

名人教英文

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兩個爭做下屆特首的候選人，給比喻做「豬」與「狼」之爭，意思是一個蠢、一個狠。在英文中，pig與wolf的用法一樣好好玩。口語話人「豬咁蠢」，可說 He is pig-headed，但要注意的，這個講法除了蠢，更有頑固的意思，指 stupidly stubborn，或 stubbornly stupid。而批評人貪多，尤其是貪吃，一句過：You greedy pig! 另一句口語，是 And pigs might fly，美國人多說 And pigs can fly。豬會飛？當然不會，用以表達對某人某事「難以置信」，就像「太陽

豬會飛？狼來了！

會從西邊升起」，有香港人掛在口邊的「唔係吓哇」的味道。譬如說，有個人出名懶散，但忽然承諾用心辦事，你就不信： He will work hard? And pigs might fly! 他會勤力？太陽從西邊出來！唔係吓哇！本地俚語中，也有一句類似的「豬」話：「XX靠得住？豬咁會上樹！」 西方文化中出名的豬，有喬治·奧威爾 (George Orwell) 筆下《動物農莊》(Animal Farm) 故事中的領袖豬——動物起義後，農莊却變成豬的獨裁——也即是說，這個角色並非英雄，查實是作者用來暗諷斯大林獨裁的鋪排。而說狼，有許多人都熟悉的「狼來了」，cry wolf，源自伊索寓言：明明沒有狼，亂喊一通，到真的狼來了，就真的都給看成是假的了。主旨是叫人不要隨便發假警報，Don't raise false alarms. 例句：

Don't cry wolf unless you have got a real problem. 除非真有問題，不要亂喊「救命」。而「披着羊皮的狼」，a wolf in sheep's skin (羊皮)，或 a wolf in sheep's clothing (羊的衣服)，這句話一樣來自西方，一說亦是源自伊索寓言中，一隻狼扮羊，混入羊堆去吃羊，但給牧羊人識穿的故事。我們的俗語有「扮豬食老虎」，意思跟「扮羊去食羊」有共通之處。另一講法，是這「狼扮羊」的話，摘自聖經中教誨人要辨別假先知的一段話，耶穌描述這些人 "... come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (披上羊的外貌出現，內裏卻是一頭餓狼)。Ravening，形容飢餓覓食的狀態。 I suspect he is a wolf in sheep's skin. 我懷疑他是個扮作好人的大壞蛋。

Foreigner in HK

Christmas is Coming!

text by John W

One of my favourite Christmas jokes: a five-year-old boy in "outback" Australia had never seen rain. There had been a drought for more than five years. Then as December 25 came near, clouds formed, and water started falling from the sky. The little boy rushed to the window of his home to see what the noise from the sky was. He called out "Mum, what's that?" His mother replied, "That's rain, dear (reindeer, 馴鹿)." Christmas lights are now lining along HK harbour, and Christmas music can be heard in shopping centres, at MTR stations and at the airport. Many foreigners say that the Christmas-Lunar New Year harbour lights are the most beautiful in the world. The Christmas-Lunar New Year period certainly is a happy time in Hong Kong.

English students can keep an eye out for all the terms of Christmas: Christmas tree, Christmas cards, Christmas lights, Christmas decorations, Christmas dinner, Christmas cake, Christmas presents, Christmas carols etc. And of course, there's Santa Claus. His name comes from Saint Nicholas who lived in Greece in the third century. Google "Saint Nicholas" to see his story. Yesterday, December 6, was his "Feast Day". Many countries have special celebrations for St Nicholas Day. Santa Claus joke: Santa's sledge broke down on Christmas Eve. He flagged down a passing motorist and asked, "Can you help me fix my sledge, please?" "Sorry," the motorist replied, "I'm not a mechanic — I'm a podiatrist (足部治療師)." "In that case," replied Santa, "Can you give me a tow (拖拉(車船等)) (toe)?"!

Star Blog

Silly Promotion!

text and photos by Emma-Lee Moss



Tim and I in a whiteboard interview.

It's December and Christmas trees are starting to go up. My Christmas album jointly released with Tim Wheeler has hit the shelves. Tim and I are working hard to promote (推銷) it. Promotion can be fun, and it can be tiring. It can be serious and intense, and it can be

downright (徹頭徹尾的) silly. On Saturday morning, we experienced the silly side. We woke up at 7 am and were taken to Sky TV to be interviewed on a breakfast show called Soccer AM. As the title of the programme suggests, the show is all about football. Tim and I both support Arsenal football club, but Tim knows much more about football than I do. While he sailed through (順利通過) the interview, answering rapid questions about the Champion's League and Robin Van Persie's scoring history, I smiled, clapped, and smiled, and clapped. When I watched the interview later on, I wondered why no one had called a doctor to check if I'd fallen into a coma (昏迷). At the end, we both had to kick a football into a goal live on TV. In my tight skirt and heels, I barely managed to kick it in a straight line. Tim scored on his first try. That is one of the things I have done in the name of Christmas...



Writer's profile Emma-Lee Moss, or Emmy the Great, is a British singer-songwriter brought up in HK and emigrated to the UK at the age of 12.

網上聲檔: link.mingpao.com/15210.htm

Ask & Learn 問問切

Have you any questions about English usage? Don't hesitate to send them to us!

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逗號的用法 (二)

今次繼續回答 Mak 的問題：上次提到在連接詞 because 前加上逗號 (comma) 可以調整句子的節奏，當然同時也可以營造語氣效果。逗號可令句子稍作停頓，聽上去好像說話的人正在遲疑，不願意立刻把原因說出來似的；又或者故弄玄虛，吊一下對方的胃口。這種語氣效果在短的句子尤其顯著。試比較下面兩句：

1. I was late because I ran into traffic. 2. I was late, because I ran into traffic again. 像上面兩句這麼短的句子，通常都不會加上逗號。第二句用了逗號，可能說話人以前多次遲到，而且常常以交通為藉口，不料這次真的遇上堵車，反而覺得說實話不夠說服力，所以才遲疑起來，這種語氣就靠 because 前的逗號來表達。