B2U5 Key & Transcript

# Part I Pre-Reading Task

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| **Animals** | **What are they good at in terms of intelligence?** |
| chimpanzees | short-term memory |
| dogs | social intelligence; cooperative communication skills |
| crows | using tools to get what they want; relational thinking |

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| **Transcript:**  Let’s start off our journey on land by looking at one of the animals that you humans are compared to the most, chimpanzees. Chimpanzees may be even smarter than humans in some ways. Research with the chimpanzee named Ayumu suggests that chimps might have a better short-term memory than humans. The numbers 1 through 9 were put up on a screen with the random arrangement and Ayumu was able to recall the location and the exact sequence of each number after they disappeared. It looks like only a small minority of you humans have this ability. That being said, chimps don’t seem to be that spectacular with social intelligence. According to a study, toddlers had a better ability than chimpanzees to watch someone and figure out what they were trying to do and what they wanted. Dogs actually seem to be closer to a toddler’s social intelligence than chimps, as they perform better on tests involving cooperative communication skills. Now it’s time to take to the skies. Oh, hey there, Mrs. Crow, just the bird I was looking for and nice top hat you got there. Crows might actually be pretty intelligent creatures and studies have come up recently to show it. One used motion cameras to see that New Caledonian Crows use tools in the wild to fish out large beetle larvae from holes in dead wood. Another study shows that crows may understand how to displace water to get a reward. They completed four out of six displacement tests, which could put them at the casual understanding level of a 5-to-7-year-old human. But probably the most amazing study on our winged friends suggests they exhibit advanced relational thinking. Crows were able to build relationships, like matching different-size circles to circles of the same size and were able to do so spontaneously and without explicit training. This would put crows in the same category as humans, apes and monkeys in terms of having advanced relational thinking. So what animals do you think are the smartest? |

# Part II Text A

**Comprehension**

**Text Organization**

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| **Subheadings** | **Main Ideas** |
| Let’s Make a Deal | Some animals are intelligent enough to know how to bargain with people. |
| Tale of a Whale | Animals like whales can assess a situation and act accordingly. |
| Primate Shell Game | Animals can attempt to deceive. |

**Summary of the Main Idea**

Eugene Linden wants to tell readers that animals do have, at least, some limited intelligence, and the personal experiences of those who are in close contact with animals are more convincing evidence than that any experiments can provide.

**Interpreting Difficult Sentences**

1. A 2. B 3. A 4. B

**Language Sense Enhancement**

Over the years, I have written extensively about animal-intelligence experiments and the 1) controversy that surrounds them. Do animals really have thoughts, what we call 2) consciousness? Wondering whether there might be better ways to 3) explore animal intelligence than experiments designed to teach human signs, I realized what now seems obvious: if animals can think, they will probably do their best thinking when it 4) serves their own purposes, not when scientists ask them to.

And so I started talking to vets, animal researchers, zoo keepers. Most do not study animal intelligence, but they 5) encounter it, and the 6) lack of it, every day. The stories they tell us reveal what I’m 7) convinced is a new window on animal intelligence: the kind of 8) mental feats animals perform when dealing with 9) captivity and the dominant species on the planet — 10) humans.

**Language Focus**

**Vocabulary**

**I. Basic Practice**

1.

1. The financial help they got from the local government didn’t go (very) far toward solving the problem.
2. In the interest(s) of world peace, we must promote mutual understanding among nations with different social systems.
3. I ran to the library to borrow a book for my assignment, only to find it closed.
4. On the train I encountered an old lady who happened to be a neighbor of my daughter’s when she lived in Los Angeles.
5. Our company has cooperated with several American companies in research and product development for the past few years.
6. Phil looked around at the other competitors and assessed his chances of winning.
7. The police believed that the reason they failed to find anything suspicious in that guy’s bag was that members of the gang (had) switched bags at the airport.
8. Our visit to the Silicon Valley has certainly broadened our horizons.
9. Emily felt increasingly uncomfortable under the man’s steady gaze.
10. Smallpox, which used to be a severe epidemic disease, has been completely wiped out.
11. With our advanced tool-making, language, problem-solving and social skills, we like to think of ourselves as the dominant life form on the planet.
12. People rely on their eyes for most tasks, but researchers have found that sometimes our eyes can deceive us.
13. It took only a few seconds for Lindsay to size up the situation and make a decision.
14. There have been intense debates about whether to put economic development ahead of environmental protection or the other way around, but there is no easy judgment to make.
15. We must maintain law and order at the highest level or we will cease to have a country.

2.

1. There was among our editors a great/fierce controversy over whether the book should be published or not.
2. Kate felt much relieved as her first meeting with Tom had gone smoothly.
3. Something suddenly went wrong with my computer when I was in the middle of writing a paper.
4. I pressed my parents until they finally gave in and registered me for skating classes.
5. Although the apartments are located in a quiet area, they are within easy reach of shops and restaurants.

3.

1. Various kinds of impressive projects have been undertaken by researchers to explore animal intelligence, but so far no agreement has been reached on whether it exists or not.
2. There is convincing evidence that the lost ancient tunnel must have run right underneath the city, extending all the way to the seashore.
3. When we encounter issues in foreign trade, we should first figure out what caused the problems and then try to negotiate a win-win solution that is beneficial to both sides.

**II. Confusable Words**

1. Phil studies management science firstly because he enjoys it and secondly because he wants to get a good job.
2. Tickets can be bought here on a first come, first served basis.
3. At first I thought the house was empty, then I heard a woman’s voice come from the kitchen.
4. First/Firstly I have to send the e-mail to John, then I’ll come shopping with you.
5. When people get their newspaper, which page do they read first?
6. There are two reasons. First, there is no evidence confirming that the original documents have been destroyed. Second, Jack saw them the day before yesterday.
7. You’ll find it difficult at first, but later it’ll get easier.
8. The company was still very small when I first joined it.

**III. Usage**

1.

Phrases In the phrase, the attributive noun indicates:

1) animal intelligence whose

2) zoo keeper where

3) eye contact through what

4) money supply of what

5) killer whale what kind

6) baby whale how old

7) family member of what

8) sea turtle what kind/where

2.

1. The horseman stands out in the crowd because of his big hat and leather boots.
2. I’d like to have tomato soup, green salad, and beef steak.
3. Gathering shells on a seaside holiday is a highlight of John’s childhood.
4. Could you bring me a copy of the morning paper?
5. Emma studies finance at New York University.
6. My father has been a hotel manager for 15 years.
7. It’s not unusual to find a baby elephant that weighs over a ton.
8. How many science students are there at Claremont College?
9. He works at our community arts center.
10. Bob took a long train ride to visit his uncle.

**Comprehensive Exercises**

**I. Cloze**

Animal behavior is the way that animals act. For example, how do they 1) cooperate to get food or take care of their young? How do they 2) assess/size up an environment and keep themselves out of danger? How do they act when 3) encountering enemies? Do they try to 4) deceive the latter? How do they decide on fight or flight if deceiving does not work? Much of animal behavior is innate; that is, animals are born with it. However, research 5) reveals that animals learn much other behavior.

One simple type of learned behavior is habituation. This happens when an animal learns to feel comfortable in a new situation and doesn’t pay attention to it anymore. For example, young horses are 6) at first afraid of noisy streets. But after a while, they learn to pay no attention to the normal sights and sounds of a city.

Another kind of learned behavior is conditioning. It is a way of learning by association. In 1900, Ivan Pavlov, a Russian biologist, 7) explored conditioning in dogs. Dogs innately salivate when they smell food. Pavlov 8) figured out that if he rang a bell every time he gave food to a dog it would eventually salivate when it heard the bell alone, without food.

The dog’s senses were tricked, but most learning is 9) in the interests of animals. It enables them to better 10) survive.

**II. Translation**

On the morning of July 28, 2009, Yang Yun, 26, was taking part in a free diving competition at the Polar Land Aquarium in Harbin. Competitors had to sink to the bottom of a beluga pool and stay there for as long as possible without any breathing equipment. At first everything seemed to be fine, but when Yang Yun ran out of breath and prepared to head back to the surface from the bottom, she encountered a big trouble. Her legs cramped in the icy water, leaving her unable to swim to the surface. She began to choke. She thought she was not going to survive. At that moment, a beluga in the pool named Mila seemed to notice that something had gone wrong. Mila gripped the diver’s leg in her mouth and pushed Yang to the surface. “I felt this incredible force underneath me driving me to the surface,” Yun later recalled, “Mila saved me.” Since then, Mila has become the hero of the Polar Land Aquarium in Harbin. Actually, there is a lot of evidence revealing that whales do save other mammals in times of emergency. But why do they do this? That’s the interesting question. Researchers are undertaking studies to try to figure out the answer.

# Part III Text B

**Comprehension Check**

1. B 2. D 3. D 4. A 5. B 6. C

**Language Practice**

* 1. As usual he was trying to display his concern about the pollution of the environment.
  2. These letters certainly shed light on his mysterious disappearance almost ten years ago.
  3. He was frustrated by the failure, but then he managed to pull himself together and is now optimistic about the outcome of his efforts.
  4. Data obtained from the survey indicate(s) that there are large oil deposits in the South China Sea.
  5. The medical scientists are cautious about using the new therapy on humans.
  6. Will future oil supplies be adequate to meet human needs?
  7. I invited Jenny to our musical evening, but she declined, saying she was just too busy to come.
  8. I don’t mind being woken up once or twice in the middle of the night by my roommate so long as she doesn’t make a habit of it.
  9. Would you by any chance have change for £5?
  10. In the summer the museum will exhibit several paintings done by European masters of the 19th century.
  11. Airline personnel can purchase flight tickets at reduced prices.
  12. The two dogs took to each other immediately and started to play.
  13. Though ill-equipped for the project, Tom had nevertheless tried his best.
  14. Alarmed by the noise, the birds flew away.
  15. The government rejected the proposal to introduce a tax reform later this year.

# Part IV Comprehensive Language Practice

**Viewing & Comprehension Practice**

1.

1) T 2) T 3) F 4) F 5) F

2.

These secluded mountains lie in the eastern province of Shaanxi. This range that 1) divides north and south China is cloaked with lush forest encouraged by the year-round mist and high 2) rainfall. An ideal climate for bamboo, 3) crucial to the panda’s survival. Few people ever gained permission to 4) enter this stronghold of the giant panda, but an international team was granted 5) extraordinary access to film here for over two years. It is 6) harsh but beautiful terrain, which the panda shares with other rare and spectacular 7) species, like the golden monkey. This strangely beautiful 8) creature is only found in this region of China. These monkeys spend most of their time gliding through the forest, and 9) feeding on leaves and pine needles. Highly social, they live in large troops, some reportedly with 10) as many as 600 members. Another treasure in the land of the panda is the crested ibis, one of the rarest birds in the world. Once common throughout Asia, the ibis disappeared as 11) forests were cut and its habitat destroyed. Now it’s estimated that just 70 of these rare birds are 12) left in the wild.

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