Learning English podcasts … from the
Hellenic American Union©

Level: Advanced
Lesson: 33
Title: "Like Master Like Dog"

Summary:
Vanessa and Denise discuss about personality similarities between dogs and their owners.

In this episode of World Report, Vanessa talks to Denise, who reports live from Cincinnati, Ohio. Barbara Boat, director of the Childhood Trust at the University of Cincinnati, also joins them. Listen to their conversation and answer the question that follows about the main idea.

Dialogue:

Vanessa: Welcome to World Report and hello to Denise in Ohio. Denise, what's this new study all about?

Denise: Hi Vanessa. A study of 355 dog owners here in Ohio showed that owners of vicious dogs **such as pit bulls, rottweilers or chows** had all had at least one brush with the law.

Vanessa: What! Each and every owner?

Denise: That's right. And 30 % of people who failed to register them had at least 5 criminal convictions.

Vanessa: Criminal convictions?

Denise: **For instance, domestic violence or drug trafficking.**

Vanessa: Amazing. What about the owners of gentler dog breeds?

Denise: Ah, now, only 1 % of owners of licensed and 'gentler' dogs, you know, **like terriers, collies, poodles,** had any past convictions.

Vanessa: That's a world of difference, Denise, what are the implications of this study?

Denise: Well, I'm sure Barbara Boat, director of the Childhood Trust at the University of Cincinnati, will have more to say on that. Thanks for joining us.
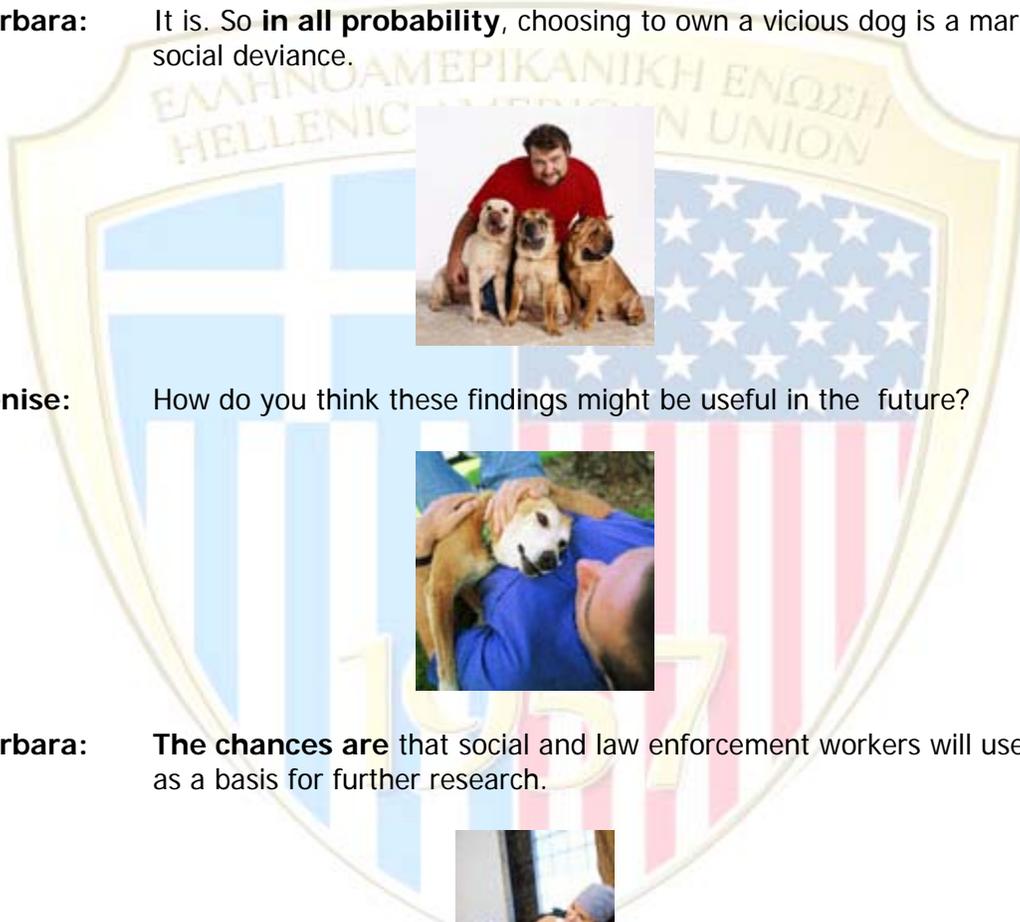

Barbara: My pleasure. Owners of vicious dogs **are obviously more likely to break the law.** In fact, those who failed to register them are 3 times more likely to have been convicted of domestic violence and 8 times more likely to have been charged with drug crimes than owners of gentler dogs.

Denise: That's remarkable.

Barbara: It is. So **in all probability**, choosing to own a vicious dog is a marker of social deviance.

Denise: How do you think these findings might be useful in the future?

Barbara: **The chances are** that social and law enforcement workers will use them as a basis for further research.

Now answer the following question…

What does the recent study suggest about the owners of violent dogs?
They are more likely to be law breakers.

Now listen again to the dialogue in parts. After each part there will be 3 to 4 questions on some details…

Part 1

Vanessa: Welcome to World Report and hello to Denise in Ohio. Denise, what's this new study all about?

Denise: Hi Vanessa. A study of 355 dog owners here in Ohio showed that owners of vicious dogs **such as pit bulls, rottweilers or chows** had all had at least one brush with the law.

Vanessa: What! Each and every owner?

Denise: That's right. And 30 % of people who failed to register them had at least 5 criminal convictions.

Vanessa: Criminal convictions?

Denise: **For instance, domestic violence or drug trafficking.**

Vanessa: Amazing. What about the owners of gentler dog breeds?

Denise: Ah, now, only 1 % of owners of licensed and 'gentler' dogs, you know, **like terriers, collies, poodles**, had any past convictions.

Vanessa: That's a world of difference, Denise, what are the implications of this study?

Now answer some questions...

1. What was Denise giving an example of when she said **"such as pit bulls, rottweilers or chows…"**

   When Denise said "such as pit bulls, rottweilers or chows…" she was giving an example of vicious dogs.

2. What was Denise giving an example of when she said **"like terriers, collies and poodles…"**

   When Denise said "like terriers, collies and poodles…"she was giving an example of gentler dogs.

3. What was Denise giving an example of when she said **"for instance domestic violence or drug trafficking."**

   When Denise said "for instance domestic violence or drug trafficking" she was giving an example of criminal convictions.

Now listen to the second part of the dialogue...

Part 2

Denise: Well, I'm sure Barbara Boat, director of the Childhood Trust at the University of Cincinnati, will have more to say on that. Thanks for joining us.

Barbara: My pleasure. Owners of vicious dogs **are obviously more likely to break the law.** In fact, those who failed to register them are 3 times more likely to have been convicted of domestic violence and 8 times more likely to have been charged with drug crimes than owners of gentler dogs.

Denise: That's remarkable.

Barbara: It is. So **in all probability**, choosing to own a vicious dog is a marker of social deviance.

Denise: How do you think these findings might be useful in the future?

Barbara: **The chances are** that social and law enforcement workers will use them as a basis for further research.

Now answer some questions...

1. What did Barbara mean when she said **"… are obviously more likely to break the law"?**

     When Barbara said "they are obviously more likely to break the law." she wanted to express certainty that vicious dog owners are more likely to break the law than owners of gentler dog breeds

2. What did Barbara mean when she said "**In all probability,** choosing to own a vicious dog is a marker of social deviance"?

     When Barbara said "In all probability" she meant most likely.

3. What did Barbara mean when she said "**The chances are** that social and law enforcement workers will use them as a basis for further research"?

     When Barbara said "The chances are" she meant that it's most likely.

Please visit our site at www.hau.gr to find the transcripts, explanations and activities.

GLOSSARY

A brush with: A **brush with** someone is an expected and unpleasant encounter with someone. If you have a **brush with the law**, you have an unpleasant experience because you broke the law on one occasion.

Charged with: If someone is **charged with** an offence, he or she is officially accused of an offence. A **criminal charge** is an official accusation of a crime.

Convicted of: If someone is **convicted of** a crime, he or she is found guilty of a crime in a court of law. The noun is **conviction**. **'Having at least five criminal convictions'** means having been convicted on five different occasions.

Domestic violence: Domestic violence is violence between members of the same family.

Drug trafficking: If you **traffic in** drugs, you trade in drugs. **Drug trafficking** is the illegal trade of drugs.

Fail to register: In the report you heard that owners of vicious dogs who **failed to register** them are three times more likely **to have been charged with** certain crimes. If you **fail to do** something, you don't do something that you are supposed to do.

Implications: The **implications** of an event, an action or a decision are the effects or impact that this event, action or decision will have on people or things in the future.

Social deviance: The noun **social deviance** is used to refer to any kind of behaviour that is considered abnormal or unacceptable by most people – **deviant** behaviour.

A world of difference: The expression **a world of difference** means a huge difference. If **there's a world of difference between two things**, they are poles apart. If something **makes a world of difference**, it improves a situation greatly.

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1
Practice using words and expressions from the glossary. Choose the most appropriate word or expression to fill in each blank.

1. There's ...between living in a crowded urban area and living in a rural area.

2. He was ...with illegal drug ... and domestic .... He was tried in a court of law and was ... of both crimes.

3. I'm doing a Master's degree in criminology. My thesis will be on social ...and crime.

4. Environmentalists often caution governments about the ...of forest fires for the environment.

5. I wish there was something I could do to help, but I'm afraid this isn't her first.... She's been arrested and charged before and that might count against her.

6. He missed most of the lecture as he ...to arrive on time.

Activity 2
A. Take into consideration the following explanations:

1. We use **'such as'**, **'like'** and **'for instance'** to give examples in order to illustrate what we mean. **'For instance'** means **'for example'** :

a. In Mediterranean countries, **such as** Italy and Greece, winters are relatively mild.
b. The dietician advised me to refrain from high-calorie food **like** bacon and ice-cream.
c. He's not a reliable person. **For instance**, he was supposed to arrive at the conference an hour before it started, but he was forty-five minutes late.

2. To express that we are quite certain that something is or will be true, we use **'obviously'**, **'in all probability'** and **'the chances are that...'** :

a. *Owners of vicious dogs are **obviously** more likely to break the law.*
b. **In all probability,** choosing to own a vicious dog is a marker of social deviance.
c. **The chances are that** social and law enforcement workers will use the findings as a basis for further research.

*B. Complete the responses in the conversation using **such as**, **like** and **for instance**.*

1. A: Do you watch TV at all?

B: Not much. But I do like news programs_____

2. A: Don't you like movies?
   B: I do, especially European classics. I like directors_____

3. A: I see. I prefer old American movie directors. _____

C. Complete the conversation using **'obviously'**, **'in all probability'** *and* **'the chances are that…'** *in an appropriate way.*

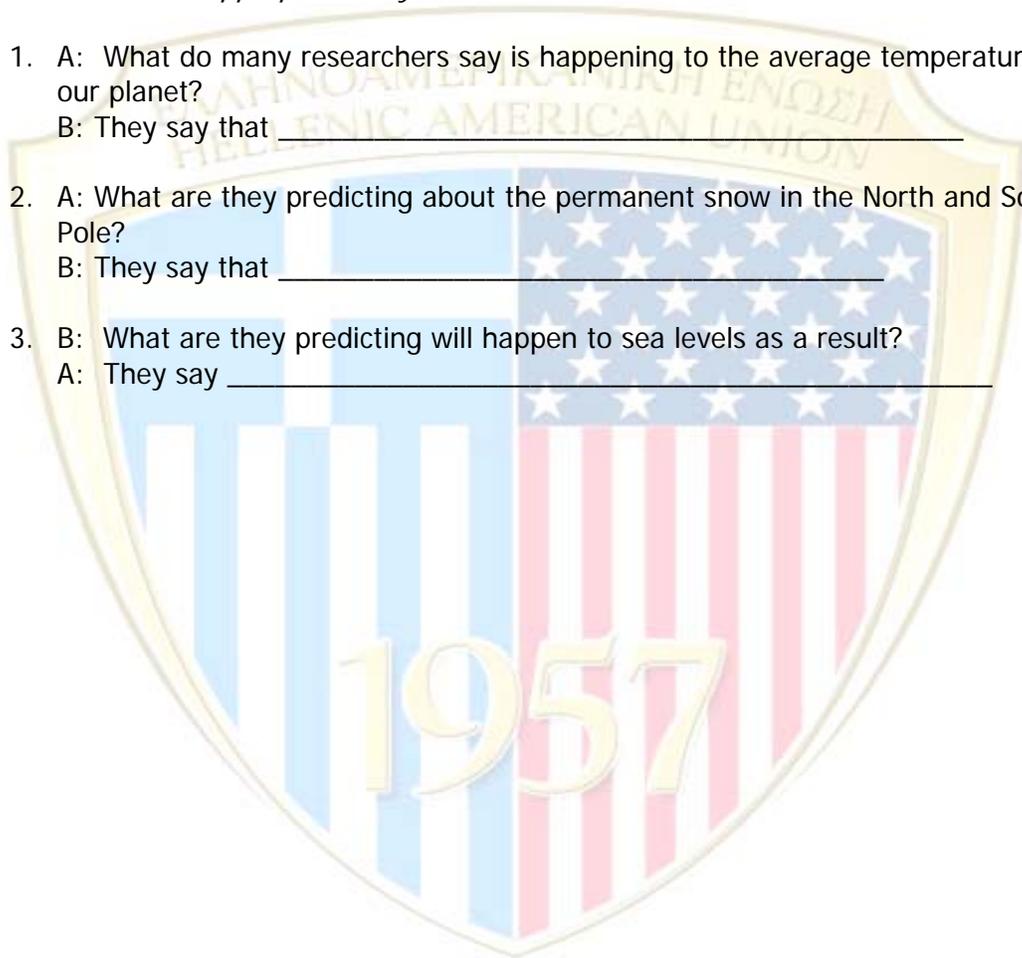1. A: What do many researchers say is happening to the average temperature of our planet?
   B: They say that _____

2. A: What are they predicting about the permanent snow in the North and South Pole?
   B: They say that _____

3. B: What are they predicting will happen to sea levels as a result?
   A: They say _____

KEY TO ACTIVITIES

Activity 1:
1. world of difference
2. charged, trafficking, violence, convicted
3. deviance
4. implications
5. brush with the law
6. failed

Activity 2B:
1. such as
2. like
3. For instance

Activity 2C: (possible answers)
1. obviously it's getting higher
2. in all probability it will melt
3. the chances are that they will rise