VIDEO ZONE 01

B2 UPPER INTERMEDIATE

Why dogs stick their heads out of car windows

Have you ever wondered why dogs put their heads out of car windows? Watch this video and learn more about this common behaviour.

Do the preparation task first.
Then watch the video and do the exercises.
Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation Task

Match the words with the definitions.

a. a part of the body that sends messages to the central nervous system
b. to discover the meaning of something which contains a hidden message
c. to allow saliva to flow out of your mouth
d. a smell, often an unpleasant one
e. a pleasant, natural smell
f. the two openings in the nose through which air moves when you breathe
g. when an animal is in a state of sexual excitement and ready to breed
h. a quick breath in through the nose to smell something

( ) a sniff	( ) a scent	( ) to decipher
( ) in heat	( ) nostrils	( ) a receptor
( ) to drool	( ) an odour	

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VIDEO ZONE 01

Task 01

Are the sentences true or false?

1. Humans usually concentrate on what they can smell, whereas dogs focus on what they can see.

True False

2. Dogs use their sense of smell to understand the world around them.

True False

3. Dog breeds which were traditionally hunters can easily recognise the smell of blood.

True False

4. A dog breathes in through its mouth and out through its nose.

True False

5. A dog also uses its tongue and mouth for smelling.

True False

6. Pet dogs in Paris usually have the opportunity to be together with the dogs that they are attracted to.

True False

Task 02

Complete the sentences with the correct numbers.

Forty 300 million six million trillion first single two second

1. Humans have just _____ smell receptors.
2. A dog's nose contains _____ smell receptors.
3. _____ times more of a dog's brain than ours is used to interpret smells.
4. Some dogs can identify the smell of a _____ chemical found in blood.
5. A dog's nose uses a _____ -way movement of air to collect scent.
6. A male dog can smell a female in heat at concentrations of one part in a _____.
7. When a dog licks its nose, its tongue takes the scent to a _____ smell organ in the mouth.
8. When dogs are immediately attracted to each other's scent, it's love at _____ sniff.

Discussion

Do you ever face challenges at work? How do you overcome them?

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VIDEO ZONE 01

Transcript

For dogs too, getting out and about excites their wild senses. And for such intelligent animals, you can't beat a road trip. While we are obsessed with visual landmarks, they focus only on scents. We have a measly six million smell receptors, but a dog's nose contains 300 million.

They use it to unravel stories about the world around them. Predictably, most are about food.

Forty times more of their brain than ours is devoted to deciphering smells.

They home in on those with special significance. A single chemical aldehyde found in blood makes this one-time hunter drool.

There is a way to bring their smelly world to life. Schlieren photography visualises the air currents that carry odours and shows the remarkable workings of a dog's nose. Dogs breathe out through the side slits in their nostrils. As the expelled air rotates, it helps draw more scent into the nose. This two-way current helps a dog gather scent almost continuously. But that's not all.

A male can smell a female in heat at concentrations of one part in a trillion.

Licking helps capture more of her alluring scent. His tongue takes the odour to a second smell organ in the mouth, hardwired to the brain and tuned to these sexual pheromones. It's love at first sniff.

For dogs, being a passenger rivals any wild experience, but it can be tinged with disappointment too.

The streets of Paris may be full of romantic promise, but pet dogs are seldom in control of their destiny.

Love may be in the air, but it's so rarely fulfilled.

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