

Lesson 1 - A Puma at Large

Where must the puma have come from?

pyuumez aa **laadz** **kæt** laik
æ'nim'lz wɪtʃ aa **fau'nd** in əmerikə

we'n **ripoots** keim i'ntuu la'nd'n
zuu ðæt ə wai'ld **pyuumə** hæd
bii'n **sbodid** footii faiv mai'lz saup
ov la'nd'n ðei wə **not** teik'n
siiriəslɪ

hau**wəvə** æz ðiɪy **evid'ns** bigæ'n
tuu **əkyuumy**əleit
ekspəts fro'm ðə zuu fe'lt
əblaidzd tuu i'n**vestigeit**
foo ðə **diskripʃ'nz** giv'n bai **piip'l**
huu klei'md tuu hæv sii'n ðə
pyuumə wə **ikstroodineerilii**
si'mi'lə

ðə **ha'nt** foo ðə **pyuumə** bəgæ'n
in ə smoo'l **vilidz**
we **wu'm'n** pikiŋ **blækberiz**
soor ə **laadz** **kæt**
ou'nlii **faiv** yaadz əwei **fro'm** hə

it imiidzətlii ræn əwei we'n jii **soor**
it
æ'nd **ekspəts** k'n**fə'md** ðæt ə
pyuumə
wi'l **not** ətæk ə hyuum'n **bii'ɪŋ**
a'nles it iz **koo'nəd**

ðə **səetʃ** pruuvd **difik'lt**
foo ðə **pyuumə** wəz **oft'n** obzævd
æt **wa'n** pleis i'n ðə **moo'niŋ**
æ'nd æt ənaðə pleis twe'ntii **mai'lz**
əwei i'n ðiɪy **iivniŋ**

werevər it **we'nt** it left bəhai'nd it
ə treil ev **ded dii**·ə æ'nd smoo'l
æ'nim'lz laik **ræbits**

poo pri'nts wə **sii'n** in ə na'mbər
ev **pleisiz** æ'nd **pyuumə** **fə** woz
fau'nd **kliŋiŋ** tə **bufiz**

sevr'l piip'l ko'mplei'nd əv **kæt laik**
noiziz æt **nait** æ'nd ə **biznismæ'n**
on ə **fijɪŋ** trip soor ə **pyuumə** ap ə
trii
ðii **ekspəts** wə nau **fulii** k'n**vinst**
ðæt ðiɪy æ'nim'l **woz** ə **pyuumə**
bat **wə** hæd it **ka'm** fro'm

æz nou **pyuuməz** hæd bii'n
rəpootid **misɪŋ** frəm e'nii **zuu** i'n ðə
ka'ntri **ðis** wa'n **mast** əv **bii'n** i'n
ðə **pəzeɪŋ** əv ə **praivit** kələktə
æ'nd **sa'mhau** **mæ'nidz**d tuu
iskeip

ðə **ha'nt** we'nt **o'n** fə sevr'l **wiiks**
bat ðə **pyuume** woz **not** **koot**

it iz distəbiŋ tə **piŋk** ðæt ə
dei'ndzərəs **wai'ld** æ'nim'l iz sti'l
ət **laadz** i'n ðə **kwai**·ət **ka'ntri**isaid

Pumas are large, cat-like animals which are found in America. When reports came into London Zoo that a wild puma had been spotted forty-five miles south of London, they were not taken seriously. However, as the evidence began to accumulate, experts from the Zoo felt obliged to investigate, for the descriptions given by people who claimed to have seen the puma were extraordinarily similar.

The hunt for the puma began in a small village where a woman picking blackberries saw 'a large cat' only five yards away from her. It immediately ran away when she saw it, and experts confirmed that a puma will not attack a human being unless it is cornered. The search proved difficult, for the puma was often observed at one place in the morning and at another place twenty miles away in the evening.

Wherever it went, it left behind it a trail of dead deer and small animals like rabbits. Paw prints were seen in a number of places and puma fur was found clinging to bushes. Several people complained of 'cat-like noises' at night and a businessman on a fishing trip saw the puma up a tree. The experts were now fully convinced that the animal was a puma, but where had it come from? As no pumas had been reported missing from any zoo in the country, this one must have been in the possession of a private collector and somehow managed to escape. The hunt went on for several weeks, but the puma was not caught. It is disturbing to think that a dangerous wild animal is still at large in the quiet countryside.

New words and expressions

Write	Say	Class	Chinese
accumulate	əkyuumeleit	verb	积累, 积聚
blackberry	blækbrii blækberii	noun	黑莓
cling	kliŋ	verb	粘
convince	k'nvɪ'ns	verb	使.....信服
corner	koo'nə	verb	使走投无路, 使陷入困境
disturb	distəəb	verb	令人不安
evidence	evid'ns	verb	证据
human being	hyuum'n bi:ɪŋ	noun	人类
hunt	ha'nt	verb	追猎;寻找
oblige	əblaɪdʒ	verb	使.....感到必须
print	pri'nt	verb	印痕
puma	pyuumə	noun	美洲狮
somehow	sa'mhau	qualifier	不知怎么搞地, 不 知什么原因
spot	sbot	verb	看出, 发现
trail	trei'l	noun	一串, 系列

美洲狮是一种体形似猫的大动物，产于美洲。当伦敦动物园接到报告说，在伦敦以南 45 英里处发现一只美洲狮时，这些报告并没有受到重视。可是，随着证据越来越多，动物园的专家们感到有必要进行一番调查，因为凡是声称见到过美洲狮的人们所描述的情况竟是出奇地相似。

搜寻美洲狮的工作是从一座小村庄开始的。那里的一位妇女在采摘黑莓时的看见“一只大猫”，离她仅 5 码远，她刚看见它，它就立刻逃走了。专家证实，美洲狮非被逼得走投无路，是决不会伤人的。事实上搜寻工作很困难，因为常常是早晨在甲地发现那只美洲狮，晚上却在 20 英里外的乙地发现它的踪迹。无论它走哪儿，一路上总会留下一串死鹿及死兔子之类的小动物，在许多地方看见爪印，灌木丛中发现了粘在上面的美洲狮毛。

有人抱怨说夜里听见“像猫一样的叫声”；一位商人去钓鱼，看见那只美洲狮在树上。专家们如今已经完全肯定那只动物就是美洲狮，但它是从哪儿来的呢？由于全国动物园没有一家报告丢了美洲

狮，因此那只美洲狮一定是某位私人收藏豢养的，不知怎么设法逃出来了。搜寻工作进行了好几个星期，但始终未能逮住那只美洲狮。想到在宁静的乡村里有一头危险的野兽继续逍遥流窜，真令人担心。