

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Look at these photographs. Which one is the strongest for its size?







Now read the text.

Small can be very, very strong!

How strong are you? How many people can you lift up? One? Two? Can you pick up your friend and carry him or her across the room? One champion weight lifter from Bulgaria can lift nearly five times his body weight! He only weighs 66.7 kilos but he can lift 317.5 kilos.

The elephant is a very big, strong animal. A large African elephant weighs about 7,112 kilos, but it can only lift 25% of its own body weight. So an elephant can only lift one quarter of an elephant. You are probably stronger than an elephant! A leaf-cutter ant is a tiny ant from South America. It is 10mm long and only weighs a few grams. But a leaf-cutter ant can lift nearly 30 times its own weight.

The rhinoceros beetle from south east Asia gets its name from the big horn on the front of its head. It lives in the rainforest and digs through all the earth, leaves, sticks and other things on the forest floor. It must be very strong to do this. In fact it is the king of the weight-lifters. It weighs a tiny 20 grams and is only 60-150mm long. But this amazing beetle can lift 850 times its own body weight!

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 An elephant can lift four times its body weight.
- 2 The weight lifter would be stronger than an elephant the same size.
- 3 The leaf-cutter ant can't lift a rhinoceros beetle.

- 4 The rhinoceros beetle can move earth with its horn.
- 5 The rhinoceros beetle can lift a leaf-cutter ant.

3 Find the weights and sizes to complete this chart.

	Weight lifter	African elephant	Leaf-cutter ant	Rhinoceros beetle
weight	66.7 kilos			
length				

F

