve the condition of the facilities because of the limited fundings. If animal lovers had realized this, they would have been more willing to make donations to zoos in need of funding.

All in all, zoos seem to have many positive benefits but there is certainly room for improvement. It is important to consider the physical and mental health of the animals that have to live in the zoos, as well as zoos getting appropriate funding. What do you believe should be improved in zoos?



Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about **the advantages and disadvantages of zoos.**

Now tell me about **the advantages and disadvantages of zoos.** You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

Answers:

Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• See many different wild animals• An affordable activity to do• Protect endangered species from extinction• May protect animals from poachers• Great for school excursion and family trips
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animals are in an unnatural environment• Animals have limited space to move• Some zoos are crowded with animals• Some zoos are in poor conditions• Rely on donations and government support

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