

【双语】

足球叫soccer还是football?



The word “soccer” dates back to the 19th-century birth of modern football. It has a more precise meaning than the broader term “football”, points out University of Michigan professor Stefan Szymanski in a new paper.

“soccer”这个词可以追溯到19世纪,现代足球刚刚诞生的时候。密西根大学的教授西曼斯基在最新发布的研究中指出,“soccer”的词义更为精准,而“football”的词义更宽泛。

People have been playing football-like sports for centuries, from the ancient Chinese cuju to the Mayan game pok ta pok, which used a rubber ball. Yet football as it’s played in the World Cup was born more recently in Britain.

从中国古代的蹴鞠到玛雅的橡胶足球“波塔波”,人们玩类似足球的运动已经有几个世纪的历史了。然而在世界杯上踢的足球却是英国人在近代发明的。

Some types of football had long involved use of the hands — “football” originally meant an array of ball games played on foot rather than horseback, and didn’t necessarily refer to kicking. In 1871, a group of clubs met in London to form the Rugby Football Union, and from then on the two versions of football were distinguished as Rugby Football and Association Football. The latter is a mouthful, especially compared to “rugby”,so it clearly needed a nickname.

football一词最初是指在地上而非马背上进行的球类运动。在那时,“football”并不一定要靠踢的,一些“football”长期以来都用手玩。1871年,一些俱乐部在伦敦组建了橄榄球联盟,随后两种不同版本的“football”被分别称为橄榄球(rugby football)和英式足球(association football)以示区别。和前者比起来,后者的名字很拗口,需要一个昵称。

But how did “association” become “soccer”? For one, it was common at the time in England to form slang by adding -er, like

“rugger” from Rugby. Plus, as the Online Etymology Dictionary points out, “those who did it perhaps shied away from making a name out of the first three letters of Assoc.”

但“association”是如何演变成“soccer”的?一来在当时的英语中通过添加-er后缀组成俚语很平常,例如橄榄球运动员“rugger”就演变自“Rugby”。另外根据在线词源词典所指出的,“引导单词变化的人,可能是为了避免单纯地取源单词‘association’的前三个字母。”

The popularity of football in North America required another name for association football, so Americans used the British nickname “soccer”. This was still a recognized term at the time in England. The word “soccer” wasn’t used widely in publications until after World War II. It then peaked in popularity among the British from 1960 to 1980, when soccer and football were used almost interchangeably.

在北美,由于美式橄榄球的盛行,人们需要用另一个名字来称呼英式足球,于是人们选择了它的英国昵称“soccer”。“soccer”一词在二次大战前并未在出版物中广泛使用。在1960年到1980年之间,它在英国的使用率达到高峰,几乎可以和football一词互换使用。

Although it’s unclear why “soccer” grew more common in Britain after World War II, it may have been due to the popularity of U.S. soldiers stationed there.

我们尚不清楚为何二战后“soccer”一词在英国变得更普遍,但这可能是因为驻英美军。

In the 1980s we start to hear the argument that soccer is an American word. It is hard to think of any explanation for the decline of “soccer” in England other than the rising popularity of the word soccer in the U.S.

从上世纪80年代开始,我们就听说一种说法认为“soccer”一词是美语。除了“soccer”一词在美国用得越来越多,我们很难想象还有其他原因能解释为什么英国人不再用它。

【趣味英语】

猜猜世界上词汇量最丰富的语言是哪门?

尽管有些单词消失不见了,但英语很可能仍是所有语言中词汇量最丰富、语义最全面的语言。英语中可以区分house(房子)和home(家)(可是法语不能),还可以区别以下这些单词: continual(多次重复的)和continuous(连续的)、sensual(肉体的)和sensuous(感觉上的)、forceful(强有力的)和forcible(强迫的)、childish(孩子气的)和childlike(像孩子般的)、masterful(精湛的)和masterly(威严的)、assignment(作业)和assignation(分派)、informant(告密者)和informer(通知者)等。

英语中几乎每一个单词都有好几个同义词。比如,形容物体大的单词就有: big、massive、large、immense、vast、capacious、bulky、whopping、humongous。其他的语言就没有如此丰富的词汇可以用来表达一个意思。

一种语言能具有如此丰富的词汇被视为一种优势,但是也有批评者认为英语是一种凌乱的、企图面面俱到的语言,堆满了重复的词语。的确,英语中有 moldable(可塑造的), 还需要再来一个同义词fictile吗? hairless和glabrous都是没头发的意思,需要两个重复的词同时存在吗? 打喷嚏用sneezing,何必再来一个sternutation呢? 美国著名漫画家、小说家朱尔斯·菲佛(Jules Feiffer)曾经画

过一幅漫画,漫画中衣衫褴褛的角色看到自己先后被形容成poor(贫穷的),然后是needy(生活困难的)、deprived(被剥夺的)、underprivileged(没享受过权利的)和disadvantaged(下层社会的),于是他得出一个结论: 尽管他一文不名,但是形容自己贫穷的词汇却真不少。这种批评并非没有道理,具有丰富词汇量的语言常常有语句冗余的弊病,而英语中往往喜欢用重复性词汇。类似这样的短语有: beck andcall(指挥命令)、law andorder(法治秩序)、assault andbattery(暴力行为)、null andvoid(无效的)、safe andsound(安全的)、first andforemost(首要的)、andtribulations(考验磨难)、hem andhaw(吞吞吐吐)、spick-and-span(一尘不染)、kith andkin(亲友)、dig anddelve(挖掘搜索)、hale andhearty(健壮的)、peace andquiet(平静安详)、vim andvigor(生机勃勃)、pots andpans(瓶瓶罐罐)、cease anddesist(终止)、rack andruin(毁灭)、without let orhindrance(毫无障碍)、to all intents andpurposes(实际上)、variousdifferent(不同的)。

摘自《布莱森英语简史》(The Mother Tongue English and How It Got That Way)

【英语词汇】

- 1.We’ve spent too much money recently.
- Well, it isn’t surprising. Our friend and relatives ____ around all the time.
- A.are coming B.had come
- C.were coming
- D.have been coming
- 2.I’m tired out.I ____all afternoon and I don’t seem to have finished anything.
- A.shopped B.have shopped
- C.had shopped
- D.have been shopping
- 3.Joseph____ to evening classes since last month,but he still can’t say what’s your name? In Russian.
- A.has been going B.went

- C.goes D.has gone
- 4.Have you got any job offers?
- No. I ____.
- A.waited B.had been waiting
- C.have waited D.am waiting
- 答案:
- 1.D. 由all the time暗示亲戚朋友一直来个不停。
- 2.D. 由语境可判断整个下午一直购物。
- 3.A. since last month与完成时连用,但根据but后的句意,说明动作从过去到现在一直在进行着,故用现在完成时更妥。
- 4.D. 用现在进行时表示正在进行的动作或存在的状态。