



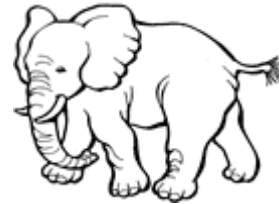
Worksheet 1. Reading: *Elephants*

Read the questions and answers about elephants from a nature website. Then answer the questions on the next page.

Elephants

Is it true that elephants never forget anything?

Elephants do have **remarkable** memories. This helps them to **survive** well **in the wild**. They can find food and water during times of **drought** because they can remember places to drink and to find food.



Elephants usually remember each other for their whole **lifetime**, even though they may not see each other for many years.

Why do elephants have such large ears?

Elephants have their **enormous** ears so they can cool themselves. The ears act as cooling **devices**, like two huge **fans**. When the animal **flaps** its ears, the blood temperature goes down 5 degrees Celsius (9 degrees Fahrenheit).

Can elephants run?



Elephants are actually **incapable** of running, but they can walk very fast. Researchers have recorded speeds of elephants moving elephants at 18-20 miles (29-32 kilometers) per hour! This is as fast as world-class Olympic hurdlers.

Are elephants afraid of mice?

At one time many people thought elephants were afraid of mice, but this is not true. It's a **myth**. In zoos, a mouse sometimes runs around very near the **tip** of an elephant's **trunk**, but the elephant **ignores** it.



Is it true that the normal lifespan of an elephant is 100 years?

Although many people believe that elephants live for over 100 years, the oldest elephant ever recorded died on February 26, 2003, at the age of 86. He had lived in the Taipei Zoo in Taiwan.

The **average lifespan** of an elephant in the wild is about 50 years. When an elephant in the wild dies of old age, it's often because its last teeth have **worn out**. It can't eat any more, and dies of hunger. Well cared-for elephants in zoos live longer. Their average lifespan can be close to 70 years.



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Circle T if the statement is true according to the reading. Circle F if the statement is false.

1. T / F Elephants have excellent memories.
2. T / F Elephants can find food and water even when the weather is extremely dry.
3. T / F Elephants don't forget other elephants.
4. T / F Elephants have huge ears.
5. T / F Elephants' ears serve mostly so they can hear very, very well.
6. T / F Elephants can run very fast.
7. T / F Elephants are afraid of mice.
8. T / F Scientists have records of elephants that have lived to be 100 years old.
9. T / F Elephants in the wild live for about 60 years, on average.
10. T / F Although elephants in certain zoos are extremely well cared-for, elephants in zoos never live as long as elephants in the wild. They die younger.