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## **Level 1**

# **U.S. circus to end use of elephants**

**8th March, 2015**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-1.html>

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-1.html>

One of America's biggest circuses will soon end elephants in its shows. The circus said it would stop by 2018. All its elephants will move to an animal conservation centre. They will retire there. The circus is doing this because of public protests. One hundred years ago, it was OK for animals to perform for humans. However, not today. People are worried about animals. The circus will continue to use other animals, such as camels, dogs, horses, lions and tigers.

Animal rights groups have always criticised circuses. One group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, explained that circus elephants have a bad life. It said many elephants have painful bones and lung diseases. It wants the elephants to retire now. Many places in the USA have banned the use of elephants. This makes it hard for circuses to go on tour. The owners of the circus said it was hard to stop using their elephants. They understand the public's feeling.

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](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/05/ringling-bros-elephants_n_6807340.html)

# VOCABULARY MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. One of America's biggest            | a. conservation centre |
| 2. The circus said it would            | b. it was OK           |
| 3. All its elephants                   | c. circuses            |
| 4. an animal                           | d. for humans          |
| 5. The circus is doing this because of | e. will move           |
| 6. One hundred years ago,              | f. public protests     |
| 7. animals to perform                  | g. use other animals   |
| 8. The circus will continue to         | h. stop by 2018        |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Animal rights                   | a. Treatment of Animals |
| 2. People for the Ethical          | b. bones                |
| 3. circus elephants have           | c. feeling              |
| 4. many elephants have painful     | d. to go on tour        |
| 5. lung                            | e. of elephants         |
| 6. banned the use                  | f. groups               |
| 7. This makes it hard for circuses | g. a bad life           |
| 8. They understand the public's    | h. diseases             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-1.html>

One of America's biggest circuses (1) \_\_\_\_\_ elephants (2) \_\_\_\_\_. The circus said it would stop by 2018. All its elephants (3) \_\_\_\_\_ animal conservation centre. They will retire there. The circus is doing this because of public protests. One (4) \_\_\_\_\_, it was OK for animals (5) \_\_\_\_\_ humans. However, not today. People are worried about animals. The circus will continue to (6) \_\_\_\_\_, such as camels, dogs, horses, lions and tigers.

Animal rights (7) \_\_\_\_\_ criticised circuses. One group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, explained that circus elephants (8) \_\_\_\_\_. It said many elephants have painful bones (9) \_\_\_\_\_. It wants the elephants (10) \_\_\_\_\_. Many places in the USA have banned the use of elephants. This (11) \_\_\_\_\_ circuses to go on tour. The owners of the circus said it was hard (12) \_\_\_\_\_ their elephants. They understand the public's feeling.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-1.html>

One of America's biggest circuses will soon end elephant shows. The circus said it would stop by 2018. All its elephants will move to an animal conservation centre. They will retire there. The circus is doing this because of public protests. One hundred years ago, it was OK for animals to perform for humans. However, not today. People are worried about animals. The circus will continue to use other animals, such as camels, dogs, horses, lions and tigers. Animal rights groups have always criticised circuses. One group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, explained that circus elephants have a bad life. It said many elephants have painful bones and lung diseases. It wants the elephants to retire now. Many places in the USA have banned the use of elephants. This makes it hard for circuses to go on tour. The owners of the circus said it was hard to stop using their elephants. They understand the public's feeling.

# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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# WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

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

a)

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b)

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c)

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d)

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e)

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f)

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g)

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h)

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# WRITING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1503/150308-circus-1.html>

Write about **elephants** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

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