

章鱼有多聪明？ How intelligent is the octopus?

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute English. I'm Neil.

大家好，欢迎收听六分钟英语。我是内尔。

Hello. And I'm Catherine.

大家好。我是凯瑟琳。

Now, Catherine, how do you feel about cephalopods? Er...cephalopods?

凯瑟琳，你对头足类动物有什么看法？呃，头足类动物？

Yeah. You do know what cephalopods are, don't you? - Yes, of course I do. It's a new kind of ipod, isn't it?

是的，你知道头足类动物是什么，对吧？是的，我当然知道。这是一种新型ipod（苹果公司出品的音乐播放器），不是吗？

Not exactly, no. A cephalopod is a kind of sea creature, like a squid or octopus.

并不是。头足类动物是一种海洋生物，例如乌贼或章鱼。

Oh, cephalopods, yes, of course. I know what a cephalopod is.

哦，头足类动物，是的，当然。我知道头足类动物是什么。

Of course you do. Well, today's programme is all about one of these squishy creatures, the octopus, which apparently is a pretty clever animal.

你当然知道了。今天的节目跟这些黏糊糊的动物中的一种有关，那就是章鱼，很显然它是一种非常聪明的动物。

To start, here's today's quiz question. What is the correct plural form of octopus?

首先，以下是今天的问题。章鱼正确的复数形式是什么？

Is it a) octopuses, b) octopodes /ɒk'təpəʊdɪz/, or c) octopi? What do you think, Catherine?

是 A. octopuses, B. octopodes /ɒk'təpəʊdɪz/, 还是 C. octopi? 你怎么看，凯瑟琳？

OK, I think this is a trick question. I think people think that it's 'octopi', but it's actually, there's a technical term for it, which is the correct term and that's 'octopodes'.

好的，我认为这是个陷阱题。我认为人们会觉得是“octopi”，但是它有一个专门的名词，它才是正确的形式，也就是“octopodes”。

But some people think, like children and stuff, they just put the plural's' on, so they say 'octopuses'. So I'm going for answer b) octopodes.

但是有些人认为，例如小孩子和物品，他们就加上复数形式“s”，所以他们说“octopuses”。所以我要选答案B. octopodes。

Wow! Listen out for the answer at the end of the programme, just to see how right or wrong you are. Now, apparently the octopus is a remarkably intelligent creature.

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哇！请在节目结束的时候听取答案，看看你是答对了还是答错了。现在，很显然章鱼是非常聪明的生物。

They have the ability to solve some complex problems and in one famous case one was even able to predict the result of World Cup football matches. Oh, yes, Paul the psychic octopus.

他们有能力解决一些复杂的问题，并且在一个很出名的例子中，有一只甚至能预测世界杯足球比赛的结果。哦，是的，通灵章鱼保罗。

I don't think he was really psychic though. It was just a publicity stunt by the zoo that had him, as a way to promote their zoo.

不过我不认为它真的能通灵。这只是拥有它的动物园在作秀，作为一种推广他们动物园的方式。

It may have been a publicity stunt, but he was actually quite accurate. In fact, he correctly predicted the result of 12 matches out of 14-that's 86%.

它也许是作秀，但是它确实预测得很准确。事实上它准确地预测了14场比赛中的12场——准确率是86%。

Not bad, eh? That's amazing.

还不赖，嗯？那很棒啊。

I didn't know he was that good. Anyway, Neil, tell us more about the octopus.

我不知道它那么厉害。不管怎样，内尔，再跟我说说那只章鱼吧。

Well, I'll leave that to Peter Godfrey-Smith, philosopher of science and author of *Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness*. He is quite a fan of our eight-tentacled friends.

好的，我要把这个任务交给皮特·戈弗雷-史密斯，他是一名科学博士，也是《其它思想：章鱼、大海和意识的深层起源》一书的作者。他相当喜欢我们的有八只触角的朋友。

On the BBC Radio 4 programme *Start the Week* he said that humans and the octopus have a common ancestor. This is a term in science which means 'a creature from which both species evolved'.

在BBC电台4频道的节目《开启一周》中，她说人类和章鱼有共同的祖先。这是科学中的一个名词，意思是“进化成两种动物的生物”。

Like a very distant relative. How long ago does he say this common ancestor lived?

就好像关系非常远的远亲。他说这个共同的祖先生活在多久以前？

We got the octopus as a very special evolutionary product. It's an animal that's removed from us by a lot of evolutionary distance.

章鱼是一种非常特殊的进化产物。它是因为很大的演化距离而跟我们脱离的动物。

The common ancestor that we share with an octopus lived about 600 million years ago or actually even a bit longer than that. But it has a large nervous system in a range comparable to vertebrates.

我们和章鱼的共同祖先生活在大约6亿年前，或者事实上比这更早。但是它有庞大的神经系统，范围可以跟脊椎动物相当。

So our common ancestor lived about 600 million years ago-or maybe a little bit longer than that. And he says that the octopus has a nervous system that is comparable to vertebrates.

所以我们的共同祖先生活在6亿年前——或者也许比那个更早。他还说章鱼拥有能够跟脊椎动物相当的神经系统。

Comparable means 'similar to', like, and vertebrates is the term for the group of animals that have a spine or backbone. We humans are examples of vertebrates.

“相当的”意思是“类似”，例如，并且脊椎动物指的是拥有脊柱或脊梁骨的动物群体。我们人类就是脊椎动物的例子。

So what Godfrey-Smith is saying is that the squishy octopus has a nervous system which has some similarities to our own in that it's quite large. And a large nervous system is a sign of intelligence.

戈弗雷-史密斯说的是黏糊糊的章鱼拥有的神经系统跟我们的有很多相似之处，因为它非常大。庞大的神经系统是智能的一个标志。

He goes on to talk a bit more about how we might be able to relate to the octopus. He talks about the protean nature of its body.

他继续谈到了我们理解章鱼的可能的的方式。他谈到了它身体的多变性质。

Protean is an adjective which means 'adaptable or changeable', and the octopus's body is certainly that. Why might that be a problem for us?

多变的是一个形容词，意思是“可调整的，或可改变的”，并且章鱼的身体就是那样的。这对我们来说为什么可能是个问题呢？

The sensory world that an octopus has, in some way it's recognisable. They're very visual animals, they're very taste-oriented animals and those things make sense to us.

章鱼拥有的感官世界，在某种程度上，它是可辨别的。它们是视觉动物，它们是以味觉为中心的动物，并且我们也能感知这些东西。

But the absence of hard parts, the protean nature of the body and the sort of extent of the sensitivity makes it a hard thing to think about. This is interesting, isn't it?

但是缺少坚硬的部位，身体的多变性和敏感度的类型使它变成了一件很难以想到的事情。这很有趣，不是吗？

So the octopus uses its senses of vision and taste, like we do, and this is something we can recognise, but what is tricky for us is that its form is so completely different from ours. The octopus isn't a vertebrate so it can change its form and its shape very easily.

所以章鱼像我们一样使用视觉和味觉，并且这是我们能够辨别出来的东西，但是对于我们来说很困难的是它的外形跟我们完全不同。章鱼并不是脊椎动物，所以它可以轻易改变它的外形和形状。

Yes, we're not used to thinking of soft squishy things having intelligence. And speaking of intelligence, we've been very careful not to use the plural of octopus so as not to give away the answer to today's question which was: what's the correct plural form?

是的，我们还没有习惯于认为软软黏黏的东西会拥有智慧。说到智能，我们已经非常小心不去使用章鱼的复数形式，以便不透露今天问题的答案，问题是：正确的复数形式是哪一个？

A) octopuses, b) octopodes/*ɒk'tɒpəʊdɪz*/, or c) octopi? Catherine, you said...

A. octopuses, B. octopodes/*ɒk'tɒpəʊdɪz*/, 还是 C. octopi? 凯瑟琳，你说的是.....

Well, I said that some people think it's 'octopuses', a lot of people think it's 'octopi', but the actual answer is 'octopodes'. And you're completely right. Congratulations!

我说有些人认为是“octopuses”，很多人认为是“octopi”，但真正的答案是“octopodes”。你回答得完全正确。恭喜！

Thank you. So let's review today's vocabulary.

谢谢。那么我们来回顾今天的词汇吧。

Cephalopod is the name of the group of animals to which the octopus belongs. A publicity stunt is something a company might do to grab your attention and promote its products.

头足类动物是章鱼所属的动物群体。作秀指的是公司可能会为了吸引你的注意力并推广其产品所做的事情。

Like claiming an octopus can predict the winner of football matches. A common ancestor is a distant relative from which two different species evolved.

例如声称章鱼可以预测足球比赛的胜者。共同的祖先指的是两种不同的物种进化之前的远亲。

Comparable to means 'similar to' and vertebrates are animals that have a spine. And then finally we had protean, this adjective means 'adaptable and changeable'.

能相比的意思是“类似”，并且脊椎动物指的是拥有脊柱的动物。最后我们说到了“多变的”，这个形容词的意思是“可调整的，可改变的”。

Time now for us to say goodbye but remember you can find us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube as well as our website, bbclearningenglish.com. So be sure to check us on one, several or all of those before joining us again.

是时候说再见了，但是请记住你可以在Instagram，脸书、推特、YouTube以及网站**bbclearningenglish.com**上找到我们。所以请确保在再次收听之前，在某个，某些或所有平台上查看我们的内容。

Goodbye. Bye!

再见。
