

词汇: punctuality 守时

As the saying goes, ‘**time waits for no man**’. Time is always against us, and we just can’t stop it. Maybe that’s why some of us are always **running late** for appointments. But if **timekeeping** is not what you’re good at, don’t stress. There might be a good reason for your lack of punctuality.

People’s attitudes to **being on time** vary. Some **clock-watch** and make sure they’re **bang on time** for a meeting. It is, after all, rude to be late, and if you can make it on time, why can’t everyone else? But if, like me, you want to **make every second count**, you might try to squeeze as much as you can into the time you have available. However, when your **schedule** doesn’t run to plan, your punctuality inevitably slips.

People who lack **promptness** have been described as ‘**time benders**’. Author Grace Pacie told the BBC that “they’re the people who don’t want to be late, but they have a strange resistance to being early, and they don’t allow enough time.” They assume their journey to an appointment will always go smoothly, and the train will always be on time!

Perceptions of **unpunctual** people are almost always negative – even if sometimes wrong. Writing for the BBC, Laura Clarke says: “Being consistently late might not be your fault. It could be your type. The **punctually-challenged** often share personality characteristics, such as optimism, low levels of self-control, anxiety, or a **penchant** for thrill-seeking, experts say. It is also possible people are late so not to be **conspicuous** and to avoid the anxious wait for others to turn up.

Maybe us **latecomers** should make more of an effort and follow the advice I heard to not ‘try’ to be on time but ‘decide’ to be on time. But I know if a meeting or a **deadline** really matters, then I’ll be there. Otherwise relax, even if others are cursing you!

词汇表

time waits for no man	时不我待
running late	迟到
timekeeping	守时
be on time	准时
clock-watch	不停地看表
bang on time	非常准时，正好准时
make every second count	争分夺秒
schedule	日程安排表
promptness	准时，及时
time bender	“弯曲时间的人”，总想在有限时间内做过多的事，从而导致经常迟到的人
unpunctual	不准时的
punctually-challenged	难于守时的人
penchant	倾向
conspicuous	显眼的
latecomer	迟到的人
deadline	截止日期，最后期限

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What do people who are often late try to do with their time?
2. True or false? *According to the article, unpunctual people always have a negative attitude.*
3. Why might someone not want to be on time at a meeting?
4. According to some advice, what should latecomers do instead of just trying to be on time?
5. What does author Grace Pacie think time benders have a resistance to?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. After her boss warned her about her _____, she's been early for every meeting.

timekeeping	latecomer	clock-watching	deadline
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2. I felt very _____ in the office because I was the only one wearing a suit!

resistant	conspicuous	perception	punctual
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3. I was _____ for my flight departure only to find it was cancelled!

banging time	bang in time	bang on time	banging on time
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4. According to the _____, there should be a bus leaving in ten minutes.

punctuality	schedule	promptness	deadline
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5. Roy is _____, so let's go ahead and watch the film. He can catch up later.

running later	late running	running late	ran late
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What do people who are often late try to do with their time?

They want to squeeze as much as they can into the time available.

2. True or false? *According to the article, unpunctual people always have a negative attitude.*

False. Perceptions of unpunctual people are almost always negative – even if sometimes wrong.

3. Why might someone not want to be on time at a meeting?

Some people are late to a meeting so not to be conspicuous and avoid the anxious wait for others to turn up.

4. According to some advice, what should latecomers do instead of just trying to be on time?

Instead of trying to be on time, they should decide to be on time.

5. What does author Grace Pacie think time benders have a resistance to?

Grace Pacie says “they have a strange resistance to being early and they don’t allow enough time.”

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. After her boss warned her about her **timekeeping**, she’s been early for every meeting.

2. I felt very **conspicuous** in the office because I was the only one wearing a suit!

3. I was **bang on time** for my flight departure only to find it was cancelled!

4. According to the **schedule**, there should be a bus leaving in ten minutes.

5. Roy is **running late**, so let’s go ahead and watch the film. He can catch up later.