

## Pretty Old “世界小姐”选美大赛60年

英语学习点: *Feminist and Feminine* 女权主义者和女性化

For some it is a celebration of femininity and beauty.

But feminist campaigners say that it is nothing other than the degradation of women, who are paraded like animals in a cattle market.

The Miss World beauty pageant is now 60 but remains controversial, as last weekend's show in London proved.



The Miss World contest in 1979

Inside the venue, about 110 contestants showed off their figures and boasted about their talents. Outside, dozens of feminist campaigners held placards with messages such as "Sexism is pretty ugly" and shouted slogans against chauvinism and what they call the objectification of women.

Feminists and beauty pageant organisers are old enemies. The show was created in the 1950s to promote the Festival of Britain. By the 70s, Women's Lib demonstrators tried to disrupt the proceedings, alleging that the whole thing was an offence against women's equality.

But some contestants argue that it can actually empower women. Laura Coleman, Miss England 2008, said it "gives girls confidence and opportunities they may not otherwise have."

For some, these opportunities are in Hollywood. About 12 beauty queens landed roles in James Bond movies and the Oscar-winning star Halle Berry finished sixth in 1986. Organisers are keen to point out that the contestants are not airheads but often have degrees and speak several languages.

This year's winner is 21-year-old Venezuelan Ivian Sarcos, who in her childhood thought about becoming a nun. Despite the protests the show is likely to continue, with plans to hold next year's Miss World in China.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

## Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What do feminists compare beauty pageants to?
2. How old is the Miss World beauty pageant?
3. How can the contest be positive for women, according to an ex-participant?
4. What expression in the article is an impolite phrase for a stupid person?
5. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The winner of this years' contest was a nun.*

## Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. If you study for your exams you will be able to give the answers with \_\_\_\_\_.

coincidence	flamboyance	confidence	coherence
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2. Astrology is very popular \_\_\_\_\_ the criticism of astronomers, who see no scientific merit in it.

despite of	despite	however	in spite
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3. The judge said that drugs lead to a life of misery and \_\_\_\_\_ as he sent the drug dealer to prison.

degradation	vacation	adoration	concentration
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4. Mary was the prettiest girl in her school. People always said that she would be a beauty \_\_\_\_\_ when she grew up.

princess	empress	prime minister	queen
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5. My neighbour always has a camera in his hands. He likes to show \_\_\_\_\_ his skills as a photographer.

onto	off	over	on
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## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. What do feminists compare beauty pageants to? A cattle market.
2. How old is the Miss World beauty pageant? Sixty.
3. How can the contest be positive for women, according to an ex-participant? It can give contestants confidence and opportunities, according to Miss England 2008 Laura Coleman.
4. What expression in the article is an impolite phrase for a stupid person? An airhead.
5. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The winner of this years' contest was a nun.*  
False. Ivian Sarcos, from Venezuela, thought about being a nun in her childhood but did not follow this career.

### Exercise 练习

1. If you study for your exams you will be able to give the answers with confidence.
2. Astrology is very popular despite the criticism of astronomers, who see no scientific merit in it.
3. The judge said that drugs lead to a life of misery and degradation as he sent the drug dealer to prison.
4. Mary was the prettiest girl in her school. People always said that she would be a beauty queen when she grew up.
5. My neighbour always has a camera in his hands. He likes to show off his skills as a photographer.

### Glossary 词汇表

femininity 女性化, 女人气质	feminist campaigner 女权运动人士
degradation 降低, 贬低	to be paraded 列队展示
cattle market 牲畜市场	beauty pageant 选美活动
to show off (something) 炫耀	figure 体形
to boast about (something) 自吹自擂	placard 标语牌
sexism 性别歧视	slogan 口号
chauvinism 大男子主义	objectification of women 把妇女当物品展示
Women's Lib 妇女解放	to disrupt something 干扰某事
women's equality 妇女平等	empower 让人有能力去做什么
beauty queen 选美大赛皇后	airhead 傻瓜, 没头脑的人