

- (1) Where do we find all types of wild animals in urban areas?
- (2) Do you have a pet?
- (3) How do we help animals and birds?
- (4) How do we realise that animals are not feeling well?
- (5) Who gives medicine / treatment to sick animals and birds?

1. The doctors who do special advanced study of specific parts of the body have special terms.

In your group try to match the specialist doctors with who / what they treat.

	Specialists		Who/What they treat
1.	Dentist	a.	bones
2.	Cardiologist	b.	brain/nervous system
3.	Ophthalmologist	c.	small kids
4.	Orthopedic	d.	teeth
5.	Pediatrician	e.	animals / birds
6.	Neurologist	f.	eyes
7.	Veterinarian	g.	heart

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7)

2. Discuss in your group and write down the most important reason, why Pediatrician and Veterinarians have, a tougher job to diagnose their patients' illnesses.

The Vet



To be a successful and **competent vet**,
Needs knowledge **exceedingly** wide,
For each of the patients he's likely to get
Possesses **a different inside**.

He must know why the cat is refusing her milk,
Why the dog is not eating his bone,
Why the coat of the horse is not shining
like silk,
Why the parrot does nothing but **groan**;

Why the ducks and the chickens are failing
to lay,
Why so faint the canary bird sings,
And if he is called to the zoo, he must say
An **incredible** number of things.

If the lion's caught a cold,
If the zebra's getting old,
If the **centipede** has trouble with his feet,
If the hippo's feeling ill,
If the **bison's** got a chill,
If the Arctic fox is suffering from heat,
If some **virulent** disease
Has attacked the chimpanzees,
If the tortoise hasn't **stirred** for several years,
If the bear's too full of buns,
If the cobra eats her sons,
If the panther has a wife who chews his ears;
If giraffes have had **a tiff**
And their necks are feeling stiff

- **vet** : short form of veterinarian – a doctor for animals and birds
- **competent** : having very good knowledge and ability

◆ *Why is it so difficult to be a successful vet?*

- **exceedingly** : very much

- **a different inside** : different types of size of organs inside the body

- **groan**: make a sound of pain

◆ *What is wrong with ducks and chickens?*

- **incredible** : unbelievable

- **centipede** : a small, long thin creature with many legs

- **bison** : American buffalo

◆ *What opposite health problems do the lion and the Arctic fox suffer from?*

- **virulent** : caused by virus

- **stirred** : moved

- **a tiff** : a quarrel

◆ *Why have the giraffes got stiff necks?*

● **keepers'** : zoo keepers

◆ *Why does the poet call the vet 'omniscient'?*

● **cannibal** : one who eats human flesh

● **omniscient** : one who knows all and everything

● **Profoundly** : greatly, deeply

◆ *What is the poet's advice to you? Do you think he means it?*

If hyenas will not laugh at **keepers'** jokes,
If the monkey's pinched his tail,
If the rhino's looking pale,

If the elephant eats paper-bags and chokes,
If the camel hurts his hump,
If the kangaroo won't jump,

If the crocodile turns **cannibal** and bites,
They run away and get
That **omniscient**, the vet
And expect him to put everything to rights.

Profoundly I pity the vet, who must learn
Such a very great deal for his pay;
My son, I advise you most strongly to earn
Your living an easier way.
Don't attempt to attend the zoological crowd;
a far more advisable plan
Is to call yourself 'Doctor', and so be allowed
To treat the illnesses of man.

– Guy Boas



ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. What is the Rhyme scheme of stanzas 1 to 3 and the last two stanzas?

How does it differ in the remaining stanzas, 4 to 7?

2. Write any five illnesses of the animals in the poem that you find most amusing / laughable.

- (a)
- (b)
- (c)
- (d)
- (e)

3. (A) Out of all names of birds and animals given in the poem, pick out 4 names that are similar in English as well as in Hindi / Marathi or your mother tongue.

(B) Write four reasons why animals in a zoo suffer more than those who live free in the wild.

(i)

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(ii)

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(iii)

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(iv)

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4. Think deeply and write. Is the poet really discouraging the youth from becoming vets? Explain your response.

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5. Find out from a vet or from a website, what precautions a vet has to take, when he / she is called to treat wild, dangerous animals?

Make point-wise notes of the same.

6. Select any four zoo animals mentioned in the poem. Imagine that they are able to talk in English. Compose a dialogue among the four animals discussing their discomfort and illnesses.

