



Saving a seat at work? Silicon Valley big factory workers say the heart is very tired

上班还要占座? 硅谷大厂工人表示心很累

original

Author/Zhu Hongyi

Meta staff have publicly voiced their frustration with the Facebook parent company after it announced a new desk sharing policy.

It told staff that it would be testing a "new workplace experience" as part of an "evolving workplace".

Most staff will not have their own place in the office, and instead be asked to reserve desks before they come in, Meta said.

language points

1. voice v. 发声 n. 声音
publicly voice sth. 公开发声
I publicly voiced my dissatisfaction.
我公开表示了自己的不满。
2. frustration with sth. 对某事沮丧、抓狂
my frustration with homework 对作业抓狂
my frustration with housework 对家务抓狂
3. parent company 母公司
4. reserve v. 预订, 预约 (book)
reserve a table 预约餐位
reserve a meeting room 预约会议室



Trump is being sued again! What are we getting ourselves into now?

特朗普再次被起诉! 这回又摊上了什么事儿?

Author/Zhu Hongyi

original

Donald Trump and three of his children have been hit with a fraud lawsuit after a New York investigation into their family company - the Trump Organization.

It alleges that they lied "by billions" about the value of real estate in order to get loans and pay less tax. Prosecutors say the Trump Organization committed numerous acts of fraud between 2011-2021.

language points

1. have been hit with 遭遇了巨大的冲击
The city has been hit with job losses. 这个城市遭遇了失业的冲击。
2. fraud lawsuit 欺诈诉讼 file a lawsuit 起诉
3. allege v. (没有经过证实地) 断言, 指称, 声称
4. real estate 房地产
5. get loans 申请贷款 (apply for loans)
6. commit acts of fraud 有欺诈行为 commit acts of privacy 侵犯隐私行为



American workers clean up the workplace: Don't work from home? Good bye!

美国打工人整顿职场: 不让居家工作? 再见!

original

Author/Zhu Hongyi

A major new survey from Microsoft shows that bosses and workers fundamentally disagree about productivity when working from home.

Bosses worry about whether working from home is as productive as being in the office.

While 87% of workers felt they worked as, or more efficiently, from home, 80% of managers disagreed.

language points

1. major adj. 范围广的, 重要的 (very large or important)
a major road 一条大马路
major problems 重大问题
2. fundamentally adv. 根本上, 完全地
fundamentally different 完全不同
fundamentally disagree about sth. 对某事的看法从根本上不一样, 完全不同
3. productivity n. 生产效率, 工作效率
4. work from home 远程办公, 在家办公
5. feel v. 认为, 相信 (think/believe)



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发光并不是太阳的专利， 你我都可以

今日一旬

Author/Zhu Hongyi

There was nothing to worry about, that the Sun had ways of reaching us wherever we were.

—Klara and the Sun, Writer, Kazuo Ishiguro
没什么好担心的，不管我们身在何处，太阳总会设法照到我们。

——《克拉拉与太阳》后篇一雄，作家

今日一学

语法

Boy AF Rex, who was alongside us then, told us there was nothing to worry about, that the sun had ways of reaching us wherever we were. **从句时态呼应原则：**从句如果用过去时，从句要搭配过去的那个时态。

如果单独引语是由 *that* 引导的两个或两个以上的并列从句，第一个 *that* 可以省略，后面的 *that* 一般不省略，以避免混乱。

The doctor said (that) I was not seriously ill and that I would be better soon.
医生跟我说我病得不重，很快就会好。

拓展

True light is that which radiates from within a man.

—Writer, Gibran
真正的光源自人的内心深处。

——纪伯伦，作家

今日一语

发光并不是太阳的专利，你我都可以。我们可以在自己的心底寻找阳光，也可以让自己成为一束光，照亮他人。你的生命里有没有像太阳一样照亮你的人呢？你有没有做过别人的小太阳呢？



Seize the day

Author/Gong Jiacheng

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, but this anniversary unfolds with a series of crises. The formidable wild fire in Australia, the unnerving plague of locusts in East Africa, and the catastrophic pandemic that unleashed a terrible health and humanitarian peril worldwide. All these challenges, combined with the previous ones such as environmental destruction and extreme poverty, have pushed the world to the edge. Once again, we've come to realize the preciousness of time.

Although it's something that's all around us and most of us take it for granted, time is one of the most valuable commodities in this world, which waits for no one and it never goes back. As a die-hard Kobe fan, I was regretful that I didn't make it to his retirement game, but I always believed that someday I would come across him amusing with his daughters in the Los Angeles Disneyland, until this January when a tragic, unexpected helicopter crash took his life away. As a travel devotee, I always thought that I had plenty of opportunities to explore the world, until I watched the BBC documentary Seven worlds, One planet, which took a candid look on climate change and endangered animals, until then I realized not a single minute goes by without some species going extinct, and many natural scenic spots, even including countries, are very likely to vanish in the following decades. Robin Williams once uttered the phrase in the movie Dead Poets Society, 'Carpe Diem! Seize the day, boys. Make your lives extraordinary!' Back then, it was nothing more than a slogan, inspiring, but not that meaningful. But today, after a series of bad news and negative headlines kept hitting upon us constantly, this phrase came to be truly especially thought-provoking.

Indeed, whether in peacetime or difficult times, we should never let fear and confusion dominate us or keep us from planning for the future and living in the moment. But many of us may ponder, what shall I do to truly make everyday count instead of counting the days? For individuals, get rid of procrastination and improve your self-discipline. If you want to explore a new field, explore it. If you want to practice a new skill, practice it. Put your ideas into actions. For enterprises and organizations, do not standstill. History has proven again and again that the cost and risks of doing nothing are a normally far greater. Although there are indeed many difficulties, there are also many unique chances that serve as a catalyst for companies to seize the day, to go beyond survival mode, and to make some innovative and transformational changes in readiness for the future upturn. Lastly, for countries and governments, the responsibilities are even more momentous. 2020 is such a peculiar year. It witnessed the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, as well as the establishment of the United Nations. Seize the day of peace, for it never came with ease, Seize the day of prosperity, for that's collectively achieved by generations of people who fought with their flesh and blood, minds and hearts. And most importantly, seize the day of cooperation, for sheer nationalism and exclusiveness will lead us nowhere and only cooperation and mutual understanding will truly improve the well-being for all human kinds.

And finally, I wanna end my presentation with a poem from Mr Mao,
Many deeds should be done
At the earliest date
The earth turns around the sun
For no man time will wait
We cannot bear ten thousand years delay
Seize but the day!

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The Most Resolute Decisions: *My Story with English*

Author/ Zhu Hongyi

Have you ever thought about quitting something you like so much? I have, and I did. Have you ever regretted doing something so much that you finally decided to undo it and keep it back on track? I have, and I did.

Have you ever appreciated one of your right decisions and feel glad that you are still doing it? I have, and I'm still doing it.

This is a story about my journey in learning English, though it had its bumps along the way.

Yes, I used to be the strongest defender for my dream to become an English interpreter. My days in high school started with doing the morning "shout-out" in the empty track field to improve my pronunciation, day in, day out. Yes, I did the morning shouting, rather than the regular morning reading my peers did inside the classroom. It means that I would articulate each word extremely loud, which had in return made me well-known around the school. So, yes, I did a fairly good job in English at that time, but not in other subjects.

My overall Gaokao result was less than I had expected, and it seemed to make me worry more and dream less. Worse, I received strong push-back from my family against my idea to major in English in college. Naturally, I gave in and gave up. However, deep, deep down in my heart, something screams and shouts, yelling and craving for a change back to the way it should be.

While majoring in some disciplines that I have zero passion for, I never stopped drilling my English. I attended English speaking classes online. I took elective English courses. I joined the campus English newspaper as a reporter, and beyond.

In this process, again and again, a voice echoed and lingered in my mind, "You need to get back to it. Stick to what you love." That's when a decision became more and more resolute - change back to English major no matter how hard it would be, regardless what others would say.

My journey to sailing across the vast sea of English began anew. This time, I was introduced to the fascinating world of English public speaking. I am transformed, spellbound, filled with wonder and awe. When I'm on stage, speaking a language that I have put so much efforts in, I feel refreshed and levitated, glowing with energy, confidence and resolution.

Travelers might lose their way, or take an undesired detour from time to time, but just like there was a compass showing the way, deep down in everyone's heart and mind, there is always a voice of truth calling for the right direction and right decision. All you have to do is to listen closely and follow your heart. Maybe, a little detour could make your later decision look even more resolute. Though late, it always comes.



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Best Hope, Last Shot

Author/Yang Chenglang



In 2020, there is a global crisis that has already killed lives on a massive scale. As its effects continue to spread, it could destabilize entire economies and overwhelm poorer countries lacking resources and infrastructure. This is not the COVID-19 pandemic that I'm talking about. It's climate change. There is a key difference between the pandemic and climate change, of course. We didn't know the pandemic was coming, but we did know the climate change was there for 30 or 40 years.

According to the World Health Organization, more than two million people have succumbed to coronavirus already. In comparison, air pollution alone, which is just one aspect of our climate crisis, kills seven million people every year. I'm not trying to downplay the severity of the pandemic. It's just that for most people climate change still seems like an abstraction whose consequences are decades away. In this post-COVID era, if we want to truly heal our

world, we need to tackle the climate crisis with the same sense of urgency that we adopted in fighting coronavirus.

We think the pandemic is awful, but climate change could be much worse. If global warming continues unchecked, the extent of the Amazon rainforest may be reduced by 70% due to regional changes in rainfalls and the Arctic Ocean is expected to become essentially ice free in summer before mid-century. With future sea levels projected to increase 10 to 100 centimeters by the year 2100, the entire country of Maldives could be submerged. We as human beings should always remember: We didn't inherit our planet from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children.

As we are entering 2023, we are one year into the "decade of action", our final chance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals before the 2030 deadline. What we do now and in the future is more important than ever. At the UN General Assembly last September, President Xi Jinping, announced that China aimed to peak carbon emission by 2030 and go carbon neutral by 2060. Meanwhile, America officially rejoined the Paris Agreement on February 19th,

indicating a willingness from the world's second largest emitter to collaborate on climate action. This November will usher in the COP26 climate summit from which we could expect even more ambitious national carbon pledges.

Bill Gates once said that, if we learn the lessons of COVID-19, we can approach climate change more informed about the consequences of inaction. Health experts said for years that a pandemic was inevitable. The world did not do enough to prepare, and now we are paying the price. The pandemic should be a cautionary tale for climate change. We have to create a sense of urgency. We have to take actions. And we have to start now.

This is our best hope. This is our last shot. There's no time to waste. There's no turning back.

Let the transformation begin. Let the healing beings.



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A Glimpse into the Future

Author/ Fan Liuyi

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Ten years ago, I tried yelling, crying, pretending to be sick, every means, just to avoid going back to the village I grew up in. I mean, don't get me wrong, I lived there till seven and I still miss the corns piled up in the yard and the bike I rode to race my friends. Everything was sweet and fresh, except the toilets... Built on a pit with two stone slates on each side, they were dark, damp, smelly, and with mosquitoes flying around. But this is part of the daily life of my grandparents, of my parents, and of me for the first seven years of my life.

This might sound distant to you but is actually a story repeated across China. Jack Sim, founder of WTO, the World Toilet Organization, said in the 2018 Toilet Expo that "Though most village households in China have been equipped with water heaters and TVs, their toilets are still in the most primitive form." Such poor infrastructure exhibits a way of life beyond backward. Xinhua News Agency reported in 2015 that more than 80% of infectious diseases in rural villages were propagated by the pollution of human waste.

This issue goes beyond China. As suggested by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2013, 2.4 billion people worldwide do not have a decent toilet. Sanya, a five-year-old living in a village in India, died from diarrhea after drinking water

contaminated by human waste. More than 1.5 million Sanyas die from the same reason every year globally.

Yet when we bring up the future, we tend to relate it to cutting-edge 5G technology, artificial intelligence, or even space shuttles exploring the "cutting-edge" future. But aren't we neglecting something? We have a mere 7.5% penetration rate of sanitary toilets, 3 million children without proper education, 16.6 million people to be lifted out of poverty. This indelible marks from the past and present "seem innocuous", but are the Achilles' heels of our society. While we forge ahead, talents, technology and policies should be shifted more towards humanity, providing a decent life for every human being.

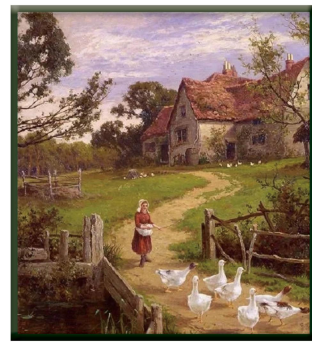
Looking into the future, I hope all children like Sanya could be drinking clean uncontaminated water, that my grandma wouldn't have to bear the odor and swarms of flies when using the toilet, and that I wouldn't regret having drunk that much water before visiting my hometown.

This future is the one that we are working towards. My dad gave up his job in the cities to help with the renovation of toilets in villages, turning them into biogas systems



for every household. My friend majoring in environmental engineering started a project to explore and design toilets for extremely cold area. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, the deeper we dive into our present, the more likely we can shape a better future. With government and research institutions striding down this path, the ongoing toilet revolution is giving us a glimpse into the future by promoting a life of safety, decency, and dignity.

My dream of keeping every child free from the fear and danger of old-styled toilets will come true. I shall take a part, significant or humble, as a member of the World Toilet Organization, a college-graduate village official, or just a girl with a childhood nightmare. Either way, our future is not slipping away.



History as a mirror

Author/ Zhu Jiayue

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There is an ancient Chinese quotation, 'By the mirror of history we can know the flow of the power.' It shows that we can learn from the past to avoid present mistakes. But meanwhile there is also another quotation from Hegel, 'The only lesson people can learn from history is that people can never learn any lessons from history', as the background circumstances between the past and present will never be exactly the same.

These two theories seem contradictory, but to some extent, they both make sense. And combining them together, we get 'We can learn something from the history, only when we use it wisely.' And there are two points to get to that state.

First, when viewing history, we need to be comprehensive and objective. Even those successful events might have some problems. So we need to extract the right part to learn and abandon the problem parts. For example, The New Culture Movement was an epoch-making event, whose success illustrated the importance of learning from the outside. But it also had the problem of wholesale westernization. So to

learn from this part of history, our country used a selective way—it took the practical knowledge of partly learning from other countries. So now we can learn from the west while maintaining our Chinese characteristic.

Second, when learning from the history, we need to combine it with the current circumstances, so we can get to an even better solution. For instance, The October Revolution set an example of the uniting factory workers to provoke the socialistic revolution. And initially, our party just directly copied the Soviet Union's way of 'uprising in the city center' without considering that the demographics of China was totally different. So we failed, until Chairman Mao decided to make a change—he established the Jinggangshan Revolution Bases, focusing on the countryside. With the support of the peasants there, our Party gradually came into power. So only by combining history with current circumstances, can we get to the optimal resolution.

History can educate us with experiences in successes and lessons in failures. But it can give us even more than that. Those tough journey we've been through, those sacrifices we've made, those times we could have quit but we didn't—all these moments that once brought our tears down, will give us the spiritual strength to take our responsibility and to hold onto our faith now. So let's take what we can get from the history, and to create our future, which, 10 years later will also be called, history.