Bukangi the Busan canal shark draws crowds

LEVEL A2/B1


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I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever seen a shark, on TV or in real life?
2. What animals live near your city's rivers or beaches?
3. What should people do when they see a wild animal?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

canal
A man-made waterway that connects places or helps ships move.

rescue
To save someone or something from danger.

coastguard
An official group that helps people and boats near the sea.

crowd
A large group of people in one place.

mascot
A person, animal, or image used to represent a team or city.

livestream
A video shown live on the internet as it happens.

petition
A written request that many people sign to ask for action.

injury
Harm to a part of the body.

III. READING

A large shark was spotted in a concrete canal in Busan, a busy port city in South Korea, in mid-September. Marine biologist Kim Hyun-woo and the coastguard tried to rescue the animal. They learned she was a female dusky shark, and people soon called her Bukangi. News spread fast.

The city sent alerts, a huge crowd gathered, and more than 1.6 million visitors came to see her. Officials even ran a livestream and used Bukangi as a mascot. A banner asked people to sign a petition about a new baseball stadium. Several plans to guide Bukangi back to sea failed.

An electrical device did not work, water jets could not move her, and even a net placed on 2 October did not stop her return. Experts worried about an injury on her snout and near an eye. The oceans ministry says warmer seas may bring more sharks close to shore. On 21 October, Bukangi finally swam out to sea.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "A shark went astray and captured Korea's heart...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where was the shark found?
2. What name did people give the shark?
3. About how many visitors came to see her?
4. Which methods failed to guide her out to sea?
5. Why does the oceans ministry think sharks may come closer to shore?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think so many people came to see Bukangi?
2. Is it right to make a wild animal a city mascot? Why or why not?
3. How should crowds behave near wild animals by the water?
4. Will warmer seas change sea life near your country? How?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Will / won't

Use will/won't + base verb for future facts, predictions, or quick decisions. Will is positive; won't is negative.

*"The ministry thinks more sharks **will come** close to shore."*

*"Fans **won't stop** talking about her."*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with will or won't + the verb.

1. I'm sure local children (miss) ___ the shark. _____
2. After the rescue, people (not/forget) ___ Bukangi. _____
3. Water jets (not/move) ___ a big shark easily. _____
4. If a shark gets stuck again, officials (try) ___ to help it. _____
5. Bukangi's story (help) ___ people learn about sharks. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


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I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 10–12 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach: canal, coastguard, mascot, petition, livestream; show Busan on a map and model the names Bukangi and Busan.
- Run the reading in two passes: gist (who/where/what), then detail (numbers, dates, methods). The topic involves wild-animal safety and crowds; keep the focus on public safety and care for animals.
- Differentiation: weaker students underline rescue attempts and outcomes; stronger students summarise Bukangi's story in four short sentences.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Elicit first ideas, then ask for two reasons (safety, curiosity, media). Compare in pairs.
2. Set up a quick for/against line debate, then swap sides to test arguments.
3. Board dos and don'ts; ask for examples of polite, safe behaviour near water.
4. Prompt local examples and predictions; if stuck, give sentence starters with will/won't.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: In pairs, write a 60-word safety notice the city could send as an alert about Bukangi.

Role-play: Student A is a coastguard, Student B a visitor; plan how to manage the crowd safely (3–4 minutes).

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

Grammar exercise: Will / won't

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

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IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where was the shark found?
   In a canal in Busan, South Korea.
2. What name did people give the shark?
   Bukangi.
3. About how many visitors came to see her?
   More than 1.6 million.
4. Which methods failed to guide her out to sea?
   An electrical device, water jets, and a net on 2 October.
5. Why does the oceans ministry think sharks may come closer to shore?
   Because warmer seas may bring them closer.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Complete each sentence with will or won't + the verb.

1. I'm sure local children ___ the shark. **will miss**
2. After the rescue, people ___ Bukangi. **won't forget / will not forget**
3. Water jets ___ a big shark easily. **won't move / will not move**
4. If a shark gets stuck again, officials ___ to help it. **will try**
5. Bukangi's story ___ people learn about sharks. **will help**

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use will/won't + base verb for future facts, predictions, or quick decisions. Will is positive; won't is negative. (Examples constructed.)

> *"The ministry thinks more sharks* **will come** *close to shore."*
>
> *"Fans* **won't stop** *talking about her."*