

Trendy
expressions

"Make a call" for your passion

By Echo Xiong

There is one expression that you probably often see on the Internet but have a hard time understanding what it is all about.

The expression is "打call," in which the Chinese character "打 (dǎ)" means "to make." The literal meaning is so simple, yet it is so confusing because why is everyone trying to "make a call?"

The expression originates from the Japanese term "コール (call)," a loanword from English. It refers to the way the youth cheer for their idols at live music performances in Japanese

culture. Fans wave their arms or fluorescent sticks, jump, clap their hands, or shout out the same cheering words and words from the lyrics together. What makes it unique is that the members of the audience act in unison and simultaneously.

From an action in a specific situation to a more general verbal expression, "call" has been used by Chinese netizens on social media platforms when they want to cheer for, give a thumbs up to, applaud (for), or stand by someone or something.

For example, they would say, "I want to 'make a call' for my favorite cheese cake." "Let's 'make a call' for those who have to work outside in this freezing weather!"

Although it is just a simple combination of "打 (make)" and "call," many believe that it would be hard to find an alternative. The trendy term shows people the love and support from the bottom of the users' heart as it is associated with the image that their "fans" are waving their arms and cheering for them.

Write
now!

Starry dreams

By Hou Kaiwen (侯楷文) from Wuhan Foreign Languages School

Around 14 million years ago, after a tough day, the ancestors of human beings sat down and had a rest. When they raised their heads to look up at the sky, they suddenly caught sight of bright stars shining in the dark sky. They were filled with a sense of wonder when they saw the spectacular works of the universe. However, what struck human beings most were the mysteries behind those little stars.

Around 600 BC, after mastering some basic knowledge concerning stars, philosophers could predict weather for the following few days, which, to a large extent, changed people's lives. In spite of this, a majority of people doubted the importance of putting one's energy into studying those useless objects.

Confronted with those doubts, the German philosopher

Hegel in the 1800s inspired people by encouraging them not only to look down but also up.

It was the constant pursuit of the stars that contributed to the invention of the first aircraft by Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1903 after countless failed attempts. Soon humans began to get down to the next ambitious goal — exploring the universe.

Half a century later, the unbelievable target was achieved. On April 12, 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin set a record when he entered outer space and remained there for more than two hours.

In our mighty 21st century, owing to the insistence of generation after generation of Chinese astronomers, over 170 satellites made in China are shining in outer space.

Looking back at the history

of human development, human beings have made great efforts to turn fantasy into reality.

Thus, be faithful to our original aspiration and continue marching forward. One day in the future, we will reach our own stars and shine brightly like never before.

Foreign Language Editor's Tips:

When writing historical articles, make sure to double check your facts. Use full names, dates and unknown facts to add color. Good job!

This column publishes English articles written by language learners to showcase their writing skills and unique views. If you are interested in sharing your work, please contact changjiangweekly@126.com for more information. (Please note that all articles are subject to editing.)

One step
at a time

1. Wuhan dialect

nào yō

闹哟

Meaning: referring to those who make a lot of noise and are very annoying

Chinese:

gé bì xiǎo hái jiù shì gè nào
隔壁小孩就是个闹
yō měi tiān chǎo chǎo rǎng rǎng
哟, 每天吵吵嚷嚷。

English:

The boy next door is very annoying. He screams and shouts a lot every day.

2. Chinese characters

jí

吉

Development:

Meaning: [adj.] auspicious; lucky
Chinese:

chūn jié de shí hòu rén men
春节的时候, 人们
huì zhù fú duì fāng xīn nián jí xiáng
会祝福对方: 新年吉祥。

English:

During the Spring Festival, people greet each other with "Wish you an auspicious new year."

3. Buzzwords

shuā liǎn

刷脸

Meaning: face scan

Chinese:

xīn píng guǒ shǒu jī de shuā liǎn
新苹果手机的脸
gōng néng chéng wéi yí dà huà tí
功能成为一大话题。

English: New iPhone's face-scanning technology has become a hot topic.

4. Sentence of the week

English: "To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong."
—Joseph Chilton Pearce

Chinese:

yào guò shàng fù yǒu chuàng
要过上富有创
yì de shēng huó, wǒ men bì xū bìn
意的生活, 我们必须摒
qì duì cuò wù de kǒng jù
弃对错误的恐惧。

——约瑟夫·奇尔顿·皮尔斯