

Unit **1**

Endearing animals

In this unit , you will learn

- ✦ interesting stories about animals
- ✦ how to use gerunds and present participles
- ✦ some differences between British and American English
- ✦ animal words with different cultural connotations



Around the topic

1 Your ideas

Animals are humans' friends. We live on the same planet and share the same natural resources. Today, we humans keep invading the territory of wild animals to have enough space for the growing population. As a result, the lives of animals are at stake.

Do you think human beings have the right to ensure their existence at the expense of animals' lives?



2 Vocabulary

In English, the names of grown-up animals are of ten different from those of baby animals. Match the animals' names in Column A with the names of baby animals in Column B.



A


1. cat
2. dog
3. chicken
4. pig
5. sheep
6. donkey
7. cow
8. goose
9. lion

B

- a. gosling
- b. chick
- c. calf
- d. foal
- e. kitten
- f. cub
- g. lamb
- h. puppy
- i. piglet



3 Listening and speaking


A. Listen to a story about a special birthday gift and find out who or what these names refer to. 

Becky _____

Hazel _____

Harry _____



B. Answer the following questions according to what you hear. 

1. What is special with the unexpected birthday gift?

2. What does Hazel look like?

3. Why were Hazel and Harry not killed?

4. What changes did the farmers make because of Hazel and Harry?

4 A quiz

Do the following match quiz to find out how much you know about these animals.

A

1. panda
2. cheetah
3. elephant
4. octopus
5. polar bear
6. whale
7. king cobra

B

- a. found in Africa, runs at speeds of up to 100 km/h
- b. has eight arms and lives among coral reefs
- c. endangered animal found in the mountain regions of China
- d. a very large venomous tropical snake
- e. the largest animal in the ocean
- f. the largest land mammal which can live for more than 60 years
- g. the world's largest meat-eater found in the Arctic Circle

Reading

1 Pre-reading tasks

Pets are truly members of American families. About 60% of the US households have at least one dog, cat, bird, or other animal companion. Many have more than one.

- Why do people keep pets? Do young people and old people keep pets for the same reasons?
- Do you or your family have pets? Share your experience or your comments about having pet animals with your classmates.

When you read a story, the ability to “visualise” it (see it in the mind) helps you remember the plot clearly. If you have trouble visualising the story, pay attention to the descriptions of its characters and the setting.



2 Reading comprehension



Those endearing animals

One day when I went to the vet, a routine visit for one of the dogs, he seemed so down. Since we are friends, I asked him why he was so blue. He put his arm around me and led me to look at something.

In one of the hospital cages was a small box. Inside was a tiny bit of white fur, perhaps two ounces in weight, covered with dampened cotton. I lifted the cotton batting and looked at the “baby”. 1. _____

Her eyes were open and blue so she was at least two weeks old. Every bone showed through her paper-thin skin. She was in the last stage of starvation and not responding. She had been abandoned with her littermates and was the sole survivor.

I gently touched her and put her in my hand. There was no

response from her at all. The collie I had brought in, Brandy, began to whine and whimper, and I lowered my hand with the kitten in it.

Brandy began to lick the babe and the kitten whimpered ever so softly. Brandy was a huge black-coated collie, a male. A retired show dog and number one defender of the house and all who lived there, Brandy was almost totally blind as well!

I took the starving infant home with me, knowing she would die, but at least not be alone. And so it began. I often carried her, wrapped in a diaper, inside my pocket. There she would be easy to stroke and stimulate, and would be warm and feel movement at the same time.

Brandy followed me everywhere often nuzzling the pocket in which she slept. When she was in my lap for a feed, Brandy would stand there watching and then wash her from tiny head to toe.

A week went by and she lived... and she began to gain and grow.

One day, to my surprise, after a feed, Brandy picked her up in his huge jaws, took her to the rug and curled up with "Sammy" under his chin, tucked into his coat for warmth.

2. _____
_____... a blind one at that. Her need to nurse was great and she often sucked on any part of him that she could reach, raising painful blisters on his skin. He adored her and allowed her anything.

She was able to nurse from a bottle later as she became stronger. Hard to say what Sammy thought he was, but he was her world and she did whatever babies do!

She developed some colour on her head and tail and was a calico cat, although mostly pure white. At full growth she only weighed three

pounds, a tiny but full grown cat!

Sammy responded to her name as any dog would! 3. _____

_____ She sat and begged for food as they did, when I was preparing meals in the kitchen. Her chosen "Person" was my son, her God was Brandy!

Inside or outside this big black dog and tiny white cat were always together. She got along well with all the dogs, and played with the newest puppies. She was the one and only animal EVER to be allowed on my husband's bed, his chair or HIS LAP! 4. _____

_____ She was high-spirited, playful and very loving. She did all and saw all and lived life to the fullest. She loved the children and never had to be declawed, although her nails were kept trimmed. She was wonderful!

She and Brandy lived long and well. Was she different because of him? Perhaps. I don't question it. Her life was a gift... a miracle. But for him she would certainly have died. His love for her was what made her live. After Brandy's death, at the age of 12 years, Sammy changed a bit. 5. _____

_____ In time, it was not unusual to see Sammy in a litter box, mothering the newborn pups.

It seems that the cycle of love carried on and it was beautiful to behold.



A. The following sentences are removed from the text. Put them back in the correct place.

- a. She came when called, ran to the door with the dogs when someone came in.
- b. How she accomplished that will remain a secret forever!
- c. It was the tiniest kitten I had ever seen.
- d. She became quieter. I guess she grew up. She missed him dearly.
- e. And so it was that Sammy was being reared by a male collie

B. Answer the following questions.

1. What was Sammy like when the author saw her for the first time?
2. How did the author take care of Sammy?
3. How did Brandy take care of Sammy?
4. Why did the author think Sammy was more like a dog than a cat?
5. Why did the author say there was a cycle of love between Brandy and Sammy?

C. Paraphrase the following sentences taken from the text? You may discuss with your partner.

1. Her chosen “Person” was my son, her God was Brandy!
2. She loved the children and never had to be declawed, although her nails were kept trimmed.
3. Her life was a gift... a miracle.
4. But for him she would certainly have died.
5. It seems that the cycle of love carried on and it was beautiful to behold.

3

Vocabulary and structure

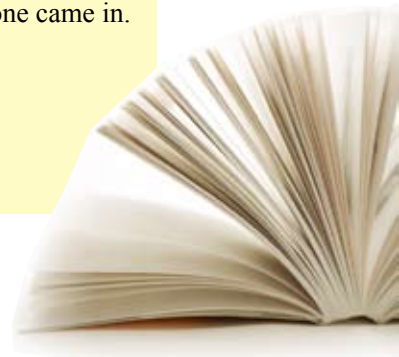
A. Match the words in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

A

1. starvation
2. dampen
3. abandon
4. trim
5. routine
6. endearing
7. stroke
8. rear
9. vet
10. survivor

B

- a. to make something slightly wet
- b. to move your hand gently over something
- c. to care for until fully grown
- d. to make something look neater by cutting small pieces off it
- e. to leave someone, especially someone you are responsible for
- f. a doctor who treats animals
- g. making someone love or like
- h. suffering or death caused by lack of food
- i. habitual, regular
- j. someone who continues to live after an accident, war, or illness



B. Complete the sentences with the expressions below. Change the form where necessary.

in the last stage of
from head to toe

curl up
respond to

to one's surprise
gain and grow

go by
carry on

1. She _____ in the big chair with a good book.
2. As weeks _____, I became more and more worried.
3. You will have an accident if you _____ driving like that.
4. The government _____ pressure and dropped the proposal.
5. Obviously, she was frightened and trembling _____.
6. _____, she meets the robbers again on a busy street.
7. Through that book we _____ in knowledge of nature.
8. _____ the race, she felt terribly exhausted.

C. Follow the example and rewrite the sentences below.

Example:

I often carried her, which is wrapped in a diaper, in my pocket.

→ *I often carried her, wrapped in a diaper, in my pocket.*

1. People who live in blocks of flats often complain about loneliness.

2. Letters that are posted before 5 p.m. should arrive the next day.

3. The train that is standing on Platform 5 is for London.

4. Firemen have rescued passengers who were trapped in the accident.

5. It took these workmen days to clear up the litter that was dropped by the crowds.

6. They live in a lovely house that overlooks the River Thames.

4

Writing

Recently there has been a hot debate over whether college students should be allowed to keep pet animals in dormitories. The supporters claim that pets can help students relieve stress. But others are afraid that students, whose major duty is to study, easily get distracted by pets. What is your opinion on this issue? Write a short essay about it.



Language in use

1 Test your grammar

Judge whether the following *v-ing* words are gerunds or present participles.

flying saucer	flying suit
sleeping baby	sleeping-pills
the waiting crowd	the waiting room
running water	running track
the working personnel	working conditions
a living language	living standard

2 Grammar development: *Gerunds and present participles*

In English, gerund and present participle are identical in form, but different in function. Gerunds are the noun forms of verbs, and present participles are adjective forms of verbs.

A. Judge whether the *v-ing* words in the sentences below are gerunds or present participles.

1. Finding a job is not easy these days.
2. The gate needs repainting.
3. They plan to build a highway leading into the mountains.
4. We are tired after walking for two hours.
5. Who won the singing contest?
6. She heard them talking about her.
7. The situation is quite encouraging.
8. Her hobby is collecting stamps.
9. Opening the drawer, he took out a box.
10. She is busy cooking the dinner.



B. Judge whether the *v-ing* words below are gerunds or present participles. If it is a present participle, identify the noun that it modifies. If it is a gerund, identify its function in the sentence (subject, predicative, objective, attributive etc.).

1. Do you mind my mentioning this subject to my friends?

2. Nobody likes that picture hanging in the sitting room.

3. The people standing at the back of the auditorium couldn't hear the speaker.

4. There is no harm in stating your opinion on the matter.

5. Lowering the interest rate can stimulate the economy.

6. Last year we took a hiking trip through the Grand Canyon.

7. At first, his words seemed flattering to the young girl.

8. My cooking rises to an art form.

C. Complete the sentences with the proper form of the verbs in the brackets.

1. After _____ (think) everything over, she decided _____ (not leave) that day.
2. The secretary asked if I would mind _____ (wait) for a few minutes.
3. Everything seems _____ (go) smoothly.
4. Here is another letter _____ (type).
5. They are believed _____ (already succeed) in their experiment.
6. She was so upset that she couldn't help _____ (cry).
7. These plants don't look good. They need _____ (water).
8. When I opened the door, I noticed someone _____ (sit) by her side _____ (talk) with her.
9. I suggest _____ (hold) another meeting next week.
10. _____ (hear) the good news, they felt very excited.

Grammar tips

一般来说，作为定语修饰名词时，动名词用于说明它所修饰的名词的作用和用途，现在分词则表示它所修饰的名词正在进行的动作，与所修饰的词在逻辑上存在主谓关系，相当于一个定语从句。如：

There is a swimming pool in our school. (动名词，表示用途、作用)

= There is a pool for swimming in our school.

I found a sleeping baby on the bed. (现在分词，表示正在进行的动作)

= I found a baby who is sleeping on the bed.

3

Vocabulary building: British and American English

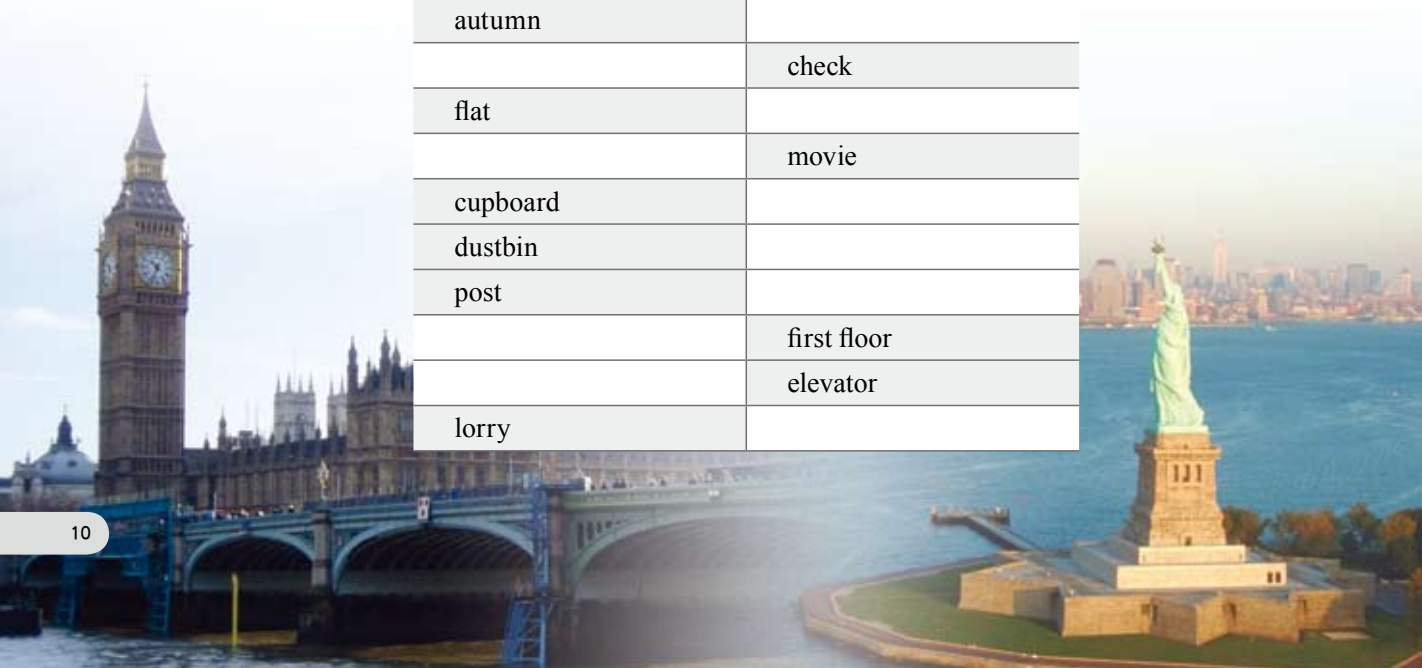
The English language was first introduced to America in the early 17th century. Over the past 400 years, the form of the language used in America has differed in many ways from that used in the United Kingdom. Differences between the two include pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, idioms, and so on.

A. Match the words in the two columns which mean the same.

British English	American English
holiday	subway
luggage	vacation
motorway	baggage
pants	freeway
petrol	shorts
pub	gas
shop	candy
sweets	cab
taxi	store
underground	bar

B. Find the counterparts of the words below in British or American English.

British English	American English
autumn	
	check
flat	
	movie
cupboard	
dustbin	
post	
	first floor
	elevator
lorry	



Project

Posters for animal protection

Many people and organisations are making great efforts to call on people to protect animals. One of the measures they have taken is making posters to attract people's attention. If you are a supporter of animal protection, why not try to make a poster of your own?

Step 1

Find some animal protection posters on the Internet and share them with your group. Tell your group members how you felt when you first saw the posters. Also, you may make some comments on the design of these posters.

Step 2

Work in groups to design your own poster. You may need to discuss the following questions:

- What kind of animals do you want to protect? Pet animals? Or endangered wild animals?
- What is the theme of your poster? Anti-animal abuse? Adoption of homeless dogs or cats? Or anything else?
- What is the slogan of your poster? Remember, an impressive slogan is quite important for a good poster!

Step 3

Make the poster with your group members. The poster needs to include vivid pictures and an impressive slogan to express your ideas.

Step 4

Show your poster to the whole class, and explain why you design it in this way and what you want to say on the poster.



Extension

My name is Pie

My name is Pie. I'm a rescue cat. When I was a kitten, my owner went to live in another country, so he gave me to someone else. The new owner was good to me for a while. I was very sick and he took me to the vet, bandaged my paws, gave me my medicine and made sure I got better. But then things went wrong. I'm an energetic guy; I love to climb and to play. I love to chew things, to rip up paper and most of all I like cuddles. My owner didn't like that stuff. He wanted me to be calm and quiet and not bother him. Whenever I did something he didn't like, he'd put cold water in the bath and throw me in there to teach me to behave.

Then one day, two people came to our home. One I recognised as my owner's ex-girlfriend. I liked her—she always played with me and let me sit on her lap. She had another man with her who was her friend and he took me away because my owner didn't like me any more. He put me in a carrier and carried me to his car. We waited there for a while until the woman came to join us and the man talked to me and stroked me all the time, even though I climbed all over everything. He didn't mind. This was my third owner.

He took me to his apartment and let me out of the carrier. While I sniffed around and explored, he just sat and drank a cup of hot, brown stuff. He watched me and talked to me and smiled a lot. It was very strange. He didn't even get angry when I climbed on the sofa or the shelves or the table.



He just made that funny human laugh noise and petted me whenever I went near him.

My owner would go out most days. I think he did that work thing that a lot of humans do. He always came back about the same time and the first thing he did whenever he came into the apartment was to talk to me and pet me. I liked that a lot.

I tried to be good, but one day I was bored. My owner had left a big roll of white paper on the table, so I played with it. I wanted to see if I could tear it into lots of small pieces and cover the whole room with it. I was quite successful! Then I heard my owner at the door. He opened it and came in and I realised that he would be very angry. I didn't know where to hide, so I just sat very still. His eyes were very big as he looked around the room... and then he did the laugh noise. He did it for a long time! He came towards me and I was afraid he would put me in his bath, but when he saw that I was scared, he

stopped. He crouched down and talked softly, then slowly came to me and picked me up. He didn't take me to the bath, though: he just cuddled me and talked and made reassuring sounds. We played with the paper together.

I loved my third owner very much. Every day he would do the work thing, but sometimes he would do it at home. On those days, he would leave the door open and I could go out for a walk whenever I wanted to and meet with the other cats in the building. Sometimes he would not wake up when he should, so I would lick his chin. He didn't mind that, either: he would even make grateful noises because otherwise he would have been late. On days when he didn't go away to work, he would lie in bed and cuddle me until I was hungry and wanted breakfast.

Every seven days, he stayed at home all day. We would spend a lot of time together on those days. He did funny movements to music to try to keep fit and I would join in by trying to catch his feet. That made him do the laugh noise a lot. Then he would wash himself and switch on the glowing box and watch it for a while. Whenever I heard a particular tune come out of the box, I would run and jump onto his lap because that tune meant he would sit and watch the box, and he would cuddle me the whole time and I would purr very loudly.

We lived together for a long time, then my third owner took me on a journey. I had to sit next to another cat that I don't like. She belonged to my owner's girlfriend. We travelled for ages. Then my owner cuddled me a lot and went away, but he left me with an older woman who I think was related to him. She is my fourth owner and I think she will be the last one. She loves me very, very much. She's kind and gentle

and lets me go out whenever I want. She lets me sleep on her bed and I have tasty food and everything I need. I have a huge garden and I go outside where the air is fresh and clean and I watch the birds and do whatever I want and, when I come home, I shout at the door and she lets me in and cuddles me. I have my own cushion, too, which is by a big window so I can watch the birds without getting cold or wet.

My name is Pie and I'm very happy. I'm a rescue cat.



Notes:

bandage: *v.* to tie up or bind round with a strip of material 用绷带包扎

paw: *n.* an animal's foot that has nails or claws (动物的) 脚爪

rip up: to tear into pieces 把……撕成碎片

cuddle: *v.* to hold in one's arms 抱, 搂抱
n. the act of cuddling 拥抱

stuff: *n.* matter; material 材料, 东西

sniff: *v.* to smell 嗅

roll: *n.* a piece of flat material that has been rounded up like a tube (……的) 一卷

crouch: *v.* to lower the body close to the ground by bending the knees 蹲下

purr: *v.* to make a low continuous sound when a cat is pleased (猫在高兴时) 发出咕噜声

cushion: *n.* a small bag filled with soft material 垫子, 靠垫

1 Comprehension

Describe what kind of person the cat's owners are and how they treat it according to the text.

The owners	Descriptions
The first one	
The second one	
The third one	
The forth one	

2 Vocabulary check

Match the words in Column A with their meanings in Column B.

A

1. bandage
2. energetic
3. cuddle (v.)
4. roll (n.)
5. crouch
6. cushion
7. sniff
8. chew
9. rip

B

- a. active and dynamic
- b. to bite and grind something in the mouth
- c. to bind up
- d. a soft bag with a mass of stuff like feather inside
- e. to hold (a person or thing) close
- f. a round shape formed by a series of circles
- g. to bend the body low
- h. to sense something by taking air into the nose
- i. to pull something into pieces

3 Discussion

Imagine you are one of the cat's owners. Tell the classmates your life with the cat.

Tips:

1. Make clear what kind of life you are living according to the descriptions in the text.
2. Tell your experience from the first-person viewpoint.

Culture tips

Animal words with different cultural connotations

Both English and Chinese are rich with animal words. Due to the different cultural backgrounds, the same animal word may have quite different connotations.

Peacock stands for beauty in Chinese language, but it refers to arrogance in English. In Chinese owl is often related to ill omen, but in English it represents wisdom. In Chinese, monkey is often likened to a smart person, with commendatory sense. But in English, monkey is often used to describe a person with a whole bag of tricks. Therefore, in English, expressions with “monkey” have derogatory meanings, like “monkey business (捣鬼, 骗人的勾当)”, “monkey around (闲荡, 瞎弄)”. In Western culture, bat often carries a negative meaning, such as “as blind as a bat (有眼无珠)”, “crazy as a bat (疯得像蝙蝠)”. But in China, bat is a symbol of luckiness for it has the same pronunciation with the Chinese character “福”. Another



example is fish. In Chinese it is often used to symbolise abundance because “鱼” and “余” are homophones. However, in English it has derogatory meaning that refers to bad things and persons. For example, people would say “a poor fish (可怜虫)”, “fish in the air (水中捞月)”.





Learning to learn

Tips for role-play activity

Some students don't like role-play activity because they can't see the point of pretending to be someone else. To help you improve your English in such an activity, here are some tips.

- Pay attention to your partner's words and try to understand his or her points;
- Try to make your idea clear when it is your turn to speak;
- Take notice of your partner's mistakes, and try not to be influenced by him or her;
- Take every chance to speak, and don't let your partner do all the talking;
- Try to use the newly learnt words and expressions in the talk.