

## When life loses its smell 当生命失去它的气味

*Vocabulary: human senses 词汇: 人的感觉*

A trained sniffer dog can find hidden drugs or earthquake survivors and even **detect** cancer. We might not have as good a **sense of smell** as dogs, but we still **follow our noses**. **Wake up and smell the coffee! Something smells fishy. She has a nose for a bargain.** The English language is full of **idioms** to do with smell, and many of them show how important smell is to our sense of judgement.



And that's not surprising, because a sense of smell is very useful in **telling** when food is **off**, or clothes need washing, for example. But millions of people can't smell anything at all: to use a medical term, they are 'anosmic.' In the UK alone, around 3 million people are anosmic, but the country's first clinic to help them has only recently been set up.

So how do people lose their sense of smell? Some people are born that way, they are congenitally anosmic. Others lose their sense of smell because of a **head injury**, or illness. Those with congenital anosmia might not know what they're missing, but people who lose their sense of smell often become **depressed**.

It's not only **scents** which are missing for people with anosmia. Food and drink lose their appeal too, because smell accounts for around 80% of our sense of flavour. They can't taste herbs, spices or garlic and fruit and wine simply taste sour.

Anosmia can also be dangerous. People with anosmia can get **food poisoning**, because they can't smell when food is bad. They can't smell smoke from a house fire, or **leaking gas**. Sarah Page is a **patient** at the new taste and smell clinic. She once turned the gas cooker on by mistake. Unable to smell it, Sarah was unaware that the house was filling with gas, which could have exploded at any time. It was some time before her mother came home and realised the problem.

Sarah is going to have an **operation** to **treat her condition** in the next few months. If it's successful, she says that what she wants most isn't to avoid danger. She would like to share the **olfactory** world of other people, including the bad smells. Sarah says, "People go 'Oh, that **stinks**' - I want to be able to understand why that's a bad smell and join in with that conversation."

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. How many people are anosmic in the UK?
2. Which phrase is used to mean 'born without a sense of smell'?
3. Why don't anosmic people enjoy wine?
4. Why do anosmic people get food poisoning?
5. What kind of treatment is Sarah Page going to have at the clinic?

## 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. Sniffer dogs have an excellent \_\_\_\_\_ of smell.

|      |       |       |         |
|------|-------|-------|---------|
| type | skill | sense | ability |
|------|-------|-------|---------|

2. He saves a lot money, he has a \_\_\_\_\_ for a bargain.

|      |       |       |         |
|------|-------|-------|---------|
| nose | sense | skill | ability |
|------|-------|-------|---------|

3. Most of us can \_\_\_\_\_ if food is off, by smelling it.

|     |      |      |      |
|-----|------|------|------|
| See | tell | know | feel |
|-----|------|------|------|

4. Lavender and fresh coffee are my favourite \_\_\_\_\_.

|        |        |        |       |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| scents | stinks | senses | tells |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|

5. That cheese smells worse than bad, it \_\_\_\_\_!

|        |        |        |          |
|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| scents | stinks | smells | perfumes |
|--------|--------|--------|----------|

## **Answers and Glossary** 答案与词汇

### **Quiz** 小测验

1. How many people are anosmic in the UK? (Around 3 million)
2. Which phrase is used to mean 'born without a sense of smell'? (Congenitally anosmic)
3. Why don't anosmic people enjoy wine? (It tastes sour/because 80% of flavour is smell)
4. Why do anosmic people get food poisoning? (They can't smell when food is off/bad)
5. What kind of treatment is Sarah Page going to have at the clinic? (An operation)

### **Exercise** 练习

1. Sniffer dogs have an excellent sense of smell.
2. He saves a lot money, he has a nose for a bargain.
3. Most of us can tell if food is off, by smelling it.
4. Lavender and fresh coffee are my favourite scents.
5. That cheese smells worse than bad, it stinks!

## Glossary 词汇表

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>detect</b>                        | 发现, 检测             |
| <b>sense of smell</b>                | 嗅觉                 |
| <b>follow our noses</b>              | 跟着鼻子走              |
| <b>wake up and smell the coffee!</b> | (比喻) 认清事实          |
| <b>something smells fishy</b>        | (比喻) 什么事情有猫腻       |
| <b>she has a nose for a bargain</b>  | (比喻) 某人特别会找价廉物美的东西 |
| <b>idioms</b>                        | 成语                 |
| <b>telling</b>                       | 判断                 |
| <b>off</b>                           | (食品) 坏了, 馊了        |
| <b>head injury</b>                   | 头部创伤               |
| <b>depressed</b>                     | 沮丧, 失落             |
| <b>scents</b>                        | 气味                 |
| <b>food poisoning</b>                | 食物中毒               |
| <b>leaking gas</b>                   | 煤气泄漏               |
| <b>patient</b>                       | 病人                 |
| <b>operation</b>                     | 手术                 |
| <b>treat her condition</b>           | 治疗她的病症             |
| <b>olfactory</b>                     | 嗅觉                 |
| <b>go</b>                            | 说                  |
| <b>stinks</b>                        | 臭                  |