

The Villager Pickleball article for July 29, 2021 by Joyce Kludt

## THE CROUCHING TIGER and BECOMING A PARASITE

Have you ever thought about becoming a crouching tiger or a parasite in order to improve your game? Well, they are two more tools for your toolkit to improve your **game**.

### THE CROUCHING TIGER

The tiger patiently stalks its prey. At just the right moment, it strikes: At the line, patiently wait for the great shot, not the "good enough" or "so-so shot!

To become the Crouching Tiger:

1. *Good*: during games, focus on waiting for the great shot to put away.
2. *Better*: You and a partner dink at least 20 times in the kitchen...then the ball is live. Increase to 30, then 40 and 50 as you get better. You are now practicing patience as you wait for just the right opportunity to take your winning shot.
3. *Best*: Same game as above as a foursome. Make it more interesting and score points when the dink bounces past the kitchen line.

### BECOME A PARASITE

Pickleball Bangers like rhythm, which is why they like it when you bang back! Instead, feed off their power and energy and block the ball into the kitchen.

To channel your inner parasite:

1. *Good*: During play, don't respond in kind to bangers. Work on blocking their shots into the kitchen.
  2. *Better*: You and a partner dink a few times, then go for the body shot, blocking it into the kitchen.
  3. *Best*: Go up against a machine, which our club will soon own! Increase the speed as you get better.
- OK... see all you Tigers and Parasites out on the courts!!