

英语学习

# Beyond the Horizon

地球村消息



英语精短美文译评

李家真 编写

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李家真 编写

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## 编者的话(代序)

地球村消息

一向以为,每一种语言都承载着一个民族的智慧与文化,它的不断更新变化也反映着使用者思维方式的变异和他们所处社会的演进。倘若脱离了社会现实,单单把语言当做工具来学习,不但没有什么趣味,效果恐怕也要大打折扣。本书所收的短文中使用的都是最新、最地道、最生动的英语,其内容则是在我们这个日新月异的世界里最近发生的一些有意思的事情。这些记录真实事件的短文涉及政治、经济、科技、宗教、艺术、体育、娱乐等各个方面,正如折射国外社会风貌的一颗颗小水珠。读者们可以借鉴其中鲜活的词汇、生动的句法和颇富风趣的行文,由此改善阅读和写作的技巧;也可以从中管窥我们这个星球上各个角落人们十分多样化的生活和思想。

古代许多文人雅士都喜欢搜集当时的异人异事乃至神仙鬼怪之说汇编成书,用以美善刺恶、讽时劝世,如刘义庆的《世说新语》、袁枚的《子不语》、纪昀的《阅微草堂笔记》等皆如此类。编者愚陋,不敢追攀前贤,但选文之时亦力求每篇皆有其令人回味或发人深省之处。俾读者阅读之时,或可会心一笑,或可掩卷沉思,并在每篇短文之后附上自己的一点心得,冀诸君或有共鸣。总之,编者希望本书不仅是学习英语的好材料,也是一本值得在闲暇时一读的有趣的书。

为方便读者阅读,本书为全文英汉对照。编者在翻译时虽广泛查证有关资料,力求准确无误,但由于文章题材多样、所涉背景知识芜杂,加之编者才力有限,倘有疏失与未尽之处,恳请各位不吝指正。

李家真

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# Sports Minister Lampooned for Lack of Sporting Knowledge

部长无知惹非议

New British sports minister Richard Caborn has been lampooned by the media after he revealed a startling lack of knowledge about his country's top sportsmen. Caborn, appointed in the wake of the June 7 general election, could not name the captain of the British Lions rugby team touring Australia (Martin Johnson), any of the country's top jockeys or the coach of the England cricket team (Duncan Fletcher). He explained his failure in an interview by saying he was "more bothered about getting young kids into sport", but the press thought Caborn's performance was shocking. "Is this the most stupid sports minister ever?" asked the *Mirror*. "Quiz shows Caborn to be the weakest link." read the headline in the *Daily Telegraph*. "His authority has become suspect from he starts". "Not good, minister," said the *Daily Mail* of Caborn's effort.

英国新任体育部长理查德·卡本暴露出他对国内顶尖运动员惊人的无知，由是遭到媒体的冷嘲热讽。6月7日大选之后获委任的卡本不知道在澳洲参加比赛的雄狮橄榄球队队长姓名谁（马丁·约翰逊），也讲不出英格兰板球队教练（邓肯·弗莱切尔）或是任何一个优秀赛马骑师的名字。在接受采访时，卡本对此所作的解释是他“更操心的事情是让儿童参加到体育运动中来”，不过媒体却认为他的表现实在太离谱。《镜报》问道：“他是有史以来最蠢的体育部长吗？”《每日电讯报》的头条新闻写道：“测验显示：卡本是最薄弱的一环。他的权威在上任伊始就成了疑问。”而《每日邮报》则对卡本的表现评论道：“不怎么样啊，部长。”

Remarks:

橄榄球、板球和赛马都是在英国非常风靡的运动，这位体育部长可真是选错了行当。



Richard Caborn

理查德·卡本

部长无知惹非议

# Quarter of Bus Drivers Lack Driving Skills

不会开车的公车司机



Nearly a quarter of the public bus drivers in India's capital — known for their appalling safety record — lack basic driving skills and hundreds of them have vision problems, a survey says. “Of the 9,500 drivers tested since the start of the year, more than 23 percent were found wanting in driving skills and in understanding of traffic rules,” said R.K. Parimoo, head of the Institute of Driver and Training Research. There are more than 20,000 public transport bus drivers on New Delhi roads and the institute conducts around 90 tests every day. About 500 of the drivers suffered from either near vision or distant vision, Parimoo added. Another 25 suffered from color blindness, while five had irreparable vision damage. More than 800 people have died on New Delhi roads so far this year. Out of these deaths, 115 involved city public buses. Those driving school buses performed no better in the tests. Of the 300 school bus drivers assessed so far, 20 percent were found lacking in road knowledge, said the director of the institute run by India's largest carmaker, Maruti Udyog Ltd.

调查显示,素以骇人听闻的交通安全纪录出名的印度首都新德里有将近1/4的公共汽车司机缺乏基本的驾驶技能,其中更有数百人视力有问题。驾驶员及培训研究所所长R.K.巴里莫说:“自年初以来接受测试的9,500名司机中有23%在驾驶技能和交通规则理解方面有所欠缺。”新德里有两万多名公共汽车司机,该研究所每天对大约90人进行测试。巴里莫补充说,大约有500名司机患有近视或是远视。另有25人是色盲,还有5人有无法恢复的视力损伤。新德里今年已有800多人死于交通事故,其中115宗死亡与公共汽车有关。测试表明开校车的司机也好不到哪里去。这位所长说,迄今已受试的300名校车司机中有20%缺乏交通知识。该研究所属于印度最大的汽车制造

不会开车的公车司机

商 Maruti Udyog 公司。

Remarks:

这些司机是如何考到驾照的呢？都是“高分低能”吗？

## Did Tainted Meat Kill Mozart?

猪肉害死莫扎特？

The latest theory about Mozart's untimely death on Dec. 5, 1791, at age 35 in Vienna suggests the culprit was likely trichinosis. The illness is usually caused by eating undercooked pork infested by the worm, and could explain all of Mozart's symptoms, which included fever, rash, limb pain and swelling, says Dr. Jan Hirschmann of a Medical Center in Seattle. Hirschmann offers as evidence a little letter Mozart wrote to his wife 44 days before his illness began. "What do I smell? ... pork cutlets! What a delicious taste! I eat to your health," Mozart wrote. "If his final illness was indeed trichinosis, whose incubation period is up to 50 days, Mozart may have unwittingly disclosed the precise cause of his death — those very pork chops," Hirschmann said. Mozart died 15 days after he became ill. His doctors offered only a vague cause of death — "severe miliary fever" — and no autopsy was performed. His wife, Constanze, reportedly said after his death that Mozart thought he was being poisoned, and rumors circulated that his enemies, including rival composer Antonio Salieri, may have done him in. Mozart's grave was dug up about seven years after his death so it could be reused, and his remains were dispersed. Therefore it is impossible to get any DNA sample



猪肉害死莫扎特？

for test. Hirschmann acknowledged that not being able to be proved wrong “makes it much more enjoyable to speculate.” Doctors like to review the master’s death because “it’s fun and because it’s Mozart,” another expert said. “I personally think that he died because they needed a new choirmaster in heaven.”

1791年12月5日，35岁的莫扎特在维也纳英年早逝。最新的理论认为致莫扎特于死的元凶乃是旋毛虫病。据西雅图一个医疗中心的简·海尔希曼医生说，这种病通常是因吃了染有旋毛虫的夹生猪肉引起，可以解释莫扎特身上的发烧、出疹、四肢肿痛等所有症状。海尔希曼提供了莫扎特在发病前44天写给妻子的一封信作为佐证。莫扎特在信中写道：“我闻到了什么？……猪排！多么美味！我为你的健康而吃。”海尔希曼说：“如果害死他的真是潜伏期可达50天的旋毛虫病，那么莫扎特也许在无意中揭破了自己的确切死因——正是那些猪排。”莫扎特在发病后15天死亡。他的医生们只给出了一个含糊不清的死因：“严重的汗热病”，也没有进行尸体解剖。据说莫扎特的妻子康斯坦斯在他死后说莫扎特认为自己被人下了毒，也有传闻说是莫扎特的敌人谋杀了他，其中包括他的竞争对手——作曲家安东尼奥·萨列瑞。莫扎特的墓在他死后大约7年被挖开挪作它用，他的遗骨也散失了。因此人们不可能得到可供检验的DNA样品。海尔希曼承认，不能被证伪“使推测变得更加有意思。”而另一位专家说，医生们喜欢探讨这位大师的死因是因为“这很有趣，而且与莫扎特有关。我个人认为莫扎特之死是因为天堂需要一位新的唱诗班指挥。”

#### Remarks:

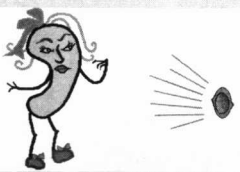
死了就是死了，还要被人编来排去。出了名，就不能说“死去元知万事空”，只能说“身后是非谁管得”了。

# Sweet Nothings Are Better Heard in the Left Ear

情话偏宜左耳听

Lovers take heed. If you are going to whisper sweet nothings to your sweetheart, make sure it is through the left ear. Teow-Chong Sim of Sam Houston State University in the United States found in a study that emotional words got through to people better when spoken through the left ear, not the right. “The findings are consistent with the role of the brain’s right hemisphere in the processing of emotional stimuli,” Teow-Chong said in a statement at the British Psychological Society’s European Congress. The left ear is controlled by the right side of the brain. The research involved speaking sets of emotional and non-emotional words to 62 people through each ear. When asked to recall the list of words they had heard, there was a 64 percent recall rate when emotional words were heard in the left ear compared with 58 percent in the right. Scientists have also found a left-ear advantage for stimuli including musical chords and melodies.

情侣们请注意：如果你想对爱人柔声轻诉一些绵绵情话，记得要对着左耳说。美国山姆休斯顿州立大学的Teow-Chong Sim在研究中发现人的左耳比右耳更能听进去带感情色彩的话语。Teow-Chong在其对英国心理学会欧洲代表大会所作的报告中说：“这一发现与大脑右半球处理情感刺激的职责相吻合。”左耳正是由大脑的右侧控制。该研究内容是分别对着62个人的两个耳朵说几组带感情色彩和不带感情色彩的字句。当要求这些人回忆听到的字句时，左耳听到的“情语”他们能记起64%，而右耳听到的则只能记起58%。此外，科学家们已经发现左耳更擅长处理乐音和曲调之类的刺激。



情话偏宜左耳听



Remarks:

听不听得进去无关紧要，反正是“nothing”，只管“左耳进，右耳出”，不用往心里去。

## Mynah Want a Divorce?

八哥想离婚?



A Chinese housewife is seeking divorce claiming the family's talking bird dropped clues on her husband's illicit affair, the *Xinmin Evening News* said. The woman from southwestern Chongqing city said she uncovered the affair when their mynah began saying things like "Divorce," "I love you" and "Be patient" after it overheard the husband's telephone calls with his mistress. The woman said she noticed the feathered tattle-tale's strange new vocabulary after she returned from a month-long visit with her parents. Already suspecting her husband was having an affair, she observed that the bird became particularly talkative whenever the telephone rang, confirming her suspicions, the report said. Last week she brought the bird to a law office for consultation, hoping it could testify in court. "Can my mynah be used as witness?" the newspaper quoted her as asking. Lawyers were not optimistic. "The judges are unlikely to rule against your husband based only on the mynah's words," attorney Wu Di was quoted as telling her.

据《新民晚报》报道：中国一位家庭主妇要求离婚，声称家中的能言鸟透露了丈夫不忠的蛛丝马迹。这位来自西南部城市重庆的妇女说家里的八哥偷听到了丈夫和情妇的电话通话，开始说一些诸如“离婚”、“我爱你”、“耐心点”之类的字句，她于是发现了丈夫的风流韵事。这位妇女说，她在父母家呆了一个月，回家后就发现这只多嘴的鸟儿学会了一些奇怪的新词。报纸说，已经开始怀疑丈夫拈花惹草的

八哥想离婚?