



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Culture: A Historic Love Letter

文化：一封历史情书



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## Culture: A Historic Love Letter 文化：一封历史情书

### The King of Words 词语之王

Read the text below and do the activity that follows:

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

The **16th century** English King **Henry VIII** is best known for his **prodigious appetite** and habit of **executing** wives he was unhappy with, but a love letter written by Henry shows a softer side to his character.

The letter, which has been hidden in **the Vatican** for nearly 500 years, is to go on display at the **British Library** in London in April.

Henry wrote to Anne Boleyn, who would become his second wife, in January 1528, apologising to her for suggesting that she become his **mistress**.

In the letter Henry promises Anne that "**henceforth** my heart will be dedicated to you alone", an assurance that contradicts Henry's **womanising reputation**.

Henry continues, "The beautiful words of your letter are so **cordially phrased**, that they really oblige me to honour, love, and serve you for ever."

Henry went on to marry Anne Boleyn after **divorcing** his first wife, the Spanish princess Catherine of Aragon, but despite having written to Anne like a **lovesick schoolboy**, Henry's marriage to her ended badly.

Having failed to provide him with a **male heir**, Anne **fell from favour** with the king, whose chief minister had her charged with **treason** and **adultery**.

Anne was executed by **beheading** at the Tower of London in May 1536, leaving the way clear for Henry to marry his third wife Jane Seymour.

According to **contemporary witnesses** Anne went to her death displaying **queenly dignity**; on the morning of her execution she told her prison guard, "I heard say the executioner was very good, and I have a little neck."

Henry went on to be married a total of six times, divorcing twice and executing another wife, but in spite of all his efforts, Henry died without leaving a surviving male heir, a situation which resulted in the **coronation** of Anne's daughter, Queen Elizabeth I.

## Glossary 词汇表

16th century – 16世纪	Henry VIII – 亨利八世
prodigious appetite – 巨大的食欲	executing – 处决
the Vatican – 梵蒂冈	British Library – 大英图书馆
mistress – 情妇	henceforth – 从今以后
womanising reputation – 跟许多女人有染的名声	cordially phrased – 诚恳地诉说
divorcing – 离婚	lovesick schoolboy – 害相思病的小男生
male heir – 男性继承人	fell from favour – 失宠
treason – 叛国罪	adultery – 通奸
beheading – 斩首	contemporary witnesses – 当时的证人
queenly dignity – 女王的尊严	coronation – 加冕礼

### 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. Henry VIII was a man who liked to eat a lot of food. **True / False**
2. Henry VIII's letter was stored in the British Library for five centuries. **True / False**
3. Anne Boleyn was Henry's first wife. **True / False**
4. Anne was hanged at the Tower of London in 1536. **True / False**
5. After Henry's death, Anne's daughter became queen. **True / False**

## 2. Correct verb forms 动词的正确形式

Read the sentences below. Put the correct form of each verb in the space.

请用以下括号内动词的正确形式来填空。

1. Henry VIII \_\_\_\_\_ (to write) secret love letters to Anne Boleyn.
2. Henry VIII \_\_\_\_\_ (to divorce) his first wife before he married Anne Boleyn
3. Anne Boleyn \_\_\_\_\_ (to become) unpopular with the king because she didn't give birth to a baby boy.
4. Anne \_\_\_\_\_ (to display) queenly dignity when she was executed at the Tower of London.
5. Anne Boleyn \_\_\_\_\_ (to die) in 1536.

**3. Complete the letter** 请完成下面这封情书

**Read the love letter.**

**Write a word or phrase (a-f) in each space (1-6).**

请先阅读这封情书，然后用a – f 的短语填空。

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ Li,

It has (2) \_\_\_\_\_ since we last met. I miss hearing your infectious laugh and looking into your (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

I often recall our (4) \_\_\_\_\_ and think about how happy we were together. I will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of that glorious evening forever.

I eagerly await our next meeting.

(6) \_\_\_\_\_

Lots of love.

Ang



- a. Please write soon
- b. been too long
- c. treasure the memory
- d. Dear
- e. beautiful eyes
- f. first date

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with weddings 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，找出与婚礼有关的英语单词来。

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。

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

love	marriage	wedding	service
bride	groom	reception	cake
	vow	honeymoon	

## Answers 答案

### 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。

- Henry VIII was a man who liked to eat a lot of food. **True**
- Henry VIII's letter was stored in the British Library for five centuries. **False**
- Anne Boleyn was Henry's first wife. **False**
- Anne was hanged at the Tower of London in 1536. **False**
- After Henry's death, Anne's daughter became queen. **True**

### 3. Complete the letter 请完成下面这封情书

Read the love letter.

Write a word (a-f) or phrase in each space (1-6).

请先阅读这封情书,然后用a-f的短语填空。

**Dear** Li,

It has **been too long** since we last met. I miss hearing your infectious laugh and looking into your **beautiful eyes**.

I often recall our **first date** and think about how happy we were together. I will **treasure the memory** of that glorious evening forever.

I eagerly await our next meeting.

**Please write soon**

Lots of love.

Ang



### 2. Correct verb forms 动词的正确形式

Read the sentences below. Put the correct form of each verb in the space.

请用以下括号内动词的正确形式来填空。

- Henry VIII **wrote** secret love letters to Anne Boleyn.
- Henry VIII **divorced** his first wife before he married Anne Boleyn
- Anne Boleyn **became** unpopular with the king because she didn't give birth to a baby boy.
- Anne **displayed** queenly dignity when she was executed at the Tower of London.
- Anne Boleyn **died** in 1536.

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

r	e	c	e	p	t	i	o	n			
		h					v	w			
		o				l	o	v	e		
s		n					w	d			
e		e				b	r	i	d	e	
r		y							i		
v		m		c		g			n		
i		o	m	a	r	r	i	a	g	e	
c		o		k		o					
e		n		e		o					
						m					