



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Unsuccessful Olympians 失意赛场的奥运选手们

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Losers But Winners 失败的胜利者

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

For most athletes winning is everything.

Phrases like 'nice guys come last' and 'there are no prizes for second place' underline the **competitive spirit** and **will to win** that consume most athletes.

However here in the UK we also have a **soft spot** for **gallant losers**; those sportsmen and women who **put themselves forward** even though they have little or no chance of competitive success.

The most famous British heroic loser is undoubtedly Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards, the **short-sighted plasterer** who represented Britain at the 1988 Winter Olympics in the **ski-jumping competition**.

Edwards entered the event despite having **no funding**, ski boots that didn't fit him, and being barely able to see the end of the jump due to his much-needed glasses **fogging up**.

Needless to say, he finished last in every competition but won the hearts of fans all over the world for his **endearing optimism** and **never-say-die spirit**. Years have passed since 'The Eagle' last soared but a new generation of lovable losers have proved themselves (or not) on the Olympic stage.

Eric 'The Eel' Moussambani represented Equatorial Guinea in the 100m swimming competition at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, having been selected by a **wildcard draw** designed to encourage developing countries.

Moussambani came last with a time more than double that of the race winner, and set a new **Olympic record** for the slowest time to complete the event. "The last 15 metres were very difficult," said 'The Eel', who **took up** swimming only eight months before the Olympics and had never seen a 50m pool before.

Moussambani won the hearts of fans and media alike with his **plucky attitude**. Will Beijing 2008 give the world another noble failure to love?

Glossary 词汇表

competitive spirit – 竞争意识	will to win – 胜利的决心
have a soft spot – 喜欢某人(物)	gallant losers – 豪爽的, 勇敢的
put themselves forward – 毛遂自荐	heroic loser – 勇敢的失败者
short-sighted plasterer – 近视的粉刷工人	ski-jumping competition – 跳台滑雪比赛
funding – 资金	fogging up – 有雾了, 看不清了
endearing – 惹人可爱的	soared – 升高了
eel – 鳗鱼	wildcard draw – 外卡抽签, 特殊参赛权抽签
developing countries – 发展中国家	Olympic record – 奥运纪录
took up – 开始	won the hearts – 赢得了观众的心
plucky attitude – 勇往直前的精神	noble failure – 崇高的失败者

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Most athletes are motivated by the desire to win. True / False
2. Culturally, the people of Britain have no time for losers. True / False
3. Eddie 'The Eagle' took part in the 1988 Summer Olympics. True / False
4. His ski boots didn't fit and his vision wasn't very good. True / False
5. Eric Moussambani had very little experience of swimming before he went to the Olympics. True / False

2. Phrasal Verbs 短语动词

Look at the phrasal verbs below. Can you match them to their definitions?

请看下列短语动词，请将它们与各自的定义对应起来。

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. to take up | a. to participate in an event |
| 2. to fog up | b. to start a new hobby for the first time |
| 3. to put yourself forward | c. to become misty or affected by condensation |
| 4. to take part in | d. to volunteer for something |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the phrasal verbs.

现在请用以上的某个短语动词完成下列句子。

1. There's so much steam in this room that my glasses have _____.
2. I decided to _____ for the job even though it would be a real challenge.
3. She _____ badminton six months ago.
4. England didn't _____ the Euro 2008 football tournament after failing to qualify.

3. Idioms 习惯用语

Look at the idioms below. Each one is connected to the word lose

Match the idiom to its definition.

请看下列习惯用语，它们都与失败有关。

请将习语与各自的定义对应起来。

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. to lose your shirt | a. to become angry |
| 2. to lose your temper | b. to lose a lot of money |
| 3. to lose your marbles | c. to be embarrassed by something |
| 4. to lose face | d. to go insane |

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above.

现在请用以上的某个习语完成下列句子。

1. My grandfather _____ and had to be taken to a special hospital.
2. Don't _____ and shout at your students.
3. Speaking English badly in front of my classmates makes me _____.
4. I went to a casino in Las Vegas and _____.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with competition in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与比赛有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的 (g) 垂直的 (i) 或对角的 (m) 形式出现。

a	l	o	s	e	r	b	s	l	o	w	c
a	l	u	h	b	e	w	p	g	m	f	h
h	e	r	o	i	c	y	n	g	l	h	u
y	v	u	n	e	v	o	b	a	g	r	o
s	t	r	s	u	n	r	t	l	o	p	p
w	h	u	u	n	n	e	j	l	a	s	t
i	q	f	c	s	t	c	e	a	b	n	i
n	k	l	c	b	u	o	r	n	k	u	m
n	d	t	e	n	o	r	b	t	h	e	i
e	a	d	s	v	e	d	t	e	e	b	s
r	h	o	s	n	c	t	r	u	k	d	m
u	t	b	j	f	a	i	l	u	r	e	y

winner	loser	optimism	heroic	gallant
record	failure	success	slow	last

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假?请圈出正确答案。

- Most athletes are motivated by the desire to win. **True**
- Culturally, the people of Britain have no time for losers. **False**
- Eddie 'The Eagle' took part in the 1988 Summer Olympics. **False**
- His ski boots didn't fit and his vision wasn't very good. **True**
- Eric Moussambani had very little experience of swimming before he went to the Olympics. **True**

3. Idioms 习惯用语

Look at the idioms below. Each one is connected to the word lose

Match the idiom to its definition.

请看下列习惯用语, 它们每一个都和单词 lose 有关。

请将习语与各自的定义对应起来。

- b
- a
- d
- c

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the idioms above.

现在请用以上的某个习语完成下列句子。

- My grandfather **lost his marbles** and had to be taken to a special hospital.
- Don't **lose your temper** and shout at your students.
- Speaking English badly in front of my classmates makes me **lose face**.
- I went to a casino in Las Vegas and **lost my shirt**.

2. Phrasal Verbs 短语动词

Look at the phrasal verbs below. Can you match them to their definitions?

请看下列短语动词, 请将它们与各自的定义对应起来。

- b
- c
- d
- a

Now complete the sentences below by using one of the phrasal verbs.

现在请用以上的某个短语动词完成下列句子。

- There's so much steam in this room that my glasses have **fogged up**.
- I decided to **put myself forward** for the job even though it would be a real challenge.
- She **took up** badminton six months ago.
- England didn't **take part in** the Euro 2008 football tournament after failing to qualify.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

	l	o	s	e	r		s	l	o	w	
h	e	r	o	i	c			g			
								a			o
			s			r	l				p
w			u			e		l	a	s	t
i			c			c		a			i
n			c			o		n			m
n			e			r		t			i
e			s			d					s
r			s								m
					f	a	i	l	u	r	e