



Cats

Listen and complete the text with the missing words.



Why do cats do that? They're cute, they're _____, and judging by the 26 billions views of over 2 million YouTube videos of them pouncing, bouncing, _____, cramming, stalking, clawing, _____, and purring, one thing is certain: cats are very entertaining. These somewhat strange feline _____, both amusing and baffling, leave many of us asking, "Why do cats do that?"

Throughout time, cats were simultaneously solitary _____ of smaller animals and _____ for larger _____. As both predator and prey, survival of their species depended on crucial instinctual behaviours which we still observe in _____ and domestic cats today. While the _____ actions of your house cat Grizmo might seem perplexing, in the wild, these same behaviours, naturally _____ into cats for millions of years, would make Grizmo a super cat.

Enabled by their unique _____ structure and keen balancing _____, cats climbed to high vantage _____ to survey their territory and _____ prey in the wild. Grizmo doesn't need these _____ skills to find and hunt down dinner in her food _____ today, but instinctually, _____ the living room from the top of the bookcase is exactly what she has _____ to do.

As wild predators, cats are _____ and hunt whenever prey is _____. Since most cat prey are small, cats in the wild needed to eat many times each day, and use a _____, pounce, kill, eat strategy to stay fed. This is why Grizmo prefers to _____ and pounce on little toys and eat small _____ over the course of the day and night. Also, small prey tend to hide in tiny spaces in their natural _____, so one explanation for Grizmo's propensity to _____ into _____ and openings is that she is compelled by the same _____ that helped _____ the continuation of her _____ for millions of years before.

In the wild, cats needed sharp _____ for climbing, hunting, and self-defense. _____ their claws on _____ surfaces kept them conditioned and ready, helped _____ their back and leg muscles, and _____ some stress, too. So, it's not that Grizmo hates your couch, chair, ottoman, pillows, curtains, and everything else you put in her environment. She's _____ these things to shreds and keeping her claws in tip-top shape because this is exactly what her _____ did in order to survive.

As animals that were preyed upon, cats evolved to not get _____, and in the wild, the cats that were the best at _____ predators thrived. So at your house today, Grizmo is an expert at squeezing into small spaces and _____ out and hiding in unconventional spots. It also explains why she prefers a clean and odor-free _____ box. That's less likely to give away her location to any predators that may be _____ around nearby.

Considering everything we do _____ about cats, it _____ that one of their most predominate behaviours is still one of the most _____. Cats may purr for any number of _____, such as _____, stress, and _____. But curiously, the _____ of their purrs, between 25 and 150 hertz, is within a _____ that can promote tissue regeneration. So while her purring makes Grizmo an excellent _____ companion, it is also possible that her purr is _____ her muscles and bones, and maybe even yours, too.

They developed _____ time as both solitary predators that _____ and killed to eat, and stealthy prey that _____ and _____ to survive. So cats today retain many of the same _____ that allowed them to _____ in the wild for millions of years. This explains some of their seemingly _____ behaviours. To them, our homes are their _____. But if this is the case, in our own _____ eyes, who are we? Big, _____, _____ cats competing with them for _____? Terribly stupid predators they're able to _____ every day? Or maybe they think we're the prey.