

# The Puff Adder



Read the passage below very carefully and then fill in each blank with the word that best suits the meaning of the passage as a whole. Use **ONE WORD ONLY** for each blank.

The puff adder, the second largest of the dangerous vipers, is commonly found in the African Savanna. It has captured the attention of many biologists (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to its unique characteristics. Most snakes will avoid contact (2) \_\_\_\_\_ humans and try to make a quick getaway but the puff adder just stands its ground. (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of gliding away, the puff adder stays and remains motionless. However, (4) \_\_\_\_\_ anyone come across a puff adder, he must not go too close in case it strikes.

A bite from this venomous reptile can be fatal. However, with immediate medical attention, some victims of the puff adder's bite (5) \_\_\_\_\_ been known to survive.

No matter where it is, the puff adder is able to blend in well with its surroundings. The colour of its skin varies because it depends (6) \_\_\_\_\_ where it makes its home. This snake is able to live in both the dry (7) \_\_\_\_\_ moist parts of Africa. Its colour therefore ranges from yellow to dark brown.

The puff adder eats a variety of creatures but the (8) \_\_\_\_\_ common food in its diet is the rat. Being an excellent rat-catcher, the puff adder never fails to catch its target. The puff adder is a nocturnal creature but (9) \_\_\_\_\_ it is day or night, danger lurks whenever the puff adder is around. In the day, it (10) \_\_\_\_\_ usually bask in the warm sun. It looks harmless as it lies on the rocks until it senses that someone has invaded its territory. Then, it strikes.

Answers:  
1. due  
2. with  
3. instead  
4. should  
5. have  
6. on  
7. and  
8. most  
9. whether  
10. will

Adapted:

Upper Secondary N(T) English Modified Cloze

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