



WRITING



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News 1

Golden State Was Down Big. Then Kevon Looney Happened.

SAN FRANCISCO — The day before Kevon Looney produced the best game of his professional career, he sat in a hallway at Chase Center in San Francisco, thinking about the way his role had changed since Golden State drafted him in 2015.

This was a team known for its smaller lineups; that's how it had won a championship that year. At 6-foot-9, and despite a wingspan of more than seven feet, Looney was considered undersized.

Looney **chuckled**¹ at the thought, then he considered it a little bit more.

“The league's kind of changed, and now I'm more the traditional center now in the N.B.A.,” Looney said, as he thought about the way people sometimes talk about Golden State. “So it kind of is weird to me. Sometimes it feels like a slap in the face when they're like, “They don't have any size.””

Looney typically is not the most talked-about member of the Warriors. He was drafted less than two weeks after Golden State won its first championship with Steve Kerr as coach, and was part of the team for four consecutive appearances in the N.B.A. finals and two championships. After overcoming early injury woes, he became a critical part of Golden State's roster, and this year was one of only five players leaguewide to play in all 82 regular-season games.

In the playoffs this year, Golden State has been able to count on him. He didn't start in Games 1 through 5 of their Western Conference semifinal series against the Memphis Grizzlies, then started and grabbed 22 rebounds in the Game 6 win that **clinched**² the series.

On Friday night in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals series against the Dallas Mavericks, Looney scored 21 points with 12 rebounds in the 126-117 comeback win. It was the first time since his only season at U.C.L.A. that he had scored more than 20 points in a game. It was also the first time a Warriors center had scored 20 points with at least 10 rebounds in the playoffs since 1977.

“We see the work that he’s put in to make that a reality,” Golden State guard Stephen Curry said. “Now, in the playoffs, just taking that next step. He brings a lot of joy to what we do in the locker room. I’ll call him, like, the muse in the locker room. He kind of just has a great **demeanor**³ about him. He’s the bridge between the vets and the young guys. Pretty awesome to see him adapt to that role.”

Kerr called Looney “everybody’s favorite guy.”

Forward Draymond Green called him a master of professionalism. “The same professional he is today, he was when he came in the league,” Gr Looney may have projected professionalism and levelheadedness to Green, but the truth is that when Looney was drafted, he was a wide-eyed 19-year-old just trying not to break anything.

This team was riding high after its championship, and his job was to fit in, not to stand out. As the only rookie, he didn’t have anyone with common experiences to talk to about what that was like and what he should do.

“It’s like 1 in the morning,” Looney said, laughing. “I didn’t even know if he was serious. First day, I’m already scared. I don’t want to mess up on my first day.”

He attended the awards show, but when the team went up onstage together, he said he was too shy to join them. That shyness persisted

during the early part of the season as the team went 24-0 on its way to an N.B.A.-record 73 wins.

“They used to joke that I didn’t talk for the first six months,” Looney said.

In addition to requesting doughnut deliveries at 1 a.m., Iguodala took Looney under his wing and helped him **adapt**⁴. Green would invite Looney to spend time with him just to make him feel more comfortable in this new setting.

That helped in the locker room, but Looney would experience other challenges. He had hip surgery before his rookie year began. Then he had another hip injury in his second season.

Looney had never missed a game in college or high school, and called the injuries “devastating.”

His parents helped quell his self-doubt, but the organization was unsure.

“We didn’t know what we had,” Kerr said, noting that the team did not pick up Looney’s contract option for a fourth season because he had not played much. He continued: “And then his third year he has a great year, it’s like, uh oh, we might lose this guy.”

Looney was keenly aware of the questions the organization had about him, but he took solace in the support from his teammates.

“Always got the respect from my teammates, and that made me keep going, that made me feel good about myself and know that I’m doing the right thing,” Looney said. “Even if the fans — you might have a bad game, the fans might say you’re not good enough, somebody might say

you're not good enough — but when you've got your teammates saying, like, 'Man I don't care what the stat lines say, I want to be out there with Loon,' it's a great honor."

Looney was inactive throughout the playoffs for his first two seasons. But in his third season, he began to have a significant role for the Warriors and **contributed**⁵ to their 2017-18 championship run. He often defended the best players.

Now 26, he's a veteran on a team that has **incorporated**⁶ young guys who are experiencing their first playoff runs. Looney knows what that felt like and tries to help guide them through the process.

And if Golden State wins another championship this year, it will feel a little bit more special, given his contributions.

"To make an impact, and start a lot of these games, playoff games, be there for the team, have some big roles in playoff moments, this'll mean a lot to me," Looney said. "It'll just be kind of like the cherry on top to be able to close it out and win and be there for my team."

Source: Adapted from an article By Tania Ganguli New York Times, April 21, 2022

Diction

1.chuckled (v. 輕聲笑)	4.adapt (v. 適應)
2.clinched (v. 獲得)	5.contributed (v. 貢獻)
3.demeanor (n. 風度)	6.incorporated (adj. 合併)

Language Spotlight

1. chuckled (v.)

Example: "During a recent interview, the author chuckled when recalling the humorous mishaps that occurred while writing their bestselling novel."

2. clinched (v.)

Example: "The environmental group clinched a major victory in court, successfully blocking the construction of a controversial pipeline that threatened local ecosystems."

3. demeanor (n.)

Example: "The CEO's confident demeanor during the annual shareholders' meeting reassured investors about the company's future, despite recent challenges."

4. adapt (v.)

Example: "Schools around the world have had to adapt their teaching methods to incorporate online learning, ensuring students continue to receive a quality education during the pandemic."

5. contributed (v.)

Example: "Several countries contributed financial aid and resources to support relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Turkey."

6. incorporated (adj.)

Example: "The new urban development plan incorporated sustainable practices, including green building materials and energy-efficient designs, to minimize environmental impact."

News 2

The Dallas Mavericks Just May Not Be Good Enough Yet

DALLAS — Jason Kidd, the coach of the Mavericks, had a **concise**¹ message for his players before Game 3 of the N.B.A.'s Western Conference finals on Sunday night.

Open shots, he reminded them in the locker room, are easier to make than **contested**² shots, so get into the paint and draw Golden State defenders. Do that, and space will open up on the perimeter.

“Attack, attack, attack,” said Kidd, his voice betraying no small amount of urgency. “Make them work.”

It was a smart strategy, and sure enough, it worked. The Mavericks **generated**³ a respectable number of clean looks at 3-pointers. The problem? They couldn't make many of them. Luka Doncic, the team's star point guard, offered a **synopsis**⁴.

“Sometimes you feel like you're open and everybody knows you can make a shot, and then just miss,” he said. “It gets you quite a little bit down.”

It was the latest installment of a series-long nightmare for the Mavericks, whose 109-100 loss put them on the **brink**⁵ of elimination. Golden State can complete a four-game sweep on Tuesday, and if that isn't dire enough for Dallas, there is also this heavily recited piece of **trivia**⁶: No team in league history has come back from the three-games-to-none series **deficit**⁷ the Mavericks are facing.

“It's not over yet,” Doncic said, “but it's not going to be easy.”

Not against an opponent that Kidd described as a “**dynasty**⁸.” Not against the likes of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green, together again after wading through two injury-**ravaged**⁹ seasons to lead the Warriors to the **cusp**¹⁰ of their first N.B.A. finals appearance since 2019.

But Golden State is also a potent blend of new and old. For a stretch of the third quarter, the Warriors went with a box-and-1 defense as Moses Moody, the first-year guard, defended Dončić after receiving guidance from Green. In the fourth quarter, Andrew Wiggins, who has been playing his finest basketball since joining the team in 2020, nearly dunked Dončić into oblivion.

“That was impressive,” Dončić said, “I’m not going to lie.”

And Jordan Poole, the third-year guard who took advantage of the team’s lean seasons to develop into an explosive playmaker, sealed the win with a late-game 3-pointer.

“They just stay connected throughout the entire game, whether they’re down 20 or up 20,” the Mavericks’ Jalen Brunson said. “You can see that. It’s just very evident.”

It must be small consolation for them right now, but the Mavericks are learning some valuable lessons — many of the same lessons that the Memphis Grizzlies learned in the last round when they **succumbed**¹¹ to Golden State’s experience and wisdom and all-around cohesive play. While Kidd stopped short of conceding the series, he acknowledged as much.

“As we reflect this summer, whenever that starts, we’ll understand what we did and how we can get better,” he said. “We’re going to keep fighting, but we’re also going to get better from this experience.”

Give the Mavericks credit for trying to adjust their approach after blowing a 19-point lead in Game 2.

That adjustment was on display early in the second quarter of Game 3, as the Mavericks — once, twice, three times — penetrated into the paint, continually sending passes to the perimeter in search of a quality shot. It was only when they dribbled into the teeth of the defense for a fourth time that Dorian Finney-Smith spotted Brunson behind the 3-point line. He drained the shot.

Later in the quarter, Brunson repaid the favor when he picked up his dribble near the left elbow. As a slew of Golden State defenders

converged on him, Brunson whipped the ball to Finney-Smith for another 3-pointer, which pushed Dallas's lead to 6.

But that was as good as it got for the Mavericks, who were otherwise woeful from the 3-point line, shooting 13 of 45. Reggie Bullock missed all seven of his 3-point attempts. Maxi Kleber was 0 for 5.

"We just didn't shoot the ball well," Kidd said. "We're getting good looks, and they're just not dropping."

There were other problems. One of them was named Stephen Curry, who collected 31 points and 11 assists while shooting 5 of 10 from 3-point range. The Mavericks also gave up too many offensive rebounds, and they wasted another valiant effort from Doncic. After scoring 42 points on Friday, he went for 40 on Sunday. The Mavericks lost both games.

"I'm still learning," he said.

If nothing else, the Mavericks are going to win or lose by being themselves — and **unapologetically**¹² so. There is no greater illustration of this phenomenon than the behavior of their players on the bench, who have been treading a fine line between enthusiastic and obnoxious. They cheer. They dance. But they also stand precariously close to the court, which has caused issues.

On Friday, for example, Curry threw a pass to an open player who was calling for the ball. The problem was that the open player was Theo Pinson, an inactive player for the Mavericks. Curry had mistaken Pinson's white shirt for a Golden State jersey.

"It was a good pass," Golden State Coach Steve Kerr said, deadpan. "He was open."

The league subsequently fined the Mavericks \$100,000 for continuing to violate league rules regarding "team bench decorum." On multiple occasions, the league said in a statement, players and at least one member of the coaching staff had encroached on the playing surface. It

was the third time the league had fined the Mavericks in the postseason for the **extracurriculars**¹³ of their bench.

“We’re not going to sit,” Kidd said before Game 3. “We’re going to cheer.” By the end of night, Golden State had rendered them silent.

Source: Adapted from an article By Scott Cacciola New York Times, May 23, 2022

Diction

1.concise (adj. 簡潔的)	8.dynasty (n. 王朝)
2.contested (v. 有爭議的)	9.ravaged (v. 損壞)
3.generated (v. 造成)	10.cusp (n. 分界線)
4.synopsis (n. 概要)	11.succumbed (v. 屈服)
5.brink (n. 邊緣)	12.unapologetically (adv. 毫無歉意地)
6.trivia (n. 瑣事)	13.extracurriculars (n. 課外活動)
7.deficit (n. 虧損)	

Language Spotlight

1. concise (adj.)

Example: "The presenter delivered a concise overview of the project, highlighting key findings and recommendations in under ten minutes."

2. contested (v.)

Example: "The recent election results were contested by several candidates, leading to a series of legal challenges and public demonstrations."

3. generated (v.)

Example: "The new marketing campaign generated significant interest in the product, resulting in a 30% increase in sales over the previous quarter."

4. synopsis (n.)

Example: "The film festival provided a detailed synopsis of each entry, allowing attendees to choose which screenings to attend based on their interests."

5. brink (n.)

Example: "The country found itself on the brink of economic collapse, prompting urgent discussions among leaders about necessary reforms."

6. trivia (n.)

Example: "The quiz night included a round of trivia about historical events, testing participants' knowledge and sparking lively discussions."

7. deficit (n.)

Example: "The government announced measures to address the national budget deficit, focusing on both spending cuts and increased revenue streams."

8. dynasty (n.)

Example: "The Ming dynasty is celebrated for its cultural achievements and advancements in art and technology, leaving a lasting legacy in Chinese history."

9. ravaged (v.)

Example: "The hurricane ravaged coastal communities, destroying homes and infrastructure, and prompting a massive recovery effort."

10. cusp (n.)

Example: "Researchers believe we are on the cusp of a major breakthrough in renewable energy technology, which could transform the industry."

11. succumbed (v.)

Example: "Despite their best efforts to remain independent, the small business ultimately succumbed to the pressures of larger corporate competitors."

12. unapologetically (adv.)

Example: "The artist unapologetically expressed their unique vision through their work, challenging conventional norms and inspiring others to do the same."

13. extracurriculars (n.)

Example: "Participation in extracurriculars such as sports and music can enhance students' social skills and contribute to their overall development."

News 3

Liverpool Beats City as Endgame Shifts to Risk vs. Reward

LONDON — In the single corner of Wembley bathed by bright sunshine, Kevin De Bruyne dutifully **shuttled up**¹ and down. He stretched out his **hamstrings**² and his calves. He made sure his ankles were nice and loose, and, with great time and care, made sure his **laces**³ were tight. He wanted everything to feel just right when the call came.

It never did. With Manchester City trailing Liverpool by two goals, with its place in the F.A. Cup final and its aspirations of completing a domestic and European **treble**⁴ slipping from its grasp, City's manager, Pep Guardiola, did not summon De Bruyne, his outstanding playmaker. The Belgian spent a few minutes in the sunshine, his **gaze**⁵ alternating between the game unfolding in front of him and Guardiola, and then he returned to his seat in the shade.

Whether De Bruyne knew it or not, Guardiola had never considered anything else. He would, of course, have preferred to throw De Bruyne into the **fray**⁶ — or, indeed, to have him on the field from the start — but he felt, sincerely, that he could not.

De Bruyne had sustained a four-inch gash on his foot in City's Champions League clash against Atlético Madrid, in Spain, on Wednesday. It had been **stitched**⁷ closed before he returned to England, and he had been prescribed a course of antibiotics to stave off an infection. It was starting to heal. Introducing him into a game three days later, though, would risk reopening the wound. "Then we would lose him for more games," Guardiola said. "At the end, I didn't want to take that risk."

Perhaps it was a psychological ploy for the benefit of his teammates, a little boost as they sought to build on Jack Grealish's second-half goal and further reduce the three-goal lead Liverpool had established in a dominant first half. Or maybe it was a little ruse to unnerve Guardiola's Liverpool counterpart, Jürgen Klopp, to force him to contemplate what

he might do if De Bruyne, arguably the most creative player in English soccer, suddenly entered the fray.

Either way, the fact that De Bruyne was reduced to playing the role of **theoretical**⁸ threat **encapsulated**⁹ the greatest challenge facing these teams over the next six weeks.

Both have been swept to the **cusp**¹⁰ of not just glory but some multiple of it — City hopeful, still, of winning both the Premier League and Champions League, Liverpool now in contention to complete a sweep of four available trophies — by the prowess of their players and the brilliance of their coaches, by virtue of being not only the most gifted teams but also the most intense, the most intelligent and the most industrious.

What unfolds between now and the end of the season, though, will hinge as much on endurance as on ability. The line between absolute success and relative failure is as much a war of attrition as a battle of wits. What will define who wins the Premier League and, possibly, the Champions League will not be which team can soar highest but which can run deepest.

That is particularly true for teams that find themselves competing on multiple fronts. Guardiola and Klopp both take great pains to stress that looking too far ahead can lead only to ruin, that allowing thoughts to drift to the hypothetical can serve only to distract from the concrete and the **tangible**¹¹.

But every lineup choice, for both coaches, between now and the end of the season, must take into account not just the task at hand but also the challenges to come.

Guardiola, at Wembley, named De Bruyne as a substitute despite knowing that he would not play. He was joined on that list by Ilkay Gundogan and Aymeric Laporte, both of whom were in De Bruyne's boat, **omitted**¹² from this game with hopes that they would be available for the next, against Brighton, in the Premier League, or so that they

would not reduce their chances of playing in the Champions League semifinal against Real Madrid in 10 days.

Strange as it seems to say it, for a team that has spent a decade or so building one of the two most expensive squads of all time — a team that includes among its alternates the most expensive player in British history — City’s list of available players is not particularly “long,” as Guardiola put it.

“It is OK when everyone is fit,” he said. The subtext, of course, was that it would not be when injury and fatigue set in. Though Guardiola prefers a concentrated, high-caliber squad, for a club of City’s long-term vision — not to mention its **unrivaled**¹³ resources — that is more than a little surprising; it is hard to imagine that the situation will not be amended during the summer transfer window.

Klopp has taken the opposite approach. Liverpool’s squad, bolstered by the arrival of Luis Díaz in January and somewhat untroubled by injury in recent months, is sufficiently well-equipped these days that he was able to rest some of his key figures against Benfica in the Champions League last week — a privilege Guardiola, facing a pitched battle with Atlético Madrid, was **denied**¹⁴ — and still advance. That, in turn, allowed him to name a full-strength side at Wembley on Saturday, a fact that likely proved the decisive factor.

The catch, of course, is that Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mané and the rest of the team have only 72 hours before they face Manchester United in the Premier League, with a Merseyside derby against Everton lingering on the horizon. Their legs will be just a little more weary for those games because of their exertions against City.

That is the position in which both coaches, and both teams, find themselves: weighing risk and reward, hoping they call it right, knowing that everything is on the line.

Source: Adapted from an article By Rory Smith New York Times, May 23, 2022

Diction

1. shuttled up (n. 穿梭)	8. theoretical (adj. 理論上的)
2. hamstrings (n. 膕繩肌)	9. encapsulated (v. 壓縮)
3. laces (n. 鞋帶)	10. cusp (n. 分界線)
4. treble (v. 三倍的)	11. tangible (adj. 真實的)
5. gaze (v. 盯著看)	12. omitted (v. 疏忽)
6. fray (v. 磨損)	13. unrivaled (adj. 沒有對手的)
7. stitched (v. 縫合)	14. denied (v. 否認)

Language Spotlight

1. shuttled up (n.)

Example: "During the recent climate summit, delegates shuttled up between meeting rooms, eager to discuss critical policies for global sustainability."

2. hamstrings (n.)

Example: "Athletes participating in the Olympics are taking extra precautions to avoid hamstring injuries, which have historically plagued competitors during high-stakes events."

3. laces (n.)

Example: "Before the marathon, runners meticulously checked their laces, ensuring they were securely tied to prevent any accidents during the race."

4. treble (v.)

Example: "The latest report indicated that the demand for electric vehicles has trebled in the past year, reflecting a significant shift toward sustainable transportation."

5. gaze (v.)

Example: "As the rocket launched into space, spectators gazed in awe, captivated by the powerful display of human ingenuity."

6. fray (v.)

Example: "The fabric of the flag began to fray after years of exposure to the elements, prompting calls for its replacement ahead of the national holiday."

7. stitched (v.)

Example: "Following the protests, the community leaders stitched the wounds of division by organizing a series of dialogue sessions aimed at healing."

8. theoretical (adj.)

Example: "While the researchers presented promising theoretical models for combating climate change, practical implementation remains a key challenge."

9. encapsulated (v.)

Example: "The documentary encapsulated the struggles and triumphs of frontline workers during the pandemic, bringing their stories to a wider audience."

10. cusp (n.)

Example: "Experts believe the world is on the cusp of a new technological era, driven by advancements in artificial intelligence and machine learning."

11. tangible (adj.)

Example: "The charity's recent fundraising campaign resulted in tangible benefits, providing clean water access to hundreds of families in need."

12. omitted (v.)

Example: "A government report was criticized for having omitted key data that could influence public policy decisions on healthcare."

13. unrivaled (adj.)

Example: "The company's unrivaled approach to customer service has set a new standard in the retail industry, earning them numerous awards."

14. denied (v.)

Example: "The organization denied any wrongdoing after allegations surfaced regarding mishandling of funds, insisting on their commitment to transparency."

News 4

Real Madrid Stuns City, Seizing the Moment as Only It Can

MADRID — There was nothing. There was no noise. The Santiago Bernabéu stood silent, **subdued**¹, waiting for the bell to toll. There was no spark. Real Madrid had long since run out of ideas, and they were running low on hope, too. Most **pressingly**², there was no time. There were 30 seconds left, plus maybe a little extra purgatory, and then it would be over.

Real Madrid's campaign in the Champions League this season has run on magic and miracles. The comeback against the glittering array of Instagram influencers arranged in the vague shape of a team by Paris St.-Germain. The revival against Chelsea that **hinged**³ on a single, unstoppable pass from Luka Modric.

But there comes a point when reality has to **intrude**⁴, when the chaos has to give way to order. There are certain inevitabilities that even Real Madrid, soccer's great self-actualizers, a team that runs exclusively on the power of its own imagination, have to acknowledge. This was one of them. This was the point where all of it came to an end.

And then, in a single, blinding flash, it happened. There were no warning signs, no rumbles of thunder, no auguries, no harbingers. One minute Manchester City was in complete control of its semifinal, leading by a single goal on the night and by two, a yawning chasm, on aggregate. Jack Grealish had missed a couple of chances to add a little **gloss**⁵ to the score line, but nobody seemed overly concerned.

Then, in a beat, the world turned upside down. With 89 minutes and 30 seconds played, Rodrygo reacted quickest to Karim Benzema's knockdown and stabbed a shot past Éderson. He gobbled the ball from the back of the net, and sprinted straight back to the halfway line. The Bernabéu stirred to life. There was noise.

On the sideline, the fourth official, Davide Massa, was **fumbling**⁶ with his electronic scoreboard. He lifted it above his head, the number six illuminated in bright, lively green: six more minutes. Now, suddenly, there was time, and it carried hope in its wake. Real Madrid, though, did not need it. It does not work like that. It swept up the field again. Dani Carvajal conjured a cross. There was Rodrygo again, his header flashing past Éderson.

This time, he did not seek out the ball. This time, he raced off, sprinting to the edge of the field, careering as close to the stands as he could. His teammates followed him. The fans poured over each other, a liquid mass, in their **delirium**⁷. This is exactly what they had been expecting when they had arrived at the stadium a few hours earlier, and still they could not quite conceive of how, exactly, Real Madrid had done it.

Nor, for that matter, could anyone else. It does not seem too **florid**⁸, too **ethereal**⁹, to suggest that Real Madrid does not so much beat teams at soccer as overwhelm them by harnessing some elemental force, something that naturally occurs in its environment. Its players spend a considerable portion of their time encouraging their fans to make more noise, whipping them into an ever-increasing Eleusinian frenzy, for that very purpose.

At times, it resembles a form of alchemy, the transformation of a succession of base metals — a smattering of **garlanded**¹⁰ veterans, a couple of raw hopefuls, a coach with an expressive eyebrow and an easy charm, a team with no recognizable, **cogent**¹¹ plan beyond a pervasive sense of its own destiny — into something precious.

Here, though, it was something else, something more akin to a Big Bang. Real Madrid did not particularly like the turn the universe was taking. It did not have any great desire to exist in a dimension in which Manchester City was in the Champions League final and it was not. So it simply, in the blink of an eye, created a new one, one it found much more to its liking.

That second goal, the one that sent the game to extra time, marked the moment that one reality ended and another came into being. Manchester

City was now living in Real Madrid's world, and the ending in Real Madrid's world is always the same.

A few minutes into extra time, Karim Benzema tumbled over Ruben Días's outstretched leg. The referee, Daniele Orsato, pointed with a theatrical flourish to the penalty spot. Benzema, obviously, scored, because Benzema was always going to score. In the space of five minutes, with a break and a breather in between, Manchester City's understanding of how things worked had been shattered.

Pep Guardiola's team is not the first to experience that, of course. It is hard to tell whether it is something about the Bernabéu that does it, or whether it is the effect of feeling like you are living in a self-fulfilling prophecy, but this place has an unrivaled ability to unsettle even the greatest players, the smoothest teams. It **scrambles**¹² the brain, jumbles the code, shorts the wiring.

It happened to P.S.G., too, when Gianluigi Donnarumma stumbled on the ball and Neymar and Lionel Messi disappeared from view. It happened, too, to Chelsea at the last — or what seemed, until very recently, like the last — with the European champion seemingly coasting to victory and then, without ever really noticing, staring down the barrel of defeat.

City, more than anyone, should have been immune. It is hard to imagine a team more versed in its ideas than Manchester City — though Liverpool would have a case — or a team better equipped to remain steadfast to its principles.

And yet City, too, froze. Even before everything fell apart, it had seemed inhibited, cagey, troubled by something, a reduced version of the team that might — with a little more ruthlessness and a touch more luck — have scored six or seven in the first leg last week. It had only found a little composure after Riyad Mahrez had scored, when the prospect of a place in the final against Liverpool at the end of May was so **tantalizingly**¹³ close.

That, ultimately, is the effect of Real Madrid's belief. It believes it will win with such conviction that it proves contagious. That is the form its

magic takes: it is a **glamour**¹⁴, the power to dazzle an opponent, to convince it that the world should be as you see it, as you would want it to be.

It cannot be explained. It does not require specific ingredients, or any ingredients at all, really. There can be no noise, no hope, no spark and no time, and yet Real Madrid can still **conjure**¹⁵ it from the air, from the sky, from something deep within. It is something that happens, something that happens to Real Madrid, and to whoever has the misfortune to be standing in its way.

Source: Adapted from an article By Rory Smith New York Times, May 4, 2022

Diction

1.subdued (adj. 柔和的)	9.florid (adj. 花哨的)
2.pressingly (adv. 迫切地)	10.ethereal (adj. 優雅的)
3.glittering (adj. 閃閃發光)	11.garlanded (v. 戴花環)
4.hinged (adj. 鉸鍊式)	12.cogent (adj. 有說服力的)
5.intrude (v. 侵入)	13.tantalizingly (adv. 誘人地)
6.gloss (n. 光澤)	14.glamour (v. 魅力)
7.fumbling (v. 笨手笨腳地做)	15.conjure (v. 變戲法)
8.delirium (n. 語無倫次)	

Language Spotlight

1. subdued (adj.)

Example: "The subdued consumer spending during the holiday season raised concerns among economists about the potential for a recession."

2. pressingly (adv.)

Example: "Analysts are pressingly warning policymakers to address inflation before it spirals out of control, threatening economic stability."

3. glittering (adj.)

Example: "The glittering stock market recovery has brought renewed confidence to investors, encouraging more significant investments in technology startups."

4. hinged (adj.)

Example: "The success of the new trade agreement hinged on negotiations regarding tariffs, which have long strained relations between the countries involved."

5. intrude (v.)

Example: "Rising debt levels are beginning to intrude on public spending, limiting the government's ability to invest in essential services."

6. gloss (n.)

Example: "The quarterly report provided a gloss on the economic recovery, highlighting key sectors that have shown resilience despite ongoing challenges."

7. fumbling (v.)

Example: "Economists are fumbling to explain the sudden drop in employment rates, as many expected job growth to continue in the recovering economy."

8. delirium (n.)

Example: "In a state of economic delirium, investors rushed to buy stocks, leading to unprecedented volatility in the markets."

9. florid (adj.)

Example: "The florid predictions of economic growth made by some analysts have drawn skepticism from others who caution against over-optimism."

10. ethereal (adj.)

Example: "The ethereal nature of the cryptocurrency market has left many investors feeling both excited and apprehensive about its long-term viability."

11. garlanded (v.)

Example: "The city's budget proposal was garlanded with promises of infrastructure improvements, aiming to attract new businesses and boost local employment."

12. cogent (adj.)

Example: "The economist presented a cogent analysis of the labor market, linking unemployment rates to shifts in industry demand."

13. tantalizingly (adv.)

Example: "The tantalizingly low interest rates have prompted many homeowners to refinance, providing a boost to the housing market."

14. glamour (v.)

Example: "Efforts to glamour the city as a tech hub have attracted numerous startups, fostering innovation and creating jobs in the region."

15. conjure (v.)

Example: "The government aims to conjure new economic opportunities through investment in green technologies and sustainable practices."

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Joe Liu *SKHTSKSS*



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HKUST GBus 狀元
Edward Wong *SPC*



8 科 5** 狀元
Edward Wong *SPC*



Straight 5**
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Yoyo Chow *BPS*



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HKU AMPB 狀元
Nelson Tung *QC*



9 星
HKUST GBus 狀元
Bella Chong *DGS*



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Avery Cheung *SJC*



ENG 5**
HKU GLaw 狀元
Symphony Chan *DGS*



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Heidi Mok



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Rachel Chung



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Ronny Lam DBS



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Ng Shing Him



CUHK 醫科狀元

Jacinta Kam



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Sabrina Ng DGS



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Samson PLKNO1WHC



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Ivan Sit CCCCYC



英國神科 Physio
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Chole Tam DMHCSM



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Jason Cheung SPCC



CUHK Nursing 狀元
Arlette Chan SPYC



ENG Straight 5**
4 科 5** 酒管狀元
Grania Lai



HKU
Architecture 狀元
Kristie Ma GHS



HKU Engine 狀元
Harry Wong SJC



HKU
Urban Studies 狀元
Anise Chan DGS



CUHK Nursing 狀元
Coco Lee CCCMYC



CUHK English 狀元
Rachel Ma SPYC

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16 星 狀元的話 ★



EDWARD WONG

聖保羅書院
全港第一 8 科 5**

報讀整個 S5-6 DSE Regular 課程

我一開始其實並不相信有考試技巧的存在。機緣巧合下，我發現了校內試英文成績比我好的同學都有補Ken。

認真參考過Ken的筆記後，我很快便決定報讀他的課程，因為他的技術十分實用及容易上手，並非只是嘩嘩或口號。

過了一兩個月後，我这份份卷的功課及考試分數都有明顯的進步，而且我的日校英文老師是出了名較為嚴厲的。我認為這是因為Ken真的能分析DSE的搶分秘訣，迎合這個制度的要求。更加重是，Ken也令到我英文有大幅度的提升。

遇到他之前，我並不認為有任何老師有教過我正統的英文。因此，從技術及英文層面來看，我十分推薦Ken。而因為他的教導，我亦輕鬆能夠獲得Straight 5**。

英文底子顯著進步

一開始報讀 Ken 的課程就是因為他的 Native English 吸引我，一體純正地道英語及用法，令我感受到 Ken 具有教授真正英語的條件。Ken 的課堂嚴謹認真態度及輕鬆教學方式兼備，並不似一般坊間補習老師只教所謂的「考試技術」，而是揉合地道日常英語語彙、使用方法教授。

當中包括 native speaker 日常使用的用語、grammar，介紹適合學生階段閱讀的書籍及休閒時播放的 podcast，令我英語水平全面提升。遇上 Ken 後才知道原來英文水平及考試技巧同時進步並無衝突，簡直是「魚與熊掌，都能兼得」，學英文可以輕鬆又快捷地進步。

他是最專業的

中四大考時，我英文停留在Level 4-5左右。我覺得不少科目能透過反覆操練提升，但英文很難靠自己走出樽頸位。

由 Ken 教導後，我以及不少 SPC 同學由本來的浮浮沉沉變成坐 5* 望 5**，所以我確定這不是巧合。Ken 是最專業的。



SILVERBACK //

成功個案

10 星 狀元的話 ★



BERNARD LAM

聖保羅男女
5 科 5** GBUS 狀元

報讀整個 S4-6 DSE Regular 課程

在補Ken前，我試過不同的補習名師。令我失望的是，坊間不少考試技術不能重複使用，所以我成績沒有什麼改變。

後來因為大部份SPCC同學都補Ken，因此我轉了去找Ken補習。我認為他的Writing、Paper 3、Speaking技術都極有效；而雖然我並不太需要Reading技巧，但我亦認為他幫我在考Reading時節省了時間。

我認為他教的都是實而不華，而且他的熱情用心教學令我對這科更大興趣。我相當感激Ken的專業指導。



BETHANY YAU

非傳統名校
3 科 5** 狀元 - Straight 5** in English

Level 3 ➤ Straight 5**

沒有Ken全力幫忙，我不可能有這個成績及成功入讀我的夢想科目。我很慶幸他不斷鼓勵我，Ken與他的團隊令我看出自己的不足，並且幫我迅速建立了信心。Ken改寫了我的英文成績並且是我遇過最好的老師。

2021 幫助

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秉持帶來卓越教學質素予莘莘學子，令教育制度趨向公平。專業團隊力臻成就亞洲第一，不論導師、技術及架構都只為專業而設。



Ken Li, University of Michigan

Head of DSE ENG Team

- 全球 Top 15 美國大學 University of Michigan 畢業 — 真正 6 年時間於美國留學，並獲得不少實習機會及工作經驗
- 聖若瑟書院 (St. Joseph's College) 學生時期，一次考獲香港中學會考 (CE) & 香港高級程度會考 (AL) 英文 Straight A
- 報讀美國大學時，IELTS 滿分，及於全球難度最高的 SAT 考試中奪得 Top 1% 成績，全行唯一應試專家
- 最近 3 年間，實際幫助超過 1500+ 付費真正學生成就夢想
- 每年培育逾 97% 學生獲得 Level 5**/5*/5 佳績，當中更包括 8 科 5** 狀元 Edward Wong，7 科 5** 狀元 Henry Chung，更有大量 6 科、5 科 5** 狀元等等
- 成功幫助全數 IELTS 學生高達 7.5 分+

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Ben Allen, Oxford

Director of IELTS Team

- 頂尖學府 University of Oxford 畢業 —— 主修 Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) (兩英國首相 David Cameron、前澳洲總理 Tony Abbott 等大批社會知名人士亦畢業於此科)
- 喇沙書院 (La Salle College) 學生時期，考獲香港中學會考 (CE) 9A 狀元佳績、同時 IELTS 滿分
- 全行唯一真正地道英語 Native Speaker，操合前「英文辯論、港隊隊長」技術，讓學生精準掌握真正英語用法及技巧
- 曾經培養出過千學生 IELTS 考獲 7.5+ 佳績
- 於求學時期身兼不同身份 —— 香港游泳港隊、獲獎無數的香港英文辯論隊隊長、香港頂尖會考 9A 狀元，讓該學生求學期望「文武全才」、推崇「Work Smarter, Not Work Harder」，故畢業後致力於教育事業以惠及學生
- 極熟悉英、美、港教育制度，於倫敦 London 設立學生升學及英語學習，專注為 —— 英語為非母語 (ESL) 學生銜接升學
- 更每年協助 60+ 學生成功入讀英國頂尖名校，當中包括：倫敦政治經濟學院 (LSE)、倫敦大學學院 (UCL)、牛津大學 (Oxford)、劍橋大學 (Cambridge)、倫敦帝國學院 (Imperial) 等
- 曾為跨國頂尖四大會計師行 (Big Four) 員工工作英語訓練，提升真正英語水平，真正一代英語宗師
- 曾督多間學校作學術顧問，當中更為大學設計學習計劃及焦點課程
- 比坊間一般英語課程明確實際，快至 1 星期內體面地道英國英文語感

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KEN LI · EXI-BANKER

- 頂級美國大學 Michigan，傳統名校聖若瑟。
- 前紐約 I-Banker，曾任職多間國際級投資銀行，包括 UBS, Blackrock, Rothschild, BOCI。
- 會考 (CE)、高考 (AL) 英文 A、DSE 英文 5**、SAT 全球 Top 1%、IELTS 滿分。

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