

## Lost in the Post 给偶像写信

*Vocabulary: sending letters 词汇: 发送信件*

How would you feel if the letter you **penned** carefully and posted to your favourite star ended up in the **recycling bin**? That's where unopened **fan mail** sent to singer Taylor Swift was found in Nashville.

Swift's management said it was an accident, but dealing with **piles** of letters is a **burden** for most **public figures**. According to the BBC reporter Jon Kelly, at the height of his fame, Johnny Depp was said to receive up to 10,000 letters a week.



*Is your idol actually reading your lovely letter?*

The dawn of the **digital age** - in which **public figures** with a Twitter account can be **messaged** directly - has made the process easier. The White House says it deals with 20,000 messages **addressed to** President Barack Obama each day.

Some celebrities don't want letters. In 2008, Beatles drummer Ringo Starr **didn't mince his words** when he announced he would throw them out because he was too busy.

Others do attempt **to get through** it themselves. Robert Pattinson, star of the Twilight films, claims that he reads "tonnes and tonnes" of letters from fans.

Many artists, however, **outsource** the task of opening, reading and replying. Sylvia "Spanky" Taylor, 58, has run a service in California that does just that since 1987. She and her staff deal with up to 20,000 items of mail a month on behalf of 26 celebrities.

Most letters are simply **declarations of affection** and admiration, she says. A few ask for money. A small number contain threats which require her to contact the celebrity's security team and law enforcement.

The biggest problem for Taylor is working out how **to dispose of** the **correspondence**. Presents such as **soft toys** are sent to local hospitals, and the letters: most of them "just get **shredded** and **recycled**".

Typically, **correspondence** is acknowledged by a photo with a printed "**autograph**". For some, this is enough, according to Lynn Zubernis, an expert at West Chester University. She says that the relationship between fan and celebrity may exist only in the mind of the former but it comes from a **deeply-rooted** human need for community.

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. Who read the letters to singer Taylor Swift that were found in a bin?
2. Who told fans not to send any letters?
3. Is this statement true or false? *Sylvia 'Spanky' Taylor tells the police if fans are threatening her celebrity clients.*
4. Which expression means a person who is well-known by his/her own choice?
5. Which word is used to refer to a lot of letters, placed one on top of the other?

## 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. My boss doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ his words when asked what he enjoys most about his job. "I enjoy the money", he says.

shred	mince	recycle	outsource
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2. What's happened to good manners? Some people find it difficult to get \_\_\_\_\_ a sentence without using a swear word!

away	along	into	through
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3. Children grow up very quickly. They soon leave their favourite \_\_\_\_\_ toys behind and demand a fashionable gadget for Christmas.

soft	light	sweet	smooth
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4. I am not happy with the service provided by your company. I want to make a complaint. Who do I \_\_\_\_\_ this letter to?

dispose	message	address	acknowledge
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5. Brad Pitt is coming to town for the premiere of his latest movie. I've got his picture and I will go there and try to get his \_\_\_\_\_.

correspondence	letter	autograph	mail
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## Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

### Quiz 小测验

1. Who read the letters to singer Taylor Swift that were found in a bin? **Nobody. The letters were unopened.**
2. Who told fans not to send any letters? **The Beatles' drummer Ringo Starr.**
3. Is this statement true or false? *Sylvia 'Spanky' Taylor tells the police if fans are threatening her celebrity clients.* **True.**
4. Which expression means a person who is well-known by his/her own choice? **Public figure**
5. Which word is used to refer to a lot of letters, placed one on top of the other? **Pile**

### Exercise 练习

1. My boss doesn't **mince** his words when asked what he enjoys most about his job. "I enjoy the money", he says.
2. What's happened to good manners? Some people find it difficult to get **through** a sentence without using a swear word!
3. Children grow up very quickly. They soon leave their favourite **soft** toys behind and demand a fashionable gadget for Christmas.
4. I am not happy with the service provided by your company. I want to make a complaint. Who do I **address** this letter to?
5. Brad Pitt is coming to town for the premiere of his latest movie. I've got his picture and I will go there and try to get his **autograph**.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>to pen</b>	书写
<b>a recycling bin</b>	一个回收垃圾箱
<b>fan mail</b>	歌迷、影迷来信
<b>a pile</b>	一堆
<b>a burden</b>	负担
<b>a public figure</b>	公众人物
<b>the digital age</b>	数字时代
<b>to message</b>	给（某人）发消息
<b>to address to</b>	写信给（某人）
<b>not to mince words</b>	直截了当地说，坦率地说
<b>to get through</b>	做完，完成
<b>to outsource</b>	外包
<b>a declaration of affection</b>	爱的宣言
<b>to dispose of</b>	将（某物）处理掉
<b>correspondence</b>	信件
<b>a soft toy</b>	绒毛玩具
<b>to shred</b>	用碎纸机切成碎片
<b>to recycle</b>	回收
<b>an autograph</b>	亲笔签名
<b>deeply-rooted</b>	根深蒂固的