

Celebrate the Year of the Dog by correcting the “Dog English” errors!

The following sentences are incorrect. Can you see the errors? For a challenging New Year English activity, print this document and write each sentence correctly. If you cannot print it, you can write your correct sentences on a piece of paper. The answer key for the correct sentences are on page 2. Don't look at the answer key until you have completed the activity on your own.

After you try this activity, and find the correct sentences, share the activity with your friends and family members. Ask them to look at the sentences and try to correct them.

1. Dog is my favorite animal.

2. That dog very cute.

3. (我向狗) I like dog.
I'm like dog.

4. (我喜欢狗) I like dog.

5. 2018 is year of dog.

6. Dog is better than cat.

ANSWER KEY:

1. My favorite animal is the (a) dog. *Or, dogs are my favorite animal.*
2. That dog is very cute.
3. This sentence obviously needs “I’m” not “I” because it means to be like something. So here is the correct sentence: “I’m like a dog.” You are only one person, so the article “a” is needed. If you and your friends are all similar to dogs, you could say, “We are like dogs.” With more than one, there is no need for the article.
4. “Dog” is a countable noun. For uncountable nouns (also called “no count nouns”), such as water, it is OK to say, “I like water.” But, since *dog* is a countable noun, we must say it this way: “I like dogs.” If there is just one particular dog that you like, you can say, “I like that dog” or “I like the dog.” Be very careful about how you say this sentence, because our erroneous sentence, “I like dog,” actually means, “我喜欢吃狗肉.” It’s like a person who enjoys eating at KFC saying, “I like chicken.”
5. 2018 is the Year of the Dog.
6. Dogs are better than cats. If you are referring to one specific dog and one specific cat, you could say, “The dog is better than the cat,” but as a general sentence comparing the two kinds of animals, we must say “Dogs are better than cats.”

