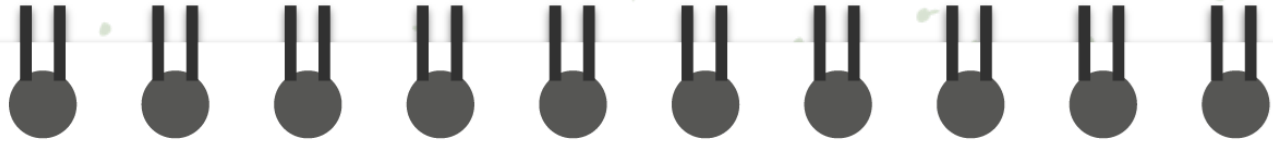




Hello

welcome





cub



Giant



Flour



enclosure



Learning about the **GIANT PANDA**

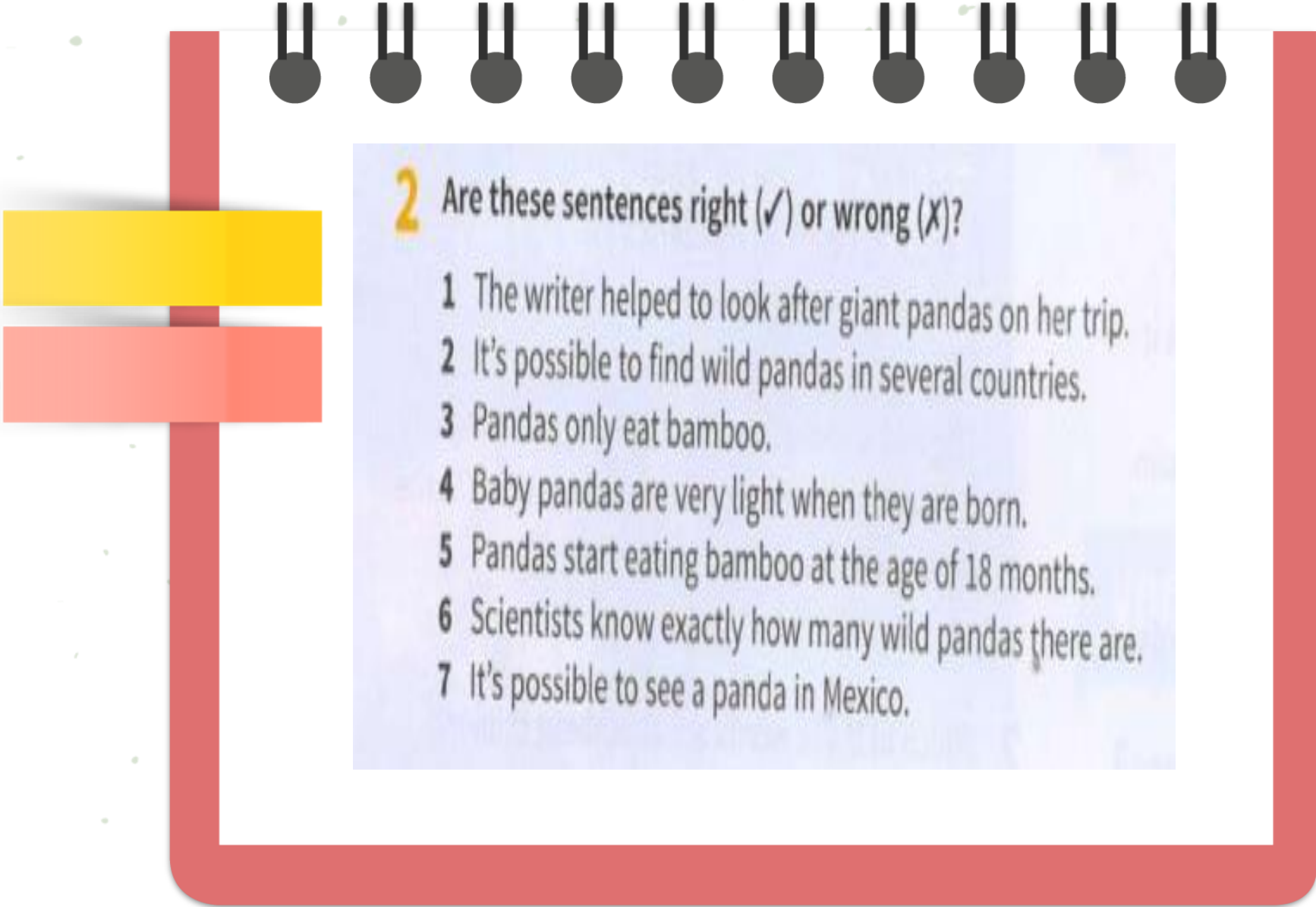


When I planned my trip to China, one of things I really wanted to do was to work at the Dujiangyan Panda Base in Chengdu. I spent seven days there, looking after the pandas, giving them food and cleaning their enclosures.

While I was there, I learned a lot about pandas. Wild pandas live in bamboo forests, high in the mountains of central China. In the past, they also lived in other parts of China and in Myanmar and Vietnam, but they don't any more. They spend about 12 hours a day eating bamboo, but they sometimes eat other plants or small animals. At Dujiangyan, we also gave them fruit, like apples, and special panda cakes made of rice, eggs and flour and other things.

Adult giant pandas weigh between 75 and 135 kilograms. Females usually only have one baby panda, or cub, at a time. The cubs only weigh about 85 grams when they are born! The little cub drinks milk for about four months and then begins to eat bamboo. Young pandas stay with their mothers for around 18 months.

Scientists think there are now between 1,500 and 2,000 pandas in the wild. This is a low number, but it's double what it was in the 1970s. The reason the number is going up is because of all the work scientists are doing at places like the Dujiangyan panda base in Chengdu. There are also about 325 pandas in zoos in a number of different countries, including the United States, Mexico, Japan and Germany.



2 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- 1 The writer helped to look after giant pandas on her trip.
- 2 It's possible to find wild pandas in several countries.
- 3 Pandas only eat bamboo.
- 4 Baby pandas are very light when they are born.
- 5 Pandas start eating bamboo at the age of 18 months.
- 6 Scientists know exactly how many wild pandas there are.
- 7 It's possible to see a panda in Mexico.



dolphin



elephant



giraffe



monkey



parrot



penguin



Polar bear



snake



tiger



whale

Match the words in the box to the photos A–J. Listen and check. Then repeat.

EP



dolphin elephant giraffe
 monkey parrot penguin
 polar bear snake
 tiger whale

4 Answer the questions about the animals in Exercise 3.

- 1 Where do the animals come from?
- 2 Where do they live (sea, mountains, forest)?
- 3 Which are dangerous?
- 4 Look at each photo carefully. Are the animals in a zoo or are they wild?
- 5 How many other animals can you name in English?



TALKING POINTS

What are your five favourite animals?

Why do you like them?

How often do you go to zoos?

Do you like them?





1 You will hear Gina talking to her uncle about some photos of animals. Where did he take each photo? For each question, choose the correct answer.



Photographs

0 lion *D*

1 monkey **C**

2 snake

3 penguin

4 dolphin

5 elephant

Countries

A Argentina

B England

C India

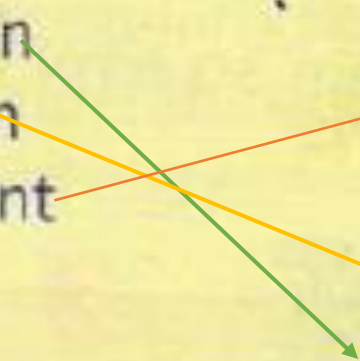
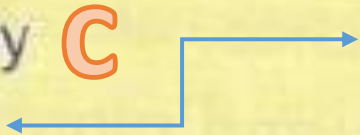
D Kenya

E Mexico

F New Zealand

G Scotland

H South Africa





KAKAPO



Sand cat

Work in pairs. Look at the photos of the two animals below. Use the prompts 1-9 to write questions about these animals.



1 What kind of animal / it?

2 Where / from?

3 Where / live?

4 What / eat?

5 How much / weigh?

6 How many / left in the wild?

7 What / babies / called?

8 How many babies / fem a le have?

9 How long / baby stay with / mother?

GET READY *Underline the prepositions **between, about, around** and **including** in the article about pandas on page 16. Think about their meaning. Which two have the same meaning in the article? Complete the sentences with **between, about, around** or **including**.*

1 This competition is for anyone -----

the ages of 10 and 14.

2 There are ----- 40,000
African lions
left in the wild.

3 All my friends, ----- Tariq, are
interested in animals.

4 The zoo is closed -----
January
and March.

5 I've got lots of pets, ----- a rabbit
and two cats.

Choose one of the animals in Vocabulary Exercise 1 or a different one. Write three paragraphs. Make notes for what to include in each paragraph.

***Paragraph 1** the kind of animal it is / where it lives / what it eats*

***Paragraph 2** what it weighs / information about its babies*

***Paragraph 3** how many are left in the wild / in zoos*