

文訊

WORD POWER

第四十八期 二零一二年六月 Issue No.48 June 2012

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES DIVISION, CIVIL SERVICE BUREAU

From Robotics to Wizardry

Long queues are formed at the entrance of a cavernous hall where a humanoid robot with an angelic face announces in a sweet female voice: "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Robot Expo 2040. Our products range from domestic helpers to bodyguards, and are all implanted with artificial intelligence. With them, you can enjoy endless hassle-free days. Come and have a look. I'm sure you will find something to take home."

Will robots really be able to think and act like humans in the future, as depicted above? Although no one can answer this question with confidence, everything is possible with boundless imagination, particularly in the movie world. In the *Star Wars* saga, androids or robots are ubiquitous in people's everyday lives. The mischievous R2-D2 and the witty C-3PO possess artificial intelligence and help Luke Skywalker, a Jedi knight, defeat the evil Galactic Empire.



Science-fiction movies open our mind to a world of possibilities, and offer researchers food for thought. With scientists' ingenuity and relentless efforts, many innovative ideas that first appeared in movies have become a reality. Now, robotic arms perform surgery; surveillance robots dispose of bombs; and domestic robots vacuum the floor. Pet robots that can walk, sit, jump and react like real pets offer comfort and companionship to many hobbyists. It is true that robots today are still not as versatile or intelligent as R2-D2 and C-3PO. But with a creative mind, we will come up with much more advanced models one day.

Human beings are natural explorers, always dreaming of exploring uncharted territories. Most of us have never left the Earth and do not know how it feels to walk in outer space. But we can experience it vicariously in *2001: A Space Odyssey*, a classic space movie released in 1968. The story spans a period of time from millions of years ago to 2001, featuring people travelling from the Earth to the Moon and stars; spaceships plying the sky; astronauts working at a lunar settlement; and a nuclear-powered spacecraft setting off for Jupiter. What a fantastic world!

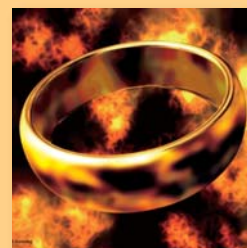
The year 2001 is now already in the past, yet many of the fictional things portrayed in the film have not been realised. We have only been to the Moon, and Jupiter is still beyond our reach. Nevertheless, we took one giant leap forward when unmanned spacecraft successfully landed on Mars. Blessed with blue-sky thinking, human beings will definitely find a way to the Red Planet. As long as we dare to

think big, setting foot on Mars and sending ordinary people into space every day will not be an unattainable wish.

Travelling around the universe is still a faraway dream today. But perhaps, in J.K. Rowling's world, it is nothing technical or arduous; simply a swift ride on a flying broomstick will do. Her kingdom of wizards, goblins and magical creatures in the *Harry Potter* series captivates the whole world, giving her young readers a break from the monotony of their daily lives and allowing them to embellish this fantasy with their own imagination. The adventures at Hogwarts, the difference between Muggles and wizards, and the battle between Harry Potter and Voldemort offer them an escape from adolescent reality. When watching the Hogwarts Express pull away from Platform Nine and Three-Quarters for the last time, many teenagers who grew up with

Harry Potter knew that it was time to say good-bye to their childhood, happily believing that good always rises above evil. The impact of a compelling story is beyond words.

Imagination knows no bounds. In *The Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien spins a timeless epic of fraternity, love and heroism. Unrivalled in its poetic description of adventures and fantasies, the trilogy has touched the hearts of young and old alike. With impeccable skill and ingenuity, Tolkien vividly narrates how young hobbit Frodo Baggins overcomes seemingly insurmountable obstacles in his journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom to destroy the Ring. The message is clear: with determination and courage, even ordinary people can shine as beacons of hope in times of crisis. Tolkien's amazing character sketches and detailed portrayal of an imaginary world order pull readers into a realm of otherworldliness. He powerfully engages them in the story, weaving narratives that are both stunning and groundbreaking.

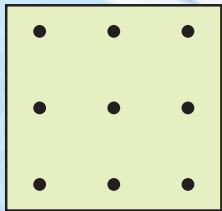


Creativity is not necessarily a special gift from the Creator. We all have some ideas in our minds, be they crazy or strange. Sadly, they are often drowned out by the "musts" and "shoulds" in this reason-oriented world. We all can unleash our inner potential through trying new things, learning and growing, and give our ideas a go. Our minds, when exposed to fresh experiences, awaken.



Thinking outside the Box

天馬行空



Time for a mind game. Can you connect the nine dots on the left by drawing four straight lines without lifting the pencil? You've got one minute... Okay, did you make it? Do you need any hints? Did you move your pencil within the array of dots only? Did you focus on

the imaginary boundary of the box formed by the dots? If you go beyond this boundary, you are getting close to the answer. (Find the answer at the bottom of page 3.)

The game mirrors our mind process. Our thinking is sometimes restricted, as if we were caged in a dark, stuffy box, seeing nothing but stone-cold walls. Whichever direction we go, we bump into the walls and cannot find a way out. What limits our thinking? What are these mental walls? Our usual reasoning habits, conventional paradigms of thinking, long-held beliefs, lopsided perceptions, just to name a few. Breaking down these walls allows us to view things from a completely new perspective. When we *think outside the box*, we are free to see new possibilities. That is where creativity begins.

Come on, step out of the box and you will see how big the world is.

孫悟空取根毫毛唸句口訣，變佛變妖、變樹變蟲、變大變小，不費吹灰之力；他駕着祥雲，翻個筋斗就躍過十萬八千里。《西遊記》的讀者，無不為小說中天馬行空的故事目眩神迷。

“天馬行空”一語喻指詩文豪邁奔放，不拘一格，也可形容想像力豐富，異想天開，宛如天馬奔騰，駿逸不凡。以天馬行空形容《西遊記》這部神魔小說，最合適不過。

《西遊記》寫唐代高僧玄奘法師千里取西經，作者吳承恩突破歷史敘事的窠臼，加入奇幻絢麗的想像，編成孫悟空等人護送唐僧勇闖西天，斬妖除魔的神怪歷險旅程。

作者創意無窮，筆下的神話世界，眾多主角集動物體態和凡人性格於一身。齊天大聖“尖嘴縮腮，金睛火眼”，靈巧聰敏，雖桀驁不馴，但見義勇為，堅毅不屈；豬八戒長鼻大耳，體態笨重，貪吃好色，卻又憨厚樸實。還有慈悲儒弱的唐僧、勤勉順從的沙悟淨，以及形形色色的妖魔精魅，展現世間種種光怪陸離，折射出人心深處的魔障。取經路上驚險重重，仙佛神魔在天宮冥府、靈山魔洞激戰鬥法，別開生面。在這明心見性之旅，唐僧四師徒渡過八十一難，最終降服心魔，修成正果，故事精彩絕倫，啓迪人心。



情景交融 詞曲並茂

“好花伴扇端，暗香襲冷筵，輕盈步步嬌，似飛燕玉盤轉，妙舞輕輕為君扇。”一眾歌姬舞孃載歌載舞，名妓謝素秋手執羽扇半掩芙蓉臉，腰肢款擺，嫋嫋娜娜，舞步翩躚，與才貌雙全的趙汝州再遇相認。這一幕是唐滌生《蝶影紅梨記》之“宦遊三錯”，才子佳人神交三載，兜兜轉轉，終成美眷，故事旖旎纏綿，浪漫感人，令不少粵劇戲迷如痴如醉。

唐滌生才華橫溢，改編劇作的技巧爐火純青，實為粵劇曠世奇才。他編撰的《紫釵記》場口鋪排緊湊，文詞並茂，在“燈街拾翠”一段中，霍小玉邂逅李益，嫵媚嬌羞，低聲唱道“半遮面兒弄絳紗，暗飛桃紅泛赤霞，拾釵人會薄命花，釵貶洛陽價，落絮飛花辱了君清雅。”曲調音韻鏗鏘，詞藻清雋秀美，散發瑰麗戲曲文采，與明代湯顯祖的原著互顯光芒，文學欣賞價值甚高。

改編劇作要超越原著殊非易事。唐滌生大刀闊斧改動原著，重新編寫，使故事情節更豐富，節奏更明快，《帝女花》堪稱當世經典。《帝女花》原為清代黃韻珊的作品，詞曲優美，但劇情平淡，人物性格欠鮮明，生旦對唱較少。唐滌生以黃氏作品為藍本，刪去枯燥的情節，

加深人物的刻畫，凸顯故事的矛盾張力。在“香夭”一幕中，長平公主與駙馬周世顯在含樟樹下仰藥殉國，生旦對唱的一段，更是家喻戶曉。“江山悲災劫，感先帝恩千丈，與妻雙雙叩問帝安。唉盼得花燭共諧白髮，誰個願看花燭翻血浪”，如泣如訴，道出二人的國仇家恨，以及至死不渝的深情，高潮迭起，劇力萬鈞。

唐氏為傳統粵劇開創先河，引入西方電影橋段，運用分場技巧，敘事手法嶄新，情節起伏跌宕，人物情感多姿多彩，切合現代戲迷的口味，讓他們投入劇中世界，產生共鳴。唐氏作品雖多為改編之作，但極具創意，不僅保留原著神髓，更展現全新面貌；真摯感人的故事，配合錦繡筆觸、美妙曲詞，如詩似歌，難怪一直備受推崇，傳誦不衰。



能者非他，能自樹立，不因循者是也。

韓愈



街頭藝苑



天橋上車輛穿梭不息，發出震耳欲聾的噪音；橋下睡醒的露宿者已收拾隨身家當，開始另一天的流浪生活。深灰色的混凝土橋墩寫了密密麻麻的毛筆字，近看才發現是“九龍皇帝”曾灶財的“墨寶”，筆法樸拙，字體大小不一，既無柳公權遒媚勁健的筆力，也無王羲之書法的雄逸氣勢，但字體疏密有致，亂中有序，用筆天真自然，風格獨特，展現另一種藝術美。

再望過去，另一座橋墩畫了一個裂開的心形圖案，中間給一枝白色斷箭貫穿，下面是彩漆噴上的幾個英文字母，斑斕奪目，與色澤較淺的粉紅色心形圖案構成強烈對比，是一幅出色的街頭畫作。環顧四周，原來每座橋墩都是一幅畫布，讓街頭藝術家盡情發揮創意。城市這個陰暗角落一直被匆忙的行人忽略，真想不到竟是街頭藝廊，展示不少令人驚喜的作品，值得細意欣賞。



走到對面的咖啡店，濃濃的咖啡香撲鼻而來，可能時間尚早，店

內顧客寥寥無幾。繼續前行，經過一個工地，綠色圍板畫了很多花木，七彩繽紛，還有蝴蝶、蜜蜂在花間飛舞，春意盎然，令人精神一振，恍如置身羣芳爭妍的公園。街頭藝術與工程項目融合，令塵土飛揚的工地展現一片明媚景色，倍添生氣。雖非名家手筆，但內容精細，色彩豔麗，實在賞心悅目。

離工地不遠的警署，外牆也畫了多幅宣傳撲滅罪行的圖畫，看來是一羣小學生的作品。藍色外牆宛如課室的壁報板，貼滿同學的傑作。畫中小偷被警察拘捕，琅璫入獄；警察威風凜凜，小偷獐頭鼠目，正邪對立。另一幅是身穿整齊校服的學生舉報罪案，獲警方頒授獎狀嘉許。畫中人物，不論兒童或成人，面貌都帶點稚氣，風格清新可愛。

走過大街小巷，看了不少街頭創作，發覺香港並非“文化沙漠”，到處都可欣賞到別具創意的作品。香港的街道就是一個平民藝苑，滿載無名街頭創作家的心血，有時間停下腳步看看，會叫人更喜歡這個城市。



The Internet Age



One hour before midnight. You pick up your smartphone and command your voice-activated virtual assistant to wake you up at six-thirty for an important business e-meeting.

You arrive at the office at seven-thirty and instinctively punch a few keys on your desktop. Not really for work, but just a quick browse through some online journals to get you connected with the world. It is eight-thirty. You sit in the conference room, expected to present an efficiency enhancement proposal to the company's directors in different cities in an hour's time. You go over the data and notes you have prepared the night before, praying that things will not be screwed up, while sipping a cup of espresso to keep your mind fresh and awake.

Nine-thirty. The meeting starts. You address the directors through Voice Over Internet Protocol, a software package that allows the participants to speak to and see each other on computer screens. To further elaborate your points, you draw graphs and charts on the virtual whiteboard. Exhausted but relieved, you step out of the conference room two hours later and find that you have received ten messages via WhatsApp, a popular app permitting smartphone users to send unlimited messages. Twelve forty-five. Your stomach is making noises.



To pamper yourself after a stressful morning, you want to have a sumptuous meal in a nice restaurant where you can have a quiet moment on your own. You order your favourite pan-fried black cod served with rosemary sauce, and a slice of chocolate cake. While waiting for the food to come, you listen to Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* and read James Joyce's *Dubliners* on your tablet to unwind your strained nerves.

The clock hits seven and it is time to knock off. On your way home, a pop-up message appears on your smartphone screen, prompting you to pay the outstanding bills online. With all your business done, your best friend calls, asking you to have a chat on Skype after dinner. Wanting a good laugh before tucking yourself in, you watch a comedy downloaded from an entertainment site by connecting your tablet to your LED TV.

Thanks to the ingenious minds, today many people like you can enjoy the fun and convenience brought by web-based devices. Imagine if one day you were not allowed to use them, and that if you did, you would be fined. How would you react? Most probably you would say “No way” or “I would rather be fined”.

Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people.

Leo Burnett

Solution of the nine-dot puzzle:





A Lonely but Colourful World

One evening, a storm drummed the city. Undisturbed by the patter of rain and the rumbling of thunder, John, a skinny little creature with hollow eyes, was engrossed in his drawing in the sitting room while his mother Emily prepared dinner in the kitchen. Unlike other children at the age of six, John was locked up in his own world and rarely spoke.

The dinner was ready. Emily patted John's tiny shoulder, signalling to him that it was time to have his meal. John did not respond. Seeing a stack of building blocks precariously piled on his desk, she quickly picked them up. John cried and yelled. Trying to comfort him, she held him tight in her arms, but it did not work. He yelled even louder. She gave in and put the building blocks back on the desk. John was quiet again.

"How's John been doing, Mrs Chan?" asked Dr Richardson.

"Not much progress. He still doesn't speak much and only likes drawing."

"What does he draw?"

"I don't know. I've never looked at what he draws seriously," answered Emily.

On his way back home after seeing the doctor, John stopped in front of a stationery shop, his eyes fixed on a box of crayons displayed in the shop window.

"Do you want to buy them?" asked Emily.

As usual, there was no response. Haunted by John's unpredictable tantrums, Emily quickly went inside and bought the box of crayons for her son.

The summer day dawned hot. While John was taking a nap, Emily casually flipped through his works by his bedside. One picture caught her eyes. It was filled with colourful balloons — crimson, silver, champagne, magenta and many more. Close to tears, she gazed at John's innocent face and stroked his sleek hair, feeling happy that her lonely son had created a colourful world for himself.

Another year passed. Nothing changed. But now Emily liked to sit next to John and watch him attentively whenever she had a break from her hectic chores. Not particularly interested in what he drew, she only wanted to get close to her son and have a peaceful moment with him.

John went to a special school. One day, his teacher called, telling Emily that John had been acting very strangely

lately. During the classes, he refused to do anything and just stood in a corner, looking out into the street. Without any clue of what had happened to her son, Emily was worried. Realising that it was a big leap backward from the small step John had taken forward, she sank into despair.



That day after school, Emily got John to sit down in his hippo chair and asked him why he did not listen to his teacher. John's hollow eyes under his glasses did not tell anything. Frustrated and anxious, Emily left John in the sitting room and went to prepare lunch. Her heart jumped as she walked out of the kitchen. John had disappeared. After searching the whole flat,

the desperate mother sat on the floor, crying uncontrollably. Suddenly, John, with a sullen face, emerged from the small cupboard outside the kitchen and walked straight to his desk to pick up the residue of a red crayon.

"You've been so unhappy lately because you've used up the colour red?" asked Emily tenderly while wiping her eyes.

It was the Open Day at John's school. A crowd of people in front of a display board were marvelling at the beauty of a drawing in which star clusters scattered across a purplish Milky Way. Like tantalising cosmic jewels, the clusters in different colours — pinkish red, greenish blue and bright orange — formed the shape of a unicorn with its sharp horn pointing to a bright yellow crescent moon. Showers of asteroids with bluish or greenish long tails hurtled across the galaxy. Emily was among the crowd. When she saw John's name below the picture, she covered her trembling lips, not believing that it was her son's work.

That afternoon, Emily sat contentedly in John's hippo chair, perusing his drawings — a white shirt with crayon stains, a broken glass, a crying boy in a classroom, and many more. Tears welled in her reddened eyes when she saw one portrait of a short-haired woman sobbing on the floor. Emily dashed into John's bedroom and found him sitting there, drawing something. She hugged and kissed him, pointing at the picture and asking emotionally, "Son, you're always talking to me, aren't you?" John did not answer but wrapped his small arms around his mother's waist.

An essential aspect of creativity is not being afraid to fail.

Edwin Land

告別港式普通話

小黃剛到北京工作，一天坐公車感到有點悶熱，就對鄰座的老伯伯說：“你凍(dòng)不凍？不凍我就開‘槍’”，老伯伯驚呼“別開槍，別開槍”。小黃把粵語“凍”直說為普通話，又把“窗(chuāng) 錯唸作“槍(qiāng)。老伯伯以為他說“你動(dòng)不動？不動我就開槍”。小黃應該說“您冷不冷？不冷我就把窗打開”，老伯伯才不會誤會。

有些香港人說普通話，遇到不懂怎麼唸的字，以為只把粵音讀歪一點兒便是，加上遣詞用字常常套用粵語詞彙，即使不開笑話，也無法準確傳達信息。事實上，普通話的語言習慣跟粵語不同，例如香港人說的“屋苑”，內地通常叫“小區”；看病“輪籌”，普通話會說“排號(兒)”；開車“爬頭”的“告票”，內地是“超車”“罰單”。另外，某些詞彙，粵語和普通話的意義不同，要特別注意。譬如對北方的朋友說“你的孩子很得意”，恐怕會惹他們不悅，因為普通話“得意”非指可愛，而是驕傲自滿的意思。

我們又以為把粵語口語改成書面語，就是普通話，但這樣往往會顯得彘扭。比方遇到內地遊客問路，我們可能會說“步行五分鐘就到了”。雖然這話對方也會明白，但用“走”字代替“步行”，會自然得多。

要說得道地，應該多學多用普通話口語詞，例如：“今年看來加薪有希望了”，“有希望”普通話口語一般會說“有門兒”或者“有戲”；“這入真的孤寒”，“孤寒”普通話可以說“摳(kōu)、“摳門兒”或者“摳搜”。

要說好普通話，還得掌握粵語和普通話語法的區別。請看看以下對話的粵普語句：

粵語	普通話
小張：你星期三有冇去開會？知唔知揀咗邊個供應商？	小張：你星期三去開會了嗎？你知道挑了哪一家供應商嗎？
小陳：揀咗甲公司，雖然佢啲貨價錢貴過乙公司，但係有好多款式。	小陳：挑了甲公司，雖然它的貨品價錢比乙公司貴，但是款式多得很。
小張：哦。我宜家去財務部，行先喇。	小張：哦。我現在到財務部去，先走了。

請看以下粵語用語及語句，試試改成普通話：(參考答案見本文右下角)

1. 士多啤梨
2. 你令我一頭霧水
3. 唔見咗銀包
4. 唔好意思，嚟遲咗
5. 轉頭畀電話你

粵語口語轉普通話 1. 士多啤梨 2. 你令我一頭霧水 3. 唔見咗銀包 4. 唔好意思，嚟遲咗 5. 轉頭畀電話你



文壇偶拾

奇幻武俠世界

武俠小說家以超凡想像、細膩筆法，創造千奇百怪的武林世界，勾畫出一幅幅武林眾生圖，充滿傳奇色彩。故事表彰俠客鋤強扶弱，替天行道，曲折離奇，布局詭異莫測，讓人馳情入幻，悠然神往。

闖蕩江湖，沒有一身絕世武功，恐怕難以立足。武俠小說的武功包羅萬象，從拳打腳踢、刀劍搏擊到點穴、輕功、護體神功，都出神入化，不可思議。悲情奇俠李尋歡的飛刀快如閃電，例不虛發；大理王子段譽的凌波微步飄忽不定，天下無雙；襄陽大俠郭靖的降龍十八掌招式精妙，無堅不摧；明教教主張無忌的乾坤大挪移隔空制敵，攻其無備。這些武功亦剛亦柔，深不可測，讓人嘆為觀止。

在武俠小說中，不論嫉惡如仇的江湖俠客，還是詭計多端的陰險小人，盡都性格鮮明。俠盜楚留香劫富濟貧，風流倜儻，足智多謀；《倚天屠龍記》蒙古郡主趙敏美若天仙，機靈聰穎，敢愛敢恨，為了愛情叛父逆國，甘願當千古罪人；《鹿鼎記》韋小寶貪生怕死，既無豪俠的英雄氣概，也無劍客的俠骨柔情，

但鴻福齊天，經常得到貴人襄助，化險為夷。小說家筆力深厚，才思橫溢，把讀者帶入武林，與小說人物一起練功習武，歷盡江湖的風風雨雨，嘗透人生的悲歡離合、甜酸苦辣。

除了絕世武功和獨特人物外，武俠小說的情節精彩動人，寫情纏綿悱惻，寫義慷慨激昂，令讀者手不釋卷。“問世間，情是何物，直教生死相許”，在《神鵰俠侶》中，小龍女與楊過師徒不理會傳統禮教枷鎖，結成夫妻，奈何命運播弄，分隔十六年始在絕情谷底重逢，魂牽夢縈之苦，令人感慨萬千。

英雄豪傑捨身成仁，從容就義，往往觸動人心。《天龍八部》的喬峯本為契丹人，在宋國長大，武藝超羣，豪情萬丈，為了阻止遼軍侵宋，拯救黎民百姓，放下一己身世之恨，犧牲性命，實為頂天立地的好漢子。故事浩氣縱橫，可歌可泣。

武俠小說糅合神話與武術，如幻如真，似實還虛。小說家跳出現實世界的限制，打破成規，闢境造意，讓讀者從江湖你爭我奪、刀光劍影中悟出人生哲理。



“Welcome on board. You are in a time machine and we are going to whisk you away to our first destination, ancient Greece, to attend a lecture. Please fasten your seat belts. The time tunnel is a bit jammed today, and we will pass through strong light currents. We are taking off in a second. Enjoy your journey!”

In a blink, the time machine disappears in a long dark narrow tunnel. After a brief bumpy ride, the time travellers find themselves inside a lecture hall where a red-cloaked man wearing a white beard is talking to a group of people. Like students who are late for class, the travellers quickly take a seat at the back of the hall and gently tap their eyelids to turn on their built-in image recorders to videotape the lecture.

The bearded man says, “It is our dream to live happily in a perfect society where every citizen has wisdom, courage and temperance. How can we build such a community?”

A young man replies, “Through education, Master. Everyone has a chance to be groomed into a good fellow with strong confidence.”

Another man adds, “And that confidence will produce an all-round individual with a true sense of worth that will help him to stand up for justice and righteousness, and to serve the community with self-devotion.”

The bearded man says, “This group of people will become the leaders of the community whose wisdom and benevolence will help root out poverty and starvation by even distribution of resources.”

“Who’s the bearded man?” asks one of the time travellers.

The tourist guide explains, “He is the famous Greek philosopher Plato, whose educational and philosophical theories still influence many people today. He wants to build up an ideal city in which everyone lives a comfortable, though not luxurious life. That’s all for Plato. Let’s go to the year 1945 — the most significant twelve months of the 20th century that shook the world and changed it forever.”

The time machine is hovering over a city where a gigantic mushroom cloud is spreading. The city has been blasted out. Its factories have been gutted, hospitals shattered, railways ripped up and highways cratered. With bloodstained faces and scorched limbs, the survivors are fleeing for their lives. A panic-stricken boy whose clothes are in tatters is crying on the roadside, looking in all directions to find his parents. Looking down through a transparent cylinder tube from above, the time travellers can still feel the visceral horror of war. Trembling with fear, they can no longer act like distant observers and tears trickle down their faces.

“The year 1945 was a turning point in history, the end of the deadliest human catastrophe in the 20th century, and also the time when victory came at the cost of over sixty million people’s lives. It was the Second World War. Let’s leave this living hell and go to the year 2445 to find our dream world,” says the tourist guide.

The time machine lands in a beautiful lush green metropolis where everything is pristine clean. The time travellers feel so close to the sky that they can almost touch the drifting clouds. Like flocks of migrating birds, scores of commuters wearing jet-driven shoes dart above their heads. Low-rise buildings with turfed rooftops along a blue river are surrounded by beds and beds of purple flowers of an unknown species which give out a light sweet scent in the warm breeze.

With a genial smile on their faces, everyone looks very happy and friendly. Perfect people and perfect weather in a perfect world!

The tour guide says, “We have come to the Utopian Republic, the most ideal community human beings have ever lived in. About a century ago from now, humans were almost wiped out in a war of an unprecedented scale. Wanting no more blood and carnage, the tormented survivors had to figure out what world they wanted to live in. To secure a long-lasting peace, they vowed not to repeat the same mistakes and agreed to implant a ‘no-hate’ chip under their skin. Since then, peace has been restored and all people live in harmony regardless of colour, race and religion.”



The School of Athens by Raphael



“Ladies and gentlemen, our journey ends here. Thank you for travelling with the Cosmos Inter-space Travel Agency. Let’s go back to the time we came from.” Before leaving such an idyllic setting, the time travellers look back wistfully and see a sombre message flying across the sky that reads: “We fight wars for peace; yet in war, we lose everything”.

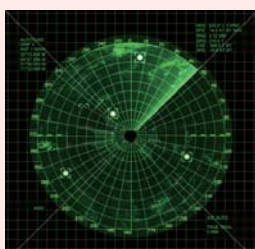


發明與歷史的偶然交錯

公務員事務局
二級法定語文主任吳頌祺

人類發明與歷史進程，兩者關係密不可分。發明不獨改變了生活模式與習慣，更曾在關鍵時刻影響時局的發展，以至往後歷史的進程。

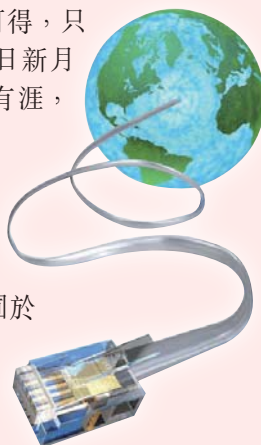
雷達是測定目標位置的無線電裝置，廣泛應用於航天和國防等領域。知否雷達在七十年前曾發揮重大作用，拯救了人類文明，免受軍國主義威脅？一九四二年六月四日是二次大戰的轉折點。當天，美國與日本的艦隊在太平洋中途島海域展開殊死戰。兩國軍力原在伯仲之間，但美軍艦隻配備雷達，加上運氣因素，在戰局中盡佔先機，更一舉擊沉四艘日本航空母艦。資源匱乏的日本慘敗後，元氣大傷，敗象早呈，此後已回天無力。



假如時光倒流，日本聯合艦隊在偷襲珍珠港前已配備精良先進雷達，美國在中途島一役實在難言穩勝，更遑論日後在爭奪太平洋諸島的戰事中取得制空和制海權，為同盟國反敗為勝奠定堅實基礎。倘若日本在中途島一戰得勝，軸心國稱霸世界的野心或會得逞，近代史恐怕也要改寫。

在上世紀九十年代，互聯網的誕生大大改變了人類學習和生活方式。古時通訊受地域限制，智者孔明足不出戶能知天下事，才學廣博，令人嘖嘖稱奇。今人較古人幸運，互聯網上的知識浩如煙海，

上至天文，下至地理，唾手可得，只是網上世界廣闊無垠，資訊日新月異，難免令人輕嘆“吾生也有涯，而知也無涯”。



互聯網拉近了各國之間的距離；古人對“天涯若比鄰”的期盼終於成真。世界縮龍成寸，通訊便利，為原囿於國界的社會、經濟和文化發展開創新天地。互聯網加快了知識傳播，有利新興國家引進最新技術，從而提升生產力，加強競爭優勢，帶動經濟高速增長。另一方面，網絡資訊的傳遞促進思想文化交流，在文化無疆界的大環境下，外來文化與本土文化互相激盪，造就了多元文化融合的盛況。

今天，人們在彈指間便可掌握世界最新動向。互聯網帶來的通訊革命，打破地域時空的阻隔，令全球一體化，各國關係更趨緊密，締造互利互補的新局面。互聯網對世界影響之深遠，恐非發明者當日所能逆料。

證諸歷史，偉大發明往往萌芽於一個微不足道的意念。只要勇於嘗試，不斷改良，這些意念都有機會變成實事實物，推動人類文明發展。發明與歷史的偶然交錯，有如劃破午夜長空的閃電；智慧靈光乍現，星火點點，把大千世界照得通明。

不創前未有，焉傳後無窮。

趙翼



第四十七期答案

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. 少女 | 6. 林黛玉 |
| 2. 魔笛 | 7. 貓頭鷹 |
| 3. 滕王閣 | 8. 柳宗元 |
| 4. 非洲 | 9. 境界 |
| 5. 哥德式 | 10. 人體 |

以下得獎者將獲專函通知領獎：

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鄭煥華	庫務署
Wong Wai-ching	教育局

A CURIOUS MIND



It is said that the curious always have something to ask, and it is only the foolish who do not ask. To know more about curiosity, please read the following passage and fill in the blanks with words given in the box below:

Things are not invented or discovered purely by (1) _____. It all starts with a curious mind. What is curiosity? Some may define it as "an eager desire to see or learn something that is new or unknown". Curiosity, a (2) _____ for inquisitiveness, is an (3) _____ quality. Human beings, both (4) _____ and adults, are naturally curious. With a keen interest in what happens around them, curious people always like to ask questions, such as "Why was that?", "Who made this?" and "Can we do it?"

Seeing the hull and (5) _____ of a ship disappear at different times over the horizon prompted people centuries ago to dispel the (6) _____ that the Earth was flat; an apple falling from a tree helped Isaac Newton discover

the law of (7) _____, and Charles Kao's (8) _____ idea of transmitting light in optical fibres for communication has brought the (9) _____ into existence. Curiosity is a great (10) _____, driving people to explore the (11) _____ world and venture into new waters. Never satisfied with what they know, human beings dare to (12) _____ the existing beliefs. This in turn helps push forward the development of human civilisation.

mast	silly	accident	child	relativity
infants	motivator	wish	Internet	unfathomable
gravity	myth	challenge	innate	synonym
cable	zealous	revolutionary	pillar	lie

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 14 August 2012. 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.

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Issue No. 49 (September 2012) : Man and Nature

二零一二年九月第四十九期主題：人與自然

Issue No. 50 (December 2012) : Pleasures and Delights

二零一二年十二月第五十期主題：賞心樂事

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。

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