

On The Town 都市掠影

The Chinese Bridge Competition

‘中国桥’ 比赛



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Yang Li: *Hi I'm Yang Li, I've come to the British Museum for a special event - the Chinese Bridge competition, UK final.* 大家好。今晚的大英博物馆充满了中国文化气息。第十一届“汉语桥”世界大学生中文比赛英国区决赛就要开始了。

(Announcement: 比赛即将开始, 请各位贵宾选手和观众就坐。)

Yang Li: 中国驻英大使刘晓明发表主旨演讲并宣布比赛开始。

Ambassador Liu: Now it's my honour to declare the open The UK Regional Final of the 11th Chinese Bridge Competition, thank you.

Yang Li: There were 10 contestants for the UK final this year. The winners will be invited to go to China to attend the semi-finals and finals, with the chances of winning scholarships to further their Chinese studies.

(Talent show)

Yang Li: Each contestant will give a three minute prepared speech, followed by two minutes of general knowledge, and finished off with a 3-minute talent show.

(Talent show)

Yang Li: 经过了两个小时的角逐中与决出了前三名比赛优胜者。接下来是我对前三名比赛优胜者的采访录音。首先是特奖得主邱傲文: Pay attention to the following phrases: out of the blue 意外地; scraped the first prize 勉强拿到一等奖; nonsensical 荒谬的。

Insert

Owen: *My name is Owen Churchill 我叫邱傲文。*

Yang Li: *What is the excitement, the highlight today for you?*

Owen: *Well, the highlight is that I've - out of the blue - somehow managed to scrape first place - won the first prize in the Chinese Bridge Competition 汉语桥。*

Yang Li: *Congratulations.*

Owen: *Thank you very much. I really wasn't anticipating it. I really enjoyed it, and no matter what the result was I think I did my best. That's possibly the most important thing and it's been really good for my Chinese as well.*

Yang Li: *What is the main difference that proved to be most difficult and challenging?*

Owen: *最难的一个事情是中文的声调。*

Yang Li: *The intonation and tone of the Chinese language.*

Owen: *The tonal language. And that's - to English people that's very strange. That notion - just how a little intonation can change the meaning of something or can make it nonsensical.*

Yang Li: *欢迎继续收听都市掠影节目。The youngest contestant is only 17, but he speaks perfect Chinese.*

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Cameron: *你好，我的名字叫康可，健康的康，可爱的可。我 17 岁来自威尔士的卡迪夫*

Yang Li: *What is the drive for you to learn Chinese?*

Cameron: *我觉得中国越来越强大了，所以中文是一个非常好的语言。*

Yang Li: *How come your Chinese is so good that there's no trace of foreign accent at all?*

Cameron: *原因就是在中国驻的那段时间，有了语言环境，很快就学会了。So I think the reason that I learned Chinese so quickly is because when you live in China you have the language environment.*

Yang Li: *康可对学英语的同学有什么建议呢？*

Yang Li: *What message have you got for learners of English? How can they best improve themselves in the shortest time possible?*

Cameron: *I would say you have to practise. Practise, practise and practise. Never worry about being wrong. If you are wrong you will get corrected and you'll learn something at the end of the day.*

Yang Li: *Well said. As the English saying goes: 'Practise makes perfect.' 熟能生巧。Well, finally we'll hear from another prize winner 梁悦信。*

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Yang Li: *Could you share with us your favourite idiom?*

Maximilian: 芝麻开花节节高。 *This is used when you make good progress. Basically it means: 芝麻 is the sesame seed, 开 is open 花 is the flower. So when a sesame blossoms 节节高 higher and higher, level by level, you are getting higher.*

Yang Li: Well, The Chinese Bridge Competition is certainly doing better and better. Here are some comments I gathered:

Hana: *I think it's wonderful. Two years ago I came to watch the finals as well and the difference is so big, like the quality and everything. I wanted to take part in the competition as well.*

Don Star: *Wonderful competition which over the years has really helped raised the standard of Chinese. Really the contestants produced unbelievable Chinese considering that they have only been studying for usually about three years. It's an amazing standard and their teachers do fantastically well.*

Yang Li: That's one of the five judges: Don Star from Durham University. He was very impressed with the performance today and I was too. I hope you get some inspiration too for your English studies. As the Chinese saying goes 芝麻开花节节高。 Hope your English is getting better and better.

最后我们以邱傲文表演的葫芦丝独奏来结束今天的节目 a flute-like instrument called hulusi, played by the grand prize winner Owen Churchill.