



復常歡天喜地 發展爭分奪秒

Resumption to normalcy brings boundless joy, and development now becomes a race against time

亞博館社區隔離設施完成使命，昨日終極閉館；同日鳳溪第一小學搶在跨境學童免配額免核酸安排實施前復課，30多名跨境童率先回港上課。這「一關一開」之間，大家感受到香港復常步伐在加快。另一方面，深圳羅湖商家接到通知，本月6日即下周一羅湖口岸將重開，意味着大家盼望了三年的全面通關即將成為事實。特區政府和全社會要積極行動起來，將工作重心轉到經濟建設、加快融入國家發展大局上來，既要講好香港故事，更要幹好實事，不斷開創良政善治的新局面。

兔年春節的「辭舊迎新」有着雙重含義：一是告別舊年，迎接新年；二是揮別過去三年的疫下生活，進入社會全面復常的新階段。眼下的香港可謂百業待興，需要只爭朝夕。在昨日搶開開學的鳳溪第一小學，大家感受到了這種緊迫感。按照既定計劃，本月第二個星期實施跨境學童免核酸免配額安排，但學校、家長和學生都按捺不住了。有學童表示期待回校上課，前晚興奮得睡不着；有學童表示三年來沒有和同學見面，有些都不認得了；亦有學生家長坦言，過去三年孩子都是上網課，學習效果不好，擔心孩子跟不上其他同學的學習進度。亦因此，即使現時回港上課有手續上的麻煩，但為了孩子的未來，必須盡快讓孩子適應校園生活。

在內地各省市，人們也感受了這種爭分奪秒的緊迫感。在內地年初七復工的那一天，廣東省召開了高質量發展大會，這個「新春第一會」規模龐大，共有2萬5千人參與。廣東省委書記黃坤明強調，廣東在過去四十年實現了對「亞洲四小龍」的趕超，在未來將通過高質量發展快馬加鞭，依託粵港澳大灣區這一重要動力源，發揮橫琴、前海、南沙等重大平台作用，扎實抓好未來5年、10年、30年，「必定能再造一個新廣東」。在這次會議上，各地市領導、企業代表競相發言表態，展望新的一年高質量發展的目標和計劃。廣東的積極進取吸引了跨國大企業的關注，巴斯夫、寶潔等巨頭都表明了進一步大手筆投資廣東的計劃。

廣東的拚搏正是全國的縮影。不久前的全國各地兩會上，大家談得最多是拚經濟、拚招商。從春節期間旅遊熱報復式反彈、春節黃金檔內地電影火爆、到中國製造業PMI取得新年開門紅，都令人感受到中國快速復常的春潮湧動。國際貨幣基金組織近日調高了今年全球經濟增長預測，中國經濟滿血復活是重要因素。

內地全力拚經濟，全球各國加速復常，香港也在動起來。本周六，行政長官李家超將帶團出訪中東，尋找商機，這是香港繼早前舉辦國際金融領袖投資峰會等重要活動、宣告「香港重新回到國際舞台中心」後，在發揮「聯通國際」方面的又一項重要舉措。隨着與內地即將全面通關，香港背靠祖國的優勢將凸顯，香港充分發揮「內通外聯」的獨特優勢，這才是真正的復常。

「一國兩制」下的香港，肩負「說好香港故事」、「說好中國故事」的使命。「說好」的前提是「做好」，行動勝過千言。加快融入國家發展大局是香港前途所繫，粵港澳大灣區建設熱火朝天，香港要緊緊抓住當前重大發展機遇，特區政府、企業界和整個社會都需要動如脫兔，坐言起行，為全面通關、對接內地發展做好一切準備。

Having accomplished their mission, the quarantine centres at AsiaWorld-Expo were at last closed yesterday. On the same day, Fung Kai No 1 Primary School **beat others to resuming classes** before implementation of measures to exempt cross-boundary students from travel quota and nucleic acid testing (NAT), so over 30 cross-boundary students took the lead in coming back for face-to-face classes. Between such "closure" and "opening", one gets the impression that Hong Kong is picking up the pace on the road to normalcy. On the other hand, shop owners in Shenzhen's Luohu have been informed that Lo Wu Control Point would be reopened on Monday, the 6th of this month. It is meant full boundary reopening will come true imminently, which everyone has been looking forward to in the past three years. The SAR Government and whole society must act promptly to shift the focus of work to economic reconstruction and accelerating integration into the country's overall development. We must not only tell the Hong Kong story well but more importantly also take solid action to keep breaking new ground for good governance.

For this Year of the Rabbit's Spring Festival, "out with the old, in with the new" has a double meaning: one is to bid farewell to the old year and usher in the new one, the other to bid farewell to the life amid the epidemic and usher in a new stage for society to return to the pre-epidemic normal life. Right now in Hong Kong, many things are waiting to be done, and we must race against time. One can feel the sense of urgency from Fung Kai's rushing to resume classes. According to original plan, the arrangements to exempt cross-boundary students from travel quota and NAT would not be carried out until the second week of this month, but school authorities, parents and students could wait no longer. Some student said he so much looked forward to returning to face-to-face classes that he became too excited to sleep the night before last. Another student said he could hardly recognise some of his classmates having not seen them for three years. Some parent frankly said that her child had taken online courses during the past three years, and as the effectiveness of e-learning was not so good she was worried that her child might have difficulties to catch up with others in learning progress. Hence, even now the procedure of coming to Hong Kong to attend classes was troublesome, but for the child's future, it'd be better for the child to adapt to campus life as soon as possible.

In regions on the Mainland, one can also feel such sense of urgency to **beat the clock**. On the seventh day of the Year of the Rabbit when people went back to work after the long holiday, Guangdong province convened a High-quality Development Conference. This "first conference after the Chinese New Year" was large in size, with 25,000 participants. Huang Kunming, Secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, stressed that, having caught up with and surpassed the Four Asian Tigers with efforts devoted in the past four decades, Guangdong in future would accelerate the pace through high-quality development, relying on such an important source of driving force as the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and bringing into play such major platforms as Hengqin, Qianhai and Nansha to make solid progress in next five, 10 and 30 years, and "a new Guangdong is bound to be shaped". At the conference, leading officials of prefectures and cities and representatives of enterprises vied to speak, making clear their positions and high-quality development goals and plans for this year. Guangdong's enterprising attitude attracts attention from large multi-national enterprises. Such industrial giants as BASF SE and P&G have expressed their intents to make additional large investment in Guangdong.

Guangdong's going all out is the epitome of the whole Mainland. During the regions' "two annual sessions" held not long ago, participants mostly talked about how to strive for economic development and attracting

investment. From the retaliatory rebound of travel fever and high-flying box office during the golden season of the Spring Festival holiday, to the good start shown by China's manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) at the beginning of the year, one can notice China's quickened pace to resume normalcy. The IMF has recently raised its global economic growth outlook this year, an important factor for this being the full recovery of China's economy.

The Mainland is striving to boost economic growth, countries in the world speeding up to resume normalcy, and Hong Kong also acting. On Saturday, Chief Executive John Lee Ka-chiu will lead a delegation to visit the Middle East and look for business opportunities. This is another important move to **give full play** to Hong Kong's advantage of "being closely connected to the world", following important events such as hosting Global Financial Leaders' Investment Summit to proclaim that "Hong Kong is back to the centre of the international arena". With full Hong Kong-Mainland boundary reopening, Hong Kong's advantage of enjoying the Motherland's strong support will be accentuated. Only when Hong Kong gives full play to its distinctive advantages of "enjoying the Motherland's strong support and being closely connected to the world", can there be genuine resumption of normalcy.

Hong Kong under "one country two systems" takes on the mission of "well telling the Hong Kong story" and "well telling the China story". The pre-condition for "telling well" is "doing well", as actions speak louder than words. Hong Kong's future lies in accelerating its integration into the country's overall development. Construction of the Greater Bay Area is in full swing. Hong Kong must firmly seize major development opportunities at present. The SAR Government, enterprises and whole society must move like a nimble rabbit, and **walk the talk** at once to make all preparations for full boundary reopening and connecting Hong Kong to the Mainland's development.

WORDS AND USAGE

● **A race against time/the clock** (idiom) –

A situation in which one has to do or finish something very quickly before it is too late. (與時間賽跑，爭分奪秒)

Examples:

- 1.It's a real race against the clock to prevent the spread of the virus.
- 2.It was a race against time to reach the shore before the boat sank.

● **Beat sb to sth** (phrasal verb) –

To do something before someone else. (早人一步，捷足先登)

Examples:

- 1.You are fast – I'm sure you can beat all the other runners to the finish line.
- 2.I was going to ask her to the party, but you beat me to it.

● **Beat the clock** (idiom) –

To finish or succeed in doing something before time is up. (爭分奪秒，趕時間)

Examples:

- 1.In a desperate attempt to beat the clock, I raced to mail my tax return before midnight.
- 2.The company managed to beat the clock on delivering its new system.

● **Give sth full play** (idiom) –

To develop something completely. (充分發揮)

Examples:

- 1.I need a job that can give full play to my skills.
- 2.I think we should give the concept full play in our new ad campaign.

● **Walk the talk** (idiom) –

To put your words into action. (言行一致，說到做到)

Examples:

- 1.He has to walk the talk. Then people may have confidence in him.
- 2.This consultant has sold us on some pretty ideas, but it remains to be seen whether he can walk the talk.

Farther or Further

the frozen lake to observe the fish underneath.

- 4.The furniture shop is (farther / further) away than I thought.
- 5.Foodies looking to taste the best of Cantonese gourmet can look no (farther / further) than Hong Kong.
- 6.We dined in the restaurant at the (farther / further) end of the street because it was a MICHELIN-starred restaurant.

簡單來說，最主要分別是在於字面上的距離(a literal distance)，還是隱喻之間的距離(a metaphoric distance)。farther泛指可量度的／實體距離；而further就是指比喻上的距離。也就是說，further一般用於比喻上的長度，或是一些天馬行空／抽象的意念。而farther就是實際距離或是看到的／實在的範圍。

但一般比較普及化的是把farther當副詞使用，意思是「另外加上」(additionally)；或是當形容詞的時候意思是「額外的」(additional)；或是當動詞使用，意思是「前進」(to advance)。

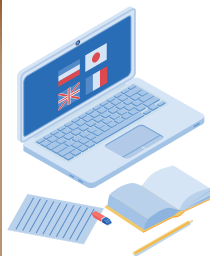
考考你第二、第四、第六題目也是Farther

- 2.We have to drive **farther** down the hill in order to see the village.
Farther作為副詞使用，表示一些事情或東西在一個更大的距離。
- 4.The furniture shop is **farther away** than I thought.
Farther away作為短語意思是指字面上的距離。
- 6.We dined in the restaurant at the **farther end** of the street because it was a MICHELIN-starred restaurant.

Farther end這裏作為一個形容詞，描述比其他東西更遙遠的東西，無法確定實際距離。

另外，第一、第三、第五的答案也是Further：

1. Cindy really can't remember any **further** back than that.
 3. After a long hike, we went **further along** the frozen lake to observe the fish underneath.
Further這裏作副詞使用，表示抽象的距離。
 - 5.Foodies looking to taste the best of Cantonese gourmet can **look no further** than Hong Kong.
Look no further 作為一個短語，意思是「不要再看了，這已經是最完美的」。
- Farther及further雖則有着大不同，在沒有上下文或資料不足的情況下，交替使用也可以理解的。



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續FUN英語

承接上集內容，今集《續fun英語》繼續解說一些容易混淆的簡單詞彙。

有時候我們會被商業廣告或小品文學當中誤導farther及further的用法，我們要記着廣告及一些受歡迎的寫作，不一定是教我們英語的好工具，很多也是以商業利益掛帥。

大家先試試在下列句子選取適當的答案：

考考你

- 1.Cindy really can't remember any (farther / further) back than that.
- 2.We have to drive (farther / further) down the hill in order to see the village.
- 3.After a long hike, we went (farther / further) along

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