



英文

落實健康碼何不一步到位？

Why not settle the matter of implementing a health code system in one go?

近日有民意調查發現，九成受訪者希望早日通關，九成表示不通關對生活有影響。面對壓倒性的民意，特區政府逐步調整防疫政策，從強制要求進入政府設施者必須掃安心出行，到有關官員表示不排除直接採用內地健康碼，均顯示特區政府正積極應對通關問題。事實上，健康碼是通關的必要前設，一旦鎖定了方向，就要果斷推進，一步到位，再踟躕猶豫只會貽誤時機。

新冠疫情爆發之初，人們對病毒了解有限，在防疫手段方面進行各種摸索、嘗試，完全可以理解。但到了疫情爆發近兩年後的今天，防疫舉措已有明顯的優劣之分情況下，再談「摸着石頭過河」就不合時宜了。特別是在全球付出數億人確診、數百萬人死亡的巨大代價後，捨近途而弗由，仍要在防疫措施方面拖泥帶水，明知是彎路、「掘頭路」仍要走，那就不是應有的負責任態度。

在防疫政策方面，全球主要有兩條路徑，一是歐美的「與疫共存」，實質上是為了發展經濟而不顧國人的死活，與人道主義背道而馳，從英國等歐洲國家疫情大反彈，到新加坡疫情日益嚴峻，證明這是一條黑暗之路；一是我國內地的堅決「清零」，將人民健康生命安全放在第一位，同時兼顧經濟發展，證明這是代價最小且最成功的光明之路。

就香港而言，無論是從民意還是實際情況而言，盡早與內地通關是香港最明智也是唯一的正確選擇。香港只有更好地融入「內循環」，才能促進經濟發展，進而解決各種深層次矛盾。所謂「不必心急通關」論，顯然是沒有看到問題的嚴重程度。

要與內地通關，就必須對接機制，嚴格參照內地的防疫標準，而落實健康碼是至關重要的一步。事實上，去年五月特區政府已開始研究健康碼，去年十一月建立了與內地及澳門健康碼的數據交換平台，並開始在「回港易」政策下局部使用。然而，至今仍沒有大規模推廣，是因為有各種顧忌和阻力。一方面，有人將內地的一切「妖魔化」，抹黑健康碼竊取私隱云云，這是刻意破壞防疫；另一方面，有人認同內地防疫成功，健康碼有效，但又膚淺且錯誤地認為香港完全採用內地的那一套防疫手段，那就不是「一國兩制」了。

正是這種心理顧慮，導致香港在防疫方面不夠果斷堅決，「抄作業」抄得不徹底，無論全民檢測、封區強檢、集中隔離、嚴防輸入等都走了不少冤枉路，導致疫情反覆，香港社會為此已付出慘重的代價，也令與內地通關好事多磨。

恢復通關說難不難，說易不易，最關鍵的就是「對接」兩個字，不僅要在健康碼等防疫機制上對接，更要在防疫思路上對接。思路通了，一通百通；思路變了，一變百變。只要香港社會團結一心，認準方向，採取更直接、更果斷的措施，通關就不會遙遠。香港需要放下心魔，大步邁前！

2021-10-23

A recent opinion poll showed that 96 per cent of the respondents hoped the border with the Mainland could be reopened as early as possible and 90 per cent of them said closing the border affected their daily life. In face of the overwhelming public opinion, the SAR government gradually adjusts its anti-epidemic policy. There are signs showing it now begins to proactively deal with the border reopening issue: from enforcing the compulsory requirement for all visitors to government facilities to use the "LeaveHomeSafe" mobile application to officials concerned saying the government may not rule out directly introducing in the Mainland's Health Code system. As a matter of fact, a health code system is a must for border reopening. Once the direction is set, efforts must be devoted to accomplish the goal **in one go**. Any hesitation will only let time and opportunity slip away.

In the early days when the Covid-19 epidemic just broke out, humankind's knowledge about the virus was limited so people had to probe **by trial and error** in various ways. That is quite understandable. However, today - nearly two years after the outbreak of the disease - when the difference between effective anti-epidemic measures and ineffective ones can be seen clearly, it would be behind the times to talk about "crossing the river by touching the stones". Particularly, after the world has paid an enormous price of several hundred million people being infected with several million of them killed, if one still declines to take the right path but continues to do things sloppily and even **press on** with the awareness of a winding course or a **cul-de-sac** ahead, then this is not a properly responsible attitude.

When Covid-19 epidemic prevention and control is concerned, there are mainly two approaches worldwide. One is the "coexistence with the virus" taken by Europe and the United States, which in essence is to focus on economic development regardless whether their citizens live or die. Such an approach goes against humanitarianism. It proves a dark path as seen from the sharp rebounds of the epidemic in the United Kingdom and other European countries to the worsening epidemic situation in Singapore. The other is the unswerving "zero infection" approach taken in the Mainland of our country, which puts people's health and life safety above everything else while at the same time gives consideration to economic development. This proves a bright road which pays a minimal price but achieves the greatest success.

For Hong Kong, in view of either public opinion or the actual reality, the wisest and

only correct choice is to reopen its border with the Mainland as early as possible. Only by integrating itself into the [Mainland's] "internal circulation", shall Hong Kong be able to promote its economic development and then solve various deep-rooted contradictions. Apparently those who assert that "there is no need to urge [the government] on reopening the border with the Mainland" do not realise the seriousness of this issue.

In order to reopen the border, Hong Kong must match up with the Mainland's anti-epidemic mechanisms, strictly referring to the Mainland's anti-epidemic standards. In this regard, implementing a health code system is an utmost important step. In fact, the SAR government already began to study the feasibility of introducing in a health code scheme in May of last year, and established a data exchange platform with the Mainland's and Macao's health code systems last November. The platform was initially partially used - under the Return2hk Scheme. However, it has not been promoted to a larger extent due to all sorts of misgivings and resistances. On the one hand, some individuals "demonise" everything in and from the Mainland, smearing the [Mainland's] Health Code for stealing users' privacy, and so on and so forth. This is a deliberate attempt to jeopardise the anti-epidemic effort. On the other hand, some people recognise the Mainland's success in fighting the Covid-19 virus and the effectiveness of its Health Code, yet they superficially and erroneously think that Hong Kong's adoption of the Mainland's anti-epidemic measures does not agree with "one country two systems".

It is due to such psychological misgivings that Hong Kong acts irresolutely and indecisively in its anti-epidemic campaign and is unable to even thoroughly "copy the homework [done by the Mainland]". As such, Hong Kong has unnecessarily taken a roundabout way - either in population-wide testing, compulsory testing on blocks, centralised quarantine or prevention against importation of infection cases from overseas - to result in the fluctuations of the epidemic situation. Because of this, Hong Kong society has paid a heavy price and the good thing of reopening the border with the Mainland been rendered troublesome.

Reopening Hong Kong's border with the Mainland could be either difficult or easy. The crux of the matter lies in the two words of "matching up". Hong Kong should match up with the Mainland not only in the anti-epidemic mechanisms but also in the anti-epidemic mindset. When the mindset is right, understating one thing can lead to understating a hundred things. When the

mindset changes, a change can lead to a hundred changes. As long as Hong Kong society becomes united as one, finds the correct direction and takes more direct and more resolute measures, border reopening will not be a remote goal. Hong Kong must get rid of its own "inner demon" to **make great strides** forward!

23 October 2021

WORDS AND USAGE

At/in one go (idiom) -

• In one single action; all at the same time. (一口氣，一次過)

Examples:

- I don't think I'll be able to solve all the problems at one go.
- He ate the whole cake in one go.

• Trial and error (idiom) -

An attempt to accomplish something by trying various means until the correct one is found. (反覆嘗試，試錯法)

Examples:

- The only way to solve this problem is by trial and error.
- There's no instant way of finding a cure - it's just a process of trial and error.

• Press on/ahead (phrasal verb) -

To start or continue doing something in a determined way, often despite problems. (繼續進行，堅持)

Examples:

- Shall we press ahead with the minutes of the last meeting?
- The government is pressing on with its plans to reorganize the penal system.

• Cul-de-sac (noun) -

A short road which is closed off at one end; a situation that leads nowhere. (死胡同，僵局)

Examples:

- It is a well-lit place and, being a cul-de-sac, carries no traffic.
- This surely is an intellectual cul-de-sac.

• Make great strides (idiom) -

To advance considerably; to make good progress. (長足進步，大步前進)

Examples:

- The government has made great strides in reducing poverty.
- He made great strides in his study of Latin.



續FUN英語

I am loving it!

很多學生曾經因為商業廣告常使用的英語，而混淆了傳統英語文法：例如某餐廳的口號是「I am loving it」。

學生經常問：「怎麼love也有進行式的嗎？現在進行式還是過去進行式也可以用的嗎？那可以有I am hating it嗎？」

首先廣告上的英語不是教授語文的正確用法，商業廣告的用語更加不講究文法準確，但求達到每個品牌的商業目的、深入人心、「出位」、「好玩」(catchy，觀眾容易明白及容易上口，甚至有一些像繞口令 (tongue twisters) 一樣，基本上可以五花八門，沒有根據文法準則，也不一定需要符合邏輯。)

另外，傳統英語文法書上可能會跟我們說，例如，finish作動詞使用不可以加ing。假設，我現在這一刻正在埋頭苦幹改文章，朋友過來邀約吃下午茶，我會說："Oh I'm really craving for a big piece of fluffy lemon cake. Please wait, I am finishing my marking, give me a couple of minutes."

這個「finishing」是描述那一刻我正在完

成改文工作。

同樣地，consider作動詞使用也絕對可以加上ing作進行式使用。例子：I am considering all applications and will give my responses in a few days. (我正在考慮參賽資料，並將在數天內回覆。)

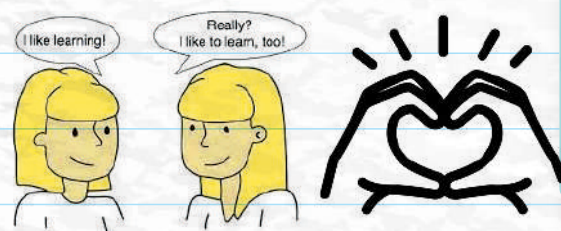
所以動詞的用法可以根據不同的上下文連貫性及內容 (context and content) 作比較及靈活的改動。最主要是對方 (recipient and audience) 能夠清晰明白意思。Functional grammar is the key.

順帶一提，讀者不要將動詞的進行式 (progressive/present participles) 跟英語文法書上的動名詞 (Gerund) 混淆。Gerund就是在動詞之後加上ing造成一組組的名詞。作兩組簡單例子：

John is reading a book. - 這是現在進行式 (Present Progressive) 的用法

John likes reading books. - 這是動名詞 (Gerund) 的用法

I saw him watching videos. - 這是現在分詞 (Present Participle) 應用在感知的動



詞 (Verbs of Perception) 後面，以表示被感知的動作

He learns German by watching videos. - 這是介詞後的動名詞 (A Gerund after a Preposition) 的用法

突然想起英國歌手Billy Ocean的歌曲——When the going gets tough, the tough get going.

大家了解到當中Gerund及present

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progressive的用法嗎？

歌曲講述當我們遇到艱難的情況，必須更加努力去面對挑戰。

回到「I am loving it」……

大家知道以下六組口號、標語 (slogan and tagline) 是哪個品牌或機構嗎？有興趣不妨把你的答案發電郵給我。

Dare to think, Dare to act.

Now Everyone Can Fly.

Think outside the bun.

It's my way.

Everywhere you want to be.

Enjoyneering.