

# SpaceX飛船返航 開啟「平民太空遊」

## SpaceX capsule returns with all-civilian spaceflight mission accomplished



#### 下文摘錄自香港《文匯報》9月20日:

在太空逗留3天後,美國太空探索公司SpaceX「靈感4號」 (Inspiration4) 太空之旅的4名旅客,於美東時間9月18日晚上 7時6分乘坐載人龍飛船(Crew Dragon capsule)成功降落大西

洋(Atlantic Ocean),完成歷來首次「全平民」太空之旅。SpaceX行政總 裁馬斯克(Elon Musk)送上祝賀,行程召集人伊薩克曼(Jared Isaacman) 也相信,未來會有更多人加入太空旅客之列。

載人龍飛船前晚以自動控制模式往返大氣層(atmosphere),在穿越大氣 層期間,飛船外殼溫度最高升至攝氏1,900度,但船身及4名太空旅客所穿 的太空衣幫忙隔絕高溫。經過數分鐘通訊中斷的黑障區後,飛船成功展開首 個降落傘(parachute),位於洛杉磯(Los Angeles)近郊的 SpaceX 地面控 制中心(flight control center)隨即爆出歡呼聲。飛船之後逐漸減速至時速 25公里左右,順利落在佛羅里達州 (Florida) 對開大西洋海面。

在艙內稍作休息及等待回收船(recovery ship)駛至後,4名太空旅客於 降落後不到一小時,先後自行步出船艙並登上回收船,笑着向鏡頭揮手致 意,接受簡單檢查後回到出發的肯尼迪太空中心(Kennedy Space Center)

「靈感4號」最高軌道 (orbit) 高度達585公里,是1972年「阿波羅」計 劃("Project Apollo")結束以來,人類到達過的最高高度。3天旅程期間,4 名太空旅客除了從窗戶欣賞星空及地球景象外,亦進行了多項科學實驗和多 場直播宣傳活動,包括與即將乘坐 SpaceX 飛船升空的影星湯告魯斯 (Tom Cruise) 隔空通話、為紐約證交所(New York Stock Exchange)敲響收市 鐘,還在船內繪畫並彈奏小結他。

SpaceX載人航空負責人里德(Benji Reed)表示,飛行全程只有船艙廁所 風扇及引擎一個溫度傳感器曾出現小故障,問題都得到及時解決。今次太空 之旅另一目標,是為其中一名旅客阿西諾(Hayely Arceneaux)任職的兒童 醫院籌款 (donation) 2億美元 (約15.5億港元) ,在降落時已經順利達

SpaceX預計今後每年會安排6次商業太空旅行,現時已經有4次前往國際 太空站(International Space Station)的行程預約滿座,每程都會由前太空 人陪伴3名旅客升空,當中首次行程預計於明年初升空。



#### Q&A

- 1. SpaceX於何年創立?
- 2. SpaceX計劃於哪個星球建立殖民地?
- 3. 「靈感4號」的四張船票分別象徵什麼?
- 4. 是次太空遊為哪所兒童醫院籌款?
- 5. Jared Isaacman 曾創立哪家支付公司?

Children's Research Hospital 5. Shift4 Payments

1. 2002 £ 之. 如果 (Mars) 3. 領導能力(leadership) 作為。(hope),澳爾(generosity) 2. 可容的erity) Answer



After three days in space, the mission of the 4 space tourists of the U.S. company space

SpaceX's Inspiration4 ended as the Crew Dragon capsule parachuted into the Atlantic Ocean at 7:06 pm EST on 18 September, bringing the world's first all-civilian space journey to a successful end. SpaceX CEO Elon Musk extended congratulations to the crew, and the "mission commander" Jared Isaacman believed that more people would be taking part in space tourism in the near fu-

The capsule traveled back and forth the atmosphere in an automatic control mode. During the reentry, the heat shield of the capsule underwent extreme heat of over 1,900 degrees Celsius, but the capsule and spacesuits had shielded the crew off completely from the high temperature. The spacecraft traveled for several minutes in a zone where communication was blocked, and applause was then heard from the SpaceX flight control center in suburban Los Angeles as the first parachute was seen deploying. The spacecraft gradually slowed down to a speed of about 25 kilometers per hour and gently

in the Atlantic off the coast of Florida.

After taking a rest in the cabin to wait for the arrival of the recovery ship, the 4 space passengers stepped out of the cabin and boarded the recovery ship in less than an hour after landing. They smiled and waved to the livestream cameras, and after receiving simple health checks, they returned to the Kennedy Space Center for reunion with their families.

Inspiration4 had settled into a circular orbit 585 kilometers above the Earth, which is the highest altitude humans have ever reached since the end of the "Project Apollo" in 1972. During the three-day journey, apart from enjoying the starry sky and the views of the Earth from the windows, the crew members also conducted a number of scientific experiments and live broadcast activities, including having a call with the actor Tom Cruise who is about to fly in a SpaceX spacecraft soon, ringing a closing bell for the New York Stock Exchange, painting and playing guitar in the cabin.

SpaceX's human-spaceflight chief, Benji Reed, said that only two minor issues had occurred during the journey - a malfunctioning fan in the toilet and a faulty temperature sensor on one of the spacecraft's engines, which were easily resolved. Another goal of the trip was to raise a donation of US\$200 million (approx HK \$1.55 billion) for a children's hospital where one of the travelers Hayely Arceneaux now works, and this was successfully achieved upon landing.

SpaceX plans to launch 6 commercial space flights in the years to come, and 4 trips to the International Space Station are fully booked so far. It is expected that each journey can accommodate up to 3 passengers who will be led by a former astronaut, and the first flight will take off early next year.

逢星期一見報

## 掌握英語詞彙 要讀也要寫

## 恒大英萃

龐嘉儀

#### 隔星期一見報

作為一名英語老師,筆者經常聽到學生的一個自 我評價是:「我詞彙量很少,我想擴大我的詞彙 庫。」然而,當被問及他們使用什麼策略來增加詞 彙量時,答案往往是「多讀」。關鍵是,他們閱讀 時應該留意哪種詞彙?以及如何將接收性詞彙 (Receptive Vocabulary,可以理解的個人詞彙, 但不能流暢使用)轉化為生產性詞彙 (Productive Vocabulary,能經常使用的個人詞彙)呢?

#### 看過就算 難以應用

當然,一些基礎詞彙如《Longman 3000》和學 術詞彙表中所列的是不容忽視的。據統計,它們是 以英語為母語者在寫作對話中最常使用的詞彙。多 數學生在字典查閱詞彙的詞義後,往往只是看一眼 (有些人可能會努力拼寫),但很少在寫作或口語 中應用那些詞彙。如是者,學生無法流暢地在他們 寫作或説話時使用那些詞彙。

### 組織想法 考慮用字

要改善這情況,筆者建議學生先從寫作開始。在 寫作之前,學生應該花大約十分鐘思考如何寫作, 不僅要思考如何組織想法,還要考慮如何於段落中 使用與中心思想相關的合適詞彙,還有記錄相關詞 彙,提醒自己在寫作時使用它們。重複練習後,學 生才能真正掌握所學單詞並於寫作時流利地運用它

> ● 江影玉博士 香港恒生大學英文系高級講師

#### 慢速開始 多說英語

至於説話,筆者不得不承認,在連續對談中使用平 日很少運用的詞彙是有難度的。但學生還是要和朋友 多說幾句英語,可以先從慢速開始,這樣你就可以想 出一個更準確的詞以用在接下來的話語中。漸漸地, 您將習慣使用更精確的詞彙來表達您的觀點

此外,另一種詞彙很值得學生學習的是具象語言 (Figurative Language) 。具象語言即使用一些簡 單詞彙以產生生動形象,因此令人印象深刻。例子

In the early 1990s, at the dawn of the Internet era, an explosion in academic productivity seemed to be around the corner. But the corner never ap-

Extracted from "When Will Tech Disrupt Higher Education?" written by Prof Kenneth Rogoff

作者在這裏使用了大量的具象語言。例如,「at the dawn of the Internet era」 意指「at the begin-demic productivity」意味着「a boom in academic productivity」;而「seemed to be around the corner」的意思是「seemed to be appearing soon」。

本段中使用的所有單詞都非常簡單,學生毋須花 費額外的精力來拼寫它們。然而,它們創造了用文 字描繪的美麗形象,這是一般外語學習者無法做到 的,故有效使用具象語言的書寫能力亦説明一個人 的英語寫作質素。

THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



BRITISHCOUNCIL

Learn**English** Teens

My Town - Newquay

#### Reading skills practice: My town

Look at the text and do the exercise to practise and improve your reading skills.

d. natação

Preparation Match the words or phrases.

1. surfing 2. kayaking 3. water-skiing

4. swimming 5. horse riding a. equitação b. caiaque c. surf

Check your understanding: multiple selection

e. esqui aquático

Circle the things Alex writes about.

- · the weather in Newquay
- · places to visit in Newquay
- · things to do in Newquay
- · food in Newquay · history of Newquay
- · where Newquay is located

#### Discussion

What is your town like? What can people do when visiting your town?

#### the south of England. It has got great beaches and is the best place to surf in the UK. There are lots of surf schools where you can learn how to surf. I go surfing with my friends every weekend. My favourite place is Fistral Beach. I love Newquay because there are lots of other things to do as well as surfing. If you like water sports, you can

kayaking, water-skiling or coasteering. Coasteering is different because it is rock climbing, jumping into the sea and swimming in the same activity, but you should always go If you like animals you can also visit the Blue Reef Aquarium

I live in Newquay. It's a small town on the Atlantic coast in

and see lots of different fish and even sharks. You can also go horse riding on the beach or visit Newquay Zoo. There are lots of other attractions too like mini golf and bowling. Come and see for yourself



things to do in Newquay · places to visit in Newquay where Newquay is located Check your understanding: multiple selection Preparation 1. c; 2. b; 3. e; 4. d; 5. a

To find more English language activities visit www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglishteens

© British Council 2020

• 通識博客 / 通識中國

• 百科啓智

知史知天下

·公民與社會 / 品德學堂

中文星級學堂