



Blow One's Own Trumpet

Jessie is always blowing her own trumpet. Is she really as good as she says she is?

Tom likes to blow his own trumpet about what he accomplished during the war years.

Have you ever come across someone who is “good at trumpet-blowing”, someone who keeps boasting about himself? If you want to show your disapproval of such behaviour, asking the braggart not to blow his own trumpet will strike the right note.

Blow one's own trumpet means praising oneself in an immodest way. This common expression is derived from such sources as history, religion and old customs. With its rich, pure and penetrating sound, the trumpet has been used from ancient times to send signals (especially military ones), express celebration or draw attention to something important. In the Christian tradition, the sound of trumpet proclaims war, the arrival of angels, and the end of the world. In the past, a herald sounded the trumpet whenever a new knight appeared at a tournament. The arrival of important people in a place was announced by a fanfare of trumpets. This practice is still very much alive in many countries today.

A person who blows his own trumpet wants other people to recognise how good and successful he is. However, too much boasting may serve no purpose other than turning people away. It is better to let someone else blow the trumpet for you, like the knights at the tournament, who let the herald announce them rather than announcing themselves.

Blow one's own trumpet is mainly used in British English. A similar expression in American English is *blow/toot one's own horn*.

自吹自擂

貝克漢姆“自吹自擂”看好英格蘭隊歐洲錦標賽前景

網上體育新聞標題

有關音樂的成語，例如“繞樑三日”、“珠落玉盤”、“出谷黃鶯”等，多含褒義，表達聽者讚賞之情。帶貶義的音樂成語相對較少，“自吹自擂”是少數例子之一。這個耳熟能詳的成語，跟英諺“blow one's own trumpet”意思相近，同樣借助樂器來形容某人自我吹噓，炫耀個人成就。

“自吹自擂”的“吹”是指吹奏喇叭。喇叭屬於管樂器，聲音洪亮。喇叭響起，馬上引人注目。“擂”指打鼓。鼓的聲音有如雷動，扣人心弦，與喇叭聲有異曲同工之妙。“自吹自擂”意指自己吹奏喇叭，自己打鼓，比喻自吹自捧，確實貼切不過。



“自吹自擂”語帶貶義，與中國傳統價值觀不無關係。《尚書》明言：“滿招損，謙受益”。謙虛向來視為我國傳統美德，是故每當得到人家稱讚，自然反應是連忙說聲：“過獎過獎”或“哪裏哪裏”，以表謙遜。

俗語有云：“有麝自然香，不必迎風揚”。不過，在今天講求表現自我、重視宣傳效應的時代，“自吹自擂”有時可能出於實際需要。英格蘭國家足球隊隊長揚言有信心奪標，不一定是狂妄自負的表現，而是預先給隊員打氣，以壯聲威。

自吹自擂講究技巧，還要適當有度，過分吹噓只會使人感到華而不實，效果適得其反。

Music is the universal language of mankind.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



第十九期《牛刀小試》 遊戲答案

註：

橫四 不渡或不度皆可
橫十七 山查或山渣皆可

直2 蘇堤或蘇隄皆可
直5 遊衍或遊衍皆可
直8 塞北或塞外皆可

得獎名單：

姓名	所屬部門
李念桃	民政事務局
方玉嬋	勞工處
孫展鵬	土木工程拓展署
陳美珠	勞工處
黃慧敏	公務員事務局

各得獎者將獲專函通知領獎。

