

When Science Meets Food

Inside a posh restaurant, the diners look at each other with their eyes wide open after savouring a spoonful of translucent, pearl-like roe, as a refreshing water melon flavour, instead of the expected fishy taste, explodes on their tongues. Their next dish is hard boiled “egg yolk”. But don’t be deceived by its appearance and name. A far cry from egg yolk, it is made of mango. Surprises come one after another. The excited diners cannot help but say “wow” when the shockingly delicious “pasta” which is made of vegetable juice and gelatine melts slowly in their mouths. This new style of cuisine, known as molecular gastronomy, challenges our food and science knowledge as a cook, and our physical senses and mental perceptions as a consumer.



Avant-garde cuisine may not appeal to everyone. But breakthroughs in food science have certainly created a world of possibilities for cooking. Do you know what “thermotherapy” is? No? Never mind. You must know what strawberries are. In summer, as we walk through the market, we are always tempted to buy a box of big, bright red strawberries. However, when you want to take them out to make a strawberry cake the next day, you always find the red berries in the fridge have gone mouldy. No sweat. Here is the sage advice from food experts to prevent the formation of mould in berries: put a batch of strawberries in a bowl of water of about 60 degrees Celsius for 75 seconds, and the berries will still be in perfect condition even after seven days. Isn’t it amazing? Food scientists may shrug their shoulders and say, “It’s just a thing that happens when science meets food.”

Temperature and duration of cooking are two key factors that determine the taste and tenderness of food. Even people with unimpressive cooking credentials know that the longer meat is cooked, the more liquid it loses and the tougher it becomes. With vacuum cooking, we may have to abandon this long-held belief. If you are a regular watcher of cooking shows, you must have heard the term *sous vide*, which is a method of cooking food in a water bath at a low temperature in airtight containers for longer than normal cooking time. What makes *sous vide* so special? Meat or seafood cooked with this method is much more succulent than that prepared with conventional techniques, the outside perfectly done while still keeping

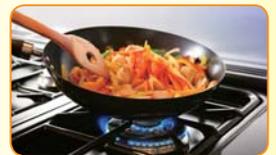
the inside juicy and tender. *Sous vide* has been spreading steadily around the world in professional kitchens and is making its way to home kitchens.

Who takes the credit for these culinary feats? Food scientists? Chefs? Yes, they both do. However, inventors’ contribution to cooking should not be undervalued. Many tasty dishes we enjoy today could not have been made without their brilliant ideas which have hugely affected our lives. Not many of us know who invented the refrigerator, coffee maker or rice cooker, but we all know how handy they are. It is hard to imagine our lives without them — having no refreshing ice cream, jelly, soda pop on a sweltering day; getting up early on a freezing cold morning to make coffee over the stove, or checking every five minutes to see if the rice is properly cooked, to name only a few.

Technology has not only changed the way we cook, but also the way we learn to cook. In our grandparents’ generation, people used to learn cooking from their mothers, and family recipes were treated like heirlooms. However, with the Internet, foodies in different parts of the world are connected. In online cooking forums, they ask questions, give answers and swap recipes. Do you know how to keep you tear-free when chopping an onion? Use a sharp knife and put the onion in the freezer for ten to fifteen minutes before cutting it, the experts say. If words and pictures cannot satisfy you, visit a cooking video site, and there you will see cooks teach you how to treat bacon, bone fish, and truss a chicken. Cooking tips are no longer secrets. They are something to be shared.



From the accidental discovery of fire to the emergence of molecular gastronomy, big strides have been made in cooking. Now cooking is not simply finding a recipe, going grocery shopping, whipping out pots and pans, and turning on the stove top. It is a combination of culinary art and science. With accumulated knowledge and experience, we seek out newer ways to cook and create tastier dishes. Author Laurie Colwin has once said: “No one who cooks, cooks alone. Even at her most solitary, a cook in the kitchen is surrounded by generations of cooks past, the advice and menus of cooks present, and the wisdom of cookbook writers.”





仁心仁術



傳說遠古時代，有一位老者整天在深山漫行，手拿赤色鞭子，背負竹筐，走到茂密的樹林，使用鞭子使勁鞭打草木，然後把草木流出的汁液放入口中嘗嘗，如感到腹痛，便立即從身上取出草藥解毒。這位老者不辭勞苦，上山採藥，為的是要治好得了疫症的老百姓，他就是《淮南子·修務訓》所述“嘗百草之滋味”、“一日而遇七十毒”的神農氏。

神農氏嘗百草的故事說明古代人民已懂得用草藥治病。後世仿效這位藥王研究不同草藥的特性，到了明代出現另一位藥王，他就是李時珍。李氏自小對醫學興趣濃厚，在行醫濟世期間，發現古代的本草書籍“品數既煩，名稱多雜”，許多毒性藥品，竟被誤作可以延年益壽，遺禍無窮，遂立志撰寫有關藥物的書籍。

李時珍攀山涉水，走入深山野地，研究各種草藥，為了解藥物療效，還常常自身試藥。他遍訪名醫，到處搜集老百姓的治病驗方。他登上武當山，研究榔梅樹的果實是否真為靈丹妙藥，後來證實這種傳聞中的仙果只是普通的梅子；他親嘗以曼陀羅花籽浸的酒，發現原來確有麻醉功效；他又拜獵人為師，得

知虎骨強身健骨的療效。李時珍總結經驗，把所見所聞編纂成《本草綱目》，為本草學日後發展奠下基礎。

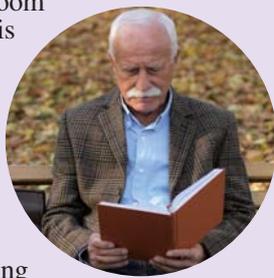
在中醫藥發展史上，名醫輩出，遠在李時珍之前便有華佗。東漢末年，仁術超羣的華佗到處行醫，治癒癩病。據說，某日有病人腹部疼痛，向華佗求診。病人面色蒼白，華佗給他把脈後，再按其肚子，診定他得了腸癰。華佗立即替病人動手術，先給他用酒送服“麻沸散”，令他失去知覺，然後用經消毒的刀子把他的腹部剖開，割去闌尾，開全身麻醉手術之先河。手術一個月後，病人果然完全康復，可以下田勞動，可見華佗醫術高超，堪稱外科鼻祖。

中醫學以陰陽五行為理論基礎，通過望、聞、問、切四診合參的方法，分析人體五臟六腑、經絡關節，然後對症下藥，使人體達到陰陽調和。華佗和李時珍都是中國古代名醫，醉心鑽研醫術，以其妙手銀針救活病黎，造福人羣，光耀杏林。



The First Grader

Dressed in an adult-sized school uniform with big baggy shorts, an 84-year-old man was sitting alongside a group of six-year-old children in a small classroom on a remote mountain in Kenya. His name was Maruge, the oldest primary school pupil in the world.



Upon hearing from a radio broadcast that everyone could go to primary school for free, Maruge wanted to regain the opportunity of education so long denied. Arriving at the school, with a newspaper clipping about this change in policy, he met Jane, the school headmistress, and told her of his wish to learn. Moved by Maruge's determination to learn, Jane admitted him to the school and began to teach him how to write the alphabet.

However, Maruge's presence was not welcomed in a community where hundreds of children were jostling for a chance of free education. As word got out about Maruge, opposition to his presence grew, with parents coming to the school and accusing Jane of seeking attention and fame. Maruge was then made to attend an adult education centre where he found himself surrounded by people with no ambitions to learn. He returned to see Jane, telling her he must learn to read because he wanted to understand an

important letter he had received. To keep her oldest pupil in school, Jane asked Maruge to act as her teaching assistant.

As the story broke, journalists from all over the world descended on the school to learn more about this newsworthy first grader. "Why are you so desperate to learn at such an old age?" asked the curious reporters. "The power is in the pen," replied Maruge. School and government officials were happy about the publicity, but they kept on trying to kick Maruge out of the school, and finally had Jane transferred to a school in Nairobi.

Aggrieved by the injustice done to him and Jane, Maruge travelled a long way to Nairobi, where he confronted the members of the Ministry of Education, showing them the scars he had sustained as a young man when fighting for his country. Maruge left the Ministry with a triumphant smile. Jane returned to the school, where Maruge gave her a warm welcome. He wanted her to read to him his letter, which said that he would be compensated for his time in the prison camps. As the story drew to a close, a radio disc jockey announced that Maruge, the oldest first grader in the Guinness Book of World Records, would speak at the United Nations.

This was the plot of a film and also the true story of an old man whose struggle was an important testament to the power of education to transform lives and even nations.

Knowledge has to be improved, challenged, and increased constantly, or it vanishes.

Peter Drucker



萬世師表

A Great Teacher

子曰：“知之者不如好之者，好之者不如樂之者。”孔子好學不倦，視讀書為樂事，堅信人要自強不息，終身學習，才會進步。在三千弟子中，他對勤學好問的顏回最為讚賞。一天，顏回向孔子請教何謂“仁”，孔子回答說：“克己復禮，天下歸仁焉。”如果人人克制一己之欲，恪守禮法，天下的百姓便會歸向仁愛。這個崇高教育理念是孔子一生追求的目標。

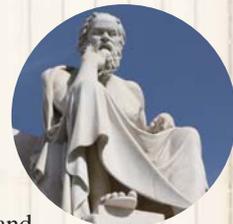
孔子桃李滿門，有教無類，求學者不論貧富、資質、年齡，只要一心向學，他都會傾囊相授。他的弟子有來自貴族，也有出身寒微，精通禮、樂、射、御、書、數六藝者有七十二人。他們文武合一，術德兼修，在當時政治、社會上佔重要地位。



每個人的學習能力不同，孔子深明此理，因材施教。《論語·先進》講述冉有和子路的故事。冉有做事畏首畏尾，孔子教他要積極進取；而子路做事決斷大膽，敢作敢為，孔子怕他惹禍，就教他凡事都要請示父兄後才去做。對於相同的問題，孔子也會針對弟子的不同性格給予適切的訓誨。

孔子教導學生的道理，用之於身則身修，用之於家則家齊，用之於國則國治，不愧為“大成至聖先師”。

Over two thousand and four hundred years ago, Socrates wandered the streets of Athens in a shabby robe, discussing excitedly with young men, asking them one question after another. Intellectual giants of the time, such as Plato and Xenophon, were drawn by his charisma into fascinating arguments.



To Socrates, knowledge is the highest virtue and vice is ignorance. Without proper knowledge right action is impossible; with proper knowledge right action is inevitable. However, he did not treat his students as empty vessels to be filled with knowledge of facts and theories. Rather, he embarked on a voyage of discovery with them. He provoked them to think creatively, and helped them find out the truth for themselves.

Socrates did not only preach. He lived by his ethics. He dressed himself in simple clothing and refused to take remuneration for his service for the public. In the Battle of Potidaea, he demonstrated exemplary courage and saved the life of his friend Alcibiades. And he encouraged the generals to give the prize of valour to Alcibiades rather than himself. Socrates was not the candle-bearer; he was the candle itself, which lit the path for his students. He did not command; he persuaded. He did not inculcate discipline from above; he inculcated discipline from within.

A great teacher of all time, Socrates stretched the imagination of his students to the limits of their intellectual capacity and shared with them an exhilarating sense of discovery.

海以合流為大，君子以博識為弘。

陳壽《三國志》



Is There Life on Mars?



We all have dreams. The Wright brothers had a lofty one as they wanted to fly like birds. The success of their first manned flight changed the whole world, making it possible for us to get anywhere easily. But this can hardly satisfy our insatiable desire to explore. We want to fly far beyond the azure sky to see what is out there in the mysterious universe.

The history of human fascination with the cosmos is rich, as seen in myriad works of science fiction. More than a century ago, astronomer Percival Lowell started to write about Mars. In his *Mars and Its Canals* and *Mars As the Abode of Life*, he maintains that on the planet there are some surface markings which he calls “canals”. He goes further to suggest that Mars has once been covered by lush greenery, and is home to an advanced civilisation which has built the canals to tap ice caps for irrigation. However, the existence of canal-like features was disproved later, and the surface markings turned out to be an optical illusion.

The Red Planet has also beguiled other authors. In his Martian trilogy, namely *Red Mars*, *Green Mars* and *Blue Mars*, Kim Stanley Robinson depicts the colonisation of the planet by people from Earth beginning in 2026. Unlike Lowell, he assumes that Mars is only a dead rock, ruling out

the possibility of indigenous Martian microbes. In his chronicle of the settlement and terraforming of Mars, he recounts how men use their intelligence to conquer the barren planet with advanced technology.



Robinson’s assumption that Mars is a lifeless planet runs contrary to what scientists have long believed. In our eyes, the Red Planet, warm and wet in its early years, could have been hospitable to life. However, our imagination has been crushed after NASA reported recently that its Mars rover,

Curiosity, has found no traits of methane, a gas that is considered a possible calling card of microbes.

While the absence of methane has diminished the possibility of life thriving on Mars, some optimistic scientists are still convinced that Martian life is waiting to be discovered in underground aquifers. These days there are quixotic plans to send humans to Mars in roughly Robinson’s time frame. Although it has yet to be proven whether the existing technology is able to achieve the goal, hundreds of thousands of people have applied for a one-way trip, which theoretically would come about in 2023. As exciting as it is to see the beautiful pictures of the Martian landscape sent back by Curiosity, it is the tantalising prospect of creatures living on a neighbouring planet that intrigues us the most.



陽光穿過樹縫，灑在學校操場的泥地上，形成斑駁的樹影。林法官坐在樹下的破舊石椅上，用雪白的手帕擦拭額上的汗珠。微風過處，樹葉沙沙作響。她抬頭仰望，赫然發覺這棵兒時曾陪伴她多年的大樹變小了。三十多年前，當她走過這裏，總覺得大樹比天還要高，永遠爬不到樹頂去。

林法官撫摸着石椅，想起當年她很喜歡坐在這裏看少女漫畫，看到有趣的情節便大笑起來。有一次，當她看漫畫看得入神，給中文老師抓個正着。

“林同學，你的中文成績那麼差，還有時間看漫畫嗎？你的作文通篇白字，文理不通。把這本書看完，然後給我報告。”老師輕輕的在她頭頂拍了一下，然後把書塞進她的手裏。



對於老師給的苦差，林法官本想不予理會，可是又怕受罰，最後還是乖乖的把書拿出來看。那年她唸四年級，書中的主人翁也是一個四年級的

學生，所以她看得特別投入。最初她對書中男孩用功讀書的態度不以為然，心想只有書呆子才會這樣做，但看下去便慢慢走進男孩的世界，好像與他一起學習，一起遊玩一樣。最後，男孩要轉到另一所小學，在學期結束那天，同學們都來跟他告別，男孩感動得淚盈於睫，當她唸到這裏，彷彿自己也要跟他分開，忍不住流下淚來。

看完這個故事，兒時的林法官模仿書中的主角寫日記，把生活的點滴記下。她不再害怕中文老師，還常常向他借書來看。《西遊記》、《水滸傳》、《紅樓夢》這些名著，她在小學畢業時都看完了。為了顯示自己“才高八斗”，她作文時還常常用一些文藝腔的字句，老師提點她不可亂用，但稱讚她“孺子可教”。從此之後，她更愛閱讀了。

林法官看看手錶，時間尚早，便在校園四周逛逛。她走進一個空課室，看到黑板上寫了“Dictation”一字，便想起唸小二的時候英文默書拿零分的事。那天，她母親看完默書簿後，氣得滿臉通紅，拿着雞毛撻子要教訓她一頓。幸好，最疼她的父親把她擁入懷裏，她才逃過一劫。後來，父親給她買了一本英文字典，叮囑她每天學一個生字並背誦例句。當時沒有語音字典，不懂得唸的字，她

會用讀音近似的中文字標音，但說起來總是怪腔怪調的，於是跑到學校旁的修道院找外籍修女教她唸生字。她的英文說得愈來愈好，後來參加新界區英文朗誦比賽，還拿了冠軍。



陳校長從教員室走出來，看到林法官，連忙上前迎接。禮堂那邊傳來陣陣歌聲。“我們還是不懂事的孩子，明天以後各自踏上錦繡前程。放不下今年的夏天，請你牢記這段記憶。”歌聲清澈嘹亮，在林法官耳邊迴盪。她上前把禮堂的大門打開，看到十多個穿着整齊校服的學生在唱歌。陳校長輕聲說：“他們正在為今天的結業禮彩排。”林法官站在一旁聆聽，彩排完畢，便上前與他們聊天。

“陳校長告訴我，學校今年暑假後便要停課了。我也是在這裏畢業的。剛才聽到你們悅耳的歌聲，就好像回到那幾年。這首畢業歌，我特別喜歡‘明天以後各自踏上錦繡前程’這句。當時我也不大懂得‘錦繡前程’是什麼意思。你們都知道這句話的意思嗎？”林法官問。

一個女孩回答說：“美好的將來。”

林法官點頭。

此時，個子特別矮小的男孩舉手發問：“林法官，學校只有我們十多個學生，唸一年級的只有我一個，我也有美好的將來嗎？”

林法官輕輕牽着小男孩的手，笑着說：“在哪裏唸書都不要緊，只要你努力，一定會有美好的將來。”

結業禮後，陳校長和學生陪伴林法官走到學校大門，小男孩仍牽着林法官的手，法官蹲下來，親切地跟他說：“你可否再唱一遍畢業歌給我聽？”

小男孩很神氣地拍拍衣襟，放聲高唱。他稚嫩的聲音讓林法官感到溫暖，其他的學生也走到男孩身旁，和唱起來，歌聲響徹校園。

林法官笑着向他們揮揮手，在離開前再次回望校園，默默地想着久遠的歲月。





說文解字

在遠古時代，人類尚未發明文字，傳播知識只能靠口耳相傳。他們以唱歌、說故事的方式，一代一代把累積的生活經驗傳承下去。後來，他們學到的事物愈來愈多，愈來愈複雜，口頭語言已沒法滿足記事和探索知識的需求，文字便隨之誕生。

中國現存漢字最早的是甲骨文和金文。古人造字往往“近取諸身，遠取諸物”，根據身邊事物的形象來造字，例如“眼”、“耳”、“口”、“鼻”等字都是以象形方法表達。

	目(眼)	耳	口	自(鼻)
甲骨文				
金文				

人為萬物之靈，所以“人”字是一個十分重要的漢字。“人”是象形字，甲骨文寫成“𠤎”，就像人側身、彎腰的形象。不少字都是由“人”字演變出來，例如“从”字，金文寫作“𠤎”，像一個人跟着另一個人走路的樣子，後來加上“辵”旁指行走，寫作“從”，也就是現今的“從”字。“大”字就像人的正面，甲骨文寫作“大”，金文寫作“大”，特別指高大的人。

近年，我們常常聽到“自然保育”一詞。在古代，“保”與“育”的對象只是小孩。不過，現代楷書的“保”字由“人”字和“呆”字合成。究竟“呆”字跟“保護”有什麼關係？原來楷書中的“呆”字是甲骨文和金文的“子”字楷化寫成，“呆”字即指小孩。“保”字其實是由“人”字和“子”字組成，是一個會意字，指成人背着孩子，悉心保護。

甲骨文字形	金文字形

古人運用智慧，把周遭的事物和意念轉化為圖象，漸次演變為文字，把所見所聞記錄下來，讓知識傳遞得更快更廣。以下五個漢字的金文，大家能否寫出這些字的楷書字形？（答案見本頁右下角）



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Victims of Our Own Success

What does $E = mc^2$ stand for? Don't worry if you do not know. This is Albert Einstein's famous equation, which, in layman's terms, means a large amount of energy can be released from a small amount of matter. If you still fail to get it, the explosive power of an atomic bomb will clearly illustrate the equation.

More than half a century ago, the atomic bomb ended the most destructive war in human history. Cities were shattered, homes destroyed and hundreds of thousands of people killed. The atomic bomb was not what Einstein had in mind when he published the equation, though he admitted that he had made a great mistake of recommending the making of such a destructive weapon. Still haunted by the nightmare image of the mushroom cloud years after the war, he said with regret, "the unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and we thus drift toward unparalleled catastrophe."

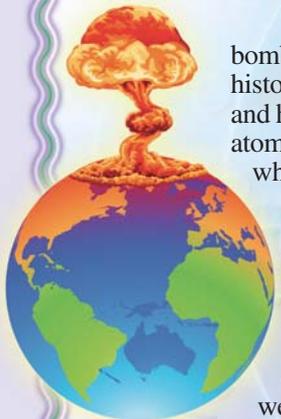
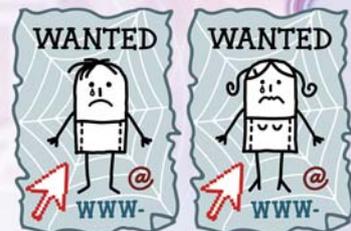
Einstein's equation, when used for a good cause, can become a godsend. Inexpensive and clean, nuclear power is considered a good option to replace coal and oil. Unfortunately, we are always fooled by our ego, thinking that we can control everything. The disaster in Chernobyl, still a ghost town some twenty years after the nuclear reactor meltdown, issued a strong wake-up call to boost nuclear safety. Yet we are

oblivious to it. The recent Fukushima disaster is only a repeated mistake. Nuclear power is indeed a reliable source of energy. But who would like to live in a contaminated place where you have to be wary of every bite of food you eat and every drop of water you drink?

Like nuclear energy, the Internet is both a blessing and a curse. The cyber world is a platform where we learn and share information, but it is also a hotbed for crime. Organised crime gangs have gone digital. They create fictitious accounts to scam users into surrendering their private information. They establish online casinos for illegal gambling. Sadly, the police still cannot get all the criminals and put them behind bars.

Young people also fall victim to emerging online risks. Cyber-bullying, in the form of threatening text messages and the spread of online rumours on social networking sites, has become a grave concern. This new form of social cruelty is a by-product of modern technology, which allows people to hurt others and get off scot-free. Although most teenagers who are harassed online are not physically hurt, the cyber-bully still takes a heavy emotional toll on his or her victims.

Science is a powerful instrument. How it is used depends on mankind and not on the instrument. A knife is useful, but it can also kill.



Is It Dangling or Misplaced?

Take a look at the following sentences:

1. *The exhibition features works by avant-garde painters executed between 1950 and 1980.*
2. *Being not quite fully grown, his trousers were too long.*

Is there anything wrong with them? These sentences contain examples of dangling or disconnected participles. What are participles? They are derived from verbs and used as adjectives. When a participial phrase or a participle is put in the wrong position of a sentence, it can cause ambiguity or even hilarity.

For the first sentence, were the avant-garde painters really executed? Of course not. The participle *executed* is to qualify the painters' works, not the painters. Likewise, the participial phrase *being not quite fully grown* in the second sentence describes a boy. Have you ever seen a pair of growing trousers? Both sentences require rewriting, either to restore the link between the noun and the modifying participle, or to arrive at a construction in which the meaning is clear:

The exhibition features avant-garde painters' works executed between 1950 and 1980.

As he was not quite fully grown, his trousers were too long.

Consider another two examples:

3. *Having said that, this book will gladden the hearts of all those who like a good weepy.*
4. *John was found murdered, spurring on his parents to hunt down the drug dealer responsible.*

The third sentence exhibits a common error we see every day. It is not the book that has spoken, but the writer. This faulty construction can be easily corrected, either by substituting *having said that* with a phrase that does not require a pronoun, such as *that being said*, or by using the first person pronoun:

That being said, this is a book to gladden the hearts of all those who like a good weepy.

Having said that, I believe this is a book that will gladden the hearts of all those who like a good weepy.

The fourth example is a bit "spooky". Unless this was the plot of a ghost story, how could a dead person spur on anyone to hunt down the murderer? You can rewrite it as follows:

John was found murdered, and his parents were spurred on to hunt down the drug dealer responsible.

Give yourself a quick test. Can you correct the following sentence? (Check the suggested answers at the bottom of this page.)

We had wandered around the markets for several hours, followed by the 400-odd steps leading to the castle.

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin



Modern-day Robinson Crusoe



Have you ever wondered what you would do if you were stranded on a desert island after a shipwreck? Would you be able to fight against nature and find your way back to civilisation like Robinson Crusoe? You would probably lose this desperate battle for survival. But if you knew some basic survival skills, you would stand a better chance of being rescued.

Most people cannot survive unprotected from inclement weather for more than a few hours. So building a safe shelter is top priority. You might not be as lucky as Robinson Crusoe, who finds a comfortable place near a cave. But you could build a debris hut which is a makeshift structure made of dead leaves, branches and whatever else available. But don't build the hut near a river as it will be easily washed away by flash floods. Also, stay away from the mountaintop if you do not want to be awakened by howling winds.

To survive in the wild, we must find clean water. First, look for streams, rivers or lakes. In areas without surface water, dig into damp soil and allow muddy water to settle and become clear. How? Make a water filter. Get

tree bark. Make a cone with the bark and cut a small hole at the bottom.

Put some pebbles or grass into

the cone, and add a layer of gravel before filling it with sand. Pour water through the filter and collect it from the hole. Almost dying of thirst, you would find the refreshing water drops taste like champagne.

With clean water and a shelter, we now need food. Don't be envious of Robinson Crusoe, who is never short of food. He hunts, grows rice, and raises goats. However, in a real survival situation, you will have to eat anything available. Edible plants are good choices. But some of them are poisonous, especially those that have a milky sap or white berries. Unless you are a lover of bizarre foods, you may dislike the gross taste of slimy bugs or insects, but they are vital sources of protein and fat. Eat it or not? It is all up to you. Fancy some eggs for dinner? Search bird nests or holes on the ground. If luck is on your side, you may have a hearty meal.

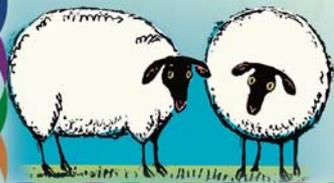
A castaway who has some basic survival skills may manage to survive a longer period of time than those who don't. However, the battle for survival means more than skills. It is a demanding test of willpower. He who overcomes fear in the face of hardship will most likely be saved in the end. Why? It is because he never loses hope.



Suggested answers:
a. We had wandered around the markets for several hours, then climbed the 400-odd steps leading to the castle.
b. We had wandered around the markets for several hours, followed by the climb up the 400-odd steps leading to the castle.

When the story of Dolly, the first cloned sheep, hit the news in the mid-1990s, our eyes flew open in sheer disbelief. Hailed as a magic trick, the sheep's birth significantly escalated the scientific community's on-going game of technological one-upmanship. Two years ago, researchers raised the bar further by attempting to clone human embryos from fragments of men's skin, an achievement they claim has brought closer the day when babies are cloned in the laboratory.

What is human cloning? In simplest terms, it is the creation of a genetically identical copy of a human, though we used to associate a cloned human with the hideously ugly monster created by Dr Frankenstein. Over the last couple of decades, rapid advances in science and technology have enabled researchers to explore new frontiers and make the impossible possible. Their achievements have offered a ray of hope to sufferers of various diseases. How wonderful it would be if worn out hearts could be patched up, aged brains rejuvenated, and lost teeth re-grown! Perhaps, one day, we might have a clone of ourselves stowed away somewhere in case we need it like a spare tire in the trunk of a car.



However, there are always two sides to a coin. While many people see therapeutic cloning as a scientific breakthrough allowing thousands of lives to be saved, moralists frown when they hear the term "cloning". "Could you imagine someone stealing some of your DNA and then making a clone of you and training it to commit bad deeds with the intention of blaming you for them?" "A replica would not go through the same experiences as your dead son did. Neither would he love you in the same way as you expect." "You are not the Creator, are you? We'd better leave the human race as it is. Scientists should not attempt to tamper it by making more people out of one person." We always hear biting criticisms like these.

No one knows what the future will hold for the technology of human cloning. Whatever the future may hold, let scientists be free of the shackles of our fears and conduct research into what we do not know. However, scientists should also give up their arrogant belief that they can disrupt the natural order and bring life to a human being with technology. A cloned human is only a replica. We are all unique. There will never, ever be another you.



這句話該怎麼說？

香港人受粵語影響，說普通話時往往給難倒。例如粵語說“我好驚行雷”，“驚”的普通話說法是“害怕”或“怕”，而“行雷”該說成“打雷”。以下的粵語對話我們常常聽到，你知道普通話該怎麼說嗎？

甲：聽日先答你得唔得？
乙：得。

“得唔得”是粵語中常見的提問方式，普通話會說“行不行”、“行嗎”或者“行不”，所以甲可以這樣說：“明天才回答你行不行？”乙如表示同意，簡單說“行”便可。

看看以下例子：

甲：你嘅字寫得好靚。	甲：你的字寫得真好。
乙：邊度係吖。	乙：哪裏哪裏。
甲：打搞嘢。	甲：打擾了。
乙：唔緊要。	乙：沒事兒。

在日常生活中，我們常用客套話。回應別人的感謝或讚美，可以說“哪裏哪裏”或者“哪兒的話”；回應道歉，可以說“沒事兒”或“沒關係”，意即“不要緊”或“別放在心上”。

請看以下粵普對照表：

甲：一個人分得個五十蚊實在太少喇。	甲：一個人才分到五十塊實在太少了。
乙：咪係。	乙：可不是。

甲：唔好再諗喇，再諗都無謂。
乙：你都講得啱嘅。

甲：別多想了，多想也無補於事。
乙：你說得倒也是。

要表達同意或附和別人的話，普通話可以說“可不”、“可不是”、“就是”或“誰說不是”，即粵語的“係啦”或“咪係”。假如同意別人的話，但語氣上有所保留，可以說“倒也是”或“可也是”。

此外，粵語和普通話表示程度的用語有時會不同。例如：“今日係假期，條街好多人”，普通話可以說“今天是假期，街上的人可多了。”“可”是“非常”的意思，能夠加強語氣，表示數量很多，而“特”、“怪”、“忒”和“倍兒”都是類似說法；程度輕一點的可以用“挺”。例句如下：

依家啲細路好聰明。	現在的孩子特聰明。
申請做會員仲要畀相，真係麻煩。	申請做會員還要交照片，怪麻煩的。
呢個蘋果係新品種，特別甜。	這蘋果是新品種，倍兒甜。
呢個設計幾好。	這設計挺不錯。

要普通話說得準確、道地，應該先熟習普通話各種慣用語，這樣說起來自然得心應“口”。

多聞而體要，博見而善擇。

葛洪《抱朴子》

Do You Know?

Do you know everyone's tongue print, like fingerprints, is different? How many legs does an ant have? Six. Which planet is the least dense planet in our solar system? Saturn. Questions like these always trick us. Have a quick test. Attempt the following questions and write your answers in the spaces provided:

- Why are swans known as the Queen's bird in England?

- A male kangaroo is called a boomer. What is a female called?

- Which word contains exactly the same letters as the word "listen"??

- Geologists study the Earth. What do selenologists study?

- What milk is the only milk that does not curdle when boiled?

- We call a group of ants a colony or army of ants. What do we call a group of cats?

- People with claustrophobia have an irrational fear of being closed in. What do people with obesophobia fear?

- How many times does sound travel faster through steel than through the air?

- What colour is a shaved zebra?

- What is the lifespan of a dragonfly?

Please send your entry to the Editorial Board of *Word Power*, Official Languages Division, Civil Service Bureau, Room 2310, High Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong before 7 February 2014. Watch out for our coming issue to see if you get all the answers right, and better still, if you are one of the lucky five to win a prize. The Editorial Board will have the final say on the answers.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (delete as appropriate) _____
 Department: _____ Post: _____
 Office Address: _____
 Tel. No.: _____



第五十三期答案

- 家事國事天下事，事事關心
- 女子的纖細腰身，或借指細腰美女
- 筷子
- 形容罪惡多得數不清或某種事物的數目非常多
- 撐船用的竹篙
- 書信
- 假作真時真亦假
- 喻指在學習上不作分析、選擇，籠統地加以接受
- 精銳將士
- 蛇

以下得獎者將獲專函通知領獎：

姓名	所屬部門
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潘碧珊	土木工程拓展署
Au Yeung Sau-hing	房屋署
Cheuk Hang-tak	稅務局
Liu Wing-ki	稅務局

Issue No. 55 (March 2014) : Day and Night

二零一四年三月第五十五期主題：日與夜

Issue No. 56 (June 2014) : Beauty and Ugliness

二零一四年六月第五十六期主題：美與醜

Contributions from colleagues are welcome. Please refer to Issue No. 42 for details.

歡迎同事投稿，細則請參閱第四十二期。

中文顧問 樊善標教授

英語顧問 Dr Rodney Jones

Hon Chinese Adviser Prof Fan Sin-piu

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Word Power is also uploaded to the webpage of the Civil Service Bureau (<http://www.csb.gov.hk/english/publication/2006.html>). If you have any comments or suggestions about this publication, please write to the Editorial Board of *Word Power* (Official Languages Division, Civil Service Bureau, Room 2310, High Block, Queensway Government Offices, 66 Queensway, Hong Kong or csbolrs@csb.gov.hk).