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**Level 6 – 30th April 2023**

## 2,000 near-threatened white rhinos to be auctioned

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

The word "auction" usually conjures up images of priceless art, fine wines or celebrity memorabilia. It rarely makes us think of a near-threatened species of rhinoceros. However, those rich enough to splash out in excess of \$10 million can bid for 1,993 white rhinos on May the 1st, which is International Save the Rhino Day. The majestic beasts are being sold by multi-millionaire conservationist John Hume, a South African entrepreneur. He started a rhino breeding project with about 200 animals 30 years ago. He managed to increase his stock of the animals ten-fold. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-hectare ranch 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg where the rhinos live.

Mr Hume's ranch is home to more than 10 per cent of the world's total rhino population. Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal fortune on increasing rhino numbers, but can no longer afford to maintain the creatures. His expenses include vets' bills, security guards to keep poachers at bay and a helicopter for air patrols. He told reporters: "I've used all my life savings spending on that population of rhinos for 30 years and I finally ran out of money. I'm hoping that there is a billionaire that would rather save the population of rhinos from extinction than own a super-yacht." Hume lamented that: "Rhinos are underdogs. They stand the least chance of surviving poaching."

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/apr/28/white-rhinos-for-sale-one-careful-owner-tycoon-looks-for-a-billionaire-to-buy-his-conservation-ranch>  
<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/worlds-largest-rhino-farm-in-south-africa-with-2-000-rhinos-to-be-auctioned-3973922>  
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rhino-farm-auction-john-hume-seeks-billionaire-to-carry-on-conservation-work/>

# WARM-UPS

**1. RHINOS:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about rhinos. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

auction / priceless art / fine wines / celebrity / memorabilia / rhinos / conservationist / ranch / personal fortune / vets / bills / poachers / life savings / millionaire / underdogs

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. SUPER-YACHTS:** Students A **strongly** believe it is better to buy a super-yacht at an auction than to buy rhinos; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**4. AUCTION:** Why might people bid for these things at auction? How much would you pay? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Why People Bid for This	How Much You'd Pay
A white rhino		
A Picasso painting		
Antique watches		
A castle		
Einstein's notebooks		
A car license plate		

**5. ENTREPRENEUR:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "entrepreneur". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

**6. THREATENED SPECIES:** Rank these with your partner. Put the ones that need the most help at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The white rhinos
- The gray bat
- The ball python
- The Corfu cave cricket
- The shy albatross
- The copper shark
- The Asian leaf turtle
- The Guinea baboon

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

## Paragraph 1

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. auction     | a. Spend a lot of money freely.  |
| 2. conjure up  | b. So precious or valuable that a value cannot be put on it.                             |
| 3. priceless   | c. Make an image appear in the mind.   |
| 4. memorabilia | d. Animals that are bred and kept for their meat or milk, or for conservation.           |
| 5. splash out  | e. A public sale in which goods or property are sold to the highest bidder.              |
| 6. breeding    | f. Objects kept or collected because of their associations with famous people or events. |
| 7. stock       | g. The mating and production of offspring by animals.                                    |

## Paragraph 2

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8. ranch        | h. A large amount of money or assets.  |
| 9. fortune      | i. Prevent someone or something from approaching or having an effect.                              |
| 10. vet         | j. A competitor thought to have little chance of winning a fight or contest.                       |
| 11. poacher     | k. An animal doctor.   |
| 12. keep at bay | l. The process of a particular thing ceasing to exist.   |
| 13. extinction  | m. A person who hunts or catches game or fish illegally.   |
| 14. underdog    | n. A large farm, especially in North America or Australia, where cattle or other animals are bred. |

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. The article says we think of cars when we hear the word "auction". **T / F**
2. The article says the rhinos will cost \$10 million. **T / F**
3. A South African billionaire is selling 1,993 white rhinos. **T / F**
4. The rhino seller started with 200 rhinos and bred them for three decades. **T / F**
5. The rhino seller owns over 10% of the world's rhino population. **T / F**
6. The article says the owner only has \$150 million in the bank. **T / F**
7. The owner needs a millionaire with a super-yacht to buy the rhinos. **T / F**
8. The owner called rhinos underdogs. **T / F**

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>conjures up</b> | a. splurge        |
| 2. <b>species</b>     | b. rued           |
| 3. <b>splash out</b>  | c. dignified      |
| 4. <b>majestic</b>    | d. likelihood     |
| 5. <b>increase</b>    | e. entire         |
| 6. <b>total</b>       | f. brings to mind |
| 7. <b>expenses</b>    | g. enlarge        |
| 8. <b>at bay</b>      | h. away           |
| 9. <b>lamented</b>    | i. breed          |
| 10. <b>chance</b>     | j. outgoings      |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. conjures up                       | a. are underdogs           |
| 2. celebrity                         | b. project                 |
| 3. those rich enough to              | c. of surviving poaching   |
| 4. He started a rhino breeding       | d. memorabilia             |
| 5. increase his stock of the animals | e. savings                 |
| 6. security guards to keep poachers  | f. from extinction         |
| 7. I've used all my life             | g. images of priceless art |
| 8. save the population of rhinos     | h. at bay                  |
| 9. Hume lamented that rhinos         | i. splash out              |
| 10. They stand the least chance      | j. ten-fold                |

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

The word "auction" usually (1) \_\_\_\_\_ up images of priceless art, fine wines or celebrity (2) \_\_\_\_\_. It rarely makes us think of a near-threatened (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of rhinoceros. However, those rich enough to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ out in excess of \$10 million can bid for 1,993 white rhinos on May the 1st, which is International Save the Rhino Day. The majestic (5) \_\_\_\_\_ are being sold by multi-millionaire conservationist John Hume, a South African entrepreneur. He started a rhino (6) \_\_\_\_\_ project with about 200 animals 30 years ago. He managed to increase his (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of the animals ten-fold. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-hectare (8) \_\_\_\_\_ 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg where the rhinos live.

*species*  
*beasts*  
*conjures*  
*stock*  
*splash*  
*memorabilia*  
*ranch*  
*breeding*

Mr Hume's ranch is (9) \_\_\_\_\_ to more than 10 per cent of the world's total rhino population. Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal (10) \_\_\_\_\_ on increasing rhino numbers, but can no longer (11) \_\_\_\_\_ to maintain the creatures. His expenses include vets' bills, security guards to keep poachers at (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and a helicopter for air patrols. He told reporters: "I've used all my life (13) \_\_\_\_\_ spending on that population of rhinos for 30 years and I finally ran out of money. I'm hoping that there is a billionaire that would rather save the population of rhinos from (14) \_\_\_\_\_ than own a super-yacht." Hume lamented that: "Rhinos are (15) \_\_\_\_\_. They stand the least chance of surviving (16) \_\_\_\_\_."

*extinction*  
*fortune*  
*poaching*  
*bay*  
*underdogs*  
*home*  
*savings*  
*afford*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

- 1) The word "auction" usually conjures up images \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. of priceless art
  - b. of priced less art
  - c. off priceless art
  - d. off price less art
- 2) It rarely makes us think of a near-threatened \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. speeches of rhinoceros
  - b. specials of rhinoceros
  - c. species off rhinoceros
  - d. species of rhinoceros
- 3) However, those rich enough to splash out in \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. access of \$10 million
  - b. excerpts of \$10 million
  - c. assess of \$10 million
  - d. excess of \$10 million
- 4) The majestic beasts are being sold by multi-millionaire \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. conservation mist John Hume
  - b. conservation missed John Hume
  - c. conservationist John Hume
  - d. conversationist John Hume
- 5) He managed to increase his stock of the \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. animals ten-field
  - b. animals ten-foaled
  - c. animals ten-fold
  - d. animals ten-folds
- 6) Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal fortune on \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. increasing rhino number
  - b. increasing rhino numbers
  - c. increase in rhino numbers
  - d. increase sin rhino numbers
- 7) but can no longer afford to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. maintain the creatures
  - b. maintain a creatures
  - c. maintain a creature
  - d. main chain the creatures
- 8) security guards to keep poachers at bay and a helicopter \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. foray patrols
  - b. four air patrols
  - c. fairer patrols
  - d. for air patrols
- 9) a millionaire that would rather save the population of \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. rhinos from extinction
  - b. rhinos for extinction
  - c. rhino from extinction
  - d. rhinos from extinct shun
- 10) Hume lamented that: " \_\_\_\_\_ "
  - a. Rhinos are underdogs
  - b. Rhinos are under dogs
  - c. Rhinos are adder dogs
  - d. Rhinos are under dog

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

The word "auction" usually (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of priceless art, fine wines or celebrity memorabilia. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ think of a near-threatened species of rhinoceros. However, those rich enough to splash (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of \$10 million can bid for 1,993 white rhinos on May the 1st, which is International Save the Rhino Day. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ being sold by multi-millionaire conservationist John Hume, a South African entrepreneur. He started a rhino breeding project with about 200 animals 30 years ago. He managed to increase (5) \_\_\_\_\_ the animals ten-fold. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-(6) \_\_\_\_\_ miles south-east of Johannesburg where the rhinos live.

Mr Hume's (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to more than 10 per cent of the world's total rhino population. Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal (8) \_\_\_\_\_ rhino numbers, but can no longer afford to maintain the creatures. His expenses include vets' bills, security guards to keep (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and a helicopter for air patrols. He told reporters: "I've used all (10) \_\_\_\_\_ spending on that population of rhinos for 30 years and I (11) \_\_\_\_\_ of money. I'm hoping that there is a billionaire that would rather save the population of rhinos from extinction than own a super-yacht." Hume lamented that: "Rhinos are underdogs. They (12) \_\_\_\_\_ chance of surviving poaching."



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

1. What does the word "auction" make us think about besides art and wine?
2. How many white rhinos will be auctioned?
3. When is International Save the Rhino Day?
4. When did the seller start breeding rhinos?
5. Where do the rhinos currently live?
6. What proportion of the world's rhinos does the seller own?
7. What outgoings does the seller have besides paying for vets and guards?
8. What has the seller used all of on looking after the rhinos?
9. Who does the seller hope will save the rhinos?
10. What did the seller call rhinos?

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

- 1) What does the word "auction" make us think about besides art and wine?
  - a) houses
  - b) cars
  - c) endangered species
  - d) celebrity memorabilia
- 2) How many white rhinos will be auctioned?
  - a) 1,393
  - b) 1,993
  - c) 1,933
  - d) 1,999
- 3) When is International Save the Rhino Day?
  - a) May 3
  - b) May 2
  - c) May 1
  - d) May 4
- 4) When did the seller start breeding rhinos?
  - a) 30 years ago
  - b) 40 years ago
  - c) 20 years ago
  - d) 50 years ago
- 5) Where do the rhinos live?
  - a) 100 miles south-west of Johannesburg
  - b) 100 miles north-east of Johannesburg
  - c) 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg
  - d) 100 miles north-west of Johannesburg
- 6) What proportion of the world's rhinos does the seller own?
  - a) exactly 10%
  - b) more than 10%
  - c) just less than 10%
  - d) around 10%
- 7) What outgoings does the seller have besides paying for vets and guards?
  - a) food
  - b) electric fencing
  - c) marketing
  - d) helicopter patrols
- 8) What has the seller used all of on looking after the rhinos?
  - a) his life savings
  - b) his patience
  - c) his stock of rhino food
  - d) his ideas
- 9) Who does the seller hope will save the rhinos?
  - a) the WWF
  - b) the world's zoos
  - c) a billionaire
  - d) South Africa's government
- 10) What did the seller call rhinos?
  - a) Bob and June
  - b) underdogs
  - c) top cats
  - d) fat cats

# ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

## **Role A – The White Rhino**

You think the white rhino is most in need of protection. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as deserving. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): the grey bat, the shy albatross or the copper shark.

## **Role B – The Grey Bat**

You think the grey bat is most in need of protection. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as deserving. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): the white rhino, the shy albatross or the copper shark.

## **Role C – The Shy Albatross**

You think the shy albatross is most in need of protection. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as deserving. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): the grey bat, the white rhino or the copper shark.

## **Role D – The Copper Shark**

You think the copper shark is most in need of protection. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their creatures aren't as deserving. Also, tell the others which is the least deserving of these (and why): the grey bat, the shy albatross or the white rhino.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'auction' and 'rhino'.

auction	rhino

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• images</li><li>• rarely</li><li>• splash</li><li>• beasts</li><li>• 200</li><li>• ten</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• home</li><li>• personal</li><li>• afford</li><li>• life</li><li>• ran</li><li>• stand</li></ul>
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# RHINOS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

Write five GOOD questions about rhinos in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

# RHINOS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'auction'?
3. What do you think of auctions?
4. What would you like to buy at an auction?
5. What do you think of white rhinos?
6. What do you think of the white rhino auction?
7. How can we help to protect the white rhino?
8. What do you think of the success of Mr Hume's project?
9. Should governments set up rhino breeding projects?
10. What advice do you have for Mr Hume?

*2,000 near-threatened white rhinos to be auctioned – 30th April 2023*  
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# RHINOS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'rhino'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How would you feel if rhinos went extinct?
15. What should we do to stop poachers?
16. What punishment should poachers get?
17. Should there be a condition that all the rhinos be kept together?
18. Would you buy the rhinos or a super-yacht?
19. Why might rhinos be underdogs?
20. What questions would you like to ask Mr Hume?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

The word "auction" usually (1) \_\_\_\_\_ up images of priceless art, fine wines or celebrity memorabilia. It (2) \_\_\_\_\_ makes us think of a near-threatened species of rhinoceros. However, those rich enough to splash (3) \_\_\_\_\_ in excess of \$10 million can bid for 1,993 white rhinos on May the 1st, which is International Save the Rhino Day. The (4) \_\_\_\_\_ beasts are being sold by multi-millionaire conservationist John Hume, a South African entrepreneur. He started a rhino (5) \_\_\_\_\_ project with about 200 animals 30 years ago. He managed to increase his (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of the animals ten-fold. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-hectare ranch 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg where the rhinos live.

Mr Hume's ranch is (7) \_\_\_\_\_ to more than 10 per cent of the world's total rhino population. Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal fortune on increasing rhino (8) \_\_\_\_\_, but can no longer afford to maintain the creatures. His expenses include vets' bills, security guards to keep poachers at (9) \_\_\_\_\_ and a helicopter for air patrols. He told reporters: "I've used all my (10) \_\_\_\_\_ savings spending on that population of rhinos for 30 years and I finally ran out of money. I'm hoping that there is a billionaire that would (11) \_\_\_\_\_ save the population of rhinos from extinction than own a super-yacht." Hume lamented that: "Rhinos are (12) \_\_\_\_\_. They stand the least chance of surviving poaching."

**Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.**

- |     |                |               |               |                 |
|-----|----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | (a) projects   | (b) conjures  | (c) magics    | (d) appears     |
| 2.  | (a) rare       | (b) rarely    | (c) rarify    | (d) rarified    |
| 3.  | (a) over       | (b) across    | (c) up        | (d) out         |
| 4.  | (a) majesty    | (b) majestic  | (c) majority  | (d) majorly     |
| 5.  | (a) bleeding   | (b) breeding  | (c) brooding  | (d) blooding    |
| 6.  | (a) stick      | (b) stack     | (c) stock     | (d) stuck       |
| 7.  | (a) homed      | (b) homer     | (c) home      | (d) homie       |
| 8.  | (a) figures    | (b) stats     | (c) numbers   | (d) statistics  |
| 9.  | (a) day        | (b) way       | (c) may       | (d) bay         |
| 10. | (a) life       | (b) live      | (c) living    | (d) livelihood  |
| 11. | (a) rather     | (b) prefer    | (c) opt       | (d) choose      |
| 12. | (a) puppy love | (b) dog-eared | (c) underdogs | (d) dog-eat-dog |



# SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. scurjeo up images of priceless art
2. fine wines or celebrity mlieaabriom
3. splash out in xscsee of \$10 million
4. The jiesacmt beasts are being sold
5. a South African ernurpreeetn
6. selling the 8,500-eaectrh ranch

## Paragraph 2

7. \$150 million of his personal rnoetfu
8. maintain the cerrtaseu
9. His xpseeesn include vets' bills
10. save the population of rhinos from onicitxetn
11. Rhinos are nesgruddo
12. stand the least chance of surviving cogahpni

# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) Mr Hume's ranch is home to more than 10 per cent of the world's total rhino
- ( ) enough to splash out in excess of \$10 million can bid for 1,993 white rhinos on May the 1st, which is
- ( ) International Save the Rhino Day. The majestic beasts are being sold by multi-millionaire
- ( ) project with about 200 animals 30 years ago. He managed to increase his stock of the animals ten-
- ( ) population. Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal fortune on increasing rhino numbers, but can no longer
- ( ) afford to maintain the creatures. His expenses include vets' bills, security guards to keep poachers at
- ( ) for 30 years and I finally ran out of money. I'm hoping that there is a billionaire that would
- ( **1** ) The word "auction" usually conjures up images of priceless art, fine wines or celebrity
- ( ) yacht." Hume lamented that: "Rhinos are underdogs. They stand the least chance of surviving poaching."
- ( ) conservationist John Hume, a South African entrepreneur. He started a rhino breeding
- ( ) rather save the population of rhinos from extinction than own a super-
- ( ) bay and a helicopter for air patrols. He told reporters: "I've used all my life savings spending on that population of rhinos
- ( ) fold. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-hectare ranch 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg where the rhinos live.
- ( ) memorabilia. It rarely makes us think of a near-threatened species of rhinoceros. However, those rich

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

1. of up art . The word conjures auction images
2. of rhinoceros . near-threatened think a species of We
3. out to Rich million . more splash enough \$10 million than
4. of animals He stock the ten-fold . increased his
5. is the Hume ranch . also 8,500-hectare Mr selling
6. has personal \$150 million fortune . his spent He of
7. savings on that . my spending used life I've
8. He the from of rhinos extinction . population saved
9. Hume that are the underdogs . lamented rhinos
10. stand surviving of They the poaching . least chance

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

The word "auction" usually conjures *down / up* images of priceless art, fine wines or celebrity memorabilia. It rarely makes us think of a near-threatened species *as / of* rhinoceros. However, those rich enough to splash out in *access / excess* of \$10 million can *bid / lid* for 1,993 white rhinos on May the 1st, *which / that* is International Save the Rhino Day. The majestic beasts are being *selling / sold* by multi-millionaire *conservationist / conversationalist* John Hume, a South African entrepreneur. He started a rhino *breeding / bleeding* project with about 200 animals 30 years ago. He managed to increase his *stack / stock* of the animals ten-fold. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-hectare *ranch / raunch* 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg where the rhinos live.

Mr Hume's ranch is *house / home* to more than 10 per cent of the world's total rhino population. Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal *fortunate / fortune* on increasing rhino numbers, but can no *lengthen / longer* afford to maintain the creatures. His expenses include *veterans' / vets'* bills, security guards to keep poachers *at / in* bay and a helicopter for air patrols. He told reporters: "I've used all my *live / life* savings spending on that population of rhinos for 30 years and I finally *ran / running* out of money. I'm hoping that there is a billionaire that would *prefer / rather* save the population of rhinos from *extinction / exhaustion* than own a super-yacht." Hume lamented that: "Rhinos are underdogs. They stand the *last / least* chance of surviving poaching."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

Th\_ w\_r\_d " \_\_ct\_\_n" \_s\_\_lly c\_nj\_r\_s \_p \_m\_g\_s \_f  
pr\_c\_l\_ss \_rt, f\_n\_ w\_n\_s \_r c\_l\_br\_ty m\_m\_r\_b\_l\_\_ . \_t  
r\_r\_ly m\_k\_s \_s th\_nk \_f \_ n\_\_r-thr\_\_t\_n\_d sp\_c\_\_s \_f  
rh\_n\_c\_r\_s. H\_w\_v\_r, th\_s\_ r\_ch \_n\_\_gh t\_ spl\_sh \_\_t  
\_n \_xc\_ss \_f \$10 m\_ll\_\_n c\_n b\_d f\_r 1,993 wh\_t\_  
rh\_n\_s \_n M\_y th\_ 1st, wh\_ch \_s \_nt\_rn\_t\_\_n\_l S\_v\_  
th\_ Rh\_n\_ D\_y. Th\_ m\_j\_st\_c b\_\_sts \_r\_ b\_\_ng s\_ld  
by m\_lt\_-m\_ll\_\_n\_\_r\_ c\_nsrvt\_\_n\_st J\_hn H\_m\_, \_  
S\_\_th \_fr\_c\_n \_ntr\_pr\_n\_\_r. H\_ st\_rt\_d \_ rh\_n\_  
br\_\_d\_ng pr\_j\_ct w\_th \_b\_\_t 200 \_n\_m\_ls 30 y\_\_rs  
\_g\_. H\_ m\_n\_g\_d t\_ \_ncr\_\_s\_ h\_s st\_ck \_f th\_  
\_n\_m\_ls t\_n-f\_ld. Mr H\_m\_ \_s \_ls\_ s\_ll\_ng th\_ 8,500-  
h\_ct\_r\_ r\_nch 100 m\_l\_s s\_\_th\_\_st \_f J\_h\_nn\_sb\_rg  
wh\_r\_ th\_ rh\_n\_s l\_v\_\_.

Mr H\_m\_'s r\_nch \_s h\_m\_ t\_ m\_r\_ th\_n 10 p\_r c\_nt  
\_f th\_ w\_rld's t\_t\_l rh\_n\_ p\_p\_l\_t\_\_n. H\_m\_ h\_s sp\_nt  
\$150 m\_ll\_\_n \_f h\_s p\_rs\_n\_l f\_rt\_n\_ \_n \_ncr\_\_s\_ng  
rh\_n\_ n\_mb\_rs, b\_t c\_n n\_ l\_ng\_r \_ff\_rd t\_ m\_\_nt\_\_n  
th\_ cr\_\_t\_r\_s. H\_s \_xp\_ns\_s \_ncl\_d\_ v\_ts' b\_lls,  
s\_c\_r\_ty g\_\_rds t\_ k\_\_p p\_\_ch\_rs \_t b\_y \_nd \_  
h\_l\_c\_pt\_r f\_r \_\_r p\_tr\_ls. H\_ t\_ld r\_p\_r\_t\_rs: "'v\_  
\_s\_d \_ll my l\_f\_ s\_v\_ngs sp\_nd\_ng \_n th\_t p\_p\_l\_t\_\_n  
\_f rh\_n\_s f\_r 30 y\_\_rs \_nd \_ f\_n\_lly r\_n \_\_t \_f  
m\_n\_y. \_'m h\_p\_ng th\_t th\_r\_ \_s \_ b\_ll\_\_n\_\_r\_ th\_t  
w\_\_ld r\_th\_r s\_v\_ th\_ p\_p\_l\_t\_\_n \_f rh\_n\_s fr\_m  
\_xt\_nct\_\_n th\_n \_wn \_ s\_p\_r-y\_ch\_t." H\_m\_ l\_m\_nt\_d  
th\_t: "Rh\_n\_s \_r\_ \_nd\_rd\_gs. Th\_y st\_nd th\_ l\_\_st  
ch\_nc\_ \_f s\_rv\_v\_ng p\_\_ch\_ng."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

the word auction usually conjures up images of priceless art fine wines or celebrity memorabilia it rarely makes us think of a nearthreatened species of rhinoceros however those rich enough to splash out in excess of 10 million can bid for 1993 white rhinos on may the 1st which is international save the rhino day the majestic beasts are being sold by multimillionaire conservationist john hume a south african entrepreneur he started a rhino breeding project with about 200 animals 30 years ago he managed to increase his stock of the animals tenfold mr hume is also selling the 8500hectare ranch 100 miles southeast of johannesburg where the rhinos live

mr humes ranch is home to more than 10 per cent of the worlds total rhino population hume has spent 150 million of his personal fortune on increasing rhino numbers but can no longer afford to maintain the creatures his expenses include vets bills security guards to keep poachers at bay and a helicopter for air patrols he told reporters ive used all my life savings spending on that population of rhinos for 30 years and i finally ran out of money im hoping that there is a billionaire that would rather save the population of rhinos from extinction than own a superyacht hume lamented that rhinos are underdogs they stand the least chance of surviving poaching

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

The word "auction" usually conjures up images of priceless art, fine wines or celebrity memorabilia. It rarely makes us think of a near-threatened species of rhinoceros. However, those rich enough to splash out in excess of \$10 million can bid for 1,993 white rhinos on May the 1st, which is International Save the Rhino Day. The majestic beasts are being sold by multi-millionaire conservationist John Hume, a South African entrepreneur. He started a rhino breeding project with about 200 animals 30 years ago. He managed to increase his stock of the animal ten-fold. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-hectare ranch 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg where the rhinos live. Mr Hume's ranch is home to more than 10 percent of the world's total rhino population. Hume has spent \$150 million of his personal fortune on increasing rhino numbers, but can no longer afford to maintain the creatures. His expenses include vets' bills, security guards to keep poachers at bay and a helicopter for air patrols. He told reporters: "I've used all my life savings spending on that population of rhinos for 30 years and I finally ran out of money. I'm hoping that there is a billionaire that would rather save the population of rhinos from extinction than own a super-yacht." Hume lamented that: "Rhinos are underdogs. They stand the least chance of surviving poaching."





# ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2304/230430-rhino-auction.html>

The World Wildlife Fund should pay the expenses to help Mr Hume's rhinos. Discuss.

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. RHINOS:** Make a poster about rhinos. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. POACHING:** Write a magazine article about having sentences of life in prison for poaching. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to an expert on rhinos. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how to save them. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e    2. c    3. b    4. f    5. a    6. g    7. d  
8. n    9. h    10. k    11. m    12. i    13. l    14. j

## TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F    2 F    3 F    4 T    5 T    6 F    7 F    8 T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. f	2. I	3. a	4. c	5. g
6. e	7. j	8. h	9. b	10. d

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. Celebrity memorabilia
2. 1,993
3. May 1
4. 30 years ago
5. 100 miles south-east of Johannesburg
6. More than 10%
7. Helicopter patrols
8. His life savings
9. A millionaire
10. Underdogs

## WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. The word auction conjures up images of art.
2. We think of a near-threatened species of rhinoceros.
3. Rich enough to splash out more than \$10 million.
4. He increased his stock of the animals ten-fold.
5. Mr Hume is also selling the 8,500-hectare ranch.
6. He has spent \$150 million of his personal fortune.
7. I've used my life savings spending on that.
8. He saved the population of rhinos from extinction.
9. Hume lamented that the rhinos are underdogs.
10. They stand the least chance of surviving poaching.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. d    2. b    3. c    4. a    5. c    6. b    7. d    8. a    9. c    10. b

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)