

# REFERENCE E-BOOK

## Present-day English Constructions for Speaking and Writing

### Thematic section

## EXTINCTION - CONSTRUCTIONS

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**Immediate constructions** (in bold-type) are word combinations with the dependent units on the left and on the right.

Extended constructions (underlined in the examples) include the immediate constructions into an utterance or text.

# EXTINCTION – CONSTRUCTIONS

Contents:

1. Speaking/writing about extinction in general.
2. Speaking/writing about the types of animals, which go extinct.
3. Speaking/writing about the protection of animals.
4. Speaking/writing about threats.

## 1. Speaking about extinction in general.

### \*Extinction – constructions

Size matters when it comes to **extinction risk**, with vertebrates in the so-called "Goldilocks zone" - not too big and not too small - winning out, say scientists.

"Whereas the smallest species are more likely to have restricted geographic ranges - an important predictor of **extinction risk** - and be threatened by habitat degradation."

The research adds to evidence that animals are dying out on such a scale that a **sixth extinction** is considered under way.

This has prompted efforts to determine the key drivers of **extinction risk**.

Yet, when the researchers made a data base of thousands of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles at risk of extinction, they found disproportionate losses at the large and small ends of the scale.

"Surprisingly, we found that not only the largest of all vertebrate animal species are most threatened, but the very tiniest ones are also **highly threatened with extinction**," Prof Ripple told BBC News.

In the study, researchers from the US, UK, Switzerland and Australia compared body mass and **extinction risk** for more than 25,000 vertebrate species.

Of these, around 4,000 are threatened with extinction, as assessed by the Red List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

**Extinction** can be a natural process, affecting a handful of species each year.

"But it's ultimately slowing the human population growth rate that will be the crucial long-term factor in limiting **extinction risks** to many species," he said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41279470>

Some of the world's most unusual sharks and rays **are on the brink of extinction** because of threats such as commercial fishing, scientists have said.

**The modern extinction of a single species from this list** would cause the loss of millions of years of evolutionary history.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46420736>

The biggest and the smallest of the world's animals are most at risk of dying out, according to a new analysis.

A shark that uses its tail to stun prey and a ray half the length of a bus are on the list of 50 species.

This is the first time sharks, rays and chimeras (fish with cartilage in place of bones) have been assessed for the Edge (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered) of Existence programmer.

They have very few relatives on the tree of life, so they are very unique and losing them will actually represent a big, big loss," said Fran Cabada.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46420736>

One clue is body size. Research on birds and mammals has shown that those with larger bodies are more likely to go extinct.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41279470>

## 2. Speaking about the types of animals, which go extinct.

### \*Animals/types of animals - constructions

The biggest and the smallest of the world's animals are most at risk of dying out, according to a new analysis.

Action is needed to protect animals at both ends of the scale, they say.

Heavyweights are threatened mainly by hunting, while featherweights are losing out to pollution and logging.

" The largest vertebrates are mostly threatened by direct killing by humans," said a team led by Prof Bill Ripple of Oregon State University in Corvallis, US.

"Whereas the smallest species are more likely to have restricted geographic ranges - an important predictor of extinction risk - and be threatened by habitat degradation."

Research on birds and **mammals** has shown that those with larger bodies are more likely to go extinct.

Yet, when the researchers made a data base of **thousands of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles** at risk of extinction, they found disproportionate losses **at the large and small ends of the scale.**

"Surprisingly, we found that not only the largest of all vertebrate animal species are most threatened, but the very tiniest ones are also highly threatened with extinction," Prof Ripple told BBC News.

Large charismatic animals, such as elephants, rhinos and lions have long been the target of protection efforts.

Meanwhile, small species at risk - such as frogs and shrews - receive very little attention.

"I think, for the smallest species, first of all we need to bring higher awareness to them, because the larger ones get a lot of attention, but the smaller ones get very little," said Prof Ripple.

In the study, researchers from the US, UK, Switzerland and Australia compared body mass and extinction risk for more than 25,000 vertebrate species.

Vertebrates with the smallest and the largest bodies were found to be most at risk of disappearing, whether they were on land or living in oceans, streams or rivers.

Threats facing the heaviest included: regulated and unregulated fishing, hunting and trapping for food, trade or medicines.

The lightest were mainly at risk from: pollution of lakes, streams and rivers, farming, logging of forests, development.

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### 3. Speaking about protection of animals.

#### \*Protection of animals - constructions

Large charismatic animals, such as elephants, rhinos and lions have long been the target of protection efforts.

"Ultimately, reducing global consumption of wild meat is a key step necessary to reduce negative impacts of human hunting, fishing, and trapping on the world's vertebrates," they write in the journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, which published the study.

"But it's ultimately slowing the human population growth rate that will be the crucial long-term factor in limiting extinction risks to many species," he said.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-41279470>

### 4. Speaking about threats.

#### \*threats - constructions

Heavyweights are threatened mainly by hunting, while featherweights are losing out to pollution and logging.

"The largest vertebrates are mostly threatened by direct killing by humans," said a team led by Prof Bill Ripple of Oregon State University in Corvallis, US.

Threats facing the heaviest included: regulated and unregulated fishing, hunting and trapping for food, trade or medicines.

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The assessment found fishing, both targeted and accidental, was to blame for the steep decline in many of these populations, together with habitat loss due to coastal development, degradation of mangrove forests, water pollution and trawling.

Some of the world's most unusual sharks and rays are on the brink of extinction because of threats such as commercial fishing, scientists have said.

It is at risk from unsustainable fishing and being unintentionally caught in nets.

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