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Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

Shark vs. octopus

**00.00–00.13** Here’s a giant Pacific octopus in an equally giant aquarium tank. The giant Pacific octopus is from a group of animals known as octopods, meaning ‘eight legs or arms’.

**00.14–00.38** Now, there are also sharks in this tank as well. This is a spiny dogfish shark, known to be a fierce predator. Usually, dogfish sharks eat fish, but they have been known to attack and eat an occasional octopus.

Could this octopus be in danger of being eaten? Well, don’t dismiss that idea yet.

**00.39–00.55** The giant Pacific octopus is an extraordinary creature. It can camouflage itself from predators by transforming its skin colour to match its surroundings. And if that doesn’t work, it can release a dark ink at an attacker, and escape by forcing water out of its body, which enables it to move away quickly.

**00.55–01.12** The spiny dogfish shark got its name from two sharp spines on its fins, which contain a mild poison. Dogfish sharks are known to travel in large schools, or packs, like dogs.

**01.13–01.35** When bodies of sharks began appearing at the bottom of the tank, the aquarium staff became worried about the sharks’ welfare.

The giant octopus usually dines on fish and small sea creatures like prawns and crabs, so no one expected the humble octopus to be responsible for the dead sharks.

But they soon discovered what was happening.

**01.39–01.58** Each of the octopus’s flexible arms contains two rows of suckers, used for catching prey. In its mouth is a beak which it uses to kill prey and tear it into pieces … including, it seems, fearless sharks.

**02.02–02.14** The aquarium staff had learned something new about the giant Pacific octopus. They hadn’t expected it to be an expert shark-killer.

**02.17–end** Well, it’s clear that we can pronounce the octopus the winner in this fight.

Life

There definitely was a dangerous animal in this aquarium tank. But the danger had eight legs – and powerful suckers.