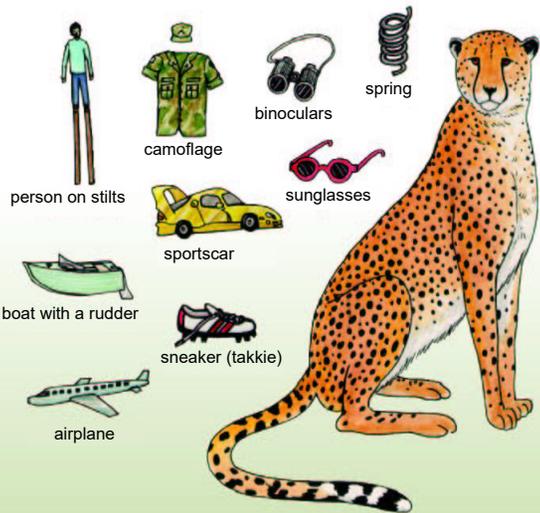


# Help Us Save the Wild Cheetah [www.cheetah.org/what-we-do/our-centre/](http://www.cheetah.org/what-we-do/our-centre/)

Take a tour of CCF's International Research and Education Centre online

## Built for Hunting Prey

Draw a line to match the objects to the body part or adaptation on the cheetah that it represents. Use the CLUES to help.



### CLUES

The cheetah's streamlined body shape is long and thin, which helps it move through the air with ease while running.

Claws and ridges on the bottom of the cheetah's feet dig into the ground and provide traction.

Long legs let the cheetah cover a great distance in a single stride.

The dark tear mark below the cheetah's eyes attracts the sunlight and keeps the glare of the sun out of its eyes.

Fantastic vision allows the cheetah to spot prey from as far as 3 miles (5km) away.

The cheetah accelerates quickly, reaching up to 70 mph (110 kmph) within four seconds.

A tawny coat with black spots helps the cheetah hide in the grasses.

The cheetah swings its long tail to one side to steer its body in the right direction and keep its balance. A flexible spine allows the cheetah to stretch out its body while running.



## SKILLFUL HUNTER

Cheetahs are among the best hunters. They catch prey about 50% of the time. This is much higher success rate than predators such as lions, which catch prey only about 30% of the time. Read on to learn the secrets of a cheetah's success.

- Spotting Prey**  
Standing atop a termite mound or climbing up into a tree, the cheetah finds a good place from which to scan the landscape for prey.
- Closing In**  
Selecting a target, the cheetah approaches the prey at a walk or slow run. Often it crouches to blend in with the grasses and stalks an unsuspecting victim.
- The Chase is On**  
Once the prey notices the cheetah, it takes off running. This triggers the cheetah to burst into a full speed chase. The cheetah must get within striking distance quickly. It can only keep up its speed for a short time - less than 30 seconds - before it must eat.
- A Quick Trip**  
Reaching out its front paws and strong dewclaw, the cheetah swipes at the prey's hind legs to trip and knock it to the ground.
- The Chokehold**  
Biting down on the animal's throat, the cheetah closes off the prey's windpipe and suffocates it.
- Taking a Break**  
Exhausted and in danger of overheating from the chase, the cheetah lays down for up to 30 mins to recover before it begins to eat.
- Dinner is Served**  
Starting with the animals hindquarters, the cheetah feasts. It gorges itself on the meat, eating as much as it can as quickly as possible. Unable to defend its kill, the cheetah leaves behind its leftovers, if they haven't already been stolen by lions or hyenas.

## WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

The cheetah is a predator. Some of its favorite prey animals are pictured below. The animals' names are written in Afrikaans and Oshiwambo, two common languages spoken in Namibia. Rearrange the letters to discover the correct English name for each animal.



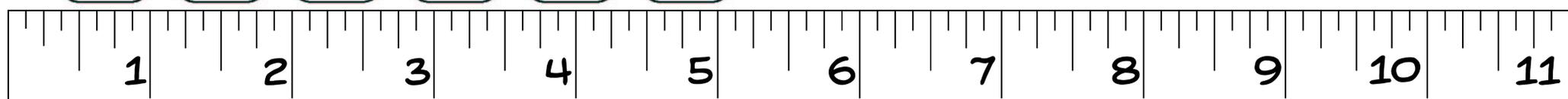
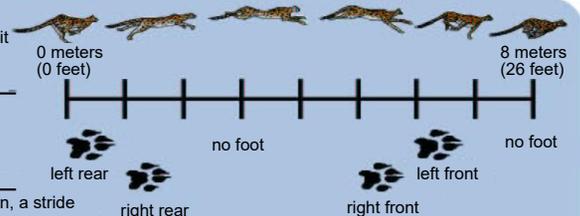
1	2	3	4	5	6
Afrikaans Koedoe	Afrikaans Gemsbok	Afrikaans Vlakvark	Afrikaans Hartebeest	Afrikaans Springbok	Afrikaans Steenbok
Oshiwambo Oholongo	Oshiwambo Osino	Oshiwambo Ompinda	Oshiwambo Ohumba	Oshiwambo Omenye	Oshiwambo Okapundja

## COMPARE YOUR SPEED TO A CHEETAH'S

A cheetah can sprint across a distance of 92 feet (28 m) in a single second. How long does it take you to cover the same distance?

A cheetah covers 25 feet (8 m) in one stride. How much distance can you cover in a single stride\*?

\* A stride is one cycle of footsteps. For a person, a stride is stepping forward with one foot and then the other.



This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Catherine Cheetah-Jones.

# Shortcuts<sup>®</sup>

by Jeff Harris

## A QUICK LOOK AT CHEETAHS

**A**bout a hundred years ago, there were approximately 100,000 cheetahs in the wild. Today, scientists believe there are fewer than 10,000 cheetahs remaining in the wild. Hopefully, this trend can be reversed before the fastest animal on earth loses its race for survival.



This cartoon is trying to pull a fast one.

### LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

Cheetahs once roamed throughout India, the Middle East and many parts of Asia. Today, wild cheetahs are found only in eastern, central and southern Africa.

Cheetahs are not as aggressive as other predators and often lose their prey to lions or hyenas.

In the wild, most cheetahs live alone, but some prefer to live in small groups.

Cheetahs prefer to hunt in the daytime.

### ON THE SPOT

A cheetah's heart and lungs are larger than those of most other cats. These organs pump high levels of oxygen through the cheetah's body, providing the energy for running.

A cheetah's long tail is about half the length of its body.

Cheetahs are the only cats that do not have fully retractable claws.

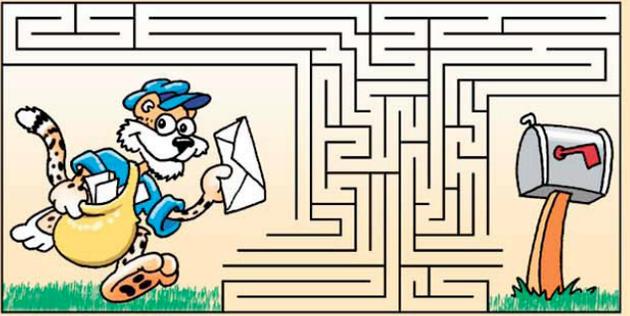
### WORD SEARCH

Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

PREDATOR	CLAW	PREY	A N I M A T I O N D R A W
CHEETAH	HUNT	TAIL	A L L U N A E X S O R A G
STREAK	LONG	BOB	C L O U D C B A T P L N O
STRIDE	TEAR	CAT	A S H F L C U A R C O N E
SPOTS	FAST	CUB	C R E A M H D B I L U T E
QUICK	FLEX	RUN	A C A S A E T A D F K I S
			P O S T R E A K E C L I P
			A R E P I T I L I R B E E
			D U E T A A L U A O N Y X
			A N D Y A H Q U B O N E S

### BAD NEWS TRAVELS FAST

Can you help this cheetah deliver the mail?



My career has been spotty, at best.



A running cheetah may travel more than 7 m (23 ft.) between each stride.

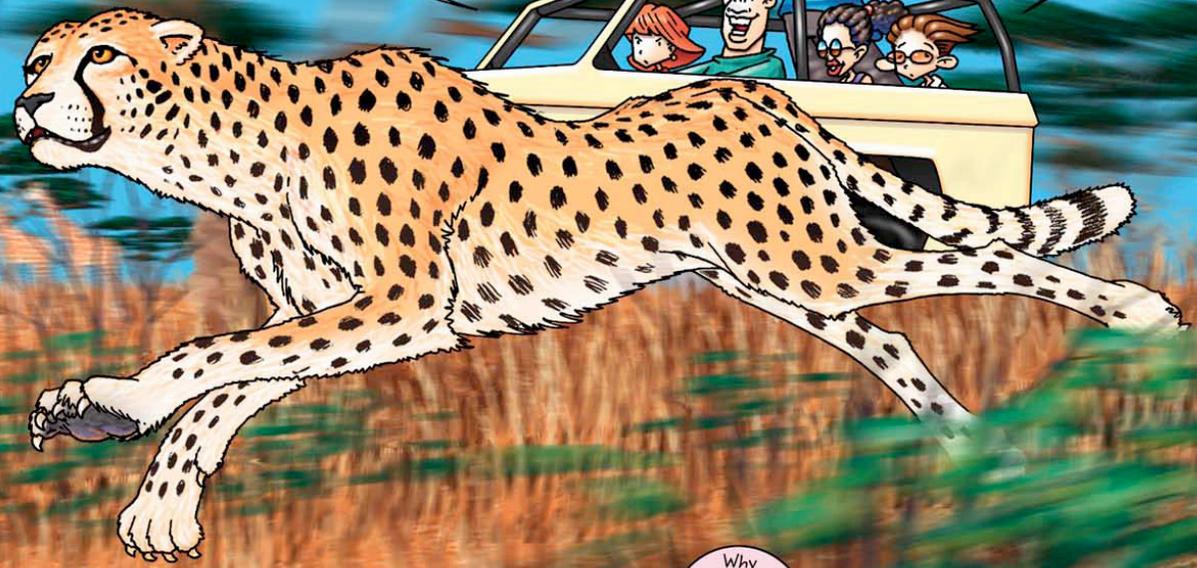
What do you get when you cross a cheetah with a deer? A fast buck.

Cheetahs have a set of distinctive black stripes called "tear streaks" that run from their eyes to their mouth.

Cheetahs tire very quickly and will give up a chase if they do not catch their prey within a few hundred meters.

The cheetah is the fastest mammal on earth. A cheetah can run as fast as 110 km/h (68 mph) over short periods of time.

The backbone of a cheetah flexes like a spring to help it run at high speeds.



What is the best way to find a cheetah? Use a spot light.

Why couldn't the cheetah play hide-and-seek? It was always spotted.

Why don't cheetahs enter races? Because cheetahs (cheaters) never win.