

How good is your spelling? 你的拼写怎样?

Vocabulary: Accuracy and precision 词汇: 准确和精密

Is your spelling accurate? That's the question being asked by a British charity this week.

Mencap claim that a new generation of people cannot spell, as they rely on their computer's auto-correct function far too much.

In a survey, the charity found that 65% of people could not spell the word 'necessary' without making a mistake. Three quarters of respondents also believed they were very good at spelling.



According to the charity, computers often provide imperfect results and lead to grammatical errors. They highlighted the word 'manifest', which is sometimes verified by a computer's spell-check, and then replaced by the word 'manipulate'. The spelling may be exact, but the computer is trying to guess the correct meaning of the sentence. Imprecise spelling can also lead to disadvantage in the workplace. Misspelt words on a CV can reflect badly on a person's attitude and character.

The charity is now holding a 'Spellathon' championship in which competitors are asked to carefully spell words out loud. The hope is that if people recite the spelling of words from memory, it will encourage others to check their own spelling.

Critics have warned that simply blaming technology for bad spelling is unfair and does not address the real educational reasons for the decline in spelling standards. So how meticulous are you with your spelling? Can you spell words such as 'definitely' or 'accidentally' with ease?

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. According to the charity Mencap, what do many people rely on?
2. Which words can we use to describe something spelt wrong? Give three examples used in the text.
3. What is another name for a computer's auto-correct function?
4. Is this statement true, false or not given? *To recite means to write down your answer.*
5. What is another word for 'standards'?

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. Every time I go to the supermarket I need to _____ James to take me in his car.

correct	recite	guess	rely on
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2. You made _____ in the final question in the exam paper.

misspelt	careful	a mistake	correct
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3. The identity of the man could not be _____ by police.

disadvantaged	accurately	verified	spell-checked
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4. Her directions were so _____ we lost our way.

imprecise	errors	meticulous	good
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5. David was known for his _____ attention to detail.

carefully	meticulous	standards	spelling
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. According to the charity Mencap, what do many people rely on? The auto-correct function on their computer.
2. Which words can we use to describe something spelt wrong? Give three examples used in the text. imprecise, a mistake, an error, misspelt, imperfect
3. What is another name for a computer's auto-correct function? spell-check
4. Is this statement true, false or not given? *To recite means to write down your answer.*
False. To recite is to read out loud.
5. What is another word for 'standards'? guidelines, principles

Exercise 练习

1. Every time I go to the supermarket I need to rely on James to take me in his car.
2. You made a mistake in the final question in the exam paper.
3. The identity of the man could not be verified by police.
4. Her directions were so imprecise we lost our way.
5. David was known for his meticulous attention to detail.

Glossary 词汇表

accurate	准确
rely on	依靠
auto-correct	自动纠正
a mistake	一个错误
imperfect	不完美的
errors	错误
verified	验证
exact	准确的
guess	猜想
correct	正确
imprecise	不精确的
misspelt	拼错
carefully	小心的, 仔细的
to recite	背诵
to check	检查
standards	标准
meticulous	细致周密的