

David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet

David Attenborough is a famous British naturalist. In this trailer, he talks about his documentary *A Life on Our Planet*.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

decline	disaster	marvel	overrun
tame	unique	vision	witness statement

1. If something is the only one of its type, it is
2. A is a thing or person that you admire a lot.
3. If something is in, it is gradually decreasing in strength, quality or amount.
4. When people a place, they fill it quickly and in large numbers.
5. If an animal is, it's not wild or dangerous, usually because it is controlled by humans.
6. A is a document that gives someone's reasons for believing that something is or is not true.
7. A is an idea or picture of something in your mind.
8. A is an event that results in serious damage, death or problems.

Task 1

Choose the correct answer.

1. What does David Attenborough say he now understands about his life?
 - a. That it has been very unusual and special.
 - b. That it has been very long.
 - c. That he has been very successful on television.
2. What does David Attenborough believe about the way human beings live?
 - a. That we're making the planet better.
 - b. That we're making the planet weaker.
 - c. That we're making no difference to the planet.

3. What was David Attenborough's main reason for making the film?
 - a. To show beautiful pictures of animals.
 - b. To describe the places he has visited in his life.
 - c. To explain why he believes certain things and how he imagines the future.
4. Does David Attenborough believe that human beings' mistakes can be corrected?
 - a. Yes, he thinks that everything will be fine in the future.
 - b. Yes, but only if we start to solve the problems immediately.
 - c. No, he thinks it's too late.
5. What does David Attenborough think that we need to learn?
 - a. How to control nature.
 - b. How to make wild animals less dangerous.
 - c. How to work together with plants, animals and the natural world.
6. Is David Attenborough going to give people ideas of how to help the planet?
 - a. Yes, he says he's going to do that in this film.
 - b. No, he says we need to find the answers ourselves.
 - c. We don't know.

Task 2

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. I am David Attenborough and I 93. (Present simple – BE)
2. I the most extraordinary life. (Present perfect – HAVE)
3. The way we humans live on Earth it into a decline. (Present continuous – SEND)
4. Human beings the world. (Present perfect – OVERRUN)
5. We the wild with the tame. (Present continuous – REPLACE)
6. If we now, we can put it right. (Present simple – ACT)
7. We to learn how to work with nature rather than against it. (Present simple – NEED)
8. I you how. (Future with *be going to* – TELL)

Discussion

Have you seen any of David Attenborough's films?

Transcript

Tonight we've got rather a different programme for you.

I am David Attenborough and I am 93. I've had the most extraordinary life. It's only now that I appreciate *how* extraordinary.

The living world is a unique and spectacular marvel. Yet the way we humans live on Earth is sending it into a decline. Human beings have overrun the world. We're replacing the wild with the tame.

This film is my witness statement and my vision of the future. The story of how we came to make this our greatest mistake. And how, if we act now, we can yet put it right.

Our planet is headed for disaster. We need to learn how to work *with* nature rather than against it. And I'm going to tell you how.

Answers

Preparation task

1. unique
2. marvel
3. decline
4. overrun
5. tame
6. witness statement
7. vision
8. disaster

Task 1

1. a
2. b
3. c
4. b
5. c
6. a

Task 2

1. am | 'm
2. 've had | have had
3. is sending
4. have overrun
5. 're replacing | are replacing
6. act
7. need
8. 'm going to tell | am going to tell