

人类简史 第一课

1. may well

very likely; used to say that something is reasonable to expect or believe.

【原文】 The Scientific Revolution, which got under way only 500 years ago, may well end history and start something completely different.

科学革命仅在 500 年前才开始，却很可能终结历史，并开启完全不同的新篇章。

【解析】“may well” 表示“很有可能/完全有理由”，语气比 “may” 更强，但又不如 “be likely to” 那么正式。常用于推测、判断或表达合理的可能性。

【近义表达】

is quite possible - 很有可能

is entirely possible - 完全有可能

could well - 很可能

stands a good chance of - 有很大机会

【更多例句】

This plan may well succeed if everyone cooperates. 只要大家配合，这个计划很可能成功。

These findings may well change the way we think about the brain.

这些发现很可能会改变我们对大脑的认知。

2. see it all

to have experienced many things in life; to have witnessed all kinds of situations.

【原文】 ...and wise old matriarchs who had already seen it all.

……还有那些经历过一切、阅尽世事的睿智女族长。

【解析】“see it all” 形容一个人经历丰富，什么场面都见过，不容易被惊到。语气口语、简洁，常用于描述经验老到、世事洞明的人。

【近义表达】

have seen everything - 什么都见过

know the world - 见多识广

be battle-tested - 历经风雨

be seasoned - 老练、有经验

【更多例句】

After thirty years in the company, she feels like she has seen it all.

在公司干了三十年，她觉得什么情况都见过了。

Growing up in a chaotic neighborhood, he believes he has seen it all.

在混乱的社区长大，他觉得自己什么都经历过了。

3. **least of all xxx**

used to emphasize that the statement is especially untrue or unexpected for a particular person or thing.

【原文】Nobody, least of all humans themselves, had any inkling that their descendants would one day walk on the moon, split the atom, fathom the genetic code and write history books.

没有人——尤其是人类自己——曾经意识到，他们的后代有一天会登上月球、分裂原子、破译基因密码、并写出历史书。

【解析】“least of all” 用来强调“尤其不可能是……”，语气强烈，经常放在一句话中间，用于突出某个人/群体最不符合前文所说的情况。

【近义表达】

especially not - 尤其不是

certainly not - 绝对不是

above all not - 首先不是

by no means - 绝不是

【更多例句】

No one expected the plan to fail, least of all the manager.

没有人预料计划会失败，尤其是经理自己。

I don't want to upset anyone, least of all you. 我不想惹任何人生气，尤其不想惹你。

4. **with no more impact on... than**

used to compare two things, emphasizing that one has no greater effect or influence than the

other.

【原文】 The most important thing to know about prehistoric humans is that they were insignificant animals with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish.

关于史前人类，最重要的一点是：他们在环境中的影响力并不比大猩猩、萤火虫或水母更大。

【解析】这个结构用于强调“在……方面的影响不比……更大”，本质是一个比较句，用来突出某事物微弱、有限的影响力。语气带有淡淡的讽刺或客观强调。

【近义表达】

have no greater influence on ... than ... - 对……的影响不比……大

be no more significant to ... than ... - 对……的重要性不比……高

affect ... no more than ... - 对……的影响和……一样微弱

be just as limited as ... - 限制和……一样

【更多例句】

Their protest had no more impact on the decision than an online comment.

他们的抗议对决定的影响不比一条网评大。

His complaint had no more impact on the outcome than a whisper in the wind.

他的抱怨对结果的影响就像风中的耳语一样微不足道。

5. bereft of

completely lacking something; deprived of something important.

【原文】 Homo sapiens long preferred to view itself as set apart from animals, an orphan bereft of family, lacking siblings or cousins, and most importantly, without parents.

智人长期以来更愿意把自己看作与动物截然不同的存在——一个失去家庭、没有兄弟姐妹、最重要的是没有父母的孤儿。

【解析】“bereft of” 表示“缺乏……；被剥夺……”，语气正式，多用于描述缺失重要或情感层面的事物（如 hope、support、family 等）。语气常带有强烈的失落感、孤立感或不完整感。

【近义表达】

devoid of - 缺乏

lacking - 缺少

stripped of - 被剥夺

without - 没有

【更多例句】

She stood there, bereft of words. 她站在那里，一时语塞。

The landscape looked lonely, bereft of any signs of life. 那片景色显得荒凉，毫无生命迹象。

6. out of one's league

too difficult, advanced, or high-level for someone; beyond someone's ability or status.

【原文】It is doubtful whether Homo sapiens will still be around a thousand years from now, so 2 million years is really out of our league.

智人是否还能在一千年后存在都尚且存疑，因此两百万年的尺度对我们来说完全超出了能力理解范围。

【解析】“out of one's league” 常用于表示某事“超出某人的能力范围”，也可以指社交或情感层面“高攀不起”。语气口语、自然，既可严肃也可幽默使用。

【近义表达】

beyond one's ability - 超出某人的能力

too much for someone - 对某人来说太难

out of someone's depth - 超出某人的理解能力

not something someone can handle - 某人无法应对

【更多例句】

Calculating quantum physics equations is completely out of my league.

解量子物理方程对我来说完全是天方夜谭。

He liked her, but he felt she was out of his league. 他喜欢她，但觉得自己高攀不起。

7. be poor in

to have little of something; to lack specific resources or qualities.

【原文】When the seas rose again, some people were trapped on the island, which was poor in resources.

当海水再次上涨时，一些人被困在岛上，而这个岛缺乏资源。

【解析】“be poor in” 表示“在……方面匮乏/缺少”，常用于资源、营养、材料、能力等语境中。语气客观、偏正式，但日常表达中也很常见。

【近义表达】

be lacking in - 缺乏

be short of - 短缺

have little in the way of - 几乎没有

be low in - 含量低（多用于营养或物质）

【更多例句】

The region is poor in water, making agriculture difficult. 这个地区缺水，农业很难发展。

Their project was poor in funding but rich in creativity. 他们的项目资金匮乏，但创意丰富。

8. **save/rescue xxx from oblivion**

to prevent something or someone from being forgotten; to bring something back into public attention after it was nearly lost.

【原文】 In 2010 another lost sibling was rescued from oblivion, when scientists excavating the Denisova Cave in Siberia discovered a fossilised finger bone.

2010 年，科学家在西伯利亚丹尼索瓦洞穴中挖掘出一块化石手指骨，又一次将一种失落的“亲缘物种”从遗忘中拯救出来。

【解析】 “save/rescue ... from oblivion” 表示“将某物从被遗忘的境地中挽救出来”，常用于历史、文化、科学发现中，也可以形容重新被关注、重新走入公众视野的事物。

【近义表达】

bring back into the spotlight - 重新带回公众视野

prevent ... from being forgotten - 防止被遗忘

revive - 复兴、使重新出现

restore to public memory - 让人们重新记起

【更多例句】

The old manuscript was saved from oblivion when a historian found it in an attic.

那份古老手稿在被历史学家于阁楼发现时，得以从遗忘中被挽救。

His early work was rescued from oblivion after a museum curated a special exhibition.

在博物馆策展了专展之后，他的早期作品才重新被人记起。

【动手造句】

1. 只要我们坚持，这个计划很可能会成功。(may well)

2. 他经历了太多，如今他觉得自己已经什么都见过了。(see it all)

3. 没有人预料到她会赢，尤其是她自己。(least of all)

4. 他的发言对结果的影响不比一声叹息大。(with no more impact on...than...)

5. 战后的小镇失去了活力，显得空荡而凄凉。(bereft of)

6. 我知道这份工作超出了我的能力范围。(out of one's league)

7. 这个地区缺乏淡水资源。(be poor in)

8. 这本书差点被遗忘，幸好有人重新出版。(save/rescue ... from oblivion)

参考答案:

1. This plan may well succeed if we keep going.
2. He' s been through so much that he feels he' s seen it all.
3. No one expected her to win, least of all herself.
4. His speech had no more impact on the outcome than a sigh.
5. The town after the war looked empty and bereft of life.
6. I knew the job was out of my league.
7. The region is poor in fresh water resources.
8. The book was rescued from oblivion when it was reprinted.