

Crystal Ball 新年预测

英语学习点: *Vocabulary to Talk About the Future* 和未来有关的词语

New Year is a time to peer into a crystal ball and tease out some of the stories that are likely to make the headlines in 2012.

Technology: The BBC's correspondent Rory Cellan-Jones says that one thing we can be sure of is that internet access will spread to the next billion users. And the most read stories are bound to be about the launch of the iPhone5 and the iPad3.



What can you see in the future?

Science: The BBC News science team says that by the look of things the so-called 'God Particle' can't hide for much longer. The Large Hadron Collider re-starts in March and if experiments go well scientists could collect enough data to settle the question of whether it exists once and for all.

Business: The BBC's Economics expert Paul Mason explains that the Eurozone is still on tenterhooks. "Logic dictates it can only end one way, with the markets forcing the European Central Bank to act as lender of last resort." Many economists forecast recession in Europe.

Arts and Sports: The BBC's Arts correspondent Will Gompertz is looking forward to the London Olympics. He predicts that Oscar-winning director Danny Boyle (of Slumdog Millionaire fame) will run a great opening ceremony.

Whether all the above turns out to be true, we'll just have to wait and see... if we're still around to find out. 2012 is a good year for doom-mongers because the Mayan calendar will end on 21 December after 5,000 continuous years. However, new research into the Mayans suggests that this refers to the end of an era, and not the apocalypse. Phew! Happy New Year!

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 stories are likely to interest people most in the field of technology?
2. What matter could be settled with the help of the Large Hadron Collider?
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Some countries are likely to be excluded from the Eurozone.*
4. Look at the article. What expressions refer to the sense of vision?
5. Look at the article. What word refers to the end of the world?

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. Mary was _____ until she had the results university exams.

on handbooks	on tenterhooks	with tender looks	on the look out
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2. The sky is very grey and cloudy. By the _____ of things it will rain heavily.

view	sound	taste	look
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3. Radio telescopes in New Mexico have been used for more than three decades to tease _____ details of far-flung galaxies.

out	into	on	about
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4. Shops have been very busy during the winter sales and it may improve the _____ for the economy in the coming year.

podcast	casting couch	forecast	cascade
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5. So I think Manchester United is the best team in the world and you say it's Arsenal. We should meet and _____ the matter once and for all.

predict	forecast	dictate	settle
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What stories are likely to interest people most in the field of technology? Stories about the launch of the iPhone5 and the iPad3.
2. What matter could be settled with the help of the Large Hadron Collider? The existence of the so-called 'God Particle' (or the Higgs Boson).
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Some countries are likely to be excluded from the Eurozone.* It's not given.
4. Look at the article. What expressions refer the sense of vision? To peer into a crystal ball, by the look of things, to look forward to, and to wait and see.
5. Look at the article. What word refers to the end of the world? The apocalypse.

Exercise 练习

1. Mary was on tenterhooks until she had the results university exams.
2. The sky is very grey and cloudy. By the look of things it will rain heavily.
3. Radio telescopes in New Mexico have been used for more than three decades to tease out details of far-flung galaxies.
4. Shops have been very busy during the winter sales and it may improve the forecast for the economy in the coming year.
5. So I think Manchester United is the best team in the world and you say it's Arsenal. We should meet and settle the matter once and for all.

Glossary 词汇表

to peer into a crystal ball 窥探水晶球（预测未来）	to tease out 提取，摘选
one thing (we) can be sure of 有一件事可以确定	to be bound to be 肯定是...
by the look of things 从走势来看	once and for all 最后和彻底完成
on tenterhooks 惶恐不安	it can only end one way 只能以一种方式结束
forecast 预报	to look forward to 向往...
to predict 预测	to turn out 发生
to wait and see 拭目以待	doom-monger 末世论者
the end of an era 一个时代的结束	apocalypse 世界末日