

Influencers risk shark bites for perfect photo

20th August 2026



Many people do their best to take the perfect photograph. In particular, influencers are trying hard to do this. They want all their fans and followers to see their photos. Some influencers are risking their lives by swimming

with and touching sharks. Naturally, things can go wrong. One example of this is a rise in the number of people bitten by sharks. The host of the Shark Bytes YouTube channel, Kristian Parton, says he is worried. He is hearing about "way more" shark attacks than ever before. He warned: "We're talking about a true apex predator – a very large wild animal." He added: "You wouldn't walk into the Serengeti [on safari] and try to put your hand on the face of a lion."

Shark experts are warning influencers to stay away from sharks. They point to a number of stories of people trying to photograph sharks and then getting injured or killed. Last year, a woman in the Caribbean had both hands bitten off when she tried to take a photo of a bull shark. Her husband tried to protect her. He called the incident a "living nightmare". Two months later, an influencer was killed in Israel. He was trying to feed the sharks to get them to come closer, but they attacked him. The shark experts said the influencers are sending a dangerous message to their followers. They said this was because the followers might think it is safe to touch or even try to ride sharks.

Sources: metro.co.uk / telegraph.co.uk / bbc.com

Writing

People should not take photographs of dangerous animals. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

doing your best / the perfect photo / influencers / followers / swimming / sharks / lion / experts / warning / being bitten / a nightmare / dangerous / message / ride a shark

True / False

- 1) The article says everyone wants to take perfect photos. T / F
- 2) Some influencers risk their lives by photographing sharks. T / F
- 3) More and more people are getting bitten by sharks. T / F
- 4) A YouTuber compared photographing sharks to touching a lion's face. T / F
- 5) A woman lost both her hands while trying to photograph a shark. T / F
- 6) The woman's husband has nightmares every night about the attack. T / F
- 7) Experts say influencers are sending a dangerous message to followers. T / F
- 8) Shark experts said most sharks are safe to touch. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. in particular | a. alerting |
| 2. risking | b. of course |
| 3. naturally | c. increase |
| 4. go wrong | d. harmless |
| 5. rise | e. specifically |
| 6. warning | f. event |
| 7. injured | g. specialists |
| 8. incident | h. endangering |
| 9. experts | i. hurt |
| 10. safe | j. not succeed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Have you ever seen the movie 'Jaws'?
- c) Why are influencers popular?
- d) Would you like to be an influencer?
- e) Would you worry about swimming in the sea?
- f) How can we reduce the number of shark attacks?
- g) Have you ever been influenced by an influencer?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the influencers?

Phrase Match

1. Many people do
 2. all their fans
 3. influencers are risking
 4. a rise in the number
 5. a very large wild
 6. experts are warning influencers to
 7. getting injured
 8. He was trying to feed
 9. influencers are sending a dangerous
 10. followers might think
- a. message
 - b. their lives
 - c. animal
 - d. or killed
 - e. stay away from sharks
 - f. their best
 - g. it is safe
 - h. and followers
 - i. the sharks
 - j. of people bitten

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think of influencers?
- b) What do you need to be a good influencer?
- c) What influencers do you follow?
- d) How good are you at taking photos?
- e) Would you like to swim with sharks?
- f) What do you think of influencers getting close to sharks?
- g) What do you know about sharks?
- h) What advice do you have for the influencers?

Spelling

1. take the cfterpe photograph
2. their fans and oewlofsrl
3. things can go gwnro
4. people ttbein by sharks
5. shark tcaakst
6. a true apex aporertd
7. shark rpesxet
8. getting jrunide or killed
9. Her husband tried to pocrtet her
10. a living mertahing
11. sending a rugaodsne message
12. it is safe to uctho

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. a	7. i	8. f	9. g	10. d

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	What do many people do their best to do?
2.	What does the article say influencers are risking?
3.	What has there been a rise in the number of?
4.	What did a YouTuber call a shark?
5.	What did the YouTuber compare touching a shark to?
6.	What are shark experts advising influencers to do?
7.	When was a woman attacked in the Caribbean?
8.	What was an influencer trying to do to get sharks to come closer?
9.	What kind of message did a YouTuber say influencers are sending?
10.	Who might think it is safe to touch a shark?

Speaking – Predators

Rank these with your partner. Put the best predators at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Sharks
- Wolves
- Crocodiles
- Polar bears
- Golden eagles
- Lions
- Giant squid
- Giant centipede

Answers – True False

1	F	2	T	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.