**“Dog Talk” – A00104**

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| **Section** | **Pages** |
| **Transcript of audio** | **2** |
| **Student “Fill in” document** | **3 – 4** |
| **Answer Sheets** | **5 – 6** |

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Now, the VOA Special English program WORDS AND THEIR STORIES.

Americans use many expressions with the word **dog**. People in the United States love their dogs and treat them well. They take their dogs for walks, let them play outside and give them good food and medical care. However, dogs without owners to care for them lead a different kind of life. The expression, **to lead a dog's life,** describes a person who has an unhappy existence.

Some people say we live in a **dog-eat-dog world.** That means many people are competing for the same things, like good jobs. They say that to be successful, a person has to **work like a dog.** This means they have to work very, very hard. Such hard work can make people **dog-tired.** And, the situation would be even worse if they became **sick as a dog.**

Still, people say **every dog has its day.** This means that every person enjoys a successful period during his or her life. To be successful, people often have to learn new skills. Yet, some people say that **you can never teach an old dog new tricks.** They believe that older people do not like to learn new things and will not change the way they do things.

Some people are compared to dogs in bad ways. People who are unkind or uncaring can be described as **meaner than a junkyard dog.** Junkyard dogs live in places where people throw away things they do not want. Mean dogs are often used to guard this property. They bark or attack people who try to enter the property. However, sometimes a person who appears to be mean and threatening is really not so bad. We say **his bark is worse than his bite.**

A junkyard is not a fun place for a dog. Many dogs in the United States sleep in safe little houses near their owners' home. These doghouses provide shelter. Yet they can be cold and lonely in the winter.

Husbands and wives use this **doghouse** term when they are angry at each other. For example, a woman might get angry at her husband for coming home late or forgetting their wedding anniversary. She might tell him that he is **in the doghouse.** She may not treat him nicely until he apologizes. However, the husband may decide that it is best to leave things alone and not create more problems. He might decide **to let sleeping dogs lie.**

Dog expressions also are used to describe the weather. **The dog days of summer** are the hottest days of the year. A rainstorm may cool the weather. But we do not want it to rain too hard. We do not want it **to rain cats and dogs.**

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**Dog Talk Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  
(adapted from “VOA Special English program WORDS AND THEIR STORIES.”)

Americans use many expressions with the word **dog**.

Some people \_\_\_\_\_\_ we live in a **dog-eat-dog world.** That means \_\_\_\_\_\_ people are competing for the same things, like good \_\_\_\_ \_. They say that to be successful, a person \_\_\_\_ to **work like a dog.** This means they have to \_\_\_\_ very, very hard. Such hard work \_\_\_\_\_ make people **dog-tired.** And, the situation would be even \_\_\_ \_\_ if they became **sick as a dog.**

Still, \_\_\_\_\_ say **every dog has its day.** This means \_\_\_\_\_\_ every person enjoys a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ period during his or her \_\_\_\_\_ \_. To be successful, people often have to \_\_\_\_\_ new skills. Yet, \_\_\_\_\_ people \_\_\_\_\_\_ that **you can never teach an old dog new tricks.** They \_\_\_\_\_ that older people do \_\_\_\_ like to learn \_\_\_\_ things and will not \_\_\_\_ the way they \_\_ \_\_ things.

Sometimes a person \_\_\_\_\_ appears to be mean and threatening \_\_\_\_ really not so bad. We \_\_ \_\_ **his bark is worse than his bite.**

Many dogs in the United States \_\_\_\_\_ in little houses near their owners' home. \_\_\_\_ doghouses provide shelter. Yet \_\_\_\_ can be \_\_\_\_\_ and lonely in the winter.

A00104

Husbands and \_\_\_\_ use this **“doghouse”** term when \_\_\_\_ are angry at each other. For \_\_\_\_, a woman might get angry at \_\_\_\_ husband for coming \_\_\_\_\_ late or forgetting their wedding anniversary. \_\_\_\_ might tell him that \_\_\_ is **in the doghouse.**

Dog expressions \_\_\_\_ are used to describe the \_\_\_\_\_\_.  **The dog days of summer** are the \_\_\_\_ days of the \_\_\_\_\_\_. A rainstorm may \_\_\_ the weather. But we do not \_\_\_\_\_ it to \_\_\_\_ too hard. We do not \_\_\_\_\_\_ it **to rain cats and dogs.**

**Check comprehension:**   
Match the meaning with the expression

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. \_\_\_\_ She has a fever and is coughing and sneezing. |  | A. bark is worse than his bite |
| 2. \_\_\_\_ He cannot learn the new job. |  | B. in the doghouse |
| 3. \_\_\_\_ It is raining hard and the street looks like a river. |  | C. dog tired |
| 4. \_\_\_\_ Tom is very loud but he is really very nice. |  | D. sick as a dog |
| 5. \_\_\_\_ Mike’s wife is angry with him. |  | E. cannot teach an old dog new tricks |
| 6. \_\_\_\_ Mary worked 12 hours today. |  | F. raining cats and dogs |

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Some people say\_\_\_\_\_\_ we live in a **dog-eat-dog world.** That means many\_\_\_\_\_\_ people are competing for the same things, like good jobs\_\_\_\_\_. They say that to be successful, a person has\_\_\_\_ to **work like a dog.** This means they have to work\_\_\_\_ very, very hard. Such hard work can\_\_\_\_\_ make people **dog-tired.** And, the situation would be even worse\_\_\_\_\_ if they became **sick as a dog.**

Still, people\_\_\_\_\_ say **every dog has its day.** This means that\_\_\_\_\_\_ every person enjoys a successful\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ period during his or her life\_\_\_\_\_\_. To be successful, people often have to learn\_\_\_\_\_ new skills. Yet, some\_\_\_\_\_ people say\_\_\_\_\_\_ that **you can never teach an old dog new tricks.** They believe\_\_\_\_\_ that older people do not\_\_\_\_ like to learn new\_\_\_\_ things and will not change\_\_\_\_ the way they do\_\_\_\_ things.

Sometimes a person who\_\_\_\_\_ appears to be mean and threatening is\_\_\_\_ really not so bad. We say\_\_\_\_ **his bark is worse than his bite.**

Many dogs in the United States sleep\_\_\_\_\_ in little houses near their owners' home. These\_\_\_\_ doghouses provide shelter. Yet they\_\_\_\_ can be cold\_\_\_\_\_ and lonely in the winter.

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Husbands and wives\_\_\_\_ use this **“doghouse”** term when they\_\_\_\_ are angry at each other. For example\_\_\_\_, a woman might get angry at her\_\_\_\_ husband for coming home\_\_\_\_\_ late or forgetting their wedding anniversary. She\_\_\_\_ might tell him that he\_\_\_ is **in the doghouse.**

Dog expressions also\_\_\_\_ are used to describe the weather\_\_\_\_\_\_.  **The dog days of summer** are the hottest\_\_\_\_ days of the year\_\_\_\_\_\_. A rainstorm may cool \_\_\_ the weather. But we do not want\_\_\_\_\_ it to rain\_\_\_\_ too hard. We do not want\_\_\_\_\_\_ it **to rain cats and dogs.**

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| 1. \_D\_\_ She has a fever and is coughing and sneezing. |  | A. bark is worse than his bite |
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