
Unnecessary cruelty?

WORKSHEET A

- Chris:** What was that demonstration about downtown yesterday?
- Oliver:** Animal rights. They were protesting about animal experimentation at the college laboratory.
- Chris:** Can't they think of anything more important than that?
- Oliver:** You don't think the unnecessary suffering of animals is important?
- Chris:** Hold on: "unnecessary"? Without animal testing, we wouldn't have half of the medicines we have today. Diseases that are now curable would still be fatal.
- Oliver:** Name one.
- Chris:** I don't know. I'm not an expert.
- Oliver:** And do you have any idea how many animals die in these experiments?
- Chris:** No. But they're mostly mice, I guess.
- Oliver:** So what?
- Chris:** I mean they're rarely dogs or cats, or monkeys.
- Oliver:** I don't see your point. Mice can feel pain and stress. All animals can.
- Chris:** I know, but the experiments can save human lives, so I think they're justified. Look, I love animals – I own two dogs myself – but a human life is worth more than an animal life.
- Oliver:** But how can it be right to torture animals?
- Chris:** I don't think you should use a word like "torture." There are regulations about animal testing. Scientists have to minimize the animals' suffering.
- Oliver:** And how do you know they follow those regulations?
- Chris:** And how do you know they don't? But anyway, animal testing is the only way scientists can find out the effects of some medicines.
- Oliver:** That's not true. They could use computer models, for example.
- Chris:** I doubt it. Anyway, what did you have for lunch today?
- Oliver:** A ham sandwich. Why?
- Chris:** So, it's OK for a pig to die to make your sandwich, but it's not OK to test important medicines on mice?
- Oliver:** Hey, we're not talking about what I do or don't eat. It's still a fact that animal testing is unnecessary cruelty.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Decide whether the following statements are true (*T*) or false (*F*), or if the text doesn't determine (*D*).

1. Chris knows the names of some fatal diseases that have become curable because of animal testing.
2. Chris thinks an animal's life is worth less than a human life.
3. One of Oliver's friends took part in the animal-rights demonstration.
4. Chris doesn't think mice feel pain.
5. Oliver thinks there are other ways of finding out the effects of some medicines.
6. Chris says he doesn't like animals.
7. Chris has a pet.
8. Oliver has not had lunch yet.
9. Chris agrees that scientists could use computer models to find out the effects of some medicines.
10. Oliver and Chris agree at the end of the conversation.

Exercise 2

Answer the questions about the text on Worksheet A.

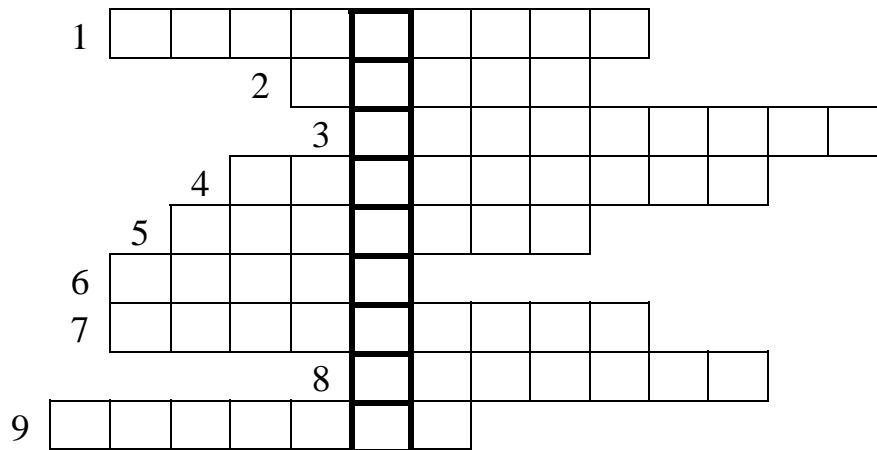
1. Where did the demonstration that Chris and Oliver talk about take place?
2. Where does the animal testing that the people were protesting about take place?
3. Why does Chris think animal testing is necessary?
4. In what way does Oliver say mice are the same as all other animals?
5. Why does Chris think Oliver is wrong to describe animal testing as "torture"?
6. What point does Chris make about Oliver's lunch?
7. What point do you imagine Chris is trying to make when he says the animals in experiments are mostly mice, not dogs, cats, or monkeys?
8. Oliver uses another expression that means the same as animal testing: what is it?

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 3

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, a category of products that were made illegal to test on animals in European Union countries in 2009 (but are still legal to test on animals in the USA) will read from top to bottom.



1. Chris thinks that without animal experimentation, people wouldn't have a lot of the important _____ that they have today.
2. Chris doesn't think that an animal's life is _____ as much as a human life.
3. Oliver is angry about what he sees as the unnecessary _____ of animals.
4. Oliver thinks scientists could find out the effects of some medicines by using _____ instead of animals.
5. Oliver thinks animal experimentation is unnecessary _____.
6. Oliver seems to _____ that scientists always follow the regulations about minimizing animals' suffering during experiments.
7. Chris thinks animal experimentation is _____.
8. Chris thinks that because of the medicines that scientists have created with the help of animal testing, some very dangerous diseases are now _____.
9. Chris seems to think there are more important things than animal rights for people to _____ about.