

Unit
9

The Master of Escape

The most famous magician in history is Harry Houdini. A skilled¹ escape² artist, Houdini could escape from impossible situations³, and equally important, he was skilled at publicizing⁴ these events⁴.

Houdini performed⁵ a number of different tricks⁶ throughout his career⁷. The Needle⁸ Trick was one of his earliest successes. Houdini would swallow⁹ dozens of needles and thread¹⁰. He would then bring them up with the needles threaded. In 1898, he started performing the Challenge Act, in which he would escape from any pair of handcuffs¹¹ the audience offered¹¹—even those brought by the police. Houdini moved on to other types of escape. He escaped from straitjackets¹² while hanging¹² upside down a few yards¹³ off the ground, and from padlocked¹⁴ crates¹⁴ thrown into rivers.

Houdini made the magic act more popular than ever, and since his time, many magicians have tried to equal¹⁴ his achievements¹⁵. None of them have even come close.

閱讀理解 請在下列選項中，選出最適合的答案。

- ❶ Which of the following is mentioned as a trick Houdini is famous for?
(A) Swallowing a pair of handcuffs
(B) Having needles stuck into his arm
(C) Being handcuffed and thrown into the ocean
(D) Escaping from straitjackets
- ❷ What can be understood from the article?
(A) Magicians today want to be like Houdini.
(B) Magicians today dislike Houdini.
(C) Magicians today are better than Houdini.
(D) Magicians think Houdini was a fake.



核心字彙

107 表示該字在學測出現過的年度 107 則為該年度考題的正確選項

TRACK 18

1 skilled [skrɪld]

106 adj. 技巧熟練的

Even **skilled** dancers have to practice for hours every day.

即使是技巧熟練的舞者也得每天練習數小時。

107 skill n. [C] 技能；能力

比較

skilled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 熟練的；擅長的 憑藉經驗累積；磨練所達到的狀況，如 skilled actor「熟練的演員」乃強調經驗豐富而熟悉演員這份工作。 <p>The company is looking for someone who is skilled with factory computers. 公司正在找專精於工廠電腦的人。</p>
skillful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 有技巧的；精湛的 強調具備或展現能力，如 skillful actor「演技高超的演員」乃強調演員專精於演戲，但不見得是靠經驗或訓練而來。 <p>Susan likes painting, but she isn't very skillful. 蘇珊喜歡畫畫，可是她的技巧不太純熟。</p>

2 escape [ə'skeɪp]

103 n. [C, U] 逃脫；逃離

The prisoner often thought about making an **escape**.

那位囚犯常想著要逃跑。

escape artist 逃脫術表演者

106 vt./vi. 脫逃；逃離

We don't know how the mouse **escaped** from the box.

我們不知道老鼠是如何從這個盒子逃跑的。

3 situation [ˌsɪtʃəˈweɪʃən]

107 n. [C] 情況；處境

Frankie hates being in loud and crowded **situations**.

法蘭基討厭身處在吵雜擁擠的環境中。

比較

situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (某特殊時期及地點的) 處境；局面；形勢；情況 <p>The situation became too difficult for us to handle. 情況變得太困難以致於我們無法處理。</p>
condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (某人事物所處的) 狀態；環境；條件 (健康) 狀況；病情 <p>I don't think the weather conditions are right for sailing today. 我不認為今天的天氣狀況適合航海。</p> <p>The man is suffering from a rare skin condition. 這個人罹患罕見的皮膚疾病。</p>
status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (某特殊情況；爭論或討論的進展) 狀態；情形 社會地位 <p>The boss wants to know the status of the building project. 老闆想知道那個建案的狀態。</p> <p>You should judge people by the things they do, not by their social status. 你應該以人們的所作所為來評斷他們，而不是其社會地位。</p>

4 event [ɪ'vent]

106 n. [C] 活動；重大事件；比賽項目

Toby got married. The happy **event** was on October 14.

托比結婚了。這個喜事是在十月十四日舉行的。

5 perform [pə'fɔ:m]

106 vt./vi. 表演

Sally **performed** a guitar solo onstage.

莎莉在台上表演吉他獨奏。

106 performance n. [C] 表演；演出 [U, C] 表現；性能

Chapter 3 People

6 trick [trɪk]

⁹²
⁹¹ *n.* [C] 把戲；招數

I taught my dog a new trick today.
今天我教我的狗一個新把戲。

❑ You can't teach an old dog new tricks. / An old dog cannot learn new tricks. 老狗難學新把戲。(比喻很難使因循守舊的人接受新事物)

⁹⁷ *vt.* 哄騙

Eric tricked Carrie into doing his homework.

艾瑞克騙凱莉幫他做功課。

¹⁰⁶ ❑ **tricky** *adj.* 棘手的；難處理的

7 career [kəˈrɪr]

¹⁰⁶
¹⁰⁴ *n.* [C] 職業生涯；事業

¹⁰¹ It can be very difficult to have a
⁹³ successful **career** as a painter.
⁹¹ 要擁有成功的畫家生涯可能非常困難。

比較

career	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 具有發展前景且希望能終身從事的職業 <p>The sports star's career was over after he got hurt. 這位運動明星的運動生涯在他受傷後宣告結束。</p>
job	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 受雇於他人；為賺取薪資而從事的工作 <p>Gus got a job at a video store. 葛斯找到在影音租售店的工作。</p>
profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 需接受專業教育或特殊訓練才能從事的工作，如醫生、律師、教師等 <p>Many people in the medical profession work in hospitals. 許多醫務人員在醫院工作。</p>

8 needle [nɪdɪ]

⁹⁸ *n.* [C] 針；指針

Tom sat on a needle and quickly stood up.

湯姆坐到一根針，馬上站了起來。

9 swallow [ˈswɒlə]

vt./vi. 吞下

Beth swallowed a fly by accident.
貝絲不小心吞下一隻蒼蠅。

❑ a bitter pill to swallow 不得不吞下的苦藥 (比喻被迫接受的殘酷事實或不愉快的事)

10 thread [θred]

n. [C, U] 線

If you want to repair the hole in your coat, you will need some black **thread**.
如果你想修補你外套上的洞，你將需要一些黑線。

vt./vi. 穿線於

You can make a necklace if you just **thread** this string through these holes.
你只要將線穿過這些洞，就可以做一條項鍊。

11 offer [ˈɒfə]

¹⁰⁷
¹⁰⁶ *vt.* 提供；給予

¹⁰⁵ Please **offer** our guests some tea or
¹⁰⁴ coffee.

¹⁰³ 請為我們的客人倒些茶或咖啡。
⁹⁹
⁹⁶

vt./vi. 提議、願意做某事

A lot of people **offered** to help me when I broke my leg.

當我摔斷腿時，很多人願意幫助我。

n. [C] 提供；提議

I accepted John's **offer** to join him for dinner.

我接受約翰的提議，要和他去吃晚餐。

❑ **job offer** 工作機會

❑ (job) offer letter (工作) 錄取通知信

12 hang [hæŋ]

vt./vi. 吊著；懸掛 (作此義時，過去式及過去分詞為 hung)

Donald **hung** two pictures on the wall.
唐諾在牆上掛了兩幅畫。

92 ❷ **hang out** 閒晃；打發時間 (+ with sb.)

I **hang out** with my friends every Friday night.

我每個星期五晚上都會和朋友出去打發時間。

13 **yard** [jɑːd]

n. [C] 碼

A soccer field is about one hundred **yards** long.

足球場大約為一百碼長。

97 n. [C] 院子；庭院

Lily's kids made a snowman in the **yard**.
莉莉的孩子們在院子裡堆了一個雪人。

14 **equal** [ˈiːkwəl]

94 vt. 比得上；匹敵

So far, no one has **equaled** the score I got playing the video game.

目前為止，沒有人比得上我打電玩得到的分數。

91 adj. 相等的

Workers fought because they didn't get **equal** pay.

工人們因為沒有得到相等的酬勞而抗爭。

106 ❷ **equally** adv. 同樣地；相等地

99
97

Though golf and boxing are different sports, Randall enjoys them both **equally**.

雖然高爾夫和拳擊是不同的運動，蘭德爾兩種都同樣享受。

101 ❷ **equality** n. [U] 平等；均等

15 **achievement** [əˈtʃiːvmənt]

106 n. [C] 成就；成果

98

95 Winning the Best Actor award was his greatest **achievement**.

獲頒最佳男演員是他最大的成就。

❷ a sense of achievement 成就感

95 ❷ **achieve** vt. 達成；實現

If you try hard, you can **achieve** a lot in life.

如果你努力嘗試，你一生中可以成就很多事。

參考詞彙

publicize [ˈpʌbləsaɪz] vt. 宣傳；公布

handcuff [ˈhændkʌf] n. [C] 手銬（常用複數形）

文中魔術師所使用的道具還有：

• **straitjacket** [ˈstreɪdʒækɪt] n. [C] 緊身衣

• **crate** [kret] n. [C] 條板箱

padlock [ˈpæd.lɒk] vt. 用掛鎖把……鎖上



Chapter 3 People

單字填空 請利用本單元學過的單字，完成下列句子。

- ① Angela made a long speech celebrating the scientist's a_____s.
- ② John divided the pizza e_____y into four pieces.
- ③ The museum o_____s fun activities for children on Saturday and Sunday.
- ④ The deer e_____d from the hunters and ran into the forest.
- ⑤ Police are trained to handle all kinds of s_____s.

文意選填 請根據文意，選出正確的答案。

Stevie Starr has one of the strangest jobs in the world. He makes his living by ① _____ things and then bringing them back up. If that is not strange enough, he makes the things do ② _____ in his stomach. For one performance, he first consumes ③ _____ that have a small hole at the tops as well as some very thin string. He ④ _____ the string through the holes while all the items are in his stomach. As another challenge, he will swallow ten coins with different numbers, one after the ⑤ _____. After all the coins are in his stomach, he will ask the audience to tell him ⑥ _____ to bring up. He gets it right every time.

With this special skill, Stevie Starr has ⑦ _____ in front of people around the world, and he always amazes them. He has appeared on numerous talent shows on TV around the world. Stevie has never told anyone how he became ⑧ _____ in this way, and some have even wondered if it is all real. When they see him with their own eyes, they know that there is no one else like him.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| (A) needles | (B) which | (C) swallowing | (D) tricks |
| (E) skilled | (F) other | (G) threads | (H) performed |