送禮送心意 抽象有意義

大英萃

隔星期五見報

送禮 (Gifting) 是生活上一個有趣的環 節。相信大家都曾擔當過 giver (送贈者) 和收禮者 (receiver) 的角色。從小到大, 我們的生活也離不開禮物。除了一年到晚 大小節日、生辰慶祝及各類喜慶場合,都 需要預備各式各樣禮物,如 Christmas present ' birthday present / prezzie ' wedding gift;參加生日派對後,小朋友會收到 party bag 或 goody bag (禮物包) ;參加 婚宴後,賓客也會收到主人家預備的 wedding favors (婚禮贈客小禮品)。

對於挑選禮物這個過程,有人樂在其 中,亦有人感到煩惱不堪。怎樣才可以預 備一份 thoughtful present (有心思的禮

物)呢?當不太確定揀選的禮物是否適合 對方的時候,我們可以說: [It's only something small, but I hope you like it.]

(小小意思,不成敬意,希望你會喜 歡。) 「I wasn't sure what to get you but I hope you like it.」(不大肯定你需要什 麼,但希望你喜歡這份禮物。)

除了 thank you (多謝) ,還有許多種方 式表達謝意。「Thank you for the small glass vase. You know me so well!」(多謝 你送給我一個細小的玻璃花瓶,你真了解 我。) The antique watch you sent for my graduation is perfect! I was so touched and I can tell you spent a lot of time picking it out.」(你送我作為畢業禮物的古董 錶簡直是完美,我很感動亦看出你花了不 少時間挑選這份禮物。)

We are so thrilled by your generous

wedding gift. It makes us smile and think about how thoughtful you are. (你送給我 們的結婚厚禮令我們很欣喜,你的心思確 實令我們會心微笑。) 有時候收到名貴禮 物可能受寵若驚,或不好意思接納。可能 的反應是「You shouldn't have. (But it's so nice you did!) 」你實在不用這樣,讓你破 費了。(感激你送贈厚禮。)

在現今物質富裕的社會,究竟什麼是最 珍貴的禮物呢?在物資不缺的生活中,也 許時間及關愛這些抽象的東西才是無價 寶,留不住亦賺不來。 (The greatest gift that you can give yourself or another is the purity of your own attention and your presence.) 我們單純的存在、出現和關 心,往往是給自己和他人最好的禮物。

美國暢銷小説家 Sara Dessen 也曾經提 到, The best gifts come from the heart, not the store. (最好的禮物是來自心思, 不是來自商店。) 有錢也買不到的才是難 能可貴的。再者,饋贈者往往才是最終關 鍵, Love the giver more than the gift. (送贈禮物的人比禮物本身重要得 多。) 大家不妨回想自己曾收過最難忘感 動的禮物是什麼,而這份禮物能夠成為入 選項目,是因為送贈者及其心意心思,還 是單憑禮物本身的價值?

Gift 在英語上除了禮物,更有着天分才 能的意思,可以理解成是一種得天獨厚的 個人禮物。天生我才必有用,因此我們每 人也值得花點時間尋找自己天賦的禮物, 好好利用它來貢獻社會。The meaning of

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life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away. (人生意義在於尋找個 人的天賦才能,而人生目標便是將這個才 華發揮送贈出去。)

或許我們在這世上的每一刻,都是上天 賜給我們的禮物。難怪常聽見有人說Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift, that's why we call it the present. (昨天是歷史,明天是一個謎 團,今天是上天賜給我們的禮物)因此 present 一詞既有現在的意思,亦可解作禮 物。既然每一天也是一份禮物 everyday is a gift,我們更應該珍惜眼前, live in the present,在這份「禮物」當中活得精彩。



父親奇幻旅程 兒子只當吹牛

吹水同學會

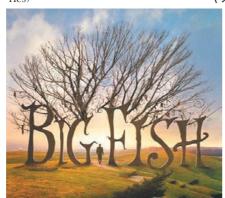
星期五見報

《大魚奇緣》(Big Fish)是一部好看又很適合學 英文的電影。這部於2003年上映的美國奇幻片,由 鬼才導演添·布頓 (Tim Burton) 執導,伊雲·麥 葵格(Ewan McGregor)主演。劇情改編自丹尼爾 · 華勒斯 (Daniel Wallace) 於 1998 年撰寫的原名 小説《Big Fish》。他用一個小孩的口吻,來敘述其 爸爸傳奇的一生(a legendary life)。

父親愛德華 (Ewan McGregor 飾演) 生性熱愛自 由,成年之後,他選擇離開家鄉,踏上了環遊世界 的旅程 (Edward was born with a free spirit so he chose to leave his hometown after he turned 18 and travelled around the world since then) 。一路上, 愛德華遇見了各種各樣稀奇古怪的角色,經歷了無 數精彩絕倫的冒險,而他日後最大的興趣,就是向 他人喋喋不休地重複講述他的這一段奇幻旅程(He met different weird characters in his journey and encountered countless amazing adventures. His passion was to tell other people his fantastic journey repeatedly) °

威爾是愛德華的兒子,他並不相信父親所講述的 那些光怪陸離的故事,甚至對此感到無比厭煩 (he was fed up with his dad's stories because he did not believe in his dad's amazing stories)。婚後,他與父 親中斷了聯繫,一晃眼就是數年過去 (He even disconnected with his dad after he got married) °

當再次得到愛德華的消息之時,威爾才知道父親 即將不久於人世 (would soon pass away) ,他決定 去見愛德華最後一面。然而這一次,威爾終於發現 了隱藏在這些故事背後的奧秘和真相 (he found out the secrets and truths behind his dad's sto-(未完待續)



«Big Fish》的 電影海 報 資料圖片

●馬漪楠 (曾獲行政長官卓越教學獎 (英國語文教育學習領域) ,與丈夫岑皓軒合著暢銷書 《Slang:屎爛英語1,2&3》,《全家變泰》及《放養孩子 — 育出自學力》。)

《城市•夜色》

水墨大展

隔星期五見報

1

作者:羅致勇

簡介:羅致勇,1963生。現時職業為註冊建築師 亦為香港大學專業進修學院客席講師。畢業於香港大 學建築系,業餘跟隨馮永基老師學習水墨創作,包括 傳統及現代水墨技法及意念等。

●資料提供:



W談英語

逢星期五見報

Learn English Teens

Easter

In the UK, schools close for about two weeks at Easter time. Read on to find out more about how Easter is celebrated in Britain

What does it mean

Easter is a spring festival of new life. As a pagan tradition, it is the beginning of growth and new life after the cold, winter months. The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn and spring — Eostre. For Christians, Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter celebrates life and rebirth, which is why we see lots of symbols of new life and fertility at Easter, like eggs, chicks and rabbits.

Unlike Christmas, Easter isn't on the same date each year. It takes place on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring.

For most British children, Easter means chocolate Easter eggs The shops are full of Easter displays decorated with chicks, rabthe shops are full of Easter displays decolated with circles, and bits and flowers, all with the objective of selling chocolate eggs in huge numbers. Around 90 million chocolate eggs are sold in the UK each year. However, some people believe that too much chocolate is eaten and most doctors and would advise peo-



ple to eat Easter eggs in moderation.

Chocolate is the most popular way to enjoy eggs at Easter. But there are some less sugary traditions, too. Chickens' eggs are painted and decorated to give as presents, and eggs are also hid-

den for children to find as part of an 'egg hunt'. There are other special foods too. Hot cross buns are typical cakes that are made at Easter time. They are spiced bread rolls with raisins and they always have a cross shape on top.

Activity 1 – Vocabulary

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a - d next to the numbers 1 - 4. 1 huge

2····.. a chick

3·····.. spring

4·····. to do something in moderation

a. the season after winter when plants grow again

b. to do something but not do it too much

c. a baby chicken

Answers 1. d; 2. c; 3. a; 4. b

To find more English language activities visit www,britishcouncil.org/learnenglishteens

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掛起拳套 退下崗位

产語世界

隔星期五見報

聽到某某足球員掛靴,都一定知道這球員要退 休了,不再踢足球。掛靴來自英文的 hang up one's boots (掛起球靴) 。此語源於足球員踢完 球賽多會把球靴掛起。不是所有運動都有球靴, 所以短語中的boots很多時會用其他運動的相關 物品代替,例如拳擊用的是拳擊手套,當拳手退 役,會說hang up one's gloves(掛起拳套)。現 在 hang up one's boots 和 hang up one's gloves 都 成了常用語,比喻從工作崗位退下來,或者終止 從事某種活動。

He has served the company for years but he is hanging up his boots now.

She has hung up her gloves for years; it's un-

她已經告別樂壇多年,不大可能再出席音樂會 獻唱了。

You have done your best and there is nothing to regret when you finally hang up your gloves.

會有任何遺憾。

拳擊用的拳套,令拳手看起來孔武有力,但原 來拳套不是用來加強攻擊力,反而是減震墊,用 來緩和衝擊力,有保護對手的作用,防止大家嚴 重受傷。 Take the gloves off (脱下拳套) 説的 並不是停止比賽,而是肉搏決鬥、激戰,貫注全 力打擊,毫不留手、不客氣。描寫一個情形為 the gloves are off(拳套已脱下),或者the gloves come off(拳套甩掉),即是説有關人士

He took the gloves off and argued fiercely with his opponent during the debate.

It seems that the gloves are off in the trade

他在公司服務多年,現在要退休了。

likely that she will sing again in concerts.

你已經做到最好,當你最終退下來的時候,不

準備開戰,互相攻擊,不留餘地,嚴厲的決鬥和

他毫不留情,在辯論中與對手激烈爭辯。

war between the two nations. They set tariffs and impose barriers on each other.

這兩個國家似乎在這場貿易戰中激烈相搏,他 們互相實施關稅和施加貿易壁壘。

The discussion was gentlemanly in the begin-

ning, but then the gloves were coming off. There were serious confrontations.

這次討論起初彬彬有禮地進行,但後來大家都 不留情面,產生嚴重的對立。

拳擊手用的拳套大多數用皮革做成,較為堅 硬, kid gloves則是軟皮。這類手套以小山羊皮 製造,較為小巧柔軟,外觀亦較優雅,當然不適 用於拳擊比賽,故此説 handle someone / something with kid gloves (以小羊手套處理某人/某 事) ,即是面對某些人或處理某些事的時候要小 心、乖巧、謹慎,以免激怒當事人或弄垮事情。

We have to handle the boss with kid gloves today. He is not in a good mood.

我們今天面對老闆時一定要留心機警一些,他 的心情不好。

The government should handle the case with kid gloves. The situation is rather complicated. 政府應該小心靈活處理這件事,因為情況相當

複雜。

These little children are very sensitive. Teachers need to handle them with kid gloves.

這些小孩子十分敏感,老師必須細心照顧他

運動場有如日常生活,拳擊也可比喻各種事 情,機靈小心地待人處事就是 handle someone / something with kid gloves, 準備決一死戰則是 take the gloves off, 千萬不要混淆了 hang up one's gloves,這是退役退休的意思。

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良師薰陶 深造法律

一位手記

隔星期五見報

今次小記邀請了丁美琳同學接受訪問,丁同學是香 港樹仁大學法律及商業學系畢業年學生,她在學期間 獲得良師薰陶,堅定了自己深造法律的信心。除了丁 同學,還有她的導師陳家榮律師一同接受訪問。

「我在大學攻讀法律及商業學位,其間參加了學校 的良師益友計劃,陳律師是計劃的其中一名導師,非 常幸運,我成了他的導生。」

陳律師你還記得當初認識丁同學的情境嗎?小記

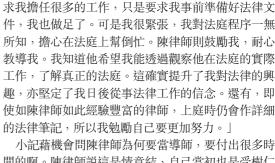
丁同學坦言能遇見陳律師是她的運氣。

「我參與仁大的良師益友計劃多年,美琳是我其中 一個導生。我每次與她見面,她都會問我很多問題, 她會預先把問題寫在紙上,逐一地問。我不嫌煩,反

而我非常高興能指導一位這樣的學生。」 陳律師對你的印象很好呢!丁同學可以跟讀者分享 陳律師如何啓發你嗎?

丁同學説:「陳律師是位執業律師,他的實務經驗 很豐富,他的分享對我來說是非常寶貴。我們第一次 與陳律師見面就是在中環與他共晉早餐。因為他很

被訪者介紹:陳家榮律師(在本港任職律師多年,曾任教樹 仁大學,現今為仁大「良師益友計劃」校外導師之一)、丁 美琳(香港樹仁大學法律及商業學系學生,希望畢業後攻讀 法律博士學位(J.D.))



忙,所以只能在他上班前向他請教。儘管如此,他都

很關心我們的近況和學業,而我亦會藉此機會向他求 問。另外,我最記得我倆到沙田財務法院工作,我成

為他的助手。對於一個學生來說,能夠上法庭擔任陳

律師的助手是個無比珍貴的機會。雖然陳律師並無要

間的啊。陳律師説這是情意結,自己當初也是受樹仁 的薰陶,所以希望薪火相傳。原來陳律師也不是只説 法律,還會分享法律知識外的事。

「我相信美琳將來會有一番的事業,因為她有熱誠 而且好學。法律這個行業是需要累積經驗,另外,語 言能力都很重要。若果她希望用自己的法律知識幫助 有需要的人士,就要繼續求學,提升自己。另外,我 希望年輕人在追求學業和事業時,要常常思考金錢以 外的東西,這才會讓人生更有意義。」





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