

Rich and rude 上流人更易欺骗撒谎

英语学习点: *Vocabulary: Social class* 社会等级词语

It's official – rich people really are **stuck-up**, at least according to one recent piece of research.

A series of studies into **unethical** behaviour across the social classes has shown that **posh** people are more likely to cheat, lie and be greedy than people who are less **well-off**.

Researchers from the University of California secretly observed people's behaviour in the real world and in a number of studies in the laboratory.



The research showed that **upper-class** individuals are more likely to break the law while driving and take valued goods from others.

In the first study, researchers hid by a crossroads in San Francisco and **spied on** drivers who were meant to stop and wait their turn before driving on. Whenever a car arrived at the junction, the scientists ranked the driver's class according to the model, age and appearance of the car. Nearly 250 drivers were observed. About 8% of those in the less **classy** cars **cut people up**, but drivers in the most **prestigious** cars did so around one third of the time.

The results were similar when a **pedestrian** tried to cross. Drivers of the cheapest, oldest cars were most likely to slow down and **give way**, but those in the most **fancy** cars ignored the pedestrian around 45% of the time.

The researchers also found a strong link between **social status** and greed and selfishness, a connection they think might widen **economic inequality** between the rich and poor.

In several laboratory studies, the scientists found that the higher a person's class, the more likely they were to tell lies in negotiations and cheat for money.

It seems that **the riff-raff** always beat the **toffs** – at least when it comes to morals.

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. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Studies show that people from lower classes are more likely to cheat and lie than people from upper classes.*
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The experiments were all carried out in the laboratory.*
3. Look at the article. What expression means to let someone else go before you, especially when driving?
4. Look at the article. What is another word meaning 'classy'?
5. Look at the article. What other phrases are used to describe upper-class people?

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. People who are _____ usually have more money than those who are not.

Well-over	well-off	well-out	well under
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2. She's terribly _____ - she never goes to pubs, only fancy bars.

riff-raff	toff	posh	luxury
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3. She comes from a very _____ family.

prestige	prestigious	prestigeful	prestigiously
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4. I've got a really _____ new car!

classy	classish	classic	classie
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5. If you want to go to university, stop mixing with the local _____.

whaff-wiff	riff-raff	raff-riff	whiff-whaff
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Studies show that people from lower classes are more likely to cheat and lie than people from upper classes.* False. People who are high in social class are more likely to cheat, lie and be greedy than people who are less well-off.
2. Is this statement true, false or not given? *The experiments were all carried out in the laboratory.* False. Researchers secretly observed people's behaviour in the real world and in a number of studies in the laboratory.
3. Look at the article. What expression means to let someone else go before you, especially when driving? To give way.
4. Look at the article. What is another word meaning 'classy'? Fancy or posh.
5. Look at the article. What other phrases are used to describe upper-class people? Posh people, toffs.

Exercise 练习

1. People who are well off usually have more money than those who are not.
2. She's terribly posh - she never goes to pubs, only fancy bars.
3. She comes from a very prestigious family.
4. I've got a really classy new car!
5. If you want to go to university, stop mixing with the local riff-raff.

Glossary 词汇表

stuck-up	(形容词) 自视清高/瞧不起人的 (贬义词)
unethical	不道德的
posh	清高势利眼的 (稍稍带有贬义)
well-off	富裕的/处境好的
upper-class	上等阶层
to spy on someone	暗中监视某人
classy	上等的/豪华的
to cut someone up	(开车) 霸道挤人
prestigious	名贵 (车)
a pedestrian	行人
to give way (to someone)	让行
fancy	上等的/豪华的
social status	社会地位
economic inequality	经济不平等
the riff-raff	(带有贬义的非正式词语) 指缺乏教养的劳动阶层
a toff	(带有贬义的非正式词语) 指来自上流阶层的人