22 lifefun • weekend



horoscope

Capricorn (DEC. 22-JAN. 19) Persons can be swayed to your way of thinking if you use a

Pisces (FEB. 20-MARCH 20)

friendly, logical approach on them. Conversely, if you try to force your thinking on others, you're not likely to make any headway.

Aquarius (JAN. 20-FEB. 19) If you're involved in a payment scheme that involves commission, this could be a good day. It's important, however, that you don't put all your eggs in one basket. Limit your offerings.

There is a very fine line between being assertive and being aggres-



sive. Don't think your associates won't see the difference. Avoid being pushy or arrogant at all costs. Aries (MARCH 21-APRIL 19) 0

Don't hesitate to offer a helping hand when you see a friend in need of assistance. You'll know how to help out in a manner that doesn't make him or her feel inadequate

Taurus (APRIL 20-MAY 20) A new way to make some money that has captured your fancy is worthy of your attention. Check it out thoroughly, in order to appreciate all of the possibilities it offers.

Gemini (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

A situation you have been evading isn't likely to be as bad as you've led yourself to believe. If you try to meet it head-on, chances are you'll discover this for yourself.

Cancer (JUNE 21-JULY 22) If you're able to choose between assignments of a physical and mental nature, tackle the one that uses your mind more than your muscles

Leo (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Changes to your routine should work out rather well, especially those where chance intervenes. Shifts you personally engineer are likely to be a bit more complicated

Virgo (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

Your warm, cooperative personality is extremely contagious. Your friends and colleagues will find this to be quite appealing, encouraging them to act similarly.



Libra (SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)

Because your pride, not your ego, will dominate your behavior, it's likely to be a very rewarding day for you. You won't hesitate to affix your signature to any of your efforts.

Scorpio (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)

Being a bit of a risk- taker could work to your advantage if you use your daring productively. Thus, make sure that attaining what you go after is within the realm of probability.

Sagittarius (NOV. 23-DEC. 21) Apply your efforts toward concluding a promising situation, instead of branching out into doing something new. Your biggest

bridge

Aristotle said: "In making a speech, one must study three points: first, the means of producing persuasion; second, the language; third, the proper arrangement of the various parts of the speech."

In bridge there are three parts: first, the bidding; second, counting winners and losers; third, the proper arrangement of the tricks to



language tips

BETTER CHINESE

1.花木兰 (hu mù lán) Hua Mulan

花木兰替父从军这一故事来自于中国北朝民歌《木兰 辞》。《木兰辞》是中国古代民间文学中一首优秀叙事 诗,写的是女英雄替父从军,最后光荣还乡的故事。 (hu mù lán tì fù cóng j n zhè y gù shì lái zì yú zh ng guó b i cháo mín g mù lán čí 。mù lán čí shì zh ng guó g dài mín ji n wén xué zh ng y sh u y u xiù xù shì sh , xi de shì n y ng xióng tì fù cóng j n , zuì hòu gu ng róng hái xi ng de gù shì。)

The story of Hua Mulan originates from a northern folk song, Mulanci, an epic story telling of the heroine who disguises herself as a man to take her father's place in the army, and then returns home with great honor.

2.织布与绣花 (zh bù y xiù hu)

Weaving and embroidery

织布与绣花是中国古代女孩子从小就必须学习和掌握的 技艺,也是女孩子心灵手巧的重要标志。 (zh bù y xiù hu shì zh ng guó g dài n hái zi cóng xi o jiù bìx xué xí hé zh ng wò de jĩ yì ,y shìn hái zi x n líng sh u qi o de zhòng yào bi o zhì 。)

In ancient China, it was mandatory for young girls to master the art of weaving and embroidery. The level of competency in these skills was seen to be an indicator of a girl's intelligence and deftness.

-From Read Stories and Learn Chinese, by Li Jin and Tian Zhihua. Beijing Language and Culture University Press

BETTER ENGLISH

Miss the boat

About nine months ago, I acquired a 13-inch MacBook Air. At that point, the first Ultrabooks had been announced but were not yet shipping. Even so, I might have waited, except that the Ultrabooks I'd previewed to that point seemed uninspired, with clunkier hardware than the Air offered and various odd compromises. Some missed the boat on the trackpad; others had lower-quality displays. So I bought a 13-inch Mac-Book Air configured with a 256GB solid-state drive. http://translate.chinadaily.com.cn/translate.php?mod=question&actio n=viewthread&qid=54547

My comments:

Good question. A question with context is always a good way to learn.

In the old days, before there were airplanes, people traveled the world by ship, or boat, if you will. And there were probably only one or two boats a month from, say, London to New York. If you miss your boat today, you'll have to wait for another week or month.

Hence, you see, missing the boat was a big deal.

By extension, missing the boat also means, figuratively speaking, missing an opportunity.

In the top example, the speaker explained why, due to timing, he/she bought a MacBook Air instead of an Ultrabook. At that time, the Ultrabook wasn't so good, either.

For example, some Ultrabooks did not have the trackpad – "missed the

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- 57 Schoenberg's

rewards will come from things already underway.

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9	1960 Elia Kazan		
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10	Season under	59	See 1-Down
	le soleil	61	"Ain't shame?!"
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comics



Peanuts

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY A WATERCOLOR PICTURE OF YOUR DOG?



Drabble

GLANKS SMOOCH I ALWAYS SPHOOSH FELALITTLE BETTER 0 I KISSED I GOODBYE

make the contract. In this deal, how should

South plan the play in four hearts after the defenders two clubs. begin with three rounds of spades?

In the auction, North's rebid was a double negative, showing a very bad hand, zero to 3 points. (Two notrump is the traditional choice, three clubs the modern one.) On the third round, North had little else he could do other than support hearts.

Under West's spade-king lead, East signals encouragement with his seven. West continues with the spade five, his original fourthhighest. Then East finds the best defense of a third spade. South needs to take five



hearts, three diamonds and

After ruffing the third spade, if declarer draws trumps, he is safe against a 3-3 break, but not when they are 4-2, which is more likely. South needs three dia-

mond tricks, and it is a reliable rule to establish declarer's side suit first. So South should play a trump to the dummy, then run the diamond jack.

After West wins, if he plays a fourth spade, declarer ruffs on the board, leads a club to his hand, draws trumps and claims. If West leads something else, South wins, draws trumps and claims.

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8 6

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8 6 5 3 9 7 5 9

1 5 3 9

4 7 5 2 5 1 2 3

Yesterday's solution

5 9 6 4

A Kakuro consists of a playing area of filled and empty cells similar to a crossword puzzle. Some 9 8 7 5 6 4 1 5 black cells contain a diagonal slash from top left to bottom right with numbers in them, called "the clues" A number in the top right corner 2 5 1 2 7 3 4 5 relates to an "across" clue and one in the bottom left a "down" clue. The object of a Kakuro is to insert digits from one to nine into the white cells to total the clue associ-

ated with it. However no digit car	n be duplicated in an ent	ry
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boat" on that one, meaning that newer versions of the Ultrabook came out on the market soon and they all had the trackpad, plus high-quality displays.

Zhang Xin, who writes a column for Language Tips, has been with China Daily since 1988.

- To ask a question about learning English, please go to http://translate.chinadaily.com.cn.

