Politics: Gordon Brown

政治：布朗
The British Prime Minister Makes an Important Speech

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But the Prime Minister knows that for his leadership, time might be running out. His Labour Party are now 22 points behind the Conservatives and unless they improve their position, the next election will be won by the leader of the Opposition, David Cameron.

Gordon Brown’s speech was aimed at those within Labour who think the only way their party can win again is for him to go as soon as possible.

How did it come to this? When Mr Brown came into office 14 months ago, he was riding high in opinion polls and had a secure place in his party. His serious, no-nonsense approach was seen as a refreshing change from Mr Blair’s slick and prepared style.

Mr Brown’s honeymoon came to an end this time last year. There were hints that he might try to capitalise on his lead in the polls by calling a snap election. The Prime Minister allowed speculation to build for several weeks before finally ruling out an autumn election.

The delay allowed the Prime Minister’s opponents to call him indecisive and even cowardly.

There followed unpopular changes to the tax system, which left some poorer voters worse off. This led to an embarrassing U-turn that further eroded Mr Brown’s image as a safe pair of hands to run the economy.

And then we have the growing financial crisis that has already caused one UK bank to be nationalised and another, HBOS, to be taken over.

Some of his opponents say Mr Brown must shoulder some of the blame for recent events, since he was Chancellor for 10 years under Tony Blair.

Yesterday the Prime Minister accepted that his first year in power might have gone better, saying, “Where I’ve made mistakes I’ll put my hand up and try to put them right”.

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Some of his opponents say Mr Brown must shoulder some of the blame for recent events, since he was Chancellor for 10 years under Tony Blair.

Yesterday the Prime Minister accepted that his first year in power might have gone better, saying, “Where I’ve made mistakes I’ll put my hand up and try to put them right”.
But he insisted that his long experience meant he was best placed to handle the financial crisis.

Perhaps speaking of Mr Cameron, the Prime Minister said, “This is no time for a novice”.

The Prime Minister’s impasioned speech has impressed many supporters, but it is not clear if it will be enough to quieten the dissent within his party.

**Glossary 词汇表**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a new settlement for new times - 新时期的新对策</th>
<th>time might be running out - 恐怕没时间了</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opposition - 反对党</td>
<td>riding high in opinion polls - 民调支持率高</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slick - 圆滑的</td>
<td>honeymoon - 蜜月（期）</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>capitalise - 利用</td>
<td>snap election - 临时选举</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speculation - 揣测</td>
<td>ruling out - 排除</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indecisive - 犹豫不决</td>
<td>U-turn - 掉头回转</td>
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<tr>
<td>eroded - 损坏了</td>
<td>safe pair of hands - 经验老手</td>
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<tr>
<td>nationalised - 国有化</td>
<td>shoulder some of the blame - 承担部分责任</td>
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<tr>
<td>put my hand up - (举手)认错</td>
<td>This is no time for a novice - 不是新手上阵的时候</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impasioned - 慷慨激昂的</td>
<td>quieten the dissent - 平息不满情绪</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. The Prime Minister is 22 points ahead of David Cameron. **True / False**
2. Mr Brown is a less popular leader than he used to be. **True / False**
3. Mr Brown changed his mind about his tax plans. **True / False**
4. The Prime Minister denied that he has made any mistakes. **True / False**
5. There was no real emotion in the Prime Minister’s speech. **True / False**

2. **Memory Activity** 记忆力测试

a) **Make Adjective-Noun Pairs** 形容词和名词的搭配

Without looking back at the article, match the adjectives on the left with the nouns on the right. Put the six pairs of words in the spaces below.

试一试如果不参考上文你能不能把下列两组词语互相搭配组成六个新的短语，并填写在下面的横线上。

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjectives</th>
<th>Nouns</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>refreshing</td>
<td>U-turn</td>
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<td>long</td>
<td>change</td>
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<td>no-nonsense</td>
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<td>approach</td>
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<td>impassioned</td>
<td>experience</td>
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<td>embarrassing</td>
<td>speech</td>
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_________________         __________________        __________________
_________________         __________________        __________________
b) Fill in the Blanks 填空

Use the adjective / noun pairs from part a) to complete the sentences below.

请用上一练习中搭配好的六个短语来完成下列句子。

1. Since getting the best exam results in his school, Lee Chung has a __________________ at Beijing University.

2. "Wanted: a barman or bar woman with ___________________."

3. At his farewell dinner, the company director made a long, __________________ about the future of the organisation.

4. Everyone agreed that it made a __________________ to see a documentary in the cinema.

5. "Enough dreaming! To solve this problem, we need someone with a ___________________ ."

6. The government struggled to regain support after an __________________ on inheritance tax.
Last night, Kevin Ruddock, the managing director of Ultraplay Entertainments, tried to quieten _______ about when the new Zbox games console was likely to be released. Speaking at a technology conference, Mr Ruddock said that Ultraplay was still aiming for a November release although he was “unable to _______ a launch in 2009.”

The console was initially planned for launch in April of this year. Mr Ruddock explained that technical problems had mainly caused the delay, but admitted that he personally had to _______ for misleading the public about the release.

Rumours that Ultraplay’s management has been _______ have _______ the company’s standing in the market. Mr Ruddock made an _______ plea to current Ultraplay customers to wait for the new console to arrive - even if that means waiting till after Christmas.

But with Ultraplay’s market share down 7% in six months, _______ for Mr Ruddock himself.
4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with today’s story in the puzzle below.

There are 8 words to find. Words can be written horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与本期故事有关的英语单词来。

共有8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。

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</table>

U-turn  impassioned  refreshing
indecisive speculation  eroded  slick
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。

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2. Mr Brown is a less popular leader than he used to be.  True
3. Mr Brown changed his mind about his tax plans.  True
4. The Prime Minister denied that he has made any mistakes.  False
5. There was no real emotion in the Prime Minister’s speech.  False

2. Memory Activity 记忆力测试

a) Make Adjective-Noun Pairs 形容词和名词的搭配

Without looking back at the article, match the adjectives on the left with the nouns on the right. Put the six pairs of words in the spaces below.

refreshing change  long experience  no-nonsense approach
secure place  impassioned speech  embarrassing U-turn

b) Fill in the Blanks 填空

Use the adjective / noun pairs from part a) to complete the sentences below.

1. Since getting the best exam results in his school, Lee Chung has a **secure place** at Beijing University.
2. "Wanted: a barman or bar woman with **long experience**."
3. At his farewell dinner, the company director made a long, **impassioned speech** about the future of the organisation.
4. Everyone agreed that it made a **refreshing change** to see a documentary in the cinema.
5. "Enough dreaming! To solve this problem, we need someone with a **no-nonsense approach**."
6. The government struggled to regain support after an **embarrassing U-turn** on inheritance tax.

3. Difficult Words and Phrases 有难度的单词和短语

Read the passage and fill in the gaps using the correct words or phrases from the box below.

indecisive  eroded  impassioned
speculation  rule out  shoulder some of the blame
time might be running out

Last night, Kevin Ruddock, the managing director of Ultraplay Entertainments, tried to quieten speculation about when the new Zbox games console was likely to be released. Speaking at a technology conference, Mr Ruddock said that Ultraplay was still aiming for a November release although he was "unable to **rule out** a launch in 2009."

The console was initially planned for launch in April of this year. Mr Ruddock explained that technical problems had mainly caused the delay, but admitted that he personally had to shoulder **some of the blame** for misleading the public about the release.

Rumours that Ultraplay’s management has been **indecisive** have **eroded** the company’s standing in the market. Mr Ruddock made an **impassioned** plea to current Ultraplay customers to wait for the new console to arrive - even if that means waiting till after Christmas.

But with Ultraplay’s market share down 7% in six months, **time might be running out** for Mr Ruddock himself.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

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