



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

Ping-Pong 乒乓球



[bbcchina.com.cn](http://bbcchina.com.cn)

## Ping-Pong 乒乓球

### From Whiff to Pong: The Story of Table Tennis 从小到大：乒乓球的故事

**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 fancy a game of whiff-whaff? How about pim-pam?

Never heard of them? Well, these were both early names for the game that has come to be known as table tennis or ping-pong around the world.

It is a sport China has largely dominated since the middle of the last century, and with the Beijing Olympics **just around the corner** it might not be **far-fetched** to expect yet another **clean sweep** for Chinese athletes in the event.

But what is the history of the game? First we have to **rewind the clock** to **Victorian-era** Britain, where **lawn tennis** was just starting to **catch on**.

It was soon proving so popular that eager players wanted to play indoors as well as outdoors, and began improvising with **makeshift** household equipment such as using **corks** from wine bottles as balls and empty cigar boxes as **bats**.

Game manufacturers quickly **cottoned on** to the potential of indoor table tennis as a commercial product and began producing **ready-made** sets in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The names of many early products, such as ping-pong, whiff-whaff and pom-pom, **mimicked** the sound of a bat hitting a ball.

Ping-pong was introduced to China in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and gradually became a national sport, loved and played by millions. Chinese players, such as Liu Guoliang, have **pioneered** techniques and styles of **gripping** the bat, which helped them to great international sporting success.

The game has even played a role in international politics when a group of American table tennis players were invited to China in 1971 to play and train with Chinese athletes. The move **signalled** a **renewal of ties** between China and the US during an era of what became called 'ping-pong **diplomacy**'.

Now, as Beijing 2008 approaches, **TV ratings** experts **anticipate** that alongside the men's 110m hurdles and women's volleyball, table tennis will be the most-watched Olympic event in China. With the top five women and top four men in **official rankings**, it is highly possible that once again we will see Chinese players battling it out amongst themselves for the top spots.

## Glossary 词汇表

<b>just around the corner</b> – 近在咫尺, 临近	<b>far-fetched</b> – 异想天开的
<b>clean sweep</b> – 横扫	<b>rewind the clock</b> – 退回到
<b>Victorian-era</b> – 维多利亚时代	<b>lawn tennis</b> – 草地网球
<b>catch on</b> – 追赶	<b>makeshift</b> – 临时凑合的
<b>corks</b> – 软木瓶塞	<b>bats</b> – 球拍
<b>cottoned on</b> – 明白, 了解	<b>ready-made</b> – 现成的
<b>mimicked</b> – 模仿	<b>pioneered</b> – 先驱
<b>signalled</b> – 发出信号, 预示	<b>renewal of ties</b> – 恢复关系
<b>diplomacy</b> – 外交	<b>TV ratings</b> – 电视收视率
<b>anticipate</b> – 预期	<b>official rankings</b> – 官方排位

### 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. Table tennis arrived in China in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. **True / False**
2. Whiff-whaff was the sound made when the bats hit the table.  
**True / False**
3. Liu Guoliang is considered a pioneer of table tennis technique.  
**True / False**
4. Huge TV audiences are expected to watch the women's volleyball tournament in China during Beijing 2008. **True / False**
5. The top five male table tennis players in the world are Chinese, according to official rankings. **True / False**

## 2. Verbs, Adjectives and Nouns 1 动词, 形容词和名词 练习一

Fill in the table below putting the verbs, adjectives and nouns in the right column. The first ones have been done for you.

在下表中填入正确的动词, 形容词和名词。参照第一个示范。

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
pioneered	diplomacy	far-fetched

caught on

far-fetched

signalled

corks

diplomacy

ready-made

cottoned on

pioneered

bat

makeshift

### 3. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 2 动词, 形容词和名词 练习二

**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。

1. I liked the story but it was a little too \_\_\_\_\_, it could never happen in real life.
2. Once computer games \_\_\_\_\_ in my class everyone was playing them.
3. The political meeting \_\_\_\_\_ a new stage in \_\_\_\_\_ between the two countries.
4. Wine bottles are traditionally sealed using \_\_\_\_\_, but these days other materials are also used.
5. We wanted to play cricket but forgot to bring a \_\_\_\_\_, so we had to just use a bit of wood as a \_\_\_\_\_ one.
6. My friend didn't realise that he could wear casual clothes at work, but when he \_\_\_\_\_ to the idea he could be more relaxed he left his formal clothes at home.
7. The Dutch football team in the 1970s and 80s \_\_\_\_\_ a completely new style of playing called 'total football'.

#### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with table tennis 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，找出与乒乓球有关的英语单词来。

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。

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

bats	mimicked	ready-made
makeshift	anticipate	far-fetched
pioneered	signalled	diplomacy corks

## Answers 答案

### 1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

- Table tennis arrived in China in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. **False**
- Whiff-whaff was the sound made when the bats hit the table. **False**
- Liu Guoliang is considered a pioneer of table tennis technique. **True**
- Huge TV audiences are expected to watch the women's volleyball tournament in China during Beijing 2008. **True**
- The top five male table tennis players in the world are Chinese, according to official rankings. **False**

### 3. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 2

动词, 形容词和名词练习二

- I liked the story but it was a little too **far-fetched**, it could never happen in real life.
- Once computer games **caught-on** in my class everyone was playing them.
- The political meeting **signalled** a new stage in **diplomacy** between the two countries.
- Wine bottles are traditionally sealed using **corks**, but these days other materials are also used.
- We wanted to play cricket but forgot to bring a **bat**, so we had to just use a bit of wood as a **makeshift** one.
- My friend didn't realise that he could wear casual clothes at work, but when he **cottoned on** to the idea he could be more relaxed he left his formal clothes at home.
- The Dutch football team in the 1970s and 80s **pioneered** a completely new style of playing called 'total football'.

### 2. Verbs, Nouns and Adjectives 1

动词, 形容词和名词练习一

Verbs	Nouns	Adjectives
pioneered	diplomacy	far-fetched
caught on	bat	ready-made
signalled	corks	makeshift
cottoned on		
pioneered		

### 4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

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