

■美文阅读



## Five pounds too dear

Small boats loaded with wares sped to the great liner as she was entering the harbour. Before she had anchored, the men from the boats had climbed on board and the decks were soon covered with colourful rugs from Persia, silks from India, copper coffee pots, and beautiful hand-made silverware. It was difficult not to be tempted. Many of the tourists on board had begun bargaining with the tradesmen, but I decided not to buy anything until I had disembarked. I had no sooner got off the ship than I was assailed by a man who wanted to sell me a diamond ring. I had no intention of buying one, but I could not conceal the fact that I was impressed by the size of the diamonds. Some of them were as big as marbles. The man went to great lengths to prove that the diamonds were real. As we were walking past a shop, he held a diamond firmly against the window and made a deep impression in the glass. It took me over half an hour to get rid of him.

The next man to approach me was selling expensive pens and watches. I examined one of the pens closely. It certainly looked genuine. At the base of the gold cap, the words 'made in the U.S.A.' had been neatly inscribed. The man said that the pen was worth £10, but as a special favour, he would let me have it for £8. I shook my head and held up a finger indicating that I was willing to pay a pound. Gesticulating wildly, the man acted as if he found my offer outrageous, but he eventually reduced the price to £3. Shrugging my shoulders, I began to walk away when, a moment later, he ran after me and thrust the pen into my hands. Though he kept throwing up his arms in despair, he readily accepted the pound I gave him. I felt especially pleased with my wonderful bargain--until I got back to the ship. No matter how hard I tried, it was impossible to fill this beautiful pen with ink and to this day it has never written a single word!

■知识播报

### 以catch为中心的词组

be caught doing 被发现做某事  
be caught in the rain 淋雨  
catch a bus/train 赶汽车/火车  
catch a cold 伤风, 感冒  
catch one's word 听懂某人的话  
catch sight of 发现, 瞥见  
catch up with 赶上, 追及, 追上

■词语辨析

### decide, make up one's mind, settle

三者都有“决定”的意思, 但含义及用法有所不同。

decide指经过考虑或商议后作出决定。如: He has decided to go to college. 他决定上大学。

make up one's mind指“打定主意”。如: I have made up my mind to be a teacher. 我决心当教师。

settle表示澄清了事实, 解除了疑问之后的最后决定。如: We have settled the trip to Beijing, but we haven't settled how to get there.

我们已决定去北京, 但还没有决定怎么去。

■英语笑话

### The mean man's party

The notorious cheap skate finally decided to have a party. Explaining to a friend how to find his apartment, he said, "Come up to 5M and ring the doorbell with your elbow. When the door opens, push with your foot."

"Why use my elbow and foot?"

"Well, gosh," was the reply, "You're not coming empty-handed, are you?"

### 吝啬鬼请客

一个出了名的吝啬鬼终于决定要请一次客了。他在向一个朋友解释怎么找到他家时说: “你上到五楼, 找中间那个门, 然后用你的胳膊肘按门铃。门开了之后, 再用你的脚把门推开。”

“为什么要用我的肘和脚呢?”

“你的双手得拿礼物啊。天哪, 你总不会空着手来吧?” 吝啬鬼回答。