

5

UNIT

The power of words

Set the scene

Language has different functions, among which the most important is to convey information, to express thoughts and feelings. Such expression of feelings and thoughts can be made through sounds and symbols, that is, in spoken or written words. Reading, as a means of communication through written language between authors and readers, brings us numerous benefits. These benefits range from improving our brain function, providing us with knowledge, to entertaining us and making us reflect on ourselves. Language is always changing. In the digital world, the use of numerous social media apps has accelerated the changes, which include the use of abbreviations, the removal of hyphens, and some other sloppy use of language. Is such a phenomenon damaging our language? This is a question which deserves our serious and careful thinking.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- explain the benefits of reading books and the linguistic features of netspeak and text language;
- use questions as rhetorical devices to increase the force of your argument;
- adopt a critical attitude toward the use of netspeak and text language.



It's good enough if you express yourself clearly.

— *The Analects*



Reading 1

Have a lover, have friends, or read books? P117

Reading 2

The betrayal by my precious dictionary P127

Unit project

Panel discussion of netspeak in newspapers

P133

Get ready to read



Video clip

NEW WORDS

Alzheimer's *n.* 阿尔茨海默病; 老年性痴呆病

dementia *n.* 痴呆

dire *a.* 极可怕的

assortment *n.* 各式各样

nuance *n.* 细微差别

mystery *n.* 推理 (或侦探) 作品; 谜

critique *vt.* 评论

immerse oneself in
专注于某事

Watch for information

Do you read every day? Watch a video clip about the benefits of reading regularly and complete the table with no more than THREE words from the video clip for each answer.

Six benefits of reading



Mental stimulation

Keeping your brain 1) _____ and 2) _____ prevents it from losing power.



Stress reduction

All the stress just 3) _____ when you lose yourself in a great story.



Knowledge

- The more knowledge you gain from reading, the better-equipped you are to 4) _____ you'll ever face.
- Although you might lose everything else, knowledge can never be taken from you.



Memory improvement

Reading needs you to remember an assortment of things and brains can do this with 5) _____.



Stronger analytical thinking skills

- You are able to put critical and analytical thinking to work by taking note of all the details provided and 6) _____ to determine "who done it."
- That ability to 7) _____ also comes in handy when you critique what you are reading.



Improved focus and concentration

When you read a book, you can 8) _____ in every fine detail you're absorbing. And reading before work will improve your concentration at work.

Watch and discuss

Work in groups to list some other benefits of reading, and support your viewpoint with your own experiences.

Have a lover, have friends, or read books?

- 1 The understanding that literature can comfort, **console**, and **heal** has been around¹ since ancient Greek and Roman times. It is no **coincidence** that the ancient Greek god Apollo was the god of medicine as well as poetry.
- 2 One of the greatest arguments for using literature as **therapy** was **proposed** by Michel de Montaigne, who believed there were three possible cures for loneliness: have a lover, have friends, and read books. But he argued that love was too **fleeting** and **betrayal** too common, and while friendship was better it always ended with death. Therefore, the only therapy that could **endure** through life was the **companionship** of literature.
- 3 Why were the ancient Greeks and Romans right to suppose literature heals the soul? Why did Montaigne trust we could endure loneliness through a lifelong relationship with books? Why, despite all the distractions of modern life, do books still get published and valued? The answer lies in the power of stories.
- 4 Stories have been around since time began. They tell us what it is to be human, giving us a context for the past and an **insight** towards the future. A **narrator**'s voice replaces our stressed, internal **monologue** and takes us out of our life and into the world of a story. **Paradoxically**, we think we are escaping ourselves but the best stories take us back deeper into our **interior** worlds. It is difficult to access emotional language and this is why we have writers. They remind us of the **universality** and **timelessness** of emotions, helping us better understand our own.

Notes

- 1 The word "around" here is an adverb, meaning "existing."
e.g. *Digital television has been around for some time now.*
-



- 5 What stories have shaped² you? It's a question worth reflecting on, as this shaping is often **subconscious**. The act of making it conscious will allow your future reading to perhaps have a different effect; you will be "reading" your life from now on, allowing you to live it more fully and understand it better.
- 6 Recently, more studies are telling us what the ancient Greeks and Romans already knew: Reading improves our mental health. In 2009, research at the University of Sussex found reading could reduce stress levels by 68 percent, working better at calming nerves than listening to music, going for walks, or having a cup of tea. Subjects only had to read silently for six minutes to slow down their heart rate and **ease** tension in muscles.
- 7 A 2013 study found reading literary fiction can help us become more **empathetic**, by giving us the experience of being emotionally transported to other places and relating

Notes

- 2 Here "shape" is a verb, meaning "have an important influence on the way that sb. / sth. develops."
e.g. It's a universal human experience to be shaped by the society we are born into.
-

to new characters. Other studies have shown reading can improve sleep quality and ease **mild symptoms** of depression and anxiety.

- 8 As a **bibliotherapist**, I am **continually** reminded that all forms of literature can help people in all sorts of ways. A person who is **grieving** may need a predictable **plot** and an ordered **fictional** world; a man searching for direction or coming to terms with **retirement** may need a novel that reflects and explores the **transience** of life; a mother of young children may reach for a novel that illustrates the curve of life and reminds her that although her life is **messy** and tiring, she is in just one chapter for now.
- 9 Sometimes it is not the content of the stories themselves but just knowing you have control by choosing to read or listen that provides the calming effect. All stories offer a safe, calm world with a beginning, middle, and end. We have the power to start or stop and choose how long we stay in the story's world.
- 10 Time spent listening to authors talk about their work and their own understanding of the power of literature also allows us, as readers, to reflect on stories that have shaped us.
- 11 “Why do stories matter so terribly to us, that we will offer ourselves up to, and later be grateful for, an experience that we know is going to fill us with **grief** and **despair**?” questions Helen Garner in her collection, *Everywhere I Look*.
- 12 Robert Dessaix, in his **memoir** *What Days Are For*, explores **narrative** as an “**optimistic form**”: “Is that why I’m reading a novel in the first place? ... It’s optimistic in the sense that³ you keep turning the pages, one after the other ... in the hope of something **transforming** happening. Isn’t that it? In the hope of a transforming answer to your particular questions.”
- 13 Both authors are exploring their identity as readers and the impact reading can have. There are many literary festivals held every year in towns and villages around the world. They are more than an event celebrating authors; they also celebrate the power of literature and the power of you, the reader.

Notes

- 3 “Sense” in “in the sense that” means “a way in which sth. can be true or real.” The expression “in the sense that” here is used to introduce an interpretation of the statement that narrative is an optimistic form.
e.g. *The area is remote in the sense that on the roads leading to it not many people live.*
-

Read and understand

Global understanding

Read the passage and complete the table with information from the passage.

The power
of
LITERATURE

<div style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; padding: 5px;">Stories shape us</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stories help us understand what it is to be 1) _____, and gain knowledge about both 2) _____. The narrator's voice 3) _____ our internal monologue and 4) _____ our life. Yet the best stories take us deeper into our 5) _____ and help us better understand our own emotions. The act of making the shaping 6) _____ allows us to live our life more fully and understand it better. 	<div style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; padding: 5px;">Reading stories improves our mental health</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research in 2009 proves that reading can reduce 7) _____. Research in 2013 proves that reading literary fiction can help us become more 8) _____. Other studies show reading can improve 9) _____ and ease mild depression and anxiety. All forms of literature can help us in 10) _____.
<div style="background-color: #2c4e64; color: white; padding: 5px;">Reasons behind the power of literature</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes it's not the content of the stories but knowing we have 11) _____ over when and what to read that provides us the calming effect. It is a(n) 12) _____ form in the sense that we keep turning the pages and hope something transforming will happen.

Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and choose the best answer to the questions.

1. What is the implied meaning of “It is no coincidence that the ancient Greek god Apollo was the god of medicine as well as poetry” (Para. 1)?
 - A. Literature has similar healing power to that of medicine.
 - B. It is not surprising that Apollo was a very powerful god.
 - C. It is natural that Apollo became the god of medicine and poetry.
 - D. Ancient gods knew the power of poetry better than modern people.
2. Why does the author cite Montaigne’s idea that “it (friendship) always ended with death” (Para. 2)?
 - A. To show that friendship usually does not last long.
 - B. To demonstrate that literature is more enduring.
 - C. To imply that friends would eventually die one day.
 - D. To emphasize that it is death that ends friendship.
3. Which of the following is true of the benefits of reading?
 - A. Reading could reduce the stress level to 68 percent.
 - B. Reading works as well as going for a walk when it comes to calming nerves.
 - C. Reading silently could ease tension in muscles within a very short time.
 - D. Reading with a cup of tea helps to slow down subjects’ heart rate.
4. How can reading literary fiction help us become more empathetic?
 - A. It enables us to visit other places.
 - B. It makes us more emotional and sentimental.
 - C. It helps us to know more about ourselves.
 - D. It can give us the experience of being another person.
5. What does “she is in just one chapter for now” (Para. 8) imply?
 - A. She is just reading one chapter of a book.
 - B. Her life will not always be like the current situation.
 - C. Her life will always be like one chapter of a book.
 - D. She cannot predict what her future life will be like for now.
6. What does “Both authors are exploring their identity as readers” (Para. 13) mean?
 - A. Both authors agree that readers are as important as writers in literature.
 - B. Both authors wonder how readers have been transformed after reading stories.
 - C. Both authors try to discover the identities of readers who enjoy reading stories.
 - D. Both authors evaluated the power of stories from a reader’s perspective.

Read and think

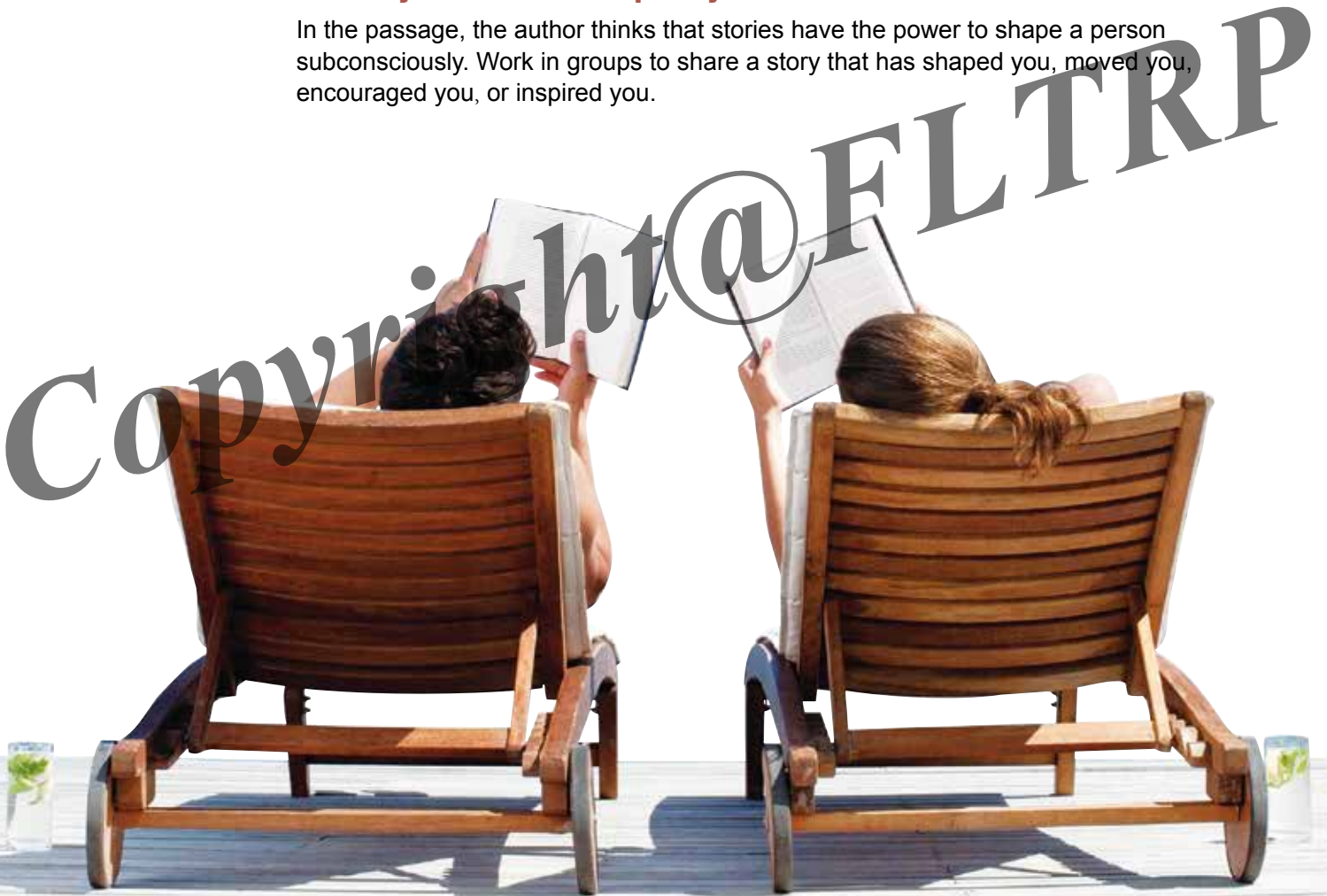
Is reading books the only enduring therapy?

Step 1 In the passage, the author quotes Montaigne who drew the conclusion that “the only therapy that could endure through life was the companionship of literature.” Do you agree with the claim? If it’s up to you to choose among a lover, friends, and books, which one will you choose? Why?

Step 2 Based on your own experience, list some other possible types of companionship, and explain why you think they are effective therapies.

A story that has shaped you

In the passage, the author thinks that stories have the power to shape a person subconsciously. Work in groups to share a story that has shaped you, moved you, encouraged you, or inspired you.



Read and practice

Meaning in context

Complete the sentences with suitable words from the box. Change the form if necessary.

betrayal	coincidence	console
grieve	insight	symptom

1. Today we _____ for the families who have lost loved ones, the hearts that have been broken, and the young lives that could have been.
2. Every night I _____ myself by saying that our breakup is just a nightmare.
3. _____ is never pleasant, but it always seems to hurt just a little bit more when it comes from a person who you were once close to.
4. Is this a(n) _____ or just a random situation that doesn't have any meaning?
5. However, they are often unaware that these _____ are linked to depression.
6. The project would give scientists new _____ into what is happening to the Earth's atmosphere.

Collocations

Complete the sentences with suitable expressions from the tips on the right. Change the form if necessary.

1. The _____ has been _____ as a way to enable more people to have access to books.
2. _____ between the two countries are beginning to _____.
3. We have begun to _____ the _____ of war in our society.
4. _____ at any level is never easy to _____, but sudden loss can be especially painful to overcome.
5. Zero waste is a global movement where people try to _____ the _____ they produce by changing their lifestyle.

Nouns that often go after:

heal

soul cut wound

endure

pain loneliness loss

reduce

stress cost waste

propose

marriage measure
a toast

ease

symptom tension
problem

Sentence structure

Rewrite the sentences using the structure "It is / was ... that / who(m) ..." to emphasize the italicized parts. An example has been provided for you.

Example: *Just knowing you have control* provides the calming effect.

► It is just knowing you have control that provides the calming effect.

1. *John* is very talented in language and speaks perfect English.
2. Jennifer didn't realize she had lost her keys *until she got home*.
3. The public has lost faith and trust in *these organizations* since the event.

4. David said that he chose the course *because of his strong interest in literature*.
5. *At midnight*, he received the news that he won the Nobel Prize in Literature.
6. What matters is *the ability to do the job*, not where you come from or who you are.

Banked cloze

Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

access	companionship	consoles	despair	endures
explores	grieves	healing	impact	messy
optimistic	retirement	symptoms	therapies	transforming

Previous research has found that reading groups can provide a route out of social isolation for lonely people. These people include those who are working at home, who do not have much 1) _____, or those having nothing to do after 2) _____. Besides revealing how reading can be used as an intervention for loneliness, the report also 3) _____ other benefits reading can have, such as exercising the brain, providing effective support for depression and 4) _____, and 5) _____ ourselves through self-help books. The report recommends that the National Health Service should encourage more investment in book-based interventions such as book-based 6) _____ in libraries across the country. The report suggests that, in order to build a more productive, creative, and fairer society, 7) _____ to reading needs to be made universal and common for all. If we don't start to tackle issues of loneliness, mental health, etc., then we will continue to put pressure on our vital workforces such as the care sector. Reading is not only an essential life skill but also has huge 8) _____ power, and can bring people together, making them feel more 9) _____. We have already seen through our Reading Friends program that social reading can have a profound 10) _____ on older people who are often the most vulnerable in society. We hope these benefits will eventually be opened up to everyone.

Read and translate

Translate the paragraph into English.

近年来，中国科幻小说开始在全球引起广泛关注。2019年，一本中国科幻小说的日文版在日本销售超过13万册，成为了日本的畅销书。中国科幻小说展现了中国人的世界观以及他们对自己的看法。它们更注重体现集体智慧并将中国哲学融入故事，同时反映了中国人是如何想象未来的。这些特色使中国科幻小说在全球收获了大批书迷。

Read and write

Use questions as rhetorical devices in writing

Sometimes a question can be used as a rhetorical device to powerfully persuade or subtly influence the audience or reader. In writing, there are two common types of questions for the rhetorical purpose: rhetorical questions and hypophoras (设问).

1) Rhetorical questions

The question is usually used to emphasize a point, persuade the reader, or just to get the reader thinking. It is asked not for the answer (because the answer is obvious), but for the effect. For example:

- If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind? ("Ode to the West Wind," Percy Bysshe Shelley)
- If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? And if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? (*The Merchant of Venice*, William Shakespeare)

2) Hypophoras

The question is answered immediately by the questioner, so as to arouse curiosity, emphasize specific points, or introduce a topic or an idea. For example:

What should young people do with their lives today? Many things, obviously. But the most daring thing is to create stable communities in which the terrible disease of loneliness can be cured. (*Palm Sunday: An Autobiographical Collage*, Kurt Vonnegut)

Step 1 Work in pairs to find the questions used as rhetorical devices in the passage, and decide which type they belong to.

Step 2 Discuss with your partner why these questions are used instead of declarative sentences in the passage.

Step 3 Write a passage entitled "Should people spend more time reading?" of no less than 120 words, using rhetorical questions and hypophoras to increase the force of your argument.



Get ready to read

Read and recognize

Do you use text language or netspeak? Look at the following picture and work in pairs to figure out the meaning of the sentences. Then find out the specific words which indicate the netspeak style.



Read and discuss

Do you think that text language and netspeak will gradually replace formal written language? Why or why not?



The betrayal by my precious dictionary



- 1 A good dictionary is a fine thing. I have two volumes of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* on my shelves. They are as close to my heart as they are to my desk because they are so much more than a useful tool. Leafing through them in search of a single word is a small **voyage** of discovery. Your eyes may fall on a word you've never seen before or one whose meaning you have always wanted to check, and you close the dictionary, feeling a little bit richer for the experience.
- 2 But my lifetime love affair¹ with the *OED* is at risk. The sixth **edition** published has fallen victim to fashion.
- 3 It has removed the **hyphen** from no fewer than 16,000 words. So in future we are required to spell pigeon-hole, for instance, as **pigeonhole**. In other cases we have two words instead of one. Pot-belly shall **henceforth** be **pot belly**.
- 4 I feel **betrayed** by my precious *OED*. What's especially **unacceptable** for me is the reason for this change. It has happened because we are changing the way we communicate with each other, which means, says the *OED* editor Angus Stevenson, that we no longer have time to reach for the hyphen key.
- 5 Has it really come to this? Are we really so busy that we cannot afford the **millisecond** (no hyphen) it takes to **tap** that key?
- 6 Obviously not. No, there's another reason — and it's far more troubling. The **texters** are brutally destroying our language: ruining our **punctuation**, **savaging** our sentences, and **raping** our vocabulary. And they must be stopped.
- 7 This is a tall order. The texters have many more arrows in their **quiver**² than we who defend the old way. **Ridicule** is one of them. "What! You don't text? What century are you living in then, Granddad?" The texters also have economy on their side. It costs almost nothing to send a text message compared with a voice message. That's perfectly true. I must also admit that some voice messages can be very **irritating**.

Notes

- 1 Here "love affair" means "a strong enjoyment of sth."
e.g. *My passionate love affair with the English language knows no bounds.*
 - 2 Here "arrows in their quiver" is derived from "an arrow in the quiver," an idiom used when talking about one of a number of resources or strategies that can be used to achieve a goal.
e.g. *It is believed that the company has arrows in the quiver at its disposal for negotiations with the officials.*
-

Some callers **chattered** on for 10 minutes and always, always ended by saying, “Ooh sorry, I went on so long!”

- 8 But can that be any more irritating than those little **smiley** faces with which texters litter their messages³? It has been decades since the **emoticon** was born. It started with the smiley face and the sad face and now there are 16 pages of them in the texters’ A-Z. It has now reached the stage where my computer will not allow me to type the **colon**, **dash**, and **bracket** without automatically turning it into a picture of a smiling face.
- 9 Even worse are the absurd **abbreviations**. It is interesting, in a strange sort of way, to look at how text language has changed over the years. It began with some obvious and **inoffensive** abbreviations: “tks” for “thanks”, “u” for “you”, and 4 for “for”. But as it has developed, its users have sought out **increasingly obscure** ways of expressing themselves. If the **recipient** of the message has to spend 10 minutes trying to figure out its meaning, those precious minutes are being wasted. And isn’t the whole point to “save” time?
- 10 Then there’s the problem of **ambiguity**. With my vast knowledge of text language I had assumed LOL meant “lots of love”, but now I discover it means “laugh out loud”. Or at least it did the last time I asked.
- 11 But how would you know? Instead of aiding communication, some abbreviations can be a **barrier**. I can work out BTW (by the way), but I was confused by IMHO U R GR8. It means: “In my **humble** opinion you are great.”
- 12 I can imagine the response to my **complaints** about the text **revolution** and the *OED* for being influenced by it. Its defenders will say language is constantly evolving and that anyone who tries to stop it is old-fashioned and should be ignored.
- 13 I agree. One of the joys of the English language and one of the reasons it has been so successful in spreading across the **globe** is that it is **adaptable**. But texting and **netspeak** are effectively different languages. The danger — for young people especially — is that these languages will come to dominate. Our written language may end up as a series of **ridiculous** emoticons and **ever-changing** abbreviations.
- 14 It is too late to save the hand-written letter. Emailing has seen to that and I must admit that I would find it difficult to live without it. But at least I have not surrendered to “text-speak” and I wish the *OED* had not raised the white flag either.
- 15 To the editor of the *OED* I will simply say:
- 16 For many years you’ve been GR8.
- 17 Don’t **spoil** it now. Tks!

Notes

- 3 In “with which texters litter their messages”, “litter” is used as a verb, meaning “make (a place) untidy with rubbish or a large number of objects left lying about.” This part of the sentence means: Texters make their messages messy with those little smiley faces.
-



Read and understand

Global understanding

Check (✓) the statement that can best summarize the main idea of the passage.

- 1. A good dictionary plays an important role in keeping English the way it is.
- 2. The English language is constantly evolving and the use of netspeak makes it more efficient.
- 3. Texting and netspeak are ruining the English language.

Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- ___ 1. Searching for a word in a good dictionary makes one feel fulfilled.
- ___ 2. The changes to the original spelling of English words are influenced by the trend of text messaging.
- ___ 3. Nowadays people are too busy to have time to tap the hyphen key.
- ___ 4. The chattering through the voice message is more irritating than the emoticons.
- ___ 5. The automatic change of the colon, dash, and bracket into a smiling face is fun.
- ___ 6. At first, some abbreviations are inoffensive and easy to understand.
- ___ 7. The use of obscure abbreviations will not save but waste time.
- ___ 8. The change of the meaning of “LOL” shows the adaptability of English.

Read and think

The tone of the author

Tone refers to an author's use of words and writing style to convey their attitude toward a topic. The following are some of the common tones and their definitions:

- Defensive: The author defends a position, and argues strongly for it.
- Indifferent: The author takes a distant and unconcerned point of view.
- Ironic: The author uses sarcasm, exaggeration, or understatement to convey the opposite of what is actually said.
- Objective: The author describes things in a fair and factual way.

Step 1 Go through the passage quickly. Work in pairs to decide which tone you think the author uses.

Step 2 Find out the sentences in the passage that support your choice of the tone, and discuss the benefits of using such a tone in expressing the author's attitude.

Attitude toward language change

Step 1 Language is dynamic and evolving. With the popularity of netspeak and text language, many changes have been made not only to the English language, but also to other languages all over the world. Work in pairs to give some examples of changes that happen to Chinese.

Step 2 Discuss in groups the questions.

1. What do you think are the possible factors that cause these changes?
Give specific examples.
2. Do you think these changes are desirable or not, and why?

Read and practice

Synonyms

Replace the italicized parts in the sentences with words from the passage. Change the form if necessary.

1. It's a cute show, with some lovely and some *annoying* characters, and it's fun to watch.
2. He couldn't manage a response to such an *absurd* statement.
3. The *person who received the prize* was so excited that he began to weep tears of joy while standing on stage.
4. Although you might know what the *short form of the word* stands for, the person reading your resume might not know.
5. Bitterly I thought in my mind that the storm came on purpose to *ruin* my happiness.
6. How that might be done is *unclear* at the moment, for the organisms are still barely understood.
7. Even if a sensible plan is followed *from this time on*, it will only prevent future mistakes.
8. *Press* the key to switch from one field (栏) to the next, such as when typing a username and password.

Meaning in context

Pick out the sentence in each pair where the italicized word has the same meaning as the italicized one in the example sentence.

1. Put your name in *brackets* at the top of each page.
 - A. The prices of the dishes are shown in *brackets* on the menu.
 - B. I would have to say that is an L-shaped *bracket* that can be used to put things on.
2. Here, too, the *colon* must be followed by a space in formal writing.
 - A. We need to do everything we can to prevent *colon* cancer.
 - B. The *colon* is important because it's defining the beginning of a set of instructions.
3. When you know how to use a *dash* correctly, it can be a handy piece of punctuation.
 - A. It's pouring with rain — we'll have to make a *dash* for it.
 - B. *Dash* is used especially to indicate a break in the thought or structure of a sentence.
4. Music has the great advantage of crossing cultural *barriers*.
 - A. They are warm, but the language *barrier* keeps us apart.
 - B. The mountains acted as a natural *barrier* to the spread of the disease.

5. I packed my *quiver* full of arrows and left the palace.
 - A. I felt a *quiver* of excitement run through me when I heard the news.
 - B. The hunter shot a deer with an arrow from his *quiver*.
6. My finger *tapped* the “J” key over and over, but the letter didn’t appear.
 - A. He was busy *tapping* away at his computer, unaware of what was happening.
 - B. Since we are able to *tap* such resources as oil and metals, why can’t we develop other resources?

Expressions

Complete the sentences with expressions from the box. Change the form if necessary

end up	chatter on	fall on
fall victim to	leaf through	litter ... with

1. There were no rewards in life for such stupidity, and he promised himself never to _____ that kind of blind thinking.
2. She was _____ the magazine, looking at the pictures of beautiful sceneries.
3. Yesterday, the boy _____ about the friends he was about to see and the things they would do.
4. If you don’t know what you want, you might _____ getting something you don’t want.
5. Soon the whole place was _____ clothes and magazines and cosmetics.
6. Her eyes _____ a photograph she hadn’t noticed before.

Read and translate

Translate the paragraph into Chinese.

Texting may not wreck (损害) children’s ability to read and write. On the contrary, literacy may improve. The latest studies have found strong positive links between the use of netspeak and the scores in standard English tests in children. The more abbreviations in their messages, the higher they scored on tests of reading and vocabulary. The children who were better at spelling and writing were frequent texters. Children could not be good at texting if they had not already mastered considerable vocabulary. Before you can write and play with abbreviated forms, you need to have a sense of how the sounds of your language relate to the letters. If you are using such inoffensive abbreviations as LOL and BRB (“be right back”) which are not obscure, you must have the awareness of the communicative needs of your recipients.



Additional translation skills

Do a role-play

Panel discussion of netspeak in newspapers

A young editor of a local newspaper received a letter from a senior citizen who complained about the use of some netspeak in the newspaper to the extent that he was not able to figure out the meaning. Thus the newspaper office decided to hold a panel to discuss this issue. They invited several representatives of different ages and occupations. You and your classmates are very interested in the issue. So you decide to role-play the panel discussion in your class and encourage everyone to reflect on the use of netspeak.

Step

1

Choose your role

Form groups of five. One acts as the young editor, one as the senior citizen, one as a teenager, one as a teacher, and one as the host.

Step

2

Prepare the discussion

During the panel discussion, each role has to hold the following assigned opinion and search for evidence to support your opinion. The host is supposed to give a brief introduction of the theme of the discussion at the beginning, raise questions or clarify some points during the discussion, and summarize the main points at the end.

- The young editor: It is not a big deal to use some netspeak.
- The senior citizen: Newspapers shouldn't use netspeak.
- The teenager: Netspeak is cool and trendy.
- The teacher: Netspeak should not be used in formal writing.

Step

3

Rehearse the discussion

Each group rehearses the panel discussion. Remember to use rhetorical questions or hypophoras to make your argument more forceful.

Expressions for reference:

Expressing a personal opinion

- It seems to me that ...
- I have the feeling that ...
- I'm absolutely convinced that ...

Expressing agreement and disagreement

- I agree / disagree with you about ...
- I (can't) accept your view that ...
- I'm of a different opinion that ...

Step

4

Hold the discussion and get feedback

The teacher invites each group to hold the panel discussion with the whole class watching. After the discussion, the teacher comments on their performance in terms of content, language, and the way of delivery.

Reading 1

New words

♦ **console** /kən'səʊl/ vt.

make sb. feel better when they are feeling sad or disappointed 安慰; 慰藉

e.g. He consoled himself that he would see Kate again soon.

* **heal** /hi:l/ v.

1) become mentally or emotionally strong again after a bad experience, or help sb. to do this (在精神或感情上) (使)复原, (使)坚强起来

e.g. Bianca was the kind of woman who could heal his soul, if he had time to let her.

2) (also **heal up**) become healthy again; make sth. healthy again (使)康复, 复原

e.g. It took a long time for the wounds to heal.

♦ **coincidence** /kəʊ'ɪnsɪd(ə)ns/ n. [C, U]

when two things happen at the same time, in the same place, or to the same people in a way that seems surprising or unusual 巧合; 巧事

e.g. I think it is more than coincidence that all the complaints have come from the same group of people.

* **therapy** /'θerəpi/ n.

[C, U] a treatment that helps sb. feel better, grow stronger, etc., esp. after an illness 治疗; 疗法

e.g. Many patients receiving these new therapies respond rapidly to them and get a lot of clinical benefit.

* **propose** /prə'pəʊz/ vt.

(fml.) suggest sth. as a plan or course of action 提议; 建议

e.g. In his speech he proposed that the UN should set up an emergency center for the environment.

* **fleeting** /'fli:tɪŋ/ a.

(usu. before noun) lasting for only a short time 短暂的; 飞逝的

e.g. For one fleeting moment, Paula allowed herself to forget her troubles.

* **betrayal** /brɪ'treɪəl/ n. [C, U]

the act of betraying sb. / sth. or the fact of being betrayed 背叛; 出卖

e.g. She wondered if he felt hurt at his best friend's betrayal but didn't have the courage to ask.

* **endure** /ɪn'djʊə/

vi. continue to exist for a long time 持续

e.g. He wasn't the only one who doubted the relationship would endure.

vt. be in a difficult or painful situation for a long time without complaining 忍耐; 忍受

e.g. It seemed impossible that anyone could endure such pain.

* **companionship** /kəm'pænjənʃɪp/ n. [U]

when you are with sb. you enjoy being with, and are not alone 友谊; 友好交往

e.g. That feeling of companionship can make a huge difference, especially at a stressful job.

* **insight** /'ɪnsaɪt/ n. [C]

a sudden clear understanding of sth. or part of sth., esp. a complicated situation or idea (尤指对复杂情况、看法的)顿悟, 猛醒

e.g. The article gives us a real insight into the causes of the present economic crisis.

* **narrator** /nə'reɪtə/ n. [C] 叙述者; 讲述者* **monologue** /'mɒnə,lɒɡ/ n. [C]

(AmE also **monolog**) a long speech by one person 长篇独白

e.g. Blogs are not just about one person sharing in a monologue with everyone else listening.

* **paradoxically** /,pærə'dɒksɪkli/ ad.

in a way that is surprising because it is the opposite of what you would expect 自相矛盾地; 反常地

e.g. Paradoxically, the economy is improving although many families complain about the poverty in which they live.

* **interior** /ɪn'tɪəriə/

a. (only before noun) belonging to mental or spiritual life 内心的; 精神的

e.g. Interior monolog is defined as the thoughts you have running through your brain or the things that you silently tell yourself.

n. [C, usu. sing.] the inner part or inside of sth. 内部; 里面

e.g. The interior of the church was dark.

* **universal** /,ju:nɪ'vɜ:sl/ a.

true or suitable in every situation 普遍正确的; 广泛适用的

e.g. It is an almost universal truth that the more we

are promoted in a job, the less we exercise the skills we initially used to perform it.

universality /ˌjuːnɪvɜː'sæləti/ n. [U]

the quality or state of being true or suitable in every situation 普遍性；通用性

e.g. His lyrics aim for a certain timeless universality.

timelessness /'taɪmləsənəs/ n. [U]

the quality of not changing as the years go past, or as fashion changes 永恒；不朽

e.g. It is said that all diamonds are symbolic of love, commitment, and timelessness, but adding yellow to the stone gives it even deeper meaning.

subconscious /sʌb'kɒnʃəs/ a.

existing in the mind but not immediately available to consciousness 下意识的；潜意识的

e.g. There are conscious thoughts that you're aware of and subconscious ones that you're not.

* **ease** /iːz/

v. make or become less severe, difficult, unpleasant, painful, etc. 缓解；减轻

e.g. The school needs to take some measures to ease the burden on busy teachers.

n. [U] the fact that sth. is easy to do 容易；轻易；不费劲

e.g. He studied hard every day so that he could pass the exam with ease.

empathetic /'empəθetɪk/ a.

(also **empathic**) having the ability to understand sb. else's feelings or emotions 同情的；共鸣的

e.g. Providing a loving home environment can help the child to become independent, self-confident, and empathetic toward others.

* **mild** /maɪld/ a.

1) a mild illness or health problem is not serious 不严重的；轻微的

e.g. She had a mild headache, and went to bed much earlier than usual.

2) not very strong or hot-tasting 不浓烈的；淡的；不辣的

e.g. I like this kind of cheese because it has a pleasant mild flavor.

* **symptom** /'sɪmptəm/ n. [C]

sth. wrong with your body or mind which shows that you have a particular illness 症状

e.g. Tiredness is one of the most common symptoms of stress.

bibliotherapist /ˌbɪblɪə'θerəpɪst/ n. [C] 阅读治疗专家

* **continually** /kən'tɪnjuəli/ ad.

1) in a way that happens repeatedly 多次重复地；频繁地

e.g. We are continually reassessing the situation.

2) in a way that continues for a long time without stopping 持续地；不间断地

e.g. The telephone has been ringing continually in the office all morning.

* **grieve** /griːv/ v.

feel extremely sad, esp. because sb. you love has died (尤指因所爱之人去世而) 感到悲痛

e.g. He died, and every day since then I have grieved for him.

* **plot** /plɒt/ n. [C]

the events that form the main story of a book, film, or play (书、电影、戏剧的) 情节

e.g. Although the cast (全体演员) was different back then, the plot was strikingly similar.

* **fictional** /'fɪkʃənəl/ a.

fictional people, events, etc. are imaginary and from a book or story 虚构的；编造的；小说(中)的

e.g. He has created many lively fictional characters with his wonderful writing.

* **retirement** /rɪ'taɪəmənt/ n. [C, U]

when you stop working, usu. because of your age 退休；退職

e.g. He became a keen golfer after his retirement from politics.

♦ **transient** /'trænzɪənt/ a.

(fml.) continuing only for a short time 短暂的；转瞬即逝的；一时的

e.g. The trading data show that these events had minimal and transient effect on the price of gold and silver.

transience /'trænzɪəns/ n. [U]

the state of continuing only for a short time 短暂；转瞬即逝

e.g. History is a combination of permanence and transience.

★ **messy** /'mesi/ *a.*

1) (of a situation) complicated and unpleasant to deal with (状况) 棘手的

e.g. *If you find yourself in a messy situation, please take these five strategies to heart.*

2) dirty or untidy 脏的; 乱的

e.g. *Sorry, the place is so messy because I haven't had time to clear up.*

★ **grief** /grɪf/ *n.* [U]

extreme sadness, esp. because sb. you love has died 悲痛, 极度悲伤 (尤指因所爱之人去世)

e.g. *The grief she felt over Helen's death was almost unbearable.*

★ **despair** /dɪ'speɪ/ *n.* [U]

a feeling that you have no hope at all 绝望

e.g. *A few positive words can turn despair into hope.*

memoir /'mem,wɔ:/ *n.* [C]

1) (*fml.*) a short piece of writing about a person or place that you knew well, or an event that you experienced 传略; 实录

e.g. *His memoir of his friend Professor Fleeming Jenkin was published soon after his departure.*

2) (~s) [pl.] a book by sb. important and famous in which they write about their life and experiences (名人) 回忆录

e.g. *Angelou's first volume of memoirs dealt with her childhood.*

★ **narrative** /'nærətɪv/ *n.*

1) [U] (*fml.*) the act, process, or skill of telling a story 叙述; 叙述技巧

e.g. *The novel contains too much dialog and not enough narrative.*

2) [C] (*fml.*) a description of events in a story, esp. in a novel (尤指小说中的) 叙述, 记叙

e.g. *At several points in the narrative the two stories cross.*

★ **optimistic** /,ɒptɪ'mɪstɪk/ *a.*

believing that good things will happen in the future 乐观的; 乐观主义的

e.g. *Bankers are cautiously optimistic about the country's economic future.*

★ **transform** /træns'fɔ:m/

vi. undergo a change in appearance, form, or character 改观; 变形; 转化

e.g. *The trip to the cinema transforms into a full-day activity for the family.*

vt. completely change the appearance, form, or character of sb. / sth., esp. in a way that improves it 使改观; 使变形; 使转化

e.g. *The movie transformed her almost overnight from an unknown schoolgirl into a star.*

Phrases and expressions

one after the other

(*also one after another*) if a series of events or actions happen one after another, each one happens soon after the previous one 一个接一个地; 接二连三地

e.g. *Ever since we moved here it's been one problem after the other.*

in the hope of / that

because you want sth. to happen 抱着...的希望

e.g. *Shoppers flocked to the sales in the hope of finding a bargain.*

Proper names

Michel de Montaigne /mʊŋ'tenj/ 米歇尔·德·蒙田 (法国作家、哲学家)

University of Sussex /'sʌsɪks/ 萨塞克斯大学 (英国大学, 位于英格兰)

Helen Garner 海伦·加纳 (澳大利亚作家)

Robert Dessaix /dɪ'seɪ/ 罗伯特·德塞 (澳大利亚作家)

Reading 2

New words

* **precious** /'preʃəs/ *a.*

1) greatly loved or treasured by sb. 珍爱的; 心爱的
e.g. *Look after my daughter — she's very precious to me.*

2) valuable and important and not to be wasted or used without care 宝贵的

e.g. *Books were very scarce and very precious in this village, and only a few men could read them.*

* **voyage** /'vɔɪdʒ/ *n.* [C]

1) (~ of discovery) a situation in which you learn a lot of new things about sb. / sth. (对某人或某事有大量新发现的) 发现之旅

e.g. *Writing a biography is an absorbing voyage of discovery.*

2) a long journey in a ship or spacecraft (乘船或宇宙飞船的长途) 航行

e.g. *The voyage from England to India used to take six months.*

* **edition** /'ɪdɪʃn/ *n.* [C]

1) the copies of a book, newspaper, etc. that are produced and printed at the same time 版次

e.g. *The textbook was first published in 1858 and is now in its 39th edition.*

2) the form that a book, newspaper, magazine, etc. is produced in 版本

e.g. *The regional editions of the paper contain specific information for that area.*

* **hyphen** /'haɪfn/ *n.* [C] 连字符; 连(字)号

pigeonhole /'pɪdʒ(ə)n,həʊl/ *n.* [C] (墙上的) 鸽笼式分类架, 信件格, 文件格

♦ **henceforth** /,hens'fɔːθ/ *ad.*

(also **henceforward**) (*fml.*) from this time on 从今以后; 今后; 从现在开始

e.g. *All financial and economical questions were henceforth to be decided by a majority of votes.*

pot belly /'pɒt ,beli/ *n.* [C] 大肚子

* **betray** /br'treɪ/ *vt.*

be disloyal to sb. who trusts you, so that they are harmed or upset 背叛(信任你的人); 对...不忠; 出卖

e.g. *But don't you think you betray him by not giving him a chance?*

* **unacceptable** /,ʌnək'septəbl/ *a.*

so wrong or bad that cannot be allowed 不能接受的

e.g. *The recommendations from this report are unacceptable to many black people.*

millisecond /'mɪlɪ,sekənd/ *n.* [C] 毫秒; 千分之一秒

* **tap** /tæp/

v. hit sb. / sth. quickly and lightly 轻敲; 轻拍; 轻叩

e.g. *Tap the "X" or "Z" key to scroll (滚动) to the right or to the left.*

n. [C] (esp. *BrE*) (水、煤气等管道或容器的) 龙头, 阀门

texter /'tekstə/ *n.* [C] (esp. *BrE*) 发送(手机)短信息的人

punctuation /,pʌŋktʃu'eɪʃn/ *n.* [U]

the marks used to divide a piece of writing into sentences, phrases, etc. 标点符号(总称)

♦ **savage** /'sævɪdʒ/

vt. attack or treat brutally 攻击; 残害

e.g. *The animal then turned on him and he was savaged.*

a. very violent or cruel 凶猛的; 残暴的

e.g. *This was a savage attack on a defenseless young girl.*

♦ **rape** /reɪp/ *vt.*

damage or destroy sth. by using it in an unsuitable way 蹂躏; 破坏

e.g. *Is the idea that texting is raping our vocabulary exaggerated?*

♦ **quiver** /'kwɪvə/

n. [C] 箭筒; 箭囊; 箭袋

vi. shake slightly because you are cold, or because you feel very afraid, angry, excited, etc. 颤抖; 发抖

e.g. *Her lips quivered and then she started to cry.*

* **ridicule** /'rɪdɪ,kju:l/ *n.* [U]

unkind laughter or remarks that are intended to make sb. / sth. seem stupid 嘲笑; 奚落

e.g. *He had become an object of ridicule among the other students.*

♦ **irritating** /'ɪrɪ,tetɪŋ/ *a.*

annoying 使人恼火的

e.g. *He's the most irritating man I've ever met.*

chatter /'tʃætə/ *vi.*

(also **chatter away / on**) talk quickly in a friendly way without stopping, esp. about things that are not serious or important 唠叨; 喋喋不休

e.g. She chattered away happily until she noticed I wasn't listening.

smiley /'smaili/ *n.* [C] 微笑符 (电子邮件中使用的表示愉快的符号, 如 :-))

emoticon /ɪ'məʊtɪkɒn/ *n.* [C] (在电子邮件和因特网上使用的) 表情符号

* **colon** /'kəʊlən/ *n.* [C] 冒号

* **dash** /dæʃ/

n. [C] 破折号

vi. go or run somewhere very quickly 猛冲; 疾奔

e.g. She dashed into the room, grabbed her bag, and ran out again.

* **bracket** /'brækɪt/ *n.* [C, usu. pl.] (*AmE* parenthesis) 圆括号; 圆括号

e.g. Last year's sales figures are given in brackets.

♦ **abbreviation** /ə'brɪ:vi'eɪʃn/ *n.* [C]

a short form of a word or expression 缩略语; 缩写

e.g. We will use this abbreviation in this article and throughout the series.

* **offensive** /ə'fensɪv/ *a.*

very rude or insulting and likely to upset people 无理的; 冒犯的; 令人恼火的

e.g. The program contains language which some viewers may find offensive.

inoffensive /ɪnə'fensɪv/ *a.*

unlikely to offend or upset anyone 不冒犯人的; 不会得罪人的

e.g. Her husband was a small, inoffensive-looking man.

* **increasingly** /ɪn'kri:siŋli/ *ad.*

more and more all the time 不断增加地; 越来越多地

e.g. Increasingly, businesses are having to reduce their cost in order to survive.

♦ **obscure** /əb'skjuə/ *a.*

1) difficult to understand 费解的; 晦涩的

e.g. For some obscure reason, the group is very popular.

2) not well known and usu. not very important 无名的; 默默无闻的; 鲜为人知的

e.g. He was born around 1650 but his origins remain obscure.

* **recipient** /rɪ'sɪpiənt/ *n.* [C]

(*fml.*) sb. who receives sth. 接受者; 领受者

e.g. I felt glad that I was a giver of pleasure, not merely a passive recipient.

♦ **ambiguity** /,æmbrɪ'gju:əti/ *n.* [C, U]

the state of being unclear, confusing, or not certain, or things that produce this effect 模棱两可; 不明确 (的事物)

e.g. There was an element of ambiguity in the president's reply.

* **barrier** /'bæriə/ *n.* [C]

a rule, problem, etc. that prevents people from doing sth., or limits what they can do 障碍; 壁垒

e.g. Problems with childcare remain the biggest barrier to women succeeding at work.

* **humble** /'hʌmbl/ *a.*

1) (**in my ~ opinion**) used humorously to give your opinion about sth. 愚以为, 依拙见 (幽默用法)

e.g. There is no greater mass-produced, affordable safety device around in my humble opinion.

2) not considering yourself or your ideas to be as important as other people's 谦虚的; 谦卑的

e.g. Be humble enough to learn from your mistakes.

* **complaint** /kəm'pleɪnt/ *n.*

1) [C] sth. that you complain about 投诉的事; 不满的事

e.g. My main complaint is that we can't go out to the playground anymore.

2) [C, U] a statement in which sb. complains about sth. 投诉

e.g. If you wish to make a complaint, you should see the manager.

* **revolution** /,revə'lʊ:ʃn/ *n.* [C]

a complete change in ways of thinking, methods of working, etc. (思想、工作方式等的) 彻底变革, 革命

e.g. In the last 10 years there has been a revolution in education.

* **globe** /gləʊb/ *n.*

(**the ~**) [*sing.*] the world 地球; 世界

e.g. Our company is really international and we export our goods all over the globe.

adaptable /ə'dæptəbl/ *a.*

able to change in order to be successful in new and different situations 能适应的; 适应性强的

e.g. *Since the workout is adaptable and fun, you will be able to learn the techniques with ease.*

netspeak /'net,spi:k/ *n.* [U] 网络语言

* **ridiculous** /rɪ'dɪkjʊləs/ *a.*

very silly or unreasonable 愚蠢的; 荒唐的; 可笑的
e.g. *It's ridiculous that we have to wait two weeks for the operation.*

ever-changing /,evə 'tʃeɪndʒɪŋ/ *a.*

changing all the time 不断变化的
e.g. *In this way we can best meet the needs of the ever-changing market through innovative technology and design.*

* **spoil** /spɔɪl/ *vt.* (spoiled, spoiled; *BrE* also spoilt, spoilt)

have a bad effect on sth. so that it is no longer attractive, enjoyable, useful, etc. 毁掉; 糟蹋; 破坏
e.g. *They had an entire week, so there was no need to rush into a conversation that might spoil everything.*

Phrases and expressions

leaf through

turn the pages of a book quickly, without reading it properly 匆匆翻阅
e.g. *I picked up the magazine and leafed through it.*

fall on / upon

if your eyes fall on sth., or your gaze, glance falls on sth., you notice it (某人的目光) 落在某物上
e.g. *His eyes fell on her bag. "Are you going somewhere?"*

fall victim to sth.

(*written*) be badly affected or destroyed by sth. 受到...的损害
e.g. *Many small businesses have fallen victim to the recession.*

no longer

not any more 不再
e.g. *Now that Tony was no longer present, there was a distinct change in her attitude.*

a tall order

(*informal*.) a request or piece of work that is almost impossible 很难实现的要求, 奢求; 很难完成的工作
e.g. *Finding a replacement is going to be a tall order.*

figure out

think about a problem or situation until you find the answer or understand what has happened 弄懂; 搞清楚

e.g. *There will be a full investigation to figure out what caused the accident.*

see to

deal with sth. or do sth. for sb. 照料; 处理
e.g. *You try to have some sleep. I'll see to the children's breakfast.*

Proper names

Angus Stevenson /,æŋgəs 'stɪv(ə)ns(ə)n/ 安格斯·史蒂文森 (“牛津英语词典”系列主编)