

Contents:



Mobile Phone Glossary

2



Some Facts About Whiskey or Whisky

5

这里有人讲英语吗？

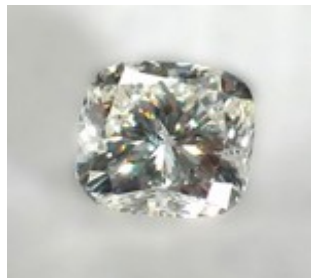
你说哪一种语言？

可口可乐

汉堡

How is learning Chinese writing different?

10



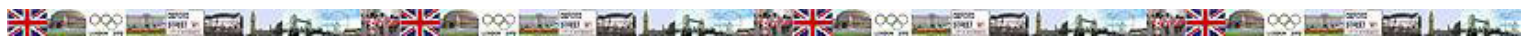
A Gem-Wise Guide To Buying a Diamond

14



The Shawshank Redemption, a Stephen King movie

17



Mobile Phone Glossary

by: **Paul Smith**

(reading – 31.5. - 6.6.)

3G

The third generation of mobile networks, with video calling, web browsing and multimedia downloads of up to seven times faster than standard 2G networks.

Bluetooth

A specification for short-range wireless connectivity that allows users to make wire-free connections (via radio link) between a wide range of communications devices.

Dual-band

Phones that can switch between two different bands of frequencies. Most phones in the UK are now dual-band, capable of switching between GSM1800 and GSM900 frequencies. Useful for travellers allowing roaming on a greater number of networks across the world.

GPRS

General Packet Radio Service.

Data communications upgrade for GSM networks, enabling a maximum data rate of up to 115kbps.

GSM

Global System for Mobile Communications. A digital cellular communications standard used throughout Europe, and elsewhere around the world.

Pre-pay/Pay-as-you-go

Service plans with no-contract and no line rental where you buy credit 'vouchers' in advance for calls. Each network has its own pre-pay service.

PUK

Your Personal Unblocking Key is an eight-digit number used to unblock your phone if you enter your PIN number incorrectly three times.

Roaming

The ability to use your phone abroad, this varies according to your service provider and their agreements with overseas networks.

Service Plan

A contract selected by subscribers when they

purchase a pay monthly mobile phone, it usually consists of a base rate for network access and a per-minute rate for any calls made.

SIM

The Subscriber Identity Module is the smart card used in digital phones containing the user's identity for accessing the network and receiving calls. It can also store personal information, such as a phone directory and received SMS messages.

SMS

Short Message Service allowing messages of up to 160 characters to be sent between phones on any network.

WAP

Wireless Application Protocol. An agreed standard which enables compatible mobile phones to access Internet-type services such as news, travel, entertainment, finance and sport.

www.mad4mobilephones.com

– a UK mobile phone shop selling the latest handsets at the lowest prices.

About The Author

Paul Smith is a mobile phone expert for www.mad4mobilephones.com - a UK mobile phone shop.



Some Facts About Whiskey or Whisky

by: **Darcy O'Neil**

(reading – 7.6. - 13.6.)

When discussing whisky the first thing that needs to be known is that there are two legitimate spellings. The Scots and Canadians spell whisky without the “e”, while the Irish and Americans spell it with an “e” as in whiskey. This should be the first indication that the world of whisky is a very complicated one and has many regional differences in taste and

production. This is part of what makes whisky such an interesting and enjoyable spirit.

Historically it is believed that the Irish were the first to make whiskey, however the Scots have also laid claim to being the first whisky producers. The Irish used the term “uisce beatha” (“Water of Life” in Gaelic) to describe whiskey, so it must have been important.

Both the Scottish and Irish make whiskey the same way, except for the malting and distillation process. In Scotland the malted barley is roasted over open peat fires to dry, this results in the grain picking up the peat flavour. In Ireland, the malted barley is dried in closed ovens, and is never exposed to the smoke. The process of mashing and fermentation is much the same for both countries. In the distillation step, the Irish, most of the time, distill their product three times, which results in a very pure distillate which makes Irish whiskey exceptionally smooth. The Scottish distill their product twice and this results in more flavour in the spirit.

In North America there is Canadian whisky and

American whiskey, which has a number of regional classifications including Bourbon and Tennessee whiskey. Each product in North America is unique and is regulated by the government. Canadian whisky is the number one imported spirit into the United States and is second in consumption only to vodka.

American whiskey has a number of regulations depending on the definition of the product. Bourbon must be made from fermented mash of not less than 51% corn, rye, wheat, malted barley or malted rye grain. It cannot be distilled at a proof higher than 160 and must be stored in new oak barrels at a proof of 125 or less. Blended American whiskey must be made from at least 20% whiskey aged two or more years with the remainder made from unaged neutral grain spirit. American corn whiskey must be made from a minimum mash of 80% corn. Tennessee whiskey follows the same regulations as Bourbon, but is charcoal filtered (Lincoln County Process), so it does not qualify as a bourbon.

Canadian whisky must be aged for at least three years, but for the most part the Canadian

government allows the expertise of the distiller to define the characteristics of the final product so there are no limits on distillation proof or barrel requirements. Any Canadian whisky that is aged for less than four years must have the age listed on the bottle. Most Canadian whisky is aged for six or more years. Canadian whisky is generally a blended spirit. The term “blended” means that the final product is made from a number of different types of distilled product. For example, Canadian whisky may be composed of corn, barely, wheat and rye distillates that have been aged in selected used or new oak barrels. Some Canadian producers put all of the grains in one vat and ferment them as a whole and pre-blend and age the distillate. Other producers ferment each grain individually and age each distillate separately and then blend a final product from a mixture of spirits. Most Canadian whisky is distilled twice.

This article has only scratched the surface of the whisk(e)y world. There are many regional characteristics of whisky and many other countries are producing this fine spirit. It would take a lifetime to explore the complete world of whisky,

but it would be a worthy attempt.

You can read more about Darcy on his bartending, spirits and mixology site,

<http://www.theartofdrink.com/blog/>

About The Author

Darcy O'Neil is a bartender with a formal education in chemistry. His motive for becoming a bartender was part by chance and partially to fulfill his culinary desires. Darcy currently works as a bartender in London, Ontario and spends his time writing about his mixology and bartending experiences.





How is learning Chinese writing different from learning a Western language?

by: **Kah Joon Liow**

(reading – 14.6. - 20.6.)

In the modern Chinese writing system, each character is a form of its own, representing a particular sound and at least one meaning.

In other words, each Chinese symbol is a unity of form, sound and meaning.

To learn Chinese writing, you need to know each Chinese symbol or character individually.

You will need a vocabulary of at least 3,000 characters to understand 90% of what you read.

A vocabulary of 4-5,000 characters allows you to understand almost everything written in Chinese in the modern context.

Although there are more than 60,000 characters listed in the largest Chinese dictionaries most of them are ancient symbols and no longer in use.

Only a very small proportion of Chinese characters (some 300, perhaps) are simple representations of natural objects; all others are composite signs.

Each sign generally has two components:

- a graphic component (which represent a man, woman, tree etc.)
- a phonetic component, which gives some idea of the pronunciation.

Learning Chinese writing is quite different from learning a Western language.

To learn a Western language like English, you need to know a whole series of sounds.

If you take an English word apart, separating it into its many phonetic syllables, it would lose its meaning altogether.

When learning Chinese writing, you first learn the characters and then you learn the word.

Take, for instance, the Chinese word da4 xue2 大学 which means "university". First you learn da4 "big" and xue2 "school; learn" separately.

Although the meaning of da xue has to do with da and xue, it is not a simple case of da "big" plus xue "school".

It does not mean "big school".

If you were to take the English word "university" and try to figure out its meaning based on the meanings of the five syllabic components u/ni/ver/sit/ty, you would not understand anything because they mean nothing.

So, the Chinese character forms the basis in learning Chinese writing whereas the word or sentence forms the basis for learning a Western language.

In Chinese writing, the symbol is the unit carrier of meaning whereas in English it is the word which serves the same purpose.

Chinese characters are essentially pictures and they

appeal to the eye.

In comparison, Western letters and words are based on sound rather than sight.

About The Author

Kah Joon Liow

Want to learn Chinese for pleasure and profit in less time? Like to creatively enhance your life with Chinese characters and symbols? Liow Kah Joon is your guide.

Sign up for his free Chinese Symbols ezine at <http://www.living-chinese-symbols.com>
article@living-chinese-symbols.com

这里有人讲英语吗？

你说哪一种语言？

可口可乐

汉堡



A Gem-Wise Guide To Buying a Diamond

by: **Richard W. Wise**

(reading – 21.6. - 27.6.)

Who doesn't love a diamond? Known as the traditional gemstone for an engagement ring, diamonds have steadily risen in popularity since the early 1940s, when Harry Openheimer the president of the De Beers cartel visited New York to meet with Gerold M. Lauck the president of N.W. Ayer, a leading advertising agency.

The value of diamond sales had declined 50% by the end of World War I and Openheimer was determined to do something about it, Lauck's suggestion; manufacture a tradition. So successful was the campaign that in 1967 De Beers hired J. Walter Thompson to create a similar "tradition" in Japan, a country with absolutely no history of diamond giving. As a result, today over 90% of all Japanese women receive a diamond engagement ring.

Although everyone loves a diamond, few people know how to wisely choose one when standing at the jewelry counter. Here are five tips on how to buy your perfect diamond:

1. Diamonds are graded using the 4 Cs. Color, Cut, Clarity and Carat weight but they are not of equal importance.

2. Cut is the first C. Very well cut round diamonds are called ideals. Diamonds are cut for weight. They have no color and no nutritional value. Diamond is all about sparkle. Fine cutting delivers the sparkle.

3. Never buy a clarity grade above VS2. Diamonds are graded using a 10x magnifier. A diamond graded Flawless and one graded SI1 (slightly included) are visually identical. The first and last time you will use magnification is the day you buy the stone.

4. Diamond color is based on tonal variations of the color yellow on a scale of D-Z. There is no A, B, or C. The more yellow the lower the grade. The first four colors D-G show no yellow when viewed face-up. Want to save money? Think about a G.

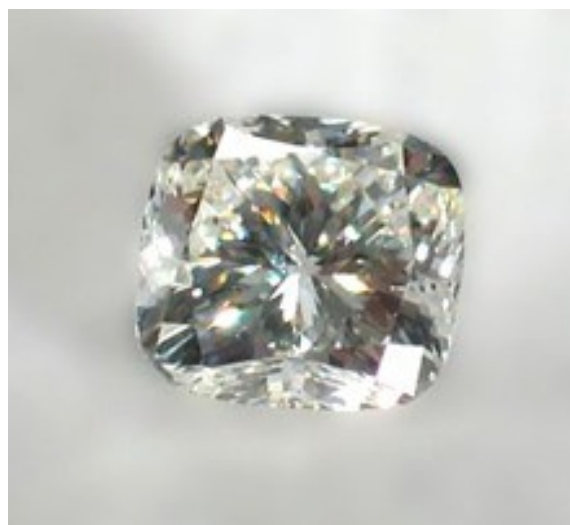
5. Look for moderate blue fluorescence. About 1/3 of all diamond fluoresce blue in ultraviolet light. While we can't see ultraviolet we can see its

effects. Blue is the complement of yellow. Thus, blue fluorescence will cancel out yellow and make the diamond appear whiter and more beautiful as well. A fluorescent H may look like a D.

About The Author

Richard W. Wise is a Graduate Gemologist and President of R.W. Wise, Goldsmiths, Inc. His early interest in gemstones led him to write extensively about precious stones. For more information visit his website at

<http://www.secretsofthegemtrade.com>





The Shawshank Redemption, a Stephen King movie

by: **Darren Lambert**

(reading – 28.6. - 4.7.)

The Shawshank Redemption is consistently voted as one of the best movies of all time. Originally a story in a Stephen King book, the Different Seasons, known as Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption, the story was adapted and the movie created. The movie was directed and the screenplay written by Frank Darabont. The movie was his first major production. Interestingly Stephen King has written two stories about prisons, The Shawshank Redemption and The Green Mile, which happen to be the first two movies that Frank Darabont directed.

The story is a cruel one, in which Andy Dufresne, an educated and kind man is wrongly convicted of his wife's murder. During his time in prison he befriends several people, who are criminals, whereas Andy is not. His life is changed forever, as he deals with the troubles of incarceration.

Stephen King's excellent character portrayal is not

limited to his horror stories, and the characters in this story are some of his best. One could even believe this was based on a true story, but it is not, King has confirmed. The story is upsetting, puzzling and warming, and the movies popularity confirms people association with the story. I think it will always be a classic.

When released at the theatre The Shawshank Redemption did not achieve great success, despite the great buzz already generated by the Hollywood industry due to the great story. This was in part due to great competition at the time, and also the fact that the story is about a prison, which put many movie goers off. However, after the release to DVD the Shawshank Redemption sold in huge quantities making it a firm favorite.

The other stories from the Different Seasons book are:

- The Body – which became the movie, Stand by me
- The Apt Pupil – which also became a movie called
The Apt Pupil

- The Club – which has yet to make it to the big screen

I would recommend the book to anyone who is a fan, as it is a great collection of stories. The Shawshank Redemption is a very popular story, whether read in a book or watched as a film.

<http://www.shawshankredemption.net/>

About The Author

Darren Lambert is a big fan of the Shawshank Redemption movie, as well as other Stephen King stories. darren.lambert@gmail.com

