

國立教育廣播電台 英語奇育記

教育新聞中英對照參考

- 教育新聞中文摘要：

新型冠狀病毒疫情使得中國大陸對於線上課程的需求大幅增加，許多公司便開始利用社群軟體打廣告，或是在疫情期間提供免費課程，以回應這樣的需求；另一方面，臺灣也因為疫情而延後開學，位於高雄鹽埕國中的教師便自行拍攝線上教學影片，讓學生能在家預習課程。線上學習固然有其優缺點，但它不僅能在疫情期間能滿足學生的學習需求，也可能成為未來趨勢。

- 教育新聞英文摘錄：

Yuka: Today, our new title is “Coronavirus outbreak forces China’s after-school activities to shut down — or move online” from CNBC 新型冠狀病毒疫情使得中國大陸的課後活動被迫中止或是轉移到網路上。

Cathy: Currently, coronavirus has been the first-concerned issue for everyone.

Yuka: Right. Almost all news on TV are talking about it.

Cathy: And, according to my understanding, the situation in China is very serious, right?

Yuka: Yes. The death toll is higher than other country and the number of infections is stilling increasing. To limit the spread of the virus, the government has already postponed the resumption of school.

Cathy: Same as Taiwan. The winter vacation was also extended.

Yuka: And, that is the reason we are going to talk about the online courses today.

Cathy: Because students couldn’t go to schools, the offline courses are suspended now.

Yuka: Currently, there has been a surge in the need of online courses in China.

Cathy: Since the start of the new semester has been delayed, I guess parents might be busy making online course registration for their kids.

Yuka: Because parents are worried that their children might be incapable of competing with their peers.

Cathy: I can understand that. Parents all wish their kids to be the most outstanding one. I was curious about the online education in China.

Yuka: Well, actually, the online education in China is quite competitive. There are several companies in China which offer online courses, such as TAL Education, New Oriental Education, Koolearn. They all invest much money into their business.

Cathy: How do they react to the increasing demand of online courses?

Yuka: TAL Education put much efforts into the advertisement. They started to use social media platform like Weibo to promote their courses. By doing this, they wish they could reach more people and increase the enrollment of their courses.

Cathy: They are pretty smart!

Yuka: However, most of the companies are offering basic kindergarten to 12th grade classes for free during this time period.

Cathy: Why do they do so?

Yuka: Not only want to have some contribution to the society and enable their kids to do self-study during this period, they also hope that online tutoring could be more prevalent in China one day. For those hesitant parents, they can reconsider to let their children enroll in the courses. Also,

Cathy: They can approach to more potential customers!

Yuka: That' s right. However, things will not always go smoothly, they do encounter some difficulties now.

Cathy: Like what?

Yuka: Since online courses charge less than offline courses, actually, their revenues is decreased. Also, they are short on teachers.

Cathy: Because they need experienced teachers to shoot those videos. Face-to-face teaching is different from online teaching. China has a vast number of teachers, but not all of them have the experience of teaching online.

Yuka: Exactly. Therefore, some companies are planning to turn to the government for support.

Cathy: Hope they could come up with a proper way of dealing with it.

Yuka: Cathy, did you have the experience in taking online courses?

Cathy: Yes, I do. I have taken language courses in Coursera before.

Yuka: I know that. But, I think not all of our audience know what Coursera is. Would you like to introduce it in brief?

Cathy: Sure. Coursera is a platform features of providing various free online courses taught by professors from famous universities around the world.

Yuka: That' s right. What course did you take?

Cathy: I took a Korean language course. Which is for beginners.

Yuka: Interesting. Why did you want to learn Korean?

Cathy: Well, it' s quite complicated. It is actually one of the requirements of a course I took in my freshman year. The professor wanted us to have more understanding of online courses because online education has become a trend. She wanted us to be familiar with it and experience it in order to find out the pros and cons of learning online.

Yuka: Got it. Then, why did you choose Korean?

Cathy: Emm, because I was quite crazy about K-pop at that time. I watched lots of Korean entertainments and TV series and it gave me the motivation to learn Korean. If I could understand Korean, I don' t have to rely on the subtitle so much.

Yuka: That makes sense. According to your experience, what' s the advantage of taking online courses? I mean, comparing to the offline courses.

Cathy: The major advantage is that you can take courses everywhere in any time. Basically, taking online courses is like watching videos. I' m not sure about other courses. However, the course I took only has five videos and each video was around 20 to 25 minutes. So, you can watch it while taking public transit or during the break in school. You can make the most use of your own time.

Yuka: I agree with you. That is really a huge advantage for people.

Cathy: Plus, you can repeatedly watch the part that you don't understand and figure it out. In class, sometimes we will miss something if the teacher speaks too fast. However, while taking online courses, you don't have to be worried about that. You can watch the video again and again.

Yuka: Indeed. What if you have some questions?

Cathy: That's a really good question. Actually, you point out the disadvantage of taking online courses. When you got some questions on your mind, there is no one who can answer you. When I was taking the Korean language courses, I always had some questions on my mind.

Yuka: Like what?

Cathy: Like, I was not sure if I pronounce the word correctly. Cause I just repeated what teacher said, and no one will correct me or tell me what can I do to improve my pronunciation.

Yuka: So, it will influence your learning effect?

Cathy: Yeah, kind of. Also, I think staring at the screen for a long time is harmful to our eyesight.

Yuka: Not to mention that we have already spent a lot of time checking our smartphone every day.

Cathy: Exactly. I think it is probably one of the concerns of those hesitant parents.

Yuka: I agree. We have been talking about those online courses provided by companies or other platforms. Then, what about the online courses offered by schools?

Cathy: What did you mean by that?

Yuka: I'm not sure if you noticed this news before. Since the winter vacation had been extended, there is a school in Kaohsiung called Yancheng Junior High School, teachers there decided to shoot videos for students to preview the contents of several subjects at home. Teachers make their own teaching videos and post them on Youtube channel. Then,

students can watch those videos at home. If students have questions, they could comment on the videos and teachers would reply to it.

Cathy: This method can solve the disadvantage we discussed before. Students don't have to worried about asking questions without receiving any replies.

Yuka: That's right. Some teachers also give assignment to their students by putting a link below the video. Students can download and finish it by their own.

Cathy: So, after the entire discussion, what did you think about the online courses?

Yuka: Well, I think even though there are still some disadvantages for us to deal with, learning online will become a trend in the future.

Cathy: I agree with you. I think it cannot replace the role of teacher, but it will be more and more popular and prevalent.