



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Education: 59 Million Words

教育：5千9百万字



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Reading Dictionaries for Fun 以读字典为乐

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Not **keen on** reading? Do you have trouble finding a **novel** that **takes your interest**? Why not follow Ammon Shea's example and start reading a dictionary?

Mr Shea owns over 1,000 dictionaries and he likes to read them for fun. He recently spent a year reading all 20 **volumes** of the **Oxford English Dictionary**. The dictionary contains more than 20,000 pages and over 59 million words.

As he read from A to Z, he noted down interesting words in a **ledger**. This includes words such as **happify**, meaning to make someone happy and **tripudiate** which means to dance, skip or leap for joy. Mr Shea also kept a diary about his experience which has since been turned into a **best-selling** book.

Why did he do this? He claims it was fun: "I've always enjoyed reading dictionaries, they are far more interesting than people **give them credit for**."

It appears that it was not his goal to sound more intelligent through learning and using larger and more **complex** words. "I'm not against big words or **fancy** or **obscure** words, but I'm **opposed to** using them for their own **sake**," he said.

In fact, as a result of reading so many words, Mr Shea often forgot his everyday vocabulary. He wrote, "My head was so full of words that I often had trouble **forming** simple sentences."

Mr Shea is not alone in his love of reading dictionaries. Elaine Higgleton, a representative of Collins Cobuild dictionaries, explained that thousands of **crossword** and **Scrabble** fans read dictionaries for fun and to improve their **game**. Ms Higgleton did however note that, "It's probably not the best way to learn English, and you'd learn more than you need." It is not known how many of the 59 million words Mr Shea has remembered but he has certainly made history with his **eccentric** hobby.

Glossary 词汇表

keen on – 热爱	complex – 复杂的
novel – 小说	fancy – 华丽的；讲究的
takes your interest – 吸引你，使你感兴趣	obscure – 费解的
Oxford English Dictionary – 牛津英语字典	opposed to – 反对
volumes – 版本，读卷	sake – 缘故
ledger – 分类记录本（同帐簿类似）	forming – 组成
happify – 使（某人）高兴	crossword – 纵横字谜
tripudiate – （兴奋得）手舞足蹈；雀跃	Scrabble – 拼字游戏
best-selling – 畅销的	game – 游戏
give them credit for – 给他们的赞扬，归功于他们	eccentric – 古怪的

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. Mr Shea has read one thousand dictionaries. **True / False**
2. Mr Shea spent just one month reading the Oxford English Dictionary.
True / False
3. In Mr Shea's opinion, people don't give dictionaries enough credit.
True / False
4. Mr Shea thinks it is important to be able to use long and complicated words in everyday conversation. **True / False**

5. Elaine Higgleton thinks that reading a dictionary is the best way to learn English. **True / False**

2. Matching phrases to definitions / 请把下列短语和其解释连线

Match the phrases with the correct definition.

请把下列短语和其相对应的解释连线

A. quite keen to

A. to really dislike and not want to do something

B. can't stand to

B. to truly enjoy and want to do something

C. loathe to

C. to really detest and not want to do something

D. love to

D. reasonably interested, eager or wanting to do something

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

3. Verbs, Adjectives and Nouns / 动词、形容词和名词

Decide whether each word is a verb, an adjective or a noun and put them in the correct column in the table.

从下列单词表中分辨动词、形容词或名词，然后填入相应的表格中。

- happify
 - modified
 - transform
 - complicated
 - interest
- happy modify transformation complicate interested
- happiness modification transformed complication interesting

Verb	Adjective	Noun

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with dictionaries 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，找出与字典有关的英语单词来。

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。

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

dictionary	definition	headword	
letters	example	phonetics	corpus
sentences	bilingual	electronic	

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。

- Mr Shea has read 1,000 dictionaries. **False**
- Mr Shea spent just one month reading the Oxford English Dictionary. **False**
- In Mr Shea's opinion, people don't give dictionaries enough credit. **True**
- Mr Shea thinks it is important to be able to use long and complicated words in everyday conversation. **False**
- Elaine Higgleton thinks that reading a dictionary is the best way to learn English. **False**

3. Verbs, Adjectives and Nouns / 动词、形容词和名词

Decide whether each word is a verb, an adjective or a noun and put them in the correct column in the table.

从下列单词表中分辨动词、形容词或名词,然后填入相应的表格中。

Verb	Adjective	Noun
happify modify transform complicate interest	happy modified transformed complicated interesting / interested	happiness modification transformation complication interest

2. Matching phrases to definitions / 请把下列短语和其解释连线

Match the phrases with the correct definition.

请把下列短语和其相对应的解释连线

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. quite keen to | A. to really dislike and not want to do something |
| 2. can't stand to | B. to truly enjoy and want to do something |
| 3. loathe to | C. to really detest and not want to do something |
| 4. love to | D. reasonably interested, eager or wanting to do something |

- D
- A
- C
- B

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

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