

5

UNIT

The power of words

Set the scene

Language has different functions, among which the most important is to convey information, and 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 and providing us with knowledge, to entertaining us and making us reflect on ourselves. Language is always changing. In the digital era, the use of numerous social media apps has accelerated the changes, which include the use of abbreviations and acronyms, and giving new meaning to old words. Is such a phenomenon damaging our language? This is a question which deserves our serious and careful consideration.

Learning objectives

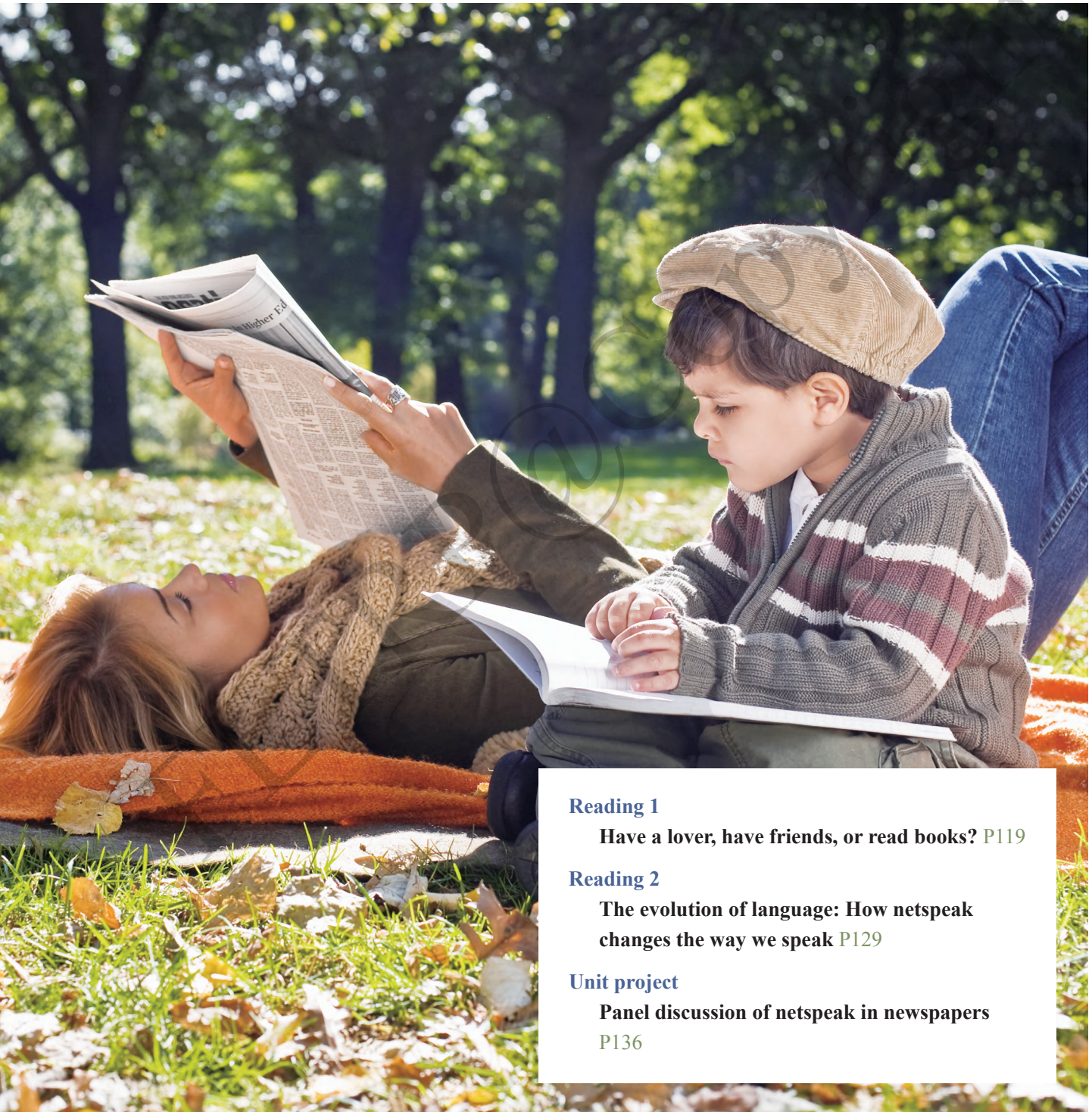
Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- explain the benefits of reading books and how netspeak changes the way we speak;
- use questions as a rhetorical device 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? P119

Reading 2

The evolution of language: How netspeak changes the way we speak P129

Unit project

Panel discussion of netspeak in newspapers
P136



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

Get ready to read

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

While reading you have to remember an assortment of things, and your 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 writers' festival events get sold out? 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

Notes

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



timelessness of emotions, helping us better understand our own.

- 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 their muscles.

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.
-

- 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 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. The writers' festivals 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 few people live on the roads leading to it.*
-

Read and understand

Global understanding

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

The power of LITERATURE	
<p>How do stories help us better understand ourselves?</p> <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 and into the world of a story. 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. 	<p>How does reading stories improve our mental health?</p> <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. No matter what situation a person is in, there is always a book that can 10) _____ him or her.
<p>Why are stories so powerful?</p>	<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 with the calming effect. Narrative 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 a 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 suggest 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 can reduce stress levels to 68 percent of the original.
 - B. Reading works as well as going for a walk when it comes to calming nerves.
 - C. Reading silently can ease tension in one’s muscles within a very short time.
 - D. Reading with a cup of coffee helps to slow down one’s 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 learn more about ourselves.
 - D. It gives us the experience of being another person.
5. What does “she is in just one chapter for now” (Para. 8) imply?
 - A. Her life will always be like one chapter of a book.
 - B. Her life won’t always be the way it is now.
 - C. She is just reading one chapter of a book.
 - D. She cannot predict what her future life will be like.
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.
 - 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 evaluate 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

- Today we _____ for the families who have lost loved ones, and the hearts that have been broken.
- Every night I _____ myself that my efforts are paying off in other ways.
- _____ 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.
- Is this a(n) _____, just a random situation that doesn't have any meaning?
- However, they are often unaware that these _____ are linked to depression.
- 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.

- The _____ has been _____ as a way to enable more people to have access to books.
- _____ between the two countries are beginning to _____.
- We have begun to _____ the _____ of war in our society.
- We will lay a flower on the monument to honor the dead and their families that _____ their _____.
- He said he firmly believed in the benefits of recycling — to _____ the _____ produced and promote sustainable development.

Nouns that often go after:

heal

soul cut wound

endure

pain loneliness loss

reduce

number cost waste

propose

marriage measure

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.

- John* is very talented in language and speaks perfect English.
- Jennifer didn't realize she had lost her keys *until she got home*.
- The public has lost faith 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 had 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 to make us a better person. 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 vital sections of our workforce 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。它们将中国哲学融入故事并更注重体现集体智慧，同时反映了中国人如何想象未来。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 a rhetorical device 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 person asking the question 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 in the passage instead of declarative sentences.

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



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.

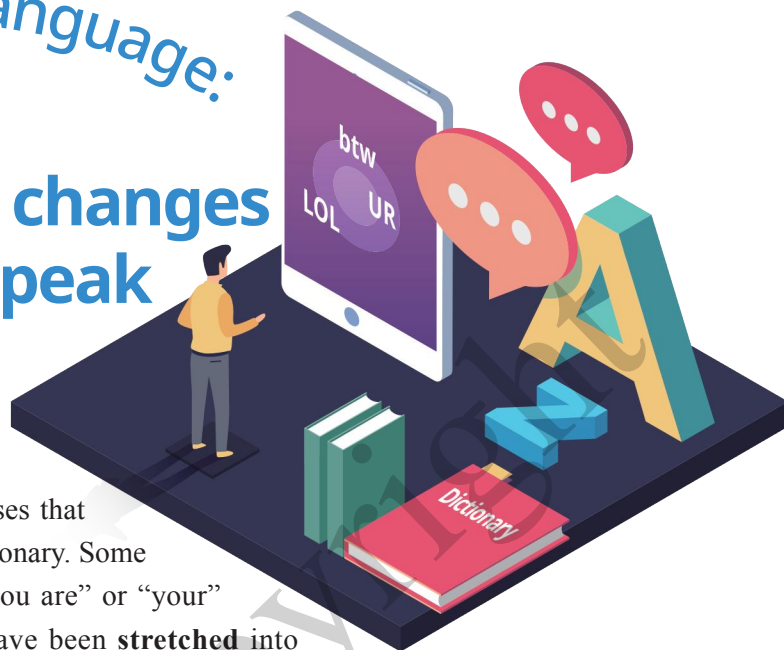


Read and discuss

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

The evolution of language:

How **netspeak** changes the way we speak



- 1 Every year, hundreds of new words and phrases that come from Internet **slang** are added to the dictionary. Some of them are **abbreviations**, like “UR” for “you are” or “your” and “U” for “you.” Others are words that have been **stretched** into parts of speech different to those originally intended — for instance, when “trend” became a verb (“It’s trending worldwide”). Others still have emerged as we adapt our language to new technologies, for example, “**crowdfunding**,” “**selfie**,” and “**cyberbullying**.”
- 2 You might notice how many of these “new” words are actually just appropriated¹, meaning they are **pre-existing** words that are combined or given entirely new meanings. For example, “social network” became a word in the *Oxford English Dictionary* back in 1973, referring to the physical activity of networking in a social atmosphere. In the 1990s, people began using the term to refer to virtual **engagement**, and that became an official definition in 1998.
- 3 Why are so many new words and phrases emerging from the Internet, and why is it happening at such an **accelerated** pace? Actually the Internet isn’t the only technological phenomenon that’s changed the way we talk. Radio, television, and telephone have contributed their fair share of new words and phrases to our **lexicon** over the last century.
- 4 For example, the origin of **TTFN** (ta-ta for now) can be **traced** back to a 1940s radio series. Similarly, the word “**doh**” that was made famous by a TV cartoon series became an official word in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, “used to comment on a

Notes

- 1 The word “appropriate” is used as a verb here, meaning “take sth. for yourself when you do not have the right to do this.”
e.g. He is suspected of appropriating government funds.
-

foolish or stupid action, especially one's own." And don't forget "Give me the 411," the American slang phrase for "Give me all the details," which refers to the telephone number for local **directory assistance**².

- 5 But the more time we spend online, the less time we spend listening to the radio or watching TV — and smartphones have **blurred** the **distinction** between phones and the Internet. At this point, the Internet could be seen as probably the most **prevalent** influence on our day-to-day dialog.
- 6 Think about how quickly Internet trends come and go. The fast pace of change on the Internet means we are adopting more words, and doing it faster than ever before. "Language itself changes slowly, but the Internet has sped up the process of those changes so you notice them more quickly," says a professor of **linguistics** at Bangor University. You can imagine how much longer it took new words to spread through word of mouth than it does today with the Internet.
- 7 So, how do new words, like the **acronym** "LOL," make it all the way to the dictionary?
- 8 The secret of a new word's success is its **longevity**, says a senior editor in the New Words Group at the *Oxford English Dictionary*. In order for a new word to make it into the dictionary, the general population must use it and keep using it. A word must be in use for at least five years to be considered. So, love it or hate it, when words like "LOL" become common, widespread, well understood, and stick around for more than five years, they're **eligible** for a spot in the big book.
- 9 There are plenty of Internet slang words that don't make it in, like "wurfling" (the act of surfing the Internet while at work). But to say that word was rejected would be wrong — that word, among many others, will be **revisited** if its **usage** grows. The

Notes

- 2 Here "directory assistance" refers to the service you use when you call an operator to request a telephone number.
-

dictionary is a living, breathing document, and there's always a chance a previously down-voted³ word will make it into the **mainstream** vocabulary in the future.

- 10 That's where even the word "slang" gets a little **fuzzy**. Is a word considered "slang" until it graduates⁴ into an official word in the dictionary? When exactly does a word become "real"? The fact is, only when a word becomes "real" — that is, widely used and understood — is it considered for a place in the dictionary. "When we see the word in the dictionary, it has already been used for a long time. We see it in the constant **appearance** of slang and **jargon**. Language is not so much a creator and shaper of human nature as a window into human nature⁵."
- 11 As it turns out, dictionary editors look to us when they vote on whether a word should have a place in their dictionary. Dictionaries are fantastic resources, but they are a reflection of humanity and they are not **timeless**. If you ask dictionary editors, what they'll tell you is that they're just trying to keep up with us as we change the language. They're watching what we say and what we write and trying to figure out what's going to stick and what isn't.
- 12 There will certainly be changes in language that we don't like simply because many of us don't like change, but we should be less quick to **impose** our likes and **dislikes** about words on other people. Language change isn't **worrisome**. On the contrary, it's fun and **fascinating**.
- 13 So, no matter whether you think netspeak vitalizes or destroys language, there's no denying how revealing it is of the culture that invents and uses it — and the ease with which we adapt our language to new technologies and concepts. Just try to enjoy being part of the creativity that is continually **remaking** our language and keeping it robust.

Notes

3 "Down-voted" is used as an adjective here, deriving from the phrase "vote down", which means "defeat a plan, law, etc. by voting."

4 Here "graduate" means "pass from one stage of experience, proficiency, or prestige to a usu. higher one."

e.g. *Being an actor, he has graduated from small roles to more substantial parts.*

5 If you say that something is not so much one thing as another, you mean that it is more like the second thing than the first.

e.g. *She was not so much nervous as impatient for the journey to be over.*

Read and understand

Global understanding

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

Types of new words

- 1) _____, such as "UR" and acronyms, such as "LOL"
- Words whose 2) _____ are different from the original ones, such as "trend"
- Words that emerge because of 3) _____, such as "selfie"
- Words that are combined or given entirely new 4) _____, such as "social network"

The origins of the new words related to new technologies

- From 5) _____, 6) _____ and 7) _____, which contributed a fair share to our lexicon
- From the 8) _____, the most prevalent and powerful influence on our daily communication

The way new words make it into the dictionary

Dictionary editors will make the decision based on the general public's use of language.

- Longevity: A word must be in use for at least 9) _____ to be considered.
- Popularity: A word that is previously down-voted will be 10) _____ if its usage grows.

The author's attitude toward language change

- It is not worrisome, but fun and 11) _____.
- It is a creative process which is continually 12) _____ our language and keeping it robust.

Detailed understanding

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

- ___ 1. “Virtual engagement” is the official definition of “social network.”
- ___ 2. Many technological phenomena have contributed to language change, among which the Internet is the most common one.
- ___ 3. The Internet causes more new words to emerge at a faster pace.
- ___ 4. The sentence “The dictionary is a living, breathing document” implies that the dictionary needs to be updated more frequently.
- ___ 5. A word will not be considered “real” until it has had a place in the dictionary.
- ___ 6. Language not only enables us to understand human nature but more importantly helps to create and shape it.
- ___ 7. Many people don’t like change, so they will not like changes in language either.
- ___ 8. Netspeak helps us to understand our culture and reflects our ability to adapt our language to new things.

Read and think

Changes to Chinese

Step 1 Language is dynamic and evolving. Language change happens not only to the English language, but also to other languages. Work in pairs to give some examples of language changes that happen to Chinese.

Step 2 Discuss the factors that cause these changes.

Attitude toward language change

Step 1 The author of the passage thinks that language change “isn’t worrisome,” and on the contrary, it’s “fun and fascinating.” Work in groups to discuss why some people regard language change as “worrisome” while others think it is “fun and fascinating.”

Step 2 Work in groups to share with each other your attitude toward language change.

Read and practice

Synonyms

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

1. Sandstorms are *common* in the western part of this country during winter.
2. She disliked his *involvement* with the group and disliked some of his friends.
3. Today, the melting of the world's glaciers is *sped up* by the rapid warming of the globe.
4. The *difference* between the two methods does not matter greatly to the customer.
5. It will be *very interesting* to see how the market responds to these concerns.
6. What some people consider to be a *disturbing* trend is actually proving to be advantageous to many others.
7. The government will *reconsider* the issue of limiting the street to pedestrians (行人) at certain times.
8. We were hoping that we'd get some *help* from the management and the regulatory bodies.

Meaning in context

Choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C, and D to complete the sentences.

1. His works _____ the boundaries between art and entertainment, performance and reality.
A. adopt B. invent C. discover D. blur
2. In order to be _____ for this program, your company must have less than 100 employees.
A. eligible B. equipped C. approved D. appropriate
3. Some people have attributed the _____ of the villagers to their consumption of natural mineral water.
A. insight B. longevity C. appearance D. nutrition
4. The result of the research leads some linguists to think that they may have found a new model for the _____ of language.
A. engagement B. evolution C. revolution D. reflection
5. I want to major in biology because I have long been wondering about the _____ of life.
A. coincidence B. transience C. origin D. location
6. Stop _____ your sleeves like that! They can become too long very quickly.
A. stressing B. scratching C. splitting D. stretching

Expressions

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

adapt ... to ... speed up	impose ... on ... stick around	look to trace back to
--	---	--

1. They _____ in the apartment until the delivery person arrived.
2. Children usually _____ their parents for support when things get tough.
3. They _____ their recipes _____ the ingredients that were available in the area.
4. The origin of this winter sport _____ Scandinavia, where the natives tethered (栓) themselves to reindeer as a mode of transportation.
5. Regular exercise helps to increase brain function, improve memory, _____ cognitive processes, and fight off diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia (痴呆).
6. The chairman didn't _____ his view of the issue _____ the rest of the committee.

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 as he was not able to figure out its meaning. Thus the newspaper office decided to set up a panel to discuss this issue. They invited several representatives of different age groups 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 Choose your role

- (1) 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 a host.

Step Prepare the discussion

- (2) During the panel discussion, each role has to hold the following assigned opinion and search for evidence to support this opinion. The host should give a brief introduction of the topic 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 Rehearse the discussion

- (3) 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 Hold the discussion and get feedback

- (4) Hold the panel discussion. After the discussion, get feedback from your teacher in terms of content, language, and 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.

★ **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.

existing everywhere or involving everyone 普遍的; 全体的; 共同的

e.g. Smiling is apparently a universal sign of friendliness and approval.

universality /,ju:nɪvɜ:'sæləti/ n. [U]

the quality or state of being universal 普遍性; 通用性

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

timelessness /'taɪmləsneɪs/ 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 /ˌsʌbˈkɒnʃəs/ *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 /ˈempəθetɪk/ *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** /ˈsɪmptəm/ *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 /ˌbɪblɪəˈθerəpɪst/ *n.* [C] 阅读治疗专家

★ **continually** /kənˈtɪnjuəli/ *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** /ɡriːv/ *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** /ˈfɪkʃnəl/ *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** /rɪˈtaɪəmənt/ *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** /ˈtrænzɪənt/ *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 /ˈtrænzɪəns/ *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** /ˈmesi/ *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** /ɡriːf/ *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** /drɪ'speə/ *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,wɑ:/ *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. Her memoir of her friend will be published soon.

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.

Phrases and expressions

one after the other

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

e.g. The children walked silently, one after the other, into the schoolhouse to begin their lesson.

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 /mɒŋ'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 /drɪ'seɪ/ 罗伯特·德塞 (澳大利亚作家)

Reading 2

New words

★ **evolution** /,i:və'lʊ:ʃn/ *n.* [U]

1) the gradual change and development of an idea, situation, or object 演变; 逐步发展

e.g. Evolution of language is the gradual change in human language over time.

2) the scientific idea that plants and animals develop and change gradually over a long period of time 进化 (论)

e.g. The emergence of language was a defining moment in the evolution of modern humans.

netspeak /'net,spi:k/ *n.* [U] 网络语言

slang /slæŋ/ *n.* [U]

very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language, esp. used by a particular group of people, e.g. children, soldiers 俚语

e.g. These are some slang words teens might use when talking about other people.

◆ **abbreviation** /ə,bri:vi'eɪʃn/ *n.* [C]

a short form of a word or expression 缩略语, 缩写 (形式)

e.g. The styling of abbreviations is inconsistent and includes many possible variations.

★ **stretch** /stretʃ/ *v.*

make sth. bigger or looser by pulling it, or become bigger or looser as a result of being pulled (使) 变大; (使) 变松; 拉长

e.g. A spider's web can stretch considerably without weakening.

crowdfunding /'kraʊd,fʌndɪŋ/ *n.* [U] 众筹（向大众募集资金的做法，常在因特网上进行）

selfie /'selfi/ *n.* [C] (*infml.*) 自拍照片

cyberbullying /'saɪbə,bʊliŋ/ *n.* [U]

the activity of sending Internet or text messages that threaten or insult sb. 网络霸凌（欺凌）

e.g. The school provides guidance for parents on how to deal with issues such as cyberbullying.

pre-existing /,pri:ɪg'zɪstɪŋ/ *a.*

(*fml.*) (only before noun) existing before a particular time or event 先于…存在的

e.g. But, this research doesn't consider the effects of pre-existing relationships.

★ **engagement** /ɪn'geɪdʒmənt/ *n.*

1) [U] when you become involved with sb. / sth. in order to understand them 密切关系

e.g. Virtual employee engagement activities are ways to improve the relationship between an organization and its remote workers.

2) [C] an agreement between two people to marry, or the period of time they are engaged 婚约；订婚期间

e.g. The man knew about the engagement and brought them a bottle of champagne as a gift.

★ **accelerate** /ək'selə'reɪt/ *v.*

if a process accelerates or if sth. accelerates it, it happens faster than usual or sooner than you expect (使) 加快；(使) 加速

e.g. More efforts will be made in the years ahead to accelerate the agricultural reform.

lexicon /'leksɪkən/ *n.* [sing.]

the vocabulary of a person, language, or branch of knowledge (个人、语言或学科的) 词汇

e.g. The word "cloud" is attached to many terms in the computing lexicon.

TTFN *abbr.*

(**ta-ta for now**) (*BrE, infml.*) used in emails and text messages to say goodbye to sb. 回头见（用于电子邮件和手机短信中）

e.g. Anyway, TTFN, and hopefully I'll have plenty of time to write when I get back.

★ **trace** /treɪs/ *vt.*

1) find the origins of when sth. began or where it came from 追溯；追查

e.g. The style of these paintings can be traced back to early medieval influences.

2) find sb. / sth. that has disappeared by searching for them carefully 仔细找寻

e.g. Police are trying to trace a young woman who was seen near the accident.

doh /dəʊ/ *interjection*

(also **d'oh**) (*spoken*) used humorously when you have just realized that you have done or said sth. stupid 噢，呀（幽默用法，意识到自己做错事或说错话时发出的感叹语）

e.g. "Doh! That was the biggest mistake in my career," said Jack.

★ **directory** /də'rekt(ə)ri/ *n.* [C]

a book or list of names, facts, etc., usu. arranged in alphabetical order (通常按字母顺序排列的) 姓名地址录，名录，电话簿

e.g. I couldn't find your number in the telephone directory.

★ **assistance** /ə'sɪst(ə)ns/ *n.* [U]

help or support 帮助；援助

e.g. The work was completed with the assistance of local carpenters.

★ **blur** /blɜː/ *v.*

1) make the difference between two ideas, subjects, etc. less clear (使) (想法、主题等) 难以区分，模糊

e.g. She tends to blur the distinction between her friends and her colleagues.

2) become difficult to see, or make sth. difficult to see, because the edges are not clear (使) (某物) 模糊不清

e.g. The writing blurred and danced before his eyes.

★ **distinction** /dɪ'stɪŋkʃn/ *n.* [C, U]

a clear difference or separation between two similar things 差别；区别；差异

e.g. We need to draw a distinction between the two events, even though they are both related to financial issues.

★ **prevalent** /'prevələnt/ *a.*

common at a particular time, in a particular place, or among a particular group of people 普遍的; 盛行的; 流行的

e.g. One prevalent quality we have found in teens' statements about themselves is a strikingly positive emotional tone.

◆ **linguistics** /lɪŋ'gwɪstiks/ *n.* [U]

the study of language in general and of particular languages, their structure, grammar, and history 语言学

e.g. As a specialist in linguistics, I have studied how the conversational styles of men and women differ.

acronym /'ækrənɪm/ *n.* [C]

a word formed from the initial letters of other words 首字母缩略词

e.g. More typically, acronyms are pronounced as new single words, as in UNESCO.

LOL /ləʊl/ *abbr.*

(**laughing out loud**) used in emails, text messages, etc. to show that you think sth. is funny 大声笑 (用于电子邮件、手机短信等中表示认为某事很好笑)

e.g. The dog kept running around chasing its tail. LOL.

◆ **longevity** /lɒn'dʒevəti/ *n.* [U]

1) the amount of time that sth. lasts 持续时间

e.g. By offering services to help expand the longevity of their products, they are promising quality and durability to consumers.

2) the amount of time that sb. / sth. lives 寿命

e.g. The new study appears to be the first to specifically look at the relationship between optimism and longevity.

◆ **eligible** /'elɪdʒəbl/ *a.*

having the right to do or obtain sth. 合格的; 有资格的

e.g. If you are a teenager living in certain parts of the province, you could be eligible for this program.

revisit /,rɪ:'vɪzɪt/ *vt.*

1) (*fml.*) consider or discuss sth. again 重新考虑; 再次讨论

e.g. We need to revisit this proposal as soon as the budget is clearer.

2) (*written*) return to a place you once knew well 重游; 再访

e.g. Ten years later, I revisited the school to find out what had changed.

★ **usage** /'juːsɪdʒ/ *n.*

1) [U] the way in which sth. is used, or the amount of it that is used 使用方法; 使用量

e.g. It involves changing product quality, features, or style to attract new users or more usage from present users.

2) [C, U] the way that words are used in a language (词语的) 用法

e.g. The dictionary focuses on the more usual words of the language and avoids rare usages of these words.

★ **mainstream** /'meɪn,stri:m/

a. (only before noun) accepted by or involving most people in a society 主流的; 主要的

e.g. Our survey is intended to find out which mainstream car has the most appeal for both private and business buyers on a budget.

n. [sing.] (the ~) the most usual ideas or methods, or the people who have these ideas or methods (思想或方法的) 主流; 主流群体

e.g. Environmental ideas have been absorbed into the mainstream of our politics.

fuzzy /'fʌzi/ *a.*

1) unclear or confused 糊涂的; 不明确的

e.g. There's a fuzzy line between parents' and schools' responsibilities.

2) not clear in shape or sound (形状或声音) 模糊的

e.g. Some of the photos were so fuzzy that it was hard to tell who was who.

★ **appearance** /ə'piərəns/ *n.*

1) [sing.] when sth. new begins to exist or starts being used 首次出现 (使用); 问世

e.g. The industry has changed greatly with the appearance of new technologies.

2) [C, U] the way sb. / sth. looks to other people 外表; 外观

e.g. We are often attracted to somebody first by their physical appearance.

◆ **jargon** /'dʒɑːɡən/ *n.* [U]

words and expressions used in a particular profession or by a particular group of people, which are difficult for other people to understand — often used to show disapproval (难懂的) 行话, 术语 (常含贬义)

e.g. *I'm going to explain it without jargon, and without making it unnecessarily complicated and complex.*

timeless /'taɪmləs/ *a.*

not appearing to be affected by the process of time passing or by changes in fashion 不受时间影响的；永不过时的

e.g. *Lu Xun, an influential Chinese writer, essayist, and translator, produced that timeless classic, and many more.*

★ **impose** /ɪm'pəʊz/ *vt.*

1) force sb. to have the same ideas, beliefs, etc. as you 将（想法、信仰等）强加（于某人）

e.g. *I can't understand why she always tries to impose her own ideas on the rest of the team.*

2) if sb. in authority imposes a rule, punishment, tax, etc., they force people to accept it 强制推行；强制实行

e.g. *The court has the power to impose an unlimited fine for this offence.*

★ **dislike** /dɪs'laɪk/

n. (～s) [pl.] the things that you do not like 不喜欢的东西

e.g. *A good hotel manager should know his regular guests' likes and dislikes.*

vt. think sb. / sth. is unpleasant and not like them 不喜欢；讨厌

e.g. *He simply disliked working with committees and avoided it whenever possible.*

worrisome /'wʌrɪs(ə)m/ *a.*

(*fml.*) making you anxious 令人焦虑的

e.g. *The scientists report that some of the signs they have found are worrisome.*

★ **fascinating** /'fæsmɪnɪŋ/ *a.*

extremely interesting 迷人的；非常有趣的

e.g. *With the accompaniment of the piano, the poems sounded fascinating and became really popular.*

remake /ri:'meɪk/ *vt.* (**remade, remade**)

make sth. again, esp. in a different way (尤指以不同的方式) 重新制作

e.g. *The mall has been moving aggressively to try to remake itself for a new era of shopping.*

Phrases and expressions

one's fair share

if one has had their fair share of sth., e.g. problems, success, or adventure, a lot of it has happened to them (问题，成功或冒险经历等) 相当多的

e.g. *He'd had more than his fair share of adventure.*

come and go

be present for a short time and then go away 断断续续；时来时去

e.g. *The pain in my leg comes and goes.*

speed up

move or happen faster, or make sth. move or happen faster (使) 加快速度

e.g. *The world's clock has sped up as nations around the globe are reinventing themselves at a faster and faster pace.*

through / by word of mouth

through / by oral communication 口口相传

e.g. *Much of this information is picked up by word of mouth from previous students.*

stick around

(*informal.*) remain in or near a place 待在某地；待在附近

e.g. *Without hesitation, she replied, "I don't know. Let's stick around and find out."*

keep up with

manage to do as much or as well as other people 跟上；保持同步

e.g. *He found it difficult to keep up with the rest of the class.*

Proper names

Bangor /'bæŋgə/ **University** 班戈大学（英国大学，位于威尔士）