



英語節 2005
《英語日日新》電視節目
內容撮要

引言

語文教育及研究常務委員會〈語常會〉主辦的「英語節 2005」製作
了三十集介紹英語的電視節目。下文撮錄了節目的部分內容。

1) “Even though” and “Although”

對話

- Foreigner: What are you doing this weekend?
Actor: **Even though** the exam's coming up, but Alex and I are going shopping.
Presenter: 你應該說: Even though the exam's coming up, Alex and I are going shopping.
Foreigner: That sounds better!

解說

中文的「雖然」與「但是」經常一併使用，如“雖然考試臨近，但是我們還去購物”。英語中意思相近的兩個單詞 "even though" / "although" 與 "but" 卻是獨立運用，如 “Although the exam's coming up, we are going shopping.” 或 “The exam's coming up, but we are going shopping.”

2) “Cram” and “Flunk”

對話

Foreigner: Have you started studying for next month’s English test yet?

Presenter: Well, not really. I go to the library but just end up reading and watching the world go by.

Foreigner: When are you going to start preparing for the test then?

Presenter: Two days before the test, I guess. I’ll cram as much as I can. That’s the best way to keep information in your brain for a short time, you know.

Foreigner: **Cramming** now’s not going to help very much for the end-of-year exam though. You’ll probably **flunk** the course.

解說

“Cram” 可以解作「死記」、「硬背」，亦有「塞入」、「填塞」的意思，如 “to cram food into the mouth” 是指「將食物塞進咀裡」。而 “to flunk an examination” 就是「考試不及格」的通俗說法。

3) “To keep up with”

對話

Foreigner: How do you like your university?

Presenter: I just love it. We’ve got such beautiful buildings. And the laboratories are really well equipped.

Foreigner: What about your classes?

Presenter: There’s a group of really smart fellows in one of the classes and I have to work really hard **to keep up with** them.

解說

“To keep up with” 是指「跟上某事情或某人的進度」，如 “I have to work really hard to keep up with them.” 就是指「我必須很努力才可以跟上他們。」

4) “Glaring”

對話

Presenter: Tell me the most obvious difference between Hong Kong and UK universities?

Foreigner: The most **glaring** thing is that there isn't just a single university campus in Cambridge, Oxford and London; instead, the university buildings are spread out around the city.

Presenter: How fantastic! We can go shopping between lectures.

解說

“Glaring”是從“glare”一詞轉過來，可以解作「怒目而視」或「耀眼」，如“*They glare at each other.*”是「他們怒視對方」，“*The glare of the sun*”是「太陽的強光」，而“*The most glaring thing*”就是「最顯眼易見的東西」。

5) “MTR”, “Tube”, “Underground” and “Subway”

對話

Foreigner: Excuse me. Could you tell me where the nearest **tube** station is, please?

Actor: Tube station? What’s tube?

Presenter: In England it’s known as the tube. In Hong Kong, we call it the **MTR**. Just walk down this street until you get to the bank, then turn right and keep going for two blocks. The tube station is just across from the bookshop.

Foreigner: Thanks a lot.

Presenter: You’re welcome.

解說

香港稱「地下鐵」為“MTR”(Mass Transit Railway)，英國人則多用“Tube”或“Underground”，而美國人一般慣用“Subway”。

6) “Dead end” and “Promotion”

對話

- Foreigner: I've really got to start thinking about my future.
Presenter: What do you mean? You've got a good job here.
Foreigner: Not really. This is a **dead-end** job.
Presenter: I thought you liked your job.
Foreigner: I do, but I've been here for ten years, and I haven't had a **promotion** in the last five! I've gone as far as I can in this company.

解說

“Dead end” 解作「死巷」或「沒有出路的困局」，而 “a dead-end job” 就是「一份沒有前途的工作」。“Promotion” 解作「宣傳」、「推廣」，用於工作環境中即指「升職」。

7) “Have assured us” and “Prompt”

對話

- Presenter: We could produce this item for \$5 apiece.
Foreigner: \$5 is too high.
Presenter: But our profit margin for this item is very low.
Foreigner: Other manufacturers **have assured us** that they can match our price.
Presenter: But we have the best quality control and we guarantee **prompt** delivery.

解說

“Assure” 的意思是「保證」， “have assured us” 即是「曾向我們保證」。 “prompt” 有「促使」、「引起」的意思，亦解作「立刻」， “prompt delivery” 便是「準時交貨」。

8) “Discuss” and “Talk about”

對話

Presenter: I wonder if there’s any possibility of our setting up an overseas branch.

Foreigner: Well, that’s a very good question and my answer is yes. Oh, it’s almost noon now. Would you like to **discuss** it over lunch?

Presenter: I’d be delighted. Details often come about over meals.

Foreigner: Let’s go to the cafeteria downstairs before it gets too crowded.

解說

“Discuss something over something” 是指「一面處理某件事情，一面討論某些東西」，如 “Would you like to discuss it over lunch?” 是指「你是否想一面吃午飯一面商談該事情呢？」。而 “talk about” 跟 “discuss” 的意思是一樣的，如例句可說成 “Would you like to talk about it over lunch?”。不過，“discuss” 後不應使用 “about”。

9) “Pressing”

對話

Foreigner: This one is **pressing**; the other one can wait.

Presenter: When is this one due?

Foreigner: Tomorrow afternoon.

Presenter: Oh, that’s quite impossible.

解說

“Pressing” 是由 “press” 「按壓」一詞轉過來，形容「事情逼切」。
“Is it pressing?” 就是問「該事是否趕急？」。如指某人很匆忙，應該用 “in a hurry”，而“Are you in a hurry?” 就是問「你很趕忙嗎？」

10) “Be tied up”

對話

Presenter: Hello, this is Mandy speaking.

Foreigner: This is Clare from ABC. May I speak to Mr Chan please?

Presenter: I'm afraid he's **tied up** at the moment. Shall I have him call you when he's available?

Presenter: Ok, I'll pass on the message.

解說

“Be tied up” 是「被困縛」。如引申至聽電話的情況，“Someone is tied up” 便是指「某人很忙，不能接聽電話」。

11) “It’s too dear”

對話

- Presenter: Can I have a look at that shirt, please?
Foreigner: Here you are.
Presenter: How much is it?
Foreigner: Six hundred dollars.
Presenter: Oh, **it’s too dear**. Can you come down a bit?
Foreigner: I can give you a ten percent discount.
Presenter: Ok, I’ll take it.

解說

“It is too dear.” 或 “It is too expensive.” 是指「該東西太貴了」；
“The price is not reasonable.” 是指「價錢不合理」；而 “It is not worth that much.” 就是指「該東西不值那麼昂貴」。

12) “it”

對話

- Foreigner: Hello! How can I help you?
Presenter: I'm looking for a sweater for my grandpa.
Foreigner: How do you like this one? **It's** cashmere.
Presenter: Well, it's a bit too dear for me.
Foreigner: So how about this one? It's pure wool.
Presenter: It looks fine and isn't too expensive. I'll have it.

解說

“It” 是代名詞，可用作介紹所代替物件製成的物料，如 “It is cashmere.” 是說「它是開士米羊毛造的。」，跟 “It is made of cashmere.” 的意思一樣。

13) “It’s for ...”

對話

Presenter: I’d like to buy a shirt.

Foreigner: Certainly, what’s it for?

Presenter: **It’s for** a wedding ceremony.

Foreigner: How about this one?

Presenter: Well, I don’t think this striped shirt is good for a wedding.
It looks like it’s for more casual occasions. But, I
actually quite like it. Could I try it on please?

Foreigner: Sure, the fitting room is over there.

解說

“It is for” 可用作介紹所代替事物適用的場合或作用，如 “It is for a wedding ceremony.” 解作「它適用於婚禮。」。

14) “prefer”

對話

Foreigner: We have a wide selection of pants. How do you like these two pairs?

Presenter: I **prefer** the black ones to the gray ones. Let me have a look.

Foreigner: I think they will both look good on you.

Presenter: Well, actually I prefer the brown ones to the black ones. But, anyway, I'll take the black ones.

Foreigner: Sure, I'll bring them to you in a minute.

Presenter: Thanks.

解說

“Prefer A to B”意思是「喜歡A多於B」。簡單的用法可以是“prefer A”，即「較喜歡A」。

15) “catalogue”

對話

- Presenter: Look at this **catalogue**, parkas are on sale.
Foreigner: What are you talking about? You’ve got one already.
Presenter: But I bought it a long time ago.
Foreigner: Yeah right! One year is a long time ago!
Presenter: You don’t understand! This is last year’s style.
Foreigner: I think it still looks perfect even if it is out of fashion this year.

解說

“Catalogue”是指「產品目錄」，亦可解作「登記」、「記載」，如 “The new books are being catalogued.” 即是說「這些新書正在被登記編入目錄。」。

16) “Novel” instead of “fiction”; “Mother Tongue”, not “Mother Language”

對話

Actor: Jeff, could you give me a hand, please?
Foreigner: Of course!
Foreigner: Woo, it's so heavy, what is it?
Actor: I bought some new fiction this morning!
Foreigner: English or Chinese?
Actor: Chinese, it's my mother language!

解說

在英語中，“fiction”是指「文學類型中的小說」，並非指「一本刊載小說的讀物」。所以「我買了一本小說」應是“I bought a new novel”，而不是“I bought a new fiction”。另外，「母語」的正確說法是“mother tongue”或“native language”，而不是“mother language”。

17) “exhaust gas” not “exhausted gas”, “concern” instead of “nervous”

對話

Foreigner: It's urgent that the acute problem of air pollution in the city be solved.

Actor: It's going to be difficult to solve the problem. Exhausted gases cause a lot of pollution. Besides, Hong Kong is very busy and crowded and that adds to it. This makes people very nervous about the pollution.

解說

“Exhaust”可解作「耗盡」、「精疲力盡」，而“exhaust gas”則指「廢氣」。另外，“nervous”和“concerned”均有「緊張」的意思，“nervous”是指某人因還未發生的事感到焦慮不安，而“concern”則指關心或擔憂某件事情，如“This makes people very concerned about the pollution.”解作「這令市民非常關心該污染的問題」。

18) “nature calls” and “relieve myself”

對話

Foreigner: Excuse me, but **nature calls**.

Actor: You have a call? You can use my mobile!

Foreigner: I must go and **relieve myself**!

解說

“Nature calls” 和 “relieve myself” 是較含蓄的講法，和 “go to the toilet” 的意思一樣，解作「去洗手間」。而在美式英語的通俗講法中，“Where is the john?” 的 “john” 也是指「洗手間」。

19) “Search me”

對話

Foreigner: I hear that John and Mary broke up.

Presenter: Really? That’s too bad. Why do you think they split up?

Foreigner: **Search me.**

解說

除了 “I don’t know” ， “search me”, “beats me” 和 “you got me” 也可解作「我不知道」。

20) “not my cup of tea” and “turn me off”

對話

Foreigner: What do you think of Mary/Peter?

Presenter: She's/He's **not** exactly **my cup of tea**. She/He **turns me off**.

解說

“Not my cup of tea”指「不是我喜歡的類型」，“turns me off”則可解作「令我失去興趣」，兩句的用法和意思也非常相近。

21) “late”

對話

Actor: Oh, I’m sorry for my late.

Foreigner: It’s ok. I know you had a meeting with your boss.

Actor: Yes, we discussed about the new project for an hour.

解說

如果表示「我遲到了，真不好意思」，應說 “I’m sorry for being late” 或 “I’m sorry for coming late”，其中 “late” 是副詞或形容詞，而不是名詞，所以不應說成 “I’m sorry for my late.” 另外，“discuss” 和 “talk about” 的意思一樣，也可解作「討論」、「商討」。不過，“discuss” 後不應使用 “about”。

22) “expensive”

對話

Presenter: How do we get to the restaurant?

Foreigner: The most convenient way is by taxi.

Actor: You're right, but the taxi fare will be quite expensive, and we have to pay the Cross Harbour Tunnel fare.

解說

“Expensive” 適用於形容貨物或服務昂貴，但表示 “prices”, “fares”, “costs” 和 “bills” 的收費高昂或低廉時，應用 “high” 或 “low” 而不用 “expensive”，例如 “The fare is high.”

23) “pig out” and “eat like a bird”

對話

Presenter: I'm afraid I'm gaining weight.

Foreigner: I'm not surprised. You **pig out** on burgers, don't you?

Presenter: I can't help it.

Foreigner: Well, if you want to lose weight, you must **eat like a bird** and exercise regularly.

解說

“Pig out” 解作「吃得過量」，如 “pig out on ice cream.” 就是「吃得太多雪糕」。如形容別人「食量很大」，可用 “eat like a horse” ，「食量很少」則可用 “eat like a bird” ，「吃得太多又沒禮貌」就是 “eat like a pig.”

24) “work out”

對話

Actor: Oh, it's too hard for me.

Foreigner: Do you **work out**?

Actor: No, I don't work outside. I work in an office.

解說

“Work out”和“exercise”的意思一樣，解作「做運動」。在英式英語中，“trainers”是指「跑步時穿著的運動鞋」，美式英語則稱之為“sneakers”，留意這兩個詞必須是眾數。

25) Swimming

對話

Foreigner: I want to go **swimming**. Do you want to join me sometime?

Actor: That would be great but I can't swim.

Foreigner: Really? If you like, I can teach you how to swim. Which stroke do you want to learn?

解說

不同泳式有不同說法：「自由式」是“freestyle”或“crawl”；「蝶式」是“butterfly”；「蛙泳」是“breaststroke”；「背泳」是“backstroke”；而「狗爬式游泳」則是“doggy paddle”。

26) “have a weakness for ...” and “your eyes are bigger than your stomach”

對話

Presenter: Here’s the menu! Let’s order four main dishes and share them. I have a **weakness for** fish.

Foreigner: I think **your eyes are bigger than your stomach**. Do you see how much food they give you? Look at the plate of that woman over there. Look at the size of that portion!

Presenter: Good. I’m starving.

解說

“Have a weakness for 某東西”跟“have a passion for 某東西”一樣，是指「我特別喜歡某東西」，如表示「我特別喜歡吃魚」，可說“I have a weakness for fish”或“I have a passion for fish.”如指「你眼闊肚窄」，可說“Your eyes are bigger than your stomach.”

27) “sunny side up and boiled eggs” and “How would you like ...”

對話

Presenter: We'll have the American breakfast, please.

Foreigner: Certainly, sir. **How would you like** your eggs?

Presenter: I'll have them **sunny side up** with ham and **boiled eggs** with bacon for my friend.

Foreigner: What would you like to drink?

Presenter: Could you give us two coffees, please.

Foreigner: Of course, I'll bring them in a minute.

解說

「太陽蛋」是 “sunny side up eggs”，「焗蛋」是 “boiled eggs”，「炒蛋」是 “scrambled eggs”，「奄列」是 “omelet”。 “How would you like 某東西？” 是解作「你希望怎樣處理某東西？」，如 “How would you like your eggs?” 便是「你希望怎樣烹調雞蛋？」

28) “grill”, “bake”, “smoke” and “fry”

對話

Presenter: I'd like the soup of the day and the salmon fillet, please.

Foreigner: Certainly. How would you like it cooked?

Presenter: What are the options?

Foreigner: You can have it **grilled, baked, smoked** or **fried**.

Presenter: I'll have it grilled, please.

Foreigner: Would you like a baked potato or French fries?

Presenter: French fries, please.

Foreigner: I'll be right back with your meal.

解說

西餐常見的煮食方法，包括「燒」“grill”，「焗」“bake”，「煙燻」“smoke”和「煎」“fry”。至於食物的生熟程度，如「全熟」是“well-done”，「七成熟」是“medium-well”，「五成熟」則是“medium”。

29) “Can/May I have the bill please?”

對話

Presenter: **Can I have the bill please?**

Foreigner: Yes, certainly. Would you like to pay by cash or credit card?

Presenter: I'll pay by cash.

解說

“Can I have the bill please?” 跟 “May I have the bill please?” 都解作「請結賬」，不過，“May” 是比較正式、正規的說法，在要求較有禮貌，莊重時使用。“Can” 則是較隨便的用法，在一般情況下使用。

30) “The food is good”, not “the food is well”

對話

Actor: Um...The food was very well, do you want to try some?

Presenter: (looks at the foreigner) Is it okay to share your food with the others at the table?

Foreigner: Yes, but you should always request additional small plates and clean cutlery for dividing the shared food.

解說

形容食物美味，應該說“The food is good.”，而不是“The food is well.”。“Table manners”是「餐飲禮儀」，而“cutlery”則是「飲食餐具」，如刀叉、匙子。