

# 情節峰迴路轉

## A twist in the plot

Ruby: Did you watch *Detective Donovan* on TV last night?

露比：昨晚你有沒有看電視劇《偵探多諾萬》？

Cara: Oh yes, it's my favourite crime drama.

卡拉：有，那是我愛看的罪案電視劇。

Ruby: I like it a lot too. I've watched it from the very beginning.

露比：我也很愛看，由最初播映至今都有看。

Cara: What did you think of last night's programme?

卡拉：你認為昨晚那一集怎樣？

Ruby: Well, I thought it was brilliant. I couldn't work out who the murderer was.

露比：我覺得很精彩，看時一直都猜不到謀殺犯是誰。

Cara: Well it seemed obvious to me it was the husband, but it turned out to be the wife.

卡拉：我最初以為一定是那個做丈夫的，誰知竟然是他妻子。

Ruby: Yes. I'd never have guessed. That was a completely unexpected **twist in the plot**.

露比：不錯，我怎樣都猜不到。劇情完全峰迴路轉。

Cara: Well, that's part of the attraction. They want to keep you guessing until the very end and then completely surprise you.

卡拉：這是令人愛看的原因之一。他們力求劇情懸疑，而結局則出乎你意料。

古英語 twist 是指「繩索」，繩索多糾結，所以 **twist** 現在常用來比喻**形勢等乍變或有意外的發展**，**a new twist** 則是說有**新的變化**，例如：(1) A **twist** of fate turned him into an orphan at the age of eight (他八歲時，命途乍變，成為孤兒)。(2) His career took on a **new twist** when he was elected to the city council (他獲選為市會議員，事業又一次轉變)。

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## Word Puzzle

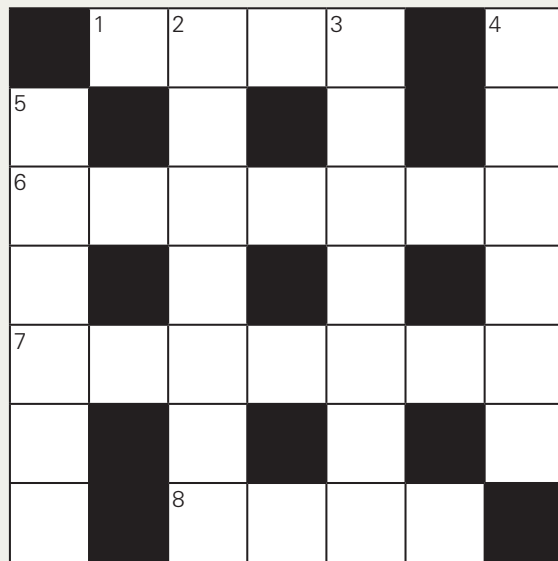
by David Foulds

### Clues Across

- 1 A leisure activity usually requiring rules and some special equipment.
- 6 One of many small hairs growing on the eyelids.
- 7 A motorised bicycle, usually with seating for two people.
- 8 To draw a picture using a sharp point on wood or metal.

### Clues Down

- 2 A modern way of saying "Wonderful!".
- 3 Not stiff: having the property of stretchiness.
- 4 A simple upper-body garment shaped like an alphabetic letter.
- 5 Rises, after a night's sleep, or after a fall.



## 英語文法學堂

文：林嘉莉

資料提供：《林氏模式：學到洋人一樣的英語》

## 詞語搭配 (下)

為什麼要學好英語，就要學習「詞語配搭」？為什麼這是必然的選擇？

學習「詞語配搭」的好處，不單止語法結構與用詞方面都會比較準確，還有一個很重要的好處。「詞語配搭」很多時候都有諺語的功能，能夠以簡短的用詞，來表達一些複雜的意思，而且可以省卻很多不必要的、冗長但卻又好像詞不達意的句法。

譬如，你想用英文來表達：「充足的供應來滿足需求」，假如你不曾這個「詞語配搭」：**adequate supplies to meet the demand**，可能你要把它表達成：We do not have enough things so that every person who wants one can have one。這種表達方式，不單止十分冗長，而且好像詞不達意，聽來怪怪的。

就算一些表達方式可以接受，但並不代表它表達得有美感。例如：我們可以說：a very important moment when things changed completely，來表達「一個重要的轉折點」的意思。但如果我們說：**a major turning point**，不是更有美感、韻味，和更到位嗎？如果我們會說：**a revised edition**，我們就不用說：a new book which is very similar to the old one but improved and updated。不是又經濟、又濃縮嗎？

有些「詞語配搭」，我們會有很多機會，可能要用來表達我們想說的話。但很多人因為不知道它們的存在，就表達得怪聲怪氣的，文章裏變

得 Chinglish 連篇。這些很管用的「詞語配搭」有：**modern cities in the developed world** (發達世界裏的現代城市)、**a marked contrast** (鮮明的對比)、**referring to my earlier point** (參照我之前的論點)、**later in the day** (那天晚些時候)、**in the early twentieth-first century** (在早期的二十一世紀)、**the decline of moral standards** (道德水平的下降)。

我們要常常準備一本筆記簿，把有用的「詞語配搭」統統都記錄下來。譬如：這句「詞語配搭」：**take the hint** (心領神會)，我們應該記錄一句有故事性、有前後關係的句子在旁：如：Okay, I can **take a hint**. (我是明白你的暗示的。)又：**follow in someone's footsteps** (步別人的後塵)，旁邊我們要記錄一句：He's **following in his father's footsteps**. (他承繼他父親的衣鉢。)又：**turn a deaf ear** (充耳不聞)，旁邊我們應該這樣記錄：He **turned a deaf ear to my advice** (他對我的意見充耳不聞。)又：**stand on your own two feet** (自立)，旁邊我們記錄：It's time you **stood on your own two feet**. (現在是時候你去自立了。)

我們的策略是，盡量看和記住愈多「詞語配搭」愈好，記得幾多就幾多。學習英語，可以是一種長期的學習，甚至是終身學習。所以盡量利用長時期的學習，時間愈長，記得的「詞語配搭」就愈多了。

## Giveaway



Do you want to get a copy of the book? Send your answer to the following question, your name, address and telephone number to english@mingpao.com. The giveaway closes on 12 July 2018. The winner will be picked and notified.

**Question:** Share with us how you learn new English expressions.

Thanks: Red Publish

Last week's winner: Choi Yee Ting

## Word Puzzle Answers

Across: 1 game 2 awesome 3 elastic 4 t-shirt 5 gets up  
Down: 6 eyelash 7 scooter 8 etch