

The DBL Times



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China to Adopt English as Official Language

The Chinese spokesman for Ministry of Education claimed China would adopt English as being its official language.

Facing hundreds of reporters in a press conference, James Smith (whose former name is Zhang Yu), the spokesman, said the law would become effective on 1st April 2009. When a journalist for the Economist asked why the Chinese government made such a shocking decision, the spokesman replied, "For the sake of international trade." **XUE JIALIANG**

Easier to Pick Up Foreign Language

Earlier today, BBC radio listeners were told that people can gain the ability to use a foreign language by taking pills.

It said that 6 different colours of pills will help people to install 6 different languages: English, French, Portuguese, Chinese, German and Spanish. People can take them 4 hours in advance. Then you are ready!

A lot of people intend to try. **MONICA**

Language Pills for Instant Learning

Researchers of Massachusetts created new pills for learning. Take one pill per day for one week, and you will have instant learning. You'll be able to speak any language very easily. Just read the dictionary. **ANA & EMERSON**

Eiffel Tower to be Dismantled

The people who live in Paris said that the Eiffel is too ugly compared to other buildings. The Eiffel is too old for modern Paris, so the government has decided to dismantle it. Also, people always use the Eiffel to commit suicide, so it is a horrible place. **DONG**

Royal Family to be Abolished

Research shows us that English people are dissatisfied with the Royal Family, because they don't need to do anything. They get lots of money and a good lifestyle from when they are born.

People complain that they have to work and pay taxes, and the Royal Family doesn't. The English think if they abolish the Royal Family, the constitution will be changed, and they will be able to choose a President. **CHEN & MARCIO**

Eiffel Tower to be Dismantled

A group of engineers has said that the Eiffel Tower has rusted. It must be dismantled next month, because it is too dangerous. After that, the government will build a new Eiffel Tower. It will be double the height of the original, with a man-made nest with a lift. **WENJIE & LUCAS**

Language Pills for Instant Learning

A well-known laboratory has invented a new pill, which will change the process of learning in people. They have discovered a pill that makes our break learn in a few minutes new things such as numbers, foreign languages, music, etc, and the effect of the pill is permanent. It means that people will learn much faster and we will never forget what we have studied. **ANDRE &**

JULIANA

New Laws

Many of us have already faced the problem that when you want to have a good time in the world-renowned "Pub's Mecca", but then you notice that it is too late, they won't give you a bottle because it is already after ten.

They think that stopping people getting drinks will decrease the violence on the streets. Research shows that people who drink a lot don't need alcohol to be violent, and we are in a free country and everybody is responsible for their actions, and will answer for them, regardless of how much they drink.

A study by the Irish Times shows that for every 10 people who are drunk, only one does something against the law, and they are not big crimes. The really big ones are committed by sober people. Another important fact is that for every 10 tourists who visit Dublin and enjoy drinking, 8 don't like this law and wouldn't come back or tell their friends to come, if they want to have a good time drinking.

So, the best thing that the government could do is to increase the punishment for drunken people who break the law, and allow well-intentioned people to enjoy their lives in one of the best cities of the world. LUCAS

I know lots of people who hate to stop drinking in the middle of the night or party. People have to do what they want to do. A research in 2008 showed us that we need to enjoy our lives as much as we can, because happiness makes you live more. MARCIO

Everyone who lives in Dublin knows that the traffic is horrible. The roads are almost car parks at peak times. It's caused by narrow roads.

On average, people have to spend 40 minutes to get from 3 miles away to the town, and much more if you want to pass the city centre. What are the reasons? One of the biggest reasons is the lack of bus lanes. Also, we need double lanes, or even three lanes in the city, because the population of Dublin is getting bigger and bigger, but the government has nowhere to make the road wider.

The lands beside the roads belong to individuals. Therefore, if I were the mayor, I would make a compulsory purchase order. MONICA

In these times, many people are trying to stop smoking, but it's still a difficult decision, even with many warnings about the harm to health. According to researchers, people who inhale the second-hand smoke also have problems like heart disease and lung cancer. It can vary from person to person, but still produces damage to the government.

More new laws should be created to stop the increase of smoke-related diseases. Maybe the most efficient law is one which affects the pocket of the people. ANAMARIA

All international students have to renew their visa every year. They also have to pay €150 for it, and working more than 20 hours a week is not allowed.

This means that international students find it very difficult to study and work in Ireland. They have to pay high fees for their school, and high rent for their accommodation. The food is very expensive in Ireland as well. Then they have to pay €150 for their visa. I don't think it's fair. They only work 20 hours per week, they don't have much money, and they already pay tax.

Therefore, we need more laws for international students. CHEN

Many people who live in Dublin have to pay for bin tags to have their rubbish collected. It is really a waste of money to buy something that you have to put in the bin, literally!

Every week, these Dubliners spend about €8.70 on bin tags. This money is enough for a single person to go shopping in a supermarket for a week. According to social scientists, the waste of money on bin tags could be solved with the extinction of the law which says that we must put tags on our bins.

Therefore, we need to change it to protect our pockets and save more cash to spend on things we really need.

CARLOS

If you're looking for a pharmacy after 8pm in Dublin, you probably won't find one, because they usually close before that.

Researchers have found that kind of attitude can be terrible for people suffering from headache or stomach-ache. They can't find a pharmacy open, and many times, they don't go to the hospital. They stay at home and suffer for the whole night. This is bad, because a simple headache or stomach-ache can become worse things.

1000 students in Dublin would like to reclaim their rights to buy pharmaceutical products after 8pm. Therefore, pharmacies should stay open longer. ANON

Holiday Time

I'm staying in Dublin for my holidays. Dublin is a nice city in Ireland. Dublin has many B&Bs which are very cheap for everyone. I like Dublin city. Do you like it? If you like, you can come for your next holiday. See you in summer! CHEN



I'm going to the Clifford. It's a 5 star hotel in the centre of London. There's a gym, a swimming pool, and a very good sauna. It costs €220 per person, per night. TOM



I'm going to London on holiday. I will go shopping and see Big Ben and Buckingham Palace. There are lots of shops and famous sights. I think this is a good trip for me. JACKIE



I'm going to a hostel in London. I'm going shopping. It's half an hour by bus from the city centre. I'll buy a computer and a TV. The hostel only costs €200 for one week. It's cheap. LEO



I hope to stay in the Clifford Hotel, because this hotel is very close to the city centre and all the famous sights. I want to enjoy the touristic points of London on this trip. Maybe I will stay for one week. It depends on the price. For one week it is possible to get a discount on the price of one full week. FERNANDO

Film Reviews

In my opinion, the best film is "Tan Bo Hu Dian Qiu Xiang". It's a funny and romantic film and it stars Zhou Xing Chi and Gong Li. They are very famous in China. This film is set many years ago. It's about a man who is very good and rich. He has lots of wives. Go and see it! ZHONG

In my opinion, the best film is Heat. It's a thriller. It stars Al Pacino, Robert de Niro, and Val Kilmer. The film is set in Los Angeles in 1995, and it's about a criminal trying to escape from the best policeman in the city. It's very exciting and the acting is excellent. Go and see it! ROGERJO

In my opinion, the best film is Titanic. It's a love story. It stars Kate Winslet and Leonardo di Caprio. It's about an old woman. The film is set on a boat. It's a good film. FENG

In my opinion, the best film is City of God. It's an action-adventure film. It stars Seu Jorge and Antonio Fagundes. The film is set in Rio de Janeiro. It's about traffic in Brazil. It's very, very action-packed. Go and see it! LUCJANA

In my opinion, the best film is Jurassic Park. It's a thriller. It stars Sam Neill. The film is set in the USA. It's about a theme park with some dinosaurs. It's wonderful! JACKJE

In my opinion, the best film is Hai Jiao Qi Hao, from 2009. It's a romantic musical film. It stars Jin Cheng Husu and two Japanese stars. The film is set in China in 2009. It's about love. It's very good and excellent. You should go and see it. COCO

In my opinion, the best film is Titanic. It's a romantic film. It stars Kate Winslet and Leonardo di Caprio. The film is set on a boat. It's about a romance. It's very sad and romantic. Go and see it! CHEN

In my opinion, the best film is X-Men. It's a science-fiction film. It stars Famke Janssen and Hugh Jackman. The film is based on an American cartoon. It's about freedom fighting and heroes for everyone. It's the best film I've ever watched. Go and see it! MJKE

In my opinion, the best film of the last 3 or 4 years is Lost, an American film from 2005. It's a thriller and it's about problems. A lot of people are lost on an island. It's very interesting and the acting is good. Go and see it. YJNG



May Bank Holiday Weekend!

There will be no classes on Friday 1st May or Monday 4th May.



Have a great weekend!

It will soon be May...

May is named after the Greek goddess, Maia. The month is a time of great celebrations in the northern hemisphere. It is the time when flowers emerge and crops begin to sprout.

The Anglo-Saxon name for May was Tri-Milchi, in recognition of the fact that with the lush new grass cows could be milked three times a day. It was first called May in about 1430. Before then it was called Maius, Mayes, or Mai.

In Britain, as in most parts of Western Europe, May Day marked the end of the harsh winter months, welcomed the beginning of Summer, and optimistically looked forward to the bright and productive months. For our ancestors, largely in rural areas, it was a major annual festival and was celebrated throughout the country, especially on the first of May with music, dancing and games.

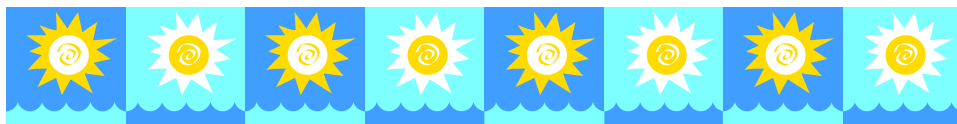
There is an old tale that says that May dew has magic properties and that anyone who has washed their face in it will have a beautiful complexion all through the year. This dew was supposed to be able to remove freckles and also spots and pimples.

"A swarm of bees in May
Is worth a load of hay."

"Mist in May, Heat in June
Makes harvest come right soon."

"If you wash a blanket in May;
You will wash one of the family away."

"Those who bathe in May
Will soon be laid in clay."



Some Jokes...

Knock Knock!

Who's there?

Dewey.

Dewey who?

Dewey have to go to school today?

*

Teacher: Could you please pay a little attention?

Student: I'm paying as little attention as I can.

*

Teacher: James, where is your homework?

James: I ate it.

Teacher: Why?

James: You said it was a piece of cake!

*

Today my teacher yelled at me for something I didn't do.

What was that?

My homework!

*

Here is the scene: The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Church elementary school for lunch.

At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and put it on the apple tray...

'Take only ONE. God is watching.'

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

*

A number of primary schools were doing a project on 'The Sea.' Children were asked to draw pictures or write about their experiences. Teachers got together to compare the results and put together some of the 'better' ones:

1. Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea because I think they have to plug themselves in to chargers.
(Christopher age 7)

2. This is a picture of an octopus. It has eight testicles.
(Kelly age 6)

3. If you are surrounded by sea you are an Island. If you don't have sea all around you, you are incontinent. (Wayne age 7)

5. I think sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend no more. (Kyle age 6)



6. When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes, when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would be better off eating beans. (William age 7)

7. I like mermaids. They are beautiful, and I like their shiny tails. How do mermaids get pregnant? (Helen age 6)

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When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toe nails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love. Rebecca age 8

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth. Billy age 4

Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other. Karl age 5

Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs. Chrissie age 6

Love is what makes you smile when you're tired. Terri age 4

Love is when my mummy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK. Danny age 7

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen. Bobby age 7

If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate. Nikka age 6

Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day. Noelle age 7

Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well. Tommy age 6

Love is when Mummy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken. Elaine age 5

Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day. Mary Ann age 4

I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones. Lauren age 4



One day I was driving with my five year old daughter Alice and I honked my car horn by mistake.

Alice turned and looked at me for an explanation.

I said, 'I did that by accident'.

Alice replied, 'I know that, Daddy'.

I replied, 'How did you know?'

She said, 'Because you didn't say 'IDIOT' afterwards'

*

Mrs Johnson invited some people over for supper. At the table, she turned to their seven year old daughter Martha and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?'

'I wouldn't know what to say, 'Martha replied.' Just say what you hear Mummy say, 'Mrs Johnson answered.

Martha bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

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1. Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. - Chinese Proverb
2. If every fool wore a crown, we should all be kings. - Welsh Proverb
3. We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance. - Japanese Proverb
4. Don't give cherries to pigs or advice to fools. - Irish Proverb
5. Mix a little foolishness with your prudence: It's good to be silly at the right moment. - Horace [65 BC - 8 BC]
6. It is human nature to think wisely and act foolishly. - Anatole France [1844 - 1924]
7. The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes. - Winston Churchill
8. What a fool does in the end, the wise do in the beginning. - Spanish Proverb
9. For fools rush in where angels fear to tread. - Alexander Pope
10. A fool may have his coat embroidered with gold, but it is a fool's coat still. - Antoine Rivarol

Blueberry Lemon Loaf

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups (375 mL) all purpose flour
- 2-1/2 tsp. (7 mL) baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. (1 mL) salt
- 1 cup (250 mL) granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 1 lemon (peel grated, juice squeezed)
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) milk
- 1 cup 250 (mL) blueberries, fresh or frozen (don't thaw if using frozen)

Lemon glaze:

- 1/4 cup (50 mL) granulated sugar
- juice from one lemon (above)

Cooking Instructions

Preheat the oven to 350 degree F (180 degree C). Grease a 9 x 5-inch (23 x 13 cm) loaf pan.

In a bowl, stir together the flour, the baking powder and the salt.

In a large mixing bowl with an electric mixer, beat the sugar and the butter for a few minutes until combined. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating after each one. Beat in the grated lemon peel. Add the flour mixture in two or three portions, alternately with the milk, beating just until the batter is smooth. Quickly fold in the blueberries, just until they're evenly distributed. If you're using frozen berries, the batter will turn blue -- don't panic, it will look fine when it's baked.

Pour batter into the prepared loaf pan and bake for 60 to 70 minutes, until the top is golden brown and a toothpick poked into the middle comes out clean. Leave it in the pan while you prepare the lemon syrup.

In a small microwave-safe bowl or measuring cup, combine the 1/4 cup (50 mL) of granulated sugar with the lemon juice. Microwave on high power for 30 to 45 seconds -- just until the mixture boils. Remove from microwave and give it a stir. With a toothpick, poke holes all over the top of the Blueberry Loaf. Using a wide pastry brush, brush the top of the hot loaf with the hot syrup. Let cool for at least 30 minutes in the pan, then remove to a rack and cool completely.

