



■美文欣赏

校园防火 Campus fire safety

People are alarmed by the succession of campus fires in recent years. In each of these accidents, heavy casualties were reported – houses were burned down, students lost their lives, and properties were damaged. Faced with such a chilling fact, people keep asking, “What on earth results in these repeated tragedies?”

A brief survey of them reveals that human factors still

prove to be the leading causes. For example, three of these fires were caused by the students’ use of electric water-heaters. As students often leave the heaters unattended, the risks are rather high should the water in the bottle boil dry while no one is around to turn off the power. In other cases, fires were also caused by stoves, candles, cigarette butts, etc.

Since most of these disasters could have been prevented if

proper precautions had been taken, students should be better educated on the importance and measures of fire control. The following three reminders are of particular importance for us students: First, learn how to use a fire extinguisher. Second, double-check candles, heaters, stoves and other electric appliances, and make sure there are no open flames before leaving rooms. Lastly, do not smoke in the dorm.

■词语辨析

besides/except辨析

1. besides与except用于肯定句时, except意为“除……之外(不再有)”; besides意为“除……之外(还有)”。试比较:
I have another blue pen besides this one.
除了这支外,我还有另一支蓝色钢笔。
We all passed the exam except

Tom.
我们都通过了考试,汤姆除外。
2. except前几乎总有all、any、every、no及其复合词等词。
He answered all the questions except the last one.
除了最后一个问题没答外,其余问题他都答了。
3. except后接名词、代词、动名词和

原形动词,这时except=but;
但except后跟副词、介词短语时,不能用but代替。如:
The window is never open except in summer.
这扇窗户从来不开,除夏季外。
He did nothing except/ but clean the house.
他只是打扫了房子。

■俚语

1. down in the dumps垂头丧气
The players were down in the dumps after their team lost the championship game.
球员输掉决赛那一场后个个垂头丧气。
2. horse around嬉闹
We’ve horsed around long enough. It’s time to get to work.
我们闹够了,该去工作了。
3. pass something up放弃某事物
You can’t pass up this job.

This kind of opportunity comes only once in a lifetime.
你不可错过这个工作。这种机会一辈子才有一次。
4. go whole hog全力以赴
She went whole hog in planning he New Year’s Eve party.
她全心全力筹办新年晚会。
5. shoo-in长胜将军
There’s no way he can lose.
He’s a shoo-in.
他不会输的,他是位长胜将军。

■英语笑话

这钟准吗?

Dan was the doorman of a club in a big city. Everyday, thousands of people passed his door, and a lot of them stopped and asked him, “What’s the time, please?”
After a few months, Dan said to himself, “I’m not going to answer all those stupid people any more. I’m going to buy a big clock and put it upon the wall here.” Then he did so. “Now people aren’t going to stop and ask me the time,” he thought happily. But after that, a lot of people stopped, looked at the clock and then asked Dan, “Is that clock right?”