

UNIT 18 REVIEW TEST LISTENING SCRIPT

Hello, everyone. I'm Jonathan Lewis, and today I'll be talking about animal behavior and emotions, with a focus on primates. Looking out into the audience, I see a lot of young faces, and it makes me absolutely thrilled to see so many young people interested in animal psychology and behavior. Before getting into the main part of my presentation on primate psychology, I'd like to begin by sharing the story of why I started studying animal psychology in the first place. It's two stories actually, and both had to do with elephants.

The first took place in Kenya, when I was a first-year university student taking part in a summer research trip. Observing elephants at the reserve I was at, I learned that elephants were capable of being extremely compassionate. I noticed a young female elephant that couldn't walk well due to a permanent leg injury. Unable to contribute much to her herd in terms of hunting and protection, she provided little material benefit to the other members of the herd. However, the other elephants did not allow her to fall behind, presumably out of a fear that she might fall victim to predators. Though the herd probably had to sacrifice speed and mobility to help the disabled elephant, it seemed as if it were more important to keep her in the group. I was fascinated by this and the possibility that these large animals might be caring and loving, even more so than us humans! It made me want to learn more about animal psychology.

Fascinated by what I'd learned, I came back to the United States with the passion to better understand the psychology of animals. How similar were we? What other animals exhibited some sort of emotions? Somewhat surprisingly, one of the first articles I read was about the introduction of a new female elephant to a sanctuary not far from my home in Tennessee. Upon entering the sanctuary, the new female acted excited to see another female in the park. The two embraced, surprising employees, and it was later realized that the two animals had briefly been in the same circus nearly twenty years prior. I had to see it for myself, so I visited the sanctuary to see two animals that, in the sanctuary employees' opinion, never left each other's side. Clearly they had developed some sort of friendship—just like we might!

I share these two stories because they were pivotal events in my life that have led me to a long career in animal psychology. For the young people in the audience, maybe this story will prompt you to pursue a career in conservation or biology. Now the focus of today's lecture: chimpanzees and goal-oriented, strategic thinking...