BBC LEARNING ENGLISH
Take Away English 随身英语
Why are cat videos so popular?
我们为什么爱看猫咪视频？

词汇: cat videos 猫咪视频

We've all been there. One minute you're searching for something serious, like a recipe for dinner, or something for work, and the next you've been **sucked in** by endless videos of cats doing funny things after seeing a catchy title in your suggested videos column. They're **compelling**, **engrossing** and **captivating**, and you can end up spending hours watching kittens make funny noises or mistiming jumps. But why do these videos so often end up going **viral**? What makes them so **enthralling**? And why are they more popular than dog videos?

First, let's talk about **stereotypes**. When many of us think about dogs, we imagine them rolling over onto their backs, tongues hanging out, or making a mess. They seem trusting and innocent – and they do silly things. Cats, on the other hand, seem somewhat more **refined** and independent. There's a reason we have an expression '**cool cat**'. In short, cats seem more serious – and **savvy**. If we can **get one over on** a cat and make them do something like get in a box that slides down a hill, it's comical. But with a dog, it's not as funny because they trust you – and it's easier. **Tricking** a cat, due to their **wiliness**, has more payoff.

The internet is filled with videos of cats making funny faces or reacting strangely. But why are they so funny? Well, simply – it's **unexpected**. If you saw a cat walking down the street coolly or observing and preparing to attack a mouse, it wouldn't be funny. But if that cat was walking sideways, wearing a silly costume, or becoming best friends with the mouse, suddenly we might start to laugh. Watching a cat that is normally **majestic** walk **clunkily** or **pull a** bizarre **face** is hilarious because it's not something we would normally associate with that animal. It's like watching someone who is normally very serious get the **giggles**. In some ways, we're all laughing at their **fall from grace**.

So the next time you see one of those many **memes** of cats in awkward situations or videos that make you chuckle, try to remember why it's so funny. And spare a thought for all those dogs that are trying to entertain us too.

词汇表

suck in	陷入
compelling	引人入胜的
engrossing	非常有趣的
captivating	令人着迷的
viral	（在网络上）迅速传播的
enthralling	吸引人的
stereotype	成见
refined	优雅的
cool cat	时尚的人
savvy	精明的
get one over on	捉弄
trick	戏弄
wiliness	狡猾
unexpected	意想不到的
majestic	高贵的，有威严的
clunkily	笨拙地
pull a face	做鬼脸
the giggles	咯咯傻笑，笑个不停
fall from grace	失态
meme	（用当下流行文化素材配上文字的）自制表情包

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What might we have been doing before we started watching cat videos?

2. What do many of us think are the characteristics of dogs?

3. What do many of us think are the characteristics of cats?

4. Why is it not as funny to trick a dog?

5. Why is it funny to watch a cat pull a funny face?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I can't stop laughing – I've got the _____.

majestic	wiliness	giggles	tricking

2. I thought she was so kind, but when I found out she had been spreading bad rumours, it really was a _____ from grace.

plumet	rise	fall	jump

3. Wow! Your video has so many views. I think it went _____.

virology	virus	viral	virologist

4. I find these sorts of videos really _____. I can't stop watching them.

clunkily	engrossing	pull a face	cool cat

5. Stop sending me _____. My inbox is overflowing with silly images!

refined	savvy	get one over on	memes

答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What might we have been doing before we started watching cat videos?

We might have been doing something serious like looking for recipes or something for work.

2. What do many of us think are the characteristics of dogs?

Many of us think dogs are innocent, trusting and silly.

3. What do many of us think are the characteristics of cats?

Many of us think cats are independent, smart and untrusting.

4. Why is it not as funny to trick a dog compared with a cat?

Because dogs are trusting, it's easy to trick them. Cats on the other hand don't seem as trusting – so when you trick them, there's more payoff.

5. Why is it funny to watch a cat pull a funny face?

Because it is unexpected and out of character.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. I can't stop laughing – I've got the **giggles**.

2. I thought she was so kind, but when I found out she had been spreading bad rumours, it really was a **fall** from grace.

3. Wow! Your video has so many views. I think it went **viral**.

4. I find these sorts of videos really **engrossing**. I can't stop watching them.

5. Stop sending me **memes**. My inbox is overflowing with silly images!