

Day 14

Brooke 21:12

opening salvo

十三月 21:13

incorrigible

CK环 21:13

nurse

Lilliput 21:13

the numbers don't jibe

阿拉瑶 21:13

jibe with/square with

阿拉瑶 21:13

thanks~

纯净自得 21:13

smooth over conflicts and repair relationship, makesquare with the fact
amends

Lilliput 21:13

duty bound/honor bound/trdition bound

王莎 21:11

work up one's courage/pluck up one's courage

十一 21:11

smooth over

Brooke 21:11

hold onto

CK环 21:11

vindictive gauntlet

纯净自得 21:11

deliver/issue an apology

July 21:11

issue / deliver an effective apology

Miki 21:11

pluck up courage inflection eroded

Lilliput 21:11

smooth over conflicts and repair relationships

阿拉瑶 21:12

tiff/spat

Woody 21:12

July 21:12

contextualize our behavior

CK环 21:12

\grudge

Lilliput 21:12

keep a low profile/keep a low key

阿拉瑶 21:12

讲过

CK环 21:12

titt

kaili啊 21:12

同义替换 build bridge = heal wounds; victim= injure
party = wronged person

阿拉瑶 21:12

incorrigible liar

Lilliput 21:12

纯净自得 21:12

work /pluck up one's courage to

清空全部

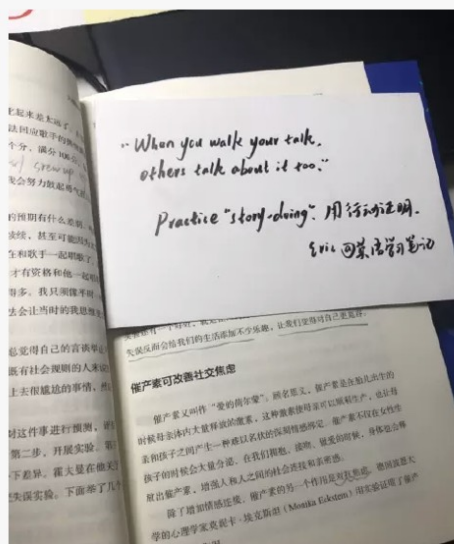


张海露 Eric

20-5-14 from iPhone XS Max

刚注意到左上角「鼓起勇气」那里写了 screw up my courage, 前面我猜是 work up 和 muster(up), 因为这几个都是这几天晨读时讲过的。这种学习意识非常好! 践行了阅读中文书顺便学英语的小心机, 赞执行力! // @Eric
英语学习笔记: Way to go 🍻

@Hellen-chan: 谢谢老师 @Eric 英语学习笔记! 我努力! 🍻 跟 Eric 学英文超话



■ II. **face 'down** [transitive] [*present tense I/you/we/they face down he/she/it faces down present participle facing down past tense faced down past participle faced down*]
phrasal verb

to appear strong and confident when someone is threatening or criticizing you

They showed they could face down the opposition.

Thesaurus: to be confident or proud *synonym*

But for this the government would have to face down the powerful teachers' union.

21    

[The Economist](#)

The government must face down the junk merchants and limit food ads during children's television programmes, he says.

22    

[The Economist](#)

02 wave a magic wand



“巴啦啦能量，呼尼啦，魔仙变身~”哈哈哈哈哈此处应有BGM。

wave a magic wand字面上指“挥动魔杖”，引申为“毫不费力地解决困难 (to solve a difficult problem with no effort) ”

I wish I could wave a magic wand and make everything all right again.

真希望我能魔杖一挥使一切又都好起来。



这个词让我想到了一月份学习词汇时学到的 be stuck behind the desk; be stuck in a rut.

下面是更多的一些相关拓展：

如果你是一名desk-bound worker，那么你往往需要朝九晚五（work nine-to-five），每日定时打卡上下班（clock/punch in/out），工作时长一成不变（work/be flexi-time），工作内容无聊乏味（repetitive; monotonous; mechanical）。

关于Eric老师顺便提到的wheelchair-bound，我经过搜索，收获了一点意外的惊喜👉

这两幅图就很好地展示了hustle culture的特点。那么，hustle culture到底是什么？外文网站Medium – Where good ideas find you.的一篇文章给出了这样一段解释：

What is “Hustle Culture?”

Hustle culture (aka “Burnout Culture,” “Workaholism,” or “Toxic Productivity”) is all about constantly working. Those who hustle attempt to devote as many hours as possible to work.

YouthRecord

原文挺值得一读。我把链接放这儿咯：Hustle Culture: Why Is Everyone Working Too Hard? | by Christine Lorelie | The Post-Grad Survival Guide | Medium

另外，我还想分享一个我之前在浏览别的网站时看到的一个表达：

fast-paced
Because our **go-go-go** culture doesn't naturally *is suitable for* lend itself to the kind of unstructured downtime that's necessary for kids to imagine, create, explore, think, and connect, it's up to us grown-ups to build it in.

YouthRecord

当时我是把“go-go-go culture”作“快节奏的文化”解的，现在来看，感觉和“hustle culture”意义很相近。只不过，后来通过Google查这个词，并没有找到太多使用到它的句子。所以，我建议认识它、领会它的意思即可，在正式写作中还是谨慎使用。

07 skeleton

skeleton: [countable, usually singular] the basic outline of a plan, piece of writing, etc. to which more details can be added later 梗概；提纲；提要；轮廓

Examples were used to flesh out the skeleton of the argument. 通过例证使干巴巴的论点充实起来。

《牛津词典》

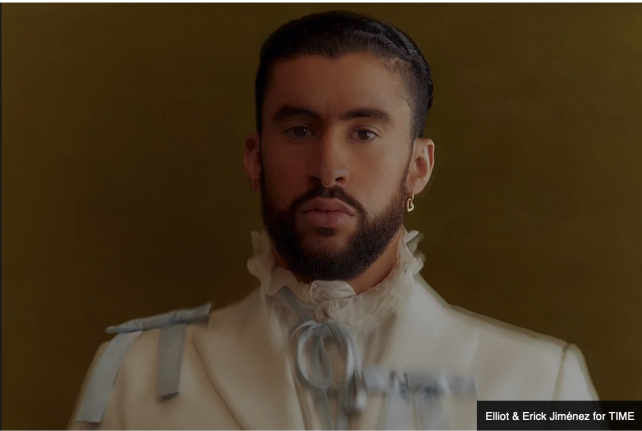
牛津的这个例句特别好，把skeleton和flesh out搭配起来使用。一个是干巴巴的“骨架”，一个是有血有肉地“补充，充实”，多形象呐！



Bad Bunny's Next Move

MARCH 28, 2023 • 7:00 AM EDT

The superstar has bent global pop culture to his will—by refusing to compromise on anything



Elliot & Erick Jiménez for TIME

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8 Ways to Apologize Well



 Apologies are how we smooth over conflicts and make amends and repair relationships, prove our character to others, and coexist as imperfect beings. Yet few of us know how to do it well—or have the bravery to do so.

“A good apology builds bridges. It heals wounds,” says Marjorie Ingall, coauthor of the new book *Sorry, Sorry, Sorry: The Case for Good Apologies*. “It’s also really hard. Apologizing is a courageous act, because we’re overcoming all of our own animal instincts and all of our own self-protectiveness when we do it.”

Sincere apologies can be difficult to nail. Everyone wants to feel like a good person, which can lead to defensiveness—we talk ourselves out of the idea that we did something wrong in order to safeguard our sense of self. “We immediately turn to excuses, justifications, reasons why the victim provoked us,” says Karina Schumann, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Pittsburgh who’s **researched the barriers to apologizing**. “And if we’re able to convince ourselves of that, then that can—in our minds—preclude the need for an apology.” Or, perhaps we don’t care enough about fixing a certain relationship to apologize, she adds. We might also **overestimate how uncomfortable delivering the apology will be**, or assume that it won’t work.

But sincere apologies bring a host of benefits to the person delivering the message and the one receiving it. They help **solidify relationships** and **mend trust**, both of which can lower stress and improve mental health. “It’s really unhealthy to hold onto shame and guilt and not try to work through your emotions around negative behaviors and harmful acts you’ve committed,” Schumann says. Plus, some research indicates that those receiving apologies can experience improvements in **blood pressure** and **heart rate**, as well as **increased activation of empathy-related brain regions** that set the stage for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Don't rush into it

Apologies are better late than early, says Cindy Frantz, a social psychologist at Oberlin College who has researched **how timing influences apology effectiveness**. “What we found is that there can be a temptation to offer an apology quickly,” she says. “It’s an effort to shut the whole incident down and move on. And that benefits the perpetrator, but it doesn’t meet the needs of the victim.”

SOMPO HOLDINGS
A Theme Park for Security, Health & Wellbeing



You can't deliver an effective apology until and unless the injured party believes that you fully understand what you did wrong, she says. “If the apology comes before that, it’s not going to be seen as sincere.”

Be open to a variety of formats

If you're dealing with a relatively minor offense, consider apologizing over text message or in person, Ingall suggests. Emails often work well for more serious situations. “And if you really screwed up, there’s something very powerful about a stamp and nice stationery and a pen,” she says. Just don't issue your apology via social media, which can be humiliating for everyone involved.

Another rule of thumb: “When you're apologizing to someone, you have to give them an out,” Ingall says. “You don't want somebody to feel trapped by you—they need an escape route.” Don't block the pathway out of someone's work cubicle, for instance, or lean into their car window so they're unable to pull away.

Start with specific words

Use the words “I’m sorry” or “I apologize.” ^{out of} Opting instead for phrases like “I regret” or “I feel bad about what happened” often results in non-apologies, which “have the vague contours of an apology, but don’t actually get there,” Ingall says. (See: The classic “sorry if you were offended” or “sorry, but...” approaches.) Plus, saying you regret something puts the focus on you and your emotions, when it needs to center squarely on the wronged person’s feelings.

Accept responsibility

Why should you apologize if you’re both at fault? That’s exactly the question many people struggle with, Schumann says—and certainly, there often is dual-responsibility. “But I like to encourage people to really focus on taking responsibility for the parts of the conflict that they’re responsible for,” she says. Avoid the urge to phrase it as, “I’m sorry I did this, but you also did that.” The inclination to do so is “normal, because we want to contextualize our behavior and call attention to the fact that we’re also hurt,” she says. But save it for later on in the conversation.

Emphasize certain words

Always choose your words carefully when apologizing, advises Lisa Leopold, an associate professor of English language studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey who has **analyzed the language of public apologies**. Avoid conditional phrases, like “if” or “may”—as in, “I’m sorry if anyone was offended,” which suggests that perhaps there were no victims. “But” is another misstep. It undercuts your message, she notes.

It’s crucial to use “I” or “my” while apologizing, Leopold adds. For example, say “I’m sorry for my outburst,” rather than “I’m sorry for the interaction this morning.” And always use the active voice. “If you say something like, ‘I apologize for what happened,’ well, ‘what happened’ is something you have no control over,” she says.

It can also be helpful to utilize intensifiers such as “very,” “truly,” “sincerely,” “deeply,” and “extremely.” These can “enhance the language of an apology,” Leopold notes.



Be clear about how you plan to repair things

One of the core elements of an apology is making reparations. Sometimes, Schumann says, that will be possible in a direct way: You broke their favorite wine glass? Buy them a new one. Spilled coffee on their dress? Pay for the dry-cleaning.

If that’s not feasible, consider more symbolic forms of repair. For example, if you hurt someone’s feelings with a critical comment, make it clear that you **misspoke**. “Sometimes you can’t repair what’s happened, but you can think about the relationship moving forward,” she says. “How can you communicate a promise to behave better?” It’s important for the other person “to hear that this is not going to continue...and they can trust you to improve your behavior in the future.”

Communicate sincerity

A variety of things can help make it clear your words are coming from the heart, Schumann says. First, the apology should match the severity of the offense. If you're apologizing for infidelity and say, "Sorry about that, love," you won't come across as very genuine, she notes; however, those words might be adequate if you're 10 minutes late for dinner.

You should also aim to put yourself in the other person's shoes and convey that you understand what you did was hurtful to them, and the consequences they dealt with as a result. It can be helpful to listen first and ask them questions about their vantage point, Schumann advises. "That might allow you to really understand what they're going through, and therefore be able to offer a more authentic, victim-focused apology."

Don't expect forgiveness

An apology is a starting point. Particularly with severe offenses, the person wronged will often need time and space to heal, and it's important not to pressure them. It can be tempting to follow up with something like, "What's wrong? I apologized—how long are you going to hold onto this?" Instead, Schumann suggests checking in like this: "I understand this isn't going to fix everything, and I want to continue to do whatever I can to make this right by you. I hope that, even if you're not ready to forgive me, you're open to working with me to get us to a point where we can move forward."



2023实用英语实验室

九菴.

收藏

保存

待学习 27 已掌握 0 需复习 0

开始学习

已掌握 0/27 0%

• 3月 Day12



Although users have a seemingly [redacted] appetite for
贪婪的欲望

endless/insatiable

and advertisers take time to warm to new products. "You can't really [redacted]
[redacted] and declare that your new ads are 'premium' without any
performance history to back it up, so they start at the end of the line," says
Michelle Urwin of Skai, an ad-tech firm.



提到“排解、发泄（情绪），除了
safety valve, doormat, 还可以
想到哪些词呢？

我的回答：
offload/unleash/release/vent



刚刚在补昨天的直播课。学到
desk-bound那里，我就顺手搜了
一下Eric老师说的wheelchair-
bound（依靠轮椅的残障人
士）。我的本意是想找张图片放



employees but did not affect white-collar ones| For desk-bound workers, the
question is different: less whether flexible scheduling is appealing, more
whose version of it [redacted]

A比B好，A占了上风

prevails

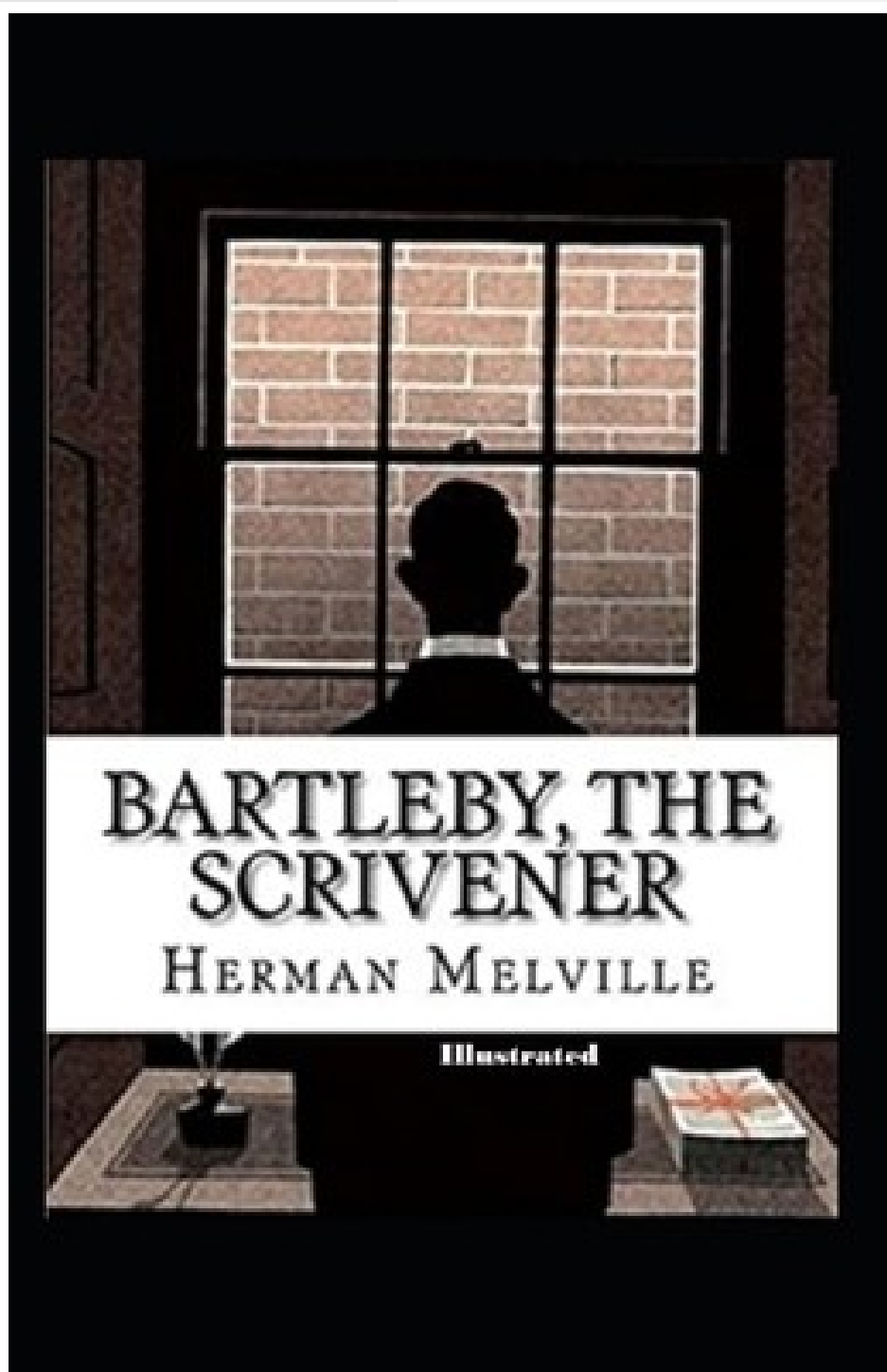


你的客服 Eric

@Lynn 我今天还在想：我想每节课都指定一个课代表（还为它起了个可爱的名字 Designated Scrivener 😊），然后这个人就负责整理当天的学习笔记。大家轮流做，也是一个练习「主动」的机会。

Lynn

我觉得是个很不错的想法，有时间一定主动报名参加 🤔🤔 不过经过昨天的初体验，我发现想以图文形式生动呈现你想分享的内容，实在是不简单，需要耗费的功夫比我想象的多得多 🤔🤔🤔



Daily Scrivener TEMPLATE

3 words

2 sentences

1 takeaway

Hong Kong/Beijing (CNN) — Jack Ma, the billionaire founder of Alibaba (BABA) and once one of China's most prominent entrepreneurs, has made a rare public appearance in the country.

Ma visited the city of Hangzhou and was seen meeting with students and teachers at the Alibaba-funded Yungu School.

“Jack Ma came to Yungu School and discussed the future of education with the campus directors,” the school said on its WeChat account Monday, adding that the purpose of Ma’s visit was to discuss “the challenges and opportunities” that “new technological change brings to education.”



RELATED ARTICLE

Alibaba is launching a ChatGPT rival too

Ma, who has a fortune of nearly \$33 billion, has kept a very low profile since the Chinese government began a fierce crackdown on the tech sector more than two years ago.

One of the most dramatic opening salvos of the offensive came in November 2020, when Ant Group — a financial affiliate of Alibaba also founded by Ma — was forced to pull its \$37 billion IPO at the last minute. That intervention by regulators followed a speech from Ma in which he criticized China’s banks and financial regulators.

In recent years, Ma has reportedly spent time in Japan, home to his friend and Alibaba investor, SoftBank CEO Masa Son, and in Hong Kong.

Daily Scrivener TEMPLATE

3 words

1. ~~Opening salvos~~是个生词，在这里理解为「头一次攻击」即可，可以和bombard联系记忆，perpetrator，肇事者，相当于offender，
committer。
2. hold onto非常简单的动词短语，文中多次出现，在一些语境中相当于bear/carry/nurse/harbour/entertain (grudge) 。
3. Rule of thumb，Eric说的这个3-2-1法则就是个rule of thumb呀！

2 sentences

~~Opting for phrases like “I regret” often results in non-apologies, which...~~

The inclination to do so is normal, because we want to contextualize our behavior.

1 takeaway

variation

&

iteration

Daily Scrivener TEMPLATE

1 words

1 sentences

1 takeaway

DS笔记原则

有你的主动选择
有你的独家记忆
有你的随心所欲

过程是学习，
结果是分享。

Mindset:

Learn and share.

Flow and grow.

Action:

Enjoy the journey,

Share your journal.



Help me with the font choice, Calibri or Times New Roman? The welcoming message for an important clientele goes "Warm Welcome to Mr..." (about 10 words), which will be displayed on a jumbotron.



When choosing a font for a message that will be displayed on a jumbotron for an important client, it is important to consider both readability and appropriateness for the occasion.

In this case, Times New Roman might be a better choice than Calibri. Times New Roman is a classic and traditional font that can convey a sense of professionalism and formality. It is also a highly legible font, making it easy to read even at a distance on a jumbotron.

On the other hand, Calibri is a more modern and casual font that may not be as appropriate for the occasion, especially



Regenerate response



Help me with the font choice, calibri or Times New Roman? The welcoming message for a visiting client goes "Warm Weclloem to...", which will be displayed on a giant screen.



When it comes to choosing a font, there are several factors to consider such as readability, legibility, appropriateness, and personal preference.



In this case, if you want to convey a warm and welcoming message to your client, Calibri may be a better choice as it has a modern and friendly feel. On the other hand, Times New Roman is a more traditional and formal font, which may not convey the same sense of warmth and hospitality.

Additionally, since the message will be displayed on a giant screen, you may want to consider using a font with good legibility, meaning it



Regenerate response

stance. Calibri is

3. (表示特定感情的)语气,口气;(在听者耳中激起的)特有声音效果;特质

- a ring of sincerity

真诚的语气

- There is a decisive ring in her liquid voice.

她嗓音宛转悦耳,语气却决断有力。

- The argument had a plausible ring.

这论据听上去似乎有理。

- The dialogue of the story has a realistic ring.

小说的对话读上去相当真实。

- The word “analysis” has a good Scotland Yard ring about it.

“分析”一词带着伦敦警察厅用语的特征。



POGNAE
เบบี๋ดีอันดับ 1 ในไทย

เปิดรับเด็กอายุ 1 ปีขึ้นไป
มีผู้เชี่ยวชาญคอยดูแล
และให้คำแนะนำ

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HMCK Baby

TECH · Published March 29, 2023 6:44am EDT

Elon Musk, Apple co-founder, other tech experts call for pause on 'giant AI experiments': 'Dangerous race'

Musk, Wozniak, other tech innovators sign open letter urging temporary pause in the development of AI systems more powerful than OpenAI's GPT-4, citing risks to society and civilization

[Elon Musk](#), Steve Wozniak, and a host of other tech leaders and artificial intelligence experts are urging AI labs to pause development of powerful new AI systems in an open letter citing potential risks to society.

The letter asks AI developers to "immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4." It was issued by the Future of Life Institute and signed by more than 1,000 people, including Musk, who argued that safety protocols need to be developed by independent overseers to guide the future of AI systems. GPT-4 is the latest [deep learning model from OpenAI](#), which "exhibits human-level performance on various professional and academic benchmarks," according to the lab.

"Powerful AI systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive and their risks will be manageable," the letter said.

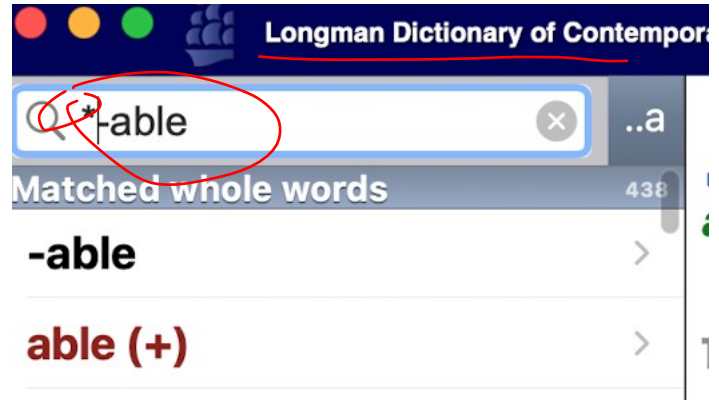
The letter warns that at this stage, no one "can understand, predict, or reliably control" the powerful new tools developed in AI labs. The undersigned tech experts cite the risks of propaganda and lies spread through AI-generated articles that look real, and even the possibility that AI programs can outperform workers and make jobs obsolete.

-able

Unthinkable

~~Finighable~~

Doable



Bankable

Commendable/laudable

Debatable

Delectable

Desirable

Drinkable/eatable

edible

able-bodied

adjective



1 physically strong and healthy, especially when compared with someone who is DISABLED:

▶ *Every able-bodied man had to fight for his country.*

2 **the able-bodied** [plural]

people who are able-bodied

Expendable

Impregnable

Inevitable

Likable/lovable

Malleable

...a

lis·ten·a·ble

/ˈlɪsənəbəl/

> **adjective** (informal)  

> pleasant to listen to → **watchable**

read·a·ble

/ˈriːdəbəl/

adjective



1 interesting and enjoyable to read, and easy to understand

OPP unreadable

very/highly/eminently readable



The book is informative and highly readable.

2 writing or print that is readable is clear and easy to read

SYN

legible

1 [VERB 动词] 比...活得长;比...持久; If one person **outlives** another, they are still alive after the second person has died. If one thing **outlives** another thing, the first thing continues to exist after the second has disappeared or been **replaced**. [V n]

I'm sure Rose will outlive many of us...

我肯定罗丝会比我们中的很多人长命。

The UN is an organisation which has long since outlived its usefulness...

联合国是一个早已形同虚设的机构。

By the early 1980s, the power station had outlived its purpose.

这座电站到20世纪80年代初就已经失去作用了。



"AI labs and independent experts should use this pause to jointly develop and implement a set of shared safety protocols for advanced AI design and development that are rigorously audited and overseen by independent outside experts," the letter states.

"In parallel, AI developers must work with policymakers to dramatically accelerate development of robust AI governance systems."

The signatories, which include Stability AI CEO Emad Mostaque, researchers at [Alphabet-owned DeepMind](#), as well as [AI heavyweights](#) Yoshua Bengio and Stuart Russell, emphasize that AI development in general should be not paused, writing that their letter is calling for "merely a stepping back from the dangerous race to ever-larger unpredictable black-box models with emergent capabilities."

According to the European Union's [transparency register](#), the Future of Life Institute is primarily funded by the Musk Foundation, as well as London-based effective altruism group Founders Pledge, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Musk, whose [electric car company Tesla](#) uses AI for its autopilot system, has previously raised concerns about the rapid development of AI.

Since its release last year, Microsoft-backed OpenAI's ChatGPT has prompted rivals to accelerate developing similar large language models, and companies to integrate generative AI models into their products.

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Notably absent from the letter's signatories was Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI.

Reuters contributed to this report.

[← All Open Letters](#)

Pause Giant AI Experiments: An Open Letter

We call on all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4.

AI systems with human-competitive intelligence can ~~pose~~ profound risks to society and humanity, as shown by extensive research^[1] and acknowledged by top AI labs.^[2] As stated in the widely-endorsed [Asilomar AI Principles](#), *Advanced AI could represent a profound change in the history of life on Earth, and should be planned for and managed with commensurate care and resources.* Unfortunately, this level of planning and management is not happening, even though recent months have seen AI labs locked in an out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one – not even their creators – can understand, predict, or reliably control.]

Witness

Contemporary AI systems are now becoming human-competitive at general tasks,^[3] and we must ask ourselves: *Should* we let machines flood our information channels with propaganda and untruth? *Should* we automate away all the jobs, including the fulfilling ones? *Should* we develop nonhuman minds that might eventually outnumber, outsmart, obsolete and replace us? *Should* we risk loss of control of our civilization? Such decisions must not be delegated to unelected tech leaders. **Powerful AI systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive and their risks will be manageable.** This confidence must be well justified and increase with the magnitude of a system's potential effects. OpenAI's **recent statement regarding artificial general intelligence**, states that *"At some point, it may be important to get independent review before starting to train future systems, and for the most advanced efforts to agree to limit the rate of growth of compute used for creating new models."* We agree. That point is now.

Therefore, we call on all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4. This pause should be public and verifiable, and include all key actors. If such a pause cannot be enacted quickly, governments should step in and institute a moratorium.

weigh
with



"automate away"

×



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PathWave Instrument RPA: Automate Away Repetition Demo



PathWave Instrument RPA: **Automate Away** Repetition Demo. Watch later. Share. Copy link. Info. Shopping. Tap to unmute.

YouTube · Keysight Hands-On · May 30, 2565 BE

AI labs and independent experts should use this pause to jointly develop and implement a set of shared safety protocols for advanced AI design and development that are rigorously audited and overseen by independent outside experts. These protocols should ensure that systems adhering to them are safe beyond a reasonable doubt.^[4] This does *not* mean a pause on AI development in general, merely a stepping back from the dangerous race to ever-larger unpredictable black-box models with emergent capabilities.

AI research and development should be refocused on making today's powerful, state-of-the-art systems more accurate, safe, interpretable, transparent, robust, aligned, trustworthy, and loyal.

In parallel, AI developers must work with policymakers to dramatically accelerate development of robust AI governance systems. These should at a minimum include: new and capable regulatory authorities dedicated to AI; oversight and tracking of highly capable AI systems and large pools of computational capability; provenance and watermarking systems to help distinguish real from synthetic and to track model leaks; a robust auditing and certification ecosystem; liability for AI-caused harm; robust public funding for technical AI safety research; and well-resourced institutions for coping with the dramatic economic and political disruptions (especially to democracy) that AI will cause.

Humanity can enjoy a flourishing future with AI. Having succeeded in creating powerful AI systems, we can now enjoy an "AI summer" in which we reap the rewards, engineer these systems for the clear benefit of all, and give society a chance to adapt. Society has hit pause on other technologies with potentially catastrophic effects on society.^[5] We can do so here. Let's enjoy a long AI summer, not rush unprepared into a fall.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / TECH

Elon Musk and top AI researchers call for pause on 'giant AI experiments'



/ An open letter says the current race dynamic in AI is dangerous, and calls for the creation of independent regulators to ensure future systems are safe to deploy.

A number of well-known AI researchers — and Elon Musk — have signed an open letter calling on AI labs around the world to pause development of large-scale AI systems, citing fears over the “profound risks to society and humanity” they claim this software poses.

The letter, published by the nonprofit Future of Life Institute, notes that AI labs are currently locked in an “out-of-control race” to develop and deploy machine learning systems “that no one — not even their creators — can understand, predict, or reliably control.”



“We call on all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4.”

“Therefore, we call on all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4,” says the letter. “This pause should be public and verifiable, and include all key actors. If such a pause cannot be enacted quickly, governments should step in and institute a moratorium.”

Signatories include author Yuval Noah Harari, Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Skype co-founder Jaan Tallinn, politician Andrew Yang, and a number of well-known AI researchers and CEOs, including Stuart Russell, Yoshua Bengio, Gary Marcus, and Emad Mostaque. The full list of signatories can be seen here, though new names should be treated with caution as there are reports of names being added to the list as a joke (e.g. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, an individual who is partly responsible for the current race dynamic in AI).

The letter is unlikely to have any effect on the current climate in AI research, which has seen tech companies like Google and Microsoft rush to deploy new products, often sidelining previously-avowed concerns over safety and ethics. But it is a sign of the growing opposition to this “ship it now and fix it later” approach; an opposition that could potentially make its way into the political domain for consideration by actual legislators.

As noted in the letter, even OpenAI itself has expressed the potential need for “independent review” of future AI systems to ensure they meet safety standards. The signatories say that this time has now come.

“AI labs and independent experts should use this pause to jointly develop and implement a set of shared safety protocols for advanced AI design and development that are rigorously audited and overseen by independent outside experts,” they write. “These protocols should ensure that systems adhering to them are safe beyond a reasonable doubt.”

Talk March 27, 2023

Can the U.S. See the Truth About China?

By David Marchese Photo illustration by Bráulio Amado



Just like relationships between people, relationships between countries can all too easily be built on a foundation of unintentional misunderstandings, faulty assumptions and predigested truths. In her forthcoming, at times provocative and disquieting book, “The New China Playbook,” Keyu Jin, a professor at the London School of Economics and a board member at Credit Suisse, is trying to rework the foundation of what she sees as the West’s deeply flawed understanding of China’s economy, its economic ambitions and its attitude toward global competition. And through that work, Jin wants to help improve the frosty relationship between the country and its presumed geo-political opponents. “We’re in an incredibly dangerous world right now,” says Jin, who was born in Beijing and earned her Ph.D. in economics from Harvard and whose father, Jin Liqun, served as a vice minister of finance for China. “Without more effort made to understand each other’s perspectives, peaceful coexistence may not be possible.” (Jin joined the Credit Suisse board in 2022, not long after the bank was shaken by a series of scandals and losses. After this interview was conducted, the bank was sold to UBS, another Swiss bank. Through a spokes-person, Jin declined to comment on Credit Suisse’s situation.)

What do U.S. policymakers just not get about China's economy and the Communist Party leadership's thinking about competition with America? China's current economic challenge is to overcome its middle-income trap,¹ something that the United States might not relate to. It's not all about displacing the United States as global hegemon, which would come with a huge amount of burdens and responsibilities. And I don't think China is ready or willing to do that. To see China solely as trying to displace the United States is only going to stoke more fears. The United States can come up with better policies regarding real national-security concerns, but the government is doing things that to us are so un-American, like reducing the number of visas issued² or curbing investment in China and Chinese investment in America.³ That doesn't seem to be the spirit of collaboration. But understanding where China is coming from would be a step forward.

¹ The term for when wages rise in a country but then stall as a result of higher costs and declining competitiveness.

² Under both Presidents Trump and Biden, the United States has reduced the number of student visas issued to Chinese nationals. Additionally, restrictions on the sale of semiconductor technology to China enacted by the Biden administration.

Do you see large-scale Chinese industrial espionage as inhibiting that understanding? There are thorny issues between the two countries, and the more they trade, the more issues there are. But we want to see China as dynamic. It has changed a great deal. China liked to take the shortcuts in the beginning. It wanted to become an innovator, and it wanted to become great. But there was not a complete legal framework or rules and laws in place. China changed so it could join the World Trade Organization. Interestingly enough, these so-called technology transfers, or the misappropriation you mentioned — lots of industry studies show that they don't work as effectively as they were supposed to. Instead, for example, in the electric-vehicle sector,⁴ where everybody started from the same place, China was able to leapfrog. Lots of companies say that even at the risk of technological misappropriation, China is too lucrative a market to pass over. They would rather take the risk.

⁴ China's electric-vehicle market and infrastructure is far and away the world's largest.

But what's pushing China toward more closely aligning with Russia if not political affinity? To be very frank, it's hard to say, "Let's hold hands with Europe and the United States," after the increasing tension, the export controls, the view that somehow the United States wants to limit China's development and advancement in technology innovation. People believe that there was demonization of China early in the pandemic; there was aggressive rhetoric during Donald Trump's presidency. It's more difficult after that happens to say, "OK, let's work on things like Russia and Ukraine." Russia — and I'm not an expert on these issues — presents some security concerns for China. The Chinese people believe that a substantially weakened Russia might not be in the interest of China, because if there were the sense that the United States needed to seek out an opponent, China would be next. Not an easy answer there.

But to be honest, one of the things that I found most interesting — or perplexing — about your book was what felt like an elision of moral questions about how China operates. For example, you say there's room for a vibrant debate on Chinese social media. But China is consistently ranked near the bottom when it comes to media freedom. Or you write that the Chinese people are generally willing to trade security for freedom. Were the ██████⁵ willing to make that trade? The book also doesn't mention the human rights questions raised by the *hukou* system and the way it treats rural residents.⁶ I'm trying to understand your perspective on these issues, because to me they seem connected to economics. I

more thorough research, which I haven't done. For sure, there's much more control over media than in the past. I was pointing out in the book, though, that social media is used for two-way monitoring.⁷ There was a lot of criticism about government; there

were protests last year over land seizures. These were not hidden. But the Chinese government does exhibit a great deal of paternalism. Officials think that a public narrative that is uncontrolled can lead to instability or more divisiveness. I'm not saying that the people prefer it that way, but when they're asked about a trade-off between security and freedom, surveys show a vast difference from, say, the average U.S. citizen.⁸ Then you touched upon the huge issues of the migrant workers, the minorities in China. There are hundreds of millions people who could be in a better position, but things are changing. These are enduring challenges. On the one hand, yes, there's more control, less liberty. On the other hand, there is an improving situation for people with more dire situations.

⁷ I.e., a way for citizens to monitor their government and vice versa.

⁸ According to a 2020 World Values Survey, 93 percent of Chinese participants value security over freedom. Only 28 percent of Americans responded similarly.

Do you feel inhibited in your ability to be critical of China? I'm an economist at the end of the day, and the way I'm trained, we like to say, "OK, where is the evidence?" That's how I like to focus my analysis. Where there are policy mistakes, I'd be more than happy to share my views. There are more courageous people and more experts who can do that. What I'm trying to accomplish is using a different lens to focus on economic issues.

You mentioned the trade-offs that people are willing to make within different political systems, which you also write about in the book: "Despite the limits China imposes on free-market forces, the absence of a free press, independent judicial system and the individual right to vote, we see there are other mechanisms in place to respond to the needs of its citizens and to address the threats posed by inequality." That "despite" is doing a lot of work. It reminds me of that line, "Other than that, how was the play, Mrs. Lincoln?" I was trying to say that those are all things that we

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But Really, How Was the Play, Mrs. Lincoln?

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Other than that, how was the play, Mrs. Lincoln?

A sarcastic phrase meant to downplay the complaint or misfortune of another person, similar to playing the world's tiniest violin with one's fingers.

Lincoln?" I was trying to say that those are all things that we believe to be essential for sustained economic growth. I was saying that despite all that, China still performed well. I wasn't necessarily suggesting that the things you mentioned weren't important. I was more framing it as the puzzle of China's economic growth. I was trying to say that those are all things that we believe to be essential for sustained economic growth. I was saying that despite all that, China still performed well. But I will say that the model that worked for China when it was building factories is not going to be the system that would work for innovation, where you need people to be able to get rich, where you need solid intellectual-property protection, where you have to have clear and transparent policies and rule of law. That worked in the last era. Doesn't necessarily work in the new era.

Let's turn the lens of your book around: What are the biggest blind spots the Chinese leadership has when it comes to understanding American policies toward the country? I think the Chinese leaders have this notion that the United States is doing everything it can to try to stop China from growing. Or they believe that whatever China does is not going to elicit more trust. So I think this blind spot is that the leadership is convinced that there's no way out of this. I'm not sure that is the case. And then also, the United States thinks that China wants to displace it.

The next question is more of an epistemological one. The animating idea of your book is that people see the same situation from different perspectives. So when you hear my skepticism about things like Chinese labor policy or media freedom being treated benignly, do you hear it as my being stuck in a particular ideological paradigm? Or maybe that my thinking is itself an example of the misunderstandings that the book is trying to address? I totally understand, because the first time I came to the United States¹² in 1997, my classmates were asking me about human rights in Tibet. In China, meanwhile, we were busy building and developing and reforming. The focal points have been different. That's not to say that the economic means justify the unfortunate circumstances. But China is a country that has done the most economically for the most number of people in the shortest amount of time. If you look at the new generation, they are open-minded on a whole range of issues, so much more than their parents. They care about animal rights, worker rights, social inequity. That shift gives us hope that China will progress.