

Summary Writing

Read the following article about elephants painting pictures. On the opposite page, write a summary **about the role and responsibilities of the keepers of the elephants.**

Your summary should be about 100 words (and no more than 120). You should use your own words as far as possible.

Elephants – real artists or not?

So, is it true that elephants are artists? Can they really paint pictures of flowers, trees or even other elephants?

It's hard to believe, but in Thailand there are at least six centres where elephants display their talents as painters. In the past, these animals had always lived and worked closely with humans. But when there was no longer work for them, elephant sanctuaries were established for their protection because they had little chance of survival in the wild. Here the role of the keeper is vital in forming a relationship with his chosen elephant. Many visitors came to see the elephants and the idea of the painting session developed out of this.

The Nong Nooch Tropical Garden is a large recreational park, 9 miles from the seaside town of Pattaya in Thailand. In the centre of the park is a square arena for the daily elephant displays. To a certain extent, these displays are like traditional circus acts, but they are different in two important respects.

Firstly, each of the three animals has its own keeper, who devotes his whole life to looking after his particular elephant. Secondly, much of the daily performance is designed to make the audience admire the skills of the elephants rather than laugh at them as overgrown clowns.

So, are these enormous mammals truly artistic? To start the performance, the keeper positions his elephant in front of a heavy wooden frame, which supports a large piece of card. He then pushes the brush gently into the end of the elephant's trunk and the animal starts to make lines on the card. When the brush is empty, the keeper takes it and replaces it with another loaded one, and the painting continues until the picture is complete. The elephant then turns towards the audience, bows down low and is given a feast of bananas by the keeper as a reward.

The paintings are then removed from their frames and offered for sale. They are quickly bought by people who have been amazed by what they have seen. To most members of the audience, what they have witnessed appears to be truly miraculous; but what the spectators overlook are the actions of the keepers as their animals are at work. This oversight is understandable because it is very difficult to move your eyes away from the brushes that are making the lines and the spots.

However, if you do so, you will notice that with each mark, the keeper pulls at his elephant's ear. He pulls the ear up and down to get the elephant to make a vertical line, or, alternatively, pulls it sideways to get a horizontal one. To make spots, the keeper moves the ear forward towards the painting. Throughout the performance, it is the keeper who controls the routine.

Further investigation also reveals that each of the three elephants always produces the same image, time after time, day after day, week after week. Mook always paints a bunch of flowers, Christmas always does a tree, and Pimtong a climbing plant. This makes it seem like a circus trick... but it is, nevertheless, an amazingly clever trick! After all, no human hand touches the elephant's trunk, and the brain of the animal has to translate the small touches on its ear into attractive lines and spots.

Perhaps one day these elephants will be allowed to express themselves independently. If that happens, we will have to think seriously about an elephant art gallery.

TASK - 1

Find the relevant point for the below heading.

Role and responsibilities of the keeper:

1. forming a relationship with an elephant.
2. he has to devote his life to looking after elephants.
3. positions elephant in front of frame.
4. gives brush to the elephant.
5. replaces the brush.
6. feeds elephant banana as a reward.
7. moves ear forward toward painting.
8. controls the routine.

TASK 2

Write a summary **about the role and responsibilities of the keepers of the elephants.**

Raising an elephant is never an uncomplicated job to do as there are numerous duties and responsibilities keepers should accomplish. Firstly, establishing an affectionate connection with the elephant and dedicating their lives in taking care of the animals is of utmost importance. Additionally, mahouts ought to locate the elephant in front of the frame alongside handing them brushes as well as replacing the brushes. Furthermore, when the performance is completed, they shall provide bananas for elephants as an award for fulfilling their task. Apart from this, mahouts have to move elephants' ear forward close to the paintings. Lastly, the keeper controls the entire performance of the elephant while it paints. (110 words)

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