



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

For Sale: One Life 出售：人生

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A Fresh Beginning 重新开始

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

Do you ever feel sick of your life?

Then why not sell it?

This is exactly what one man is attempting to do following the breakdown of his marriage.

Ian Usher, a 44-year-old British man living in Australia, is using the online auction site eBay to sell not only his belongings, but his entire life.

Up for grabs are his house and everything that's in it: his car, his jetski, his parachuting gear, even his pots and pans.

But what makes the auction unique is that the package also includes a two-week trial run at his job as an assistant in a rug store, and even an introduction to his friends in the local area.

The lovelorn Mr Usher said he no longer wanted to be reminded of the life he shared with his ex-wife, and hopes the sale will raise funds for a life-changing adventure.

He said that once the sale has gone through, he plans to "walk out of his front door with his wallet in one pocket and his passport in the other," and see where the next plane takes him.

Bidding opened on Sunday, and by Monday morning had already reached the staggering figure of 13m yuan (2m Australian dollars).

Unfortunately for Mr Usher most of the high bids turned out to be fake, as he had not activated a registration system that would have only let genuine bids through.

After removing the bogus bids the value of his 'life' stood at 2m yuan, though he hopes the final figure will be over 3m yuan.

Whatever the final price he receives, he is by no means the first person to try to sell something unusual online. A fighter jet, a piece of Britney Spears' chewing gum, and even some toenail clippings have all been sold on eBay.

Glossary 词汇表

feel sick of – 厌倦	breakdown – 破裂
online auction site – 拍卖网站	belongings – 拥有物品
up for grabs – 供选购的	jetski – 喷气滑水艇
parachuting gear – 跳伞装备	trial run – 试验
rug – 地毯	lovelorn – 失恋的
raise funds – 集资	gone through – 通过
bidding – (拍卖时的) 出价	staggering figure – 高额数字
turned out to be – (出乎意料) 的结果	registration system – 登记系统
genuine – 真是的	bogus – 假冒的
fighter jet – 战斗机	toenail clippings – 脚趾甲屑

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. Mr Usher is Australian. True / False
2. The successful buyer gets Mr Usher's job permanently. True / False
3. Mr Usher plans to take a lot of things with him when he travels. True / False
4. Mr Usher has no definite plan about where he wants to go after he sells his life. True / False
5. Mr Usher hopes to sell his 'life' for 2m yuan. True / False

2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

Answer the following questions about the text. You should write a short answer (1 to 10 words).

用1-10个词简单回答以下问题.

1. Why does Ian Usher want to sell his 'life'?

2. List six things from his life included in the auction.

3. What does Mr Usher want to do with the money from the auction?

4. Why were a lot of the early bids in the auction fake?

5. Name some other strange things which have been sold in online auctions?

Now choose the correct answer: a, b or c.

从a, b, c中选择最佳答案.

6. Mr Usher wanted to sell everything after the _____ of his marriage.

a) break b) breakdown c) break

7. A rug is a type of _____ .

a) carpet b) car park c) crumpet

8. When describing a large number we might call it _____.

9. a) stagnating b) strategic c) staggering
 Another word for fake is _____ .
- a) wrong b) genuine c) bogus
10. When a sale is complete it _____.
- a) goes up b) goes through c) goes in

3. Fill in the Blanks 选词填空

Complete the summary with words from the box.

从下列词表中选词填空.

Ian Usher is selling something unique on the _____ site eBay: his life. He is trying to sell his whole lifestyle, not just his _____. This means that the buyer will receive not only his physical possessions like his _____, but also an introduction to his friends and a _____ at his job in a _____ store. The _____ Mr Usher is selling everything after his marriage broke down, and hopes to _____ for a new adventure. Early _____ indicated that some people were willing to pay as much as 2m _____. Sadly for Mr Usher, most of these bids were not _____. After removing _____ bids the figure was much lower.

belongings	lovelorn	bidding	yuan	genuine	bogus	jetski
raise funds	online auction	rug	trial run	Australian dollars		

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with the online auctions in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (g), vertically (i) or diagonally (m)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与有关网上拍卖的英语单词。

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

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

lovelorn	bogus	genuine	toenail	
breakdown				
rug	auction	raise funds	belongings	trial
run				

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。

- Mr Usher is Australian. False
- The successful buyer gets Mr Usher's job permanently. False
- Mr Usher plans to take a lot of things with him when he travels. False
- Mr Usher has no definite plan about where he wants to go after he sells his life. True
- Mr Usher hopes to 'sell his life' for 2m yuan. False

3. Fill in the Blanks 选词填空

Complete the sentences below with one of the correct verbs, nouns and adjectives from above.

从上一练习词汇中选择正确的动词, 名词或形容词填入下列句子中。

Ian Usher is selling something unique on the online auction site eBay: his life. He is trying to sell his whole lifestyle, not just his belongings. This means that the buyer will receive not only his physical possessions like his jetski, but also an introduction to his friends and a trial run at his job in a rug store. The lovelorn Mr Usher is selling everything after his marriage broke down, and hopes to raise funds for a new adventure. Early bidding indicated that some people were willing to pay as much as 2m Australian dollars. Sadly for Mr Usher, most of these bids were not genuine. After removing bogus bids the figure was much lower.

Well done if you noticed there was an extra word: yuan

2. Reading Quiz 2 阅读测验 2

- He doesn't want to remember his old life
- House, car, jetski, parachuting gear, friends, job
- Raise funds for a life-changing adventure
- He hadn't activated the online registration system
- Chewing gum, toenail clippings, a fighter jet
- b) breakdown
- a) carpet
- c) staggering
- c) bogus
- b) goes through

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

			t	o	e	n	a	i	l		b	
a			r								r	
u			i			b					e	
c			a			o					a	
t	b	e	l	o	n	g	i	n	g	s	k	
i			r	u	g	u			e		d	
o			u			s			n		o	
n			n						u		w	
									i		n	
			l	o	v	e	l	o	r	n		
									e			
			r	a	i	s	e	f	u	n	d	s