



We love music (2)

互動英語教學

After reaching home from work, Lily relaxes herself by playing some light music. Her friends cannot understand why she spends so much time and energy in pursuing music. She believes that hobbies help the person to develop self-esteem (自信心). Before learning the piano, she never had the courage to perform or speak in front of the others. Now, she feels comfortable in playing music with a group of amateur (業餘) musicians. She thinks that keeping some time aside for leisure activities can help her to curb (制止) stress after a bad day at work and keep a fresh mind.

Lily's cousin Thomas is also a music lover. He is learning to be a good rapper. However, Lily prefers classical music. Geoff, who works for the music centre where Lily takes her piano class, can play a few musical instruments, such as the violin, drum and guitar. Lily suggests that three of them can play some chamber music (室樂) together.

Geoff: I play guitar and violin. The instrument families are made up of four main families: woodwinds (木管樂器), brass (銅管樂器), strings (弦樂器), and percussion (敲擊樂器).

Thomas: They are classified (分類) by the way they make sounds. Guitar and violin belong to the string family.

Geoff: You are a smart boy!

Lily: Let's play some music now.

Geoff: Sure! Chamber music is a form of classical music, written for a small group of instruments.

Lily and Geoff play a Bach's minuet (小步舞曲). This kind of light music can lead us to a relaxed state of mind.

Geoff: Same as drums, the piano is a percussion instrument.

Thomas: Oh! It's fun! Lily, do you know human beatbox (表演口技)?

Lily: No. What is it?

Thomas: Let me show you. Music is all about sharing and creativity!

If you feel completely drained out after school or



室樂屬於古典音樂,指數人在空間較小的室內合奏,每人各演奏一種樂器。資料圖片

work, it's time to do things you love!

Families of musical instruments

In the video, Geoff and Thomas mentioned that musical instruments are grouped into families based on how they make sounds.

-Percussion

Percussion instruments make sounds when they are hit, such as drums. Anthropologists often think that percussion instruments were the first musical devices ever created by mankind.

-Strings

Sounds of string instruments come from their strings, such as violin, cello, harp and guitar.

-Brass

Brass instruments are made of brass or other metal and make sound when air is blown inside. Tuba, French horn and trombone are brass instruments.

-Woodwinds

Woodwind instruments produce sound when air (wind) is blown inside. Flute, piccolo (短笛),

clarinet (單簧管) and oboe (雙簧管) are woodwind instruments.

Questions:

- 1) Which are the four families of musical instruments?
2) How are instruments being classified?
3) Can you name some woodwind instruments?
4) What are the benefits of having a hobby?

Answers:

- 1) Woodwinds, percussions, brass and strings.
2) They are classified by the way they make sounds.
3) Flute, piccolo, clarinet and oboe are woodwind instruments.
4) Leisure activities can help us to curb stress after a bad day at work and keep a fresh mind.

Please visit http://wwpenglishcolumn.blogspot.com to watch the video and learn some common phrases in English.

By Lily POON

西點·點心

英式下午茶

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前一陣子跟親朋好友相聚,去了香港迪士尼酒店High Tea一番。說到High Tea,許多香港人總會有一份莫名的親切感,舒舒氣、放放鬆的感覺也油然而生。為甚麼?也許跟High Tea是舶來品,以及香港曾是英國殖民地有着點點關係。

據資料顯示,香港的「下午茶」(afternoon tea)是殖民時期從英國引入的一種生活概念。不過,下午茶傳到香港後,自然逐漸會變得地道,港式下午茶通常有sandwich和toast(多士)等,配上咖啡、奶茶或檸檬茶等飲料。至於High Tea,大可以稱作「英式下午茶」,「Elaborate versions of English-style Afternoon Tea are often described as 'High Tea」。(精巧的英式下午茶常稱作「High Tea」)問題是,為甚麼Tea會High呢?據說是「Many would consume the tea while using 'tall chairs' or 'high chairs' and tables. Afternoon tea would be more easily digested when sitting at a high angle to aid digestion as the abdominal muscles would be more active at that angle。」原來與嘆茶時的座椅有關,當時的英國人,品嚐英式下午茶時,須坐在

高腳椅子上,緣於以這高角度安坐,可以活化腹部肌肉,有助消化。

紅茶可加鮮奶

迪士尼酒店自然也有Victorian High Tea (維多利亞時期的英式下午茶),我們當然不會錯過。這下午茶必須有一個道具,那就是三層架 (three-tiered stand)。三層各有不同類型的英式小吃,底層為savories (開胃菜),主要是各式三明治,通常以凍肉為餡料。中層是英國傳統點心scone (烤餅),伴以奶油、果醬、軟牛油等。上層是甜點,有pastry (酥餅), mini cake (迷你蛋糕)和fruit tart (水果塔)。根據英式傳統,應先吃最底層的,然後是中層,最後是頂層,從鹹到甜,品味更佳。既然說High Tea,自然不能沒有茶。Earl Grey和Darjeeling都是深受英國人歡迎的black tea,可以加鮮奶,亦可以不加,但不會使用cream和evaporated milk淡奶。即使加入鮮奶,也不能用調匙在杯子裡打圈,只可以在茶杯6點鐘的位置向左輕輕的調一下,調匙絕對不能留在杯子的內。

人生一大快事

迪士尼酒店擺放了許多的宮廷式沙發 (luxury sofa of royal palace),配以大大小小的繡花坐墊 (embroidery cushion)、懷舊情調的英式茶杯 (vintage English tea cup),以及歐陸絨毛地毯 (European velvet rug),給人很有氣派、很高尚的感覺。那天我們邊吃英式點心,邊呷奶茶,彷彿穿越了英國歷史長廊,走到維多利亞時代,與一眾紳士淑女在冬日下午,草坪上淺嚐下午茶。大文豪Henry James曾說:「There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea. (人間歲月,以下午茶時光最為美好)」我忽然想起,自己當年在英國牛津大學城和莎士比亞故居小鎮走訪的那一歲月。當時,我也嚐過當地High Tea,置身於繁花中、河畔旁、教堂側、劇院外,那種英倫的異國情調我一直沒有忘懷。現代社會裡,吃,從來不只是滿足果腹之慾,而是透過消費讓人享受情感上、物質上,以至精神上的滿足,亦讓人透過感官的滿足,偷窺以至享受片刻別人「尊貴」的生活。消費,從來都不會叫人失望。

普通話講堂

音意相近易混淆

我們在報刊、雜誌或網絡媒體上,經常看到一些模糊不清的詞語,如「擅長」、「善於」、「擅於」和「善長」這些人們習慣用的詞語,那麼到底哪個詞語是正確的呢?其實,「善長」和「擅於」在《現代漢語辭典》中是沒有收錄的,也就是說,這些廣泛被報刊、網絡使用的語言,實際上是不規範的詞語。

「善」「擅」同音義近

為甚麼這兩個詞語的使用會容易發生混淆呢?原因是「善」和「擅」是同音字,意思相近,據《漢語大辭典》所示,「善:擅長,善於。擅:專長。」另外,「善於」和「擅長」的意思又相近,這樣一來,「擅」和「善」之間的混淆使用就更容易發生了。接下來,我們一起看幾組同形,但異音異義的詞語:

Table with 2 columns: Word and Meaning. Rows include: 便宜 (piányi) and 便宜 (piányi), 正當 (zhèngdāng) and 正當 (zhèngdāng), 見長 (jiàncháng) and 見長 (jiàncháng), 澄清 (chéngqīng) and 澄清 (dèngqīng).

這些詞語的特點是字相同讀音不同,以至意義有所改變了。請大家在使用時稍加注意便可運用自如了。資料提供: 楷博語言培訓 http://www.putonghua.com

English World Lina CHU

復活節假期快到了,在計劃假期時,也許可以重溫一下與復活節有關的英文字,了解一下西方的節日文化。復活節的英文是Easter,原是一個宗教節日,是基督教紀念耶穌釘十字架死後復活的日子。現在復活節在很多地方是假期,但跟聖誕節不同,復活節並不是固定於年中某一天,每年的復活節日期都不同,屬於movable feast,有人稱為「可移動的節日」。Easter is a movable feast. Easter holidays fall on different days every year, but will usually be in March or April. 復活節是不固定日期的節日。復活節假期定於哪些日子,年年不同,但通常在3月或4月。

定於春分月圓後

據資料,復活節的日子用曆法春分 (vernal equinox) 月圓 (full moon) 計算,每年不同,多是由3月22日到4月25日中的一個星

Easter 復活節

期天。今年的復活節是4月24日的星期天。明年的復活節則在4月8日。復活節假期通常有4天,由復活節前一個星期五開始,這星期五稱為Good Friday,基督教相信耶穌在星期五被釘死在十字架,所以Good Friday其實是紀念cruifixion (耶穌釘十字架)的日子,中文稱為受難節。受難節翌日的星期六the day following Good Friday亦是假期。基督教相信耶穌是在死後3天的星期天復活。復活節當天因為是星期日,所以除了稱為Easter Day之外,也可稱為Easter Sunday。隨後的星期一亦定為假期,有時會稱為Easter Monday。

又稱Resurrection Day

復活節的星期天是紀念耶穌死後復活,故此除了稱為Easter Day外,亦稱為Resurrection Day。The Resurrection專指耶穌死後復活,而動詞resurrect其實解作

使人復甦,復活,是及物動詞。說耶穌復活時,應該用被動式。Christians believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. 基督徒相信耶穌死後復活。此外,resurrect亦解作使某些事物或主張復興,再度流行或重新喚起注意。The singer had tried very hard to resurrect his career but did not have much success. 那歌手竭盡所能重振事業,但不大成功。Many people have urged the government to resurrect the home ownership scheme. 很多人促請政府令居者有其屋計劃復活。所以,藉此復活節時期,可以想想有沒有有一些舊主意、舊計劃,如果是好的,是不是可以讓它們復活過來?

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海外 升學秘笈

尚學堂 (Ada Tam)

加國首府校區簡介

筆者與尚學堂的升學輔導員傾談之間,發現今個學年多了一些初中學生和家長查詢有關前往海外修讀中學課程的事宜,有見及此,今期將會為大家介紹加拿大維多利亞市的其中一個政府校區供大家參考。維多利亞是加拿大卑詩省的首府,位於溫哥華島的南岸,享有溫和的氣候,是全國最陽光充沛的城市,更擁有「花園中的城市」的美譽,是國際上非常熱門的旅遊勝地。維多利亞的人口約有32.5萬人,擁有獨特的文化特色和無與倫比的美麗自然景色。而且在享有小市鎮優勢的同時,亦擁有大城市的便利設施和熱鬧氣氛。這個寧靜、整潔、友好、安全 and 美麗的城鎮可說是留學和體驗加拿大文化的理想地點。

花園城市環境優越

今次要介紹的是The Greater Victoria School District (維多利亞政府校區)。該校區是一個創立已久,聲譽良好的校區。此校區轄下共有7所中學及10所初中,每所學校均擁有完善的教學和活動設施,讓海外學生融入當地學生的學習生活,以及提供優越的學習環境和世界級的學術課程。維多利亞政府校區為海外學生開辦了維多利亞國際中學課程 (Victoria International High School Program),提供高質素的中學學術課程和各種多元化的短期課程。維多利亞政府校區隸屬於加拿大卑詩省政府學校體系之一,其學校為海外學生提供的課程均獲卑詩省政府教育部 (British Columbia Ministry of Education) 所認可。其中包括多種課程,如:

一 中學學術課程

提供卑詩省政府核定之中學學分課程,再配合英語加強課程 (ESL-English as a Second Language) 的支援,幫助學生於加拿大完成中學課程,考取卑詩省中學畢業文憑及取得資格入讀大學。

一 學術過渡課程

此課程主要是協助學生度過留學初期的學習困難,讓學生盡快適應當地學校的學習環境,從而轉讀正式的中學學分課程及成功考取卑詩省中學畢業文憑。

一 短期中學體驗課程

學生可透過不同的課堂如英語加強課程、戲劇班、體育教育課程和中學學術課程等的體驗,來加速提升英語水平。另外,參與此課程的海外學生會與加拿大學生一同上課,完全融入加拿大學習模式的學術課堂和課外活動,增進同學彼此之間的認識及交流機會。

一 ESL暑期遊學課程

這是一個於每年7月至8月所舉行的短期課程,一般為期2至8個星期,課程內容包括密集式英語為第二語言課程和多元化的當地文化交流活動。

此校區設有一個專門負責照顧海外學生的部門,其專業及經驗豐富的專門人員如海外學生輔導員和多元文化的寄宿家庭安排主任等,均致力為海外學生提供額外的支援以確保他們得到全面和安全的照顧。

辛亥革命百周年展



黎元洪夫人到紅十字會醫院慰問傷兵,為住院的清軍和革命軍傷兵送贈了橘子和銀元。Mrs Li Yuanhong (standing, centre) visits injured soldiers at a Red Cross hospital. She gave oranges and money to injured troops of both the Qing and Revolutionary Armies.

資料: Professor Ronald Anderson



復活節快到了,香港各大商場的布置均充滿復活節氣氛。資料圖片