

ANIMALS AND INSECTS AROUND US

我们身边的

动物和昆虫

杨明秋  
编著



中学生英语文库

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# 我们身边的动物和昆虫

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# 我的心愿

——代前言

80年代中我在澳大利亚学习,研究教学法,那时深感国内可供中学生和英语初学者阅读的英语读物太少,便有了给他们编写英语读物的愿望,开始收集了一些资料。

给中学生和初学者编写读物,首先语言要简单,有趣味性;同时又要通过阅读学到知识,但这三者都能做到真是不容易。走进书店,涉足浩瀚的书海,可适合现代中学生的英语读物寥寥无几。许多古典名著的简写本还是50年代我们当年所读的书,故事内容离现代青年学生的生活太远;一些国外进口的知识性读物语言太深,生词太多,中国初学者读起来困难重重,以致兴趣索然,看不下去。然而,只靠一本教科书怎能学好一种外国语言?学生们机械地做题,直把学习英语的兴趣磨得一干二净。我便又有了编写读物的冲动。我整理出长期在国外收集的资料,糅进了自己的亲身经历,结合我国读者的实情写成了这本书。

本书共有20篇短文。每篇短文后出了三组题。前两组题帮助读者自我检测是否已经读懂了故事内容,后一组题作为阅读后小组讨论,引发学生口头探讨问题的兴趣。文后列了生词加注了音标。文章前的条幅中列了6个key words帮助理解。

为了在语言上对读者负责,特请英籍教师 Miss Nancy Esterson 对本书文字作了润色,某些地方作了改动。北京外国语大学老前辈熊德軺教授亦看过本书中大部分并给予了宝贵意见。张泰金老师在我整个创作过程中给予了我鼓励和帮助。诸中英、冯璐两位朋友为每篇故事配了插图,使故事图文并茂,更显生动。目录较为新颖,是以彩色画图代替文字再标出每篇故事的主人公所在的页码,以便查阅。

感谢上海外语教育出版社,责任编辑及其他同志们给予的支持和帮助,此书得以出版,了却我多年的心愿。

杨明秋

2000.1.12 于北京

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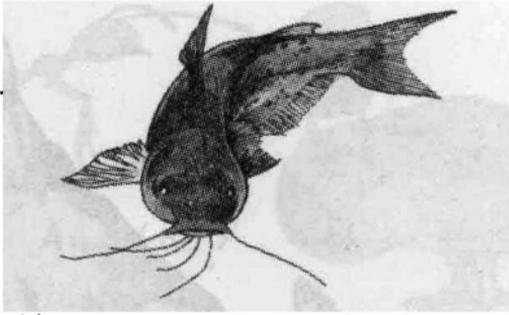
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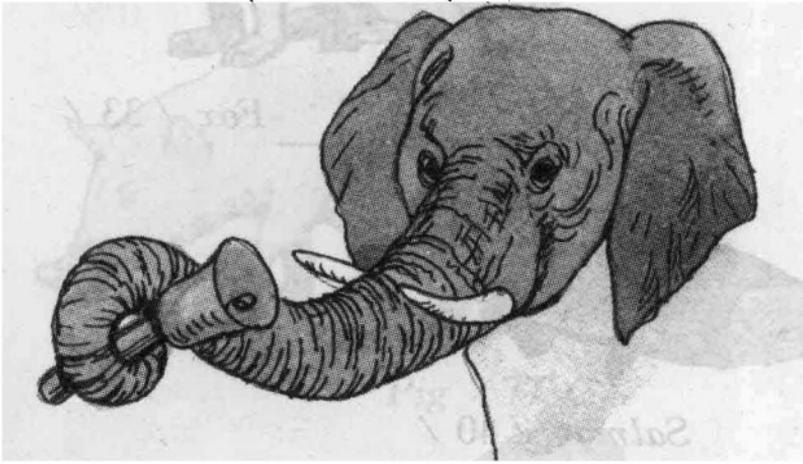
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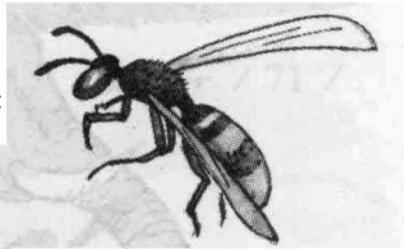
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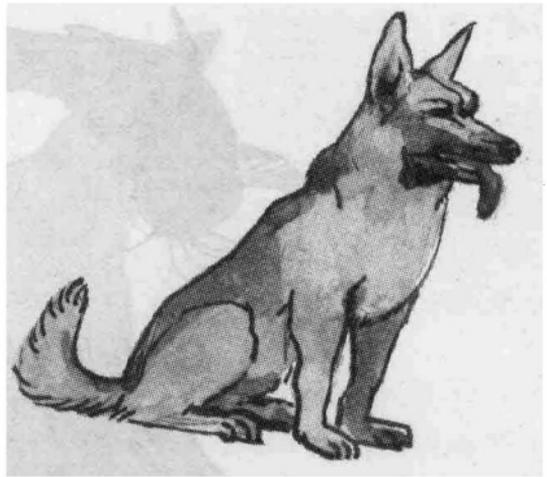
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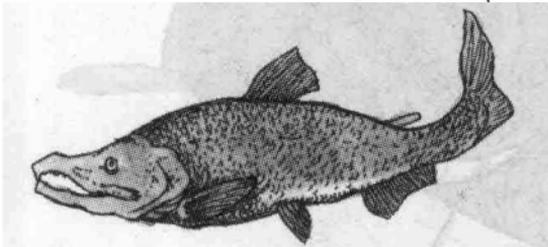
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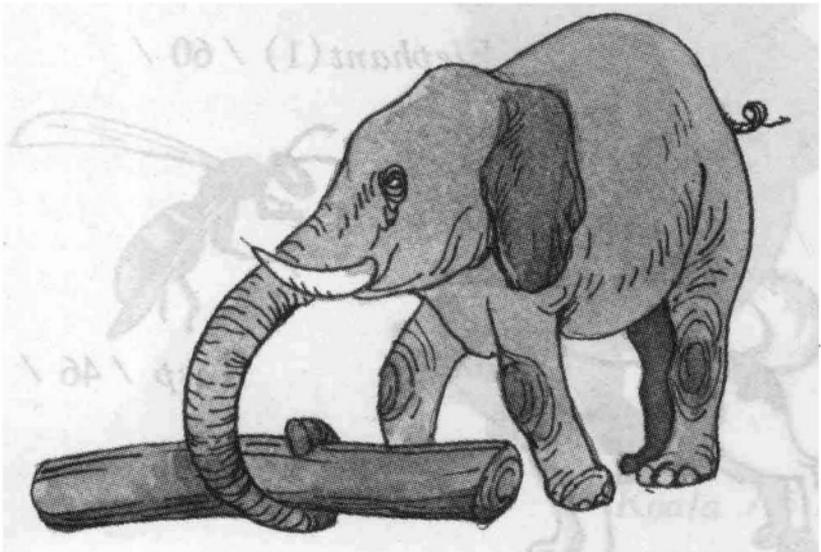
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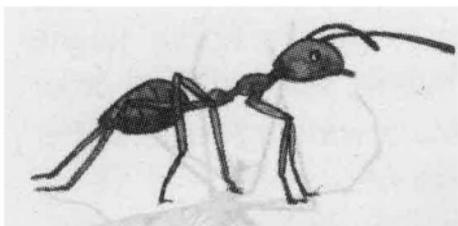
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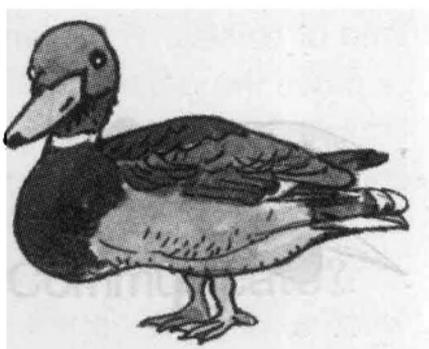
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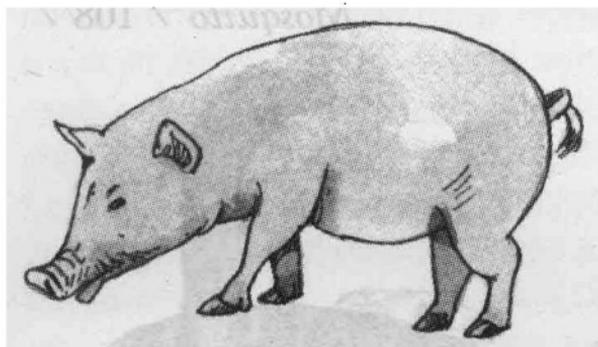
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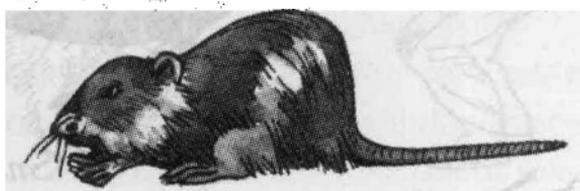
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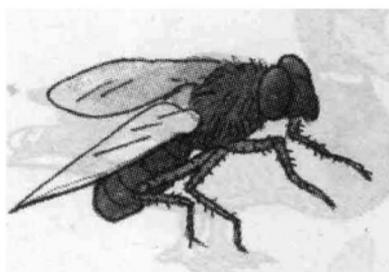
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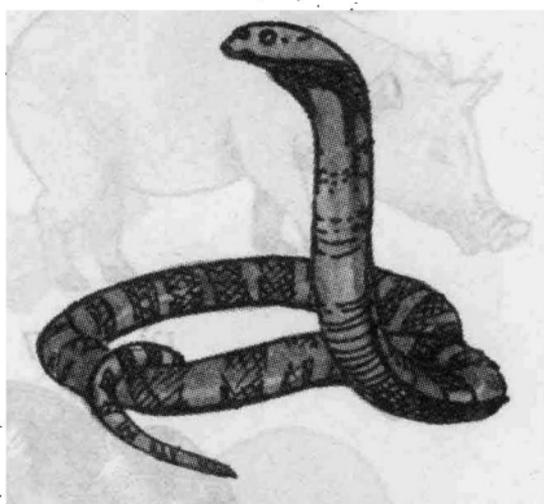
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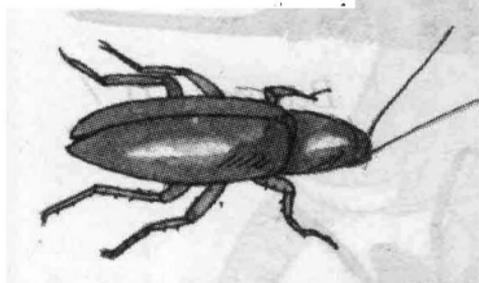
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kind of noises. For example, when a horse neighs or paws the ground, this means something to other horses. A mother hen gives a warning noise to her chicks when danger is present.

Dogs communicate in a variety of ways: they bark, growl, snarl, whine or howl. They bark when a stranger appears. That is surely a warning to their masters to be on their guard. And they growl at the stranger when he comes close, which is a warning to him to stay away. If, at night, a dog whines, it means something sad has happened to him. The long high gloomy sound tells you how he is feeling. And when two dogs fight they snarl at each other. Each tells their opponent, "I am not afraid of you." They bare their teeth or lift a paw and understand these sounds and movements.

Bees have a fantastic ability to communicate. When they return to the hive, they do a dance which tells the other bees what kind of flowers they have found, how far away they are, what direction they should take, and so on.

Birds, as we all know, have bird songs. And they are able to communicate by singing. In fact, there are "dialects" in bird songs. The song of the same kind of bird varies in different parts of the world. For instance, it is slightly different in Switzerland than it is in England.

It is interesting that domestic animals have learned how to communicate with their masters. Many people believe that their pet dog can under-

stand human language. For example, when you give orders to your pet dog: get up; lie down; go away ... he would do as you order him. It can even help you. "Go and get my slippers," you say, and your dog goes and gets them for you immediately. When you tell him to put your shoes away, he is happy to do so. Some blind people keep dogs to help them. The dogs can go to the butcher's to buy meat for their masters. When their masters walk in the street, they lead their way. Cats beg for food when they are hungry and mew until the door is open.

However, other people think that what dogs learn is actually just the meaning of certain tones of voice, not the actual words. Do you agree? If you believe that animals can communicate with each other, even with human beings, then, do you believe animals have ability to think? Read this book and reach your own conclusion.

## New Words

communicate / kəm'ju:nikeɪt / *v.* 交流

a variety of / və'reɪəti / 多种多样的

neigh / nei / *v.* 马嘶

fantastic / fæn'tæstɪk / *a.* 惊人的

butcher's / 'bʊtʃəz / *n.* 肉铺

conclusion / kən'klu:ʒən / *n.* 结论

## Exercises

A. Check your understanding:

1. In what way can animals communicate with one

another?

2. In what ways do dogs communicate?
3. How do bees give information to others?
4. How do birds communicate?
5. Do domestic animals know how to communicate with their masters? If yes, give us some examples, please.
6. What do other people think of animals?

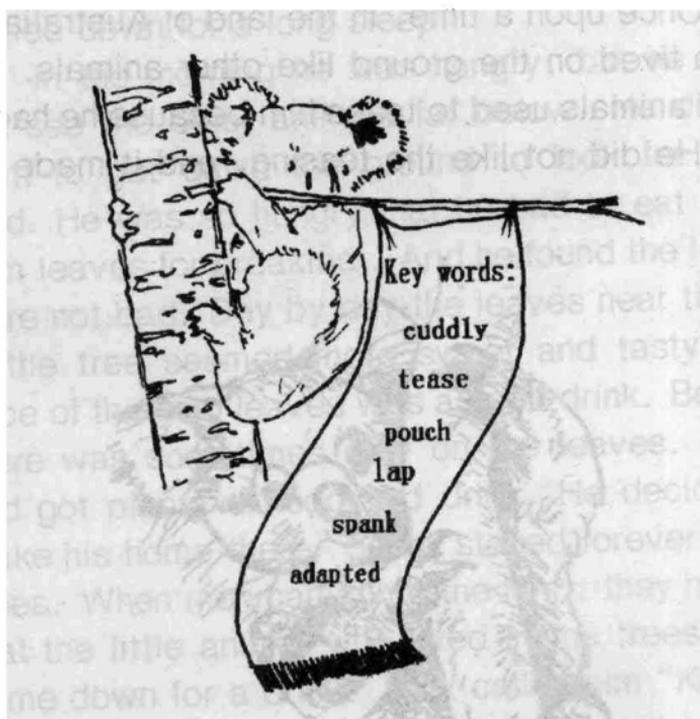
B. Complete the following sentences with information from the story:

1. Many animals communicate by making certain \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When bees return to the hive, they do \_\_\_\_\_ to tell the other bees \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When dogs see a stranger they bark. That is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Bird song is a means to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Many people believe that their pet dog can understand human language, because \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Some blind people keep dogs to \_\_\_\_\_. When they walk in the street their \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Topics for discussion:

1. Have you ever kept any animals as pets? What are they and how do you love them?
2. If you have the experience in keeping pets, do you communicate with them? In what way?
3. What animals do you love best? Why?
4. Can animals communicate? What is your opinion?

## 2. The Koala—He Who Doesn't Drink



Look at the picture above, please. Do you know anything about him, children? Yes, you do. Some of you have seen him in the zoo. And some of you have seen him only in your book, or in a picture. This cute little animal lives in trees in Aus-

tralia. He has round eyes, round ears, and ... yes, the whole body is round and covered in soft grey fur. His eyes look like buttons. He has small feet and big ears. And his nose shines like your new black shoes. What is this little cuddly animal? He looks like a roly-poly bear. "But where is his tail?" Oh, I forgot to tell you that. He has no tail. That is why the people in Hong Kong call him a non-tailed bear. And we call him a "tree bear". But he is not a bear. He is a koala.

Once upon a time, in the land of Australia the koala lived on the ground like other animals. The other animals used to tease him because he had no tail. He did not like the teasing, and it made him

