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## **Paul McCartney fights for kangaroos**

URL: <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/0803/080316-kangaroo.html>

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16<sup>th</sup> March, 2008

## THE ARTICLE

Ex-Beatle Sir Paul McCartney has joined the fight to stop the slaughter of 400-500 kangaroos in Australia. McCartney is a member of the animal rights group Vegetarians International Voice for Animals (VIVA). He says in a message on the VIVA website: "There is an urgent need for action to protect kangaroos from a barbaric industry which slaughters them for meat and leather. Please do all you can to help VIVA end this shameful massacre." Protest leader Pat O'Brien, president of the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia, said: "We are all determined to see that the kangaroos are not killed. There is a lot of anger in a lot of people about this." He warned: "We will stand in between the kangaroo and the darts if necessary." About 70 protestors are on standby ready to act as human shields.

The Australian government says the cull is necessary because the kangaroos are ruining the habitat of rare lizards and insects. The native grassland these small creatures share with the kangaroos is disappearing fast. European settlers destroyed much of it when they sowed grass seeds imported from Britain to start the cattle and sheep industries. Government scientists say there is plenty of other land in Australia where kangaroos can live. They point out that kangaroos must stay off the threatened native grassland so other rare, indigenous species can survive. Australia's environment minister Peter Garrett told protestors the kangaroos would not suffer. He said professionals would put the animals to sleep with a painless dart and then give them lethal injections.

## WARM-UPS

**1. KANGAROOS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about kangaroos. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*fights / slaughter / animal rights / barbaric industries / anger / human shields / rare lizards / small creatures / grass seeds / being put to sleep / lethal injections*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. KILLING ANIMALS:** With your partner(s), fill in this table about whether or not it's OK to kill animals. Change partners and share your findings.

Situation	OK or not?	My reasons
to help save endangered species		
for research into new medicines		
for meat		
for their fur or skin		
to stop diseases spreading to humans		
to reduce large numbers of pests		

**4. ANIMAL RIGHTS:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the term 'animal rights'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**5. QUICK ROLE PLAY:** Students A **strongly** believe that humans should never kill animals, for any reason; Students B **strongly** believe it is OK to kill some animals to protect rare species. Change partners again and talk about your roles and conversations.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. Paul McCartney wants to help save 400-500 kangaroos from dying.      | T / F |
| b. McCartney has flown to Australia to give a message on television.    | T / F |
| c. A leading protestor said anger is high among many people.            | T / F |
| d. People are ready to risk being shot to protect the kangaroos.        | T / F |
| e. Australia's government wants to protect threatened species.          | T / F |
| f. European farmers led to the decline of Australia's native grassland. | T / F |
| g. The environment minister said the kangaroos would suffer slightly.   | T / F |
| h. The minister said the animals would be killed by electrocution.      | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. slaughter  | a. deadly               |
| 2. urgent     | b. prepared             |
| 3. shameful   | c. natural surroundings |
| 4. barbaric   | d. serious              |
| 5. on standby | e. indigenous           |
| 6. habitat    | f. planted              |
| 7. native     | g. killing              |
| 8. sewed      | h. feel pain            |
| 9. suffer     | i. cruel                |
| 10. lethal    | j. disgraceful          |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. joined the fight to stop the slaughter | a. native grassland         |
| 2. protect kangaroos from a               | b. to act as human shields  |
| 3. We are all determined to see that the  | c. grass seeds              |
| 4. There is a lot of anger                | d. of rare lizards          |
| 5. protestors are on standby ready        | e. barbaric industry        |
| 6. the kangaroos are ruining the habitat  | f. in a lot of people       |
| 7. they sewed                             | g. painless dart            |
| 8. kangaroos must stay off the threatened | h. injections               |
| 9. put the animals to sleep with a        | i. of 400-500 kangaroos     |
| 10. give them lethal                      | j. kangaroos are not killed |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Ex-Beatle Sir Paul McCartney has joined the \_\_\_\_\_ to stop the slaughter of 400-500 kangaroos in Australia. McCartney is a \_\_\_\_\_ of the animal rights group Vegetarians International Voice for Animals (VIVA). He says in a message on the VIVA website: "There is an \_\_\_\_\_ need for action to protect kangaroos from a barbaric industry which slaughters them for meat and \_\_\_\_\_. Please do all you can to help VIVA end this shameful \_\_\_\_\_." Protest leader Pat O'Brien, president of the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia, said: "We are all \_\_\_\_\_ to see that the kangaroos are not killed. There is a lot of anger in a lot of people about this." He \_\_\_\_\_: "We will stand in between the kangaroo and the darts if necessary." About 70 protestors are on standby ready to act as \_\_\_\_\_ shields.

*determined*

*urgent*

*massacre*

*fight*

*human*

*warned*

*member*

*leather*

The Australian government says the cull is \_\_\_\_\_ because the kangaroos are ruining the \_\_\_\_\_ of rare lizards and insects. The native grassland these small creatures share with the kangaroos is disappearing \_\_\_\_\_. European settlers destroyed much of it when they sewed grass seeds \_\_\_\_\_ from Britain to start the cattle and sheep industries. Government scientists say there is \_\_\_\_\_ of other land in Australia where kangaroos can live. They \_\_\_\_\_ out that kangaroos must stay off the threatened native grassland so other rare, indigenous species can survive. Australia's environment minister Peter Garrett told protestors the kangaroos would not \_\_\_\_\_. He said professionals would put the animals to sleep with a painless dart and then give them \_\_\_\_\_ injections.

*imported*

*habitat*

*suffer*

*point*

*lethal*

*necessary*

*plenty*

*fast*

**LISTENING: Listen and fill in the spaces.**

Ex-Beatle Sir Paul McCartney has joined \_\_\_\_\_ slaughter of 400-500 kangaroos in Australia. McCartney \_\_\_\_\_ animal rights group Vegetarians International Voice for Animals (VIVA). He says in a message on the VIVA website: "There is \_\_\_\_\_ action to protect kangaroos from a barbaric industry which slaughters them for meat and leather. Please \_\_\_\_\_ VIVA end this shameful massacre." Protest leader Pat O'Brien, president of the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia, said: "We \_\_\_\_\_ see that the kangaroos are not killed. There is a lot of anger in a lot of people about this." He warned: "We \_\_\_\_\_ kangaroo and the darts if necessary." About 70 protestors \_\_\_\_\_ to act as human shields.

The Australian government \_\_\_\_\_ because the kangaroos are ruining the habitat of rare lizards and insects. The native grassland these \_\_\_\_\_ the kangaroos is disappearing fast. European settlers destroyed \_\_\_\_\_ sewed grass seeds imported from Britain to start the cattle and sheep industries. Government scientists \_\_\_\_\_ other land in Australia where kangaroos can live. They point out that kangaroos \_\_\_\_\_ threatened native grassland so other rare, indigenous species can survive. Australia's environment minister Peter Garrett told protestors the \_\_\_\_\_. He said professionals would put the animals to sleep with a painless dart \_\_\_\_\_ lethal injections.

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'urgent' and 'need'.

<b>urgent</b>	<b>need</b>
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• stop</li> <li>• message</li> <li>• barbaric</li> <li>• end</li> <li>• determined</li> <li>• stand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• necessary</li> <li>• share</li> <li>• imported</li> <li>• point</li> <li>• suffer</li> <li>• injections</li> </ul>
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## STUDENT KANGAROO SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about kangaroos in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## **DISCUSSION**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
  - b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'kangaroo'?
  - c) What are your feelings about this story?
  - d) Would you join the fight to help save the kangaroos?
  - e) Would you ever join the fight to save any animal?
  - f) Is killing animals for fur and leather barbaric?
  - g) Can you understand why there is a lot of anger in a lot of people?
  - h) Do you admire people who would risk their lives to save animals?
  - i) Do you think Paul McCartney joining the fight will do any good?
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STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think the Australian government is right – that the kangaroos should be killed to save the rare lizards?
- c) What should the Australian government do to protect its native grasslands besides kill kangaroos?
- d) Why do you think the government wants to kill the kangaroos instead of moving them to a place they won't threaten lizards?
- e) What threatened species are there in your country?
- f) Does it make the slaughter better if the animals don't suffer?
- g) What endangered species are you concerned about most?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Australia's environment minister Peter Garrett?
- i) Did you like this discussion?

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

Ex-Beatle Sir Paul McCartney has joined the fight (1) \_\_\_\_ stop the slaughter of 400-500 kangaroos in Australia. McCartney is a member of the animal (2) \_\_\_\_ group Vegetarians International Voice for Animals (VIVA). He says in a message on the VIVA website: "There is an urgent need (3) \_\_\_\_ action to protect kangaroos from a barbaric industry which slaughters them for meat and (4) \_\_\_\_\_. Please do all you can to help VIVA end this shameful massacre." Protest leader Pat O'Brien, president of the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia, said: "We are all (5) \_\_\_\_ to see that the kangaroos are not killed. There is a lot of anger in a lot of people about this." He warned: "We will stand in between the kangaroo and the darts if necessary." About 70 protestors are on standby ready to act as (6) \_\_\_\_ shields.

The Australian government says the cull is necessary because the kangaroos are (7) \_\_\_\_ the habitat of rare lizards and insects. The native grassland these small creatures share with the kangaroos is disappearing fast. European (8) \_\_\_\_ destroyed much of it when they sowed grass seeds imported from Britain to start the cattle and sheep industries. Government scientists say there is plenty of other land in Australia where kangaroos can live. They (9) \_\_\_\_ out that kangaroos must stay off the threatened (10) \_\_\_\_ grassland so other rare, indigenous species can survive. Australia's environment minister Peter Garrett told protestors the kangaroos would not (11) \_\_\_\_\_. He said professionals would put the animals to (12) \_\_\_\_ with a painless dart and then give them lethal injections.

- |     |               |               |                |                |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) for       | (b) as        | (c) to         | (d) by         |
| 2.  | (a) right     | (b) rights    | (c) write      | (d) writes     |
| 3.  | (a) for       | (b) as        | (c) to         | (d) by         |
| 4.  | (a) letter    | (b) leader    | (c) lather     | (d) leather    |
| 5.  | (a) deter     | (b) determine | (c) determined | (d) deterred   |
| 6.  | (a) person    | (b) beings    | (c) human      | (d) man        |
| 7.  | (a) ruined    | (b) ruining   | (c) ruins      | (d) running    |
| 8.  | (a) settlers  | (b) settles   | (c) settler    | (d) settlement |
| 9.  | (a) highlight | (b) point     | (c) indicate   | (d) show       |
| 10. | (a) native    | (b) nativity  | (c) natives    | (d) nations    |
| 11. | (a) suffered  | (b) suffers   | (c) suffering  | (d) suffer     |
| 12. | (a) snooze    | (b) snore     | (c) bed        | (d) sleep      |

**WRITING:**

Write about *kangaroos* for 10 minutes. Correct your partner's paper.

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## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out about Australia's kangaroos. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. ENDANGERED:** Make a poster about two endangered species. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. HUMAN SHIELDS:** Write a magazine article about the protestors who want to act as human shields. Include imaginary interviews with them and with the kangaroos they want to protect.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down new words and expressions.

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Australia's environment minister Peter Garrett. Ask him three questions about his decision to cull the kangaroos. Give him three pieces of advice on what he should do instead of killing the kangaroos. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

a. T      b. F      c. T      d. T      e. T      f. T      g. F      h. F

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. slaughter  | a. killing              |
| 2. urgent     | b. serious              |
| 3. shameful   | c. disgraceful          |
| 4. barbaric   | d. cruel                |
| 5. on standby | e. prepared             |
| 6. habitat    | f. natural surroundings |
| 7. native     | g. indigenous           |
| 8. sewed      | h. planted              |
| 9. suffer     | i. feel pain            |
| 10. lethal    | j. deadly               |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. joined the fight to stop the slaughter | a. of 400-500 kangaroos     |
| 2. protect kangaroos from a               | b. barbaric industry        |
| 3. We are all determined to see that the  | c. kangaroos are not killed |
| 4. There is a lot of anger                | d. in a lot of people       |
| 5. protestors are on standby ready        | e. to act as human shields  |
| 6. the kangaroos are ruining the habitat  | f. of rare lizards          |
| 7. they sewed                             | g. grass seeds              |
| 8. kangaroos must stay off the threatened | h. native grassland         |
| 9. put the animals to sleep with a        | i. painless dart            |
| 10. give them lethal                      | j. injections               |

### GAP FILL:

#### Paul McCartney fights for kangaroos

Ex-Beatle Sir Paul McCartney has joined the **fight** to stop the slaughter of 400-500 kangaroos in Australia. McCartney is a **member** of the animal rights group Vegetarians International Voice for Animals (VIVA). He says in a message on the VIVA website: "There is an **urgent** need for action to protect kangaroos from a barbaric industry which slaughters them for meat and **leather**. Please do all you can to help VIVA end this shameful **massacre**." Protest leader Pat O'Brien, president of the Wildlife Protection Association of Australia, said: "We are all **determined** to see that the kangaroos are not killed. There is a lot of anger in a lot of people about this." He **warned**: "We will stand in between the kangaroo and the darts if necessary." About 70 protestors are on standby ready to act as **human** shields.

The Australian government says the cull is **necessary** because the kangaroos are ruining the **habitat** of rare lizards and insects. The native grassland these small creatures share with the kangaroos is disappearing **fast**. European settlers destroyed much of it when they sewed grass seeds **imported** from Britain to start the cattle and sheep industries. Government scientists say there is **plenty** of other land in Australia where kangaroos can live. They **point** out that kangaroos must stay off the threatened native grassland so other rare, indigenous species can survive. Australia's environment minister Peter Garrett told protestors the kangaroos would not **suffer**. He said professionals would put the animals to sleep with a painless dart and then give them **lethal** injections.

### LANGUAGE WORK

1 - c    2 - b    3 - a    4 - d    5 - c    6 - c    7 - b    8 - a    9 - b    10 - a    11 - d    12 - d