

## Dishonouring Fred 爵士丢了乌纱帽

英语学习点: *Vocabulary: Public Humiliation* 有关羞辱的词汇

The man formally known as Sir Fred Goodwin is going to have to get used to being called plain old Mr Goodwin. He has now lost his **knighthood**.

The former head of Royal Bank of Scotland became the subject of a **public outcry** after RBS had to be bailed out by the British taxpayer, whose bill came to £45 billion (450 billion yuan).



*British taxpayers had to hand over £45 billion to RBS.*

Unsurprisingly, Sir Fred left the **company under a cloud**. But it was after this that the Scot was really **pilloried** - for drawing payments worth about £700,000 (seven million yuan) a year from a massive pension pot worth £16 million (160 million yuan).

After coming under fire for the package, Sir Fred eventually reduced his pension by £200,000 (two million yuan). But that wasn't enough to **appease** his critics, who have never forgiven Sir Fred for his role in causing the financial crisis. They continued **baying for blood** and began to **clamour** for the removal of a knighthood he had received in 2004 for services to banking.

Yesterday the Queen stripped the honour from the **discredited** banker. But now some people have **hit out** at the government for **vilifying** Goodwin. They believe that he has been made a **scapegoat** and is **taking the fall** for a much wider global financial crisis. The former Chancellor Alistair Darling said:

"I'm not here to defend Sir Fred... I just think we're getting into awful trouble here if we **go after** people on a whim."

At least Goodwin has a nickname he can revert to if he finds himself missing his title. In his days as a cost-cutting superboss he was proud of being known as 'Fred the Shred'.

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. Is Fred Goodwin a popular man in the UK?
2. What was Fred Goodwin called when he had a knighthood?
3. Was it cloudy when Goodwin left RBS?
4. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Fred Goodwin chose to reduce his pension.*
5. Look at the article. What noun describes a person or group that is blamed for something they are not entirely responsible for?

## 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. Following the scandal there was a massive public \_\_\_\_\_.

|        |        |         |         |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| outcry | outlie | outsigh | out-try |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|

2. The government recently \_\_\_\_\_ about its proposals to change the health service.

|                |                 |           |                |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|
| became on fire | came under fire | got fired | put out a fire |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------|

3. "It's not my fault! You're just making me a \_\_\_\_\_!"

|           |          |             |          |
|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|
| scapegoat | scapecat | scapedonkey | scapepig |
|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|

4. After the firm's dismal performance, the shareholders were \_\_\_\_\_.

|                  |                    |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| paying for blood | saying their blood | baying for blood | laying blood |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|

5. "It's time you stopped apologising and \_\_\_\_\_ your critics!"

|         |        |            |            |
|---------|--------|------------|------------|
| hit out | hit at | hit at out | hit out at |
|---------|--------|------------|------------|

## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. Is Fred Goodwin a popular man in the UK? No.
2. What was Fred Goodwin called when he had a knighthood? Sir Fred Goodwin.
3. Was it cloudy when Goodwin left RBS? Possibly, but that isn't relevant. If someone leaves a company under a cloud it means that they leave in disgrace.
4. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Fred Goodwin chose to reduce his pension.* True.
5. Look at the article. What noun describes a person or group that is blamed for something they are not entirely responsible for? A scapegoat.

### Exercise 练习

1. Following the scandal there was a massive public outcry.
2. The government recently came under fire about its proposals to change the health service.
3. "It's not my fault! You're just making me a scapegoat!"
4. After the firm's dismal performance, the shareholders were baying for blood.
5. "It's time you stopped apologising and hit out at your critics!"

### Glossary 词汇表

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| a knighthood 爵位                        | a public outcry 公众呼吁          |
| to leave under a cloud 因坏名声而灰溜溜地离开     | to be pilloried 当众受辱/受嘲弄      |
| to come under fire 受到批评                | to appease someone 安抚某人       |
| to bay for blood 群起而攻之                 | to clamour for something 大声要求 |
| to be discredited 使丢脸                  | to hit out at something 猛打/痛打 |
| to vilify someone 诽谤/中伤某人              | a scapegoat 替罪羊               |
| to take the fall for something 众人错一人承担 | to go after someone 追逐并制裁某人   |