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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/644/2021_2022_2011_E5_B9_B4_E5_85_A8_c88_644731.htm 公共英语等级考试四级PETS4阅读精讲（59）。百考试题#0000ff>公共英语四级考试站为您接下来的考试做足准备，一举拿下公共英语四级考试！

Certain animals have an intuitive awareness of quantities. They know without analysis the difference between a number of objects and a smaller number. In his book *The Natural History of Selbourne* (1786), the naturalist Gilbert White tells how he surreptitiously removed one egg a day to make up plover's nest, and how the mother laid another egg each day to make up for the missing one. He noted that other species of birds ignore the absence of a single egg but abandon their nest if more than one egg has been removed. It has also been noted by naturalist that a certain type of wasp always provides five-never four, never six-caterpillars for each of their eggs so that their young have something to eat when the eggs hatch. Research has also shown that both mice and pigeons can be taught to distinguish between odd and even numbers of food pieces. These and similar accounts have led some people to infer that creatures other than human can actually count. They also point to dogs that have been taught to respond to numerical questions with the correct number of barks, or to horses that seem to solve arithmetic problem by stomping their hooves number of times. Animals respond to quantities only when they are connected to survive as a species-as in the case of the eggs-or survive as individuals -as in the case of food. There is on transfer to other

situations or from concrete reality to the abstract notion of numbers. Animals can “ count ” only when the objects are present and only when the numbers involved are small-no more than seven or eight. In lab experiments, animals trained to count one kind of object were unable to count any other type. The objects, not the numbers, are what interest them. Animal ’ s admittedly remarkable achievements simply do not amount to evidence of counting, nor do they reveal more than innate instinct, refined by the genes of successive generations, or the results of clever, careful conditioning by trainers.

6. What is the main idea of the passage? A. Careful training is required to teach animals to perform tricks involving numbers B. Animals cannot count more than one kind of object C. of all animals, dogs and horses can count best D. Although some animals may be aware of quantities, they cannot actually count
7. The author refers to Gilbert ’ s book in paragraph 1 in order to _____. A. show how attitudes have changed since 1786 B. Contradict the idea that animals can count. C. provide evidence that some birds are aware of quantities. D. Indicate that more research is needed in this field.
8. The word “ surreptitiously ” in line 4 is closest in meaning to _____. A. quickly B. secretly C. occasionally D. stubbornly
9. The author mentions that all of the following are aware of quantities in some way EXCEPT _____. A. plovers B. mice C. caterpillars D. wasps
10. According to the information in the passage, which of the following is LEAST likely to occur as a result of animal ’ s intuitive awareness of quantities? A. A pigeon is more attracted by a box containing two pieces of food than by a box containing one piece. B. When asked by

its trainer how old it is, a monkey holds up five fingers. C. When one of its four kittens crawls away, a mother cat misses it and searches for the missing kitten. D. A lion follows one antelope instead of a herd of antelopes because it is easier to hunt a single prey. 解析：6.D 文章中介绍了某些动物很惊人的数字能力。但是无论怎样，他们对数字的感觉也只是一种本能。7.C 作者举这个例子是为了证明他所提出的某些动物能够认知某些东西的数量。8.B 根据上下文以及我们的常识，观察动物的习性是需要很长时间，而且应该是隐蔽的。9.C It has also been noted by naturalist that a certain type of wasp always provides five-never four, never six-caterpillars for each of their eggs。10.B When asked by its trainer how old it is, a monkey holds up five fingers.无论猴子的反应是什么样子，都只是一种反复训练之后的一种本能的反映。而不是真正的说出他的年龄。相关推荐：#0000ff>公共英语等级考试四级PETS4阅读精讲（58）#0000ff>公共英语等级考试四级PETS4阅读精讲 #0000ff>2011年pets4考试阅读模拟题汇总 #0000ff>2011年pets4考试完形填空练习汇总 #0000ff>公共英语四级阅读理解部分命题规律及解题思路 编辑推荐：
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