

Indian elephants are being squeezed out of their habitats

印度大象正被挤出栖息地

Even court orders to protect them are ignored

即使保护它们的法院命令，也会遭到无视

The Economist · 2026-08-20



一头大象在林地边缘的草地上活动。

难度 47 / 100

建议50–70分钟；选做作文另计。

适用读者：能阅读一般英语新闻，希望读准长句、搭配与作者语气的学习者。

入门准备：能辨认基本主谓结构和常见从句，愿意结合语境查词。

About this lesson 本课导读

文化中的敬重大象，与现实中的保护之间存在距离。文章沿着栖息地破碎、人象冲突、保护行动和生态作用展开；读懂两处段首 *but*，就能避免把全文概括成一片悲观，也能看清“廊道增多”为什么未必是好消息。

- 区分尊重动物与实际保护的关系
- 读懂数量变化背后的栖息地含义
- 拆解后置分词、关系从句和倒装的引语归属
- 用准确而有分寸的语言概括问题与改善

Before you read 读前思考

Does cultural respect automatically protect an animal? Why or why not?

拓展例句与练习情境用于说明用法。

书末答案 (p.10)

Text 课文

[P01] IN “ARTHASHASTRA”, an ancient Indian manual on statecraft, elephants were prized as sets.^{V01V02} Kings presented them to forge alliances.^{V03} Generals relied on them to destroy the gates of forts.^{V04} Today Ganesha, the elephant-headed Hindu god, is still worshipped as the remover of obstacles, and children, as elsewhere, learn “E for Elephant”.



一头大象在林地边缘的草地上活动。

5 [P02] But reverence has not translated into protection.^{V05V06} A survey published last year by the Wildlife Institute of India counted 22,446 elephants, 18% fewer than in 2017.^{K01} The decline in some states was “a shocker”, says Qamar Qureshi, the report’s lead author. Part of the problem is geography. Unlike in Africa, villages are scattered throughout the forests of densely populated India.^{V07} Elephants are often confined to narrow corridors between patches of forest.^{V08V09} Vivek Menon of the Wildlife Trust of India says that in 2010 his team identified 88
10 such routes. Today there are about 150, reflecting shrinking habitats.^{K02}

[P03] As infrastructure cuts through forests, elephants stray into farms.^{V10} Mining and blasting sites also get in their way.^{V11} In West Bengal hulla (“noise”) parties see mobs hurl fireballs and firecrackers to drive the animals away, despite a Supreme Court ban.^{V12K03} Electric fences
15 sometimes block the elephants’ path. But they are excellent physicists, says Raman Sukumar, an ecologist. They use their tusks, which are poor electrical conductors, to break fences, or toss logs to short-circuit them.^{V13V14V15K04} Forest guards and workers steering elephants back to safety are “utterly under-equipped and woefully unprepared”, says Prerna Bindra, a conservationist.^{V16V17K05} Most lack basic equipment such as torches.

20 [P04] But not all is doom.^{V18} Poaching for ivory has fallen since the 1980s.^{V19} Co-ordination between state forestry departments and national customs has improved. Today India has a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau and states have anti-poaching plans. Last month India’s Supreme Court upheld the removal of commercial activity from an elephant corridor in Tamil Nadu.^{V20}

25 [P05] Elephants act as landscape architects. They disperse seeds, shape forests and fertilise soil.^{V21} They keep wetlands alive by digging. “Arthashastra” advised India’s rulers to protect forests inhabited by the magnificent beasts. Those in charge today would do well to take note.^{V22V23K06}

New words and expressions 生词和短语

按原文出现顺序排列；*为优先练习表达。

V01 · P01 statecraft

/stɜːtkrɑːft/ n. 治国之术

manual on statecraft 是介绍治国方法的手册；这里的历史开场说明大象长期受到重视。

V02 · P01 prized

/praɪzd/ adj. 备受珍视的

来自 prize 作动词“珍视”，不是简单说大象赢得了某个奖项。

V03 · P01 forge an alliance*

/fɔːdʒ ən əˈlaɪəns/ phr. 结成联盟

forge 本指锻造，这里强调建立关系；原文用复数 alliances，与赠送大象的目的相连。

V04 · P01 rely on*

/rɪˈlaɪ ɒn/ phr. v. 依靠；倚赖

rely on somebody/something to do something 表示依靠某人或某物完成事情。

V05 · P02 reverence

/ˈrevərəns/ n. 敬重；崇敬

比一般 respect 更庄重，承接上一段的历史用途与宗教敬奉。

V06 · P02 translate into*

/trænzˈleɪt ˈɪntuː/ phr. v. 转化为；带来实际结果

这里不是把文字翻译成另一种语言，而是看一种态度是否落实为行动和结果。

Good intentions do not always translate into practical help.

良好意愿并不总能转化为实际帮助。

V07 · P02 scattered

/skæɪtəd/ adj. 分散的；散布的

villages are scattered throughout the forests 说明村落与森林交错，而非只在森林外缘。

V08 · P02 be confined to*

/bi kənˈfaɪnd tuː/ phr. 被限制在；只能处于

confined 指活动空间受限，后接廊道；不是说这些大象都被关在笼子里。

The damage was confined to one room.

损坏仅限于一个房间。

V09 · P02 corridor

/ˈkɒrɪdɔː/ n. 通道；生态廊道

本指走廊，本文指动物可在栖息地斑块之间移动的通道。

V10 · P03 stray into*

/streɪ ˈɪntuː/ phr. v. 走入；误入

强调偏离原有活动范围而进入，本文说进入农田，不预设动物有破坏目的。

The sheep strayed into a neighbouring field.

羊走进了邻近的田地。

V11 · P03 get in one's way*

/get ɪn wʌnz weɪ/ phr. 挡住去路；妨碍

既能写实际挡路，也能写阻碍完成某事。one's 在使用时随对象变化，如 get in their way。

V12 · P03 hurl

/hɜːl/ v. 用力投掷

比 throw 更强调力度。hurl fireballs 是报道人象冲突的具体行为。

V13 · P03 tusk

/tʌsk/ n. (象等动物的) 长牙

tusks 是象牙这一身体部位，ivory 在下段指作为材料的象牙。

V14 · P03 conductor

/kənˈdʌktə/ n. 导体

在 electrical conductors 中用物理义，不是指挥或售票员；poor 指导电性能差。

V15 · P03 short-circuit

/ʃɔːt ˈsɜːkɪt/ v. 使短路

本文说使电围栏短路；同一词也可比喻绕过通常程序，不能把比喻义硬套回此处。

V16 · P03 under-equipped

/ʌndəˈrkwɪpt/ adj. 装备不足的

under- 表示不足；这里不等于完全没有装备，下一句用缺少基本手电筒来具体说明。

V17 · P03 woefully

/wəʊfəli/ adv. 糟糕地；严重地

woefully unprepared 强烈评价准备不足，不能只按 woeful 的情绪义译成悲伤地。

V18 · P04 doom

/duːm/ n. 厄运；黯淡的前景

not all is doom 承认坏消息存在，同时否定一切都无望。

V19 · P04 poaching

/ˈpəʊtʃɪŋ/ n. 偷猎

for ivory 交代目的；has fallen 表示减少，没有说已被彻底根除。

V20 · P04 uphold

/ʌp'həʊld/ v. 维持；支持（决定）

过去式和过去分词为 upheld。法院维持决定，与决定已被完整执行不是一回事。

V21 · P05 disperse

/dɪ'spɜːs/ v. 散播；使分散

disperse seeds 写种子的传播，与后面的土壤、湿地共同解释大象的生态作用。

V22 · P05 in charge*

/ɪn 'tʃɑːdʒ/ phr. 负责的；掌管的

those in charge 指管理者，不必补出原文没有列明的具体职位。

V23 · P05 would do well to*

/wʊd duː wel tuː/ phr. 最好；不妨认真考虑

是一种有分量的建议，不是预测某人将来成绩好。

Notes on the text 课文注释**1 从消除障碍之神，到现实中的障碍**

[P01 / P02 / P05]

第一段先写赠象结盟、破门攻城，再写象头神和儿童识字，把大象放在历史、信仰与日常生活三个层面。remover of obstacles 还为后文铺垫：人们敬奉与大象有关的消障之神，真正的大象却被道路、围栏和狭窄通道阻挡。

第二段的 But 因而不是换一个话题，而是推翻“既然受到敬重，必定保护得好”的潜在期待。末段再次提到《政事论》，把开头的古代手册转为今天可以听取的劝告，形成首尾照应。

2 通道从88条变成约150条，为什么未必意味着改善？

[P02]

routes 的数量增加，单独看似乎是好消息。但这里的句尾 reflecting shrinking habitats 明确给出作者的解释：大象的栖息空间被切割，活动更依赖斑块之间的狭窄连接。不能把廊道数量当作森林面积，更不能据此宣布保护区扩大。

22,446头与“比2017年少18%”是调查报告的数量比较；88条与约150条则来自梅农对通道的描述。它们衡量不同对象、使用不同年份，摘要不能拼成同一组增长率。

3 谁在驱赶，谁又缺少装备？

[P03]

hulla parties 在此指以制造噪声等方式驱赶大象的行动或队伍，不能按聚会或政党理解。see mobs hurl ... 是新闻英语中常见的“某场景中出现某事”：see 的主语并没有真的长着眼睛。despite 后的禁令与仍然出现的行为形成让步关系。

后半段转到试图把大象引回安全地带的护林员和工作人员。引语是自然保护人士对装备与准备不足的批评，Most 接着指这些人员。把 Most 错接成大象，整段就会失去意义。

4 物理学家和景观设计师，都是有落点的比喻

[P03 / P05]

excellent physicists 是生态学家的形象说法，随后用象牙不易导电、抛木头破坏电围栏等行为解释。它不是证明大象掌握了人类物理学理论。poor electrical conductors 指象牙的导电性质，poor 也不是评价象牙价值低。

landscape architects 同样由下文展开：播种、改变森林、肥沃土壤、挖掘维持湿地。读比喻时先找紧随其后的具体动词，就能把生动措辞与可理解的作用联系起来。

5 第四段开头的 but：承认改善，同时保留执行问题

[P04 / P05]

But not all is doom 把视线从冲突移向改善。偷猎减少、协调改善、设立机构和制订计划，都值得写入摘要；但这些句子没有宣称冲突已经结束。副标题说法院命令也可能被忽视，与文中“维持一项决定”并不矛盾：法律上的决定和实际执行是两层问题。

would do well to take note 将全文收束为建议。take note 不是让管理者抄一份课堂笔记，而是要求认真留意古代手册中保护森林的提醒。

Special difficulties 难点辨析

1 not all : 部分否定, 意为“并非全部”

[P04]

not all is doom 的意思是并非一切都糟糕。类似地, Not all the fences are electric 表示有些围栏不是电围栏; None of the fences is electric 才是没有任何电围栏。遇到 not 与 all、every 等词, 要检查否定范围。

Not every warning leads to action.

并不是每一次警告都会促成行动。

2 they、them 与 Most 的指代

[P03]

But they are excellent physicists 中 they 指大象; short-circuit them 中 them 指电围栏。主语相同并不意味着所有代词对象都一样。Most lack basic equipment 中 Most 又转到上一句的护林员与工作人员。

可把指代对象代回原句检查: “大象使围栏短路”“多数工作人员缺少装备”, 意思通顺; 若代回后行为不合逻辑, 应重新定位最近且语义适合的先行对象。

Background 背景与延伸

1 连续空间与连通性

[P02 / P03 / P05]

本文的生态廊道可以想成两块较大栖息地之间的连接带。假设一片连续森林被道路和建设分成若干块, 动物可能仍能移动, 却不得不穿过更窄、与人类活动更接近的路线。这个示意说明“有路线”与“空间宽裕”不是同一个问题。

末段补充大象对森林和湿地的作用, 使保护问题超出单一动物数量。读到 landscape architects 时, 应把它与前面栖息地破碎的讨论连接: 动物需要环境, 也参与改变环境。

Key structures 关键句型

K01 · P02 过去分词后置修饰: 找到真正的谓语

A survey published last year by the Wildlife Institute of India counted 22,446 elephants, 18% fewer than in 2017.

印度野生动物研究所去年公布的一项调查, 统计到22,446头大象, 比2017年少18%。

主语是 A survey, published last year by ... 修饰 survey, 说明调查的发布者与时间; 外层谓语是 counted。过去分词 published 不能再被当作一个与 counted 并列的完整谓语。

18% fewer than in 2017 补充比较调查数量。fewer 对应可数的大象数; 省略的是2017年统计到的数量, 不是说2017年比现在少18%。

A report released on Monday recorded 120 cases, 20% fewer than last year.

周一发布的一份报告记录了120起事件, 比去年少20%。

K02 · P02 句尾现在分词：解释整项变化

Today there are about 150, reflecting shrinking habitats.

如今约有150条，这反映出栖息地正在缩小。

there are about 150 是主句，省略了由上文可知的 routes。reflecting shrinking habitats 补充解释“如今有约150条通道”这一情况所反映的含义。

reflecting 不能译成通道主动思考。shrinking 是修饰 habitats 的现在分词，说明栖息地正在缩小；两层 -ing 的作用不同。

More families now share smaller flats, reflecting rising housing costs.

如今有更多家庭合住较小的公寓，这反映出住房成本上升。

K03 · P03 see somebody do：场景中出现一个动作

In West Bengal hulla (“noise”) parties see mobs hurl fireballs and firecrackers to drive the animals away, despite a Supreme Court ban.

在西孟加拉邦，尽管最高法院已经禁止这种做法，hulla（“噪声”）驱赶行动中仍有人群投掷火球和鞭炮，试图赶走大象。

主干是 hulla parties see mobs hurl ...，用行动或场景作 see 的主语，表示其中出现某种行为。mobs 是 hurl 的逻辑主语；在 see somebody do 结构中，hurl 前不加 to。

to drive the animals away 才是目的不定式，解释投掷行为的目的；despite a Supreme Court ban 是介词短语，交代行为发生的让步条件。despite 后不能直接接一个完整的主谓句。

The festival saw visitors queue for hours to enter the exhibition.

节日期间，参观者为进入展览排了数小时的队。

K04 · P03 插入关系从句，不要丢掉 use ... to

They use their tusks, which are poor electrical conductors, to break fences, or toss logs to short-circuit them.

它们利用不易导电的象牙破坏围栏，或者抛掷木头，使围栏短路。

外层有两种做法：use their tusks ... to break fences，以及 toss logs to short-circuit them。which are poor electrical conductors 插在第一种做法中，补充解释 tusks 的性质。

两个 to 短语都说明用途或目的，or 把两种手段并列。去掉关系从句后读 use their tusks to break fences，再把导电性质放回，就不会把 which 的谓语 are 错当作整句唯一谓语。

They use wooden tools, which do not scratch the surface easily, to remove the old paint.

他们使用不易划伤表面的木制工具去除旧漆。

K05 · P03 长主语与句尾转述：谁作出评价？

Forest guards and workers steering elephants back to safety are “utterly under-equipped and woefully unprepared”, says Prerna Bindra, a conservationist.

自然保护人士普雷尔娜·宾德拉说，引导大象回到安全地带的护林员和工作人员，“装备极其不足，准备也糟糕透顶”。

主语中心是 Forest guards and workers；steering elephants back to safety 说明这些人员正在做什么。外层谓语是 are，后面两项评价由 and 并列。不要把 steering 当作独立谓语而漏掉 are。

says Prerna Bindra 放在引语之后，采用动词在前的转述次序；a conservationist 是对她的同位说明。评价归属于她，作者再用缺少手电筒作具体补充。

Staff helping passengers find new flights are exhausted, says the airport manager.

机场经理说，帮助旅客寻找替代航班的工作人员已经筋疲力尽。

K06 · P05 those in charge 与 would do well to

Those in charge today would do well to take note.

今天的管理者也不妨认真听取这一建议。

Those in charge 是“那些负责的人”，in charge 后置修饰 those，整体作主语。would do well to do something 是劝告别人采取明智行动的惯用结构。

take note 在这里是认真留意前面的森林保护建议。语气比命令含蓄，却仍表达作者认为管理者应该行动的立场。

Those in charge would do well to listen to the people using the service.

负责的人最好认真听听这项服务使用者的意见。

Exercises 练习与写作

Listening 听力（选做）

选做：听录音，找出第二、四段开头的 But 分别改变了什么方向。

02 What contrast begins P2, and what change of direction begins P4?

Comprehension 理解

依据文章回答，注意统计对象、指代和评价归属。

03 Why does the article mention about 150 corridors today?

- A. To prove that the total forest area has grown.
- B. To show that elephants increasingly depend on routes between shrinking habitats.
- C. To show that the elephant population has almost doubled.

04 What does “Most” refer to in “Most lack basic equipment such as torches”?

05 Give two improvements mentioned in P4.

06 How does the last paragraph explain “landscape architects”?

Words in use 词汇

用词库中的表达完成新情境，必要时变形；每项用一次。

词库：translate into / rely on / get in the way / uphold

07 The children ____ their teacher to explain the instructions.

08 Extra funding will not automatically ____ better services.

09 Please move the boxes; they may ____ when people leave.

10 The court ____ the earlier decision yesterday.

Key structures 句型

保留原意，检查非谓语、否定范围与建议语气。

11 Combine: “A survey was published yesterday. It counted 500 birds.” Use a past-participle modifier.

12 In “Costs rose again, reflecting a shortage of materials”, what does reflecting explain?

13 Complete: “The event saw hundreds of visitors ____ (arrive) before sunrise.”

14 Combine with which: “They use ropes to secure the load. The ropes are very strong.”

15 Who makes the assessment in “The workers are poorly prepared, says the supervisor”?

16 Give advice using would do well to: “The organisers should listen to visitors.”

17 Does “Not all the routes are safe” mean that no route is safe?

Summary writing 摘要

用60–80词概括文化敬重、主要困境、改善与生态价值。

18 Write a 60–80-word summary.

Composition 作文 (选做)

选做：用90–110词说明一项当地自然保护问题，提出具体行动并解释限制。可使用设想情境。

19 Describe a practical conservation proposal in 90–110 words.

Reference translation 参考译文

P01 在古印度治国手册《政事论》中，大象是备受珍视的资产。国王将大象作为礼物赠送，以结成联盟。将领依靠大象撞毁堡垒的大门。今天，长着象头的印度教神祇伽内什，仍被奉为消除障碍之神；和其他地方一样，孩子们也学着念“E代表Elephant（大象）”。

P02 然而，敬重并未转化为保护。印度野生动物研究所去年公布的一项调查，统计到22,446头大象，比2017年少18%。报告主要作者卡马尔·库雷希说，部分邦的大象数量下降“令人震惊”。问题的一部分出在地理条件上。与非洲不同，在人口稠密的印度，村庄散布于森林之中。大象往往只能活动在连接片片森林的狭窄廊道里。印度野生动物信托组织的维韦克·梅农说，2010年他的团队确认了88条这样的通道。如今约有150条，这反映出栖息地正在缩小。

P03 随着基础设施穿过森林，大象会误入农田。采矿和爆破场地也挡住了它们的去路。在西孟加拉邦，尽管最高法院已经禁止这种做法，hulla（“噪声”）驱赶行动中仍有人群投掷火球和鞭炮，试图赶走大象。电围栏有时会挡住大象的路。但生态学家拉曼·苏库马尔说，它们可是出色的物理学家。它们利用不易导电的象牙破坏围栏，或者抛掷木头，使围栏短路。自然保护人士普雷尔娜·宾德拉说，引导大象回到安全地带的护林员和工作人员，“装备极其不足，准备也糟糕透顶”。其中大多数人连手电筒之类的基本装备都没有。

P04 但也并非全是坏消息。自20世纪80年代以来，为获取象牙而进行的偷猎有所减少。各邦林业部门与国家海关之间的协调有所改善。如今，印度设有野生动物犯罪管制局，各邦也有反偷猎计划。上个月，印度最高法院维持了清除泰米尔纳德邦一条大象廊道内商业活动的决定。

P05 大象扮演着景观设计师的角色。它们传播种子，塑造森林，并使土壤肥沃。它们通过挖掘维持湿地的生机。《政事论》曾建议印度统治者保护这些雄伟动物栖居的森林。今天的管理者也不妨认真听取这一建议。

Reference answers 参考答案与解析

开放题不要求与参考答案逐字一致；先检查信息和意思，再修改表达。

Before you read 读前思考

01 读前思考

No. Respect may encourage concern, but animals also need suitable habitat and practical protection.

可提出不同观点，但应区分态度与资源、行动或栖息空间。读后用文中的通道和装备问题来检验。

Listening 听力

02

P2 contrasts reverence with insufficient protection. P4 turns from the problems to some improvements.

第二次转折不是取消先前的问题；应同时保留困难和改善。

Comprehension 理解

03

B. To show that elephants increasingly depend on routes between shrinking habitats. reflecting shrinking habitats 给出方向；廊道条数不等于森林面积或大象数量。

04

The forest guards and workers steering elephants back to safety.

Most 承接人员，不是上一部分的大象或电围栏。

05

Poaching for ivory has declined, and co-ordination between forestry departments and customs has improved.

可接受表达：

- India has a Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, and states have anti-poaching plans.
- The Supreme Court upheld the removal of commercial activity from a corridor, and ivory poaching has declined.

也可答设立野生动物犯罪管制局、各邦反偷猎计划或法院维持清除商业活动的决定；不能说偷猎已被消灭。

06

Elephants disperse seeds, shape forests, fertilise soil and help maintain wetlands by digging.

需以具体作用解释比喻。不能把它理解为大象像人一样设计图纸。

Words in use 词汇**07**

rely on

可接受表达：

- relied on

一般现在时用 rely on；若设定过去情境，relied on 也自然。复数主语决定现在时不加-s，不能单凭主语决定时态。

08

translate into

这里是转化为结果，不是语言翻译。

09

get in the way

may 后用原形，意思是挡路。

10

upheld

yesterday 要求过去时；uphold 的过去式不是 uphelded。

Key structures 句型**11**

A survey published yesterday counted 500 birds.

published yesterday 修饰 survey；counted 是整句谓语。

12

It explains what the rise in costs reflects: a shortage of materials.

解释的是主句呈现的变化，不是成本在主动思考。

13

arrive

可接受表达：

- arriving

arrive 把到达看作事件；arriving 也成立，侧重到达的过程或场景。若明确要求不带 to 的不定式，则使用 arrive。

14

They use ropes, which are very strong, to secure the load.

关系从句补充 ropes，to secure 仍依附 use。

15

The supervisor.

句尾 says 的主语在后；不要把评价归给 workers。

16

The organisers would do well to listen to visitors.

惯用结构用于劝告，不是预测成绩。

17

No. It means that at least some routes are unsafe; it does not say that every route is unsafe.

not all 表示部分否定，意为“并非全部”；none 才表示“一个也没有”，不能混用。

Summary writing 摘要

18

Elephants remain culturally important in India, but respect has not ensured their protection. Shrinking and fragmented habitats bring them into conflict with people, while workers often lack suitable equipment. There have been improvements, including reduced ivory poaching and better co-ordination. Elephants also spread seeds and maintain wetlands. The article therefore urges those responsible to protect the forests on which these animals depend.

应包含问题与改善，不把全文写成“毫无进展”。可省略具体数字；若引用，必须注明统计对象。将 more corridors prove success 改成 more corridors reflect shrinking habitats，才能对应原文。

Composition 作文

19

A small wetland near my town has become surrounded by roads. People enjoy watching birds there, but their enthusiasm has not translated into practical protection. I would begin by marking a quiet area and providing bins at the entrance. Volunteers could explain why visitors should stay on the paths. These measures would not solve every problem, especially if water continued to be polluted upstream. The organisers would therefore do well to work with neighbouring communities. Success should be judged by the condition of the habitat as well as the number of visitors who say they support it.

写清地点、问题、行动与一项限制。不要只有 we must protect nature 的口号；例如写出 quiet area 和 visitors stay on paths，才知道行动如何改变干扰。情境可另选，不要求真实调查。