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英聽教學

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低品質生活皆因不來電 全球缺⚡人口逾一成

英文 / Leila Luo 圖 / 123RF



It may be hard to believe, but even in 2021, one out of every ten people in the world don't have electricity in their homes. Daily tasks that we perform easily, like washing clothes or reading after sunset, are more difficult without power. For a whole society, this means that many people have a lower quality of life, health and education.

雖然這可能是個難以置信的事實，即便時至今年，地球上仍有 1/10 的人家中無電可用。清洗衣物、夜間閱讀等我們信手拈來的日常事務，若無電力的幫忙，都會變得困難許多。缺乏電力對社會整體而言，意味著許多民眾處於低品質的生活、健康與教育環境中。

While there has been progress on the African continent, especially in countries such as Ghana and Ethiopia, the African nations that are south of the Sahara desert are still behind. In these countries, like Tanzania, there aren't enough power plants to generate electricity. On top of that, there aren't enough wires to bring what little power they make to people's homes.

雖然迦納和伊索比亞等國在普及電力上取得進展，但沙哈拉沙漠以南的非洲國家仍舊落後。在坦尚尼亞等國，它們發電廠的數量嚴重不足，還缺乏將微乎其微的電力配至民眾家中的輸電線路，因此缺電的困境更是雪上加霜。



task (n.) 任務 perform (v.) 施行 society (n.) 社會 continent (n.) 大陸、洲 wire (n.) 金屬線

古宅修繕鑿壁金現

石匠屋主攜手共享

英文 / Andrew Edmunds 圖 / 123RF

Recently, stonemasons who were restoring an old mansion in France found hidden gold coins from the time when French Kings Louis XIII and Louis XIV ruled. The treasure is worth over \$8 million NTD. A French law says that discovered treasure must be split 50-50 between the property owners and the people who found the coins.

近日，於一處法國古宅的修繕工程中，石匠們發現一批隱藏於屋中的金幣。這些總價超過新臺幣 800 萬的金幣，流通於法王路易十三及路易十四世統治時期。根據法國法律，這批寶藏將由發現者與古宅主人五五均分。



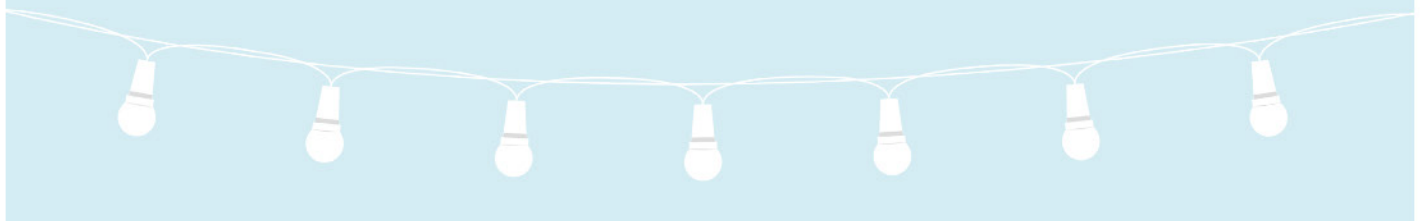
行履有方好處多多

新式地板用腳發電

英文 / Andrew Edmunds 圖 / 123RF

Researchers from Switzerland have created a wooden floor that collects energy from people walking on it. Based on their tests, a piece of the new floor about the same size as a sheet of paper is able to produce enough energy to power LED lamps and small electronic devices.

瑞典研究員發明了一種可從人的腳步踩踏中，獲取電能的特殊木質地板。依據測試結果顯示，僅需約一張紙大小的新式地板，便可提供 LED 燈等小型電子設備所需之電量。



restore (v.) 修復

mansion (n.) 豪宅

property (n.) 房地產；資產

floor (n.) 地板

power (v.) 供電

可再生能源是救星

非洲綠電潛力無窮

英文 / Leila Luo 圖 / 123RF

How can we bring electricity to developing nations in Africa in an eco-friendly way? Africa has natural resources that can help, including the world's longest river and plenty of sunlight and wind. Even with so many natural resources, it's still going to take a lot of money to build renewable energy infrastructure.

以友善環境的方式如何為非洲發展中的國家提供電力呢？擁有世界最長的河流、充足的日照和風力等豐富自然資源的非洲，即便天賦異稟，仍需要投入大量資金建構可再生能源的基礎建設。



Renewable energy could supply 22% of electricity for the African continent by the year 2030, but the ultimate goal for Africa is to reach 50%. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency, that would take US \$70 billion per year. Are the benefits worth it? People would have new jobs, earn more money, enjoy better health, and have more time for education and hobbies—all the things that make up a good quality of life.

預估於 2030 年，可再生能源可望為非洲國家供應總電量 22% 的電力，然而若要達成 50% 總電量的終極目標，根據國際可再生能源機構預計，則需要每年挹注 700 億美元的資金才能實現。這個代價是否值得？因電力發展，居民可獲得更多工作、賺取金錢的機會，享受更健康衛生的環境、獲得更多接受教育與培養興趣的時間，進而得到品質更好的生活。



剝殼機華麗轉身

造電鄰里獲頒光點

英文 / Leila Luo 圖 / 123RF



How hard would it be to study by candlelight? What if you couldn't even afford to buy candles? That's what daily life was like in the small village of Mzimba in the Republic of Malawi. Without electricity, students had a hard time passing their school exams. All that changed when Colrerd Nkosi built his own electric generator.

秉燭夜讀有多困難？要是連蠟燭都負擔不起該怎麼辦？這就是馬拉威共和國姆津巴小鎮的日常困境。缺電阻礙了學生的學習，想要順利地通過學校的考試，更是難上加難。然而在柯勒得・恩科西自製發電機後，姆津巴鎮的生活從此改變。

Nkosi created his hand-made electric turbine using an old corn-shelling machine. He installed it in the village's fast-moving river. Because his neighbors want more electricity, Nkosi continues to improve his invention. So far, over 2,000 people have benefited from his sustainable electricity. To honor his service to his community, Nkosi was awarded a Point Of Light Award from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

恩科西利用老舊的玉米剝殼機，製造出手作電動渦輪機，將之裝設於村中湍急的河流中。基於鄰里對電力的需求增加，恩科西持續改進他的發明。迄今，已有超過 2,000 人受益於他所打造的永續電力。為此，英國女王伊莉莎白二世特頒發光點獎，以表彰恩科西對社區的貢獻。





1. Which is true about the story from page two?
 - a. Ten people in society perform daily tasks.
 - b. Africa has not been getting better.
 - c. Quality of life is low without power.
 - d. The Sahara desert is behind Africa.
2. What were the stonemasons from page three doing?
 - a. fixing a big house
 - b. restoring gold coins
 - c. working for the king
 - d. splitting property owners
3. What new device from page three can make electricity?
 - a. a sheet of paper
 - b. a wooden floor
 - c. LED lamps
 - d. walking people
4. Which is NOT a benefit mentioned on page four?
 - a. better quality of life
 - b. earning more money
 - c. high cost
 - d. new jobs
5. How did Colrerd Nkosi help his community?
 - a. He won an award.
 - b. He bought candles.
 - c. He made a turbine.
 - d. He fixed a corn machine.
6. Asia is to continent as ____.
 - a. candle is to candlelight
 - b. electricity is to generator
 - c. Malawi is to country
 - d. renew is to energy

Cloze Test A

Yesterday, I played in the park ____ my little sister. My dog, Max, was digging a hole when he started to bark. There ____ a box in the hole filled with treasure! The law says we get ____ keep half.

Cloze Test B

A turbine is just like a big fan, ____ it works in reverse. Instead of using electricity to make the fan move, the movement ____ the turbine makes electricity for us. People have been using wind power ____ a long time.

1.c 2.a 3.b 4.c 5.c 6.c

1. 閱讀理解題，選項中唯有 (c) 缺乏電力使生活品質低下，是第 2 版報導中提到的內容。
2. 第 3 版第 1 則報導提到石匠於古宅修繕施工中，發掘潛藏的金幣。報導中使用 restore(v. 修復)，該動詞與 repair 和 fix 互為近義詞。
3. 第 3 版第 2 則報導中，瑞典研究員發明一種特殊「木質地板」，可以從人的踩踏中獲取電能。
4. 其他 3 者都是文章指出，可再生能源發展能為非洲帶來的益處。只有選項 (c) 所費不貲是沉重的負擔。
5. 由於恩科西居住的村落無電可用，因此他自製渦輪機，從河流取得動能發電。
6. 仔細觀察題目的詞組關係，亞洲是一塊大陸，恰如馬拉威是一個國家。

Cloze Test A

1.with 2.was 3.to

昨天，我和妹妹到公園玩耍。狗狗麥斯在一旁挖洞。挖著挖著麥斯突然汪汪吠叫，原來洞裡有個裝滿寶物的盒子！根據法律我們可以平分寶藏。

Cloze Test B

1.but 2.of 3.for

渦輪機看起來像是座巨型風扇，不過運作原理可就全然不同。不是藉電力驅動風扇的渦輪機，而是藉由扇葉的轉動產生電力。長久以來，人們便借助風力驅使器械，改善自己的生活。

別有洞天

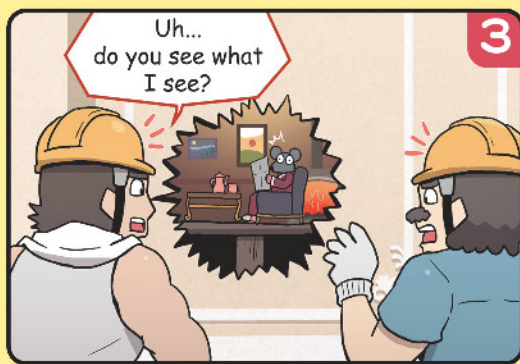
腳本 / Leila Luo 漫畫 / 瀚昇



這一帶施工要小心。



不！我不是提醒過你嗎？
我有小心啊！



呃...我有看錯嗎？



不好意思，能請你們把牆修好嗎？
風都灌進來了。

The Rest is History

720 萬輕鬆入主阿拉斯加 淘金爆熱罵名大翻轉

英文 / Andrew Edmunds 圖 / 123RF



On the 18th of October 1867, the USA purchased the land now known as Alaska from Russia for US \$7.2 million. At first, the American public was not pleased with the purchase because they thought the land was worthless. They changed their minds in 1896 when gold was discovered in Alaska's Klondike River.

1867 年 10 月 18 日，美國以 720 萬美元向俄羅斯買下阿拉斯加。起初，美國公民對購地案普遍感到不以為然，認為這是塊毫無價值的土地。直到 1896 年，阿拉斯加的克朗代克河一帶發現金礦，引爆淘金熱，這才翻轉了他們的成見。