



Sir David Attenborough (B2 -Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are you interested in wildlife?
2. If so, do you ever watch wildlife documentaries on TV?
3. Have you ever heard of David Attenborough?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. David Attenborough has made over _____ documentaries.
2. He studied _____ at Cambridge University.
3. He started working at the BBC as a trainee in _____.
4. He and reptile curator Jack Lester created a popular TV series called _____ Quest.
5. In the 1960s, he became _____ and director of programmes of the new channel BBC Two.
6. His 1979 series Life on Earth was watched by about _____ people worldwide.
7. Attenborough is deeply worried about the menaces of _____.
8. In 2022, the _____ Programme named him as a "Champion of the Earth".

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. When did David Attenborough start to become passionately interested in the natural world?
2. Why did his boss at the BBC think he wasn't suitable to be a TV presenter?
3. How did Attenborough end up presenting the new BBC programme?
4. What kinds of programmes did he introduce to BBC Two, besides scientific programmes?
5. What made Life on Earth different from other nature programmes?
6. Which scene from the series demonstrated Attenborough's feelings for animals?
7. How have his programmes contributed to our knowledge and understanding of life on this planet?
8. What have his most recent programmes mainly been concerned with?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense or change from singular to plural.)

1. The final scene of the film was very _____. Most of the audience had tears in their eyes.
2. Two boys were fighting in the school playground, so a teacher _____ to stop them.
3. The landscape was _____ and uninviting. There were no trees or bushes, just rocks.
4. The tour guide _____ us that it wasn't safe to drink tap water in that country.
5. Jack and Louis haven't worked for the company very long. They're still _____.
6. John Stuart Mill was a 19th-century philosopher and _____ of free speech.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 2 and 5 words including the word given.

Example: No broadcaster in the world is as famous as David Attenborough.

MOST David Attenborough is the world's most famous broadcaster.

1. Attenborough is still educating us about life on Earth after more than 70 years.

BEEN Attenborough _____ about life on Earth since the 1950s.

2. For decades he has also warned about damage to the environment.

SPENT He _____ about damage to the environment.

3. Jack Lester should have presented the programme.

TO Jack Lester _____ the programme.

4. Attenborough's life went in a new direction in the 1960s

TURN Attenborough's life _____ in the 1960s.

5. Life on Earth had an audience of hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

WATCHED Life on Earth _____ hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

6. He became an iconic figure in British cultural life as a result of the series.

HIM The series _____ in British cultural life.

F – Write about it

Write about an impressive documentary that you've seen recently. Mention:

- when/where you saw it;
 - what it was about;
 - who made it;
 - why it impressed you.
-

Answers: Sir David Attenborough

B – Listen and answer

1. a/one hundred 2. natural sciences 3. 1952 4. Zoo 5. controller 6. five hundred million 7. climate change 8. United Nations' Environment

C – Read and answer

1. When he was a child./In his childhood. 2. Because he had big teeth. 3. His colleague Jack Lester fell ill before the first programme. 4. He introduced programmes containing music, arts, drama and comedy. 5. Its camerawork was highly innovative. 6. The scene in which he encountered gorillas in Rwanda. 7. They have given us incredible insights into the lives of animals. 8. They have mainly been concerned with man's destruction of the planet and the bleak future that awaits us.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. moving 2. stepped in 3. bleak 4. warned 5. trainees 6. champion

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. has been educating us 2. has spent decades warning 3. was (supposed) to 4. took a new turn 5. was watched by 6. made him an iconic figure