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Level 2

U.S. circus to end use of elephants

8th March, 2015

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-2.html>

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Please try Levels 0 and 1 (easier) and the 26–page Level 3 (harder).

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THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-2.html>

One of America's largest circus companies will soon end performing elephants in its shows. The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus said it would stop by 2018. All the 43 animals it uses will be moved to an animal conservation centre. The giant creatures will retire there. The decision came after protests from the public. One hundred years ago, people thought it was OK for animals to perform for humans. However, things are different today. People are more worried about the animals. The circus will continue to use other animals, such as camels, dogs, horses, lions and tigers.

Animal rights activists have criticised circuses for many years. A spokeswoman for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals explained that elephants have a bad life in circuses. She said: "Many of the elephants are painfully arthritic, and many have tuberculosis." She said they should retire now. Many places in the USA have banned the use of elephants. This makes it hard for circuses to go around the country. Owners of the Ringling Brothers circus said it was not easy to stop using their elephants. They understood that there has been a "mood shift" among the public.

Sources: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-31740032>
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2015/03/150305-ringling-bros-retires-asian-elephants-barnum-bailey/>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/05/ringling-bros-elephants_n_6807340.html

MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-2.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. One of the largest circus | a. by 2018 |
| 2 performing | b. from the public |
| 3. stop using elephants | c. conservation centre |
| 4. All the 43 animals | d. of the animals |
| 5. an animal | e. companies in the USA |
| 6. a lot of protests | f. use other animals |
| 7. people are more worried about the lives | g. elephants |
| 8. The circus will continue to | h. it currently uses |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Circuses have been criticised | a. arthritic |
| 2 animal rights | b. of animals. |
| 3. care about the treatment | c. for entertainment |
| 4. elephants have a bad | d. activists |
| 5. Many of the elephants are painfully | e. among our consumers |
| 6. their retirement day | f. life in circuses |
| 7. banned the use of elephants | g. needs to come now |
| 8. a mood shift | h. for many years |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-2.html>

One of America's largest circus companies (1) _____ performing elephants in its shows. The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus (2) _____ by 2018. All the 43 animals it uses will be moved to an animal (3) _____. The giant creatures will retire there. The decision came after protests from the public. One hundred years ago, people (4) _____ for animals to perform for humans. However, things are different today. People (5) _____ about the animals. The circus will continue to (6) _____, such as camels, dogs, horses, lions and tigers.

Animal (7) _____ criticised circuses for many years. A spokeswoman for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals explained that elephants have a bad (8) _____. She said: "Many of the elephants are painfully arthritic, and many have tuberculosis." She said they (9) _____. Many places in the USA have (10) _____ of elephants. This makes it hard for circuses to go around the country. Owners of the Ringling Brothers circus said it was (11) _____ using their elephants. They understood that there has been a "mood shift" (12) _____.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-2.html>

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)

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WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

f)

g)

h)
