

*The precious gift of English was once before me,
And I didn't cherish,
Then I lost the gift and found regret.
There's nothing in this world so bitter as loss of chance.
So take this sword and cut down my throat!
And be quick!
If God in heaven could give me the gift once more,
These three words to English...
I Love You.
If the burden of time must weigh on love,
Then...
10,000 years!*



曾经，
有一份迷人的英语放在我面前，
我没有珍惜，
等我失去的时候我才后悔莫及。
人世间最痛苦的事莫过于此。
你的剑在我的咽喉上割下去吧！
不用再犹豫了！
如果上天能够给我一个再来一次的机会，
我会对英语说三个字：
我爱你。
如果非要在这份爱上加上一个期限，
我希望是.....
一万年！

格灵大话英语

Green Boasting Book

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Green Boasting Book

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中山大学音像出版社

Introduction

TALKING UP and PUTTING DOWN in English

English is a colourful language that, in an argument, is like fighting with a sword. You have to master different skills of attack and defense when locked in battle with an opponent. You may need to do this when confronted by an enemy or would like to persuade people to think or do something.

In this book we will deal with two aspects of the language: Boasting and Put-downs, both of which are used to great effect by many people in every country all over the world. Firstly an introduction to boasting:

What is boasting?

Almost every man wastes part of his life in attempts to display qualities which he does not possess.

-- Samuel Johnson

The dictionary states boasting (flyting): To speak with exaggeration and excessive pride, esp. about oneself. Boasting usually refers to a particular ability, possession, etc. that may be one of such kind as to justify a good deal of pride. According to Bosworth Toller, a well known educationalist, a flyte is a “scandal, contention, strife”; a flitere “a brawler, wrangler, schismatic”; and flyte-craft “the art of disputing, logic.” The common term “flyte” derives from Old Scottish.

Boasting is usually referred to in speech to say something is better than something else, such as “my apple is bigger than your apple”. But it can involve more than words, as boasting in your action is just as possible. The man with the fast sports car seems to be boasting about his wealth when he speeds off at the traffic lights to impress a few girls nearby or in the gym two muscular guys have a silent competition of who can lift the most weights.

Why do people boast?

Man appears to have a deep psychological and social need to boast and to use boasting as a method of separating himself from the “Others”. Indeed, one can imagine that prehistoric man’s first words might have been the equivalent of “My fire is bigger than your fire.” One has only to listen to boys posturing and boasting on a playground or to athletes issuing trash-talking taunts on the playing field to discover the prevalence of what sociologists, linguists, and critics see as a mainly although not exclusively male activity. Critics note that this phenomenon of flyting, the issuing of boast-words often insulting in tone, appears in cultures and literature ranging from Homer of the old Greek to the writings in Old French, Irish, and Norse; from the Middle English of Chaucer to the Scottish flyting poetry of Dunbar and Kennedie to the Renaissance poetry of Skelton to the quatrain saws of seventeenth-century England; and from Middle Eastern literature to that of seventeenth-century Japan. All these works present boosters and boasting that variously involve physical prowess or superiority; tell why “we” are superior to “them”; incite listeners to action, real or mythic, based on the culture’s moral sense; and set out promises that may or may not realistically be carried out.

Flyting appears in our adversarial law system, where opening and closing arguments by opposing counsel, with the attempts to de-

monize the other side, sometimes seem as much flyting as argumentation. High-level flyting operates in presidential election years. Some talk shows seem to exist solely as platforms for flyting.

Image people usually boast to feel superior and more confident. They want to be proud of themselves and have others respect them and draw attention to their actions. This sometimes has a secondary motive such as attracting a member of the opposite sex as with the example of the man speeding in the sports car above.

Much of boasting is about competition, which is the best, largest, worst, fastest and strongest. The boaster is not always necessarily referring to himself but perhaps to a second person of which the boaster has an interest to make superior. For example, a mother may boast that her son is the brightest student in the school. This makes the son seem intelligent but also the mother in return as they are related and she raised him.

Boasting is not exactly going as far as straight lying, but maximizing on the truth to seem better than initially thought.

How to boast effectively?

As with all bending of the truth a sense of confidence is needed to boast. If other people can see doubt or a second thought appearing on your face then they are less likely to believe you if they think you don't believe it either! You have to be convinced or if not they tend to think it's an obvious lie.

A sense of humor will make some people take notice to the boasting as this displays a sense of confidence along with it. If you

can laugh at another person boasting then it displays you have the confidence to out boast them or know they are lying.

Being “cocky” or using sarcasm in boasting about someone else can usually get the desired effect. In a boasting match about arm strength, if one competitor states that “you have the biggest arm I’ve seen on a baby for a long time.” He is comparing him to being a baby and therefore using sarcasm to boast by putting the other person in a lower category.

Your command of the language you use also increases your chance of boasting successfully. There is nothing as humiliating as someone shouts an insult at you and everyone laughs but you have no idea what the insult really means. You can also word the boasting with a more flamboyant vocabulary thus seeming to be well educated and having the air of being more confident with your boasting.

There are many situations where different types of boasting have been employed. On the movies, in a bar or in quite common everyday chat, go out and try it. Just don’t get caught!

Alex Sutherland

引言

用英语争论和奚落对手

英语是一门丰富多彩的语言。在一场辩论中，它就如宝剑之于斗争般重要。当你和对手战斗的时候，你必须掌握各种攻击和抵御的技能。当你遇到敌人或希望说服别人该如何想或如何做时，这些技能也许也是必需。

在这本书里，我们将会讨论语言的两个方面：吹牛（Boasting）与讥讽（Put-Downs），它们在世界上的任何一个国家里都被人们运用着并发挥很大的作用。首先我们会介绍吹牛（Boasting）：

什么是吹牛呢？

几乎每个人都会消耗他生命的部分时间试图去炫耀一些他并不具备的素质……

——塞缪尔·约翰逊

字典上对“吹牛”（flyting）的解释是：以夸张和过分自负的方式说话，尤指自吹自擂。通常人们会夸耀一种特别的才干、财富等一些也许会让它们感到非常自豪的事情。据著名的教育家博斯威尔·托勒尔所说，“flyte”的意思是“耻辱，争论，竞争”；“flytere”是指“争吵者，争论者，分裂者”；“flyte-craft”则是指“辩论的艺术，逻辑学”。常用术语“flyte”起源于古苏格兰语。

吹牛通常是指在谈话中说某些东西比其他东西好，譬如“我的苹果比你的苹果大”。但其实吹牛所包含的不只是话语，因为你同样可以用行动来夸耀。一个驾着快速跑车的男人在绿灯亮时将车子开得飞快，他似乎是在炫耀他的财富以引起周围的女孩的注意，而在健身房里两个强壮的男人则在进行无声的竞赛，看谁举起的重量级数最高。

人们为什么要吹牛呢？

人类会吹牛，以及他们要用这种方式将自己和其他人区分开，这似乎是出于很强烈的心理和社会需要。事实上，我们可以想象史前人类说的第一句话也许就是像“我的火把比你的大”这样的话。只要听听男孩们在操场上故作姿态和自吹自擂，或是运动员们在运动场上的无谓辱骂，我们就可发现，正如社会学家、语言学家和评论家们所注意到的，吹牛的虽然并不全是男人，但当中的大部分都是男人。评论家们发现，这种争论现象和常常带着侮辱性语气的吹牛语出现在各种文化和文学作品里：从古希腊语的荷马史诗到古法语、爱尔兰语和挪威语的作品；从乔叟的中古英语到邓巴和肯尼迪的爱尔兰辩论诗到斯凯尔顿的文艺复兴诗歌再到十七世纪的英国四行诗格言；从中东文学到十七世纪繁荣日本文学。所有的这些作品都表现了吹牛的人和他们所吹牛的那件事的过人的英勇和出众；它们讲述为什么“我们”比“他们”更优越；它们煽动着听众，让他们想投入战斗，而至于是真的战斗还是虚构的则由听众所属文化的道德观念决定；它们还说一些不知能否实现的承诺。

在我们的对抗式审判体制里，争吵有时就如辩论：反方辩护律师在开头和结尾发表陈词，努力令对方败诉。高水平的争论会在总统选举的年度产生。有些谈话节目似乎只是作为争论的平台而存在。

形象——人们常常通过吹牛来使自己感觉优越和更自信。他们希望感到自豪，获得别人的尊重和让别人注意到他们所做的事情。有时他会有个次要的动机，例如吸引某一位异性，就如前面所说的那个男人将跑车开得飞快一样。

大部分的夸耀都是和竞争有关的，比较一下哪个是最好的、最大的、最差的、最快的或是最强壮的。吹牛的人不一定是吹嘘他自己，也许是赞美另一个他希望使其显得优越的人。打个比方，母亲也许会炫耀说他的儿子是学校里最聪明的学生。这不单让别人觉得她的儿子很聪明，而且母亲也会觉得荣耀，因为他们是母子，是她把他抚养大的。

吹牛还不至于到成为纯粹谎言的份上，它只是在事实的基础上夸张，让它看起来比原来的更好而已。

如何让吹牛更有效？

由于会对事实有所扭曲，所以，在吹牛的时候自信心是必需的。如果其他人从你的脸上看到疑虑或犹豫不决，他们就很难相信你，因为连你自己也不相信自己！你一定要令人信服，不然人们就会觉得这是个显而易见的谎言。

幽默感会让一些人注意到你所炫耀的东西，因为它使你显得自信。如果你嘲笑另一个吹牛的人，那么这显示出你有自信比他更厉害，并且你知道他们在说谎。

在夸耀别人的时候表现得骄傲自大或运用讽刺手法通常会达到预期的效果。在一个掰手腕的比赛里，如果一个参赛者说：“你有个我在婴儿身上见过的最大的手臂。”他将对手和婴儿作比较，这样他就运用了讽刺手法去夸耀别人，将他人置于下等的类别。

你对所运用语言的精通同样会增加你吹牛的成功机会。当有人大声侮辱你而每个人都在笑时，你却不知道他侮辱你什么——再没有比这更让人感到羞辱的事了。你可以用更华丽的词汇来包装你的夸耀，这样别人会觉得你是受过良好教育的，而且会为你的夸耀增添自信。

各种类型的吹牛会在许多情况下被运用到。在电影、酒吧或者就在非常普通的日常交谈中，出去试试吧，但千万别被人识穿！

阿列克斯·苏瑟兰

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[大话比赛]

Boasting Competitions



Boasting Competitions

Chapter 1 Boasting Competitions

第一章 大话比赛

🎧 **H**ow to boast is a **complicated**^{a. 复杂} matter. Here we have split the subject up into three categories...

- 1 **Impostures**^{n. 欺骗}
- 2 The dangers of boasting
- 3 Joke a boast.

One problem with boasting apart from being **called upon**^{v. 要求} to prove your latest boast is within your grasp as a learner boaster... so read on!

怎么样去吹牛是一件很复杂的事情。在这里我们把这个话题分成三个部分：

- 1 欺骗
- 2 吹牛的危险
- 3 取笑别人的吹牛

除了要证明你上次所吹嘘的以外，吹牛这种行为还要求你必须有能力成为吹牛的学习者。所以，继续读下去吧！

Imposture

欺骗

🕒 The closer you come to being yourself on the screen, the longer you last [because] on television there's always the risk of a quick shot in an **off-guard**^a .没有警戒、没有准备的 moment, a **chance**^a .偶然的,意外的 insight; and if you're **playing a part**^演 戏, 骗人, you'll be exposed.

--- Jack Lescoulie

在荧屏上你表现得越接近真我,你就越能做得长久,因为在电视上经常会有在没防备的情况下被快镜拍到的危险,会让人们无意间发现真相;如果你是在演戏,就会被揭穿。

——杰克·列希库里

So unless you have the ability to act like a Hollywood star 24 hours a day 7 days a week then **Bragging**^v .吹牛 like this, (saying you are from another country and putting on a **fake**^a .假的 accent) maybe a **surefire**^a .肯定会发生的 way to be caught!

所以,除非你能像好莱坞明星一样,演足一星期七日,一日24小时,不然像这样吹牛(说你来自另一个国家并装出假的口音)肯定会被识穿的!

Impostors often work by drawing attention away from themselves and onto the **imperfections**ⁿ .缺点、缺陷 of others. They are ac-

● 格灵大话英语

tually **aware of** 知道、意识到 their audience, particularly in their ability to discover what their audience is ready and eager to believe. (The ordinary **braggart** n. 吹牛的人 offends an audience by disregarding their feelings. Imposters are masters of **flattery** n. 奉承 and appear **empathetic** a. 移情作用的, especially when such qualities impress their audience.)

欺骗者经常会将注意力从他们自己身上转移到别人的缺点身上。事实上他们意识到观众的存在,而且特别清楚地知道自己能洞察到观众真正愿意和渴望去相信的事情。(一般那些吹牛的人会因忽略观众的感受而使观众不愉快。欺骗者则是讲恭维说话的专家,而且表现得很能理解别人的感受,当这些品质能吸引观众注意的时候更是如此。)

If you are nice to people then why would they doubt you? You have shown them no harm.

如果你对人们友善,那么他们为什么要怀疑你呢?你要让他们知道你并不会伤害他们。

The Dangers of Boasting

吹牛的危险

Consider these sentiments:

看看这些发表感想句子:

“In five years I’ll be running the Society.”

By a newcomer

“五年后我会成为社团的头头。”

一个刚加入的人说

“This is going to be the best (certain event) there's ever been.”

By an *n. 独裁者* doing more talking than working

“这将会成为有史以来搞得最好的（活动）。”

一个说得多做得少的独裁者所说

These are paraphrases of real brags. None came true. The reality of what did or did not happen was not in itself **shameful** *a. 可耻的*; it's just that things would have seemed better without those big boasts.

真正意义上的吹牛大概就是这样的。它们都没有成为现实。这个事实有没有发生本身并不可耻，只是如果没有那些夸大的吹牛，事情看上去会更好一些。

A good example of over-bragging where there is no end in sight is this example:

以下这个例子就是吹牛吹到无尽头的最好例证：

大话故事两则 Boasting Story 1

① Not very long ago, two great martial artists got into an argument. They were two very good-looking **specimens** *n. 人*. The two brave **warriors** *n. 斗士* had met accidentally while waiting for the bus. Their conversation went something like this: “My master has taught me to hang

① 不久前，两个很著名的武术家陷入了一场争论。他们都长得很好看。两个勇士在等公共汽车时偶然遇上。他们之间的对话大概是这样的：“我的师傅教我在四层楼房单靠手指