

THE LIVING WORLD

- 1 Read Part I of the story *Cub Life* and say how three lion cubs appeared in Joy Adamson's home.

Cub Life

Part I

(from *Born Free* after Joy Adamson)

The name of
Joy Adamson

Joy Adamson ['dʒɔɪ 'ædəmsən],
George Adamson ['dʒɔ:ɪdʒ 'ædəmsən],
Elsa [elsə], Lustica ['lʌstɪkə],
Holland ['hɒlənd], Rotterdam ['rɒtədæm]

(1910 — 1980) is well known in many countries. Her book *Born Free* about the lioness¹ called Elsa made her world famous and very popular among readers. Joy Adamson was a tireless² fighter for the protection of the wildlife of Africa. Her husband George Adamson was Senior Game Warden³ of a big African territory, and together they devoted their lives to the observation of African animals and plants and to problems of nature protection.

Joy Adamson's husband once brought home three little lion cubs. Elsa was one of them. Her story began from that very day. Joy Adamson and her husband tamed her, fed her and she grew up to be a good friend of theirs. But at the same time their aim was to give her freedom, to return her to the natural wildlife of a lioness. It was a hard task, but they succeeded⁴ in the end.

¹ **lioness** ['laɪənis] — львица

² **tireless** ['taɪələs] — неутомимый

³ **Senior** ['si:niə] **Game Warden** ['wɔ:dn] — старший инспектор по охране животного мира

⁴ **to succeed** [sək'si:d] — делать успехи, преуспевать

For many years my home has been in the Northern Province ['prɒvɪns] of Kenya ['ki:njə]. My husband, George, is Senior Game Warden of this big territory. George has many duties. Because of his work he has to travel over great distances; these journeys we call safaris [sə'fa:ɪrɪz]. Whenever possible I accompany my husband on such trips, and in this way I get acquainted with this wild unchanged land, where there are no settlers, and the local tribes¹ live very much as their forefathers² did.

The story has its beginning on one of these safaris. A tribesman had been killed by a man-eating lion. It was reported to George that this animal, together with two lionesses, was living in some nearby hills, so it became his duty to track them down.

Early on the morning of the first of February, 1956, I found myself in camp alone with Pati, a small monkey, who had been living with us as a pet for six and a half years. Suddenly I heard a car; this could only mean that George was returning much earlier than I had expected. I heard George shout: "Joy, where are you? Quick, I have something for you..."

I rushed out with Pati on my shoulder and saw the skin of a lion. But before I could ask about the hunt, George pointed to the back of the car. There were three lion cubs, tiny balls of fur, each trying to hide its face from everything that went on. They were only a few days old. They could hardly crawl. George told me what had happened. At daylight George and another Game Warden, Ken, were near the place where the man-eater lay up. Suddenly a lioness rushed out from behind some rocks. They had no wish to kill her, but as she was very close, they had to fire, and she was wounded. She disappeared, leaving a heavy trail of

¹ **local** ['loukl] **tribes** — местные племена

² **forefather** ['fɔ:,fa:ðə] — предок

blood¹. Carefully, step by step, the men went up the hill till they came to a huge rock. They heard a growl, and the lioness appeared and came straight at Ken. George had to fire and kill her. She was a big lioness, and George suddenly realized why she had been so fierce² and faced them so courageously. Her behaviour showed that she was defending her cubs. George and Ken began looking for the cubs. They soon heard sounds coming out of a crack³ in the rock. They put their hands down as far as they could reach and pulled the cubs out. The cubs were not more than two or three days old. They were carried to the car.

To my surprise Pati accepted the cubs as pleasant companions. From that day onward the four were the closest friends. Pati was the biggest of the company and was very proud because she could move around so easily compared with the clumsy little velvet bags who could hardly walk.

It was two days before the cubs took their first milk, but once they had tasted it, they couldn't get enough of it. Every two hours I had to warm some and feed them.

Within a few days the cubs were everybody's pets. All of them were females⁴. Even at this age each had its own character.

The "Big One" was always generous toward the others. The second was a clown, always laughing. I named her Lustica, which means the "Jolly⁵ One". The third cub was the smallest in size but the bravest in character. I called her Elsa.

¹ **trail of blood** [blaɪd] — след крови

² **fierce** [fiəs] — свирепый

³ **crack** — щель, трещина

⁴ **females** ['fi:meɪlz] — женского пола

⁵ **jolly** ['dʒɒli] — веселый



Pati and the three cubs spent most of the day in the tent under my camp bed; this seemed to them a safe place. In every way they were wonderfully clean and had no smell except for a very pleasant one like honey.

For twelve weeks we kept them on a diet ['daɪət] of milk and glucose ['glu:kɒs] without sugar.

Now that their eyes were fully open, we gave them rubber balls to play with. This delighted the cubs. Our few banana trees were also delightful toys and very soon their leaves were torn to pieces. Tree climbing was another favourite game. The little lions were born acrobats, but often they climbed so high that they could not turn round and come down, and we had to climb up and get them.

But sometimes they were rather aggressive. One night they ran into the tent, in which two men who had come to visit us, were staying. Within five minutes everything in it was torn or broken and we were awakened by the cries of our guests, who were trying to save their belongings, while the cubs, wild with excitement, were running around carrying all sorts of things — slippers, pyjamas, pieces of mosquito netting¹. We had to enforce discipline² that time with a small stick.

Putting them to bed was also not an easy thing. Imagine three very naughty little girls who like all children hated bedtime, but who could run much faster than those who looked after them and who could see in the dark.

Outdoor games were all very well, but the cubs became fond of books and cushions. So, to save our

¹ **slippers, pyjamas** [pə'dʒɑ:məz], **pieces of mosquito netting** — комнатные туфли, пижамы, лоскутки сетки от москитов

² **to enforce** [ɪn'fɔ:s] **discipline** ['dɪsɪplɪn] — усилить дисциплину

library, we had to take books out of the house.

We gave them another toy: it was an empty wooden honey barrel¹ which made a loud boom when it was pushed.

When the cubs were three months old they had teeth quite big and could eat meat. For several days they refused to touch it. Then Lustica made the experiment, and found it to her taste. The others took courage from her, and soon there was a fight at every meal. This meant that poor Elsa, who was still weaker than the others, could not get her fair share², so I used to take her in my hands for her meals. She loved this; she rolled her head from side to side and closed her eyes, showing how happy she was. It was during these hours that the bond³ between us developed.

The cubs were lazy by nature and it was difficult to get them to move from a comfortable position⁴. Best of all they liked me to hold their bone for them while they lay on their backs, paws in the air.

The more we grew to know the cubs the more we loved them, so it was hard to think that we could not keep forever three fastgrowing lions. Regretfully⁵ we decided that two must go and that it would be better that the two big ones, who were always together and less dependent on us than Elsa, should be the ones to leave.

As a home for Lustica and the Big One, we chose the Rotterdam Zoo.

On the last day we put some soft sand-bags into our

¹ **honey barrel** ['bærəl] — бочонок из-под меда

² **share** [ʃeə] — доля

³ **bond** — связь

⁴ **to get them to move from a comfortable** ['kʌmfətəbl] **position** [pə'zɪʃn] — заставить из сдвинуться с удобного места

⁵ **regretfully** [rɪ'gretfʊli] — с сожалением

car. When we drove off, Elsa ran a short way down the drive and then stood with a sad expression in her eyes watching the car in which her two sisters were disappearing. They had to leave from the Nairobi air-field. The plane carried them off forever from their native land. After a few days we received a cable¹ saying that our cubs had arrived safely in Holland. When I visited them, about three years later, they did not recognize me.

Do You Understand The Story?

2 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 Where did Joy Adamson and her husband live?
- 2 What chances to get acquainted with the wildlife of Kenya did Joy Adamson have?
- 3 How did it happen that George had to take the three lion cubs to his home?
- 4 Did the cubs become everybody's pets? How did people show that they loved them?
- 5 Were the cubs different in character and appearance? How?
- 6 How did the cubs spend their first days with people?
- 7 Who was the cubs' companion in all their games?
- 8 What were the cubs' favourite games?
- 9 Did Joy Adamson and her husband have to be strict to the cubs sometimes? How did they try to enforce discipline when the baby lions showed their wild nature?
- 10 How did the cubs eat their first meat? Did they like it?

¹ **cable** ['keɪbəl]— телеграмма, посланная по подводному кабелю

- 11 Why couldn't Joy and her husband keep all the three cubs at their home any longer?
- 12 Where did they send the stronger ones?
- 13 Did the young lionesses recognize Joy at the Zoo three years later?

- 3 *Find the lines in the story which prove that:*
- everyone was very friendly to the lion cubs;
 - the cubs were sometimes aggressive;
 - the bond between Elsa and Joy Adamson developed.
- 4 *Describe the lion cubs and their favourite games.*
- 5 *Say how Joy and her husband treated the lion cubs and how they took care of them.*

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 22–23)



What Do You Think?

- 6 *Think and say:*
- why Joy Adamson and her husband decided to choose Elsa from among the tree lion cubs to remain with them;
 - why the cubs were everybody's pets;
 - why Joy and her husband had to use a small stick sometimes;
 - why there was a sad expression in Elsa's eyes when her two sisters were leaving.





How Good Is Your English?



7 *Use the proper word from the box.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 We the letter to arrive tomorrow.</p> <p>2 They travelled in the of two very pleasant and interesting people.</p> <p>3 If parents don't allow their children any, they will never learn to be independent.</p> <p>4 If you these two animals you'll see how different they are.</p> <p>5 What lovely presents — it's of you !</p> <p>6 Their is to protect these rare birds by special laws.</p> <p>7 Our thin clothes gave little against the cold.</p> | <p>protection</p> <p>expect</p> <p>compare</p> <p>generous</p> <p>company</p> <p>aim</p> <p>freedom</p> |
|---|---|

8 *Choose the best word to complete the sentences (✓).*

- 1 The ... of wildlife is a very important aim for many scientists.
 a) devotion b) protection c) acquaintance
- 2 The hunter fired and ... the lioness.
 a) faced b) tore c) wounded
- 3 The participants in the expedition were ... by a loud growl of some wild animal.
 a) awakened b) accepted c) saved
- 4 The cubs grew fast and became less ... on their masters.
 a) independent b) devoted c) dependent

- 9** *Use the correct article if necessary.*
- 1 The children were well acquainted with the problems of ... nature protection.
a) — b) a c) the
 - 2 They thought it was not fair to keep the animal in a cage and decided to give it ... freedom.
a) — b) a c) the
 - 3 ... story described how two people tamed ... wild animal, and it soon became ... good friend of theirs.
a) — b) a c) the
 - 4 ... few days later we received ... telegram saying that our friends had arrived safely.
a) — b) a c) the
- 10** *Choose the correct passive structure (✓).*
- 1 Joy's husband once learnt that a man (was killed, had been killed) by a lion.
 - 2 When Joy entered the tent she discovered that everything (was torn or broken, had been torn or broken).
 - 3 Joy's guests could not realize at first what cries they (were awakened, had been awakened) by.
 - 4 The wooden barrel made a loud noise when it (was pushed, had been pushed).
- 11** *Past Indefinite? Past Perfect? Past Perfect Continuous? Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).*
- 1 George was going to return much earlier than his wife (expected, had expected, had been expecting).
 - 2 They had a monkey who (lived, had lived, had been living) with them for several years.
 - 3 The man shot and (wounded, had wounded, had been wounding) the lioness.
 - 4 Later George understood why the lioness (behaved, had behaved, had been behaving) so aggressively.

- 12 *Read Part II of the story **Cub Life** and say how the experiment to send Elsa back to the wild ended.*

Cub Life

Part II

(from *Born Free* after Joy Adamson)

Elsa was now twenty-seven months old, almost full-grown. And we began to think of a way to let her go back to the wild. First we had to decide where to release¹ Elsa. We knew of an area where there were plenty of animals, especially lions. Our plan was this: we would spend the first week taking Elsa around the new country, thus keeping her to get used to it and to the animals which lived there, which she had never seen before. During the second week we decided to leave her in the bush² overnight, for she was always active in the night, and to visit and feed her in the mornings when she was sleepy. Afterward we would give her less food, in the hope that this would make her kill on her own³ or join up with a wild lion.

On the morning after our arrival we started our program. First we took off Elsa's collar which was a symbol of captivity⁴. Elsa jumped onto the roof of our car and off we went. After only a few hundred yards we saw a lioness walking towards us down a hill. We drove closer to the lioness. Elsa displayed much excitement, jumped off her seat, and carefully followed her new friend. But as soon as the lioness stopped and turned around, Elsa's courage failed her and she raced back as fast as she could to the safety of the car. Later we passed through herd⁵ after herd of different antelopes ['æntiloups], who

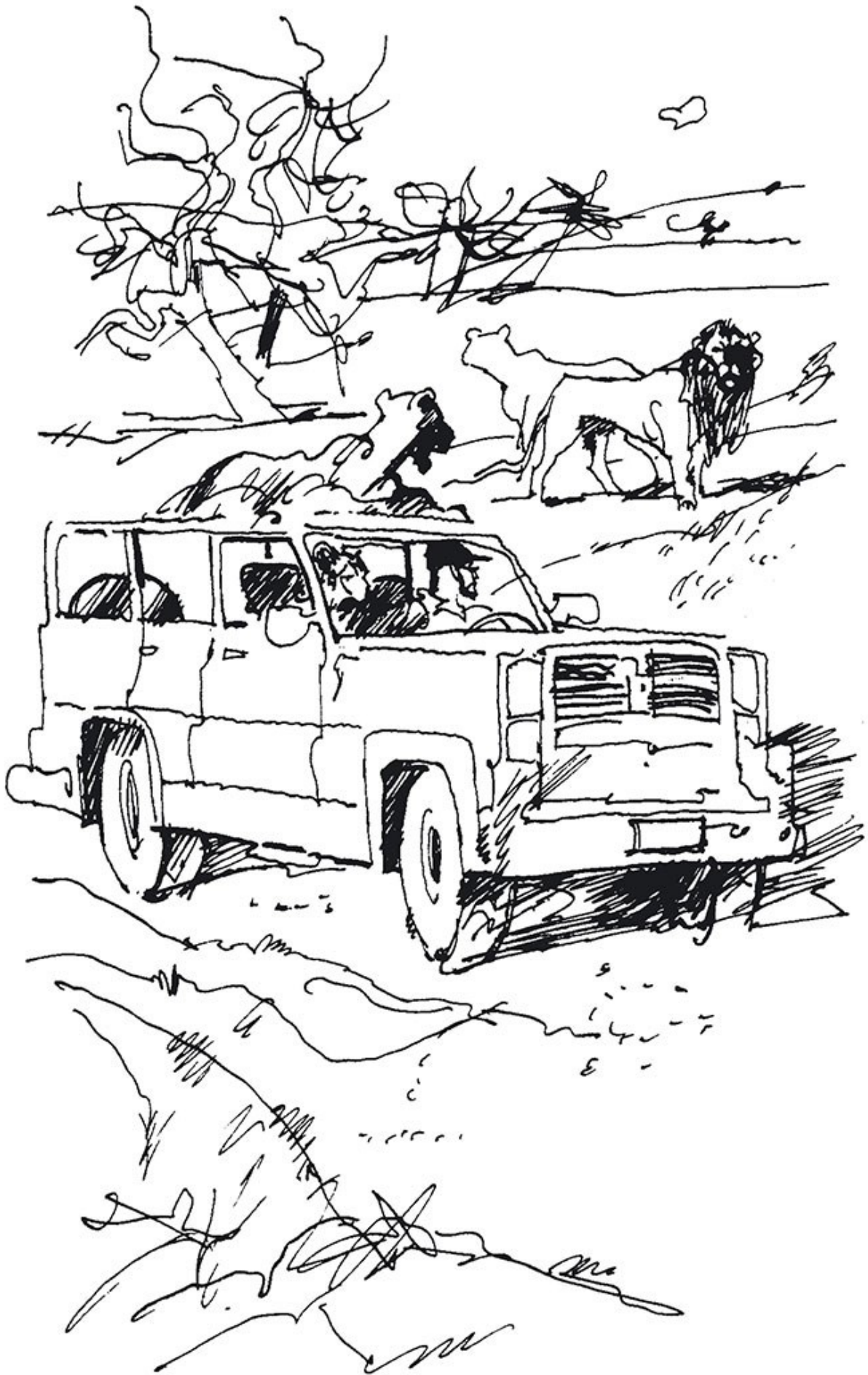
¹ **to release** [rɪ'li:s] — освобождать

² **the bush** — большие пространства земли, покрытые кустарником

³ **on her own** — самой, по собственной инициативе

⁴ **symbol of captivity** [kæp'tɪvɪtɪ] — символ плена

⁵ **herd** [hɜ:d] — стадо



showed some curiosity at the sight of our car with a lion on top of it. All the time Elsa watched carefully but did not leave the car. Only when she noticed some animals off guard¹, she got down quietly and crept² towards them. But if the animals showed any suspicion³, she stopped or pretended to be uninterested, licked her paws, yawned⁴, or even rolled on her back, until the animals were sure there was no danger. Elsa never got close enough to kill.

One day we saw a young lion resting in the high grass. He was very beautiful and Elsa seemed to like him. We drove nearer. At first Elsa did not want to get down off the roof though the lion looked at her in a very friendly manner. After much painful hesitation⁵ she made up her mind to walk toward the lion. The lion got up and moved toward her, but at the last moment Elsa panicked and rushed back to the car.

We knew that we must do something to make Elsa do her own killing. So we left her alone for two or three days at a time, hoping that hunger would make her kill. But when we came back we always found her waiting for us and hungry. We realized that it was going to take us much longer to return her to nature than we expected.

We had been in camp for four weeks, and although Elsa had spent most of the last fortnight in the bush, she had not yet started killing for herself. By now the rains had begun. One night very heavy rain fell and never stopped. In the morning we saw Elsa back at our camp. She looked so unhappy and wanted so much to stay with us that we took her home. That evening we suddenly heard some terrified animals galloping past our camp, followed by a silence. What drama was happening

¹ **to be off guard** [ga:d] — быть недостаточно бдительным

² **to creep (crept, crept)** — ползать

³ **suspicion** [səs'piʃn] — подозрение

⁴ **to yawn** [jɔ:n] — зевать

⁵ **hesitation** [ˌhezɪ'teɪʃn] — колебание, нерешительность

outside? Next came the screams of hyena [ha'i:nə], jackal ['dʒækɔ:l], but the noise they made was soon silenced by the growls of at least three lions. We realized that they were fighting for food just outside the camp. What a chance for Elsa! But she rubbed her head against us and showed how glad she was to be inside in our company.

After a few days the rain stopped and we tried again to turn Elsa into a wild lioness. But she had become so suspicious, and each time we took her to the bush she seemed more nervous than ever. When she met a lion she hurried away. It was clear that she was afraid of any contacts with a lion. So we decided not to force¹ her to make friends with them, but to wait, then perhaps she would choose her a friend for herself.

We paid more attention now to training her to kill for food and thus become independent of us. Also, once she could kill, she would be a better partner for a lion, if she decided to join one.

We left Elsa for a week on a hillock², a place which she liked, but I felt very uneasy³ because Elsa looked so unhappy that it needed all my will-power to make myself continue with her education.

Then a few days it rained hard again. I imagined poor Elsa alone in this icy-cold night, wet, shivering⁴, and miserable. Next morning we drove to the place where we had left her. As usual, she was waiting for us, happy to see us, and greeted us in turn by rubbing her head and body against us. But today there was no doubt that she was miserable; indeed, she was nearly crying. We decided that, though it would interrupt her education, we could not leave her out in such weather.

¹ **to force** [fɔ:s] — заставлять

² **hillock** ['hɪlək] — холмик, бугор

³ **to feel uneasy** [lɪ'i:zi] — чувствовать себя неловко

⁴ **to shiver** ['ʃɪvə] — дрожать

Next day she was ill. When she moved she was in great pain, and she had a temperature. We made her a bed of grass in George's tent, and there she lay, breathing fast and never moving. I treated her with the drug¹ which I thought might help. She wanted me to be near her all the time, which, of course, I was. She was very gentle, and during her illness she became more dependent on us and tamer than ever.

Only in five weeks Elsa was well again and in good health. She soon disappeared into the bush. During the day there was no sign of her. We hunted for her everywhere, but without success. We became worried because we thought she had been killed by a wild lioness or something. However there was nothing to do but wait. For two days and nights she kept away. When she finally returned, she was badly scratched and bleeding² from several claw marks.

Thus ended the first three months of our experiment. We had failed this time but we were sure that if we had patience³ we would succeed.

Do You Understand The Story?

13 *Answer the questions.*

- 1 What were the places like that Joy Adamson and her husband chose to take Elsa to?
- 2 Was Elsa interested in killing other animals for food at first?
- 3 In what way did Elsa behave when she met different wild animals?
- 4 How did Elsa greet the Adamsons each time they came back to her, or she came back to them?

¹ **to treat** [tri:t] **with a drug** — лечить лекарством

² **scratched and bleeding** — расцарапанная и истекающая кровью

³ **patience** ['peɪʃəns] — терпение

- 5 What made Elsa so miserable when she was left in the bush the last time?
- 6 Did the Adamsons believe that they would succeed to turn Elsa into a wild lioness?

14 *Speak about Elsa's behaviour towards wild animals.*

15 *Say what often made Elsa miserable and unhappy.*

How Good Is Your English?

(see pp 30 – 31)



What Do You Think?

- 16 *Think and say:*
- why the Adamsons wanted to turn Elsa into a wild lioness;
 - whether it was easy for them to part with her;
 - whether the Adamsons realized that it would be difficult for Elsa to get used to the wildlife;
 - why the Adamsons wanted to train Elsa to kill her own food;
 - why Joy Adamson decided to interrupt Elsa's education;
 - why Elsa preferred to stay with the people instead of returning to the natural wildlife of a lioness.
- 17 *Is it possible to say that Elsa did not like the wildlife at all? What do you think?*
- 18 *Try and explain why the Adamsons' attempts to let Elsa go back to the wild failed.*



How Good Is Your English?



19 Use the proper word from the box.

- 1 They want to their education, otherwise they won't be able to find a good job.
- 2 Sorry to but I have a message for you.
- 3 My dog barks at any of danger.
- 4 I felt a sharp in my foot and realized that I had stepped on some glass.
- 5 He has a smile and a soft voice.
- 6 There is nothing like a bad cold to make you feel

| |
|-----------|
| pain |
| continue |
| miserable |
| interrupt |
| gentle |
| suspicion |

20 Complete the phrases with appropriate nouns.

to leave the camp

to arrive at

to display

to realize

to interrupt

to train

21 Choose the best word to complete the sentences (✓).

- 1 The Adamsons began to think of a way to ... Elsa go back to the wild.
a) make b) let c) allow
- 2 They hoped that hunger would ... Elsa do her own killing.
a) make b) let c) force
- 3 The Adamsons tried their best to return Elsa to nature but without
a) success b) pain c) safety
- 4 It was clear that Elsa felt ... , she was nearly crying.
a) uninterested b) suspicious c) miserable

22 *Match the words which are close in meaning.*

| | |
|---------|------------|
| unhappy | frightened |
| soft | struggle |
| begin | start |
| arrive | companion |
| fight | miserable |
| afraid | come |
| partner | gentle |

23 ***Past Indefinite? Past Perfect? Past Perfect Continuous?*** Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).

- George and Joy wanted Elsa to get used to the animals which she never (saw, had seen) before.
- When the Adamsons drove close to the wild lioness, Elsa (displayed, had displayed, had been displaying) much excitement.
- Each time Joy and her husband came back they always (found, had found) Elsa waiting for them and hungry.
- Elsa did not dare to start killing for herself though she (stayed, had stayed, had been staying) in the bush for four weeks.
- The Adamsons became worried because they were afraid that some wild animal (killed, had killed, had been killing) Elsa.
- They understood that their experiment (failed, had failed, had been failing).
- The Adamsons believed that Elsa would be able to become independent because they (trained, had trained, had been training) her for a long time.