

READ THE PASSAGE Visualize how elephants use their trunks.

Terrific Trunks!

An elephant's trunk is the world's most useful nose. The trunk is used to drink, eat, smell, bathe, and greet other elephants!

Elephants use their trunks to help them find food and water. Because their noses are so large, elephants have a keen sense of smell. They can smell water or fruit that is miles away. An elephant can suck up two gallons (7.5 L) of water with its trunk. The elephant can squirt the water into its mouth if it's thirsty. It can squirt the water onto its back to cool down. The trunk wraps around branches and leaves. Then the elephant breaks off the food to put in its mouth. An elephant needs to eat about 300 pounds (135 kg) of grass, leaves, and fruit a day. So its trunk is very busy.

Elephants also use their trunks to show feelings. When two elephants meet, they may wrap their trunks in a "trunk-shake." Mother elephants pat their babies with their trunks. And baby elephants suck their own trunks for comfort.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. How do elephants get and use water with their trunks?

2. Write three ways in which an elephant's trunk helps it to eat.

3. There is one opinion stated in the text. Write it and explain why it's an opinion.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Underline words and phrases in the passage that helped you visualize how elephants use their trunks.