**Learning Objective**We are learning how to use a thesaurus to find words that have a similar meaning when writing sentences.

**Challenge   
With a reading buddy, use a thesaurus to replace each of the bracketed words with a suitable synonym. (If the word you find is unfamiliar to you, use a dictionary to make sure that you use the word correctly.)**

The Nile crocodile has a reputation for being a (vicious) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man-eater. Due to the fact its (habitat) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is close to people, there are (frequent) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ confrontations, with an estimated 200 people a year dying from its bite. Nile crocodiles will eat (virtually) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ anything, whether you’re a villager or a wildebeest.

This African croc can reach a (whopping) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 20 feet long and can weigh up to an (impressive) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1,650 pounds. However, (average) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sizes are more in the range of 16 feet and 500 pounds. They live throughout the Nile Basin, sub-Saharan Africa, and Madagascar mangrove swamps, rivers, and freshwater marshes.

Nile crocodiles can eat up to half their own body weight when feeding. They (mainly) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ eat fish, but they will attack almost anything (unlucky) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enough to get in their way, including birds, small hippos, zebras and even other crocodiles.

Although this animal is (fearsome) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , it is also a (caring) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ parent. Parents (ferociously) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ guard their nests until the eggs hatch, but (gently) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ roll their hatching babies in their mouths to help them emerge.

In the 1940s through to the 1960s, Nile crocodiles were hunted close to extinction. However, local and international protections have helped (prevent) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this in most areas. Still, habitat loss, hunting, and pollution have severely impacted the species’ numbers.