



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Culture: Fatherhood in Australia 文化：在澳大利亚当爸爸

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A New Survey Examines Parenting Roles 一项对父母职责的调查

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Can it be true that Australian men spend more time during the week brushing their teeth than they do alone with their children?

A new study from the University of New South Wales has discovered that during the **working week, Aussie** fathers only spend an average of just over a minute each day alone with their children.

Australian mothers, on the other hand, spend three hours a week purely looking after their children – a much greater **disparity** than in other countries like America, Denmark, Italy and France, where couples divide the **child-care** more evenly.

These **findings** will **infuriate** those who want to **shake off** the perhaps unfair image of Australia as a land of old-fashioned **male chauvinism**.

According to the author of the study, Australian fathers appear to like the fun **aspects** of **parenthood**, but **shy away** from the **drudgery**. So while they tend to be happy taking the kids to the park or to sports events, they are unlikely to participate regularly in feeding, bathing, or taking the kids to school.

In short, Australian parenting is seen as a woman's job and a man's hobby.

Many people believe that the last twenty years have seen the arrival of the **so-called** 'new man' – the man who is willing to share the housework and child-care and is not afraid to demonstrate his **sensitive side** either.

The new man has a picture of his children on his **computer desktop** at work; he never misses the kids' school plays and he **passes** on a drink after work so that he can get home in time to read their bedtime story.

This new study suggests that the new man feels a little more at home in Europe than in Australia.

Indeed, a **poll** conducted in the UK for the **think-tank** the Fatherhood Institute in January indicated that almost 70% of British women thought that men were as good at raising children as women.

That's something for Aussie men to **ponder** while they brush their teeth!

Glossary 词汇表

working week – 上班时间(周一到周五)	Aussie – (俚语) 澳大利亚人
disparity – 不同, 不等	child-care – 儿童保育
findings – 调查结果	infuriate – 触怒
shake off - 试图摆脱	male chauvinism – 大男子主义
aspects – 方面	parenthood – 父母身份
shy away – 避免接触	drudgery – 单调沉闷的工作
in short – 总的来说	so-called – 所谓的
sensitive side – 敏感的一面	computer desktop – 电脑桌面
passes – 避开, 回绝	poll – 民意调查
think-tank – 智囊团	ponder – 仔细考虑

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. All Australian men spend more time brushing their teeth than with their children. **True / False**
2. In France, child-care is shared more equally between mothers and fathers. **True / False**
3. According to the study, Australian men try to avoid doing things like taking their kids to the park. **True / False**
4. The new man tries to spend more time with his children. **True / False**
5. In January, a UK university conducted a survey about fatherhood in the UK. **True / False**

2. Two-Word Phrases 双词短语

Without looking back at the story, see if you can match the words in the box to their partner words below.

不要看文章，看看你能不能找到方格里单词的搭档。把正确的双词短语的答案填在空格里。

week short away called
off tank care

A. so- _____

B. shake _____

C. child- _____

D. think- _____

E. working _____

F. in _____

G. shy _____

Now match these words to their meanings:

现在请把以上的双词短语和它们的意思连起来。

1. Avoid

2. Research institute

3. Lose

4. Basically

5. Monday to Friday

6. The task of looking after children

7. Often described as

3. Using Two-Word Phrases 双词短语的应用

Using the two-word compounds from Exercise 2, complete the following sentences.

用练习二里的双词短语来完成以下的句子。

1. The company has managed to _____ its reputation for poor customer service.
2. I'm going back to work after I have the baby, but I haven't decided yet what I'm going to do about _____.
3. She hates giving interviews and tends to _____ from the press.
4. He spends all his money on alcohol, practically lives down the pub and drinks a bottle of whiskey a day. _____, he's an alcoholic.
5. He works for a very influential _____ in Chicago.
6. He's a very successful businessman – in fact he's one of the government's - _____ 'Enterprise Champions'.
7. We're open from nine to five every day of the _____.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with this week's episode in the puzzle below.

There are nine words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与本周文章有关的英语单词。

共有9个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

d	r	u	d	g	e	r	y	p	e	y	t
e	r	p	i	l	o	i	t	a	n	n	a
p	o	l	o	l	u	q	u	r	i	f	e
f	a	t	a	n	i	s	i	e	r	e	d
i	g	g	l	e	d	m	a	n	y	p	i
n	u	i	a	s	p	e	c	t	s	o	s
d	a	a	d	y	i	p	r	h	o	r	p
i	l	l	u	n	t	i	n	o	p	p	a
n	o	w	e	s	a	l	p	o	l	l	r
g	a	e	r	e	s	i	u	d	e	l	i
s	i	n	f	u	r	i	a	t	e	r	t
p	a	u	l	a	r	t	e	r	t	e	y

parenthood	infuriate	aspects	ponder	poll
disparity	drudgery	Aussie	findings	

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

- All Australian men spend more time brushing their teeth than with their children. **False**
- In France, child-care is shared more equally between mothers and fathers. **True**
- According to the study, Australian men try to avoid doing things like taking their kids to the park. **False**
- The new man tries to spend more time with his children. **True**
- In January, a UK university conducted a survey about fatherhood in the UK. **False**

2. Two-Word Phrases 双词短语

- so-**called**
- shake **off**
- child-**care**
- think-**tank**
- working **week**
- in **short**
- shy **away**

1G 2D 3B 4F 5E 6C 7A

3. Using Two-Word Phrases 双词短语的应用

- The company has managed to **shake off** its reputation for poor customer service.
- I'm going back to work after I have the baby, but I haven't decided yet what I'm going to do about **child-care**.
- She hates giving interviews and tends to **shy away** from the press.
- He spends all his money on alcohol, practically lives down the pub and drinks a bottle of whiskey a day. **In short**, he's an alcoholic.
- He works for a very influential **think-tank** in Chicago.
- He's a very successful businessman – in fact he's one of the government's **so-called** 'Enterprise Champions'.
- We're open from nine to five every day of the **working week**.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

d	r	u	d	g	e	r	y	p			
		p						a			
			o					r			
f				n				e			d
i					d			n			i
n			a	s	p	e	c	t	s		s
d		a					r	h			p
i			u					o			a
n				s			p	o	l	l	r
g					s			d			i
s	i	n	f	u	r	i	a	t	e		t
								e			y