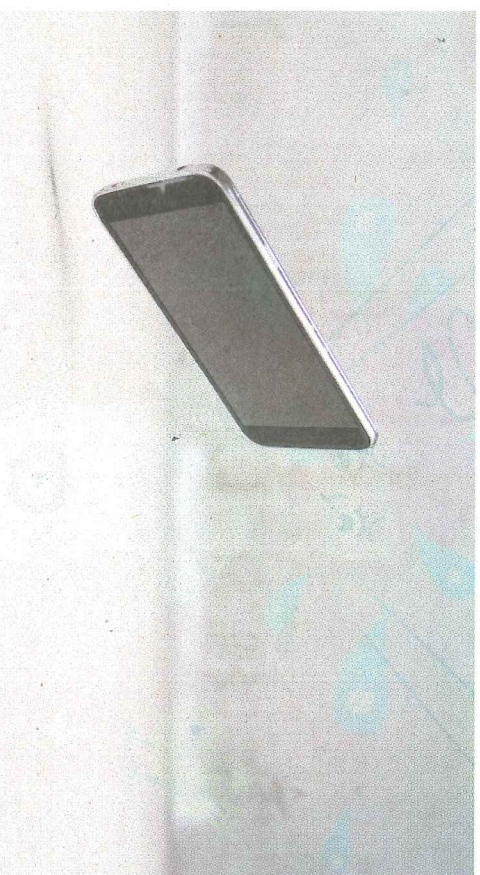




在國際地球村的趨勢下，英語成了升學、出國的必備利器，
《常春藤生活英語雜誌》為使讀者可以輕鬆與外國人對話，特別推出「生活UN學堂」，
內容有生活性的實用對話、時事主題及新知，讓你輕鬆鬆鬆，英語升級！

Murphy's Law 一切都是莫非定律的錯

The law that warns us to always expect the unexpected



Murphy's Law is the idea that if anything can go wrong, it will. **1** let's say you buy an expensive cellphone. When you **show** it **off** to your friends, you drop it face down and break the screen. If the phone had landed on its side or face up, it **2** fine. But thanks to Murphy's Law, you'll need to get it **repaired**?. Or, you might hear about a restaurant that serves delicious food. Yet, when you try to make a **reservation** for an important **3**, you find out that it closed down the day before.

Murphy's Law is named after Edward Murphy Jr. He was an engineer for the US Air **Force**. One day, Murphy's team was doing an experiment to test the effects of **gravity**. One team member kept making mistakes, though. Murphy got mad and said, "If there's more than one way to do a job, and one of those ways will **4** disaster, then he will do it that way." Later, another coworker joked to newspapers that their team was successful because they always took care to consider Murphy's Law. The phrase became popular, and more and more people started using Murphy's Law to describe **5** events in their own lives. These days, the expression serves as a warning and **explanation** for ruined plans and **setbacks**.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 (A) For example | (B) As a result | (C) In fact | (D) By the way |
| 2 (A) had been | (B) might be | (C) was | (D) would have been |
| 3 (A) condition | (B) occasion | (C) responsibility | (D) environment |
| 4 (A) figure out | (B) count on | (C) result in | (D) mix up |
| 5 (A) illegal | (B) improper | (C) dishonest | (D) unfortunate |

Translation

莫非定律的概念是任何可能出差錯的事情總會出錯。舉例來說，假設你買了一支昂貴的手機。當你向朋友炫耀時，你卻失手讓它正面朝下掉落而摔破了螢幕。如果手機是以側面或是正面朝上的方式著地，它應該就沒什麼大礙。但多虧了莫非定律，你得要把它拿去送修。或者是，你可能耳聞了一間供應美味佳餚的餐廳。然而，當你試圖為一個重要場合訂位時，卻發現餐廳竟在前一天就關門大吉了。

莫非定律是以愛德華·莫非二世命名的。他是一位為美國空軍效力的工程師。莫非的團隊某天正在進行測試重力效應的實驗。有一位隊員卻不停地犯錯。火大的莫非便說：「如果做事的方法有一種以上，而當中有個方法會造成災難，那麼他就會用那個方法來行事。」之後另有一名同事向報社開玩笑表示，他們團隊之所以成功都是因為他們總會特別小心把莫非定律納入考量。這個用詞變得流行，越來越多人開始用莫非定律來形容個人生命中的不幸事件。如今，此一說法則被用來替泡湯的計畫及挫折失敗作為一種警惕與解釋。

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| (D) 5 | (C) 7 | (B) 3 | (D) 2 | (A) 1 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|

: 姜晏