

LANGUAGE LEADER  
READING

1

先锋英语

阅读教程

总主编：陈晓茹 总主审：陈达 主编：陈达

高等教育出版社

# LANGUAGE LEADER READING

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1

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# 前言

2007年7月，教育部正式颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求》，其中对大学生的英语阅读能力提出了明确要求：“能基本读懂一般性题材的英文文章”“能就阅读材料进行略读和寻读。能借助词典阅读本专业的英语教材和题材熟悉的英文报刊文章，掌握中心大意，理解主要事实和有关细节。能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料。能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。”本教程严格按照以上培养要求，在设计和编写中力求准确把握大学英语教学的性质与目标。同时，借鉴《先锋英语》系列教材中注重培养批判性思维、树立团队意识、提升人文素养等理念，通过语言的强化输入和训练，帮助学生夯实语言基础、提高阅读能力的同时，培养学生的分析和思辨能力，使之成为具备国际化视野和创新实践能力的新型人才，以适应国家和社会发展的需求。

## 教材特色

### • 选材内涵丰富，体现时代特色

文章题材涉及政治、经济、科技、文化、艺术、教育、体育以及日常生活、社会习俗等方面，符合新一代大学生的知识结构与思维特点，体现社会发展与时代特色。通过本套教程的学习，学习者能够充分地接触各种体裁的阅读材料，在提高阅读能力的同时，了解当今世界的社会现状与文化。

### • 语言鲜活地道，确保原汁原味

文章多选自近年来英语国家主要媒体的网站和出版物，题材丰富、内容多样。在选编过程中，为确保文章的真实性和可读性，编者对原文不作随意改动，以满足学习者接触原汁原味的语料的需求。同时，注重结合当今中国大学生感兴趣的或与之密切相关的话题，在选题和架构上着力凸显阅读的趣味性、新颖性和实用性。

### • 学练紧密结合，测试反拨教学

本教程的学习内容强调由浅入深、循序渐进，其练习设计与目前国家大学英语四、六级考试的阅读题型保持一致，以帮助学生有针对性地进行训练，有效提高考试成绩。每单元的练习题可供学生作为限时测试，以便发现不足与弱项，及时调整学习策略，充分发挥测试对教学的反拨作用。

## 框架结构

- 本套教材分为1—4级，每级包括10个单元，每单元包括4篇阅读文章。文章长度从第1级的

每篇700词左右过渡到第4级的每篇1 200词左右。

- 内容上，每单元围绕同一主题展开，由宏观到微观，与《先锋英语》综合教程各单元主题相呼应，拓展学生对单元主题内涵的学习，加深学生对单元主题的理解，增加学生在该方面的词汇量，从而为综合教程制定的单元教学目标服务。建议将本书与综合教程结合使用。
- 练习形式包括信息匹配、单项选择、是非判断、信息填空等题型，既有跟四、六级考试完全一致的题型，又有所突破，多方位训练、培养、考查、提升阅读理解能力。书后附有练习参考答案，便于自学。

编者才疏学浅，虽竭尽所能，必有遗漏与不周，敬请使用者不吝赐教。

编者  
2015年1月

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# Unit 1



## Weather

### Section A

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.*

#### Extreme Weather Events Fuel Climate Change

- A** In 2013, Asia and Southern Europe sweltered in a heatwave that set alarm bells ringing for researchers. It was one of the large-scale extreme weather events which scientists were able to use to document in detail how heat and drought affected the carbon cycle (碳循环). Measurements indicated that the extreme weather events had a much greater impact on the carbon balance than had previously been assumed. It is possible that droughts, heat waves and storms weaken the buffer effect exerted by terrestrial ecosystems on the climate system. In the past 50 years, plants and the soil have absorbed up to 30% of the carbon dioxide that humans have set free, primarily from fossil fuels.

- B** The indications that the part played by extreme weather events in the carbon balance had been underestimated prompted scientists from eight countries to launch the CARBO-Extreme Project. For the first time, the consequences of various extreme climate events on forests, bogs, grass landscapes and arable areas throughout the world underwent systematic scrutiny.
- C** The researchers working with Markus Reichstein took different approaches to their study from the ecosystem perspective. Satellite images from 1982 to 2011 revealed how much light plants in an area absorb so that they can perform photosynthesis. From this, they were able to determine how much biomass the ecosystem in question accumulates during or after an extreme weather event. The researchers also used data from a global network of 500 recording stations, some in operation for more than 15 years, which record carbon dioxide concentrations and air currents in the atmosphere a few meters above ground or in forest canopies. Calculations from these values indicate how much carbon an ecosystem absorbs and releases in the form of carbon dioxide.
- D** The team then fed the various readings into complex computer models to calculate the global effect of extreme weather on the carbon balance. The models showed that the effect is indeed extreme: on average, vegetation absorbs 11 billion fewer tons of carbon dioxide than it would in a climate that does not experience extremes. "That is roughly equivalent to the amount of carbon sequestered (隔离) in terrestrial environments every year," says Markus Reichstein. "It is therefore by no means negligible."
- E** Droughts, heat waves, storms and heavy rain have not yet become more frequent and pronounced as a consequence of anthropogenic (人为的) climate change. However, many climate researchers expect that they will in the future. This would mean more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere as a result of extreme weather conditions.
- F** Periods of extreme drought in particular reduce the amount of carbon absorbed by forests, meadows and agricultural land significantly. "We have found that it is not extremes of heat that cause the most problems for the carbon balance, but drought," explains Markus Reichstein. He and his colleagues expect extreme weather events to have particularly pronounced, varied and long-term effects on forest ecosystems. Drought can not only cause immediate damage to trees; it can also make them less resistant to pests and fire. It is also the case that a forest recovers much more slowly from fire or storm damage than other ecosystems do; indeed, grasslands are completely unaffected by high winds.
- G** The researchers also discovered that serious failures to absorb carbon are distributed according to a so-called power law (幂定律), like avalanches, earthquakes and other catastrophic events. This means that a few major events dominate the global overall effect, while the more frequent smaller events occurring throughout the world play a much less significant part.
- H** The researchers are planning more studies to improve their understanding of the



consequences of extreme events. For example, they want to investigate the way the different ecosystems respond in laboratory and field experiments. "These experiments have already been carried out, but mostly they only look at extreme events which occur once in a 100 years," explains Michael Bahn, a project partner from the University of Innsbruck. "We should also take account of events which so far have only happened once in 1 000 or even 10 000 years, because they are likely to become much more frequent towards the end of this century." The researchers are also suggesting that, in a drought or a storm, satellites be directed at the area in question as quickly as possible so that the immediate effect can be recorded along with the long-term impact.

**1** The investigations of the current study, however, show that the consequences of weather extremes can be far-reaching. "As extreme climate events reduce the amount of carbon that the terrestrial ecosystems absorb and the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere therefore continues to increase, more extreme weather could result," explains Markus Reichstein. "It would be a self-reinforcing effect." (782 words)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Climate scientists can use satellite images and data from recording stations to calculate the carbon absorbed and released by an ecosystem.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. People used to pay little attention to the part played by extreme weather events in the carbon balance.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Scientists currently have more interests in the extreme events which take place once in a 100 years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Drought is the main cause for the reduction of the carbon absorbed by forests, meadows and agricultural land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Droughts, heat waves, storms and heavy rain will become more frequent in the future.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Most problems in carbon balance and damage to trees are caused by drought, rather than extreme heat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Extreme weather condition can greatly reduce the capacity of vegetation in absorbing carbon dioxide.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The global climate disasters are mostly caused by a few major events, rather than the more frequent smaller events.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The terrestrial ecosystems have a protective mechanism on the climate system, but the extreme climate events may damage this effect.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Satellite can be used in a particular area to record the immediate and long-term effect of extreme climate on the local life.

**Section B**

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.*

**Climate Changes and Abnormal Weather**

- A** It is no longer a secret that the weather is changing, with abnormal phenomenon happening all around the world — it's getting awfully toasty down here. The numbers tell the story: 2012 was the hottest year on record in the continental U.S., the 15th driest and the second most volatile, with 11 natural weather disasters, including Superstorm Sandy. Of the 10 hottest years on record worldwide, 9 have occurred in the 21st century; the exception was 1998. Average temperatures around the world are up 1.4°F (0.8°C) since 1880. On a planet whose water-based chemistry tips one way or the other on tiny thermal fulcrums (支点), that's a lot. We all know that the planet suffers from these negative weather changes which are getting more and more dangerous as we speak. But, how does the world come to this?
- B** This abnormal weather is the consequence of repeated mistakes made by humans. The constantly increasing pollution — due to car gas emissions, excessive use of deodorants (除臭剂), some kinds of factories, etc. — is the main factor that led to the appearance of all sorts of anomalies related to the weather. This phenomenon happens, unfortunately, all over the Globe and seems to be increasing in a concerning rhythm.
- C** This is why we have to be well informed about all this meteorological metamorphosis (气象变化). And the best way to do this is to access specialized websites in the field. Thanks to the Internet, you can convince yourself about the abnormal weather existing today; you have the opportunity to choose a “disaster video” from a diversified range of videos.
- D** A “disaster video” is — exactly what its name indicates — a video presenting a disaster, a meteorological disaster, to be more specific. Whether it's a tornado, a lightning storm, a hurricane and so on, there are websites that have it all. As frightened as you may possibly be to watch this kind of videos, you should know that ignoring facts will not spare you of the consequences. Put in other words, these meteorological anomalies can happen in your city too, whether you are willing to accept this fact or not. And seeing what they look like is a good way of knowing what to do if, God forbidden, you will ever be forced to deal with them.
- E** Watching a disaster video is always a good way of reminding your own self that you are not immortal and that this kind of things can happen to anyone of us. People

“swallowed” by huge tsunami (海啸) waves or killed in huge hurricanes, houses destroyed by terrible tornados, all of these are no mystery for some unfortunate countries on the Globe. Filmed by amateurs just happening to be nearby when the specific disaster took place, each disaster video has an authenticity that makes it worth to be viewed. Not forgetting also the fact that all of these videos have attached — below the window in which they are displayed — all the information about the filmed phenomenon, like location, temperature, atmospheric conditions and so on.

**F** Even though people are oriented today towards videos presenting the latest fashion/make-up trends, the latest gossips about celebrities, ways of losing weight and other similar things, videos like a disaster video should be paid more attention to. Why? Because these meteorological anomalies are getting more and more frequent. And they can happen to you too.

**G** The abnormal weather that governs the entire Globe today is one of the biggest concerns for top scientists all around the world. In their numerous attempts to identify all the causes that have led to this meteorological crisis and to find out solutions that would remediate the weakness of the weather’s status, these people have tried it all. Unfortunately, it’s a little bit too late to remediate some of the problems. Some things, indeed, can be done here and there. But the damage, the big damage, has already been done and it’s only our — the human race’s — fault.

**H** The immediate solution to the problem of melting is, well, never mind. None exist. The answer will, instead, be a slow process of healing that will only begin with an aggressive plan to curb greenhouse gasses and gradually return us to a thermal equilibrium. Sadly, the commitment to a plan like that doesn’t exist yet either — and that may be the true tragedy. (749 words)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. People all have noticed that the weather is changing and has a negative effect on the planet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. People nowadays still paid little attention to the disaster video, as they are more likely to watch the video about fashion, celebrities and other beauty things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Access to some specialized websites can convince us that the world is really becoming abnormal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Some top scientists are attempting to find out the causes of the abnormal weather and to work out some solutions to the problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Reducing greenhouse gas emission is a slow process of solving the problem of melting, as there is yet no direct solution to the issue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. It is human beings who caused the appearance of all sorts of anomalies related to the weather.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Watching a disaster video is a good way to prepare ourselves for the unexpected disaster.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Though scientists are attempting to find out the solution to the natural disaster, it is a little late for this endeavor because some disasters have caused big damage to the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The disaster video can remind us that everyone may fall victim to the natural disaster at any time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The true tragedy is that there is still no effective plan to curb the greenhouse gas emission.

## Section C

**Directions:** In this section, you are going to read a passage quickly and answer the questions. For questions 1–7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). For questions 8–10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

### Extreme Weather Poses Biggest Threat to Farming

Extreme weather being driven by climate change is the biggest threat to British farming and its ability to feed the nation's growing population, according to Peter Kendall, president of the National Farmers' Union.

His comments, in an interview with *the Guardian* (卫报), come after a week of intense weather extremes. Last Monday, west London experienced the hottest day for seven years, while on Tuesday the drought in many parts of the country came to an end with intense thunderstorms that brought almost a month of rain in a day to parts of Worcestershire. Torrential downpours also put a dampener (扫兴) on the first weekend of the school summer holidays, with flash-flooding in parts of the south-east and the Midlands.

"The biggest uncertainty for UK agriculture is extreme weather events," said Kendall, who grows wheat and barley on the 250-hectare (620 acre) farm in Bedfordshire he runs with his brother. "I sometimes have a *pop* at those who say climate change is going to help farming in northern Europe."

"A gentle increase in temperature is fine but extreme weather events completely stuffs farming: just look at last year. Farming is risky enough as it is."

Erratic (无常的) changes from floods to heatwaves and drought in recent years have seen many harvests devastated. The UK went from being an exporter of wheat to becoming an importer in 2013. Scientists are clear that climate change is increasing extreme weather both in the UK and around the world.

But Kendall said that further risks lay in Europe cutting itself off from the technologies needed to deal with extreme heatwaves, floods and storms by banning pesticides and genetically modified crops, and he argued that land should not be taken out of production to help wildlife.

“Another enormous uncertainty is, because we are a part of the rich northern European block, that we actually cut ourselves off from the technology that we need to manage those extreme weather events,” Kendall said.

“Last summer was just a deluge and plant protection products [pesticides] were incredibly important to us even maintaining a pretty poor harvest: without them, there would have been nothing. When you have rain after rain after rain, the level of disease that grew up within the crop was absolutely out of this world.”

He said Europe’s decision in April to suspend the use of neonicotinoid pesticides linked to serious harm to bees, for example, was political and based on a very strict interpretation of the precautionary principle.

Reconciling the need to produce more food while also protecting and restoring wildlife and the natural environment is one of the big challenges of the 21st century, according to Kendall, who noted the growing populations of both the UK and the world.

Kendall said farmers were working hard to plant wild flowers in field margins and put trees in field corners where their sprayers cannot reach. He said he had planted 7.5 miles (12 km) of hedgerows on his farm in the past 15 years.

Although an unprecedented stocktaking of UK wildlife in May revealed that most species are struggling, Kendall said: “As I travel around, I see a fantastic British countryside and I do not accept that the countryside and environment is going to hell in a handcart.”

The idea of rewilding farmland to improve wildlife does not stack up, according to Kendall. “We need to be very careful in taking land out of production. Who is going to make up the shortfall? Where are we going to get the food from? We have just had three global food price spikes in the last five years.”

A recent high-profile (高调的) study concluded that farmers were shortchanging the taxpayers who fund their subsidies by billions of pounds because the money did little to support the wildlife. But Kendall said: “I think helping farmers manage volatility, extreme weather, climate change and the global distortion of agricultural markets is equally a public good. The danger of saying that the environment is the only public good, is that we pay people not to farm and that really does fly in the face of feeding 63 million people here in the UK.”

Kendall said he could not defend the £3 billion in annual subsidies that UK farmers receive from taxpayers. The four farms that make up his family business receive about £140 000 a year in subsidies, but he said all farmers would prefer a system where the market provided a fair return and subsidies were not paid.

Despite the challenges, Kendall says he is a happy farmer. “I woke up this morning and right outside my door the hay is being made and the smell of the crops was in the air. I am very aware that I live an incredibly privileged existence as a farmer,” he said. “And we want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.”

(822 words)

1. According to the text, extreme weather can affect all of the following EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) agriculture
  - B) food supply
  - C) vacation plan
  - D) living standard
2. The word “pop” in the underlined sentence (paragraph 3) most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) popular music
  - B) huge rainfall
  - C) criticism
  - D) celebration
3. Europe may put itself at more risk because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) it lies at a particular continent
  - B) it has banned the use of chemical substance in farming
  - C) it allows farmers plant genetically modified crops
  - D) its population is increasing in recent years
4. According to the text, the use of pesticides can \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) damage the environmental balance needed for farming
  - B) help farmers maintain a relatively good harvest in case of extreme weather
  - C) kill disease that grew up within the crop
  - D) do harm to the crop and the local people
5. The wild flowers in field margins and trees in field corners are most probably used for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) helping the growth of wildlife
  - B) protecting the crops in the center of the land
  - C) retaining more rains
  - D) absorbing more pesticides
6. According to Kendall’s opinion, which of the following is NOT true? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) Environment is not the only public good.
  - B) The countryside and environment become more and more serious.
  - C) If farmers can get a good harvest, they’d rather not accept the subsidies.
  - D) The government has more political consideration in suspending the use of pesticides.
7. One of the big challenges of the 21st century is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) to plant more wild flowers and trees in the margins or corners of the field
  - B) recognizing the growing populations of both the UK and the world
  - C) reconciling the need of using pesticides and environmental protection
  - D) to make a balance between producing more food and protecting and restoring wildlife and the natural environment
8. Europe’s decision to suspend the use of pesticides was based on a very strict interpretation of the \_\_\_\_\_ principle.
9. Farmers were \_\_\_\_\_ the taxpayers who fund their subsidies by billions of pounds because the money did little to support the wildlife.
10. All farmers would prefer a system where the market provided a fair return and \_\_\_\_\_ were not paid.

**Section D**

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage quickly and answer the questions. For questions 1–7, write Y (YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage; write N (NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage; write NG (NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage. For questions 8–10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.*

**Lower Temperature on Climate Change**

There's something about the issue of climate change that prompts people to immediately head off to opposite sides of the room — with very few people congregating in the middle.

On Friday, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (政府间气候变化专门委员会) will publish its first overview of climate science in six years. The report ought to strengthen the pragmatic middle. That's because we know pretty much what the report will say, because of extensive leaks of its contents.

Here is what it will mean and, not the least, what it won't tell you. The panel's main message will be that global warming is real and mostly caused by man. But it will not support the alarmist predictions of global temperature rises by the end of the century of up to 9 degrees Fahrenheit (华氏度).

Likewise, sea level rises of 3 feet to 6 feet are standard for alarmist rhetoric (虚张声势). Yet, the panel estimates a much more manageable 1.5 feet to 2 feet by the end of the century. For scale, the sea level rose about a foot in the past 150 years. That was no catastrophe.

The real problem for the climate panel is to explain why for the past 15 years to 20 years, while we have kept pumping out more CO<sub>2</sub>, thermometers have refused to budge.

This doesn't mean that there is not some global warming, but it likely means that temperature rises will be lower, not higher, than previous estimates. That fact makes alarmist's prediction ever more implausible.

**Benefits of Warming**

This matters because it is the high temperature rises that makes people anxious. What the panel will not be emphasizing is that the moderate global warming that the world is experiencing is actually positive. An analysis of the major economic climate models shows that the global benefits of temperature rises of up to 3°F to 4°F outweigh the costs.

Look for instance at heat and cold deaths. Globally, and in almost all regions, many more people die from cold than heat. With increasing temperatures, fewer cold deaths will vastly outweigh extra heat deaths.

Likewise, CO<sub>2</sub> fertilizes crops and will increase production more in temperate countries than it will slow down crop increases in tropical countries. It will lower heating costs more than it will increase cooling costs. All these benefits are well known to Americans. When people retire, they move to Florida, Arizona or California, but rarely Vermont.

Global warming will become a significant problem only toward the end of the century when, for instance, cooling costs begin to outweigh savings on heating, when heat effects on crops start to outweigh CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization. One model estimates that global warming will become a net cost around the year 2075.

### Ineffective Solutions

Neither will the UN Panel emphasize that the leading current solutions have almost no impact and at a very high cost.

The only major global climate policy is the European Union's 20/20 policy, which promises to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 20% by 2020. Even if the EU keeps that promise for the rest of the century, we won't be able to measure the temperature reduction by the end of the century. (Models estimate it at a trivial 0.1°F.) The cost, as estimated by the average of the major macroeconomic models, is \$250 billion annually, or \$20 trillion across the century. Paying \$25 trillion to barely help the world in 100 years is a steep (过高的) price.

And similar U.S. proposals, focusing on subsidies to wind turbines (风力涡轮机) and solar power, have comparable and unaffordable costs and will unfortunately do just as little good.

The ugly truth about climate change is that unless we make green energy much cheaper, we (and especially the developing world, including China and India) will continue to use cheap fossil fuels. Right now, we spend billions of dollars on subsidies for inefficient feel-good solar panels (太阳能电池板). If we want to make a difference, we need instead to focus on research and development to drive down the price of the next generations of green energy.

We'll never succeed in making fossil fuels too expensive to be utilized. But we could innovate green energy that is so cheap that everybody wants it. (742 words)

1. Most people believe that the global climate is becoming worse and worse. ( )
2. The word "middle" in paragraph 1 refers to those who are neither optimistic nor pessimistic about the global warming. ( )
3. The report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shows that the global warming is mainly caused by man. ( )
4. The Climate Panel's estimate of a sea level rising to 1.5–2 feet is a catastrophe for the globe. ( )
5. The underlined sentence "thermometers have refused to budge" means that the temperature has not changed for the past 15–20 years. ( )
6. According to the Panel's review, moderate global warming is a good thing for the world. ( )
7. According to the article, Americans are more fond of warm area than the cold area. ( )
8. The report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change may make alarmist's prediction about the global warming \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Though European Union is supposed to reduce 20% of CO<sub>2</sub> \_\_\_\_\_ by 2020, it is still hard to measure the temperature reduction by the end of the century.
10. As the cost for climate change is relatively high, researchers still need to make efforts to \_\_\_\_\_ the price of the next generations of green energy.



# Unit 2



## Section A

**Directions:** *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.*

### The Nature of Fame: The Lady Gaga Professor Who Became a Global Star

- A** Professor Mathieu Deflem finally realized that something truly strange had happened to him when people started asking him for his autograph. For the professor of sociology at the University of South Carolina is not a celebrity. He is just an academic, who teaches theories about fame in modern popular culture. Yet last year in Tokyo, Deflem realized that a viral news story about a course he had taught called “Lady Gaga and the Sociology of Fame” had got the most unforeseen impact: it had made him famous, too.
- B** Attending a Lady Gaga concert in Japan, Deflem suddenly found himself being approached by Japanese fans who called him “Gaga sensei”, which translates as Gaga