



# 三功能涉「雙頭壟斷」 英調查蘋果 Google

## U.K. probes Apple & Google mobile duopoly in three major functions

原文

下文摘錄自6月12日香港《文匯報》：

英國競爭及市場管理局 (Competition and Markets Authority, 簡稱 CMA) 前日發表報告, 稱對流動裝置系統進行一年研究後, 認為美國蘋果公司和 Google 已在流動裝置的作業系統 (operating system)、應用程式商店 (app store) 和網絡瀏覽器 (web browser) 形成雙頭壟斷 (duopoly), 計劃對這兩間大型科企展開反壟斷調查 (antitrust investigation), 形容蘋果和 Google 坐大不但阻礙英國科企發展, 且限制消費者選擇和遏抑 (stifle) 創新 (innovation)。

CMA 指出, 當談及人們使用手機的習慣時, 蘋果和 Google 可謂處於支配地位 (dominant position), 它們或許提供良好產品和服務, 但同時牢牢壓制流動裝置的市場生態, 能夠趕絕 (shut out) 競爭對手和限制用家 (user) 選擇, 例如蘋果禁止在 iPhone 上使用 Safari 以外的瀏覽器。在英國民眾去年使用的流動瀏覽器中, 多達 97% 都是蘋果或 Google 的產品。

CMA 表示, 蘋果和 Google 在流動瀏覽器和應用程式商店方面「單方面 (unilaterally) 決定遊戲規則 (rules of the game)」, 包括使其他瀏覽器難以在速度和功能 (functionality) 方面與蘋果競爭, 如果當局不採取行動, 這兩家科企的行業地位將會加強, 進一步不利市場。

「雲端遊戲」 (cloud gaming) 近年逐漸興起, 其特點在於玩家無須下載遊戲, 只要透過串流平台便可打機, CMA 指控蘋果在應用程式商店上打擊「雲端遊戲」發展, 令用家無法全面享受這個新打機模式的好處, 反壟斷調查一旦啟動, 亦會循此方向進行。

由於 Google Play 商店規定程式開發商 (app developer) 需使用 Google 系統付款, 當局也會就此採取監管行動。蘋果表明不同意 CMA 的說法, 強調蘋果一直促進競爭和提供更多選擇。Google 亦表示, Google Play 商店協助程式開發商在全球推出業務, 單在英國便創造 25 萬個職位。CMA 指出, 初時無意對蘋果和 Google 展開反壟斷調查, 但從多方收到促請當局採取行動的請求後, 決定改變主意。

CMA 去年成立「數碼市場部門」 (Digital Markets Unit, 簡稱 DMU), 原意是進一步規範科企, 但英國政府尚未給予該部門法定權力 (statutory power), 令 DMU 無法發揮應有作用。專責反壟斷事宜的律師科爾表示, CMA 對於新的數碼市場監管機制 (regulatory mechanism) 遲遲未能立法感到失望, 故現時盡可能使用現行工具, 致力於對存在壟斷 (monopoly) 風險的科企展開調查。

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◆ 英國計劃對 Apple 和 Google 展開反壟斷調查。資料圖片

### Q&A

1. 蘋果的創辦人是誰？
2. 目前 Google 佔據全球搜索市場份額的百分比高達多少？
3. CMA 於何年成立？
4. 蘋果和 Google 與哪其他三家公司合稱為五大科技巨擘？
5. 全球多國均設立了什麼法案以規制壟斷行為？

Answer: 1. Steve Jobs 2. 90% 3. 2013年 4. 亞馬遜 (Amazon)、微軟 (Microsoft)、Meta 5. 反壟斷法 (Antitrust law) / 競爭法 (Competition law)

譯文

The U.K. Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) issued a report recently, saying that after a year-long study of the mobile ecosystems, it is believed that Apple and Google have a duopoly on the operating systems, app stores and web browsers of mobile devices, and the authority plans to launch an antitrust investigation into these two large technology companies. CMA said that the two companies are likely to further strengthen their grip over the sector, which would hinder the development of British technology companies, restrict consumer choice and stifle innovation.

CMA pointed out that when it comes to how people use mobile phones, Apple and Google

are in a dominant position. Even though they might have provided good products and services, their strong grip on mobile ecosystems allows them to shut out competitors and limit users' choice. For example, Apple prohibits the use of browsers other than Safari on iPhone, and 97% of all mobile web browsing of the British people last year happens on browsers powered by either Apple's or Google's products.

CMA said that both companies "unilaterally determine the rules of the game" when it comes to mobile browsers and app stores, making it difficult for other browsers to compete with Apple in terms of speed and functionality. If the authority does not take action against the tech giants, their position in the industry would be strengthened further, bringing about undesirable

results to the market. "Cloud gaming" has become popular in recent years, featuring access to the games that can be streamed rather than individually downloaded. CMA accused Apple of blocking the emergence of cloud gaming services on its App Store, such that mobile users are unable to enjoy the full benefits of cloud gaming, and the proposed market investigation would also proceed in such direction. In parallel, CMA is also launching an investigation into Google's rules requiring app developers to use Google's system for payments.

Apple said that it disagrees with the findings of CMA and has been promoting competition and offering more choices, while Google also claimed that its Play Store helps app developers

launch businesses globally and creates 250,000 jobs in the U.K. alone. CMA stated that it had no intention of launching investigations against the two companies initially, but it changed its mind after receiving requests from different parties urging the authority to take action.

CMA established the Digital Markets Unit (DMU) last year with the mission of further governing technology companies, but the U.K. government has not given the unit statutory powers, making it unable to perform its duties effectively. A lawyer specializing in antitrust matters said that CMA is disappointed that a regulatory mechanism over the new digital market has not been set up so far, such that it would employ existing tools as much as possible to investigate tech giants with potential monopoly positions.

## 結婚需正式提案 拿出鑽戒作契約

恒 大英萃

隔星期一見報

上期經歷了「追、求、訂、結、離」的「追」和「求」, 今個星期來繼續這場速食戀愛吧!

「訂」: 說到訂婚, 不經意浮現出單膝下跪掏出戒指的畫面。跪求背後原來有着一個悲慘故事: 傳說有位小伙子因女方家人反對他倆的感情, 一怒之下綁架了女孩並強行舉行婚禮。鬧劇終以悲劇收場: 男孩受重罰, 女孩名譽掃地。自此教會決定提高結婚門檻, 所有新人結婚前需正式提出議案, 徵得對方同意, 同時拿出貴重物品作為契約「證物」。因此求婚的動詞就是提案的 propose, 名詞就是建議書的 proposal, 證物就演變至今大大顆、閃閃發亮的鑽戒。時至今日, 結婚亦別「下巴輕輕」: Think before you pop the question (求婚)。

Where do you usually put on your bling-bling engagement ring? 「Bling bling」(或是單字bling) 就是珠寶寶氣的飾物。訂婚戒指多戴在中指上 (middle finger)。有說「追、求、訂、結、離」, 就是由大姆指開始戴戒指的次序。That's why the engagement ring is usually worn on the middle finger. 戴戒指的動詞有 wear 和 put on。

西方人較流行先訂婚、後結婚, 有時甚至是長達數年的 engagement! Let's keep our fingers crossed that they will not break off their long engagement (真希望他們不會毀壞馬拉松式的訂約)。當中的 fingers crossed 是食指與中指交錯手勢, 據說象徵聯合力量以抵擋惡運邪靈, 因此 fingers crossed 在口語上表示: 祈望好運。

「結」: 終於結婚了! They finally get hitched / tie the knot! 「結婚是戀愛的墳墓」這句話, 可以說空穴來風、未必無因? Get hitched 中 hitch 這動詞就是用繩或圈等拴住, 就如在馬頸套上繫繩使馬拉車, 難道這暗示結婚有如羈絆? 同樣地, tie the knot 動聽點可說是共諧連理, 說穿了就是將兩人緊緊打結。甚至有說在無名指戴上婚戒, 實是源於遠古奴隸市場中商人用長線扣上僕人無名指後拖回家的現代版。

在婚姻中, 當個「老婆奴」, 秉承「happy wife happy life」就能長長久久? His wife has him whipped (他妻子把他治得貼貼服服), 還是被對方吃得死死就天下太平? She is always under the thumb in this marriage (在這段婚姻中她對丈夫千依百順, 愛得死心塌地)。

兩人相處是一門學問。It takes two to tango (一個巴掌拍不響)。

「離」: 「It's not you; it's me。」聽到這句就心知不妙……要分手了。Their relationship was on the rocks for ages (他們的關係早已亮起紅燈)。當中 on the rocks 就是關係觸礁之意。

分手請灑脫, 別拖泥帶水, 麻煩得像美國著名喜劇《老友記》(Friends) 中 Rachel 和 Ross 這樣「剪不斷、理還亂」地拖拉多年: They are on again and off again / Their relationship is on and off (二人經常離離合合)。

「追、求、訂、結、離」當然並非人生必經階段。先愛自己, 才去愛人。

最後想和讀者分享一句取自愛情電影的金句: You like because, and you love despite. 喜歡, 只是欣賞對方優點; 愛, 卻是接受對方缺點。

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## 趣談英語

逢星期一見報

BRITISH COUNCIL

LearnEnglish Teens

### Email to a friend

Read the email and do the exercises to improve your English skills.

To: sabrina.smith1289@me-mail.com  
Cc:  
Subject: Saturday :-)

Hi Sabrina,  
Thanks for your email and it was great to hear from you. You asked me to tell you about my favourite day of the week. Well, it's definitely Friday.  
One reason I like Fridays is because I have my favourite subjects at school: PE and chemistry. Chemistry's great because we do experiments in the science lab and our teacher, Mr King, is so funny. In PE we usually play basketball, which is my favourite sport. I'm good at it because I'm quite tall. Our team usually wins.  
We also have French on Fridays, which is actually my least favourite subject, but after that we have ICT which is much more interesting. At the moment I'm creating a webpage for our basketball team. After school I hang out with my friends, and in the evening, I play football at the sports centre. On Friday nights we sometimes go to someone's house for a party or to watch a film. We can relax a bit on Friday evenings because there's no school on Saturday. Tell me about your favourite day. Hope to hear from you soon.  
Love  
Dani



Activity - Check your understanding: true or false  
Circle True or False for these sentences.

1. Dani is a high-school student. True False
2. Dani thinks Friday is the best day of the week. True False
3. Dani likes French. True False
4. On Friday Dani has an ICT class before her French class. True False
5. Mr King is the PE teacher. True False
6. Dani goes to the sports centre to play basketball. True False

Answers: 1. true; 2. true; 3. false; 4. false; 5. false; 6. false

To find more English language activities visit [www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish teens](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish teens)

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