



趣聯拈成

諧音藏字

對聯的撰寫，講究字和音的運用。善用疊字、同音、異讀、諧音等調諧技巧，簡單的文字，也可別出機杼，寫出切情、應景、適時的上佳對聯。

北宋大臣呂蒙正少時清貧，生活困苦。一年除夕，他家中連可吃的都沒有，遑論過年穿的新衣。佳節當前，眼前卻是家徒四壁，淒涼無限。蒙正在飢寒交迫之中，以數

字組成一副對聯貼在大門上：

二三四五
六七八九

還加上與眾不同的二字橫批：

南北

這算是什麼對聯？原來，這把諧音法和藏字法結合運用，憑聯寄意。上聯“二三四五”，獨欠“一”，是缺“衣”（漢語“衣”與“一”同音）的諧意；下聯“六七八九”，缺了“十”，是少“食”（“食”與“十”同音）的諧意。題額更說得明白不過，有“南北”而缺“東”“西”，指家中什麼東西也沒有。這聯額的

寓意分明是說衣食缺少、東西全無。寥寥十字，道盡天下貧者的辛酸。

對聯不一定要咬文嚼字，語出經典，上面說的春聯正是一例。數字一堆，組成聯語，字行間卻能窮情體物，宣洩心底鬱結。足見對聯的真本色，不一定是文字精巧、聲調鏗鏘。當然，公事上撰寫對聯或題辭，旨在酬酢應對，詞意理應典雅大方，內容務須莊重得體，下筆就不得不講究一點了。

WORD FOR WORD



Newcomers to the English Language

English, like all other languages, never stands still. Instead, it is dynamic and ever-growing. New words, new phrases and new usages that we can't find in our dictionaries constantly crop up in everyday publications.

Among such “newcomers” are fashionable expressions describing various aspects of life in the English-speaking communities and reflecting people's changing values or attitudes. Meanwhile, some are coined merely to serve as eye-catchers or buzzwords, but still, they help add to the liveliness of the language. On the other hand, some obscure or outdated words have rejuvenated and re-established themselves as modern writers' favourites. As a new word can quickly find its way into the English vocabulary, let us make their acquaintance early.

eyeballs	visitors to a web site
mindset	an attitude of mind, usually inflexible and hard to change
synergy	additional energy produced by two people combining their ideas
dotcom	company that do business on the Internet
portal	gateway to the Internet, which may be a directory web or a search engine
paradigm	typical example of something
cyberchat	discussion on the Internet
one-stop shopping	shopping for all one's need at one single mall or supermarket
(to have) deep pockets	to have huge capital to be able to keep an unprofitable business going
freefall	sudden and uncontrolled drop in the value of something
brickbats	fragments of a hard material, often used to refer to criticisms
Netiquette	code of behaviour for Internet users
trailblazer	pioneer in an enterprise
pre-loved	euphemism for secondhand
(to) marginalise	to push someone or something to an unimportant position
politically correct	acceptable to active critics of inequalities in society
backlash	strong reaction against recent policies or social developments
burnout	physical or mental exhaustion due to overwork resulting in loss of creativity or productivity
(to) outsource	to pay other workers or companies to do jobs formerly done inside an organization
helpline	telephone service which provides information or assistance to callers