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THE LANGUAGE EXEPRESS

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*edited by the Language Centre Resource
Assistants*



Photo by Ivana Margarita Ignatova

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Munich - George Meech

Hopes, hops and buses

Dr Damien Gaucher

"Off the bus."

"Oh, I've got a day ticke—"

"OFF. The. Bus."

The driver was calm, but firm. I stepped off the bus, feeling dazed, ashamed, confused, not really understanding what had happened to me. The onlookers looked at me in amusement (or what seemed like it at the time).

I'd bought a day ticket to travel around Edinburgh. As part of my French Uni studies, I'd come to the UK, and had been in the country for about one week, travelling around, interviewing people for a project on accents. At the time, in Rennes, someone with a day ticket could pretty much hop on and off buses as they pleased (I'm using the past tense here, I'm not sure that still holds). So, as I got on that bus in Edinburgh, I didn't really pay attention to the long queue that had formed up at the front of the double-decker, people patiently waiting to show their cards or tickets to the driver. As the middle doors opened, I hopped right on, and went straight for the stairs, only to be kicked out of the bus 10 seconds later. That series of cultural faux-pas I made (jumping the queue, not using the right bus entrance) led to a small yet powerful cultural shock. Small, as far as values are concerned. Although I was surprised, it didn't take me long to realise that I had made a mistake. Powerful, well... this happened 23 years ago, and I remember it like it was yesterday.

Cultural shock can happen when you expect it the least. It takes you by surprise because it affects behaviours, codes, or norms which you never thought would be different, and which no-one really warned you about. We tend to have a romanticised



Edinburgh Old Town, source: Shutterstock

version of the various countries we travel to, based on stereotypes and clichés - but behind these lie a wealth of values, beliefs, and ways of being which are a lot more subtle. Based on an often tacit worldview, and expressed through all possible means of communication (sensory, verbal, non-verbal), cultural differences can be hard to decode at first. They defy our (sometimes quite ethnocentric) understanding of the world. And when there is an overwhelming difference in the quantity or the quality of these differences, we feel that cultural shock.

As such, the cultural shock is part and parcel of the cultural transition process, and there are ways to facilitate this transition. Firstly, simply by being aware that this is going to happen anyway, and being open to questioning our perception, rather than the other culture. Secondly, by preparing ourselves for it, and learning about the culture through research, conversations and experiences (e.g. watch documentaries, movies and shows that deal with local issues). Ultimately, cultural shock is the key

to opening up to the world, but also to building resilience and perspective. Once we understand that differences exist between cultures, we can embrace them, learn from them and grow. But it also gives us a broader view of the world and an understanding of our place in it. And with this understanding comes the appreciation of similarities and respect for differences, both of which are essential in fostering positive intercultural communication.

But it doesn't stop there. The reverse cultural shock also occurs when you return home after living in a different culture for an extended period of time. Some people find it even more difficult than the initial adjustment to life in a foreign country, because it can affect your sense of identity

- it may be hard to reconcile who you were before leaving, and who you have become since returning "home". Speaking of which... funnily enough, it was also on an Edinburgh bus, four years after my first bus incident, that another event took place. As a Teaching Assistant there, I came back from my Christmas Holiday in France, and smelt

the smell of hops in the Scottish city. And the word "home" came to my mind. It had an altogether different meaning now. Home wasn't France anymore. It was a different place, a different culture. "Home" was - and still is - where I belong. I have long left Edinburgh, but will always bear in mind that city, with its Old Town, its vibrant cultural scene... and its buses.

"[culture shock] takes you by surprise because it affects behaviours, codes or norms which you never thought would be different"



Dr Damien Gaucher is a lecturer in French, whose main research interest lies in the domain of syntactic variation, one particular area of variationist sociolinguistics. In his thesis, he examined past participle agreement as a sociolinguistic variable, in the context of spontaneous spoken French. For him, the sociolinguistic approach is paramount to the content covered in the language classes: one of the recurrent elements of his teaching practice is the distinction between spoken and written features of French language, but also between the formal and informal sub-varieties of these two domains.

Interview with Maddie Baker, Exeter alumna

What did you study at Exeter?

For my BA, I studied History with Intermediate proficiency in Japanese and a year abroad at Exeter University-graduating in 2021. In my final year, I was also an Online Editor for Exeposé. I'm now working at the Japanese Broadcasting Corporation NHK as an Associate Producer and News Researcher.

How did you find out about the position at NHK?

I found out about the position at NHK by following several Japanese recruitment companies in the UK. I highly recommend doing this!

What process did you have to go through in order to get the position?

For my role, I needed to do two interviews (one online and another in-person panel interview). Both involved some Japanese, where I was asked about my knowledge of the media industry, Japan, and politics, as well as my personal experiences and skills. I made sure to brush up my political vocabulary, awareness of Japanese news and politics and speaking skills in advance!

How have you found working for NHK?

It was a dream come true to work for Japan's public broadcaster. I love that we are informing the Japanese public about what is going on in the UK and Europe in an unbiased and informed manner. My job allows me to listen to, read, and speak Japanese every day. Reading articles, watching our reports and talking with colleagues means I always learn something new, which makes my work exciting. Of course, there are times when I doubt my Japanese ability, but I just remind myself that gradually I'm getting better.

エクセター大学で歴史と日本語(と留学)を勉強しました。2021年に卒業しました。四年生の時「Exeposé」のオンライン編者でした。今、日本放送協会でリサーチのポジションに働いています。

私は小数のぼしゅうの会社をフォローしてから日本放送協会のポジションが探せました。この仕方を従うのを本当におすすめます!

私のロールに二つの(オンラインと事務所の)面接をしなければならないです。両方で少し日本語を使えなければなりませんでした。私に面接中メディアの業界のちしき、日本、政治と自分の経験とかスキルを聴きました。前に、政治の単語、日本のニュースと政治の意識と話すスキルを磨いておきました!

私にとって、日本のこうきょう放送で働くことは夢みたいです。イギリスとヨーロッパについてちゃんと日本の国民を教えていてよかったです。私の仕事で毎日、日本語が聞けて、読めても話せます。記事を読んだり、レポートを観たり、同僚としゃべったりするのおかげで新しいことを習えて、楽しいです。もちろん、日本語のレベルの悩みもありますけど、どんどん上達してるのを自分に言ってみます。

What advice would you give to other students looking to work in Japan / with Japanese companies?

My advice is 1.) Keep working on your Japanese during your degree and after you graduate. You can study with whatever you like watching or reading! 2.) Have a goal and work towards it. Try and make contacts with people working in Japan or Japanese companies in your industry. 3.) Don't give up. Spoiler alert: I didn't get this job straight away and had to keep going after some rejections. As the Japanese say, 'ganbattekudasai'!

私のアドバイスには①専門中と卒業の後も日本語を頑張って下さいね。好きだったら何もない読めて見えます! ②目的があって、向かうのはいいです。業界にいる日本で働いている人や日本の会社員をネットワークする方がいいと思います。③やめなさい! スポイラーは: 初回仕事を受けませんでした。却下した後まだ頑張れなければなれませんでした。日本人の言われるの言葉によると「頑張って下さい」。

Paris

A city so like that of my home
Bustling, moving, never stopping.
There is concrete and stone;
Tourists and workers.
But there is something here
That cannot be found in London -
A home for the flaneur.
There is elegance and love
Swirling in the surrounding air
So far removed from my birth town.
A certain something
That enlivens the soul
And freshens the mind.

Une ville comme l'une de mon pays
Animée, mobile, arrêt interdit.
Il y a des bétons et des pierres ;
Il y a des touristes et des travailleurs.
Mais quelque chose ici
Ne se trouve pas à Londres
Un foyer pour le flâneur.
Il y a de l'élégance et de l'amour
Qui tourbillonnent dans l'air environnant
Loin de ma ville de naissance.
Un je ne sais quoi
Qui colore l'âme
Et fait naître à l'esprit.

by Charlie Stanbrook



Amazon rainforest - Ben Nash



Kenya - Charles Temperley

Interview with Iryna Ilnytska, Ukrainian teacher

Iryna tells us about her life and experiences as a language teacher, now working in the Evening Language Program offered by the Language Centre

What made you want to get into teaching?

I started teaching at the age of 13, when I was a schoolgirl in Ukraine. I used to give private English lessons, because my knowledge of English was good - I won a few language competitions and felt confident about it. My 1st student was a boy, who was about 8 years old. After a few weeks of working with me the boy had the best grades in English at school. Both his parents thanked me for this achievement. And I remember having received my first payment, which I spent on buying some books I wanted for a long time. I gave a lot of private English and German lessons when I was a student at the Kyiv linguistic university. And I was pleased that my students entered prestigious universities after working with me. This encouraged me to look into the subject of teaching foreign languages, including different teaching techniques even more.

What do you enjoy about teaching?

I enjoy working with students who want to achieve something, who are curious and willing to learn new things. There is a lot of focus on the grammar and vocabulary in the classroom because the students study the foreign language for a few hours a week only. It is therefore important that, thanks to their knowledge of grammar, the students are able to create sentences and texts themselves, without being dependent on the teacher's help. Vocabulary is also important because it enriches the opportunity to self-express, as well as to understand the culture and mentality of the people of the

country whose language you are learning.

What have you learnt from teaching your native language?

I have discovered how Ukrainian has developed from a linguistic point of view. Social media has certainly added a lot to the vocabulary and expression. Also, for me as a native speaker, it was interesting to discover how Ukrainian is taught in both English- and German-speaking countries, and what the approaches are, as well as what the students' perception of the language is.

Teaching Ukrainian at the university means teaching high Ukrainian. There will be a lot of 'standard' material. However, because the language is so old and rich, it constantly offers a lot to discover not only in terms of the language itself, but also regarding Ukrainian traditions and customs.

What do you love about Ukrainian?

Ukrainian is one of the contemporary Slavic languages which gradually evolved after the split of Common Slavic around 600 A. D. It is a very old language from a country with a very rich history. Those who had been to Ukraine before the war talk about beautiful landscapes, amazing history, tasty food, as well as kind and hard-working people. I know that all these things are deeply reflected in the language. One can feel a special energy from Ukrainian - warm, kind, and at the same time powerful, as well as hearing the language's musicality.

One of the things I personally love about Ukraine is its 'spicy' humour. It is so special because of the unique vocabulary. When

some Ukrainian sentences are paraphrased or translated, they do not have the same explosion of colours. Therefore, one needs to really know Ukrainian to be able to understand the humour and enjoy it.

What is the most difficult thing about learning Ukrainian?

I believe that studying any foreign language can be difficult if one wants to master it at a high standard. It needs a lot of self-discipline and focus on the goal.

Some students who study Ukrainian think that the most difficult thing about learning the language is learning the Cyrillic alphabet.

Other students are worried about 7 cases in Ukrainian (including vocative case), because cases in Ukrainian language also mean that the ending of nouns, adjectives and other words associated with those nouns change. But on the bright side, in comparison to Hungarian or Finnish, with

15 or more cases, it's not that hard. Besides, there are always interesting strategies to do the work and gradually achieve very good results.

What advice would you give to a learner of Ukrainian?

I believe in the future of the Ukrainian language. I believe that peace will come to Ukraine and that the language will be in a big demand during work to rebuild the country - there will be a lot of work in all spheres of life.

I would recommend a learner of Ukrainian to study the language 5-10 minutes every day. I guarantee that he or she will discover a lot of exciting and interesting information in this process. The information will be related not only to the language itself, but also to the strong and beautiful mentality of Ukrainian people, something the world wasn't familiar with before.

If you would like to learn Ukrainian with Iryna, sign up to her new course:

Ukrainian - Introduction to Language and Culture

Learn about Ukraine, its culture, and its language - no prior knowledge necessary!

Course start date: 3rd May

Deadline to book: 26th April



Interview with Khalil Estaytieh, Arabic teacher



My name is Khalil Estaytieh, I was born in Bethlehem. In 2009, I moved with my English wife to England, where we settled in Bath. I'm an Arabic tutor with 20 years of teaching experience. I'm currently teaching Arabic at Bath and Exeter universities. My vision is to make a difference, improving the learning experience and students' success. As an Arabic language lecturer, I have a strong commitment to education, being innovative, and implementing new technology and approaches to enhance the teaching and learning journey.

What made you want to get into teaching?

My interest in teaching began when I was in High School in Bethlehem, thanks to my English teacher, Father Marco, who loved England and English culture, and in every lesson, he came with an interesting and amazing story that opened a whole new world to me. Our lessons with Father Marco were some of the most enjoyable times for me at school, Father Marco's great

influence on my life gave me a desire to follow his footsteps and filled me with love to get into teaching.

What do you enjoy about teaching?

I have a deep love for my language and culture, and I really enjoy seeing people develop a love themselves as I present the language and culture with interesting stories, food, songs, and topical debates.

What has been your greatest teaching success?

I have great satisfaction because many of my students have gone on to follow careers within the Arabic world, in international organisations, the foreign office, and into humanitarian organisations helping refugees.

What have you learnt from teaching your native language?

Because Arabic has such a challenging alphabet and grammatical structures, I have found that for many students, it is helpful to tackle one issue at a time, beginning with giving the students some basic knowledge of spoken Arabic, so they can feel some satisfaction in being able to communicate before learning how to read and write.

What is the most unique or interesting feature of Arabic?

Arabic is a very beautiful and poetic language; it is the language in which the Qur'an is written, and for Muslims across the world it is the language used by God to send His revelations to humanity.

What do you love about Arabic?

Arabic is poetic in its expressions. The script has an inherent artfulness to it and

has been used in elaborately beautiful decorations in mosques around the world.

What is the most difficult thing about learning Arabic?

Arabic is a very logical language; it is based on a rule of three root letters. However, grammatical structures are complex, and pronunciation can be difficult as there are some sounds which do not exist in other languages.

What advice would you give to a learner of Arabic?

I think it's important to have a love for the

culture if you want to learn Arabic, then you can start learning some common phrases and words, practise them as much as possible, and listen to Arabic songs, after that you begin to tackle the alphabet.

What language would you like to learn if you had the chance and why?

I would like to learn Italian, as I find it a friendly, warm, and expressive language. I have been to Italy several times, and had a lot of fun speaking to people with my "pidgin" Italian.

Khalil's new course is now available for booking:

"Spoken Arabic, Levant dialect, for beginners"

Aimed at complete beginners, this course will familiarise you with colloquial Arabic, with a particular focus on listening and speaking. Learn how to talk about yourself and greet others, and explore aspects of culture and social interaction.

Course start date: 10th May

Deadline to book: 26th April





Amsterdam - Charlie Stanbrook



Manabi, Ecuador - Anisa Marsh

Se faire des amis dans l'allée des produits surgelés : le « small talk » français

Making friends in the frozen veg aisle: small talk in France

Matt Button

Français

Il est bien connu que le « small talk » est l'une des grandes compétences des Britanniques ; notre capacité de parler de la météo pendant une dizaine de minutes est sans égal. Aussi ai-je pensé avant mon arrivée en France pour mon année à l'étranger que ce type d'interaction sociale me manquerait à l'étranger, ayant entendu le stéréotype que les Français ne sont pas toujours très accueillants aux étrangers (ou plutôt aux Britanniques). Pour cette raison, je me suis tout à fait étonné de découvrir que les Français sont des maîtres dans l'art de faire la conversation.

En premier lieu, le fait de bavarder sur les transports en commun est quelque chose à laquelle je n'étais pas du tout habitué. Selon mon expérience, les usagers des transports en commun au Royaume-Uni ne se parlent jamais. On a la propension à se mettre les écouteurs dans les oreilles pour tout bloquer pendant le trajet au boulot ou chez nous, et on fait signe de la tête ou on sourit aux autres personnes à l'arrêt de bus, au mieux. Cependant, à l'arrêt de tram juste devant mon appartement en France, j'ai eu de très intéressantes conversations avec les gens qui attendaient le tram, surtout en hiver quand il faisait -5°C (souvenez-vous que je viens du Royaume Uni, pas du Québec) et tout ce qui nous restait pour nous distraire de la froide de l'attente était le fait de se parler. On discutait de tout : la politique, ce que je faisais à Mulhouse, et même le masque FFP2 que je portais qui donnait

English

It's no secret that the British are renowned for their small-talk abilities; our ability to talk about the weather for upwards of ten minutes is unparalleled. As a result, I worried before moving to France that I would miss this type of social interaction while abroad, having heard the stereotype that French people aren't always the most welcoming to foreigners (or rather the British). For this reason, I was totally surprised to find out that French people are masters of small talk.

To start with, chatting to people on public transport is something I was not used to at all. In my experience, British people never chat on the bus or train. We tend to put our earphones in to block out the world on the way to work or back home, at most giving a nod or a smile to other people waiting at the bus stop. However, at the tram stop just outside my apartment in France, I had some very interesting conversations with other people waiting for the tram, especially in winter when it was -5°C (I'm from the UK, remember, not Canada) and the only thing we could do to distract ourselves while we waited in the cold was to chat. We talked about everything: politics, what I was doing in the city of Mulhouse, and the FFP2 mask I wore which led most people to believe I was from Germany, where these masks were obligatory.

l'impression que je venais d'Allemagne, où ils étaient obligatoires.

Chose étrange, là où j'ai eu la plupart des conversations avec des personnes que je ne connaissais pas était au supermarché. Au Royaume Uni, je ne parle qu'avec des copains rencontrés dans les allées, et seulement pour se saluer pendant un instant avant que chacun se parte de son côté pour faire les courses. Mais en France, un tour à Leclerc est vite devenu une sortie sociale. Au début, les gens me demandaient où se trouvaient certains aliments, ce qui est le meilleur compliment pour n'importe quel étranger qui veut s'intégrer jusqu'à avoir l'air d'être autochtone qui sait où se trouve le beurre. Cependant, après avoir entendu un petit accent anglais, on m'interrogeait sur mon pays d'origine, et cela est devenu rapidement une conversation sur ma vie en Alsace, mon pays, les raisons pour lesquelles j'étudie le français, entre autres choses. L'interaction la plus bizarre que j'ai jamais eu a commencé avec un homme qui cherchait la sauce Worcestershire, un condiment non seulement difficile à trouver mais aussi imprononçable pour un Français, et la conversation a terminé avec une invitation à sa cabine de famille dans les Vosges. Pour des raisons de sécurité, je l'ai décliné, mais c'était malgré tout une expérience curieuse.

Je suis d'avis qu'une partie de l'accueil chaleureux que j'ai reçu en France était parce que j'étais étranger, et les mulhousiens voulaient bien savoir ce que faisait un jeune homme anglais dans une ville peu touristique. Mais cela souligne aussi l'importance de se méfier des stéréotypes, car pour moi, le choc culturel le plus grand était de découvrir que les Français étaient plus ouverts et bavards que je n'avais jamais imaginé.

Strangely, the place where I had the most conversations with strangers was in the supermarket. In the UK, the only people I speak to are friends I come across in the aisles, and with not much more than a hello before we go our separate ways to finish our shopping. But in France, a trip to Leclerc quickly became a social event. At first, people asked me where I found certain products, which is the highest compliment for a foreigner wishing to eventually be mistaken for a local who knows where to find the butter. However, once they noticed a slight English accent, they would ask me where I was from, which quickly turned into a conversation about my life in Alsace, my country, and why I was studying French, among other things. The most peculiar interaction I ever had started with a man looking for Worcestershire sauce, a condiment which is not only difficult to find in France but also unpronounceable for French people, and the conversation ended with me being invited to stay with his family in their cabin in the mountains. For obvious reasons of safety, I declined, but it was an interesting experience nonetheless.

I think that part of the reason for the warm welcome I received in France is because I was a foreigner, and the people of Mulhouse wanted to know what a young Englishman was doing in a city that was far from being a tourist hotspot. But in addition, it goes to show the importance of questioning stereotypes, as my biggest culture shock was finding out that French people were chattier than I ever expected.

Selected entries on culture shock

Chia-Chien Almeida's intermediate Mandarin class share their experiences of culture shock, with translations provided in the opposite column.

Chinese New Year in England

by **Rosemary Bromfield-Young**

I love Chinese New Year! This lunar new year, my friends came to my house for the New Year meal. We ate dumplings, chow mein and oranges symbolising good luck. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the big feast I put out. My friends are not Chinese, but they think Chinese New Year is far more interesting than British New Year. I give them red envelopes every year for good luck. Last year, my Canadian friend said, "I brought the red envelope you gave me to my job interview. Then I got hired!".

In Alton, I get to watch fireworks on January 1st, but I don't see them on Chinese New Year. In London, you can see dragon and lion dances and lantern displays. I hope my city can also celebrate Chinese New Year and to experience the happiness of the Chinese festival

历史文化

by **Pat Carville**

中国的历史跨越了四千年，如此悠久的传统文化仍然深深植根于当前的思想中。孔子带头讲家庭的重要性，以身作则，来提高自己的道德。直到现在，我们还是看得到中国家庭的重要性。看看有多少人长途跋涉就是为了和家人一起过年！

道教强调自然、善良和简单生活的重要性。我们在中国诗词和国华中看得到这些价值观的反映。中国人以尊重人们的面子来践行礼貌和善良的价值观。中国人也非常重视教育和学习。早在隋代，中国就有了科举考试。直到今天，中国继续提倡任人唯贤和社会流动的理念。

英国的中国新年

玫瑰

我爱中国新年！今年春节我的朋友来我家吃我煮的年夜饭。我们一起吃了饺子，炒面和橘子代表好运。大家都吃得又饱又开心。我的朋友不是中国人，可是他们觉得中国新年比英国新年有意思多了。我每年送他们红包带来好运。去年我加拿大朋友说“我带你送我的红包去工作面试。之后我受聘了！”

在艾尔敦(Alton)，我一月一日看得到烟花，可是在中国新年，我不看见人们放烟火。在伦敦，你能看舞龙舞狮也能欣赏灯笼。我希望我的城市也能庆祝中国新年来感受中国节日的喜气。

History and Culture

by **Pat Carville**

China's history spanned 4000 years and such a longstanding traditional culture is still deeply rooted in current thinking. Confucius took the lead in speaking about the importance of family, leading by example to improve one's own morality. In this day and age, we see the continued importance of the Chinese family. Look at how many people travel far to celebrate the New Year with their families! Taoism emphasises the importance of nature, kindness and simple living. We see these values reflected in Chinese poems and paintings. The Chinese practise the values of politeness and kindness by respecting people's need to save face. The Chinese also attach great importance to education and learning. As early as the Sui Dynasty, China had imperial examinations that were available to the public. To this day, China continues to promote the ideas of meritocracy and social mobility

Chinese Islamic Culture

by **Amina Hachemi**

As a language student and a Muslim, I enjoy exploring how Muslims in different countries combine Islamic beliefs with their local shared values. I discovered a fascinating and beautiful Islamic culture in China. Since Islam arrived in China in the 7th Century, Chinese Islamic culture is deep, with a long history of more than 1,300 years. A very interesting example of this is Chinese Islamic calligraphy. Both cultures cherish the art of calligraphy and this particular style uses Arabic letters and Chinese calligraphic technique to write traditional Islamic phrases. Such calligraphy represents both our shared Islamic beliefs and the particular Chinese artistic style. To witness such a beautiful blending of both cultures is a truly moving experience.

汉语拼音 兰利·安德里亚

我学习汉语已经五年多了！开始学前，我认为中文很难，所以我很惊讶我到现在还是很热爱学习中文；它又难又有意思。

二零年代，中国开始提倡拼音。拼音以罗马字母给汉字发音。它帮学习中文的外语学生发音，可是我的发音还是常常出错！例如：

一般的招呼语“你好”发音是“Nǐ hǎo”。字母上的标记是拼音调号。每个拼音能有四种不同的调号，来代表不同的意思。我不惊讶中国很成功，如果会说中文，

你能做任何事物！

Biracial

by **Ceilidh Westwood**

I'm biracial, therefore I am used to both English and Chinese culture. Both Chinese and British people mistake me as a foreigner! My British friends do not understand why I call strangers auntie and uncle. My Chinese family ask me why I'm not married with children yet, despite being 22 years old.

I like the language, culture, my family and the food. Despite the cultural differences, I am very happy to be half Chinese.

中国伊斯兰文化

by **Amina Hachemi**

我身为语言学生和穆斯林，很喜欢探索穆斯林在别的国家怎么结合伊斯兰的信教跟共同的价值观。我发现中国也保留又有意思又美丽的伊斯兰文化。因为伊斯兰是七世纪的时候到中国，所以伊斯兰对中国的文化影响很深，有一千三百多年的沿革。一个很有意思的例子是中国伊斯兰书法。这两种文化都很珍惜书法，这个特别的方式用阿拉伯字母和中国的字体来写伊斯兰的名句。这些书法传承我们共同的伊斯兰信仰，也表现中国特别的美感。这种融合的艺术让我觉得很感动。

Chinese Pinyin

by **Andrea Langley**

I have been studying Chinese for more than five years! Before I started, I thought that it would be difficult. So I am surprised that I am really enjoying learning Chinese; it is both difficult and interesting.

In the 50s, China started to promote Pinyin. Pinyin gives each Chinese character an alphabetic representation. It helps foreign students pronounce Chinese characters - however, my pronunciation is often still very wrong! For example: “你好” is pronounced “Nǐ hǎo” which means “hello”. The symbols on top of the alphabets are pinyin tone signs. Every pinyin can have four different tones which represent different meanings. I am not surprised that China is successful; if you can speak Chinese, you can do anything!

混血儿 钱倍乐

我是混血儿，所以我要适应英国和中国文化。中国人和英国人都认为我是外国人！我的英国朋友不明白为什么我叫陌生人阿姨和叔叔。我的中国家人问我为什么我都二十二岁了还不结婚生子。

我喜欢中国语言，文化，家庭和食物。尽管存在文化差异，但我还是很高兴我有一半的中国血统。

層層恐懼
The Layers of Fear
Liann Chung

Mandarin

一切都太簡略了，這道頭痛所發出的聲響
「世界」不是一顆球；而「地球」是我們所
處之地
詭異的事情現身
於「美麗」被喊徹雲霄時

國王是三角形，不
是恐懼的金字塔
有四面的飢渴、
如此多雙需要取悅的耳
我扮演著翻滾的圓勉強
翻越尖銳箭頭們的注視
望著我。他們凝視著我
老百姓必須擁有解答也必須能吐露雀躍的事
我供上沉默，而死亡是賞賜的回禮

沒有人能看見天堂除非察覺到三層
我們被設計成無視他人...
或那些除此在外的"他者"
無視被顯現時
重重層次碾為一道權力目光

English

Everything is too sketchy here, a voice of
aching head.
"World" is not a globe; "Globe" is where we
were.
Strange things happened,
When "beautiful!" was shouted into the air.

King is a triangle, no,
a pyramid of fear.
Who has four aspects of eagerness,
Who has so many ears to please.
I played as a rolling circle when I barely
managed to
hump over pointed arrows' stares.
Stared at me. They stared at me.
Peasants must have answers and must
have delightful shares.
Speechlessness is what I offer, and death
comes in return.

No one sees heaven unless they realise
there are three layers.
What we have been designed for is ignoring
others...
or "other" besides here.
When ignorance is present,
layers flatten into one gaze of power.

Corazón mío

My Dear Heart

J.A.H.

Corazón no hay sentido, Dear heart there is no sense,
se hace sentido al amar. sense is made when love is felt.

Esperando tu llegada, With your presence minutes away,
latidos siento retumbar. my heart rumbles: erratic, unafraid.

Ni a un verso de Rimbaud Not even with a verse by Rimbaud
tu voz se le podría comparar. Could your honeyed voice be compared.

Ni el reflejo más leal, Not even the most loyal reflection,
me podría mostrar could really portray

Cuanto es que yo, How much it is,
te quiero a ti en realidad. That I love you every day.

Explicación: Explanation:

Queridos amigos, cultiven el amor propio. Busquen en ustedes mismos lo que creen poder obtener de los otros. Porque de nada sirve preocuparse y permitir ser arrastrado por opiniones extranjeras a nuestro ser. Nadie se acordará de nosotros y en la mente de nadie perduraremos. Por lo que les invito a vivir en el 'eterno presente' puesto que es aquí donde parece hallarse la verdadera vida, y cómo vivir mejor que con un buen toque de amor.

Dear friends, cultivate self-love. Search in yourselves for what you think you may get from others. Because It is useless to worry and let ourselves become possessed by opinions other than our own. No one will remember us and in no one's mind will we last. Therefore, I invite you to live the 'eternal present' since this seems to be the place where true life is found, and what better way to live than with a good helping of love.

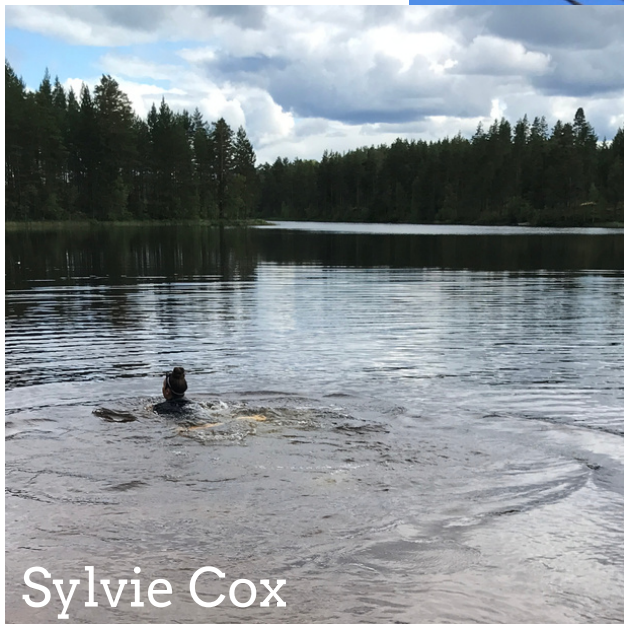


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Thank you to all our contributors!



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