

文訊 WORD POWER

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES DIVISION, CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU

*** 物換星移 ***

二千多年前，孔子望着黃河滾滾東去的流水，遂有“逝者如斯夫，不舍晝夜”之嘆（《論語·子罕》）。孔子以後，以有限與無限、瞬間與永恆相對照，了悟時光易逝、人生短促之理者，代不乏人。莊子以“白駒過隙”喻指人生短暫。在《蘭亭集序》中，王羲之嗟嘆樂終哀至、興盡悲來：“向之所欣，俯仰之間，已成陳迹”。蘇軾《前赤壁賦》則由憑弔江山興起人生如寄的感慨。

面對人生的有限和不可預知，如何超脫，遂成為歷代哲人學士探討的課題。儒家有“立德、立功、立言”之論，提出仁人君子可藉着道德文章、治國偉業為後世傳頌而達至不朽。莊子提出世事以變幻為常態，在萬化遷流中，一切差別都是相對的、短暫的。因此，生死可以等同，壽夭可以齊一，只要順應自然，便能超越有限的存在。蘇軾在《前赤壁賦》同樣抒發樂觀曠達的思想；面對江上的清風明月，先有感於浪花淘盡英雄，生出“哀吾生之須臾，羨長江之無窮”的感喟，後化情以理：“蓋將自其變者而觀之，則天地曾不能以一瞬，自其不變者而觀之，則物與我皆無盡也”，引出“天地與我並生，萬物與我為一”（《莊子·齊物論》）的哲理，道出只要順隨自然，活在當下，自能逍遙自適，無往而不自得。蘇軾瀟灑豁達的胸懷，固然源於吸收儒釋道思想的精髓，而與其一生都在精研《易經》也大有關係。

《易經》不但是我國最古老的經典，而且自古以來，歷代有識之士均推崇備至，尊為“羣經之首”。《易經》成書於西周前期，¹最早用於占卜，但內容絕非僅僅教人消極的避凶趨吉，而是滿載積極的處世智慧。孔子嘗言：“加我數年，五十以學《易》，可以無大過矣”。²“易”字本身就有“變動不居”的意思，《易經》六十四卦，構成一個流動不居、互動不定的系統。³宇宙萬物，時刻變化，人事也是如此，所以說“變易”。然而，變化不息的宇宙，卻有其法則，井然有序，循環不已，有一定的規律可循，所以說“不易”。由於“不易”，人就能了解宇宙天地的法則，可以遵循。《易經》以簡單的陰陽符號與數字，闡述“變易”、“不易”之道。

“易道廣大，無所不包”（《四庫全書總目提要》），旁及天文、地理、道德、政治、文學、藝術等等，內中更蘊含豐富的人生哲理，引導人適應複雜多變的環境。六十四卦藏納着關於宇宙變化的訊息。各卦基本上都先講天地自然現象或規律，然後就與之相應的人事發表體會或議論，表明人處於天地之間，要效法、順應自然，因應自然界變化的規律，認識當前的處境，隨機應變。舉例來說，《易經》第一卦《乾》卦以變化莫測、隱現無常的龍，象徵事物在進取開拓過程中的變化和發展，⁴從“潛龍”到“亢龍”，層層推進，形象地展示了潛伏、顯現、成長、躍動、飛騰到滿盈六個階段的變化。“潛龍勿用”象徵力量薄弱的階段，得耐心積蓄能量，待時而動。“見龍在田”意謂潛藏的龍已經上升，出現在田野，喻指嶄露頭角，必有所為。“或躍在淵”的龍象徵進退有據，躍躍欲試的階段。“飛龍在天”象徵大展鴻圖的極盛時期。“亢龍有悔”意謂龍高飛窮極而終自懊悔，喻指物極必反，盛極而衰。

《乾》卦以龍作為喻象，旨在激勵人們效法“天”或“龍”的剛健精神，不斷努力進取，奮發向上。這也是《乾》卦《大象傳》“天行健，君子以自強不息”的要旨。另一方面，飛騰到極限的龍會後悔，因為盈難以持久，滿則招損。《易經》的中心思想是中和之道，講究陰陽協調、剛柔相濟，多處表達陰陽剛柔之間相互調節或制約至為重要。

《易經》至今仍是令人嘆為觀止的奇書。先哲仰觀天文，俯察地理，探索宇宙人生必變、不變的規律，闡明人生知變應變的法則，傳達陰陽相對相補及“天理即人道”的天人合一思想，為後世學術思想起了導源作用。《易經》誠為我國傳統文化奠基之作。

¹ 西周時期約為公元前11世紀至公元前771年。

² 《論語·述而》。對於這一章的解讀，歷來仁見智，其中一解為“如果天假我年，或五年，或十年，沉潛於《易經》之中，那麼我庶幾可以無大過矣”。

³ 《易經》包括本文與解說兩部分。本文稱作“經”，解說稱作“傳”。“經”由六十四卦與所附解說的“卦辭”、“爻辭”構成。

⁴ “龍”是我國傳說中最受崇敬的神秘動物，能夠三棲，或潛於深淵，或行於陸地，也能騰空而飛。

窮則變，變則通，通則久。

《易經·系辭下》



Mind the Gap

Ledia Lin
Official Languages Officer I
Chief Executive's Office

Mind the generation gap! Of language. Remember the days when we were elementary or intermediate learners of English at school? Probably all Hong Kong students in those days were told that British English was “the” English. Anyone using American spelling or pronunciation was heretic, or worse, a rustic.

But language is so sensitive to changes in culture, politics, economy and technology. British English today is not the same as it was yesterday.

A summer course at the University of Edinburgh has given me much insight into how English is used today, and how people see the so-called New English. Some, especially older Britons, are not terribly happy with the way things are going. Some find it more interesting than annoying. Take our course director for example. He has fun recording how his supposedly well-educated son talks differently from his parent:

Father:	Son:
Thank you.	Cheers.
No, thanks.	It's OK.
I am really upset.	I am absolutely gutted.
I don't want to discuss it.	Whatever.

Celebrities best demonstrate how the young talk today. *Private Eye* parodies the speech of the younger generation in a spoof account of interview with Stella McCartney, chic fashion designer. She spoke of what it was like growing up the daughter of Paul McCartney:

“*Like*, in many ways it was kind of normal. I mean *like* if you're the kid of the local vicar, then you're, *like*, the kid of the local vicar, and people say, *like*, there goes the kid of the local vicar, or whatever, and you're going to be treated *like* the kid of the local vicar... People are *like* always coming up and they're, *like*, how's your dad? So I'm *like*, yeah, how's YOUR dad? I mean, *like*, why are they always *like* coming up and saying, *like* how's your dad? Is it just because I'm the daughter of Paul McCartney?”¹

Like is, *like*, becoming, *like*, the trendiest conversational filler. So much so that a magazine parent forum discusses how to stop youngsters from saying *like* so abusively. One suggestion is saying *like* twice as frequently as they do and they will for sure stop it within one week.

Pronunciation is another bone of contention. People loyal to the Queen's English are complaining because the younger generation prefer “skedule” to “schedule” and “tomayto” to “tomato”. They are also losing to the scandalous Great Stress Shift, which accentuates misCHIEvous, conTROversy, CONtribute, REsource, PROgressing, PROtester, TRANSLator, Unique...

While Americanism takes the biggest share of blame, other forces are blatantly at work. The BBC now prefers their weathermen with local accents. Received Pronunciation sounds pedantic. In vogue is Estuary English, perfected by Victoria Beckham and Jamie Oliver and many others who may say they are just really “ornry peepaw” and don't need that “hassaw from the meedyur”.² Even their Oxford-educated Prime Minister may drop his h's and t's in an attempt to reach out to the masses.

Politicians are not alone in playing on linguistic overt familiarity. The use of surnames was once something old-fashioned and starchy. So instead of *Dear Mr Blair*, banks and hotels now begin their promotional letters with *Hi, Tony*. But first-name intimacy no longer sells so well as it used to. Today the more familiarly a stranger addresses you, the less friendly he or she can seem.³

Plain English definitely sounds friendlier and communicates better. Many have gone further by making all forms of English conversational. Loads of new words and usages are casually created everyday. It is *so not a surprise* to be asked in a highbrow restaurant, “Have you been *menued*?” If you *google* something and get nil result today, don't worry, you will get some tomorrow.

I wonder if orthodox British English is still a preferred choice for schools in Hong Kong. The differences among Englishes resulting from geographical distance are quickly diminishing. It is the speed with which they change that takes our breath away. Shall we catch up or hold back? Anyway, mind the gap.



¹ *Private Eye*, July 2003.

² “... ordinary people ... hassle from the media” *Private Eye*, February 2000.

³ *The Independent*, 28 April 2004.

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.

John F. Kennedy

一字入公文 九牛拔不出

公文寫作研討會主講嘉賓發言摘錄

編按：

二零零四年十月二十七日，公務員事務局法定語文事務部假香港中央圖書館舉行公文寫作研討會。新亞研究所所長陳志誠教授應邀主講《公文的類別及其寫作要點》，闡述公文類別的流變及寫作原則，旁徵博引，深入淺出，同事獲益良多。鑑於當天向隅者眾，現徵得陳教授同意，把講座內容撮述如下，以饗讀者。

公文，就是處理公務時所用的文書。公文須以機關首長的名義發布。“一字入公文，九牛拔不出”，說明公文有一定的權威，往往還有相當的約束力。公文影響深遠，讀者對象廣泛，因此寫作公文必須認真負責。

與一般文章相比，公文的內容比較具體，不能隨意創作，各抒己見。表達手法主要是說明敘事。文章組織應嚴謹，言必有據，實事求是。語言必須莊重、簡煉，盡量平實無誤，合乎規範。事實上，公文寫作絕非易事。古人說：“文章不難於巧而難於拙”、“不難於華而難於質”。公文，就是要寫得“拙”，寫得“質”，這可說是公文獨特之處。



陳教授攝於研討會上

公文可分為專用和通用公文兩大類。專用公文指特定部門或領域應用的文書，如司法部門的起訴書、判決書，或外交領域中所用的國書、照會、條約、護照、備忘錄等。香港在一國兩制下，外交領域的文書都不必使用，只有護照例外。通用公文則指通行於各級機關的公文，如公告、通告、通知、公函等。我們一般所指的公文，就是通用公文。

至於公文寫作的要點，可分為五方面：

一. 體類分明，主題確切 —— 不同的體類，性質不同，寫作的要求也不同。要分清是對外還是對內，上行還是下行，寫給團體還是個人；一篇通告跟一篇公函在本質上自然不同。此外，還得注意主題是否確切清楚，只有充分掌握主題，內容才會明確表達，讓人易於理解。

二. 格式恰當，運用靈活 —— 公文的格式，最重要的是內在結構，例如標題、正文、附注、簽署和成文

日期等。此外，不同類別的公文各有不同的格式。格式的建立，就是為了彼此有共同認可的準則，方便溝通和處理。當然，格式是呆板的，人是靈活的，我們不可墨守成規，還得配合時代精神和實際需要，要既得體又合理。

三. 認清對象，切合身分 —— 公文要確定寫作對象後才可下筆。不同的寫作對象，寫法和用語可以有很大分別，尤其是公函，讀者可以很不相同。例如答覆投訴，得分外小心，假如大打官腔，一定不會產生良好的效果。公文代表一個機關，甚至整個政府，因此在寫作時，得照顧對方的感受，也不可喪失自己的立場，忘記自己的身分。

四. 文辭簡要，用語適切 —— 公文的寫作，既然是為處理實際的公務，語言便得力求簡潔明暢，不應拖泥帶水，架牀疊屋。當然，過分簡化，或亂用縮略語，都不恰當。不是普遍明白的，就不應該運用。否則，別人要費時推敲，反而礙事。此外，用語要得體，不亢不卑，以適切為宜。



五. 設想周到，照應得體 —— 要反覆看看所寫的內有沒有漏洞，不單法律文件如此，就是普通的便箋、錄事也應如是。我們要設想得周到，照應全面。否則，發出的公文會令人無所適從，甚至衍生錯誤，最終招致損失。總而言之，公文寫作絕不可掉以輕心，應該謹慎從事。

陳志誠教授從事語文、文學、文化教育多年，對語言文化，包括應用文寫作，均有深入的研究和獨到的見地。陳教授著作等身，已出版的語文專書包括《語文通論》、《日語讀本》、《應用文基礎》、《現代漢語讀本》、《會議紀錄寫作技巧》、《現代應用文論文選》等等。陳教授教學與著述之餘，更擔任多項公職，包括香港學術評審局評審委員、大學教育資助委員會轄下研究資助局專家評審委員，以及香港公務員考試委員。

山水隨想

公務員事務局
法定語文事務部
高級法定語文主任李淑雯

“青山不改，綠水長流”，見諸章回小說，已成陳腔濫調。青山真能不老，綠水可以長存？或許在古人眼裏，匆匆數十寒暑，所見所感，當真變化不大。他們怎會料到，古樸壯麗的長江三峽上，竟見高聳的堤壩；五嶽的崇山峻嶺中，又見連綿的鐵纜。我們這一代，看到的盡是停不了的變化，青山那有不改，綠水那會長流？

長輩說起兒時往事，不論是在沙田海月下泛舟，荔枝角泳棚會友，還是泗¹渡維港，總淡然流露眷戀之情。追憶往事，不單在思念景致，也在緬懷年青時的浪漫情思。現在，遠眺馬鞍山鱗次櫛比的大廈，倒也教我想起明月映山、月影蕩漾的情景。昔日，只看到“鞍山蒼蒼，吐露洋洋”；今天，對岸人煙稠密，車水馬龍；明天，鐵路通車，更是熙熙攘攘。蜿蜒曲折的海岸湮沒了，潮浪輕拍淺灘、漁舟向晚歸航的景象，自然不再復返。不過十多年的光景，已令人生起白雲蒼狗之感。



滄海桑田的故事，說的不是十年、百年，而是千年、萬年之變。晉代葛洪《神仙傳》記載，仙人麻姑說曾目睹東海三次變為桑田，剛剛到過蓬萊，感覺海水又淺

了一些，看來不久又再變成陸地。變化之巨，凡夫俗子那可體會？南朝任昉《述異記》也有“爛柯”之嘆。晉時王質上山伐木，遇人弈棋，觀棋一日，只以童子相遞之棗充飢，及至童子相告，才驚覺斧柯盡爛。下山回家，更已人面全非。果真是天上方一日，人間已百年。王質這凡人，竟也經歷如此大變。世上萬物，本來就變動不居，歲月流轉，物換星移，自是常理。仙人看來早已洞悉世事萬變，唯有尋求不變的靈氣，早日得道，方可長存。不知何日，世人才會領悟恆常與變幻的道理。

不過，滄海桑田，來而復往，變與不變，彷彿又見規律。記得一首老歌，當中兩句至今難忘：“知否世事常變，變幻原是永恆”。歌詞雖通俗，卻道出了“變幻本恆常”之理。月之圓缺，雲之聚散，曲之起止，人之離合，周而復始，箇中道理，又有幾人領會？人免不了緬懷過去，要接受生滅變異，總有點徬徨不安，依依不捨。情隨事遷，雖屬人之常情，卻又教人不無惋惜。莫非學會境隨心轉，洞悉變幻難免，才是處世良方？只要情懷依舊，山水自是有情，青山真能不老，綠水也可長存。

¹ “泗”粵音“酬”，意指游泳。

學而後知不足

香港警務處
二級法定語文主任黃寶怡

留京學習普通話，一個月轉眼就過去了。回想起來，記憶猶新。¹

初到北京的兩個星期，天氣大都挺悶熱，但我們學習的熱情沒有因桑拿天或秋老虎而稍減。

老師盡心地教，同學用心地學，每天都非常充實。李鋼教授、陳曉鵬教授、柴璠博士和曾志華教授每人教導我們一個星期，主要從語音和表達技巧兩方面提升我們的普通話水平。我們每天學到不少新的知識，興奮之餘，也驚覺普通話世界之大，可鑽研的空間實多。



上課的時候，老師不斷給我們挑毛病。有一段時間，我們說普通話的信心真的大受打擊。“這個是前鼻音，不是後鼻音”；“這個捲過了頭，舌尖後阻音是翹舌，不是捲舌”；“這個偏前了，發了尖音”；“一聲不夠高”；“四聲不夠低”；“舌頭前面使勁”；“說話要流暢，要有交流感”；“一句話要有輕重，不要全都讀得一樣

的”……很努力地改正了，老師又給我們挑別的，真教人氣餒，好像永遠都說不好似的。可是，大家心裏明白，只有短短一個月，老師必須抓緊時間，盡力讓我們了解自己的毛病。這樣，即使一下子改不了，只要知道錯在哪裏，往後也可以自己慢慢再糾正。

有同學說，我們學普通話走了很多冤枉路，積累了不少錯誤而不自知，還習非成是。假如一開始就可以跟傳媒大學的老師學習，現在便不用下那麼大的工夫糾正。我深有同感，因為自己的毛病特別多，所以對我來說，這個課程的成本效益特高！

一個月的課程完了，這可不是結束，而是開始。我們要在新的起點出發，在學習的漫漫長路上努力前行。

¹ 作者在今年夏季到中國傳媒大學修讀為期四星期的香港地區人員普通話培訓課程。



There is nothing permanent except change.

Heraclitus



紅葉之旅

公務員事務局
法定語文事務部
一級法定語文主任譚天恩



一向偏愛紅色。這次到北京師範大學參加培訓課程，適值深秋，正是觀賞紅葉的季節。心想良機勿失，一定要好好欣賞那漫山遍野的火紅。

抵京後，天氣出乎意料地暖和，賞紅葉的計劃只怕要泡湯了。不過，既來之，則安之。北師大京師廣場那數株楊柳綠意盎然，與校園外銀杏怒放的金黃互相映照，倒也賞心悅目。後得接待我們的武海濤老師相告，慕田峪長城那連綿千里的崇山峻嶺間，可找到最美的紅葉。聽罷不禁期待周末到該處一遊。千里而來，那紅葉莫要避而不見！

登長城當日天公造美。大清早起來往窗外望去，晴空萬里，心情倍覺舒暢。終於抵達登山起點，極目遠

眺，山巒起伏，城牆依山而建，儼如巨龍。漫山林木沾上秋霜，惟樹葉尚未紅到巔峯，只見一片片深深淺淺的紅混在鮮黃剩綠之間，色彩瑰麗多變，美得令人目眩。隨武老師徒步登山，山路陡峭，石階不平。雖然舉步為艱，但終於也登上了長城。

身處城垣，居高臨下，吸一口清冷的空氣，頓感豁然開朗。放眼望去，紅葉片片，盡收眼底。這時，武老師叫喚我們往他身後看去。我俯身望向牆外，只見一片火紅樹影，原來最美的紅葉就在眼前。紅中帶紫的色調，在豔陽映襯下閃閃生輝，分外燦爛奪目。回頭一看，綿延不盡的城牆，無視山勢崎嶇險阻，迎風而立，氣勢不凡。然而，手觸冰冷沉重的巨石，想到古人破山築城，以血汗換來歷史的遺痕，心中不無感慨。回程乘坐吊車而下，慕田峪羣山依舊，惟再看已添蒼涼。

初次訪京，長城、金秋和紅葉固然難忘，能夠全情投入認識當地的文化，體會人情物事，同樣叫人回味不已。



明者因時而變，知者隨世而制。

桓寬《鹽鐵論·憂邊》

萬變不離其宗

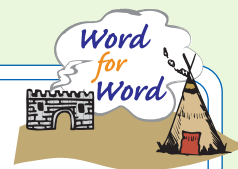


本欄近期曾介紹一些常見的錯別字，以及容易令人混淆的字詞，讓大家加以辨識，以便在撰寫公文時提高警覺，知所取捨。這一期繼續介紹六組容易混淆的字詞。請看以下一段文字，哪些字詞的用法欠妥？

一年將盡，新年將至，市面特別興旺。為刺激消費，香港各大商場都會大事裝飾，務求予人煥然一新的感覺，吸引顧客紛至沓來。大小食肆也會推出形形色色的節日套餐，迎合前來歡度佳節的食客。食肆老闆和廚師都要挖空心思設計新穎的菜肴，以加強競爭能力。久而久之，他們或會計窮力竭，視構思菜單為棘手的工作。因此，顧客不難發現，某些食肆的聖誕節套餐，菜式竟與中秋節套餐如出一轍，只是菜肴名稱略有不同。“萬變不離其宗”這句話，果然沒錯。

“刺激”應為“剌激”，“剌激”在這裏是指推動事物，使正面的變化。“煥然一新”應為“煥然一新”，“煥然一新”形容呈現嶄新面貌，發出光彩，用以形容疑慮消除或病痛痊癒，“煥然”則解作光彩、明亮。“紛至沓來”應為“紛至沓來”，“紛至沓來”（疊）形容（事）接踵而至，發出光彩，用以形容疑慮消除或病痛痊癒，“煥然”則解作光彩、明亮。“形形色色”意指各式各樣，種類繁多。“兢兢”應為“兢兢”，“兢兢”指小心謹慎，互相關注或互相聯繫。重疊或重疊。

English Vocabulary: A Constant Variable



Time changes all things: there is no reason why language should escape this universal law.

Ferdinand de Saussure, linguist (1857-1913)

Languages are in a state of constant change. English is a good example. The Old English of *Beowulf* (about 1000), or the Middle English of *The Canterbury Tales* (about 1388) looks completely foreign to modern English speakers. While “Whither goest thou?” or “I’m three score years and ten” would sound archaic today, people having difficulty understanding Shakespeare (1564 - 1611) would be surprised to learn that he wrote in (Early) Modern English.¹

Indeed English is a most creative and changeable language, and the emergence of new words is one of the most palpable changes in it. The main sources of new words include loan words from other languages, semantic change of existing words and word-building with Latin, Greek or English roots.

The English language is no stranger to borrowing from foreign tongues, notably French and Italian. Loan words usually refer to foreign things that become popular in Britain or the United States. Would you like to try picking some of the loan words from the following passage?

Before I went to the cinema, I ate a pizza in the restaurant in the food forum. The decor is pleasant and you can have a buffet there at the weekend. The entrées and main courses from the à la carte menu are also very good so it’s a great place for a rendezvous with your friends. But beware, if you are a gourmet, you will certainly need a siesta afterwards!²

Many of these loan words are about food and eating. When it comes to food words, Chinese has much to offer, to name a few: *soy*, *dim sum*, *ketchup*, and, of course, *chop suey* and *tofu*. Loan words from other cultural aspects include *feng shui*, *kung fu*, *tai chi* and *tai pan*.

With the Internet spreading English far and wide, new words are added to the language every year. How are these words invented? Susie Dent, a language expert, has the answer: “The extraordinary thing about new words is that probably only about one percent of them are new.³ Most are old words revived and adapted”. Semantic change of an old word, namely specialisation, generalisation and metaphorical change of a word, is a common way of coining new words. For example, *liquor* originally meant any liquid. Over time

it narrowed in scope to mean strong alcoholic drink. *Grasp* originally referring to holding something in the hand came to mean comprehend. *A bureau* was once a woollen covering used to cover a desk. It eventually came to mean the desk itself and then the office that used the desks.

Apart from semantic change of an old word, word-building by affixation (e.g. *debug* and *ageist*), abbreviation (e.g. *British Broadcasting Corporation* yields *BBC*) and blending (e.g. *brunch* (breakfast + lunch) and *infotainment* (information + entertainment)) is a major source of new words. Some new words such as *body count* and *joyriding* are formed to describe new events while others such as *chairperson* and *follically challenged* are created to suit the current mood of political correctness. In addition, technological development, scientific discovery, the worlds of computing and communications, as well as environmental concerns also contribute constantly to the English word bank.

Affixation is the most common type of new word formation. It is the formation of words by adding prefixes and suffixes to a root, or to existing words, to give a new meaning. Examples of prefixation include *cybercrime* (the prefix *cyber* + *crime*) meaning criminal activities carried out on computers or the Internet, and *astrobiology* (the prefix *astro* (referring to stars and to outer space) + *biology*) meaning the branch of biology concerned with the discovery or study of life on other planets. Examples of suffixation include *satphone* (*sat* (derived from *satellite*) + the suffix *phone*) meaning a telephone that transmits its signal via a geostationary communications satellite, and *dot-commer* (*dot-com* + the suffix *er*) meaning one who works, especially in a professional or managerial capacity, for an Internet business.

English has been the fastest-moving language for 100 years. The world is changing all the time, and so is the English language. New words are always invented to meet temporary needs and many of them disappear soon after they are coined. Those that have managed to achieve permanence in a dictionary must be the ones that came into popular use or have enjoyed a vogue for a given period. While *celeb* (1913), *ceasefire* (1918), *pop culture* (1921), *megabucks* (1946) and *Internet* (1992) are still very much alive today, the bulk of coined words have sunk into oblivion. Nevertheless, each new word, however short its life may be, tells a story about its environment and says something about the concerns and trends of its time.

¹ Modern English can be dated back to 1500, when the English language was transitioning from Middle English to Modern English. The principal distinction between Early- and Late-Modern English lies in vocabulary. Pronunciation, grammar and spelling are largely the same, but Late-Modern English has many more words.

² Loan words from
Italian: pizza
Spanish: siesta
French: decor, buffet, entrées, à la carte menu, rendezvous, gourmet

³ The word *Okay*, for example, did not exist before the 20th century and now has global usage in many languages.



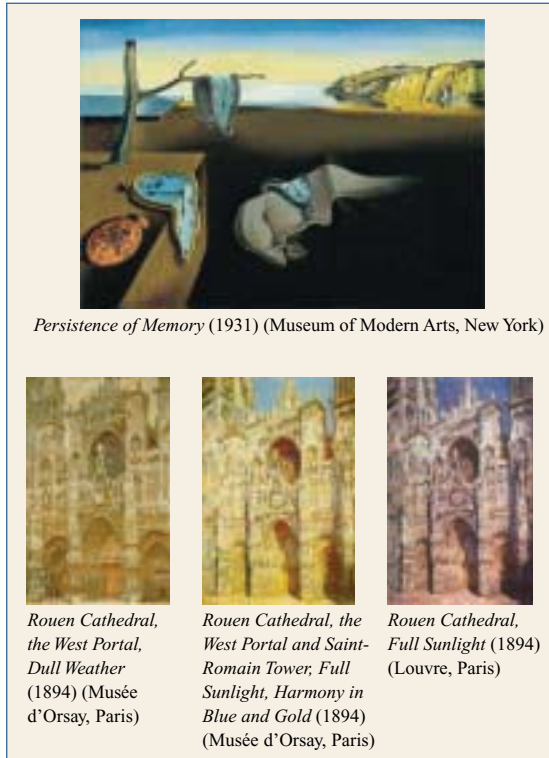
時間也許是與我們關係最密切，但又是最難以捕捉的東西。時間本身無形無色，卻在萬事萬物中留下走過的痕迹。古往今來，時間一直是文人、學者、藝術家努力思考的課題。

時間既然沒有實質的形體，畫家要在畫布上表達時間，就得借助人們對時間的看法和感受。在傳統觀念裏，有人視時間為一條前進的直線，由開始走到終結，逝去的歲月永不回頭；也有人因季節、日月、生老病死的更替，把時間看作不斷的循環。季節是不少畫家藉以表現時間的題材。這些畫作多以四張組成一個系列，有時更會把春夏秋冬與畫中人物配合（例如描繪冬天的畫，主角是個老人），把四季與人生階段結合，成為時光流轉的隱喻。

古典西洋繪畫也曾採用擬人法來表現時間。時間多是一位蓄着長長的白鬍子、背後長有翅膀的老人，手裏拿着沙漏或大鐮刀，象徵死亡和時間的流逝。倫敦國家畫廊 (The National Gallery) 藏有一幅意大利畫家巴托尼 (Pompeo Batoni, 1707-1787) 的畫作，名為 *Time Orders Old Age to Destroy Beauty*。畫中的時間老人指着一位嬌美的少女，身旁老婦伸手往少女臉上抓去，寓意隨着時間過去，青春美貌會因年老而消逝。¹ 巴托尼藉着擬人手法，讓時間、青春和衰老這些抽象概念呈現在畫布上。除了時間老人外，時鐘、空置的燭台、燒盡的蠟燭、骷髏頭骨，都是象徵時光流動和借喻世事短暫的繪畫元素，在靜物畫中最常採用。

即使不談寓意，時間本身對大自然和天然光線的影響，也為畫家提供無盡的創作靈感。有些畫家會藉着描繪風景，間接記錄時間如何改變世界的面貌。法國印象派大師莫奈 (Claude Monet, 1840-1926) 曾就不同的題材，包括稻草堆、河畔的白楊樹、盧昂教堂 (Rouen Cathedral)、倫敦國會大樓等，繪畫了不同系列的畫作，表現出不同季節或一天裏不同時段，這些草木、建築物外觀的變化。從莫奈這幾個系列的作品中，我們看到了事物的顏色、光暗，以至人們的感覺、印象，怎樣隨着時間推移產生微妙多樣的變化。

文明和技術的進步、生活節奏的改變，令現代人對時間有了嶄新、多角度的體會。現代畫家有時會跳出敘事和寫實的範圍，對時間作出不同的詮釋。比利時超現實主義畫家馬格列特 (René Magritte, 1898-1967) 一幅題名 *Time Transfixed*



Persistence of Memory (1931) (Museum of Modern Arts, New York)

Rouen Cathedral, the West Portal, Dull Weather (1894) (Musée d'Orsay, Paris)

Rouen Cathedral, the West Portal and Saint-Romain Tower, Full Sunlight, Harmony in Blue and Gold (1894) (Musée d'Orsay, Paris)

Rouen Cathedral, Full Sunlight (1894) (Louvre, Paris)

的畫作，描繪一列開動的火車從壁爐穿出，衝破畫面上凝住的時間，就像發出挑戰，促使觀畫者思索時間、空間的本質和秩序。² 同屬超現實主義畫派的達利 (Salvador Dalí, 1904-1989)，在其名作 *Persistence of Memory* 中，把象徵時間的金屬時鐘繪畫成軟綿無力，甚至遭到代表腐壞的蟻羣襲擊，令人重新思考時間和記憶的關係，還有時間的意義和永恆。

¹ 可登入倫敦國家畫廊網站 <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk> 瀏覽。

² 可登入芝加哥藝術學院 (The Art Institute of Chicago) 網站 <http://www.artic.edu> 瀏覽。

驛站

《政府公文寫作手冊》第二版

為協助公務員同事在公事上使用中文，公務員事務局法定語文事務部在一九九七年出版了一套六冊的《政府公文寫作手冊》。《手冊》詳列各類常見公文的格式、體例和辭彙，並廣舉示例，匯集參考資料，讓公務員同事撰寫公文有所依循。

《政府公文寫作手冊》出版至今已有七年。其間，政府某些部門業已改組，個別職銜和職系名稱也有更改，加上政府愈來愈多在網上發布公文，因此，《政府公文寫作手冊》所載準則、辭彙及附錄資料必須修訂。《政府公文寫作手冊》第二版現已出版，全套共七冊。初版已

有的《總論》、《公函》、《便箋》、《錄事》、《會議文書》、《通告類文書》分冊，除政府部門、職系的名稱與政府機關首長職銜等資料的修訂外，更增收了不少公文實例。同時，我們增編了《酬酢文書》一冊，以切合實際需要。

《政府公文寫作手冊》第二版現已上載法定語文事務部內聯網，供所有公務員同事使用。同事可到法定語文事務部內聯網，以“非註冊用戶”登入，然後到資料庫內刊物一欄瀏覽，也可按以下連結下載：

http://ola.ccgo.hksarg/ola/ChiAbridge/ola_publication.htm



Are you up with the trend? Do you know what the following new words mean? If yes, do have a go at our quiz and circle your choices.

- What is a "gangmaster"?
A: An Internet game
B: A person who organises and oversees the work of casual manual labourers
C: A leader of a group of criminals
- What does a "wordrobe" mean?
A: A person's vocabulary
B: A kind of software for word-building
C: A person who is interested in collecting difficult words
- What is a "blue on blue" incident?
A: An abortive gambling raid
B: An insider dealing involving a blue-chip corporation
C: An attack made by one's own side that accidentally harms one's own forces
- What does "latte factor" mean?
A: Unconscious day-to-day frivolous spending
B: One's daily consumption of coffee
C: A reason for keeping a diet
- What do you eat when you have a "potsticker"?
A: A Chinese wonton dumpling
B: An Italian pizza
C: A Japanese pancake made of batter and peach
- What is a "larp"?
A: A form of role-playing game
B: A radio talk show
C: A street performer
- What is a "crittercam"?
A: A place for keeping livestock
B: A closed-circuit television installed in a zoo
C: A camera attached to a wild animal
- What does a "furkid" mean?
A: An ill-tempered child
B: A pet treated as though it were one's child
C: An insect
- What is a "spork"?
A: A computer virus
B: Unsolicited e-mail of a commercial nature
C: A utensil with both bowl and tines
- What is the meaning of "handbags"?
A: Protective gloves for women
B: A confrontation that does not lead to serious fighting, especially among soccer players
C: An armchair specially designed for working women
- What does "marketspace" mean?
A: Commerce carried out by electronic means, especially via the Internet
B: Space in a market
C: Room for new products in a particular market
- What does "m-commerce" mean?
A: Commerce involving cash
B: Commercial transactions conducted electronically by mobile phone
C: Marketing strategy
- What is "retail therapy"?
A: Medical treatment for kleptomania
B: Going shopping to make one happy
C: Therapeutic treatment provided by individual practitioners
- What are "batchmates"?
A: Goods of the same batch
B: Classmates
C: Soldiers of the same regiment
- What is a "mystery shopper"?
A: A person employed to visit a shop incognito in order to assess the quality of the services
B: A plain-clothes policeman who is tasked to investigate shoplifting cases
C: A client of a fortune-teller

To participate, please fill in the information below and send it, with the circled answers, to the Word Power Editorial Board, Official Languages Division, Civil Service Bureau, Room 2315, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong before 21 February 2005.

Answers and names of the winners will be published in the next issue of *Word Power*. Five prizes will be awarded. Lots will be drawn if necessary.

Name : _____
 Department : _____
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第十七期《牛刀小試》答案：

- | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|
| 1. 軟體 | 6. 玩家 | 11. 酷 |
| 2. 巨火 | 7. 規則 | 12. 大腕兒 |
| 3. 玩意兒 | 8. 多媒體 | 13. 電玩 |
| 4. 建構 | 9. 熱賣 | 14. 鏗鏘 |
| 5. 互聯網 | 10. 風靡 | 15. 拼搏 |

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Tse Kar Lung	Social Welfare Department
Lai Kit Yi	Social Welfare Department
楊雅燕	社會福利署
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