
CBSE Class 06 English
NCERT Solutions
Chapter-09
Desert Animals

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A. 1. Talk to your partner and say whether the following statements are true or false.

(i) No animal can survive without water.

Ans. True

(ii) Deserts are endless sand dunes.

Ans. False

(iii) Most snakes are harmless.

Ans. True

(iv) Snakes cannot hear, but they can feel vibrations through the ground.

Ans. True

(v) Camels store water in their humps.

Ans. False

2. Answer the following questions.

(i) How do desert animals survive without water?

Ans: Desert animals cannot survive without water. They find different ways of coping with the harsh desert conditions. For example, gerbils spend the hottest part of the day in cool underground burrows. And darkling beetles catch moisture on their legs and then lift them into the air till the drops trickle down into their mouths.

(ii) How do mongooses kill snakes?

Ans: Mongooses kill snakes without getting hurt themselves. Their reactions are so fast that they dodge each time the snake strikes. They continually make a nuisance of themselves, and after a while, when the snake gets tired, they quickly dive in for the kill.

(iii) How does the hump of the camels help them to survive when there is no water?

Ans: The hump of the camels help the animal to survive in the desert, by acting as storage containers. The hump is full of fat that nourishes the camel when food is scarce. If they have nothing to eat for several days, their humps shrink as the fat is used up.

B. Read the words/phrases in the box. With your partner find their meaning in the dictionary.

Harsh conditions , harmless , survive, intruder , threatened , predators, prey , continually

Fill in the blanks in the following passage with the above words/phrases.

All animals in forests and deserts struggle to _____ in _____. Though most of the animals are _____, some are dangerous when _____. If an _____ is noticed, they attack or bite to save themselves. They struggle _____ for food and water. Some animals are called _____ because they _____ on other animals.

Ans. All animals in forests and deserts struggle to survive in harsh conditions. Though most of the animals are harmless, some are dangerous when threatened. If an intruder is noticed, they attack or bite to save themselves. They struggle continually for food and water. Some animals are called predators because they prey on other animals.

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Look at these sentences.

- Most snakes are quite harmless, but a few are poisonous.
 - Most snakes lay eggs, but the rattlesnake gives birth to its young.
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Now write five sentences like these using 'most' and the clues below.

1. (90% of) people are honest (10%) are dishonest. _____

Ans: Most people are honest, but about ten percent are dishonest.

2. (Lots of) fruit have plenty of sugar, (some) citrus fruit are low in sugar.

Ans: Most fruits have plenty of sugar, but some citrus fruits have less sugar.

3. (Every soft drink except this one) has lots of 'empty calories'. _____

Ans: Most soft drinks have lots of 'empty calories', but this one does not have any.

4. (The majority of) films are romances, (a few) are on other topics. _____

Ans: Most films are romances, but a few are on other topics.

5. (A majority of) people agree that he is a good leader, (just a few) disagree.

Ans: Most people agree that he is a good leader, but a few disagree.

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Look at these sentences.

- Animals cannot survive for long without water.
- So desert animals have to find different ways of coping.

The first sentence says what cannot happen or be done; the second tells us what must, therefore, be done, what it is necessary to do.

Complete these sentences using cannot and have to/has to.

1. You _____ reach the island by land or air; you _____ go by boat.

Ans: You cannot reach the island by land or air; you have to go by boat.

2. We _____ see bacteria with our eyes; we _____ look at them through a microscope.

Ans: We cannot see bacteria with our eyes; we have to look at them through a microscope.

3. He _____ have a new bicycle now; he _____ wait till next year.

Ans: He cannot have a new bicycle now; he has to wait till next year.

4. Old people often _____ hear very well; they _____ use a hearing aid.

Ans: Old people often cannot hear very well; they have to use a hearing aid.

5. Road users _____ do what they wish; they _____ follow the traffic rules.

Ans: Road users cannot do what they wish; they have to follow the traffic rules.

6. She _____ accept this decision; she _____ question it.

Ans: She cannot accept this decision; she has to question it.

7. You _____ believe everything you hear; you _____ use your own judgement.

Ans: You cannot believe everything you hear; you have to use your own judgement.
