



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Entertainment: Susan Boyle

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An Unlikely Superstar? 不被看好的新星?

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Less than a few weeks ago Susan Boyle was a **virtual unknown**. However since **auditioning** for Britain's got Talent, a televised talent competition, she has experienced a **stratospheric** rise to fame.

A YouTube video of her audition has been watched by more than 26 million people, making it one of the most watched videos on the internet in recent times. It is undeniable that technology such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter has helped to spread the word about Susan's performance.

So just what is it about Susan that the people find so fascinating? Arguably, it is the fact she is such a **class act**. However, many have suggested that her biggest appeal lies in her **unassuming** persona.

Susan's persona and appearance have been somewhat controversial and the initial reaction to her audition has made many people question whether they are guilty of **judging a book by its cover**. With her **plain Jane**, middle-aged looks and her **no-nonsense** approach to life, Susan is perhaps the most unlikely star to be discovered of late.

Commenting on her rise to fame, Max Clifford, a renowned **PR guru** said that the massive public interest in her is partly due to people having to challenge their own **assumptions** and **prejudices**.

Talking about her audition, Susan said "I expected people to be a wee bit **cynical**." However, she must have been **pleased as punch** when she heard the deafening **applause** and saw the audience's **standing ovation**.

So what's next for Susan? For the moment, she is preparing for her next appearance on Britain's got Talent and she is the **odds-on-favourite** to win.

Looking forward, with **talk** of record contracts and celebrity duets, it is very likely that we'll soon be seeing a Susan Boyle album in the charts.

## Glossary 词汇表

virtual unknown – 不出名的	renowned PR guru – 有声望的公关专家
auditioning – 试音	assumptions – 假想
stratospheric – 同温层的	prejudices – 偏见
spread the word – 传出消息	wee – 稍微有一点儿
class act – 出类拔萃的人	cynical – 愤世嫉俗的
unassuming – 不爱显示自己的，谦逊的	pleased as punch – 非常高兴
persona – 面具	applause – 掌声
judging a book by its cover – 以貌取人	standing ovation – 长时间的喝彩
plain Jane – 外表朴素的女孩子	odds-on-favourite – 有希望获胜的
no-nonsense – 严肃的	talk – 议论

### 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. Susan Boyle is a long-established British superstar. True / False
2. Susan Boyle is a contestant on a TV talent show. True / False
3. A video of Susan Boyle has been watched by millions of people on the internet. True / False
4. Susan Boyle is a young and glamorous woman. True / False
5. Susan Boyle is a favourite to win the TV show Britain's got Talent. True / False

## 2. Idioms 习惯用语

Look at the idioms below.

请看下列习惯用语.

a) Match the idiom to its definition.

请将习语与各自的定义对应起来。

(i) Judging a book by its cover	(a) Being exceptional at what you do
(ii) As pleased as punch	(b) Not being very attractive
(iii) A plain Jane	(c) Being very happy
(iv) A class act	(d) Making assumptions based on how something or someone looks

b) Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above.

现在请用以上的某个习语完成下列句子。

1. Susan is very proud of her success on the show; in fact she is \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Susan is a truly talented singer; in fact she is \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Susan has been described as \_\_\_\_\_ . However, this is one of her most appealing qualities.
4. During Susan's audition, people had to admit they were somewhat guilty of \_\_\_\_\_ .

### 3. Label the pictures 标注图片

Look at the pictures below. Do you know what these items are? Write the name of the object underneath the picture.

请看下列图片。你知道这些是什么物品吗？请将物品名称写在图片下面。



(1) \_\_\_\_\_



(2) \_\_\_\_\_



(3) \_\_\_\_\_



(4) \_\_\_\_\_



(5) \_\_\_\_\_



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

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with today's article in the puzzle below.

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

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出今天的文章有关的英语单词来。

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

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

applause    audience    audition    talent    celebrity  
performance    fame    class act    duet    singer

## Answers 答案

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

- Susan Boyle is a long-established British superstar.  
False
- Susan Boyle is a contestant on a TV talent show.  
True
- A video of Susan Boyle has been watched by millions of people on the internet. True
- Susan Boyle is a young and glamorous woman.  
False
- Susan Boyle is a favourite to win the TV show Britains got Talent. True

### 2. Idioms 习惯用语

- a)
- Judging a book by its cover  
(d) *Making assumptions based on how something or someone looks*
  - As pleased as punch  
(c) *Being very happy*
  - A plain Jane  
(b) *Not being very attractive*
  - A class act  
(a) *Being exceptional at what you do*
- b)
- Susan is very proud of her success on the show; in fact she is as pleased as punch.
  - Susan is a truly talented singer; in fact she is a class act.
  - Susan has been described as a plain Jane. However, this is one of her most appealing qualities.
  - During Susan's audition, people had to admit they were somewhat guilty of judging a book by its cover.

### 3. Label the pictures 标注图片

- Electric guitar
- Keyboard / Synthesiser
- Drum kit / Drums
- Microphone
- Piano
- Acoustic guitar / Classical guitar

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

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