关于等级制度鸡能教会我们什么？ What chickens can teach us about hierarchies?

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。

And I'm Catherine.

我是凯瑟琳。

Catherine, what's the connection between hierarchies, managers and chickens?

凯瑟琳，等级制度、经理和鸡之间有什么联系呢？

Well, I don't know, Neil, but I'm sure you're going to tell me.

恩，我不知道，内尔，但是我确信你会告诉我的。

First of all, could you explain for our listeners what a hierarchy is?

首先你能先跟我们的听众解释一下什么是等级制度吗？

Of course! A hierarchy is a way of organising people.

当然！等级制度指的是排列人的一种方式。

For example, in a company, where there are people working at different levels.

例如，在一个公司里，有很多人在不同的等级里工作。

You've got bosses, managers and workers.

有老板、经理和工人。

The workers do the work and the managers have meetings that stop the workers doing the work!

工人做工，经理开会，这些会议会让工人停止做工！

But where do the chickens come in?

那鸡是怎么掺和进来的呢？

We'll find out shortly, but first here is today's question and it is-surprise, surprise-about chickens.

我们马上就会知道，但是首先要回答今天的问题，并且它——惊喜，惊喜——是关于鸡的。

What is the record number of eggs laid by one chicken in a year?

一只鸡在一年内下蛋数量的最高记录是多少？

Is it: a) 253, b) 371, or c) 426?

是 A. 253个，B.371个，还是 C. 426个？

What do you think, Catherine?

你怎么看，凯瑟琳？

Well, I think most chickens lay an egg once a day, so I think it's 371. Well, we will have an answer later in the programme.

恩，我认为大部分的鸡每天下一个蛋，所以我认为是371个。好的，我们将在稍后的节目中揭晓答案。

Now, for hierarchies and chickens.

现在我们要说等级制度和鸡。

In the radio programme The Joy of 9 to 5, produced by Somethin' Else for the BBC, entrepreneur Margaret Heffernan described an experiment.

在由《BBC的另一些东西》制作的电台节目《朝九晚五的乐趣》中，企业家玛格丽特·赫费南描述了一个实验。

In this experiment, researchers compared the egg production of a group of average chickens to a group of super-chickens.

在这个实验中，研究者将一组普通鸡的产蛋量和一组超级鸡的产蛋量进行比较。

That's chickens with an above average egg production.

超级鸡指的是产蛋量高于平均水平的鸡。

Which was the most successful?

哪一个是最成功的呢?

Here's Margaret Heffernan, and by the way, the noun for a group of chickens is a flock.

下面是玛格丽特·赫费南的话，顺便一提，描述一组鸡的名词是一个鸡群。

He compares the two flocks over six generations.

它将两群鸡比较了六代。

The average flock just gets better and better and better.

普通鸡群会变得越来越好。

Egg production increases dramatically.

产蛋量急剧增长。

The super-flock of super-chickens, at the end of six generations, all but three are dead, because the other three have killed the rest.

超级鸡群中的超级鸡，在第六代的末尾，中有三代都死了，因为另外三代将剩下的杀死了。

They've achieved their individual productivity by suppressing the productivity of the rest.

它们通过压制剩余的鸡的产出来达成它们的个体产出。

And that's what we do at work.

而这就是我们在工作中所做的事情。

Which flock was most successful?

哪个鸡群是最成功的的呢?

Well, the super-flock actually killed each other, so it turned out that the average flock laid more eggs in total and was more successful.

嗯，事实上超级鸡群自相残杀，所以结果是普通鸡群的总产蛋量更高，并且更成功。

Yes, but why was that?

是的，但是为什么会这样呢？

Well, the super-chickens must have seen their other flock members not as colleagues, but as competitors.

嗯，超级鸡肯定没有将其他群体成员看做是同伴，而是竞争者。

Now to understand this, we have to start with the word productivity.

为了理解这一点，我们要从产量这个词开始。

This noun refers to the amount of work that's done.

这个名词的意思是完成的工作的量。

So, on an individual level, the super-chickens achieved productivity because they suppressed the productivity of their flock members.

所以从个人层面来看，超级鸡的产量高是因为它们压制了其它群体成员的产量。

Suppressed here means they 'stopped the other chickens from being productive' by killing them.

压制在这里的意思是通过杀戮"阻止其它的鸡产蛋"。

So, what do we learn from this experiment?

那么我们能从这个实验中学到什么呢？

Well, Margaret Heffernan suggests that we see this kind of behaviour in the human workplace.

嗯，玛格丽特·赫费南表示我们在人类职场中也能看到这种现象。

When everyone is equal, productivity is high, but as soon as there's a hierarchy-as soon as there are managers-things can go wrong because not all managers see their role as making life easier for the workers.

当每个人都是平等的时候，产量很高，但是一旦出现了等级制度——一旦有了经理——就会出错，因为并不是所有的经理都认为他们的职责是让工人的生活更加容易。

They demonstrate their productivity as managers, by interfering with the productivity of the workers.

他们通过干扰工人的产量来展示自己作为经理的产量。

But there are other experiments which show that chickens are productive in a hierarchy.

但是也有其它的实验表明鸡在有等级制度的时候产量很高。

How are those hierarchies different though?

那么这些等级制度有什么不同之处呢？

Here's Margaret Heffernan again.

以下依然是玛格丽特·赫费南的话。

So chickens have an inbuilt, or if you like, an inherited hierarchy-that's where we get the term pecking order from.

鸡有一种天生的，也可以说是与生俱来的等级制度——啄序理论就是这么得来的。

But it's one that they create among themselves, rather than one that's imposed upon them.

但是这是它们内部产生的，而不是外部施加的。

So, which hierarchy works, at least for chickens?

那么至少对于鸡来说，哪种等级制度有效呢？

Well, the best hierarchy is one that isn't imposed.

嗯，最好的等级制度是非强加的。

That means a good hierarchy isn't forced on the chickens.

也就是说好的等级制度并不是强加在鸡身上的。

They do well when they create the hierarchy themselves, naturally.

自然而然，它们在自己创造等级制度的时候会表现得很好。

They work out the pecking order themselves.

它们自己有啄食顺序。

Pecking order is a great phrase.

啄食顺序是个很棒的表达。

We use it to describe levels of importance in an organisation.

我们用它来描述一个组织中的重要等级。

The more important you are, the higher in the pecking order you are.

你越重要，你在等级排序中的位置就越高。

Where does this phrase originate?

这个短语是源自哪里呢？

Well, pecking describes what chickens do with their beaks.

嗯，啄食描述的是鸡用它们的喙所做的事情。

They hit or bite other chickens with them.

它们用喙去打或咬其它的鸡。

And the most important or dominant chickens, peck all the others.

而最重要或最有统治力的鸡会啄食所有其它的鸡。

The top chicken does all the pecking, middle-level chickens get pecked and do some pecking themselves, and some chickens are only pecked by other chickens.

最强的鸡啄食所有其它的鸡，中等地位的鸡会被啄并啄其它鸡，而有一些鸡只能被其它鸡啄。

So, there is a definite pecking order in chickens.

所以鸡群中绝对存在啄食顺序。

Right, time to review this week's vocabulary, but before that let's have the answer to the quiz.

是的，是时候回顾本周的词汇了，但是在这之前，我们来回答今天的问题吧。

I asked what the record number of eggs laid by a single chicken in a year was.

我问的是一只鸡在一年内下蛋数量的记录是多少。

The options were: a) 253, b) 371, or c) 426. What did you say, Catherine?

选项有 A. 253个，B.371个，还是 C. 426个。你说的是什么，凯瑟琳？

I said 371. Well, lucky you!

我说的是371个。你真幸运！

You're definitely top of the pecking order, aren't you?

你绝对在啄食顺序的顶端，不是吗?

Because you are right!

因为你答对了！

That's a lot of eggs!

好多蛋！

Indeed.

确实。

Now, the vocabulary.

现在该说词汇了。

We are talking about hierarchies-a way to organise a society or workplace with different levels of importance.

我们要谈论等级制度——一种根据不同的重要程度将社会或职场进行排序的方式。

An expression with a similar meaning is pecking order, which relates to how important someone, or a chicken, is, within a hierarchy.

跟它意思相近的一种表达就是啄食顺序，它与某个人或某只鸡在一个等级制度中的重要程度有关。

A group of chickens is a flock.

一群鸡叫做一个鸡群。

It's also the general collective noun for birds as well, not just chickens.

它也是描述鸟的一个集合名词，不仅仅用于鸡。

Another of our words was the noun productivity, which refers to the amount of work that is done.

我们的另一个词是产量，指的是完成的工作的量。

And if you suppress someone's productivity, you stop them from being as productive as they could be.

如果你压制某人的产量，那么你阻止他们像原本那样有生产力。

And finally, there was the verb to impose.

最后我们说到了动词强加。

If you impose something, you force it on people.

如果你强加某物，那么你将其强加在人们身上。

For example, the government imposed new taxes on fuel.

例如，政府对燃油征税。

Well, that is the end of the programme.

好的，本期节目就到此结束。

For more from us though, check out Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and of course, on our App!

不过想获取我们的更多信息，请查看我们的INS，脸书、推特、Youtube，当然还有我们的APP！

Don't forget the website as well-bbclearningenglish. com. See you soon, bye.

还有别忘记我们的网站——bbclearningenglish.com。下期再会，拜拜。

Bye!

再见！