今天跟大家分享两篇，第一篇是一篇比较短的经济学人，因为隔几天要补一下单词，昨天我自己写了关于枪支的看法，今天这篇是关于英国持枪的，那么雅思曾经考过相关话题，就是警察是否应该持枪

标题：Gun control

Armed robbery抢劫

Quietly安静的, and rather相当 politely有礼貌, Britain is getting a gun lobby 游说 (lobby group游说组织）

1. ORYX 羚羊and buffalo水牛 heads stare盯着 glumly忧郁的 from the walls of James Purdey & Sons, a swanky时髦奢华的 London gunmaker. In cases箱子 beneath箱子 them stand竖放 some of the priciest昂贵的 weapons in Britain. The firm's elaborately制作精美的 engraved雕刻 shotguns猎枪 take up花时间 to two years to produce and cost花费 at least 80,000. Many customers buy a pair.
2. Shooting is an expensive hobby, even without so extravagant奢侈的 a weapon. But licensing取得执照 a gun is cheap. Owners pay only 50 to register注册 for five years, a fee that has not risen上涨rise since 2001. Police chiefs警察局长 say the cash they collect covers支付 barely仅仅 a quarter of1/4 what it costs them to run运转 the licensing scheme方案, and that they are spending more than 17m a year to cover the shortfall缺口.
3. That is not a big number, but it rankles使人发怒 at a time of austerity节衣缩食, the police have suffered frommore更多 than other public services. The problem is not just that **inflation通货膨胀 has eroded侵蚀，环境/破坏 the valueof the fee**, says Andy Marsh of Hampshire Constabulary. Better monitoring监控 of gun owners has made the system more expensive, and the workload工作量 is growing as gun ownership creeps up逐渐增长. Since自从 fees were set in 2001 the number of guns held持有 by civilians平民 in England and Wales has risen by了/幅度 14% to 1.8m, the highest number since detailed record-taking做记录 started two decades ago. erode:侵蚀；削弱 通货膨胀并没有削弱。。。的价值
4. These healthy量很大 figures数字 surprise those who thought strict gun laws brought in after a mass群众 shooting枪击 in Scotland in 1996 would fatally wound伤害 Britain's shooting culture. That horror恐惧, and the ban禁令 on handguns手枪 that followed, encouraged促进 gun ownership to decline减少 for five consecutive years连续五年. But a gradual increase上升 in the popularity流行度 of rifles步枪, both for shooting targets and for killing deer鹿 and other animals, has since reversed the trend逆转趋势. Novices新手 find it fairly相当的 easy to get a licence: despite尽管 rigorous严格 checks police refuse less than 2% of the applications申请 they receive获得.
5. As当 their ranks地位 have swelled增强, political support for shooters has rebounded反弹. Among the many populist平民 pledges诺言 **put forward提出** by Nigel Farage, the leader of the UK Independence Party, is a promise to loosen放松 gun laws if elected. Conservative保守的 bigwigs要人 probably think that a small public subsidy补贴 for gun owners is a meagre数量少，微薄 price to placate安抚 voters选民 in their rural乡村的 heartlands—especially given that the Tories have not yet held a promised vote on repealing废除 the ban on fox hunting for fear以免that MPs议员 would vote to uphold it. In September a cabinet内阁 subcommittee内阁下属议会 blocked阻止 a plan, backed by the Home Office, to push up提高

the gun licence fee. 平民主义的誓言 英国独立党领袖 TORY托利党；英国保守党，（另外一个是工党）tories保守党党员 member of the parliament议员 内阁下属委员会 内政部

1. Britain's discreet谨慎的 but well-connected人脉广  shooting lobby游说 accepts that sooner or later迟早 a fee increase is inevitable不可避免的. It demands that police警察 cut减少 bureaucracy官僚主义 from the licensing process过程 before asking gun owners to stump up付清费用（树桩） more. This stubbornness顽固 seems to have **prodded激励** officers **into** patching修补 the system up, but it would be wise明智的 to wave招手 through a deal. Shooting down推翻 a small rise this year would probably mean having to stomach胃/忍受 a loftier高昂 one in future, especially if the Tories lose the next general election. That would be a worthless trophy战利品. 人脉广 官僚主义 付清费用（树桩） 顽固

What is a side of Vladimir Putin’s personality性格 that most people don’t see?

Anand Nyamdavaa, Translated from Mongolian to English

Updated Fri

I grew up in a family of diplomats外交官 and I heard my share of horror恐怖 stories of interpreting口译 for high-level government officials. Later on之后, I did my share of interpretations访问. Though I never did simultaneous同时的 translations, I have a pretty good idea of how difficult it can be. Interpretation is a difficult skill itself, but interpreting for government officials is even more difficult. Why? Because many Soviet and Mongolian government officials, especially at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs外交部, took pleasure以。。为乐 in humiliating羞辱 the interpreter.: 同时发生的 同传

They unnecessarily use difficult words and terms词汇. One time a government official made a whole conversation对话 about tropical热带的 trees, trees that do not have their Mongolian equivalent相对等的 terms or are so obscure费解 that most people do not even know. Some of them would also frequently use obscure colloquialisms that might be used only in their provinces. 俗语

interrupt the interpretation and correct纠正 the interpreter. These officials are the worst. The VIPs who speak the language and think they know it better than the interpreter. Correcting the latter后者 not only lowers his self-confidence but also interrupts the pattern.

change the text of the approved批准的 script脚本 at the last minute. These ones think they are very smart because they decided to have a different speech altogether.

So I guess, you are thinking by now what this has to do with Putin. If you have ever heard Putin speak, you know that he talks plainly简单明了, using simple words that do not leave any room for secondary第二次 interpretation. This is a very rare ability. It is a godsend天赐之物 for interpreters. I am pretty sure that Russian interpreters are very happy to interpret for him. Foreign Minister Lavrov, on the other hand, is notorious臭名昭著 for correcting the interpreters. 天赐之物 臭名昭著

Gun control ，Putin