

“Reading Series 2 - Animal Stress” @ <http://www.youtube.com/ESL4free>

Which factor does not disturb animals?

- A. Visitor noise
- B. Very tall people
- C. Classical music
- D. Crowds of people

Reading Text - Animal Stress:

Visitors to zoos can have a measurable effect on the animals that live there. A high volume of people tends to unsettle primates who seem more relaxed with fewer visitors. Agitated behavior is exemplified by animals banging on viewing windows, grooming themselves repeatedly and fighting each other. It is likely that factors other than visitor group size exacerbate this situation. These include visitors displaying erratic behavior, creating high levels of noise or deviating greatly from the norm in terms of their physical appearance, for example height, clothing. Conversely it has been noted that when some zoos play classical music, it seems to soothe the animals and drown out visitor noise. The solution might be to redesign zoos for the benefits of both humans and animals.

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SOME WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS IN THE TEXT

Agitated: feeling anxious or angry.
Conversely: (adverb) in an opposite way.

Erratic: not consistent or regular (eg: erratic behavior).
Exacerbate: make a bad situation/problem worse.