



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

The World of Animation



The World of Animation 动画世界

Wallace and Gromit 酷狗宝贝

British films are rarely successful in the United States. However, the animated adventures of a cheese-loving, **eccentric inventor** and his **canine companion** are proving to be a surprise hit in America, having taken the number one position in the US box office on the weekend of its release.

In a year which has seen poor ticket sales for big-budget, action movies it seems that the gentle, **quirky humour** of 'Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit' has captured the American public's imagination.

Although Wallace and Gromit have been stars in the UK for a number of years, they are less well-known abroad. For those who don't know, Wallace is a **hare-brained** inventor with a passion for Wensleydale cheese. Gromit is his **wily** dog. Both are **clay models** brought to life through the **painstaking** process of **stop-motion animation**.

Their creator, Nick Park, **dreamed them up** whilst still a student at the National Film and Television School in the 1980s. Their first film 'A Grand Day Out' began as his graduation film and was completed whilst working for his first employers, Aardman Animations.

Since then their rise has been steady but slow. Because the technique of stop-motion animation is so **labour intensive**, typically producing two seconds of film per day's work, Wallace and Gromit films are **few and far between**. They have appeared in only three half-hour films for television and ten one-minute films specially made for the Internet.

Nevertheless, they have received a great deal of **critical acclaim**. Their first film was nominated for an Oscar whilst their second and third **outings** 'The Wrong Trousers' and 'A Close Shave' both won Oscars.

Hollywood **came calling** in 2000 when Aardman Animations made a five-movie deal with Steven Spielberg's film studio Dreamworks. 'The Curse of the Were-Rabbit' has taken four years and a reported \$30 million to make, and features the voices of international stars Helena Bonham-Carter and Ralph Fiennes.

Despite **hitting the big time**, one thing hasn't changed since their earliest days. Wallace's voice remains that of veteran, sit-com actor Peter Sallis. Sallis first agreed to take the role after receiving a letter from **then student** Nick Park and an offer of a £50 donation to the charity of his choice.



Glossary 词汇表

eccentric inventor – 怪异（异想天开）的发明者

quirky humour – 风格独特的戏剧

clay models – 粘土偶

stop-motion animation – 定格动画

labour intensive – 劳动力密集的

critical acclaim – 高度评价

came calling – 主动找上门来的

then student – 当时做学生的

canine companion – 小狗伙伴
hare-brained – 异想天开的

wily – 诡计多端的

painstaking – 艰苦的

dreamed them up – 构思

few and far between – 少见的

outings – 形象

hitting the big time – 一举成名

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真？哪句是假？请圈出正确答案。

1. Wallace and Gromit are characters invented by American film studio Dreamworks. **True / False**
2. Nick Park first invented the characters when he was studying at film school. **True / False**
3. Advanced computer technology is used to animate Wallace and Gromit to give them a 3D look. **True / False**
4. It takes a whole day's work to complete just two minutes of screen time. **True / False**
5. Peter Sallis was paid just £50 for his work on the latest Wallace and Gromit film. **True / False**



2. Vocabulary – film expressions 词汇 —— 电影词汇

Look at the words and phrase below. Can you match them to their meanings?

请在下列练习中找出相对应的词语和注解。

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. to cut to the chase | a. the cinema |
| 2. that's a wrap | b. to make a special effort to welcome somebody (as if they were a film star) |
| 3. to roll out the red carpet | c. to get to the most important or interesting part of the story |
| 4. the flicks | d. the job is finished |

Now complete these sentences using the words or phrases from above.

请从上列词语中选择正确词语完成句子填空练习。

1. 'What do you want to do tonight?'

'Why don't we go to the _____ and see a movie?'

2. We have a very important client coming to the office this afternoon so we need to _____.

3. Well, _____. We can all go home now.

4. His explanations are so long and complicated. Why can't he just _____?

3. Jumbled Sentences 打乱词序的句子

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

请将下列句子中的单词重新排列，组成一个正确的句子。

1. characters famous Many lend voices to actors their cartoon

2. to It millions produce can and an animated film cost years take

3. CGI animation or also Computer known CG simply is as

4. films technique Gromit used animation Stop-motion in Wallace is the and

5. character Disney the for the Mickey original Mouse provided Walt voice

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with animation in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与动画片有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→) 垂直的(↓) 或对角的(↘)形式出现。

s	w	v	r	t	u	g	v	d	a	i	c
c	a	r	t	o	o	n	p	l	a	e	l
q	u	e	x	c	b	n	e	h	w	r	a
d	r	a	n	i	m	a	t	o	r	l	y
i	d	f	h	b	h	y	j	n	e	c	f
r	a	m	o	d	e	l	v	e	t	g	u
e	n	c	b	r	s	x	y	d	t	i	n
c	b	u	e	m	r	t	v	e	r	s	y
t	h	e	b	l	u	n	t	o	m	a	t
o	h	e	g	h	l	j	u	n	i	k	w
r	s	h	e	t	h	l	a	n	r	c	c
s	a	r	t	i	s	t	b	e	r	t	e

cartoon	clay	model	artist	animator
director	cell	voice	CGI	draw

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

- Wallace and Gromit are characters invented by American film studio Dreamworks. **False**
- Nick Park first invented the characters when he was studying at film school. **True**
- Advanced computer technology is used to animate Wallace and Gromit to give them a 3D look. **False**
- It takes a whole day's work to complete just two minutes of screen time. **False**
- Peter Sallis was paid just £50 for his work on the latest Wallace and Gromit film. **False**

3. Jumbled Sentences 打乱词序的句子

Rearrange the words in the sentences below to make correct sentences.

请将下列句子中的单词重新排列, 组成一个正确的句子

- Many famous actors lend their voices to cartoon characters.
- It can take years and cost millions to produce an animated film.
- Computer animation is also known as CGI or simply CG.
- Stop-motion animation is the technique used in Wallace and Gromit films.
- Walt Disney provided the original voice for the character Mickey Mouse.

Vocabulary – film expressions 词汇 —— 电影词汇

Look at the words and phrase below. Can you match them to their meanings?

请在下列练习中找出相对应的词语和注解。

- c
- d
- b
- a

Now complete these sentences using the words or phrases from above.

请从上列词语中选择正确词语完成句子填空练习。

- 'What do you want to do tonight?'
'Why don't we go to the **flicks** and see a movie?'
- We have a very important client coming to the office this afternoon so we need to **roll out the red carpet**.
- Well, **that's a wrap**. We can all go home now.
- His explanations are so long and complicated. Why can't he just **cut to the chase**?

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

												c
c	a	r	t	o	o	n						l
												a
d		a	n	i	m	a	t	o	r			y
i												c
r		m	o	d	e	l						g
e	c							d				i
c			e					v	r			
t				l				o				a
o					l					i		w
r												c
	a	r	t	i	s	t						e

