



CEFR A1 · VOCABULARY & SPEAKING

# Describing Animals

Learn adjectives like big, small, fast and slow. Describe animals: "The elephant is big." / "A bird can fly."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Warm-up

GET READY







Think about these questions, or talk with a partner. You do not need to write.

1. What is your favourite animal? Why do you like it?
2. Can you name an animal that is big? And one that is small?
3. Which animal is very fast? Which animal is slow?
4. What animals can you see near your home?













## 2 Adjectives to Describe Animals

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Adjectives & Opposites. An adjective describes a thing. Learn these pairs!

 big ↔ small	 fast ↔ slow	 tall ↔ short
 heavy ↔ light	 strong ↔ weak	 friendly ↔ dangerous

Animal Words. Say each one out loud.

 elephant	 lion	 giraffe	 cheetah	 turtle	 mouse
 dog	 cat	 rabbit	 bear	 penguin	 snake

**Word order.** The adjective comes before the noun, OR after is / are.

The elephant + **is** + big. → after "is"

a + **big** + elephant → adjective before noun

Lions + **are** + strong. → plural → are

 **is or are?**

one animal → is (The dog is friendly.)

many animals → are (Dogs are friendly.)

**Saying What Animals Can Do.** Use **can** for ability.

SENTENCE	MEANING
A bird <b>can</b> fly.	It is able to fly.
A fish <b>can</b> swim.	It is able to swim.
A cheetah <b>can</b> run fast.	It is able to run fast.
A penguin <b>can't</b> fly.	It is not able to fly.

can run

can jump

can fly

can swim

can climb

### 3 Key Vocabulary

WORDS TO LEARN

WORD	MEANING	EXAMPLE
<b>big</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	large in size	<i>An elephant is big.</i>
<b>small</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	little in size; not big	<i>A mouse is small.</i>
<b>fast</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	moves quickly	<i>A cheetah is very fast.</i>
<b>slow</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	moves with little speed; not fast	<i>A turtle is slow.</i>
<b>tall</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	high from top to bottom	<i>A giraffe is tall.</i>
<b>strong</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	has a lot of power	<i>A lion is strong.</i>
<b>friendly</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	kind and nice to people	<i>My dog is very friendly.</i>
<b>animal</b> <i>NOUN</i>	a living thing, not a plant or person	<i>The lion is a wild animal.</i>
<b>can</b> <i>VERB</i>	to be able to do something	<i>A bird can fly.</i>
<b>favourite</b> <i>ADJ.</i>	the one you like best	<i>The dolphin is my favourite animal.</i>

Wild & Wonderful **Tomas — Czech Republic**

Hello! My name is Tomas and I am thirteen. My **favourite** animal is the cheetah. A cheetah is very **fast** — it **can** run faster than a car! It is not very **big**, but it is strong. Cheetahs live in Africa.

**Aisha — UAE**

Hi, I am Aisha and I am twelve. I love the camel. A camel is **tall** and **strong**. It can walk a long way in the desert and it does not need a lot of water. Camels are **friendly** animals. They are very important in my country.

**Lin — China**

My name is Lin. I am fourteen. My favourite animal is the giant panda. A panda is **big** and black and white. It is a little bit **slow**, and it eats bamboo all day. Pandas are not dangerous — they are quiet and calm.

**Mateo — Argentina**

Hello! I am Mateo and I am thirteen. I like the penguin. A penguin is **small** and black and white. It can swim very well, but it can't fly. Penguins are friendly and they live together in big groups. They are my favourite animal!

## 5 Vocabulary Review

## QUICK REVIEW

**big** ADJ.

Large in size. The opposite of small.  
"An elephant is big."

**small** ADJ.

Little in size. The opposite of big.  
"A mouse is small."

**fast** ADJ.

Moves quickly. The opposite of slow.  
"A cheetah is fast."

**slow** ADJ.

Moves with little speed. The opposite of fast.  
"A turtle is slow."

**strong** ADJ.

Has a lot of power. The opposite of weak.  
"A lion is strong."

**can** VERB

To be able to do something. For abilities.  
"A bird can fly."

## 6 Practice: Fill in the Blanks

YOUR TURN

Write an **adjective** (big, small, fast...), **is / are**, or **can** on each line.

- 1 An elephant is very \_\_\_\_\_. (*opposite of small*)
- 2 A mouse is \_\_\_\_\_. (*opposite of big*)
- 3 A turtle is \_\_\_\_\_. (*opposite of fast*)
- 4 The lion \_\_\_\_\_ strong. (*one animal → is/are?*)
- 5 Cheetahs \_\_\_\_\_ fast. (*many animals → is/are?*)
- 6 A bird \_\_\_\_\_ fly. (*ability*)
- 7 A giraffe is very \_\_\_\_\_. (*high from top to bottom*)
- 8 A fish can \_\_\_\_\_. (*what a fish does in water*)

## 7 Speaking: Animal Interview

LET'S TALK

1. What is your favourite animal?
2. Is it big or small?
3. Is it fast or slow?
4. What can it do? (run, fly, swim, jump...)
5. Why do you like this animal?

### EXAMPLE DIALOGUE

**A:** What is your favourite animal?

**B:** My favourite animal is the dolphin.

**A:** Is it big or small?

**B:** It is quite big. And it is very fast in the water.

**A:** What can it do?

**B:** It can swim and jump. It is very friendly! And you?

## 8 Writing Task

WRITE IT DOWN

Write 30–50 words about your favourite animal. Describe it and say what it can do.

- I write the name of the **animal**.
  - I use two **adjectives** (big, small, fast, friendly...).
  - I use **is** or **are** correctly.
  - I say what the animal **can** do (run, fly, swim...).
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## 9 Comprehension Quiz

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Circle the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

1. What is the opposite of big?

- A tall
- B small
- C fast
- D strong

2. What is the opposite of fast?

- A slow
- B big
- C heavy
- D friendly

3. Choose the correct sentence:

- A The lion are strong.
- B The lion is strong.
- C The lion strong is.
- D The lions is strong.

4. Cheetahs \_\_\_\_\_ fast.

- A is
- B am
- C are
- D be

5. Which sentence has the correct word order?

- A It is a mouse small.
- B It is small a mouse.
- C It is a small mouse.
- D It a small mouse is.

6. A bird \_\_\_\_\_ fly.

- A can
- B is
- C are
- D has

7. In the reading, what can a penguin NOT do?

- A swim
- B fly
- C walk
- D eat

8. Which word is an adjective?

A elephant

B lion

C tall

D swim

 **Answer Key**

FOR SELF-CHECK

**Part 6 — Fill in the Blanks**

1. **big** · 2. **small** · 3. **slow** · 4. **is** · 5. **are** · 6. **can** · 7. **tall** · 8. **swim**

**Part 9 — Quiz**

1. **B** (small) · 2. **A** (slow) · 3. **B** (The lion is strong) · 4. **C** (are)

5. **C** (a small mouse) · 6. **A** (can) · 7. **B** (fly) · 8. **C** (tall)