

Getting serious about clowning

Reference words

A Find these words in the reading. Match each reference word with the words it refers to.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u> d </u> 1. <i>This</i> (par. 1, line 3) | a. running off with the circus |
| <u> </u> 2. <i>who</i> (par. 2, line 4) | b. the clown course |
| <u> </u> 3. <i>which</i> (par. 3, lines 11–12) | c. the United States |
| <u> </u> 4. <i>whom</i> (par. 5, line 9) | d. first batch of letters mailed on Friday |
| <u> </u> 5. <i>which</i> (par. 6, line 9) | e. Clown College graduates |
| <u> </u> 6. <i>it</i> (par. 6, line 20) | f. people who want to be clowns |

Main ideas

B Check (✓) the main ideas of the paragraphs.

1. Paragraph 3
 - a. John Deaton has always wanted to be a clown.
 - b. Clown College is very expensive.
 - c. It's very hard to get into Clown College.
2. Paragraph 4
 - a. Clown College is hard work, but it's fun.
 - b. Brad Aldous graduated from Clown College.
 - c. All Ringling clowns must go to Clown College.
3. Paragraph 5
 - a. It's easy to graduate from Clown College.
 - b. It's hard to get into Clown College.
 - c. One third of Clown College graduates get jobs at Ringling.
4. Paragraph 6
 - a. The circus is a very serious subject.
 - b. Clowning is an art form that not everyone appreciates.
 - c. Clowns and circuses have a long history.

Fact or opinion

C Check (✓) the correct column.

		Fact	Opinion
1.	It costs \$2,500 for a summertime session at Clown College.	✓	
2.	Circus College was very intense, but it was a blast.		
3.	There have been 1,400 graduates of Clown College.		
4.	The circus is an art form that people don't appreciate in the U.S.		
5.	The circus is a place where people forget about their worries.		
6.	A lot more college graduates are going into clowning.		

Circus town

Sentence connectors

A Circle the correct answers.

- The circus isn't just a fun job. **Still** / **But** / **In fact**, it's a lot of work.
- Some performers stay with the circus all their lives, **while** / **still** / **because** others stay a short time.
- Circus performers can get two-year contracts and health insurance **while** / **because** / **if** they're lucky.
- Life in the circus can be difficult. **In fact** / **Still** / **Because**, the performers love it.
- Children get a good education **because** / **while** / **but** there is one teacher for just five students.

Details

B Check (✓) the correct column.

		True	False	Not in the text
1.	There are 131 members of the Ringling Brothers circus.		✓	
2.	The acrobats are from Hungary.			
3.	Mark Gebel trains horses.			
4.	Karen Stewart is a clown.			
5.	Both of Whitney's parents work for the circus.			
6.	Bello Nock doesn't mind the lack of privacy.			

Vocabulary

C Complete the chart with the words and phrases from the box.

<input type="checkbox"/> aerialist	<input type="checkbox"/> controlled environment	<input type="checkbox"/> llamas
<input type="checkbox"/> animal trainer	<input type="checkbox"/> costume designer	<input type="checkbox"/> stagehands
<input type="checkbox"/> camels	<input type="checkbox"/> elephants	<input type="checkbox"/> subsidized housing
<input type="checkbox"/> comedic star	<input type="checkbox"/> horses	<input type="checkbox"/> two-year contract
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> comforting community	<input type="checkbox"/> insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> zebras

Circus jobs	Circus benefits	Circus animals
	<i>comforting community</i>	

CHALLENGE

D Underline the words and phrases in the reading that show contrast.

Tragedy at the circus; Circus safe for animals

Grammar

A Circle the correct verb tense or form.

Tragedy at the circus

1. A rare tiger **is dying** / **(died)** / **might die**.
2. According to officials, the show **ought to** / **will** / **wouldn't** go on.
3. Protestors **think** / **used to think** / **will think** that circuses are dangerous for animals.
4. This incident **is making** / **made** / **should make** authorities take better care of circus animals.
5. Modern zoos **have improved** / **are improving** / **should improve** the way they treat animals.

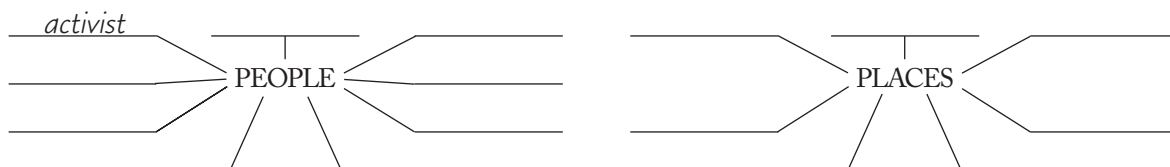
Circus safe for animals

6. Animals that perform in the circus **do not** / **cannot** / **will not** come from the wild.
7. Animals **used to be** / **are** / **are not** safe in the wild.
8. The circus **used to treat** / **treats** / **could treat** animals with care.

Vocabulary

B Complete the diagrams with words and phrases from the box.

activist	community	official	protestor
authority	environment	organizer	setting
caretaker	game preserve	patron	the wild
circus	habitat	protector	trainer



Parts of speech

C Check (✓) the correct part of speech.

		Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
1.	Hunters <i>capture</i> wild animals every year.		✓		
2.	We have a <i>responsibility</i> to take care of our animals.				
3.	Animals cannot say if they like living in <i>captivity</i> .				
4.	Circus officials claim to treat animals <i>humanely</i> .				
5.	Life at the circus isn't always <i>harmonious</i> .				
6.	The death of the tiger was a <i>tragic</i> event.				
7.	Animals are <i>physically</i> able to do many things.				
8.	I don't like to see animals <i>suffer</i> .				