

■美文阅读

Every Day is a Lucky Day

I teach economics at UNLV three times per week. Last Monday, at the beginning of class, I cheerfully asked my students how their weekend had been. One young man said that his weekend had not been so good. He had his wisdom teeth removed. The young man then proceeded to ask me why I always seemed to be so cheerful.

His question reminded me of something I'd read somewhere before, "Every morning when you get up, you have a choice about how you want to approach life that day." I said. "I choose to be cheerful."

"Let me give you an example,"

I continued, addressing all sixty students in the class. "In addition to teaching here at UNLV, I also teach out at the community college in Henderson, 17 miles down the freeway from where I live. One day a few weeks ago I drove those 17 miles to Henderson. I exited the freeway and turned onto college drive. I only had to drive another quarter mile down the road to the college. But just then my car died. I tried to start it again, but the engine wouldn't turn over. So I put my flashers on, grabbed my books, and marched down the road to the college."

"As soon as I got there I called

'aaa' and arranged for a tow truck to meet me at my car after class." The secretary in the provost's office asked me what has happened. "This is my lucky day." I replied, smiling.

"Your car breaks down and today is your lucky day?" She was puzzled, "What do you mean?"

"I live 17 miles from here." I replied. "My car could have broken down anywhere along the freeway. It didn't, instead, it broke down in the perfect place: off the freeway, within walking distance of here. I'm still able to teach my class, and I've been able to arrange for the tow truck to meet me after class. If my

car was meant to break down today, it couldn't have been arranged in a more convenient fashion."

"The secretary's eyes opened wide, and then she smiled. I smiled back and headed for class." So ended my story.

I scanned the sixty faces in my economics class at UNLV. Despite the early hour, no one seemed to be asleep. Somehow, my story had touched them, or maybe it wasn't the story at all. In fact, it had all started with a student's observation that I was cheerful.



■知识播报

allow/ permit/ let/ promise 辨析

1. allow "允许、许可", 一般指听任或默许某人去做什么, 含有消极地不反对的意味。如:

① We allowed him to depart. 我们允许他离去。

② Who allowed you to leave the camp? 谁允许你离开营地的?

③ I can't allow you to do that. 我不能允许你做那件事。

allow也可表客气的请求。如:

Will you allow me to use your pen? 我可以用你的钢笔吗?

2. permit "允许、许可" 但是正式地许可, 含有比较积极地同意某人去做什么的意味。如:

① I will permit him to do so. 我准备同意他这样做。

② The sentinel permitted the strangers to pass when they had given the countersign. 当这群陌生人说出口令后, 哨兵就允许他们通过了。

[注]: allow与permit的涵义虽有差别, 但在语言实践中, 它们常常被通用着。如: ① Smoking is not

allowed here. 此处禁止吸烟。

② Smoking is not permitted in this theatre. 本戏院里禁止吸烟。

3. let "允许、让", 它可以指积极地允许, 但更多的是着重指不予反对和阻止。其后所跟的宾语要接不带to的不定式。用以表示客气的请求时, 可与allow通用, 且更具有口语色彩。如: ① Her father will not let her go. 她父亲不会让她去。

② Don't let this happen again. 不要让这种事再发生了。

③ Please let me know what happens. 请告诉我发生些什么事。

4. promise "答应、允诺"。与以上三个词的意义不同, 用于主体答应自己做什么的场合。如:

① He promised to begin at once. 他答应立刻开始。

② I promised (him) to attend to the matter promptly. 我答应(他)立即处理这件事。

③ They promised an immediate reply. 他们答应立即答复。

■短语妙用

英语中 day in day out 表达的意思是“日复一日, 一天又一天”。它可以用来形容重复做的或连续不断发生的事情, 并常用在描述枯燥乏味之事的语境中。

例句

I have been doing the same job day in day out for nearly 20 years.

我做同一份工作, 日复一日都快20年了。

Nathan trained for the marathon day in day out for 8 months.

Nathan为了准备马拉松, 整整八个月天天训练。

The food offered in the school canteen is the same day in day out.

学校食堂里的饭菜每天都是一样的。

■轻松一刻

20美元

"I'm sorry, Madam, but I shall have to charge you twenty dollars for pulling your boy's tooth."

"Twenty dollars! Why, I understand you to say that you charged only four dollars for such work!"

"Yes, but this youngster yelled so terribly that he scared four other patients out of the office."

"对不起, 夫人, 为您孩子拔牙我要收取20美元。"

"20美元! 为什么? 不是说好只要4美元。"

"是的, 但是你的孩子大喊大叫, 把另外四个病人吓跑了。"