



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

UK's Biggest Scaredy Cat  
英国最大的胆小鬼



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## UK's Biggest Scaredy Cat 英国最大的胆小鬼

**Can I Come Down Now?** 现在我可以下来了吗？

**Read the text below and do the activity that follows.**

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

As one of nature's **top predators**, the tiger is not an animal that we would ordinarily think of as **being chicken**.

However, one tiger, which lives in an English zoo, turned out to be more **cowardly** than his keepers could ever have imagined.

Tanvir, a two-year-old Bengal tiger, got stuck at the top of a new 5m-high **activity tower** in his enclosure, after climbing it for the first time.

The **branching** tower had been designed to provide **mental stimulation** for Tanvir by **testing his ingenuity**, but after **scaling** the **exercise structure** in just a few seconds, he **lost his nerve** when it came to coming back down.

Tanvir went on to spend nearly two days at the top of the tower trying to **pluck up the courage** to attempt a descent.

A **spokesperson** for the zoo said that Tanvir had taken half an hour to come down from a smaller structure only 1.5m high previously, and that the taller tower had clearly been too much for him.

"Every time he gets to the edge, he looks out, puts a **paw** over, and thinks, 'no, I'm not doing it!'" said Samantha Cordrey.

In the end Tanvir's hunger **got the better of** his fear, and after almost 48 hours he made his way down in order to eat.

And what better way to put such a **traumatic ordeal** behind you than by **tucking in** to an entire pig's head?

It appears that Tanvir is none the worse for his experience, but it is not known if he will find **the guts** to go back up his exercise tower again.

The whole episode only serves to underline the difficulties faced by zoo staff in creating **environments** that will stimulate the animals living in **enclosed spaces**.

"It was made to challenge him but he's a bit of a **wimp**," said Tanvir's keeper.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>top predators</b> 最高层的猎食动物	<b>being chicken</b> 没胆量
<b>cowardly</b> 胆小的, 懦怯的	<b>activity tower</b> 练习锻炼塔
<b>branching</b> 有分枝的	<b>mental stimulation</b> 脑力锻炼
<b>testing his ingenuity</b> 锻炼它的独创性	<b>scaling</b> 攀登
<b>exercise structure</b> 练习用建筑结构	<b>lost his nerve</b> 失去勇气
<b>pluck up the courage</b> 鼓起勇气	<b>spokesperson</b> 发言人
<b>paw</b> 爪子	<b>got the better of</b> (某某) 战胜了(某某)
<b>traumatic ordeal</b> 让人精神受创的经历	<b>tucking in</b> 尽情地吃
<b>the guts</b> 胆量	<b>environments</b> 环境
<b>enclosed spaces</b> 封闭的环境	<b>wimp</b> 懦夫, 窝囊废

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Tigers are not usually seen as easily frightened animals. **True / False**
2. Tanvir the tiger lives in a zoo in Bengal, India. **True / False**
3. It took Tanvir two days to climb up the activity tower. **True / False**
4. He came down in the end because he was hungry. **True / False**
5. Tanvir's keepers think he is not a very brave animal **True / False**

## 2. Cat Idioms 有关猫的成语

Match the idioms on the left with their definitions on the right.

请把左面的成语和右面相关的解释连接。

1. the cat that got the cream	a. a situation in which the authority figure is not there so people have fun
2. has the cat got your tongue?	b. appearing very happy and pleased with yourself
3. a fat cat	c. a boss of a company who pays himself a lot of money
4. when the cat's away, the mice will play	d. a question asking why someone is so silent

Now complete the following sentences using the expressions from above.

请用以上成语完成下面的句子。

1. 'Why is everybody in the office fooling around instead of working hard?'  
'The boss is off sick and \_\_\_\_\_.'
2. 'Why don't you say anything? \_\_\_\_\_?'
3. 'You look like \_\_\_\_\_. Why are you smiling so much?'
4. What a \_\_\_\_\_! He got a £1m bonus just for being a director.'

### 3. Courage Idioms 有关勇气的成语

Match the idioms on the left with their definitions on the right.

请把左面的成语和右面相关的解释连接。

1. Dutch courage	a. to summon the bravery you need to do something you're scared to do
2. screw up your courage	b. bravery that comes from drinking alcohol
3. put on a brave face	c. you will be lucky if you are brave
4. fortune favours the brave	d. to not show that you are upset

Now complete the following sentences using the expressions from above.

请用以上成语完成下面的句子。

1. 'Don't be scared of asking that boy out on a date. \_\_\_\_\_. If you take a chance, he'll probably say yes.'
2. 'If you're scared of flying, have a drink on the plane. The \_\_\_\_\_ will help you feel better.'
3. 'Dry your eyes and \_\_\_\_\_. You don't want the others to see you like this.'
4. 'Don't be scared. Just \_\_\_\_\_ and jump in the water.'

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with cats in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与猫有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→) 垂直的(↓) 或对角的(↘)形式出现。

a	t	i	g	e	r	s	r	v	g	t	j
k	i	x	d	r	b	s	a	z	v	k	i
t	r	s	h	y	j	j	o	x	e	i	m
e	a	c	t	n	l	e	r	v	r	t	o
p	e	l	n	t	i	d	e	t	v	t	t
z	a	a	n	r	o	n	p	e	w	e	n
a	s	w	a	b	n	t	u	n	a	n	r
g	t	t	f	v	r	v	m	t	d	f	t
c	a	t	b	y	d	a	a	n	t	s	a
a	i	b	d	t	t	s	e	b	f	u	r
z	l	n	g	t	s	a	j	v	t	a	s
s	p	a	w	h	i	s	k	e	r	s	d

cat	tail	kitten	tiger	paw
whiskers	claw	lion	puma	fur

## Answers 答案

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1. Tigers are not usually seen as easily frightened animals. **True**
2. Tanvir the tiger lives in a zoo in Bengal, India. **False**
3. It took Tanvir two days to climb up the activity tower. **False**
4. He came down in the end because he was hungry. **True**
5. Tanvir's keepers think he is not a very brave animal. **True**

### 3. Courage Idioms 有关勇气的成语

Match the idioms on the left with their definitions on the right.

请把左面的成语和右面相关的解释连接。

1. b
2. a
3. d
4. c

Now complete the following sentences using the expressions from above.

请用以上成语完成下面的句子。

1. 'Don't be scared of asking that boy out on a date. **Fortune favours the brave.** If you take a chance, he'll probably say yes.'
2. 'If you're scared of flying, have a drink on the plane. The **Dutch courage** will help you feel better.'
3. 'Dry your eyes and **put on a brave face.** You don't want the others to see you like this.'
4. 'Don't be scared. Just **screw up your courage** and jump in the water.'

### 2. Cat Idioms 有关猫的成语

Match the idioms on the left with their definitions on the right.

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1. b
2. d
3. c
4. a

Now complete the following sentences using the expressions from above.

请用以上成语完成下面的句子。

1. 'Why is everybody in the office fooling around instead of working hard?'  
'The boss is off sick and **when the cat's away, the mice will play.**'
2. 'Why don't you say anything? **Has the cat got your tongue?**'
3. 'You look like **the cat that got the cream.** Why are you smiling so much?'
4. What a **fat cat!** He got a £1m bonus just for being a director.'

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

	t	i	g	e	r							
											k	
											i	
		c			l						t	
p		l			i						t	
	a	a			o		p				e	
		w			n		u				n	
	t						m					
c	a	t					a					
	i									f	u	r
	l											
			w	h	i	s	k	e	r	s		