

The 8 year-old problem-solver 8 岁小神童

英语学习点: 有关问题的词汇 *Vocabulary: Problems*

Have you ever had a **troubling** problem that has left you wondering **where to turn for help**?

Eve Hobsbawm is a **life counsellor**. She offers advice to people **struggling** with all kinds of **dilemmas**, from relationship difficulties to what to cook for dinner.



She does this through a website inviting people to email her with their **queries** and **quandaries**. There's nothing unusual about that... except for the fact that Eve is only eight years old.

This junior **trouble-shooter**, who also goes by the name 'Miss Evie Mouse', lives in London with her parents. Not only is Miss Mouse willing to lend an ear to her clients, she will also offer them a **helping hand**... for a fee of course.

She charges between 10p (1 yuan) for advice on little, everyday worries and £1 (10 yuan) for **thornier** problems. Her areas of expertise - if not of experience - are: "Problems about love, life and **work-life balance**."

A **problem shared is a problem halved**, but Eve can't always help. A note on the site states that she can't answer questions like "Does space ever end?" and she won't solve "schoolwork-related problems (especially not maths)."

She explained to the Guardian newspaper that she was **inspired** to set up the company by her father who runs a **tech start-up**. Eve said: "As soon as I saw his business and understood the kinds of things businesses do, I thought that's what I'm going to do."

But since setting up her company in December she has been so **overwhelmed** with messages that she has had to take a step back. "There has been a lot of sudden interest in my site, which is nice," she says, "but I need to do my homework too, so I won't be solving any more problems for a bit."

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. How old is Eve?
2. Is this statement true, false, or not given? *Eve has been running her problem-solving company for many years.*
3. Does Eve offer to solve all problems?
4. Look at the article. Can you see a word that means 'more difficult'?
5. Look at the article. What idiom relating to problems uses the language of fractions?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. I have this problem that's been _____ me for months.

struggling	inspiring	troubling	querying
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2. Would you mind _____? I have something I need to talk about.

lending an ear	borrowing a tongue	selling a hand	stealing your eyes
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3. I have a _____ – should I stay or should I go?

dilemma	worried	difficult	ponder
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4. Mike is in a _____ over whether to tell Mary he no longer loves her.

quarry	quorum	quandary	question
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5. Sara has been feeling _____ ever since she had her second child.

overwhelmed	underwhelmed	underfed	overslept
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. How old is Eve? Eight years old.
2. Is this statement true, false, or not given? *Eve has been running her problem-solving company for many years.* False: She set up the problem-solving company in December.
3. Does Eve offer to solve all problems? No. Eve doesn't promise help for all problems. A note on the site states that she can't answer questions like "Does space ever end?" and she won't solve "schoolwork-related problems (especially not maths)."
4. Look at the article. Can you see a word that means 'more difficult'? Thornier.
5. Look at the article. What idiom relating to problems uses the language of fractions? A problem shared is a problem halved.

Exercise 练习

1. I have this problem that's been troubling me for months.
2. Would you mind lending an ear? I have something I need to talk about.
3. I have a dilemma – should I stay or should I go?
4. Mike is in a quandary over whether to tell Mary he no longer loves her.
5. Sara has been feeling overwhelmed ever since she had her second child.

Glossary 词汇表

troubling	令人烦恼的
where to turn for help	到哪里求救?
a life counsellor	人生顾问
to offer (someone) advice	提供咨询
to struggle	挣扎
a dilemma	(进退两难的) 窘境
a query	提问
a quandary	左右为难的情况
a trouble-shooter	能解决问题的人
to lend (someone) an ear	聆听他人的问题
to offer (someone) a helping hand	助人一臂之力
thornier	多刺的, 此处形容棘手的
work-life balance	工作生活平衡
a problem shared is a problem halved	(成语) 跟人说了, 问题就解决了一半。
inspired	受鼓舞
a tech start-up	一个新创科技公司
to be overwhelmed	被淹没, 使之难以承受