

Lesson 11 Not guilty 无罪

Listen to the tape then answer the question below.

What was the Customs Officer looking for?

Customs Officers are quite tolerant these days, but they can still stop you when you are going through the Green Channel and have nothing to declare. Even really honest people are often made to feel guilty. The hardened professional smuggler, on the other hand, is never troubled by such feelings, even if he has five hundred gold watches hidden in his suitcase. When I returned from abroad recently, a particularly officious young Customs Officer clearly regarded me as a smuggler.

'Have you anything to declare?' he asked, looking me in the eye.

'No,' I answered confidently.

'Would you mind unlocking this suitcase please?'

'Not at all,' I answered.

The Officer went through the case with great care. All the things I had packed so carefully were soon in a dreadful mess. I felt sure I would never be able to close the case again. Suddenly, I saw the Officer's face light, up. He had spotted a tiny bottle at the bottom of my case and he pounced on it with delight.

'Perfume, eh?' he asked sarcastically. 'You should have declared that. Perfume is not exempt from import duty.'

'But it isn't perfume,' I said. 'It's hair gel.' Then I added with a smile, 'It's a strange mixture I make myself.'

As I expected, he did not believe me.

'Try it!' I said encouragingly.

The Officer unscrewed the cap and put the bottle to his nostrils. He was greeted by an unpleasant smell which convinced him that I was telling the truth. A few minutes later, I was able to hurry away with precious chalk marks on my baggage.

New words and expressions 生词和短语

guilty (title) /'gilti/adj . 犯罪的, 违法的

perfume (1. 16) /'pə:fju:m/n . 香水

tolerant (1. 1) /'tɒlərənt/adj . 宽容的

sarcastically (1. 16) /sa:'kæstikli/adv . 讽刺地

declare (1. 3) /di'kleə/v . 申报

exempt (1. 16) /ig'zempt/adj . 被免除的

hardened (1. 4) /'ha:dənd/adj . 有经验的

duty (1. 17) /'dju:ti/n . 税

professional (1. 4) /prə'feʃənəl/adj . 职业的, 专业的

gel (1. 18) /'dʒel/n . 凝胶

smuggler (1. 4) /'smʌglə/n . 走私者

mixture (1. 18) /'mɪkstʃə/n . 混合物

officious (1. 7) /ə'fiʃəs/adj . 爱管闲事的

unscrew (1. 22) /ʌn'skru:/v . 拧开

confidently (1. 10) /'kɒfɪdəntli/adv . 自信地

nostril (1. 22) /'nɒstrɪl/n . 鼻孔
dreadful (1. 14) /'dredfʊl/adj . 可怕的, 一团糟的
chalk (1. 24) /tʃɔ:k/n . 粉笔
pounce (1. 15) /'paʊns/v . 猛抓, 扑住
baggage (1. 24) /'bæɡɪdʒ/n . 行李

Notes on the text 课文注释

- 1 the Green Channel, 绿色通道, 指海关专供没有携带征税物品进关的旅客所走的通道。
- 2 hidden in his suitcase 是过去分词短语作定语, 修饰 watches, 它相当于一个定语从句: which were hidden in his suitcase.
- 3 looking me in the eye, 直盯着我的眼睛, 这是分词短语作状语, 表示方式, 修饰 asked.
- 4 The officer went through, 这里 go through 作“检查”讲。
- 5 in a dreadful mess (或 in a mess), 乱七八糟, 混乱透了。
- 6 I saw the Officer's face light up . 我看到那位官员的脸上露出了得意的神色。
- 7 You should have declared that . 你早该申报了。“should + 不定式的完成式”表示本该做而未做之事。
- 8 be exempt from 作“免除”、“豁免”解。

参考译文

现在的海关官员往往相当宽容。但是, 当你通过绿色通道, 没有任何东西需要申报时, 他们仍可以拦住你。甚至是最诚实的人也常被弄得觉得有罪似的, 而老练的职业走私犯即使在手提箱里藏着 500 只金表, 却也处之泰然。最近一次, 我出国归来, 碰上一位特别好管闲事的年轻海关官员, 他显然把我当成了走私犯。

“您有什么需要申报的吗?”他直盯着我的眼睛问。

“没有。”我自信地回答说。

“请打开这只手提箱好吗?”

“好的。”我回答说。

那位官员十分仔细地把箱子检查了一遍。所有细心包装好的东西一会儿工夫就乱成了一团。我相信那箱子再也关不上了。突然, 我看到官员脸上露出了得意的神色。他在我的箱底发现了一只小瓶, 高兴地一把抓了起来。

“香水, 嗯?”他讥讽地说道, “你刚才应该申报, 香水要上进口税的。”

“不, 这不是香水,”我说, “是发胶。”接着我脸带微笑补充说: “这是一种我自己配制的奇特的混合物。”果不出所料, 他并不相信我。

“你就闻一闻吧!”我催促说。

海关官员拧开瓶盖, 把瓶子放到鼻子底下。一股怪味袭来, 使他相信我说的是真话。几分钟后, 我终于被放行, 手提划着宝贵的粉笔记号的行李, 匆匆离去。

Lesson 89 A slip of the tongue

口误

视频: [点击这里](#)收听课文录音

First listen and then answer the question.

听录音, 然后回答以下问题。

Who made the only funny joke that evening and why?

People will do anything to see a free show -- even if it is a bad one. When the news got round that a comedy show would be presented at our local cinema by the P. and U. Bird Seed Company, we all rushed to see it. We had to queue for hours to get in and there must have

been several hundred people present just before the show began. Unfortunately, the show was one of the duller we have ever seen. Those who failed to get in need not have felt disappointed, as many of the artistes who should have appeared did not come. The only funny things we heard that evening came from the advertiser at the beginning of the programme. He was obviously very nervous and for some minutes stood awkwardly before the microphone. As soon as he opened his mouth, everyone burst out laughing. We all know what the poor man should have said, but what he actually said was: 'This is the Poo and Ee Seed Bird Company. Good ladies, evening and gentlemen!'

New words and expressions 生词和短语

slip n. 小错误

comedy n. 喜剧

present v. 演出;adj. 出席, 到场的

queue v. 排队

dull adj. 枯燥, 无味

artiste n. 艺人

advertiser n. 报幕员

参考译文

人们总要想尽办法看不花钱的演出——哪怕是拙劣的演出。当“皮尤”鸟食公司将在我们当地影院演出喜剧节目的消息传开后,我们都赶紧跑去观看。我们不得不排了好几个小时才进得场去。在演出开始前场内肯定已有好几百人了。不幸的是,这次演出是我们看过的最乏味的演出了。那些没能进到场内的人没有必要感到失望,因为很多应该出场的专业演员都没有来。那天晚上唯一有趣的事情是节目开始时那个报幕员的开场白。他显然非常紧张,局促不安地在麦克风前站了好几分钟。但他刚一开口说话,人们便哄堂大笑起来。我们都明白那个可怜的人应该说些什么,而他实际说的却是:“这是‘浦伊’鸟食公司,好女士们,晚上和先生们!”