

英语学习 E.L.L.

2011 年 7~12 期

合订本

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2011, the Year of Global Indignation

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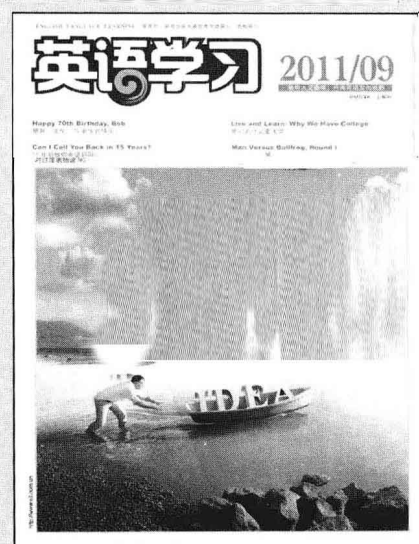
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2011 年 7~12 期合订本

总 目 录

(期次 / 页码)

Sense and Nonsense

.....7/4, 8/4, 9/4, 10/4, 11/4, 12/4

缤纷世界

美国梦：为孩子打造美好生活.....7/6
巴塞罗那：街头禁止比基尼.....8/6
澳大利亚考虑“杀骆驼救地球”.....9/6
印度网站揭露行贿真相.....10/6
前卫购物体验：“虚拟超市”进驻地铁站.....11/6
全球通勤痛苦指数大调查.....12/6

聚光灯下

黑天鹅.....7/10
温莎公爵夫人沃利斯·辛普森.....7/14
另类总裁：理查德·布兰森.....8/10
地球升温，粮食安全危机重重.....8/15
鲍勃·迪伦：70 生日快乐！.....9/10
限塑令，你能走多远？.....9/13
彼得·巴菲特：父亲教会我的.....10/10
小报：世界是个大阴沟.....10/13
乔治·索罗斯：金融大鳄，金盆洗手...11/10
我们这一代.....11/13
一代奇才乔布斯.....12/10
2011：全球愤怒之年.....12/14

瞭望台

不浪费，不愁缺.....7/24
你真想长生不老？.....7/28
“过程”的诱惑.....8/24
“美国最差妈妈”的忠告.....8/26
我们为什么要大学.....9/21
地球村的问候之道.....9/26
独处的力量.....10/21
自恋的美国.....10/25
逃离婚姻.....11/22
互联网时代：我们都是新闻人.....11/27
对过度表扬说 NO！.....12/22
网络匿名须限制？.....12/26

访谈录

清华百年庆.....7/18
《申根协定》遭抨击.....8/19
虎妈的育儿经.....9/16
《世界新闻报》丑闻.....10/16
刑事诉讼法的修订.....11/16
技术、谎言和民主.....12/17

人生纪事

我为什么开辆旧车？.....7/32
胖子出名记.....7/35

袜子的暗示.....7/38
美国人（猫）在巴黎.....8/30
上层社会的局外人.....8/33
我的旧物情结.....8/36
随波逐流.....8/38
15 年后给你电话好吗？.....9/30
隔着屏幕的生活.....9/34
别样的财富.....9/38
可以拿走你的垃圾吗？.....9/41
人蛙之战：第一回合.....9/44
意外的友谊重启.....10/28
妈妈眼中出诗人.....10/30
我的非法移民生活.....10/33
我讨厌钢琴课.....10/39
摒弃汽车，登上公交.....10/42
狗狗之战.....11/30
向“责任”敬礼！.....11/32
与浣熊为邻的日子.....11/35
不是亲人，胜似亲人.....11/38
加拿大英语迷失在英国.....12/29
身份误认.....12/32
圣诞颂歌.....12/35
前男友的博客.....12/38

文学角

在波士顿开往纽约的火车上.....7/40

求婚.....	7/43
海上惊魂.....	8/41
晨歌.....	8/46
野雁.....	9/46
吻.....	9/48
杜鹃花.....	10/44
疑惑.....	10/46
红色气球.....	11/40
远航.....	11/44
影之眼.....	12/42
克罗琳达的圣诞礼物.....	12/44

经典文选

论荒唐 (节选).....	7/56
轮作 (节选).....	8/53
摆脱自我意识 (节选).....	9/57
什么是隐私? (节选).....	10/58
中国女性的地位 (节选).....	11/58
与他人相处的艺术 (节选).....	12/56

影视文化笔记

惊心动魄 127 小时.....	7/48
《国王的演讲》: 君王亦凡人.....	8/48
感谢你吸烟.....	9/52
迈克尔·鲍威尔: 被低估的英国导演.....	10/50
《这就是英格兰》.....	11/46
悬而未决.....	12/52

蝶翼文丛

女孩是什么时候开始穿粉色的?	7/62
纪念那些逝去的小丑们.....	7/65
房间的故事.....	7/68
大学, 你值多少?	7/72
没有图书馆的国度.....	8/65
去掉八月.....	8/68
一生中最幸福的一天	8/70
毕业随感.....	8/73
成长的烦恼.....	9/68
我的一天	9/71

语言的力量: 温斯顿·丘吉尔的二战演讲.....	10/64
我的毕业日.....	10/70
猫之迷情.....	11/61
欧洲人眼里的欧洲人.....	11/64
新的一天, 与一件杰作同来.....	11/68
再见了, 我要上大学了.....	11/70
爱情与金钱: 马克思、燕妮与一场革命的诞生.....	12/62
乳牛场编年史.....	12/66
我眼中的中美教育体制.....	12/69

汉玉精雕

《孟子》选.....	7/52, 9/60, 11/50
------------	-------------------

译研堂

道家与休闲.....	8/56
------------	------

热点之外.....	10/54
信息, 知识, 能力.....	12/49

他山之石

听, 卡桑德拉在唱歌	7/59
奥扎克漫步	8/61
解谜的艺术.....	9/65
西西弗斯: 存在与禅理.....	10/61
Lust for life: 渴望生活.....	11/54
用我的王国换一匹马.....	12/59

英语杂谈

短文两则.....	7/75, 8/76, 9/74, 10/77, 11/73, 12/73
-----------	---------------------------------------

词语故事

不是‘头’的头	7/77
鼻子的故事(上).....	8/78
鼻子的故事(下)	9/76
词语故事: 嘴巴的故事(上).....	10/75
嘴巴的故事(中).....	11/74
在 2011 年新概念英语大赛总决赛上的演讲	11/76
嘴巴的故事(下)	12/75

谐趣角

如何确定你是个作家.....	9/78
圣诞节十大妙语.....	12/77

If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

若是瞎子领瞎子，两个人都要掉进坑里。

比较：盲人骑瞎马，夜半临深池。愚蠢无知的领导人只能把追随者带向毁灭。早期西方教会教父圣哲罗姆（Saint Jerome, 347—420年）对这句谚语作了明晰的阐释并加以扩充，把关于领导才能的想法也包含进去：“一个不稳定的舵手驾驶着一艘漏船，瞎子领着瞎子径直向深坑走去。统治者和被统治者一样。”（An unstable pilot steers a leaking ship, and the blind is leading the blind straight to the pit. The ruler is liked the ruled.）在美国首见于《国王学院院长塞缪尔·约翰逊作品集》（*Writings of Samuel Johnson, President of King's College, 1733*）。该谚语常简略为the blind leading the blind，并且之前会加上it is a case of。对此语的一种常见的滑稽模仿形式是用bland（无精打采的，满不在乎的）替代blind。

e.g. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

— *Matthew, 15:14, Authorized Version (1611)*

任凭他们吧。他们是瞎眼领路的。若是瞎子领瞎子，两个人都要掉在坑里。

——《马太福音》15：14，《圣经》（英王詹姆士一世钦定版，1611）

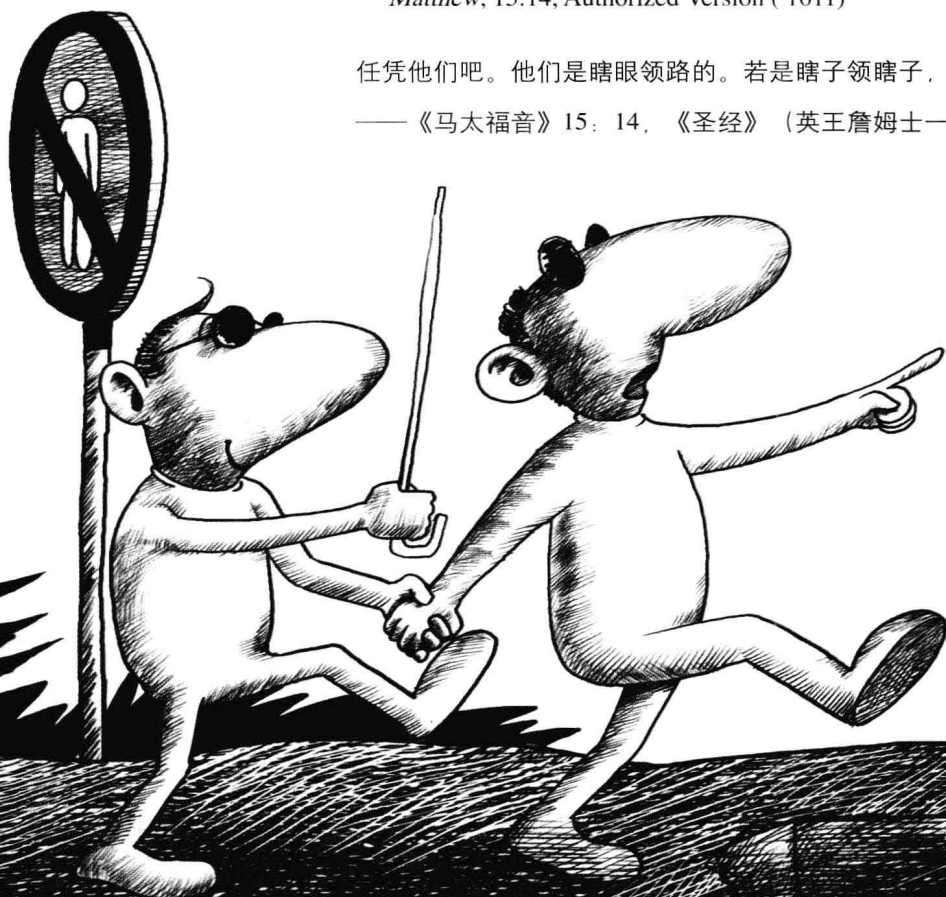


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contents

the brave new world 缤纷世界

4 Sense and Nonsense

6 美国梦: 为孩子打造美好生活 / 《牛津英语大词典》收录 OMG、LOL 和 ♥ / 快乐秘诀: 记得好时光 / 学者宣称: 称动物为“宠物”系侮辱

in the spotlight 聚光灯下

10 Black Swans

黑天鹅【C】

14 The Return of Wallis Simpson, the Duchess of Windsor

温莎公爵夫人沃利斯·辛普森【C】

outlook 瞭望台

24 Waste Not, Want Not

不浪费, 不愁缺【C】

28 Do You Really Want to Live Forever?

你真想长生不老?【C】

interview 访谈录

18 Tsinghua University's Centennial Anniversary

清华百年庆【C】





P₄₈



tales of life 人生纪事

- 32 Why I Drive an Old Car
我为什么开辆旧车? 【1】 
- 35 How I Became Famous
胖子出名记 【1】 
- 38 The Hint of Socks
袜子的暗示 【1】 

assorted articles 蝶翼文丛

- 62 When Did Girls Start Wearing Pink?
女孩是什么时候开始穿粉色的? 【C】 
- 65 Send in Whatever Clowns Are Left
纪念那些逝去的小丑们 【C】
- 68 The Story of Our Rooms
房间的故事 【C】
- 72 College: How Much Are You Worth?
大学, 你值多少? 【1】

classic prose 经典文选

- 56 On Nonsense (Excerpt)
论荒唐 (节选) 【A】

literary corner 文学角

- 40 On the Amtrak from Boston to New York City
在波士顿开往纽约的火车上
- 43 Miss Madeline's Proposal
求婚 【1】

- 48 影视文化笔记: 惊心动魄 127 小时
- 52 汉玉精雕: 《孟子》选
- 59 他山之石: 听, 卡桑德拉在唱歌

about the language 英语杂谈

- 75 短文两则
- 77 词语故事: 不是‘头’的头

● 本刊内文注释均参考《麦克米伦高阶英汉双解词典》



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“The Hair to the Throne”

——澳大利亚脱发治疗公司“创发中心”(Advanced Hair Studio)

拿威廉王子的脱发问题做噱头。近几年,威廉王子的头发日渐稀疏,头顶渐现地中海。脱发本是恼人的私人问题,但放在英国王位第二顺位继承人(the heir second in line to the British throne)身上,可就是公共议题了。偏巧heir(继承人)一词和hair同音,好事者把两个词一换,就变成the hair to the throne。此语广为英国多事小报使用,而嗅觉灵敏的商家自然不会放过天赐良机。于是就有了“创发中心”开网站,让网民给威廉王子选发型的喜剧。



Run & Run

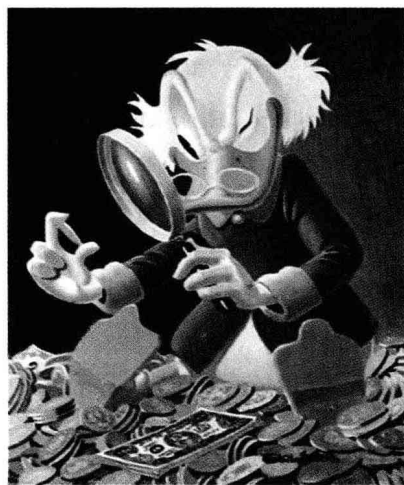
——“奔跑”与“竞选”。曾9次获得奥运金牌的美国田坛名宿卡尔·刘

易斯(Carl Lewis)决定从政,参选新泽西参议院议员。他用RUN来做竞选口号,而这个单词含有“奔跑”和“竞选”的双重含义。“And when I run, as you have seen my record, I run to win.”(一旦我奔跑[竞选],就像我创造的纪录,我跑[竞选]起来就要赢。)刘易斯曾是世界体坛最具商业价值的田径运动员,拥有大量商业赞助。退役后,又投身商界,创立了以自己名字命名的服装名牌。而今,他要投身政坛,希望借助政治力量来帮助仍在困苦中挣扎的老人、孩子和弱势家庭。



poultry, penny-pinching, net worth of \$44.1 billion, topping the *Forbes* fictional rich list (家禽、一毛不拔、身价441亿美元、“《福布斯》虚拟人物财富榜”榜首)

——这是在说谁?唐老鸭的舅舅——麦克老鸭(Scrooge McDuck)。每年,《福布斯》杂志会推出虚拟人物财富排行榜。这些虚拟人物来自动画、影视剧作品和电子游戏。今年的虚拟人物财富榜推举了15位“富豪”,总资产达1,316亿美元。麦克老鸭因其在黄金、珠宝方面的投资收益高居榜首,这位吝啬(stingy)富豪仍留着他赚到的第一枚硬币,还曾为了一罐蜂蜜和熊搏斗,他从不给慈善组织捐款,还经常带着外甥唐老鸭到世界各地寻找宝藏。其他我们熟悉的富豪有:《暮光之城》里的360岁老吸血鬼Carlisle Cullen(362亿美元,排名第二)、“钢铁侠”Tony Stark(94亿美元,排名第六)、“蝙蝠侠”Bruce Wayne(70亿美元,排名第八)。



"It was a common pen with a logo of the state or office, which presidents and members of their delegation receive during state visits."

——近日，捷克总统克劳斯在出访智利时，将东道主摆放在桌面上的一支钢笔“顺手牵羊”，不料这一过程却被电视直播。视频显示：新闻发布会上，克劳斯坐在智利总统皮涅拉旁边。正当智利总统发表热情洋溢的欢迎辞时，克劳斯打开了桌上的一个笔盒。只见他拿出一支镶有宝石的钢笔，看了一会儿，显得爱不释手。随后，他将笔拿至桌下，装进衣兜中，并顺手将打开的笔盒合上。尽管智利官员表示，来访官员在签署仪式结束后可以将笔带走，但这段视频仍然在捷克国内引发了热议。捷克民众为总统感到难堪，并指责他有盗窃癖。为此，克劳斯的发言人为其辩解说：“这是总统及其代表团成员在进行国事访问时所收到的普通钢笔，上面印有东道主的标志。”



"We do not have time for this silliness."

——美国总统奥巴马日前公布了一份完整版的出生证明，以回应共和党有关自己不是在美国出生的质疑。根据美国宪法，只有在美国出生的人才能就任总统。在就职的两年多时间里，一直有人质疑奥巴马的身份问题，认为他不符合参选总统的条件。房产大亨唐纳德·特朗普最近旧事重提，此人有意竞选2012年美国大选共和党候选人。与以往不同的是，奥巴马此次选择在白宫召开新闻发布会来澄清这一质疑。美国多家电视台插播了这则消息，这使奥巴马在2012年大选前有了宝贵的时间澄清此事。奥巴马表现得很放松，但在谈到这会使人从要事中分心时，转而严肃地说：“我们可没空处理这种蠢事。”

"She will, in time, become associated with her own charities but this won't happen immediately as she wants to explore the fields that interest her first."

——举世瞩目的英国王室婚礼结束后，威廉王子和他的王妃凯特仍然深受人们的关注。但据悉，新王妃凯特对身边好友说，自己目前只想专心做个好主妇。凯特的想法得到了丈夫的支持，威廉王子也不想让她的生活完全暴露在聚光灯下。圣·詹姆斯宫的消息称：“适当的时候，她将发展自己的慈善机构，但这不会很快发生，因为她想首先拓展自己感兴趣的领域。”凯特的这一决定也引发了一些评论人士的不满，他们称凯特是个不爱工作的人。据悉，凯特自从2005年大学毕业后，除了帮家里打理生意外，只做过一份兼职工作。



American Dream for Many Is Better Life for Kids

美国梦：为孩子打造美好生活

For most Americans giving their children a better life or having a successful business or career is their version of the American Dream, according to a new poll.

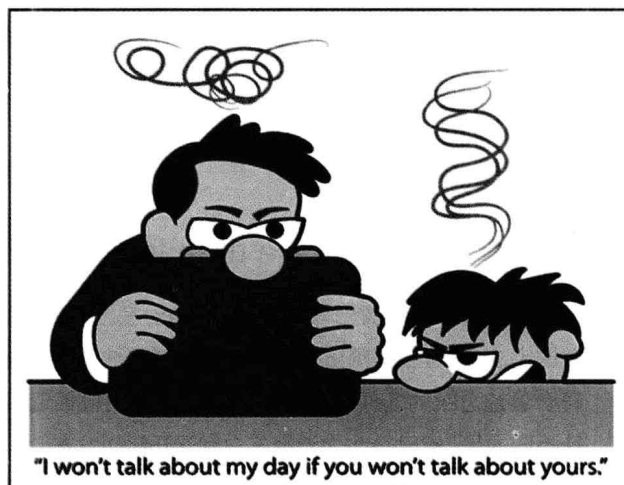
Their children's welfare was the top priority for 53 percent of Americans questioned about the American Dream in a *60 Minutes/Vanity Fair* survey.¹

It surpassed² job prospects, getting rich overnight, owning a home, doing better than your parents, and becoming famous, which despite reality television was chosen by only three percent.

Americans were evenly split on whether it is a good idea to have a prenuptial agreement³ before getting married. Not surprisingly 60 percent of separated or divorced couples said they thought it was a smart move.

And despite a steady stream of diet books, 56 percent of Americans said they never try to lose weight and 27 percent said they try to slim down⁴ once or twice a year.

A whopping 70 percent of Americans said that they would not feel safer if concealed weapons were allowed in classrooms to prevent shootings such as the one that occurred at Virginia Tech in August 2007.⁵



1. welfare: 健康, 幸福; priority: 优先考虑的事; *60 Minutes / Vanity Fair* survey: 美国电视节目“60 Minutes”与《名利场》杂志合办的调查。

2. surpass: 超过, 优先于。

3. prenuptial agreement: 婚前协议。

4. slim down: 瘦身。

5. whopping: 庞大的; concealed: 隐藏的; Virginia Tech: (美国) 弗吉尼亚理工大学。2007年, 美国弗吉尼亚理工大学发生恶性校园枪击案, 枪击造成33人死亡, 凶手本人开枪自尽。

OMG, LOL, ♥ added to *Oxford English Dictionary*

《牛津英语大词典》收录

OMG、LOL和♥



The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has included OMG (Oh My God), LOL (Laugh Out Loud) and ♥ (to love) as “real words worthy of etymological¹ recording”.

In a recent statement, the *OED* said “OMG” and “LOL” are “found outside of electronic contexts...where there often seems to be a bit more than simple abbreviation going on.”

They added, “The intention is usually to signal an informal, gossipy mode of expression, and perhaps parody the level of unreflective enthusiasm or overstatement that can sometimes appear in online discourse, while at the same time marking oneself as an ‘insider’ au fait with the forms of expression associated with the latest technology.”²

The *OED* also said that they found their first quotation for OMG from a 1917 personal letter and that LOL dates back to 1960, meaning “little old lady” at the time.

As for ♥, the *OED* said it may be “the first English usage to develop via the medium of T-shirts and bumper stickers”.³ It has “gone on to live an existence in more traditional genres of literature as a colloquial synonym for ‘to love.’”⁴

The full definitions for ♥ and LOL below:

♥ to heart

The new sense added to heart v. in this update may be the first English usage to develop

via the medium of T-shirts and bumper-stickers. It originated as a humorous reference to logos featuring a picture of a heart as a symbol for the verb love, like that of the famous “I ♥ NY” tourism campaign. Our earliest quote for this use, from 1984, uses the verb in “I heart my dog’s head”, a jokey play on bumper stickers featuring a heart and a picture of the face of a particular breed of dog (expressing a person’s enthusiasm for, say, shih-tzus) which itself became a popular bumper sticker.⁵ From these beginnings, heart v. has gone on to live an existence in more traditional genres of literature as a colloquial synonym for “to love”.

LOL

Originally and chiefly in the language of electronic communications: “ha ha!”, used to draw attention to a joke or humorous statement, or to express amusement.

1. etymological: 语源(学)的。
2. gossipy: 漫谈式的; parody: 滑稽地模仿; unreflective: 草率的; overstatement: 夸张; discourse: 话语; insider: 知情人; au fait with: 熟悉, 精通。
3. via: 经由; bumper sticker: (汽车) 保险杠贴纸。
4. genre: 类型, 流派; colloquial: 口语的; synonym: 同义词。
5. breed: 品种; shih-tzus: 西施犬。

Secret of Happiness: Remembering the Good Times

快乐秘诀：记得好时光

The elusive¹ secret of happiness could be as simple as remembering the good times and forgetting the regrets, a new university study reported. For people who look at the past through rose-tinted² glasses are happier than those who focus on negative past experiences and regrets.

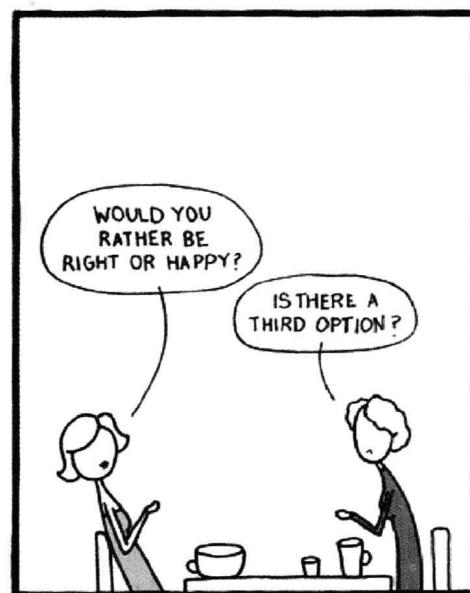
The study helps explain why personality has such a strong influence on a person's happiness and the findings suggest that people with certain personality traits³ are happier than others because of the way they think about their past, present and future.

The study examined how peoples' ratings on the "Big Five" personality traits relates to their approach to time and life satisfaction. ;

The "Big Five" model assesses how extroverted, neurotic, open, conscientious and agreeable a person is,⁴ and rates individuals as high or low on each personality trait rather than assigning them a personality type.

People's view of the past had the greatest effect on life satisfaction. Extroverts, who are energetic and talkative, were much more likely to remember the past positively and be happier as a result. People high on the neurotic scale, which can mean being moody, emotionally unstable and fretful, were more likely to have an anguished remembrance of the past and to be less happy.⁵

Scientists suggest that savoring happy memories or reframing painful past experiences in a positive light could be effective ways for individuals to increase their life satisfaction.⁶



1. elusive: 难以捉摸的。

2. rose-tinted: 染上玫瑰色的, 指“乐观的, 积极的”。

3. trait: 品性, 特征。

4. extroverted: 外向的, 爱社交的, 下文的 extrovert 指“性格外向者”; neurotic: 神经过敏的, 极为焦虑的; conscientious: 认真的, 勤勤恳恳的; agreeable: 令人愉快的, 讨人喜欢的。

5. moody: 喜怒无常的, 情绪化的; fretful: 烦躁不安的; anguished: 极其痛苦的。

6. 科学家建议, 尽情享受愉快的记忆或以乐观的态度重新看待过去痛苦的经历, 对个人来说会是增加其生活满意度的有效途径。

Calling Animals “Pets” Is Insulting, Academics Claim

学者宣称： 称动物为“宠物”系侮辱

Animal lovers should stop calling their furry or feathered friends “pets” because the term is insulting, leading academics claim.

Domestic dogs, cats, hamsters or budgerigars should be rebranded as “companion animals” while owners should be known as “human carers”,¹ they insist. Even terms such as wildlife are dismissed as insulting to the animals concerned—who should instead be known as “free-living”, the academics including an Oxford professor suggest.

The call comes from the editors of *Journal of Animal Ethics*, a new academic publication devoted to the issue. In its first editorial, the journal condemns the use of terms such as “critters”² and “beasts”. It argues that “derogatory”³ language about animals can affect the way that they are treated.

“Despite its prevalence, ‘pets’ is surely a derogatory term both of the animals concerned and their human carers,” the editorial claims. “Again the word ‘owners’, whilst technically correct in law, harks back to a previous age when animals were regarded as just that:⁴ property, machines or things to use without moral constraint.”

It goes on: “We invite authors to use the words ‘free-living’, ‘free-ranging’⁵ or ‘free-roaming’ rather than ‘wild animals’. For most, ‘wildness’ is synonymous with uncivilised, unrestrained, barbarous⁶ existence. There is an obvious prejudice here that should be avoided.”



The editors also hope to see some of the more colourful terms in the English language stamped out⁷.

Phrases such as “sly as a fox”, “eat like a pig” or “drunk as a skunk” are all unfair to animals, they claim.⁸ “We shall not be able to think clearly unless we discipline ourselves to use less than partial adjectives in our exploration of animals and our moral relations with them,” they say.

1. hamster: 仓鼠; budgerigar: 虎皮鹦鹉; rebrand: 重新命名。
2. critter: 〈方〉动物, 家畜。
3. derogatory: 贬损的, 不敬的。
4. whilst: 尽管; hark: 使想起, 重提。
5. range: 漫游, 走遍。
6. barbarous: 野蛮的, 未开化的。
7. stamp out: 扑灭, 消灭。
8. sly: 狡猾的; skunk: 臭鼬。

【C】 *Black Swans*¹

黑天鹅

By Ed Gurowitz

:: 古微子 选注



1. black swan: 黑天鹅, 引申为“会产生重大影响的小概率事件”。
2. Juvenal: 尤维纳利斯(约60年—约140年), 古罗马讽刺作家, 其16首讽刺诗猛烈抨击了皇帝的暴政。
3. evaporate: 消失, 不复存在。
4. come into vogue: 流行起来; Nassim Nicholas Taleb: 泰力布, 毕业于芝加哥大学, 获得经济学博士学位, 个性沉默内向, 被誉为华尔街的“独孤大侠”, 著有畅销书 (best seller) 《黑天鹅: 极小概率事件的影响》(*The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*), 在书中他主张人们不应该忽视罕见而无法预测的事件的可能性和重要性。
5. unprecedented: 前所未有的。

Why Call Big Surprises Black Swans?

It goes back to the 2nd-century Roman poet Juvenal², who said that some events are “as rare a bird as a black swan.” In reality, black swans aren’t so rare, but Europeans once believed there was no such thing because they had never seen one. Their certainty evaporated³ when early European explorers of Australia came upon swans whose feathers were black. The term has recently come into vogue thanks to Nassim Nicholas Taleb’s book *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*,⁴ which became a surprise best seller after the 2008 financial crisis. As defined by Taleb, a black swan is not just an unprecedented⁵ event but one with a large, widespread impact. “A small number of black swans,” Taleb writes, “explain almost everything in our world.”

What Are Some Past Examples?

Start with the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. On Sept. 10, it was all but inconceivable that terrorists armed only with box

从“9·11”恐怖袭击事件到日本大地震，一些看似不可能发生的事件却总是变成了现实。美国经济学家泰力布在其最新畅销书《黑天鹅：极小概率事件的影响》中将这种事件称为“黑天鹅”，他写道：“黑天鹅不只代表一些前所未有的事件，更是有着广泛而巨大影响的事件……它们甚至可以用来解释世上一切事情。”那么我们为什么无法预测这些事件？下一个“黑天鹅”将在何时何地出现呢？

cutters would use hijacked passenger jets as weapons of mass murder.⁶ The consequences of that unforeseen event include the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, a complete overhaul of airport security, the U.S.'s use of waterboarding and other “enhanced interrogation” tactics.⁷ Like most black swan events, 9/11 seems entirely predictable in retrospect⁸. Investigations conducted by Congress, security officials, and the press all concluded that U.S. officials could have “connected the dots”⁹ and prevented the 9/11 attacks, had they looked at the clues with open minds.

Was Japan's Earthquake One?

An earthquake of magnitude 9.0 fell well outside normal expectations; the largest tremor that earthquake-prone Japan had previously experienced measured 8.5.¹⁰ Nor did nuclear engineers expect that a 40-foot tsunami would overwhelm the seawalls protecting the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex and knock out backup power systems.¹¹ The prospect of both these events occurring simultaneously seemed extremely remote.¹² Naturally, many commentators have since argued that officials could have planned even for events well beyond the limits of their experience. “The Fukushima reactors are facing a scenario that theoretically should have been foreseen at the design stage,”¹³ said engineering professor Kamran Nikbin of Imperial College London, “since the plant is built in a known earthquake region.”

Why Can't We Foresee These Events?

Blame it on¹⁴ the way the human mind makes sense of the world. Most human experience falls within a tightly bounded

6. inconceivable: 不能想象的, 难以置信的; box cutter: 纸箱切割刀; hijack: 劫持, 绑架; passenger jet: 客机。

7. unforeseen: 意料之外的; Afghanistan: 阿富汗; overhaul: 彻底检查; waterboarding: 水刑, 是一种使犯人以为自己快被溺毙的刑讯方式; interrogation: 讯问。

8. in retrospect: 回顾, 回想。

9. connect the dots: 指把各个点、各条线索联系起来。

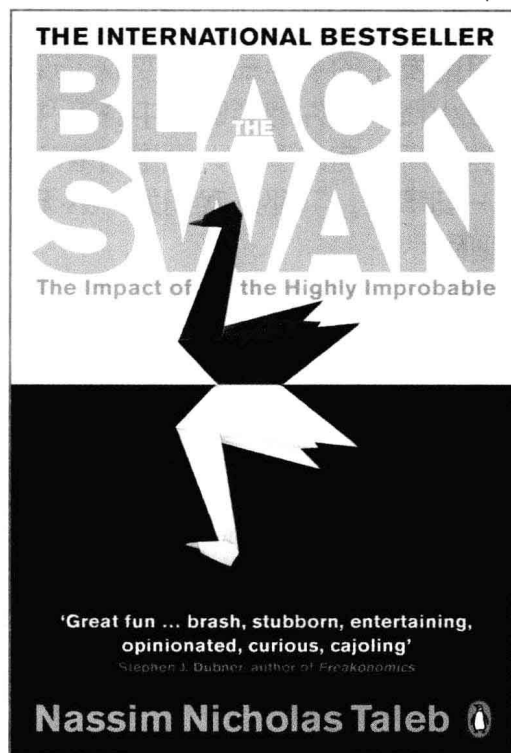
10. 背景: 2011年3月11日, 日本东北部近海发生里氏9级特大地震, 给日本造成了自二战以来最严重的灾难破坏。特大地震引发海啸(tsunami), 致上万人死亡或失踪, 多座核电站也在灾害中受损, 距离震中较近的福岛第一核电站(Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex)供电中断, 大量放射性物质泄漏, 对周边地区居民的健康和环境造成极大影响。magnitude: 震级; tremor: 地震, 震动; prone: 易于发生……的。

11. overwhelm: 覆盖, 淹没; seawall: 海堤; knock out: 毁坏, 使停止运转; backup power system: 备用供电系统。

12. prospect: 可能性; simultaneously: 同时地; remote: (机会、可能性) 渺茫的。

13. reactor: 核反应堆; scenario: 局面, 情况。

14. blame sth. on: 把某事归咎于……。



《黑天鹅：极小概率事件的影响》

15. tightly bounded range: 有严格界限的范围; norm: 标准, 规范。
16. snowstorm: 暴风雪。
17. fault line: 裂纹线, 断层带。
18. Maginot Line: 马其诺防线, 法国于1929年至1934年间在其东部边境线上修建的防御工事体系, 1940年被德国军队从侧翼突破; territory: 领土。
19. catastrophe: 灾祸, 灾难; befall: 降临于。
20. solar flare: 太阳耀斑, 是太阳表面剧烈的能量爆发, 能释放出大量的射线; electrical grid: 供电网络; screeching: 刺耳的, 此处为比喻用法; halt: 停止, 中止。
21. meteor: 流星; blot out: 遮蔽。
22. 黄石国家森林公园(地下隐藏的巨大)的休眠火山位于怀俄明州和爱达荷州地下, 它如若爆发, 将会把周围数州掩埋在熔岩之下, 还会杀死千百万生命。Yellowstone: (美国)黄石国家森林公园, 位于怀俄明州西北和爱达荷州东部, 地下隐藏的巨大休眠火山近年来迅速抬升; caldera: 破火山口, 一种巨大碗口形火山凹地。

range that we call “the norm.”¹⁵ We tend to focus on that narrow range, preparing only for events we’ve experienced before. City governments in Boston and Chicago are ready to respond to heavy snowstorms¹⁶; those in Dallas and Atlanta are not. Most San Francisco buildings can survive major earthquakes; most of New York City’s could not, even though the city does have fault lines¹⁷. Our lack of imagination often proves costly. After World War I, for example, the French government built a barrier, known as the Maginot Line, across the territory the German army had crossed during its invasion.¹⁸ Two decades later, Hitler’s army simply went around the Maginot Line, invading from a different direction.

Can We Predict the Next Black Swan?

Surprises are by definition unforeseen. “You don’t get to pick the next disaster,” said Craig Fugate, administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Nonetheless, he’s paid to think about unexpected catastrophes that could befall the U.S.,¹⁹ and there are plenty. A massive solar flare could knock out the entire national electrical grid, including all computer systems, and bring the nation to a screeching halt.²⁰ A direct hit by a large meteor could kill millions of people and fill the air with enough dirt to blot out the sun for months.²¹ An eruption of the Yellowstone caldera—essentially a gigantic dormant volcano beneath Wyoming and Idaho—could bury several states in lava and kill millions.²²

Can We Prevent Such Events?

Safeguards against some rare occurrences are possible, but most would be prohibitively expensive. A better approach, said Jack Hayes, director of the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program,