



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

He's No Mastermind
他不是一个足智多谋的人

He's No Mastermind 他不是个足智多谋的人

Could You Do Better? 你能做的更好吗?

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

There is no doubt that users of the bbcukchina website are among the most intelligent and educated people. So let's see if you know the answers to the following **general knowledge** questions:

In Greek **mythology** what did Prometheus steal from the gods? Ursus Maritimus is the **scientific name** for which bear? Pierre is the capital of which American state?

How did you **get on**? If you answered the questions correctly then you did a lot better than a **contestant** on a long-running BBC **quiz show** called Mastermind, who got the lowest score in the programme's 40-year history.

Software analyst Kajen Thuraaisingham scored a **measly** five points out of 29 over the two **rounds** of the show.

The **format** of the show sees contestants answer questions on a **specialised subject** of their choosing before **tackling** a round of general knowledge.

The **pressure** really **comes to bear** on the players as they occupy the **iconic** black leather chair positioned under a bright **spotlight**.

After the show Mastermind's **host** John Humphrys **commiserated** with the unfortunate contestant.

"It's the 'black chair' **syndrome**," said Humphrys. "No matter how hard you prepare for a show, the mind can just **go blank** when you're in that chair and the lights are on you."

Mr Thuraaisingham was **gracious in defeat**, saying, "I tried my best but it wasn't my night."

As well as being tested on general knowledge, Mastermind contestants are sometimes quizzed on their mastery of the English language, and indeed the final question that Mr Thuraaisingham faced was a vocabulary test.

Can you do better than he did? Let's find out. What word can mean a joint of pork, to **pawn**, or a German white wine? (*Answers to all these questions are in the PDF worksheet that accompanies this Take Away English*)

Glossary 词汇表

general knowledge – 常识	mythology – 神话
scientific name – 科学名称	get on – 进行
contestant – 参赛者	quiz show – 智力竞赛节目
measly – 少得可怜	rounds – 轮
format – 版本, 格式	specialised subject – 长项题目
tackling – 解决, 应付	pressure... comes to bear – 感到压力
iconic – 标志性的	spotlight – 聚光灯
host – 主持人	commiserated – 安慰, 表示同情
syndrome – 综合症	go blank – 脑子里一片空白
gracious in defeat – 虽输犹荣	pawn – 典当, 抵押

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Users of the bbcukchina website are intelligent and well-educated.
True / False
2. Mastermind has been running for four decades. **True / False**
3. There are three rounds of questions in Mastermind. **True / False**
4. Mr Thuraaisingham got the highest score ever on the show. **True / False**
5. The host of Mastermind was sympathetic to Mr Thuraaisingham.
True / False

2. General Knowledge Questions 常识问题

Choose the correct answer to the following questions which appeared in the text:

请选出正确答案，回答在本文文章中出现的问題。

1. In Greek mythology what did Prometheus steal from the gods?
 - a. fire
 - b. water
 - c. gold
 - d. credit card details

2. Ursus Maritimus is the scientific name for which bear?
 - a. grizzly bear
 - b. teddy bear
 - c. polar bear
 - d. koala bear

3. Pierre is the capital of which American state?
 - a. Washington
 - b. California
 - c. North Dakota
 - d. South Dakota

4. What word can mean a joint of pork, to pawn, or a German white wine?
 - a. lock
 - b. hock
 - c. dock
 - d. cock

5. What is the name for when contestants on Mastermind panic and can't get any answers right?
 - a. blank mind syndrome
 - b. white mind syndrome
 - c. white chair syndrome
 - d. black chair syndrome

3. TV Show Genres 电视节目类别

Match the TV show genre to its definition

请把电视节目类别和相应解释搭配

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. sitcom | a. a programme that is a factual account of real events, often related to current affairs |
| 2. chat show | b. a fictional comedy programme in which the same characters appear every episode |
| 3. reality show | c. a programme where the host talks to famous people about their lives |
| 4. documentary | d. a programme where normal people are put in an unusual situation to see how they will react |

Now complete the sentences below using the words above.

请用以上单词完成下面的句子。

1. One of the most popular _____ from the USA was called Friends.
2. Big Brother is a famous _____ that has been adapted by TV broadcasters all over the world.
3. I saw a fantastic _____ about how the ancient Egyptians built the pyramids last night.
4. Did you see David and Victoria Beckham on that _____ the other day? I loved all the funny stories they told about their life together.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with quiz shows in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与智力竞赛节目有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→) 垂直的(↓) 或对角的(↘)形式出现。

a	a	g	a	m	b	l	e	b	y	l	t
n	g	u	t	g	f	d	e	c	d	o	a
s	c	e	r	p	r	i	z	e	v	s	c
w	f	s	r	d	s	e	v	g	t	e	o
e	b	s	v	t	g	s	z	c	e	g	n
r	k	j	h	y	u	s	x	h	a	e	t
j	u	b	g	r	e	b	g	a	s	d	e
h	o	s	t	v	m	r	s	n	a	e	s
a	c	d	e	c	s	d	e	c	c	r	t
v	w	i	n	v	r	s	a	e	c	d	a
l	o	i	j	h	y	u	f	s	e	c	n
q	u	e	s	t	i	o	n	m	e	n	t

host	contestant	prize	question	answer
gamble	guess	chance	win	lose

Answers 答案

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- The host of Mastermind was sympathetic to Mr Thuraaisingham. **True**

3. TV Show Genres 电视节目类别

Match the TV show genre to its definition

请把电视节目类别和相应解释搭配

- b
- c
- d
- a

Now complete the sentences below using the words above.

请用以上单词完成下面的句子。

- One of the most popular **sitcoms** from the USA was called Friends.
- Big Brother is a famous **reality show** that has been adapted by TV broadcasters all over the world.
- I saw a fantastic **documentary** about how the ancient Egyptians built the pyramids last night.
- Did you see David and Victoria Beckham on that **chat show** the other day? I loved all the funny stories they told about their life together.

2. General Knowledge Questions 常识问题

Choose the correct answer to the following questions which appeared in the text:

请选出正确答案,回答在本文中出现的的问题。

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 - fire
 - Ursus Maritimus is the scientific name for which bear?
 - polar bear
 - Pierre is the capital of which American state?
 - South Dakota
 - What word can mean a joint of pork, to pawn, or a German white wine?
 - hock
 - What is the name for when contestants on Mastermind panic and can't get any answers right?
 - black chair syndrome

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

a		g	a	m	b	l	e			l	
n		u								o	
s		e		p	r	i	z	e		s	c
w		s								e	o
e		s						c			n
r								h			t
								a			e
h	o	s	t					n			s
								c			t
	w	i	n					e			a
											n
q	u	e	s	t	i	o	n				t