

New world, new words 数码时代的新词汇

Vocabulary: brand new words 词汇: 全新词汇

Have you learnt a lot of English words? Well, many more are being created right now! **Neologisms** appear all the time, especially linked to new technology. This not only represents more work for you but also annoys some **native speakers** of English.

Every age has its **purists**. Tom Chatfield, author of "Netymology: A Linguistic Celebration of the Digital World", says that in the 16th Century, many people **frowned upon** neologisms with foreign influences. The poet Richard Willies said that they were "smelling too much of the **Latin**".



Emoticon: A message in punctuation

In the 19th Century, the English poet William Barnes suggested that the word "photograph" should be replaced by "sun print" in order to achieve **proper** "Englishness". It didn't **catch on**.

Now the debate about speech and writing is livelier than ever, says Mr Chatfield. He thinks the Digital Revolution is as significant as the Industrial Revolution, and there are many inventions and processes which have to be named.

From **text messages** and **email** to **chat rooms** and **video games**, technology has over the past few decades brought about an extraordinary new arena of verbal exchange. The controversy is not so much about foreign influence but **informality** and **abbreviation**. The Oxford English Dictionary acknowledged in 2011 the use of initials such as "oh my God" (**OMG**), "laughs out loud" (**LOL**) and "for your information" (**FYI**).

We are moving away from spoken words and towards the act of typing on to a screen. We've already grown so used to saying phrases like **dotcom** out loud that we forget we are speaking **punctuation marks**. And **punctuation** took a life of its own with **emoticons**.

The speed of communication today is matched by the speed with which new words are taken up. Bicycles, automobiles and telephones took decades to become a part of daily life as words and objects. With online offerings, new words are adopted in a matter of months. The verb "to google" has become a part of dozens of languages across the world.

Where habit leads, language follows. Only time will tell what endures. Meanwhile, as a student of the English language, you've got a lot of **catching up** to do.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Who wanted the word 'photograph' replaced?
2. What are the causes of controversy about English?
3. Is this statement true or false? *OMG, LOL and FYI were never officially adopted as words in the English language.*
4. What are symbols like :-) and :- (called?
5. Which word in the article means "more animated"?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. You write good essays but you're always forgetting to use commas. You should pay more attention to your _____!

emoticon	punctuation	dotcom	neologism
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2. When it comes to painting, I am a _____. The masterpiece has to come from the hands of a great artist! I don't like mass produced items.

purist	native speaker	poet	student
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3. There is usually an increase in activity after the holidays as factories try to catch _____ after being closed.

upon	on	up	out
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4. George is in good mood today. He's just sent me a text message and ended it with a _____.

OMG	FYI	dotcom	LOL
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5. Mary comes is admired for her _____. In spite of coming from a very rich and aristocratic family she knows how to put everyone at ease.

informality	abbreviation	neologism	influence
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Who wanted the word 'photograph' replaced? **The English poet William Barnes**
2. What are the causes of controversy about English? **Foreign influence, informality, the use of abbreviation, technology and increasing speed of communication**
3. Is this statement true or false? *OMG, LOL and FYI were never officially adopted as words in the English language.* **False. These expressions were included in the Oxford English Dictionary in 2011.**
4. What are symbols like :-) and :- (called? **Emoticons**
5. Which word in the article means "more animated"? **Livelier**

Exercise 练习

1. You write good essays but you're always forgetting to use commas. You should pay more attention to your **punctuation!**
2. When it comes to painting, I am a **purist**. The masterpiece has to come from the hands of a great artist! I don't like mass produced items.
3. There is usually an increase in activity after the holidays as factories try to catch **up** after being closed.
4. George is in good mood today. He's just sent me a text message and ended it with a **LOL**.
5. Mary is admired for her **informality**. In spite of coming from a very rich and aristocratic family she knows how to put everyone at ease.

Glossary 词汇表

a neologism	一个新词或旧词新意
a native speaker	一个说母语的人
a purist	语言纯正癖者
to frown upon	对某事物表现出不满
Latin	拉丁语
proper	正式的、规矩的
to catch on	开始流行
a text message	一个短信
an email	一封电子邮件
a chat room	一个聊天室
a video game	一个电子游戏
informality	不拘礼节
abbreviation	缩写
OMG (Oh my God)	“我的天”的英文缩写
LOL (Laughing out loud)	“哈哈大笑”的英文缩写
FYI (For your information)	“供参考”的英文缩写
dotcom	网站
a punctuation mark	一个标点符号
punctuation	标点
an emoticon	一个表情符
to catch up	追赶上