

Byte-sized revolution 两百元买台电脑?

英语学习点: *Vocabulary: Project development* 有关项目发展的词汇

Creating a new computer or software from scratch is the dream of many a budding Steve Jobs. And now this goal is easier to reach than ever.

A new, low-cost computer that can be bought for around £20 (200 yuan) has been launched in the last few days and, according to its creators, could change the way teenagers learn computer science. It's called Raspberry Pi.



Kids have a reputation for playing software, but not coding it!

The credit card-sized machine has to be attached to a keyboard and a screen and doesn't come with any built-in software - but that's deliberate, as it's been designed to encourage children to sink their teeth into the world of programming.

The pupils of Chesterton Community College in Cambridgeshire were invited to road-test Raspberry Pi and loved it. "That's a computer?!" exclaimed a 12-year-old boy before piling in with his classmates to test his mettle and reprogramme the classic game Snake.

This not-for-profit project is the brainchild of six scientists who set up the Raspberry Pi Foundation. One of them, Eben Upton, remains unfazed by suggestions that today's youngsters are keen on new software but not on how it's made.

Now that the Pi is launched, Upton and his colleagues are already going back to the drawing board to look at new ways to incentivise children into coding.

There are plans to offer "very significant" prizes - perhaps totalling £1,000 (10,000 yuan) or more - to those who impress the foundation with original programming.

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 is this computer particularly aimed at?
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The computer's keyboard is suitable for children's tiny fingers.*
3. What does the article say about what today's young people are interested in?
4. What are the creators of Raspberry PI planning to do now?
5. Look at the article. What are the expressions that include parts of the body?

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. John is a selfless man. He volunteers in a _____ organisation that offers guide dogs to the blind.

profitable	brainchild	low-cost	not-for-profit
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2. If you want to be successful in your career you've got to make an effort to ____ your goals.

score	reach	mark	kick
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3. My mother is proud of her cooking. We told her that the stew she prepared for dinner was too salty but she was ____ by the criticism and has made some more anyway.

unfazed	incentivised	bothered	designed
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4. There's a growing concern about the environment and some companies have been _____ new technologies to reduce air pollution.

avenue-testing	road-driving	road-testing	cat-walking
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5. With growing unemployment caused by recession, many people who were made redundant are setting _____ their own companies.

up	on	under	low-cost
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Who is this computer particularly aimed at? Teenagers who learn computer science.
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The computer's keyboard is suitable for children's tiny fingers.* False. Raspberry Pi does not come with its own keyboard so it can be of any size.
3. What does the article say about what today's young people are interested in? There are suggestions that they are interested in new software but not in how the software has been created – something Eben Upton disagrees with.
4. What are the creators of Raspberry PI planning to do now? They plan to offer cash prizes to encourage children to learn programming.
5. Look at the article. What are the expressions that include parts of the body? To sink one's teeth into something and brainchild.

Exercise 练习

1. John is a selfless man. He is a voluntary in a not-for-profit organisation that offers guide dogs to the blind.
2. If you want to be successful in your career you've got to make an effort to reach your goals.
3. My mother is proud of her cooking. We told her that the stew she prepared for dinner was too salty but she was unfazed by the criticism and has made some more anyway.
4. There's a growing concern about the environment and some companies have been road-testing new technologies to reduce air pollution.
5. With growing unemployment caused by recession, many people who were made redundant are setting up their own companies.

Glossary 词汇表

to do something from scratch	从零开始
budding	新生的/年轻的
to reach a goal	达到目标
low-cost	花钱不多的
creator	创造者
built-in	内置的
to be designed	被设计出来
to sink one's teeth into something	深入进去
to road-test something	操作试验
to test one's mettle	测试一个人的耐力
not-for-profit	非营利的
Brainchild	脑力劳动的产物
to set (something) up	创立
unfazed	不疑惑的
to go back to the drawing board	重新开始
to incentivise	调动积极性