

COMPRENSIÓN DE TEXTOS ORALES

INGLÉS C1

TRANSCRIPCIÓN DE LOS AUDIOS

1

TASK 1: Cheetahs

You probably already know they're the world's fastest land animal: they can go from 0 to 60 in 3 seconds, covering the length of an Asian elephant with each stride. But here are 5 things you probably didn't know about cheetahs.

Cheetahs are one of the few big cats that can't roar. Instead, these carnivores purr, much like a house cat. Also, they chirp loudly enough to be heard a mile away. These chirps vary from cheetah to cheetah. One theory is that this may allow them to identify each other.

Cheetahs are the only big cat that can't fully retract their claws. *Acinonyx Jubatus* is the cheetah's scientific name. *Acinonyx* means "no move claw" in Greek. Their claws are actually more similar to a dog's than to those of other cats, helping cheetahs maintain traction and gain speed while running.

Their muscular tail, which can be over 2-and-a-half-feet long, helps cheetahs when they are hunting prey. The tail acts like a rudder, allowing cheetahs to quickly change direction while running. It provides counterbalance as they zigzag across grasslands during a chase.

Unlike other big cats, cheetahs hunt primarily by day, relying on their exceptionally keen eyesight. Dark tear marks below cheetahs' eyes may help reduce glare from the sun, much like the eye black that some professional athletes wear. Without the cover of darkness, cheetahs camouflage themselves in the tall grass of the savannah, typically getting as close as a football field width away from their prey before making the chase.

While most cheetahs live in Africa, a subspecies of the big cat lives in central Iran. These Asiatic cheetahs are genetically distinct from their African counterparts. Unfortunately, they're critically endangered, with only an estimated 50 individuals remaining.

The cheetah population has declined from an estimated 100,000 in the early 1900s to around 7,000 today, according to recent estimates. Cheetahs are under threat from humans; poaching, habitat loss and vehicle collisions have contributed to their decline. Plus, humans hunt antelopes, warthogs and other prey species that cheetahs rely on.

In Namibia farmers sometimes shoot cheetahs in retaliation for livestock killings. One successful conservation program involves placing livestock guardian dogs with farmers. The dogs scare away these big cats, which are built more for speed than fighting.

TASK 2: Homelessness in the US

Presenter: Welcome to Kind World. [...] On any given night in the US more than half a million people are homeless, and it's especially a problem in the major cities for talking New York, L.A, even here in Boston. These are places that have some of the most expensive rents in the country. And one city that's seen some of the steepest rent increases in the country is Seattle, and that's where this story takes place. [...] 39-year-old Hattie Rhodes and 44-year-old Andrew Constantino remember an awful moment back in 2013, when they looked at their rent increase notice and realized they couldn't afford to stay in their studio apartment.

Andrew: 'You know, we basically got priced out of Seattle while we were both working. We'd had the same apartment for nearly a decade'.

Hattie: '... and I'm thinking, OK, I mean, we'll find something within a month, within 2 months, as something always comes up'.

Andrew: 'We were just shocked that there was nothing affordable' [...].

Presenter: To make matters worse, Hattie had just lost her waitressing job because the restaurant where she worked closed. Her boyfriend Andrew had been - and still works - as a community organizer. They bounced around, sometimes living on friends' couches, sometimes in shelters. They applied for affordable housing, but as a childless couple without serious health issues, they weren't exactly considered a priority on the wait-list.

Hattie: 'I think that's when I reached my despair and I started to accept that, you know what? We're going to be homeless for a while'.

Presenter: Their only option, if they wanted to stay together, was to move to a homeless encampment and set up a tent.

Andrew: 'It was hard...It was a hard sell for sure, you know, because you've got a lot of these internalized feelings of failure. [...] What would my family say? What would my friends think? You know, I'm staying at one of the tent cities, you know. It's like [...] you've lost everything.'

Presenter: Hattie says she worried about the stigma of being homeless, so she kept it from employers and coworkers at her retail job.

Hattie: 'You know, here in Seattle, they think of...oh, everyone's on drugs or it's a mental health thing. I don't have a drug addiction. I don't have a mental health issue. What I have is an economic issue that I cannot seem to get out of'.

Presenter: Winter, with its unrelenting rain, was the hardest part of living outside.

Hattie: 'You are never dry, and that wears on you a lot. So getting up in the morning and knowing you have to put on damp clothing is really demoralizing. You just want to curl up and pretend like that you're not in the situation you're in... and then go to work and pretend like 'hey guy, I just ...I got wet on the way to work, just like everyone else'.'

Andrew: 'We were like...you know what? Let's try to get a better situation than another winter in the tent.' [...]

Presenter: That's when Andrew noticed several communities of tiny houses popping up across Seattle. He'd met some of the residents and the people building them. Builders like 69-year-old Melinda Nichols, who's the first apprenticed female carpenter in Washington.

Melinda: 'If you come to Seattle and you drive down the freeway and you look to the right and you look to the left, you will see tents all over the place, [...] and it's disturbing and it breaks your heart'.

Presenter: Melinda spent the last 20 years building affordable housing with the Low Income Housing Institute. But the nonprofit couldn't keep up with the demand. There are still more than 11,000 people on the streets. So about four years ago Melinda and her colleagues had an idea: Why not build a bunch of smaller, less expensive units to shelter people until they find permanent housing? So they started building tiny houses across the county.

Melinda: 'I don't look at them as a permanent solution. I look at them as a temporary positive solution' [...].

Presenter: Melinda helped build the little blue house that Hattie and Andrew now live in.

Hattie: '[...] I just looked around and went, 'Oh, yeah, I can definitely make this work. This is excellent.' I was excited. It's bigger than the tent that we've been staying in. It's going to be dry in the winter, which was the thing I was most excited about'.

Presenter: Hattie and Andrew live in a tiny house village of 50 people. [...] The best part of living in the village, says the couple, are their neighbors [...].

Andrew: 'When you see that human beings of all different types can live together and will care about one another, it is like a spiritual experience'.

Presenter: The couple has been helping manage their village since the residents have to put in community service hours instead of rent.

Hattie: 'I think I gained more self-confidence being homeless than I ever had in my life, where I stopped worrying so much about what others thought of me because I realized that I have value to this community and, therefore, wider society. [...]'

Presenter: Being in a tiny house village made them realize there's one thing they absolutely can't live without.

Hattie: 'A sense of community. Knowing the people around you, having peer-to-peer support is life-changing'. [...]

TASK 3: The winged bull

Presenter: [...] This is the Museum of Lost Objects on BBC Radio 4. [...] What you're about to hear is the first of 10 episodes that traces the stories of antiquities or historical sites that have been destroyed or looted over the last few years in Iraq and Syria. [...] This isn't an attempt to [...] lament the loss of stones over life. What you will hear is a recreation of these places and objects reimagined through local histories, legends and the stories of people who once lived and worked there 5, 10, [...] 100 or even thousands of years ago.

[...] From Nineveh to Palmyra, Aleppo to Baghdad, these are stories of ancient places that have become modern battlegrounds [...] and of those individuals trying to protect the past from the chaos of the present, even if all that's left are memories.

Nineveh is one of the most important archaeological sites in the Middle East. It's in Northern Iraq, in Mosul, a city synonymous with the past. Just under 3,000 years ago Nineveh was the capital of the mighty Assyrian empire. [...] Back then any person, friend or foe, strolling up the path to the gates of Nineveh, would be greeted by the same sight: an enormous statue, one of the most iconic features of ancient architecture, the winged bull. The winged bull that guarded the gate on the northern side of Nineveh was huge. It's a composite of the most ferocious and powerful creatures known in the region: with the head of a man, wings of an eagle and the hulking body of a bull.

'They're very intimidating [...] and menacing-looking. It does strike you a little bit with fear which I suppose is part of the reason for these things'. [...]

It was hewn from a single slab of limestone over 2,500 years ago. [...] In February 2015 the so-called Islamic State came to Nineveh and chiselled off the bull's face with a pneumatic drill. [...] The first piece that we bring to our museum is this winged bull of Nineveh. It's a protective spirit, meant to awe and terrify but also to welcome with its large eyes and unfurled wings and massive curly hair, tumbling beard and tight-lipped smile. It faced visitors with the stony determination and power of a king. [...]

This is Lamia Al-Gailani, a key figure at the heart of Iraqi archaeology for the last 50 years and one of the country's first female archaeologists. [...] Lamia says ironically that this violent action can be traced back to the ancients, when cities were sacked back then, marauding armies engaged in ritualised vandalism. This would involve smashing images of the king on the reliefs along palace walls. An easy job, because you would always know who the king was. [...] He had the strongest muscles, the biggest beard, the most resplendent hair ...and they would obliterate his face. You hadn't fully toppled a king till you had also annihilated his images. [...]

No one knows the artist who first carved the winged bull in Nineveh but the king who reigned supreme at the time [...] in the late 8th and early 7th century BC was Sennacherib... and he was determined to make Nineveh especial. But the power of even the greatest conquerors is ephemeral. A few generations after Sennacherib's death, Assyria was overrun, [...] Nineveh was sacked and the empire, destroyed. The city [...] sank beneath the ground and eventually became a series of mounds [...] on the earth.

The name of Nineveh lived on, of course, thanks in large part to its role in the Old Testament and the Koran. It was the home of the prophet Jonah for a while, right after his entanglement with the whale. And over the years Jonah became a character closely associated with Nineveh. [...] But it was in the 19th century when French and British

explorers were inspired by biblical text to seek out the famed city, and this is what led to Nineveh's unearthing in the 1840s. These early days of excavation would not have been possible without the guidance of the local Iraqis but, more often than not, it was the western archaeologists who took the glory. Quite literally. [...]

There's a photo [...] taken in the 1980s and it shows a road heavy with traffic, snaking between the tall piles of earth on the excavation site. [...] It has always been difficult to separate everyday human life from the ancient monuments. This was also true 3,000 years ago. Just ask Lamia Al-Gailami. What she remembers most fondly about the winged bull wasn't its eyes or the tumbling ringlets of its beard, but something totally auxiliary to the statue itself. At the base of the bull, she found faint lines scratched by generations of ancient soldiers.

Lamia: 'The Assyrian guards, they had a game...carved into the stone at the base of the bull. It looks like dominoes, something that even the people in Mosul do now, play it, something similar called dana [...] so it means that quite a number of these bored Assyrian guards...what do they do? It gives it a human touch, you see'.

Presenter: A human touch. The guards of the Assyrian empire played dominoes [...] on the base of the august Lamassus. I find this a wonderful metaphor. In thinking about history and cultural heritage, it can be so easy to imagine these monuments as power frozen in stone, but the truth is that art isn't simply the record of grandeur a long time ago. Its meanings change over time right until the present. In putting the winged bull in our Museum of Lost Objects, we remember its stony magnificence, but we also remember those Assyrian guards, who refused to be awed and carried on playing.

*Texto recortado / Adapted from © <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b071skph>
Released on 29 Feb 2016*