

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

In Their Own Words

No one has ever caught a cougar sending a text. No one has witnessed a wolf make a long-distance phone call. No one listens to lions rant about their day. Animals may not talk like people, but they do use sounds to communicate.

When animals talk in private, they often speak in soft tones. They sometimes use sounds we do not expect to hear them use. These soft sounds help when they stalk their prey. Quiet talk helps the hunted to stay hidden.

When a herd of elk wants to chat, they chirp to each other. A whistle from a cougar mother gives her young cub a heads-up. Lions talk in puffs, purrs, and moans to the other members of their pride.

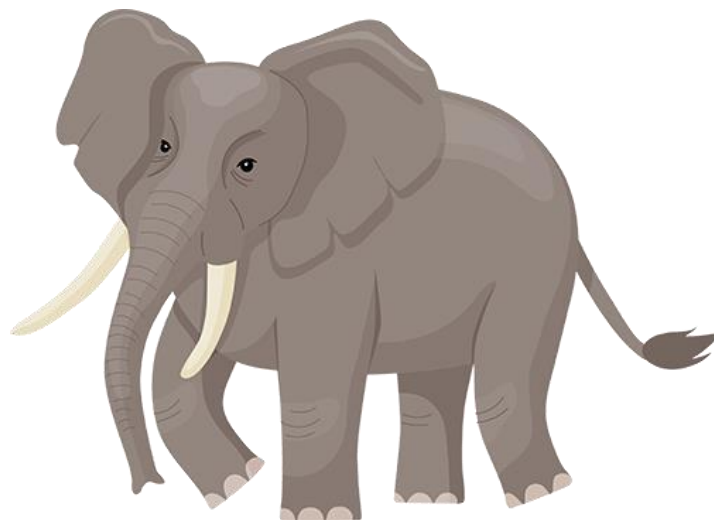
A lion's roar gets noticed. The sound creates a feeling of fear for man and beast. This big cat wants everyone to hear him brag about his power. The sound of his boasting can travel up to five miles. When you think you are the biggest, strongest cat around, you roar about it!



A wolf's howl is also a type of long-distance call. Wolves use their howl to find and gather the members of their pack. When wolves howl together, it turns up the volume on their calls.

Each sound an elephant makes means something too. They use rumbles as a greeting, a way of saying "Hi." A lead elephant rumbles to let the rest of the herd know which way she wants to go. Rumbles can be too low for us to hear, but are powerful enough to feel. They make ripples that vibrate for miles through the ground.

When an elephant gets excited, it trumpets! This sound is much like a person shouting. Elephants trumpet or shout for a lot of reasons. They trumpet when they are surprised or happy. They trumpet to tell the rest of the herd they are lost, scared or angry.



Whales are experts at talking over a long-distance; they need to be. Ocean water makes it hard to see, but sound travels up to five times faster in water. A whales chorus of clicks and moans carry for hundreds of miles. These sounds let the whales find their way, find food, and find each other. While whales make some sounds too low for us to hear, other sounds are as loud as a jet plane. This makes whale talk the loudest animal sound on earth.



Exercises:

1. Match the animal with their sound.

Elk

Puff

Cougar

Howl

Lion

Trumpet

Wolf

Chirp

Elephant

Click

Whale

Whistle

2. Multiple Choice

Who is the loudest animal on earth?

- a. whale
- b. lion
- c. elephant
- d. elk

How far can the roar of a lion travel?

- a. 2 miles
- b. 100 miles
- c. 20 miles
- d. 5 miles

What animal makes a sound too low for people to hear?

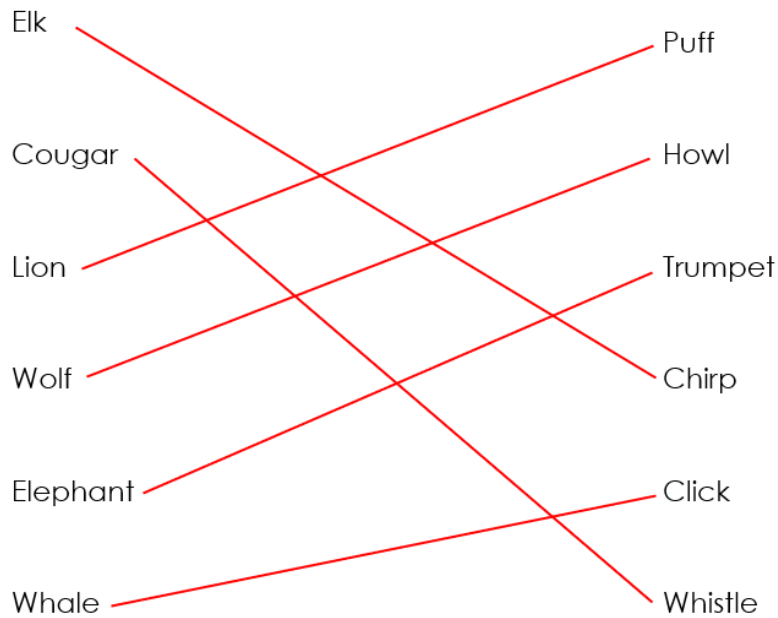
- a. elk
- b. cougar
- c. elephant
- d. wolf

When elephant trumpets, it is like a person:

- a. singing
- b. shouting
- c. humming
- d. whispering

Answers:

1. Match the animal with their sound.



2. Multiple Choice

Who is the loudest animal on earth?

a. whale

How far can the roar of a lion travel?

d. 5 miles

What animal makes a sound too low for people to hear?

c. elephant

When elephant trumpets, it is like a person:

b. shouting

3. Answers will vary.