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CE

疯狂英语

VOA

慢速英语听力

(社会篇)

VOA
Social English
Listening
Comprehension Drills

编者 王 忱

精选美国权威电台广播
围绕美国社会文化生活
熟练掌握地道美语发音
有效提高听力记忆能力

《疯狂英语》编辑部制作
江西文化音像出版社

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VOA Social English — Listening Comprehension Drills

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前言

全球一体化的今天，广泛使用美式英语已成大势所趋。要和时代同步、掌握瞬息万变的全球资讯、通晓世界潮流的脉搏、博得先机，就一定要适时应变——掌握地道的美式英语。

想让自己说一口漂亮的、地道的美语，那么首先，你应该能够听懂它。听什么？如何听？许多读者学了很多年的英语都还听不懂几句简单的句子，这是什么原因？很明显，因为他没有掌握方式方法。有些人一开始学习英语就想一口吃个胖子，到头来竹篮打水一场空；还有些人成天到晚死抠一些不易听懂的字眼，弄到最后也一无所成。所以说，行之有效的学习方法是英语学习的关键。就此，本书给出了最有效的练习听力的方法，相信在你使用完本书以后，你的听力水平一定会有显著的提高。

本套书收录了美国权威电台“美国之音”（The Voice of America）广播节目，还原现场，再现原声，编排由浅入深，语速由慢至快。读者既可在休闲之余随意收听，轻松自然地熟悉地道美语发音、声调和措辞；也可仔细聆听，借书中的习题来测试自己的听力功夫，深入理解文章的内容，模仿美语的表达形式，提高自己的听力能力。所有选辑题材均是围绕美国社会文化生活，并配以生动的文化背景知识介绍，帮助读者进一步加深对美语的理解。

本书包含了二十四篇文章，每篇文章又含有单词热身、聆听练习（Listening）[包括做笔记（Guided Note-taking）和理解测验（Comprehension Test）两部分]、阅读学习（Reading）（包括录音文本、中文翻译和小常识）三大部分。

◇ 单词热身——挑选了文中难度较大的单词，并给出详细的音标及中文释义；

◇ 做笔记——训练速记能力，帮助记忆重点，方便日后重温；

◇ 理解测验——测试你的理解能力；

◇ 阅读学习——给出了全文、翻译及背景材料，供你对照检查。

外语学习是一个循序渐进的过程，只要有决心和毅力，多听、多说、多读、多写，日积月累，一定会有成效的。

编者

2002.11.

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Cats in America

美国的猫



单词热身

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| furry | [ˈfɜ:ri] | adj. 毛皮的, 盖着毛皮的 |
| extremist | [iksˈtri:mɪst] | n. 极端主义者, 过激分子 |
| purr | [pɜ:] | v. 咕噜咕噜叫 |



LISTENING

I. Guided Note-taking

About American Pet Cats

Their numbers (1)_____

How they are treated They live (2)_____.

They do not (3)_____.

They are treated like (4)_____.

How the care of cats becomes a big business

They wait for their owners (5) _____.

Some costly cats take part in (6) _____.

Cat-owners buy tons of (7) _____.

They buy for the cats (8) _____.

They buy for themselves jewelry & clothes with (9) _____.

They bury their dead cats in (10) _____.

Time humans spent with cats (11) _____.

Earliest cat owners probably (12) _____
in U.S.A.

How cats were treated

The small house cat was (13) _____.

In ancient Egypt, anyone killing a cat could be (14) _____.

Early American cats had to (15) _____.

Some cats were suspected of (16) _____.

Why cats are popular as pets

They give the owners (17) _____.

They need less (18)_____.

They suffer less from (19)_____.

They are more (20)_____.

Criticisms of cats

They lack (21)_____.

They stay with people only (22)_____.

II. Comprehension Test

TRUE OR FALSE?

TRUE OR FALSE?

1. Traditionally the cat is man's best friend. []
2. American house cats outnumber pet dogs by 2 million. []
3. Costly cats take part in competitions. []
4. Cats were treated like fairy kings and queens. []

TRUE OR FALSE?

5. There were house cats as far back as 8,000 years ago.
6. Cats in ancient Egypt were often punished and killed.
7. Black cats are evil.
8. Dogs don't like to leave their owners.

SHORT QUESTIONS

SHORT QUESTIONS

9. In what way is the care of cats a big business?

10. Where did American house cats come from?

11. How do people explain the Americans' preference of cats to dogs?



Cats in America

美国的猫

An old expression says, "Man's best friend is his dog." Today, however, it seems that cats have replaced dogs as the most popular pets in American homes.

Americans have more than 62 million pet dogs. But even more cats — more than 64 million — live in American homes.

These pet cats may have long hair or short hair. They are different colors and sizes. Some are costly animals that take part in competitions. Many more are common American mixtures of several kinds of cats.

Most house cats live a good life. They are not expected to work for their food. Instead, they rule their homes like furry kings and queens. They wait for their owners to serve them.

一句老话这样说道：“人类最好的朋友就是他的狗”。然而今天，在美国家庭中，猫似乎已经取代了狗，成为最受欢迎的宠物。

美国人拥有6,200多万只宠物狗。然而在美国家庭中生活着更多的猫——6,400万只。

这些宠物猫有的毛长，有的毛短。它们的颜色和大小也各不相同。有些曾经参加过比赛，身价昂贵。更多的则是普通的美国杂交猫。

大多数家猫生活舒适。它们不需为食物而工作。相反它们像穿着皮毛的皇帝和皇后统治着家庭，等待着主人们为它们服务。

Americans are increasingly serious about their cats. These concerns have made the care of cats into big business.

Each year, cat owners buy tons of food especially prepared for cats. They buy toys and other equipment. They buy jewelry and clothes for themselves with images of cats on them. Some owners even bury their dead pets in special burial grounds.

Humans have loved and respected cats for centuries. Scientists have evidence that cats and people lived together as long as 8,000 years ago. The small house cat was once a highly honored animal. In ancient Egypt, for example, people who killed a cat could be punished by death.

Early in American history cats were not treated as gods, however. They probably arrived in the United States with settlers and traders from Europe. These cats worked. They killed rats and mice.

美国人越来越认真地对待他们的猫。这种关心使得对猫的照顾成为一项大生意。

每年，猫主人会买数以吨计专门为猫准备的食物。他们购买玩具和其它设备。他们为自己购买带有猫咪图象的珠宝首饰和衣服。一些主人甚至还将死去的宠物埋在特殊的墓地。

人类对猫的喜爱和重视已经有几个世纪之久。科学家有证据表明早在8,000年以前，猫和人类就共同生活了。小小的家猫一度是高度受尊重的动物。例如，在古埃及杀死一只猫的人可能被处死。

然而，在美国创立之时，猫未被人们像神一样来对待。它们可能是与定居者和商人一起从欧洲来到美国的。这些猫得工作，得捕杀鼠类。

Sometimes, Americans mistreated their cats. During the early days of the nation, religious extremists believed that some cats were working for the devil. Black cats were especially suspected of being evil.

Later, American families who had enough food began taking cats into their homes. People cared for the cats because the animals gave them pleasure. The cats thanked people for feeding them by making a purring sound. This pleasant noise usually means a cat is happy.

Animal experts offer several reasons why cats have become so popular as house pets. They say cats need less care than dogs. And cats do not seem to suffer as much as dogs from being alone if the owners are away.

Still, millions of other people do not like cats at all. They say dogs are better and more loving pets. They say cats do not have much feeling. They

有时候,美国人还曾虐待他们的猫。在建国初期,宗教极端分子认为一些猫是为魔鬼服务的。特别是黑猫更被怀疑与邪恶有关。

后来,一些不愁吃穿的美国家庭开始在家中养猫。人们喜欢猫是因为这种小动物能给他们带来欢乐。猫以它们满足的咕噜声答谢人们的饲养。这种悦耳的声音通常意味着猫咪的快乐。

动物专家提出了几条理由,说明猫作为家庭宠物为什么如此受人喜爱。他们指出猫需要的照顾比狗少。当主人不在时,独自在家里的猫似乎比狗所受的痛苦要少些。

然而仍有数百万人一点也不喜欢猫。他们认为狗更好,是对主人更亲的宠物。他们觉得猫的感情

believe cats stay with people only to be fed. Cat owners defend their pets against such criticism. They say cats are just much more independent than dogs.

A student of animal medicine explains the situation this way: Dogs follow you around. They want you to talk to them and play with them a lot of the time. Cats like more space and more privacy. This does not mean they do not love their owners.

不丰富。他们认为猫只是为了食物才和主人在一起。对于这种批评，猫的主人们为他们的宠物辩护，他们说猫只是比狗更有独立性。

对于这种情况，一位学习兽医的学生这样解释：狗到处跟着你。它们要你花上很多时间与它们谈话，陪它们嬉戏。猫则喜欢更多的空间和更多的独处，这并不意味着它们不爱它们的主人。

Small Nous

小常识

猫科动物是最强悍凶猛的食肉动物，它们包括猫、狮子、老虎、豹、猎豹等等。

猫科动物的视力特强，瞳孔能随着光线的变化放大或缩小，所以特别擅长在黑暗中狩猎。它们反应敏捷，后腿弯度很大，弹跳力非常好。脚掌下的肉垫比其它食肉动物的大而厚，爪子可以自由伸缩，走路的时候尖爪会缩进去，使其可以悄然无声地接近猎物。

猫是猫科动物中较温驯的动物。

Cloning Pigs

克隆猪

单词热身

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| cell | [sel] | n. 细胞, 单元 |
| clone | [kləun] | v. 无性繁殖, 复制 |
| transplant | [træns'plɑ:nt] | v. 移植, 移种 |
| therapeutics | [,θerə'pjʊ:tiks] | n. 治疗学, 疗法 |
| fetus | ['fi:təs] | n. 胎儿 |
| pregnancy | ['pregnənsi] | n. 怀孕 |
| piglet | ['piglit] | n. 小猪 |
| kidneys | ['kidniz] | n. 肾形矿脉 |

I. Guided Note-taking

The new experiment:

Scientists' achievements: They have produced (1)_____.

Significance: This is the first time (2)_____.

Application: The methods could be used to make genetically-changed pigs whose organs could (3)_____.

Sponsor: The (4)_____ company PPL Therapeutics.

Methods: Details of the methods used were (5)_____.

Process: It is (6)_____ that used to produce Dolly the sheep.

Goal: To produce animals with cells and organs (7)_____.

Market needs: Thousands of people around the world need (8)_____.

Tests on the piglets: The results show that genetic material in blood removed from the piglets is (9)_____, while the genes were (10)_____.

Goal of future tests: To (11)_____ so that (12)_____.