

## 黑猩猩的政治跟我们的像吗？ Is chimp politics like ours?

Hello. This is 6 Minute English from BBC Learning English. I'm Neil.

大家好。这里是 BBC 学习英语栏目的六分钟英语。我是内尔。

And I'm Sam.

我是萨姆。

In English, there are many expressions which use an adjective to compare humans with animals.

在英语中，有很多表达使用一个形容词将人比作动物。

For example, you might say, 'She's as busy as a bee'.

例如，你可能会说“她忙得像蜜蜂一样”。

As hungry as a horse.

饿的像马一样。

But you probably won't hear someone say, 'She's as clever as a chimpanzee'.

但是你可能不会听到某些人说，“她像黑猩猩一样聪明”。

Which is strange, because of all the animals it's our close cousins, chimpanzees, or chimps for short, who are most like us.

这很奇怪，因为这些动物是我们的近亲，黑猩猩，简称 chimp，它们跟我们很像。

Just like humans, chimps are highly intelligent.

就像人类一样，黑猩猩非常聪明。

They live in social groups and just like humans these groups have leaders.

它们以社群为单位生活，并且就像人类一样，这些群体有领导。

Also, like humans, chimps have a desire for power.

而且像人类一样，黑猩猩对于权力有欲望。

In fact, chimpanzees have their own politics, which is surprisingly similar to human politics, as we'll be discovering in this programme.

事实上，正如我们会在本节目中发现的那样，黑猩猩有它们自己的政治，令人惊奇的是，这个跟人类政治很相似。

Research shows that the reason chimpanzee behaviour so closely resembles human politics is because biologically we are almost identical.

研究表明黑猩猩的行为之所以跟人类政治相似是因为我们在生物学是基本上是一样的。

Did you know that a chimp is more like a human than like a gorilla?

你知道黑猩猩比大猩猩更像人类吗？

So, Sam, my quiz question is this: biologically, how close are chimpanzees to humans?

所以，萨姆，我的问题是这样的：生物学上，黑猩猩和人类有多么接近？

### 添加的词汇



扫码APP内查看  
每日英语听力

Is it a) 79 %, b) 89 %, or c) 99 %?

是 A. 79%, B.89%, 还是 C. 99%?

Well, Neil, if chimps and humans are almost identical, I'll guess c) 99 %.

内尔，如果黑猩猩和人类基本上是一样的，那么我要选 C. 99%。

OK, Sam, we'll find out the correct answer at the end of the programme.

好的，萨姆，我们会在节目结束的时候揭晓答案。

In human societies of course, not everyone gets to be a political leader.

当然在人类社会，不是每个人都能成为政治领导。

It's usually the most powerful or ambitious person who becomes president.

通常是最强有力或最有野心的人成为了总统。

In chimpanzee society, this is called the alpha male - the most successful and powerful male who leads the group.

在黑猩猩社会中，这叫做阿尔法男 —— 领导群体的最成功且最强有力的男性。

Professor Frans de Waal is an expert on chimpanzee behaviour.

弗朗斯·德·瓦尔教授是研究黑猩猩行为的专家。

Here he is on BBC World Service programme, The Why Factor, telling presenter, James Tilley, about one example of chimp behaviour which closely mirrors human politics.

以下是他在 BBC 世界服务节目《The Why Factor》中跟主持人詹姆斯·蒂利谈论黑猩猩的一个能够近似反映人类政治的行为例子。

Older males who are over the hill and cannot be alpha males any more, they start grooming a certain young male who they think has a future, and they may end up making that young male the alpha male with their help, meaning that they are essential to the power of that young male.

过气的年长的雄性无法再担任阿尔法男，它们会开始培养它们认为有前途的某个年轻雄性，并且它们可能最终会让那个年轻的雄性在它们的帮助下成为阿尔法男，意味着它们对于那个年轻雄性的权力来说至关重要。

They're the power behind the throne, really...

它们是权力背后的力量，真的.....

Yeah, these older males...and you see that in human politics all the time, these older males who have a lot of influence still...

是的，这些年长的雄性.....你可以在人类政治中看到这一现象，那些仍然有很大影响力的年长的雄性.....

Professor de Waal calls chimps who are too old to be alpha males, over the hill - a phrase describing someone who is old and no longer useful or attractive.

德·瓦尔教授将那些因为年老而无法再担任阿尔法男的黑猩猩称为过气 —— 这个短语描述的是那些年老并且不再有用或吸引人的人。

Older chimps try to control younger males in order to maintain their own power and influence.

年长的黑猩猩们试图控制更年轻的雄性来维持它们的力量和影响力。

In other words, they are the power behind the throne - an expression meaning someone with no official power but who secretly controls things in the background.

换句话说，它们是权力背后的力量 —— 这个短语指的是没有官方权力却在背后秘密操控一切的人。

Another example of chimp politics is when several weaker males gang up and overthrow a stronger alpha male.

另一个黑猩猩政治的例子是几个更弱的雄性会纠集在一起打倒某个更强的阿尔法男。

By working together, weaker chimps can increase their power and the benefits, like food, which power brings.

通过合作，更弱的黑猩猩能够提升它们的权力和利益，例如食物，这是权力所带来的。

According to Simon Hicks, professor of political science at the London School of Economics, human alliances work in exactly the same way.

根据伦敦商学院的政治科学教授西蒙·希克斯的说法，人类同盟已完全一样的方式运作。

Here is Professor Hicks speaking with BBC World Service programme, The Why Factor.

以下是希克斯教授对话 BBC 世界服务节目《The Why Factor》。

So, for example, if you imagine three parties in a parliament, one big, one and two small ones, you might think that naturally the most likely coalition is the big party with either one of the two small ones.

所以，举个例子，如果你想象议会里有三个党派，一个很大，另外两个很小，你可能会自然地认为最可能的结盟是那个大的党派联合两个小党派中的任意一个。

Whereas, in fact, minimum winning coalition prediction would suggest the two smaller ones should get together.

然而事实上，最小获胜联盟预测会建议两个更小的党派联手。

If together, they can reach more than 50 percent of the seats, because they can divide up the spoils between the two of them.

如果联手，他们可以占据超过一半的席位，因为他们可以瓜分他们两方之间的利益。

Whereas, if either one of them form a coalition with a big party, the big party would dominate, and they wouldn't get many of the spoils for themselves.

然而，如果他们中的任意一方跟某个大党派结盟，那么那个大的党派会占主导地位，那么他们就不会为自己带来很多利益了。

Professor Hicks recommends that smaller political parties get together - join together in a group to combine their power.

希克斯教授建议更小的政治党派结盟 —— 结为一个团体来聚合他们的力量。

These smaller parties could form a coalition - a collection of different political groups who unite for a limited time to form a government.

这些更小的党派能够形成一个同盟 —— 不同的政治团体在有限的时间内组建成一个政府。

In human politics, making coalitions improves your chances of winning an election.

在人类政治中，建立同盟关系能够提升你赢得选举的机会。

And in chimpanzee politics, coalitions are a good way for young male chimps to defeat the alpha male and divide up the spoils between themselves.

而在黑猩猩政治中，结盟对于年轻的雄性黑猩猩来说是一个很好的击败阿尔法男并瓜分它们之间利益的方法。

Here, the word spoils means the benefits obtained by winning a war or being in a strong position.

这里的利益指的是通过赢得战争或身处高位而获得的好处。

For ambitious alpha chimps, the spoils might include getting first choice of food and female partners.

对于有野心的阿尔法黑猩猩来说，利益可能包括最先选食物和雌性伴侣。

While for human politicians, power can bring wealth and fame as well.

而对于人类政客来说，权力也能够带来财富和名望。

And there's something else alpha chimpanzees and human politicians have in common - they like to show their softer side by kissing babies!

阿尔法黑猩猩和人类政客还有其它的相似之处 —— 他们喜欢通过亲吻婴儿展示他们更柔软的一面。

It looks like chimps and humans share many similar behaviours after all, which reminds me of your quiz question, Neil.

看来黑猩猩和人类有很多相似的行为，这让我想起了你的问题，内尔。

Yes, in my quiz question I asked Sam how similar we are to chimps.

是的，我之前问萨姆，我们和黑猩猩的相似度是多少。

What did you say, Sam?

你说的是什么，萨姆？

I said that, biologically speaking, we're c) 99 % the same.

我说的是，从生物学上看，我们的相似度是 C. 99%。

Which is the correct answer!

回答正确！

Well done, Sam, you're as clever as a chimp!

干得漂亮，萨姆，你跟黑猩猩一样聪明！

Ah, thanks, Neil!

啊，谢谢，内尔！

And you're definitely not over the hill!

你肯定还没有过气！

Let's recap the vocabulary from today's programme about chimp politics, starting with alpha male - the most successful and powerful male in any group.

我们来回顾今天谈论黑猩猩政治的节目中的词汇，从阿尔法男开始 —— 任何团体中最成功和最强大的男性。

Over the hill is used to describe someone who is old and no longer useful or attractive.

过气被用来描述已经年老，不再有用或有吸引力的人。

Someone who is the power behind the throne secretly controls things but has no official power.

权力背后的力量所指代的人会秘密操控一切，但是没有官方的权力。

Get together means join together as a group.

结盟指的是形成一个团体。

A coalition is when different political groups temporarily unite to form a government.

同盟指的是不同的政治团体暂时联合，组建一个政府。

And finally, the spoils are benefits or advantages gained by winning a war.

最后，利益指的是通过赢得战争获得的好处或优势。

That's all for this programme.

本期节目就到这里。

Bye for now!

再见！

Goodbye!

再见！

---