# Wise Messenger

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恒管英萃

# Wen Wei Po

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# A不止for Apple

現今A for Apple (蘋果)似乎未能滿足莘莘學子(的家長),要學A for Astronaut (太空人)才能贏在起跑線。但其實從字母A至Z亦蘊藏不少較「貼地」的有趣英語。

#### A for "A1"

A級固然喜聞樂見,日常生活中亦可以A1(A-1或A number 1)作形容詞表達一流、健壯或優質。A1一詞最早見於1775年,英國船業巨頭Lloyd's Register(勞氏船級社)將船殼和船隻附件分別以英文字母及數字分等,評為A1的船隻屬至優等。同樣地,A-game亦代表最佳表現:I'll have to bring my A-game when competing with my archenemy.(面臨宿敵,我必須以看家本領應戰。)

From A to B表示由一點到達另一點: I don't care about the car model, as long as it can get me from A to B. (我不在乎汽車品牌, 只要能載我到達目的地便成。)

From A to Z顧名思義就是從頭到尾:I have read this contract from A to Z three times. (我把這合約從頭到尾細讀了三遍。)

#### B for "Plan B"

與A無緣當然不是世界末日,凡事抱着「不成功,便成仁」之想法往往叫人碰個一鼻子灰。來個Plan B 後備計劃吧:If that museum is closed when we visit, then Plan B is to walk around the local village nearby. (若到訪當日該博物館正值休館,那我們便到附近的小鎮走一趟。)

# C for "the big C"

但往往人算不如天算,面對生老病死有時卻難有Plan B。The big C的C 指cancer(癌病)。儘管醫學昌明,面對如此惡疾醫生亦束手無策,故以the big C形容其可怕。

學習英語容易與否見仁見智,但相信單純ABC就易如反掌。As easy / simple as ABC解作簡單易明(亦見as easy as 123 / pie)。話雖如此,A、B和C合體後有時卻並非想像般易。

當被問到:Do you know your ABCs? 別太快胸有成竹地答道:Of course! 其實to know one's ABCs除解懂得英語外,亦泛指對某話題或科目的基本知識,正如the ABCs of something:You need to master the ABCs of car mechanics if you want to drive. (想駕車需先行了解汽車的基本結構。)

D for "D-Day"

D-Day源於軍事術語,D是Date的簡稱,乃保密行動日期的代號,本指1944年6月6日第二次世界大戰中同盟國反攻納粹德國的諾曼第戰役,現泛指發出攻勢或重要活動的首日。

#### E for "e thumb"

在如今電子世代,每天最勞碌莫過於一雙手,不是十指在鍵盤上馳行,就是兩拇指在手機熒幕上疾走,但e thumb卻不是日日皆有,have an e thumb 表示擁有操作和維修電子用品如電腦或智能電話的技能,亦可以e thumb借喻為電子技術人員:My computer has crashed again!I'd better go seek help from the e thumb this time! (我的電腦又當機了!相信今趟要找找專業人士了。)

#### F for "F-word / f-bomb"

以f為字首的粗話相信無人不曉,但非真想罵人又如何?以委婉語F / f-word或f-bomb代替吧:This pretty girl dropping the f-bomb now and again on our date was a real turn-off. (跟我約會的這個女孩光有美貌卻滿口髒話,真使人興味索然。)

## G for "G-rated"

根據美國電影標準,評為G級的電影乃屬General Admission,適合任何年齡人士觀看。現今G-rated可作形容詞,泛指內容沒有暴力或色情:Harry Potter is one rare modern literature which is G-rated enough to capture the heart of both adults and children.(《哈利波特》的內容老少皆宜,是當代文學的不可多得之作。)

G亦可代表一千美元:A trip to the racetrack has already cost her five Gs. (去馬場一趟已花了她五千美元。) ■鍾可盈博士 <u>恒生管理學院</u>英文學系高級講師

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