



# Zebras Have Stripes! But Why?

## Article: *Why Do Zebras Have Stripes?*

Zebras are wild animals that live in Africa. They are similar to horses, but one thing makes them very different: **their black and white stripes**. These stripes are not just for decoration, scientists believe they serve important purposes.

One reason for zebra stripes is **camouflage**. In the tall grass, black and white patterns make it hard for lions or other predators to see where one zebra ends and another begins. This makes it more difficult for them to attack.

Another idea is that the stripes **confuse insects**. Some studies show that flies don't like landing on striped animals. The patterns may stop bugs from biting zebras, which helps protect their skin.

A third reason might be about **staying cool**. The black stripes absorb heat and the white ones reflect it. This might help zebras control their body temperature in the hot African sun.

So, do zebras have stripes just to look cool? Not exactly. These patterns are actually very useful, they may help zebras **hide, stay healthy, and keep cool**.

Even today, scientists are still learning more about why zebras have stripes. One thing is clear: in nature, even the most beautiful things often have a smart purpose behind them.





## Vocabulary Practice:

Here are some useful words from the article:

Word	Meaning	Example Sentence
<b>Stripes</b>	Long lines of colour	Zebras have black and white stripes.
<b>Camouflage</b>	Hiding by blending into surroundings	The stripes help with camouflage in the grass.
<b>Predator</b>	An animal that hunts other animals	Lions are predators that chase zebras.
<b>Confuse</b>	To make someone unsure or puzzled	The patterns confuse flies and bugs.
<b>Bite</b>	To use teeth (or mouth) to hurt or eat	Flies try to bite zebras, but the stripes help protect them.

## Grammar Focus 1: Present Simple Tense

The **present simple tense** is used for facts, routines, and general truths. In this article, you'll find many examples of how it's used:

- **Zebras live** in Africa.
- **They have** stripes.
- **Flies don't land** on striped animals.
- **The sun shines** in Africa.

We use the base verb after subjects like *they*, *zebras*, *flies*. For *he/she/it*, don't forget the "-s":

*"It looks cool."*, *"The zebra runs fast."*

### Quick Practice

Fill in the blanks using the present simple:

1. Lions \_\_\_\_\_ (hunt) zebras in the wild.
2. Zebras \_\_\_\_\_ (have) black and white stripes.
3. The sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine) brightly in Africa.



## Grammar Focus 2: WH - Questions

In English, we often ask questions that start with **who, what, where, why, when, how**: these are called **WH - questions**.

From the article:

- **Why do zebras have stripes?**
- **Where do zebras live?**
- **What protects them from bugs?**

The structure is:

**Wh-word + do/does + subject + verb...?**

→ *Why do zebras run?*

→ *What do lions hunt?*

### Mini Practice

Complete the questions below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ do zebras live?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ do the stripes help with?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ do flies not like zebras?



## Comprehension Questions

1. What makes zebras different from horses?
2. What is one reason scientists think zebras have stripes?
3. How do stripes protect zebras from bugs?
4. What helps zebras stay cool in hot weather?
5. What do scientists still want to learn?

## Discussion Questions

1. What is your favourite animal and why?
2. Would you like to have stripes like a zebra?
3. Do you think stripes really stop bugs?
4. What other animals have cool patterns?
5. Do animals in your country have any special features