



INGLÉS

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN Nº 1

Cats Recognise their Owners' Voices but Never Evolved to Care.

Any cat owner will tell you that although they are sometimes kept as pets, felines are friends to no one. A new study from the University of Tokyo has confirmed this, showing that although pet cats are more than capable of recognising their owner's voice they choose to ignore them - for reasons that are perhaps rooted in the evolutionary history of the animal.

The study tested twenty housecats in their own homes, waiting until the owner was out of sight and then playing them recordings of three strangers calling their names, followed by their owner, followed by another stranger. The researchers then analysed the cats' responses to each call by measuring a number of factors including ear, tail and head movement, vocalization, eye dilation and finally whether or not the cats moved towards the voice. When hearing their names being called the cats generally moved their heads and ears about to locate where the sound was coming from. Although they showed a greater response to their owner's voice than to strangers', they declined to move when called by any of the people.

"These results indicate that cats do not actively respond with communicative behaviour to owners who are calling them from out of sight, even though they can distinguish their owners' voices," wrote the researcher. "This cat-owner relationship is in contrast to that with dogs. Historically speaking, cats, unlike dogs, have not been domesticated to obey humans' orders. Rather, they seem to take the initiative in human-cat interaction." This is in contrast to the history of dogs and humans, where the former has been bred over thousands of years to respond to commands. Cats, it seems, never needed to learn.

However, it's unlikely that this will dismay cat owners (or indeed, be of any surprise) and the paper notes that although "dogs are perceived by their owners as being more affectionate than cats, dog owners and cat owners do not differ significantly in their reported attachment level to their pets".

(27.11.2013 The Independent).

Question 1: [2 POINTS] Indicate whether the following statements are true or false and write down which part of the text justifies your answer.

- a) Cats probably do not have the ability to recognise different people's voices.
b) Four different people called the cats' names out.
c) Some cats moved towards their owner's voice when they called them.
d) Dogs have been trained and taught how to listen to their owners throughout history.

Question 2: [2 POINTS] Answer the following questions in your own words according to the text.

- a) How was the experiment mentioned in the article carried out?
b) According to the text what are the differences and similarities between the relationship between a cat and its owner and that of a dog and its owner?

Question 3: [1,5 POINTS] Find words or phrases in the text that correspond to the words and definitions given.

- a) decide (paragraph 1)
b) answers (paragraph 2)
c) orders (paragraph 3)
d) improbable (paragraph 4)
e) loving (paragraph 4)

Question 4: [1,5 POINTS] Complete the following sentences without changing the meaning.

- a) Farmers were making excellent wine in Potes 200 years ago.
Excellent wine
b) I fell asleep because the meeting was so boring.
If the meeting
c) "Don't go to that part of town alone!" he warned me.
He warned me

Question 5: [3 POINTS] Write a short essay (about 120-150 words) on the following topic:

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a pet?

OPCIÓN DE EXAMEN N° 2

Imaginary Friends – Why More Children Have One Now

When journalist Eleanor Tucker was at primary school in the 1970s, she had a friend. He wasn't a child and he wasn't a girl. He was in his 30s, he had a beard and his name was Klas.

She explains: "Klas was my imaginary friend. He wasn't about all the time, because he lived near my grandmother in a white house by the station, about half an hour's drive from ours. But as I grew up, he was often mentioned and even blamed for some mistakes I made. If I talked when nobody was around, it was to Klas. If I sometimes played without my sister, I was playing with Klas. It seemed quite normal at the time to have an imaginary friend but lots of things pass for normal when you're a kid. By the time I went to secondary school, Klas had stopped visiting. I filed him away under "the past" and forgot about him, until a book I read recently made me think of him again."

The author of the book is Nikki Sheehan, and as part of her research, she discovered that rather than being an outdated phenomenon, imaginary friends might actually be more common nowadays. But why? First, it's probably just a more accurate representation of the way that children play. "For most of the 20th century the general idea was that imaginary playmates were a sign of insecurity, so people may have been less inclined to admit to having an imaginary friend." Sheehan also suggests that within smaller family units, children these days are more likely to play in a certain solitary way, which creates an environment that is welcoming to imaginary friends.

Imaginary friends come in a huge range of guises, as educational psychologist Karen Majors discovered. They might be smaller versions of the children themselves; humans or sometimes animals; based on real people or TV characters; single or multiple; and varied in terms of gender, age and temperament. In general, girls often create imaginary friends who need taking care of, but the characters impersonated by boys are often "super competent" and might be a representation of the child's own aspirations.

(28.02.2014 *The Guardian*, Adapted).

Question 1: [2 POINTS] Indicate whether the following statements are true or false and write down which part of the text justifies your answer.

- a) Eleanor's imaginary friend Klas lived just a few minutes away from her.
- b) Eleanor still imagined Klas when she was a university student.
- c) Sheehan says there are probably more imaginary friends now than before.
- d) Imaginary friends are always based on humans.

Question 2: [2 POINTS] Answer the following questions in your own words according to the text.

- a) Describe Eleanor and Klas' friendship in your own words.
- b) What different types of imaginary friends are mentioned?

Question 3: [1,5 POINTS] Find words or phrases in the text that correspond to the words and definitions given.

- a) to get older (paragraph 2)
- b) in fact (paragraph 3)
- c) precise, exact (paragraph 3)
- d) enormous (paragraph 4)
- e) dreams, desires (paragraph 4)

Question 4: [1,5 POINTS] Complete the following sentences without changing the meaning.

- a) Her father has promised to pay for her trip to Mallorca but she has to pass all her exams in June.
If she
- b) The exam tested the students in five key subjects.
The students
- c) "Follow me and don't touch anything" she warned.
She warned us

Question 5: [3 POINTS] Write a short essay (about 120-150 words) on the following topic:

- What characteristics do you look for in a good friend?