

# How Many Elephants Would Fit in a School Bus?

There are two kinds of elephants. African elephants are huge. Asian elephants are a little bit smaller, but they are still big.

Everything about an elephant is big. It has big ears. It has big eyes and big tusks. It can weigh as much as a school bus!

Even baby elephants are pretty big. When baby elephants are born they are about 3 feet tall, compared to a human baby that is less than two feet tall.

When you were born you probably weighed about 7 pounds. Imagine 7 pounds of butter. Baby elephants weigh about 200 pounds, as much as a big man!

Because they are so big, they have to eat a lot. Elephants eat roots, grasses, fruit, and bark from trees. They eat 300 to 400 pounds of food every day. It is not easy for them to find enough food, so they have to walk a long way looking for something to eat.

An elephant also has a long nose called a trunk. It uses its trunk to find leaves and fruits to eat. It uses its trunk to breathe and to smell. An elephant can even shower itself with its trunk. It sucks up water and sprays its back. A mother elephant uses her trunk to feed her baby. She can even hold her baby close with her trunk.

Elephants also have tusks. They use their tusks to dig for food and water and to strip bark from trees. Male elephants may use their tusks to fight each other.



Elephants live in families. Families of grandmothers, aunts, mothers, and babies live together in herds. The male elephants leave the herd when they are about 14 years old but the females stick together.

Elephants are very smart animals. They can remember things for a number of years, like where to find water. They even remember who is friendly and who might hunt them. Elephants are wonderful animals.

