



## Academician Yuan Longping and the Newly-Achieved Record of Hybrid Rice

11月2日，袁隆平团队在湖南衡南开启第三代双季稻亩产3000斤攻关测产，再次创造早稻加晚稻平均亩产1500公斤的新纪录！

Author/ Xie Duanyi

Assessment experts announced on 11, 2nd average yield at the field in Hunan's Hengnan county that the third generation of hybrid rice varieties reached 13.68 tons per hectare (公顷). Yuan Longping, renowned agricultural expert known for the research into hybrid rice strains, said on 11, 2th that the new record means one mu (0.067 hectare) of rice fields can feed five people.

Knowing the results, Yuan lit up with great pleasure. While watching the live announcement ceremony, a journalist asked how did Yuan feel, he said in an office in Changsha, capital of Hunan province, "I am more than excited and extremely satisfactory with the results." Later he added, "The next

goal is to promote the experiences of Hengnan county and plant the advanced rice variety in other rice-producing regions (水稻产区) in China, contributing to safeguarding the country's food security," he said.

On the ninetieth birthday party of Yuan, which fell on Sep, 7th this year, he made a wish that the third generation of hybrid rice varieties will reach the yield of 3000 jin (1/2 kilogram) per mu, and now he achieved his desire. Yuan also said that now the cultivated area of hybrid rice in the whole world, except for China, reaches seven million hectares. And seeing the plentiful achievements China has made, Yuan said many developed countries, including Japan and America, has followed our example, which made him "extremely proud".

In order to provide convenience for the old academician Yuan to make his research, Academy of Agricultural Sciences of Hunan Province arranged an experimental field beside where he lives. One official once appraised Yuan as the Father of Hybrid Rice, saying that Yuan has devoted his entire life to researching how to increase production of crops, making more people in China likely to have enough to eat. Among all the crop strains Yuan had researched, the hybrid rice is exactly lifeblood (命根子) of him, which is the settlement of food for one fifth people all over the world according to the data.

Oct, 16th is the World Food Day every year, while eating the rice comes with every meal, we ought to be grateful to all the researchers like Yuan and many other. Most importantly, do not waste any grain of rice and when you have every bowl of rice and porridge, think about how much effort is paid.



## Status of the Epidemic in Europe

### 欧洲新一轮疫情现状

Author/ Song Chenghan

Thanks to the vigorous response of the Chinese government to the epidemic prevention and control, the overall situation in China is stable at present, but the situation in Europe thousands of miles away is not so optimistic.

#### 1. Novel Coronavirus found contagious to humans in Danish minks.

##### 丹麦水貂体内发现变异新冠病毒

On November 6, WHO responded to the incident of "Novel Coronavirus found in a Danish mink that can be contagious to humans", saying that according to the available evidence, the behavior of the mutated novel Coronavirus is not different, except that it may be slightly different in specific characteristics, so it cannot be determined whether it will cause the invalidation (失效) of the vaccine. The Danish government said it would be "better to do too much than too little" and decided to continue culling (捕杀) the country's 17m minks. Figure 1 shows a mink about to be culled looking out of its cage.

Twelve people have been confirmed infected with the novel coronavirus, a mutation that will impair the body's ability to form antibodies and may lead to the failure of the novel coronavirus



Figure 1

vaccine. So far 207 mink farms have been infected. Denmark is the world's largest producer of mink, and economic losses from the cull are estimated at more than 5 billion kroner (克朗, 丹麦货币) (\$785 million).



Never give up, Never lose the opportunity to succeed

#### 2. Italy has introduced tiered epidemic prevention measures.

##### 意大利开始实施分级防疫措施。

Four regions, including Milan's Lombardy region (伦巴第地区), were designated as "red zones" with the highest risk, banning activities that are not necessary, closing shops and requiring schools to move back to distance learning. The lockdown will last at least two weeks and affect an estimated 16.5 million people. Italy had 37,809 new cases confirmed that day, a record for a single day, with 860,000 cases confirmed and 40,638 deaths. Figure 2 shows that a flock of pigeons scavenging in Milan's empty Duomo square (米兰大教堂广场).

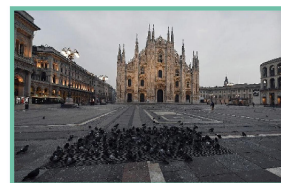


Figure 2

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## Post-Epidemic Era, Yes or No?

网上广为流传的言论是我国进入了后疫情时代。但真的是这样吗？我采访了我的表姐贺莉，她是一名曾在今年2月出征抗疫前线的护士。

Interviewer: Zhu Hongyi  
Interviewee: He Li

In China, the fight against COVID-19 has made tremendous progress, but it's still far from being called a victory. We tend to forget the pain when the wound is healed. But this pain must be always remembered as a reminder of what had caused it and what can be prevented.

It's been widely spread online that we have moved into post-epidemic era. But is that so? I interviewed my cousin He Li, who's a nurse that once fought against COVID-19 on the front line, about this emerging online.

Q: What do you think of this seemingly calm situation?

A: The epidemic in China is expected to resurge in winter, but even without a resurgence, the challenge in recovering the economy is already great enough. There are many precautions and preparations that we have to make now.

In the case of a resurgence, we have to ask ourselves, "is our reporting system sensitive enough to trigger immediate responses? Can inaction be avoided on local and individual levels? Do we have enough protective equipment and testing capacity to handle an outbreak? And when strict measures are in place to ensure life safety, is there also legislation to protect individual rights from the abuse of public power?"

Q: You've put forward several questions, so do you think we do face more challenges than we had ever thought of?

A: When the epidemic broke out earlier this year, we were given no time to answer these questions. But now we have a bit of time and we have to think in advance. In terms of economic recovery, we see that the government has put in place a series of fiscal, monetary and industrial policies. The rest of the challenge, I'm afraid, is left for each individual company to handle.

Q: And do you agree with this new combination phrase, Post-Epidemic Era?

A: Well, this is certainly not the time for a break. We have to work extra hours and make extra money to survive. Yes, there might be a chance that the epidemic would not resurge. But you don't want to take that risk. So, we may celebrate the current success as much as we can, but we've still got to do what we must do. We have never moved into so-called post-epidemic era.

## Some Traditions On the Day of Start of Winter

Author/ Xie Duanyi

今年的11月7日是立冬，立冬至，则冬日始。一起来看看立冬当天都有哪些习俗吧！

Although the day of Start of Winter (立冬日) is the same across the country, in fact, the Start of Winter is not the beginning of winter in terms of meteorology (气象学). The climate every year is different, so the beginning of winter could be quite different. And with the vast territory of China, winter time starts at different times in different areas. However, the traditions in China different areas share a lot of common. Now let's have a look at some of them!

No.1 the ceremony of "welcoming the winter" (迎冬仪式)

In ancient times, the beginnings of the four seasons were important festivals. Before the Start of Winter, the ancient emperor would take a shower and have no more meat. On that day, the emperor would lead his officials to the suburbs and perform the ceremony of "welcoming the winter". Sounds like a quite grand feast! Nowadays, some families inherit the form and will go outside to have a family gathering to welcome the winter on that day.

No.2 have some dumplings

Like the day of Winter Solstice (冬至), people also eat dumplings on the Start of Winter to drive away the coldness. And the born of dumplings also have a literary quotation. It is a legend that in the late Eastern Han Dynasty, the medical sage Zhang Zhongjing, first made dumplings to treat typhoid patients. He cooked mutton, hot peppers and herbs to dispel the cold and warm up the body (祛寒暖身).

He wrapped these ingredients into a dough skin (面皮) and made them into an ear shape. Since then, people have learned to make the food which became known as "dumpling" or jiaozi. Today there is still a saying that goes "Eat dumplings on Start of Winter Day, or your ears will be frostbitten." (立冬不端饺子碗，冻掉耳朵没人管)

No.3 eat high-calorie foods

To prepare for the oncoming cold winter, people in southeast regions in China like to eat high-calorie food such as chicken, duck, beef, mutton, and fish, which are usually stewed (炖煮) with the four Chinese medicines: angelica (当归), ligusticum wallichii (川芎), Chinese herbaceous peony (芍药) and rehmannia glutinosa libosch (地黄), to enhance the effectiveness of the nourishment.

No.4 eat pumpkins and glutinous rice balls (糯米团子)

Pumpkin, which can be stored for a long time, is a common vegetable in north China during every winter. Generally, the pumpkins are bought in the summer and stored until the Start of Winter. For instance, in Tianjin Province, people would eat dumplings with pumpkin fillings.

In the south of China, some have the tradition of eating tuanzi, a kind of traditional Chinese food made with glutinous rice. Rural residents in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province make tuanzi by themselves, while urban residents buy ready-made tuanzi, whose stuffing (馅料) can be sweet bean paste (豆沙), radish (萝卜泥) or lard (猪油).

Above are some of the widespread customs on the day of Start of Winter. Did you and your family have any one of those traditions? Come to share with us!

## Let's Practice Writing English Composition Together (2)

作文速递 (2) —— 数字博物馆可以取代实体博物馆吗?

Author/Wang Wanze

Hello my friends! I am Wang Wanze. Recently some of my classmates asked me for some tips to prepare for their CET-4 or CET-6 exams because I have obtained satisfactory results in my freshman year. Actually there is no shortcut to a high score and all we have to do is to practice and practice. So why not practice writing with me when you pick up this reading material. I will select some subjects and here is the title for today's practice along with my composition. Hope we could improve our English together!

Some people claim that public museums and art galleries will not be needed because people can see historical objects and works of art by using a computer. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

It is becoming more and more convenient for people to see historical objects and works of art on line with the tap of the finger. However, I don't think online information can replace the real public museums and art galleries.

Firstly, museums and galleries have a unique atmosphere, which makes a visit more impressive and vivid. Audience can see authentic works of famous artists and

communicate with others. What's more, real museums have a group of experts who have a good command of the knowledge of history and the value of the art works. By contrast, people can get little knowledge of the art works on line.

Moreover, the museums and galleries can serve as a precious platform to hold various cultural activities and lectures. The material participation give audience more chances to experience the culture compared with using computers. It is also a good way for the government to promote cultural construction. The museums and galleries can also attract visitors and increase local economic income. However, I am not denying the importance of online museums and galleries. For people who have no chance to go to the real museums and galleries, online information is the best source for them to know more and kindle their interests in arts.

In conclusion, online museums and galleries let people know more about the art works, but it is quite unrealistic that they would replace the real establishment of museums or art galleries.



I Really Don't Know (我是真的不知道)  
---A little embarrassment when learning English  
Before I met the foreign teachers in junior high school, I always thought my English was not bad. I even used some catchphrases in communication, such as "You know..." as an opening remark before I spoke. At that time, I felt that I could get closer and more natural in this way. And I got close to each other immediately. We had an examination for a lesson which should communicate with the teacher face to face. Because of my positive performance in daily class, I thought inwardly that she was supposed to like me. Besides that, my foreign teacher is also a kind, patient and patient person who is just like a special friend. So, when the interview began, I remembered that the question I was asked was "What do you think of carnival as a form". I blurted out chronically: "You know, I haven't had any carnival before, but..."  
Just when I was ready to speak with a flow of eloquence to show my English speaking, the teacher interrupted and gave me a deadpan look "I don't know."  
"I really don't know." She repeated.  
Suddenly I felt really embarrassed...  
NOTICE: "You know" is an informal expression!!  
So, don't use informal words on official occasions.

Four  
Mouths

Something About  
Learning English

Author/Song Chenghan  
Xie Duanyi  
Wang Wanze  
Zhang Yiteng

I would like to say that leaning English is my life's work. Learning English can give me a sense of achievement whenever I pick up a new word or a new phrase. Language is not only a tool for communicate in our daily life, but also a carrier of culture. Although I have no English class, I still learn English and enhance my English level in daily routine because I think my spoken English needs to be improved. Learning English is a vital part in my life and one of my dreaming job is to become a interpreter.

Being a companion with me for more than ten years, English, as a foreign language, left me much to feel and think. For me, it is never a subject on the class schedule, it is a tool for me to better know about the real world through another point of view. Among many popular learning methods of English, I prefer to learn it naturally, which includes watching English movies, reading some original English novels and, if permitting, putting myself in an English environment. For many of us, maybe it's only a kind of subject that would be mostly forgotten after graduation. But, if we buckle down to learn it and feel it, the unique charm of this language will be soon felt by us.

Let me tell you some of my own experience.  
For memorizing words, I think the most effective way to remember words is to remember its pronunciation. If you stick to it for a long time, you can probably know the corresponding letters and their sequence of a new word even you just read it once, which will be more effective for your memorizing. In terms of listening, It's a good way to repeat after the recording of native English speakers at the same time. I think it is helpful for us to have a try.

## A New Life Stage

许多刚步入大学生活的新生都会感到迷茫。我采访并记录了一位大一的同学九周以来的困惑与迷茫，思考与探索。

Reporter: Excuse me, may I ask you some questions concerning how you feel about your new stage of life in college?  
Student: Certainly, my pleasure.

Reporter: So, could you please sketch out your college life with some key words?  
Student: I think, maybe... confusion, perseverance, exploring and pursuing could exactly be descriptive of my state.

Reporter: Sounds great. So what does every single word mean? Could you tell us more stories about yourself?  
Students: Sure. I was really confused the first few days when I had to deal with the incomprehensible courses, such as higher mathematics and linear algebra, together with incredible amounts of stuff in daily life. I had to wash my clothes, collect my packages, finish the assignments from the clubs and so on, which occupied much time on study. I fell in an intense feeling of confusion and that passiveness has affected me for a long time.

Reporter: It seems that almost every freshmen has the same obstacle as yours. So how do you tackle the difficulties you have encountered?  
Student: Well, generally speaking, in a word, perseverance. Much difficulty as I have met with, I never stop striking a balance between study and life. At the first four weeks, I stayed

Author/ Wang Junyu

up late to finish my homework and review what I learnt. Therefore, I gradually got accustomed to the courses. In the next few weeks, I could quickly grasp and understand the critical points, and finish homework as early as possible. Thus, I had more spare time to deal with many after-class activities, which enrich myself and distinguish my life in college from that in high school.

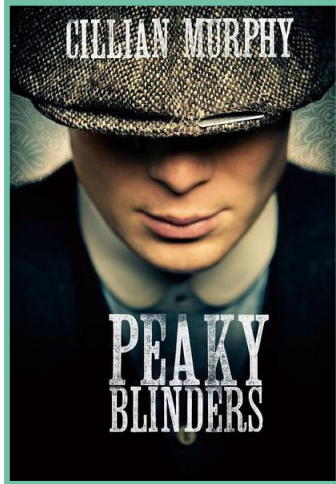
Reporter: Sounds great. So what about the pursuing and exploring?  
Student: Up till now, I have not set up a specific aim for myself yet. Still, there has not been an idea for what I am interested in and want to study further. Therefore, I never stop exploring and pursuing what I'm truly devoted to. And anyway, I hope I can find what I really love some day.  
Reporter: I hope so. Wish you a bright future. Thank you.  
Student: It's my pleasure.



Four short words sum up what has lifted most successful individuals above the crowd: a little bit more.

## GOOD SERIES TO WATCH: PEAKY BLINDERS

Author/ Song Chenghan



"It's almost one of every man's must-see shows.", my roommate said to me, so I also went to see it and found it was a good British drama with a lot of artistic atmosphere. Tommy likes to flip a coin to decide which way to go when he has to make a big decision. Life is just two sides of a coin, with light and hope on the obverse and darkness and despair on the reverse.

The missing weapons bring both opportunities and problems to the Shelby family business. Tommy has to deal with the consequences of his own desperate actions. On the one hand, he has to deal with the forces of the police, the Communists and the IRA, seeking the best interests of the family. On the other hand, his brothers and sisters are not so easy, and he needs to take steps to ensure that they are on the right path in life.

While Big Brother Arthur was the nominal razor leader, it was Tommy who really held the REINS of power. He had been living in Tommy's shadow. When people asked him about the business, he didn't know the answer, because Tommy didn't tell him many confidential things. Unfulfilled, Arthur was unhappy until the arrival of their father seemed to give him a glimmer of hope that he, too, could make a difference like Tommy.

Their father was a complete jerk, as everyone in the family knew, except Arthur. His father not only gave him false hope, but also cheated him out of all his money. Arthur confronted his father at the station to get his money back, but his father left him this: "If a thief stays hungry and steals to feed himself, he is not contemptuous.", also threatened that if his son will continue to pester, he does not mind a fight to the death. Back home Arthur wanted to hang himself by

way of the end, did not think the rope hook fell. Tommy comforts Arthur with Shelby's partnership and a third of his shares. In Tommy's words, hanging himself is a stupid act, and it would be more effective to shoot himself.

Tommy is also a contradictory person. He values his family more than anything else, and he always compromises when it comes to family. For example, to fulfill the love between his sister and The Bolshevik Freddy Thorne, for the sake of his sister's happiness, he would give up Freddy Thorne and the police in exchange for their interests.

But Freddy Thorne is arrested anyway, and Tommy's kindness is mistaken by Aunt Polly, who thinks Tommy has tipped off the police.

Eventually, Tommy sends his right-hand man to the prison to try to reunite the Shelby family against the foreign enemy.

Tommy was not satisfied that the Shelby family had obtained their first legal permit to bet on horses from Billy Kemper, who he wanted to replace with the official betting society and enter high society.

Because Grace tipped off Campbell, Tommy not only lost the weapons, he had no bargaining power with the police, and his plan to raid Billy Kemper was disrupted, reducing his chances of success.

Unexpectedly, just as the two sides were about to fight, Tommy's sister Ada appeared to respond, and there was no duel of epic proportions.

The first season ended when stupid Billy Kemper failed to sneak up on Tommy and was shot.

As much as Tommy tried to stay on top of the wheel and keep things under control, he found that there were always people and events beyond his control, and that his own emotions would inevitably get the better of him.

Inspector General Campbell had this conversation with Tommy:

Campbell: "People like us are doomed to be lonely, and all the love we get, we have to pay the price." Tommy: "I have family."

Although Polly and Tommy often disagreed, Polly often did the family's ideological work because she knew that Tommy was doing everything for the family. In that era, if you want to survive, only more fierce and powerful.

## Would You Wait for a Few More Minutes?

Author/ Zhu Hongyi

你愿意多等外卖小哥几分钟？

In the mere pursuit of efficiency, the algorithms of food delivery apps have driven their delivery men into a relentless race with time. But before they receive a higher commission, these stressed young men who run away from rural towns to seek a future in big cities end up facing a rapidly growing death rate. This is but another cold fact of development that was recently brought to our attention by an investigative report.

I believe after reading the story, many of you have the same conflicting feelings as I do. We instantly feel for the delivery boys who represent the country's hardest-working people and yet we also understand the logic of "the faster, the better" and that the intense market competition that drives it is an indispensable engine that fuels our economy. This will not be the last case of its kind. The era of artificial intelligence will see a constant outbreak of conflicts between the human and the technological side of modern society.

Algorithms have no values, so said one of our

generation's most successful entrepreneurs. He's right. But companies have values. I'm not saying that efficiency should completely give way to moral concerns, but when algorithms are on the edge of reducing men into tools, shouldn't humanity be guarded by at least answering to some human needs?

In the case of food delivery, for example, shouldn't the traffic lights, the unanswered calls and the busy elevators be taken into consideration when algorithms are designed to calculate time?

Sadly, instrumental rationality is given an ever-greater weight in our society. Men are increasingly willing to do whatever it takes to achieve a goal.

The rising death rates of delivery men have only foreshadowed greater moral sacrifices to be made. It's time we avoid treating each other as "tool man". Only then can we truly make some space for the value rationality, namely the indispensable part that makes us human.

If winter comes, can spring be far behind?