

The World's Loudest Cat?

这只英国猫可能是世界上嗓门最大的

英语学习点: *Phrases Describing Volume* 形容音量的短语

What's that loud, **droning** noise?

Is it a telephone?

Or maybe a pigeon?

No, it's Smokey. This English cat might soon be named the world's loudest **purrer** after she made an official attempt at a world record.



Can you guess why Smokey is called Smokey?

Smokey's **strident** purr was recorded as being an **ear-splitting** 73 **decibels**. To put that in context, normal room atmosphere is a **hushed** 40 decibels, whereas a jet engine is a **deafening** 120 decibels.

Smokey's purr is roughly the same volume as a loud telephone ring and 16 times louder than a normal cat.

The 12-year-old was recorded by a sound expert in front of four **witnesses**. Smokey's owner, Ruth Adams, said that her cat was surprisingly timid for an animal that **makes such a racket**.

"Smokey is actually quite **camera-shy** so I was very conscious not to upset her during the record attempt, so we kept it all very calm and **low-key**."

Smokey may enjoy a calm atmosphere but she's certainly not **as quiet as a mouse**... or indeed any pet that **doesn't say boo**.

The evidence from Smokey's record attempt has now been submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records.

With any luck, Smokey will have delivered a record-breaking **purr-formance**.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Is Smokey the world's loudest cat?
2. True or false: Smokey is very loud and outgoing.
3. Why did Ruth Adams make sure the record attempt was "low key"?
4. Look at the article. Find a common idiom usually used to describe a quiet person.
5. In the last line, the word purr-formance is a pun. What is a pun?

Exercise 练习

请大家从下面的方框里选择一个形容词来描述一个对应的物品或情况，（见下面的1-6）。有些词是本文没有提到的，所以要猜测一下。

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|----------|
| ear-splitting | droning | roaring | hushed | rumbling | strident |
|---------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|----------|

1. A telephone
2. Thunder
3. A jumbo-jet at a close distance
4. An aeroplane in the sky
5. A courtroom
6. A waterfall

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Is Smokey the world's loudest cat? She is not officially the loudest cat according to this article, but she might be named the loudest cat soon.
2. True or false: Smokey is very loud and outgoing. False. She's loud, but at times timid.
3. Why did Ruth Adams make sure the record attempt was "low key"? So that Smokey didn't become upset and not perform well.
4. Look at the article. Find a common idiom usually used to describe a quiet person. As quiet as a mouse.
5. In the last line, the word purr-formance is a pun. What is a pun? It is a joke that is made using two words, or one word which has two meanings.

Exercise 练习

1. A telephone Strident
2. Thunder Rumbling
3. A jumbo-jet at a close distance Ear-splitting
4. An aeroplane in the sky Droning
5. A courtroom Hushed
6. A waterfall Roaring

Glossary 词汇表

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| droning 声音低沉单调的 | purrer 咕噜咕噜叫的猫 |
| strident 刺耳, 尖锐的 | ear-splitting 震耳欲聋的 (声音) |
| decibel 分贝 | hushed 安静的 |
| deafening 震耳欲聋的 (声音) | witness 见证人 |
| to make a racket 搞得噼啪乱响 | camera-shy 不愿上镜头的 |
| low-key 低调的 | as quiet as a mouse 用来形容人或动物非常安静不作声的成语 |
| to not say boo (美国英语) 安静不出声 | purr-formance 这是一种押运效果, purr 和 performance 两个词都以字母p开头。 |