

■美文阅读

The loss of Titanic

The great ship, Titanic, sailed for New York from Southampton on April 10th, 1912. She was carrying 1316 passengers and a crew of 891. Even by modern standards, the 46,000 ton Titanic was a colossal ship. At that time, however, she was not only the largest ship that had ever been built, but was regarded as unsinkable, for she had sixteen water-tight compartments. Even if two of these were flooded, she would still be able to float. The tragic sinking of this great liner will always

be remembered, for she went down on her first voyage with heavy loss of life. Four days after setting out, while the Titanic was sailing across the icy waters of the North Atlantic, a huge iceberg was suddenly spotted by a look-out. After the alarm had been given, the great ship turned sharply to avoid a direct collision. The Titanic turned just in time, narrowly missing the immense wall of ice which rose over 100 feet out of the water beside her. Suddenly, there was a slight

trembling sound from below, and the captain went down to see what had happened. The noise had been so faint that no one thought that the ship had been damaged. Below, the captain realized to his horror that the Titanic was sinking rapidly, for five of her sixteen water-tight compartments had already been flooded! The order to abandon ship was given and hundreds of people plunged into the icy water. As there were not enough life-boats for everybody, 1500 lives were lost.

■英语笑话

Midway Tactics

Three competing store owners rented adjoining shops in a mall. Observers waited for mayhem to ensue.

The retailer on the right put up huge signs saying, “Gigantic Sale!” and “Super Bargains!”

The store on the left raised bigger signs proclaiming, “Prices Slashed!” and “Fantastic Discounts!”

The owner in the middle then prepared a large sign that simply stated, “ENTRANCE”.

中间战术

三个互相争生意的商店老板在一条商业街上租用了毗邻的店铺。旁观者等着瞧好戏。

右边的零售商挂起了巨大的招牌,上书:“大减价!”“特便宜!”

左边的商店挂出了更大的招牌,声称:“大砍价!”“大折扣!”

中间的商人随后准备了一个大招牌,上面只简单地写着:“入口处。”

■短语

让老师也怦然心动的口语表达

1. take a hint 表示读懂别人的暗示,心领神会
例句: It didn't take long to realize this girl could not take a hint of any kind.

很快我就发现这女孩不怎么会看人眼色。
I hope she could take a hint and leave me alone.

我希望她能看懂我的暗示,让我自己待着。
2. hatch a plan 制订计划
I hatched the plan. I asked out Sherry Stalls. Things were unfolding quite nicely.

我做好了打算,要和雪莉约会。事情进展得很顺利。

In order to solve this mechanical problem, they work hard and hatch a genius plan.

为了解决这个机械问题,他们辛苦工作,制订出了这个天才计划。

Hatch: 原意为孵化,为了更生动地表示制订计划,可以使用 hatch a plan,有点长期筹谋、秘密筹划的意味。

■词语辨析

a bit/a little

这两个词都意为“一点儿”,有时可以互换,但有时不能。

1. 二者作程度副词修饰形容词、副词、动词或比较级时,意义相同,为“一点儿”,“有些”。如: ① I am a bit / a little hungry. 我有点饿。② He walked a bit / a little slowly. 他走路有点慢。

2. 二者都可以作名词词组,充当主语或宾语。如: ① A little / bit is enough for me. 我有一点点就够了。② I know only a little / a bit about her. 我对她的情况只了解一点。

3. a little可直接修饰名词;a bit后须加of才可以。如: There is a little water in the bottle. = There is a bit of water in the bottle. [注意] a little of 后的名词通常特指,表“……中的一些”,如: May I have a little of your tea?

4. 否定形式 not a little作状语,相当于very/quite,“很”,“非常”;作定语和宾语时,相当于much,意为“许多”。而not a bit作状语时,相当于not at all,意为“一点也不”,作宾语时则相当于not much. 例: ① He is not a little (=very) hungry. 他饿极了。② He is not a bit (=not at all) hungry. 他一点也不饿。③ She ate not a little (=much). 她吃得很多。

5. not a bit中的not可以分开使用;not a little中的not则不能分开。例: ① He felt not a bit tired. = He didn't feel a bit tired. 他觉得一点也不累。② He felt not a little tired. 他觉得非常累。但不能说: He didn't feel a little tired.