

# Animal Imagery in Different Languages

## Warm Up

### Guess Who I Am

How much do you know about animals? The following are four riddles, and each involves an animal. Read the riddles, discuss the answers with your partner, and draw a picture of the animal next to each riddle.

2) I have four legs.  
I eat grass.  
I live on a farm.  
Humans cut off my fur  
to make sweaters.  
Who am I?

1) I can fly high into the sky.  
I have excellent vision.  
I use my sharp beak to catch preys.  
I'm the fiercest of my kind.  
Who am I?

3) I am loyal to my master.  
I love to play fetch.  
I am one of the most common pets in  
the world.  
I am regarded as humans' best friend.  
Who am I?

4) I have a shell.  
I have wrinkled skin.  
I can live on the ground or in the water.  
I'm slow, but I have won a famous race.  
Who am I?

riddle 謎語 vision 視力 beak 喙 prey 獵物 fierce 兇猛的  
fur 毛 play fetch 傳接球 wrinkled 有皺紋的



## Paragraph 1:

### Main Idea and

### Examples:

The writer gives examples to support the main idea of the passage.

- ★ What is the main idea of the passage?
- ★ What are the examples?

## Paragraphs 2-5:

### Examples and

### Explanations:

The writer focuses on the topic and discusses it in detail by giving more examples with explanations.

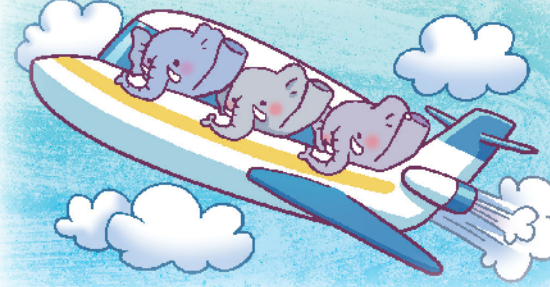
- ★ How many examples can you find in the paragraphs? What are they?
- ★ What are the explanations in these paragraphs?

**1** In many cultures, people associate certain animals with **specific characteristics** and use animal imagery to add color to their languages. For example, in Chinese culture, pigs are traditionally seen as **clumsy** animals, and **5** dogs represent **loyalty**. **Wolves** are often associated with **violence** as well as **cruelty**, and tigers are a symbol of **authority**.

**2** **Likewise**, animal imagery can be found in many English expressions. For instance, “as quiet as a mouse” is **10** commonly used to describe someone who is quiet. You can say, “After being caught cheating on the exam, Samuel was as quiet as a mouse in front of his angry parents.” However, if people make a lot of noise, elephants would

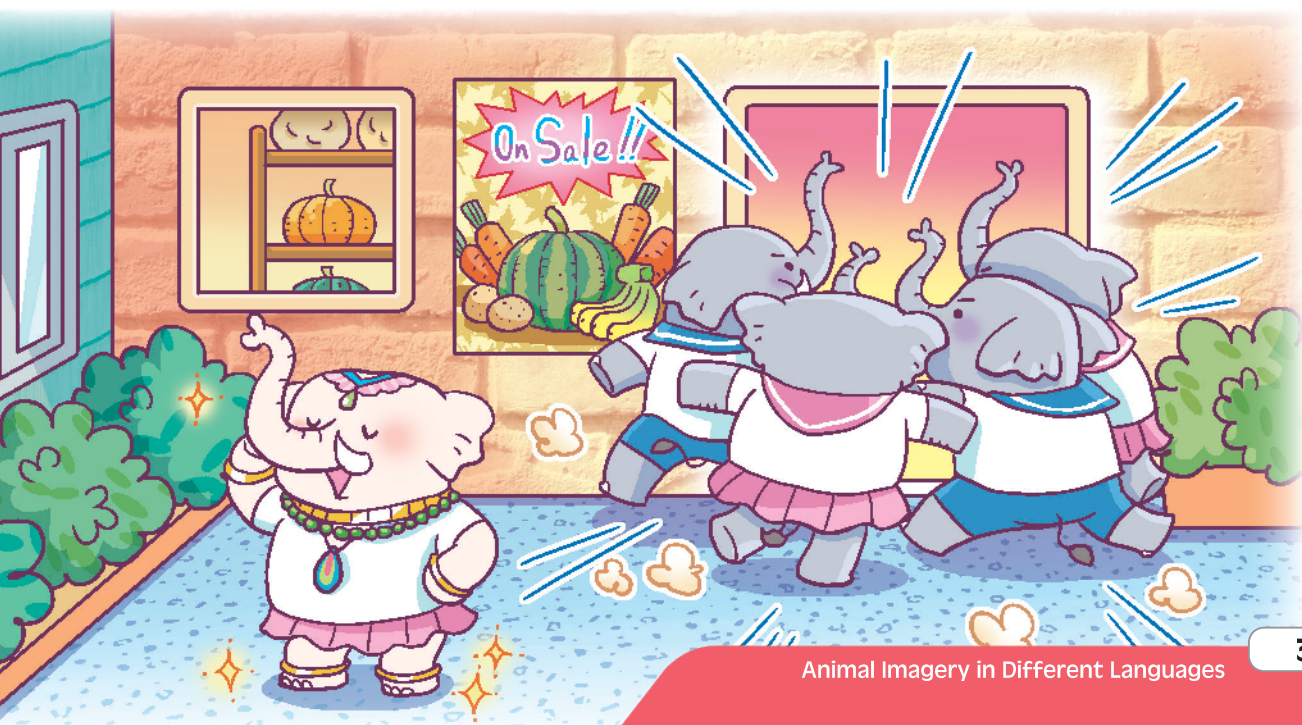
explanation 解釋  
in detail 詳細地





be a good choice for a **simile** to describe them, such as “During the sale, the **customers** crowded <sup>15</sup> into the **mall** like a **herd** of elephants.” Besides, “a white elephant” **refers to** something very expensive but **useless** because a white elephant costs a **fortune** but **is of no use**, and buying one will **apparently** be a waste of money.

**3** Another elephant-related expression is “**jumbo jet**.” <sup>20</sup> **Originally**, “jumbo” was the name of an elephant in Africa. It had been sent to zoos in both Paris and London, and later, it was sold to a **circus** in the United States. The elephant made **audiences** laugh and **earned** a **reputation** for its **outstanding** performances. Thus, it has become <sup>25</sup> common to name elephants “Jumbo” to express people’s

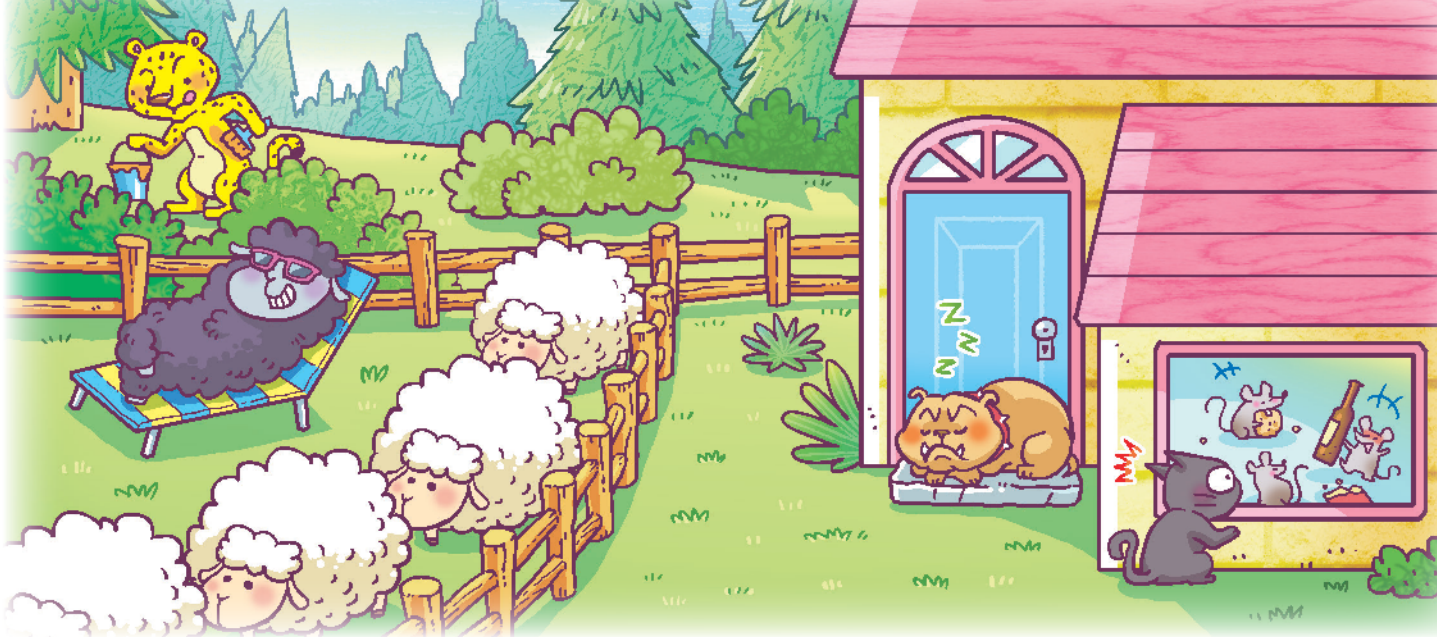




**appreciation** of the original Jumbo ever since. For most English speakers, “jumbo” has come to share the meaning of the word “big.” Therefore, a huge jet plane is called a  
30 “jumbo jet.”

4 **Aside from** mice and elephants, other creatures are often used in English expressions as well. We will focus on two here: One is birds, and the other is insects. People who are “as proud as a **peacock**” often make others think  
35 that they are overly **confident** and show great **pride** in doing everything. When you call someone a chicken, you mean that the person is a **coward** and doesn’t **dare** to do something. Bees are commonly associated with **diligence** in English. If a friend of yours is always working, then he or  
40 she is “a busy bee” or is “as busy as a bee.”





5 Additionally, many sayings that **include** animal imagery also make English an interesting language. The following are just a few examples:

“When the cat’s away, the mice will play.”

“Let sleeping dogs lie.”

“There is a black sheep in every **flock**.”

“A **leopard** cannot change its **spots**.”

6 As you have discovered, the use of animal imagery indeed **plays a part in** different languages. **Without a doubt**, it not only makes a language fun to learn, but also helps language learners understand more about the culture behind a language.

—Adapted from “Images of Animals” by Paul Snowden.

45

50

**Paragraph 6:**

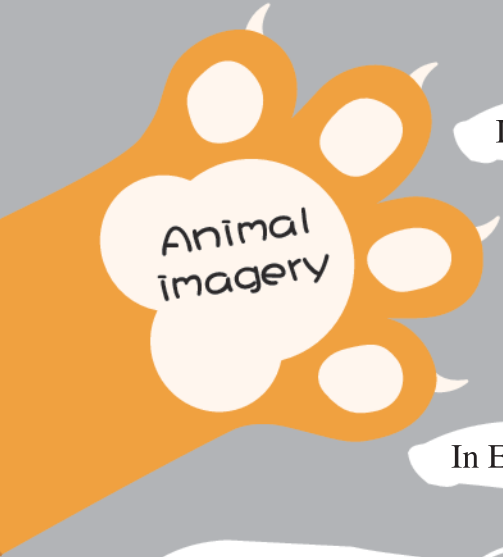
**Conclusion:**

The writer restates the main idea and expresses opinions about the main idea to sum up the passage.

★ What are the opinions about the main idea?

# Understand the Text Structure

Fill in each of the following blanks with the missing words. The answers can be more than one word. The first one has been done for you.



In Chinese culture

### Examples:

- ▶ Pigs: <sup>1</sup> clumsy
- ▶ Dogs: <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Wolves: <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Tigers: <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

In English expressions

### Examples:

- ▶ “As quiet as a mouse”  
→ to describe a quiet person
- ▶ “like a herd of elephant”  
→ <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ “a white elephant”  
→ <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

In English sayings

### Examples:

- ▶ “When the cat’s away, the mice will play.”
- ▶ “Let sleeping dogs lie.”
- ▶ “There is a black sheep in every <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.”
- ▶ “A leopard cannot change its <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.”

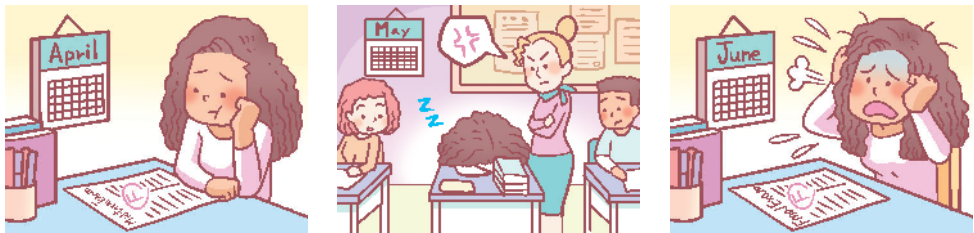
 symbolize 象征



## Check Your Comprehension

Choose the correct answer to each question.

- ( ) 1. What is the main idea of this passage?
- (A) Animal imagery is found only in Chinese and English.
  - (B) Animal imagery can be used to give color to a language.
  - (C) Animal imagery helps people understand difficult sayings.
  - (D) Animal imagery never changes in different cultures.
- ( ) 2. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?
- (A) In English, those who are not brave enough to do something may be called a “chicken.”
  - (B) A jumbo jet is a plane which looks like a white elephant and costs a fortune.
  - (C) In both Chinese and English, wolves represent violence and cruelty.
  - (D) Those who give an outstanding performance in a circus are called “a busy bee.”
- ( ) 3. Which of the following sayings best describes the comic strip below?



- (A) When the cat's away, the mice will play.
- (B) Let sleeping dogs lie.
- (C) There is a black sheep in every flock.
- (D) A leopard cannot change its spots.

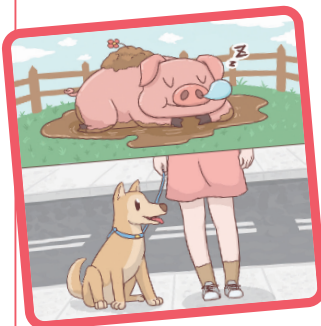
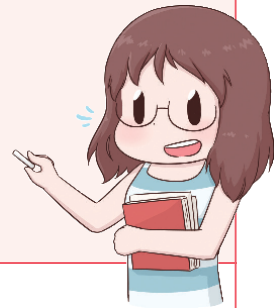


1. Aside from the animal-related expressions in the passage, do you know any other similar expressions? Think of at least one in English and one in Chinese. Share your answers with the class and explain the imagery the animals carry in these expressions.
2. Find a partner and pair up with him or her. Describe yourself and your partner by using animals. Share your answers with the class and explain your reasons.

 Learn About Discourse**Transition Words: Examples and Further Details**

Transition words can be used to show specific details following general ideas. Good writers use this kind of transition words to provide further information for readers, so readers can get a clear picture of the passage they are reading. By doing so, readers can clearly tell the general and the specific apart.

This kind of transition words include “for example,” “for instance,” “to illustrate,” “such as,” “like,” “as well,” “besides,” “moreover,” “aside from,” “additionally,” “in other words,” “likewise,” etc.

**Example:**

In many cultures, people associate certain animals with specific characteristics and use animal imagery to add color to their languages. **For example**, in Chinese, pigs are traditionally seen as clumsy animals, and dogs represent loyalty.

→ The phrase “for example” is used to provide further details to support the fact that people in different cultures use animal imagery in their languages to create vivid pictures and to attract interest.





### Exercise A:

Find out other transition words that show examples of animal imagery in the passage and write down the sentences.

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Exercise B:

Make two sentences by using the transition words that you've learned in this unit.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

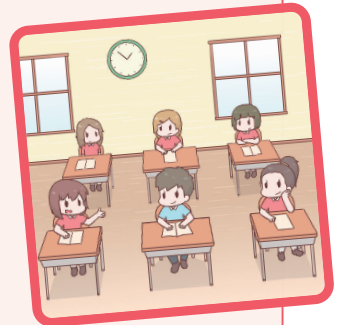
\_\_\_\_\_

## Learn About Sentence Structure

### Indefinite Pronouns

#### Examples:

- ① We will focus on two here: **One** is birds, and **the other** is insects.
- ② Only **one** of the students in this class is a boy. **The others** are all girls.
- ③ Mr. Potter has three daughters. **One** is a chef, **another** is a police officer, and **the other** is a lawyer.
- ④ The medicine has five side-effects—**one** is headache, **another** is running nose, and **the others** are digestive problems.
- ⑤ **Some** of my classmates can play the piano; **the others** cannot.
- ⑥ **Some** of the apps on this page require the access of



indefinite 不定的 chef 主廚 digital 電子的 mechanical 機械的 offline 離線地 nap 小憩

the Internet, while **the others** can work offline.

⑦ After having lunch, **some** kids took a nap in the room. **Others** went out having fun in the playground.

⑧ **Some** balls in the box are red. **Others** are blue. **Still others** are green.

### What does the structure look like?

one ... the other(s) ...

one ... another ... (the other ...)

some ... the others ...

some ... others ... (still others ...)

### Exercise A:

Complete the following sentences by using the structures above. The first one has been done for you.

1. A: I heard that your class plan to host a haunted house on the School Anniversary.

B: Yeah, we are working on it right now. Some of us are making ghost costumes, and the others are making some decorations. I bet it will be fun. You can come to visit us that day.

2. A: These two shirts have totally different styles. Were they made in different countries?

B: Exactly! \_\_\_\_\_ was made in Japan and \_\_\_\_\_ was made in India.

3. A: Are you a moviegoer?

B: Sure. I love to watch movies. New movies come out every month. \_\_\_\_\_ are exciting. \_\_\_\_\_ are funny. \_\_\_\_\_ are scary.

A: What kind of movies do you like the most?

B: Certainly action movies!

4. A: I'm going to visit City Museum this weekend. Could you tell me something about it?

B: Of course. This month, there is a special art exhibition in City Museum. \_\_\_\_\_ of them are paintings, while \_\_\_\_\_ are sculptures, but all of the artworks are unique.

A: Sounds great! I must not miss it!



## Exercise B:

Translate the following Chinese sentences into English by using the structures on page 10.

1. 人們在週末有不同的休閒活動。有些人喜歡運動，有些人看書，還有些人享受去看劇場或聽音樂會。

People have different leisure activities on weekends. \_\_\_\_\_ play sports; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ going to theaters and concerts.

2. 架上有三十本書。有些是小說，其餘是雜誌。

On the shelf are thirty books. \_\_\_\_\_ are novels, while \_\_\_\_\_ are magazines.

3. 公園裡有三個小孩。一個正在玩盪鞦韆，其他兩人在玩蹺蹺板。

There are three children in the park. \_\_\_\_\_ on the swing, and \_\_\_\_\_ on a seesaw.



### Listening Strategy: Listening for the Gist

#### Animal Imagery in Idioms

Animal imagery is usually used to spice up our language. It is often seen in common expressions, idioms, and so on. You have learned some examples from the passage. The following is a talk that gives more examples of animal imagery used in idioms. Listen to the words in Vocabulary Bank first.

#### Vocabulary Bank

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. crocodile <i>n.</i> [C] 鱷魚 | 5. wrap <i>vt.</i> 包裝        |
| 2. shed tears <i>phr.</i> 流淚  | 6. oyster <i>n.</i> [C] 牡蠣   |
| 3. reveal <i>vt.</i> 透露       | 7. pearl <i>n.</i> [C] 珍珠    |
| 4. leftovers <i>n. pl.</i> 剩食 | 8. treasure <i>n.</i> [C] 財寶 |



I. Listen carefully to the talk and match each idiom with the content of them.

Idiom 1 •

Idiom 2 •

Idiom 3 •

Idiom 4 •

• Doggie bag.

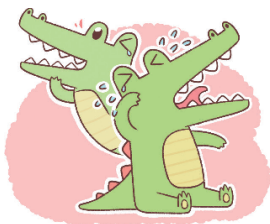
• Crying crocodile tears.

• The world is your oyster.

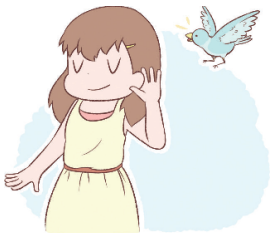
• Elbow grease gives the best polish.

• A little bird told me.

II. Listen carefully to the short talk again and choose the correct answer to each question by identifying the meaning of the four examples.



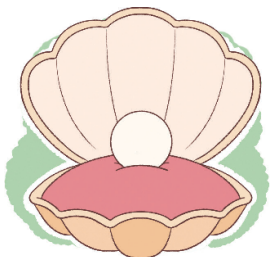
- ( ) 1. (A) They are eating food.  
(B) They are actually upset.  
(C) They are pretending to be sad.  
(D) They are sad and happy at the same time.



- ( ) 2. (A) They know too many secrets.  
(B) They use birds to send messages.  
(C) They don't want to reveal their source.  
(D) They think messages should be delivered by air.



- ( ) 3. (A) They are great dog lovers.  
(B) They need the bag for dog food.  
(C) They want the food to be served in bags.  
(D) They want to bring home the leftovers.



- ( ) 4. (A) Your future is bright with good possibilities.  
(B) You will have great luck with your treasure hunt.  
(C) It's not easy for you to get the chance to succeed.  
(D) The place where you are from is full of oysters.