

# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## Take Away English 随身英语

### Taking science to the bar

### 把科学带到酒吧

BBC  
LEARNING  
ENGLISH

- 关于台词的备注：  
请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。
- 请注意：中文文字内容只提供简体版

#### Vocabulary: Science 科学

Are bars places just to meet friends and chat casually about **mundane** things? Not any more. Scientists have been organising **periodic** lectures and experiments in bars in several cities in nine countries. In May, hundreds of them took part in a festival called **Pint of Science**.

British **neuroscience** researcher Michael Motskin started the festival with a colleague three years ago in the UK.



Beer or Physics: which will make your head spin faster?

But you don't have to be an **egghead** to follow a discussion. Motskin says: "We ask top scientists to present their **scientific discoveries** in a **down-to-earth** setting over a drink or two. We want to give everyone a chance **to pick the brains** of the UK's most brilliant **academics**, away from the **stuffy** laboratory or lecture theatre."

And what do they discuss? Topics range from **dark matter** to **climate change**. The science in films such as Star Wars, Star Trek and Interstellar has also proved popular. And a young **physicist** even demonstrated how a model of the universe can be built from plastic Lego bricks. An audience with a taste for a more practical experience might enjoy the lecture given in a pub in Soho, central London. It was about the effects of beer on the human body.

One might argue that a bit of alcohol helps people relax, freeing their imaginations so that they are better able to contemplate the wonders of the universe. That would make the pub the ideal venue for science – and a handy place to be if you make a big discovery and want to celebrate. Back in the 1950s, scientists James Watson and Francis Crick announced their discovery over a pint at The Eagle pub in Cambridge. And what did they discover? Well, just a little thing called the **double helix structure** of **DNA**. It eventually won them a Nobel Prize. Champagne please!

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. When did the Pint of Science festival start?
2. What does the Pint of Science's co-founder want to give ordinary people?
3. Who talked about plastic bricks?
4. Why does the writer describe the lecture about the effects of beer on the body as 'a practical experience'?
5. Which word in the text means 'convenient'?

## 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. Jennifer knows a lot about Medieval History. She's \_\_\_\_\_.

a neuroscientist	a physicist	an egghead	a pub owner
------------------	-------------	------------	-------------

2. Mary only talks about her house, her boyfriend, her new haircut. I'm a bit tired of her \_\_\_\_\_ conversation!

ideal	mundane	periodic	handy
-------	---------	----------	-------

3. I know everything about London festivals. You can pick \_\_\_\_\_ brains whenever you like.

some	your	my	up
------	------	----	----

4. The lecture was sold out. I should have bought a ticket earlier, but I had no idea it would be so \_\_\_\_\_.

scientific	handy	popular	mundane
------------	-------	---------	---------

5. I admire science fiction writers. They have a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.

practical experience	scientific discoveries	taste	imagination
----------------------	------------------------	-------	-------------

## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. When did the Pint of Science festival start? **Three years ago.**
2. What does the Pint of Science's co-founder want to give ordinary people? **An opportunity to question top scientists, away from the laboratory.**
3. Who talked about plastic bricks? **A young physicist who demonstrated how the universe is built.**
4. Why does the writer describe the lecture about the effects of beer on the body as 'a practical experience'? **Because it is given in a pub.**
5. Which word in the text means 'convenient'? **Handy.**

### Exercise 练习

1. Jennifer knows a lot about Medieval History. She's **an egghead.**
2. Mary only talks about her house, her boyfriend, her new haircut. I'm a bit tired of her **mundane** conversation!
3. I know everything about London festivals. You can pick **my** brains whenever you like.
4. The lecture was sold out. I should have bought a ticket earlier, but I had no idea it would be so **popular.**
5. I admire science fiction writers. They have a lot of **imagination.**

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>mundane</b>	平凡无趣的
<b>periodic</b>	定期的
<b>pint</b>	(容量单位) 品脱
<b>neuroscience</b>	神经系统科学, 神经病学
<b>egghead</b>	受过高等教育的人, 有知识的人
<b>scientific discovery</b>	科学发现
<b>down-to-earth</b>	求实的, 脚踏实地的, 友好的
<b>to pick the brains</b>	讨教, 听取别人的高见
<b>academic</b>	学术的
<b>stuffy</b>	闷热不透气的
<b>dark matter</b>	暗物质
<b>climate change</b>	气候变化
<b>physicist</b>	物理学家
<b>double helix structure</b>	双股螺旋结构
<b>DNA</b>	脱氧核糖核酸