

03.04-Porters in Chongqing

Porters in Chongqing

Bang bang, I **hit** the ground

Vocab

1. w

同义词hit:

这些动词均含“征服，战胜”之意。

conquer → 侧重战胜和控制。书面用词。

overcome → 多指战胜或克服非物质的东西，如困难和不良习惯等。语气较弱也可指在斗争或竞争中战胜或压倒对方。

overthrow → 指彻底击败对手，使其丧失力量和地位。

defeat → 普通用词，多指在战争、比赛、竞选或辩论中战胜对手，侧重胜利的暂时性。

beat → 口笔语均可用，可与defeat换用。

subdue → 正式用词，与conquer同义，但强调失败后的臣服状态；也可用作借喻，表克制、压抑感情、欲望等。

这些动词均含有“打”之意。

beat → 普通用词，含义广泛，指连续打击。游戏、竞赛或战争中作打败解。

strike → 普通用词，多指急速或突然一次猛击。

hit → 普通用词，常与strike换用，侧重有目标的猛击，强调用力击中。

thrash → 侧重指用棍子或鞭子等痛打。

whip → 多指用鞭子抽打。

Patterns:

☞ to hit/strike the **ground/floor/wall**

Sentence

The decline of a great urban **institution**

Vocab

1. **institution** n. 这里指城市风俗 a custom or system that has existed for a long time among a particular group of people (由来已久的) 风俗习惯，制度

e.g. the institution of marriage 婚姻制度

Apr 16th 2016 | CHONGQING | From the print edition

YU XIAOYAN waits for work in the rain, sitting on a bamboo pole near the centre of Chongqing, a large city in the south-west. A **wiry** 60-year-old with **pepper-and-salt** hair, a **wispy** beard and an air of resignation, he **muses**: “I’ve been here 20 years, and it’s never been so tough.” He is what locals call a bangbang man.

Vocab

1. **pepper-and-salt** adj. (also **salt-and-pepper**) (especially of hair尤指头发) having two colours that are mixed together, especially a dark colour and a light one 两色相间的；(尤指) 深浅色相间的，花白的

2. **wispy** adj. consisting of small, thin pieces; not thick 一绺绺的；一缕缕的；成束的；纤细的

e.g. a wispy beard 一绺绺胡须

3. **muses** v. to say sth to yourself in a way that shows you are thinking carefully about it 沉思地自言自语

e.g. 'I wonder why?' she mused. "这是为什么呢？"她若有所思地问自己。

4. **wiry** adj. = **sinewy** (of a person 人) thin but strong 瘦而结实的

Sentence

He is what locals call a bangbang man.

主语 he, 谓语 is, what 的从句引导宾语从句

Bang means stick. Mr Yu is one of the porters who for generations have **hauling** the **worldly** goods of Chongqing from the Yangzi and Jialing rivers on which the city sits, and up its **precipitous slopes**, using only bamboo and string. Everything from wide-screen televisions and blocks of ice to bricks and car tyres is tied to a short pole and **hoisted** onto willing shoulders. The bangbang **brigade** is unique to Chongqing and an **emblem** of the city (also once **distinguished** for the **rarity** of bicycles; as China gets richer, they are becoming rarer everywhere). In 2014 when Li Keqiang, the prime minister, paid a visit, he called the bangbang men "a symbol of the Chinese people's hard-working spirit".

Vocab

1. **haul** v. to pull sth/ sb with a lot of effort (用力) 拖, 拉, 拽

e.g. The wagons were hauled by horses. 那些货车是马拉的。

2. **worldly** adj. [only before noun] connected with the world in which we live rather than with spiritual things 尘世的；世俗的；世事的

e.g. your **worldly goods** (= the things that you own) 你个人的物品

3. **precipitous** adj. = **sheer** very steep, high and often dangerous 陡峭的；险峻的；峭拔的

e.g. a precipitous drop at the side of the road 道路一旁陡降的坡面

4. **slope** n. = **incline** a surface or piece of land that slopes (= is higher at one end than the other) 斜坡；坡地

5. **hoist** v. to raise or pull sth up to a higher position, often using ropes or special equipment 吊起；提升；拉高

e.g. He hoisted himself onto a high stool. 他抬身坐上了一张高凳子。

6. **brigade** 信奉某事或具有共同特点的) 一帮人, 族 You can use **brigade** to refer to a group of people who believe strongly in a particular thing or who share a particular characteristic.

7. **emblem** n. something that represents a perfect example or a principle 象征；标志

e.g. The dove is an emblem of peace. 鸽子是和平的象征。

8. **distinguished** adj. very successful and admired by other people 卓越的；杰出的；著名的

e.g. a distinguished career in medicine 在医学领域的辉煌生涯

9. **rarity** n. the quality of being rare 稀有；罕见

e.g. The value of antiques will depend on their condition and rarity. 古董的价值依它们的保存状况和稀有程度而定。

Sentence

as China gets richer..... while sth else is happening 当...时；随着

e.g. As she grew older she gained in confidence. 随着年龄的增长她的信心增强了。

But the trade is dying. "When I first came," says Mr Yu, "there were thousands of

bangbang men and plenty of work, but not any more.” According to a documentary made in 2015 for **state television**, the city had over 300,000 **stick men** in the late 1990s. Now there are only 3,000. “No one with any education would become a bangbang man,” says Mr Yu. “It’s all old people.”

Vocab

1. **state television** 国家电视台，这里指中央电视台

Sentence

用 **stick men** 指代棒棒军，和上文的 **bangbang men** 以及下文的 **porters** 类似都用来指代 **bangbang brigade** 棒棒军！

He is right. A study in 2015 of 400 **porters** by Chen Hong, Liu Dapei and Du Zhongbo of Chongqing Normal University found that two-thirds of them were over 50. “The decline in the profession **symbolises** the ageing of Chinese society,” says Zhou Xuexin, **dean** of the Chongqing Economic and Social Development Institute.

Vocab

1. **symbolize** v. **=represent** to be a symbol of sth 象征；是...的象征；代表

2. **dean** n. a person in a university who is in charge of a department of studies (大学的) 学院院长，系主任

It also reflects improvements in urban infrastructure. When roads were unpaved and buildings lacked lifts, **brawn** was the only way to move goods up and down the **steep** hills and into **tower blocks**. But **with** better roads and more modern buildings, that is no longer true. Delivery companies with young men on motorcycles have **taken over**, and the remaining bangbang men are coming to terms with modern technology. They have set up an **instant-messaging** group to **parcel out** the available jobs.

Vocab

1. **brawn** n. **physical strength** 体力

e.g. In this job you need brains as well as brawn. 这项工作耗神又耗力。

2. **steep** adj. (of a slope, hill, etc. 斜坡、山等) **rising or falling quickly, not gradually** 陡的；陡峭的

3. **tower block** n. (作公寓或办公用的)高层建筑，摩天大楼 A **tower block** is a tall building divided into flats or offices.

4. **take over** n. 接收，接管(公司) If you **take over** a company, you get control of it, for example by buying its shares.

5. **instant-messaging** 即时通讯

6. **parcel out** 动词短语. 分享；瓜分 If you **parcel out** something, you divide it into several parts or amounts and give them to different people.

Sentence

But **with** better roads and more modern buildings **with** 这里有伴随的意思 **because of sth and as it happens** 由于；随着

Structure

.....and the remaining bangbang men are coming to terms with modern technology.....

神转折，引出了棒棒军们的解决方案，妥协与现代科技，引出后文的用即时通讯小组分配工作

For Mr Yu, it is too late. "Most people are going back to their villages," he says. He turns to write his name, using a finger to draw characters on the wet **marble** where he sits; the rain soon **washes them away**.

Vocab

1. **marble** n. a type of hard stone that is usually white and often has coloured lines in it. It can be polished and is used in building and for making statues, etc. 大理石

e.g. a **slab/ block of marble** 一块大理石板

2. **wash away** 冲垮;冲走 If rain or floods **wash away** something, they destroy it and carry it away.

From the print edition: China

Porters in Chongqing Bang bang, I hit the ground

重庆脚夫——棒棒，我倒下了

The decline of a great urban institution

一大城市风俗的消亡。

YU XIAOYAN waits for work in the rain, sitting on a bamboo pole near the centre of Chongqing, a large city in the south-west. A wiry 60-year-old with pepper-and-salt hair, a wispy beard and an air of resignation, he muses: "I've been here 20 years, and it's never been so tough." He is what locals call a bangbang man.

天空下着雨，于肖岩（音译）正坐在一根竹竿上等待工作机会。这里是西南地区的一个大城市——重庆——的中心地带。他六十岁，瘦而结实，头发斑白，留着一小撮胡子，神色无奈若有所思地自语道：“我已经在这里干了20年了，从来没有像现在这样艰难。”他就是当地人所称的“棒棒”。

Bang means stick. Mr Yu is one of the porters who for generations have hauled the worldly goods of Chongqing from the Yangzi and Jialing rivers on which the city sits, and up its precipitous slopes, using only bamboo and string. Everything from wide-screen televisions and blocks of ice to bricks and car tyres is tied to a short pole and hoisted onto willing shoulders. The bangbang brigade is unique to Chongqing and an emblem of the city (also once distinguished for the rarity of bicycles; as China gets richer, they are becoming rarer everywhere). In 2014 when Li Keqiang, the prime minister, paid a visit, he called the bangbang men "a symbol of the Chinese people's hard-working spirit".

“棒”意为“棍子”。于先生是搬运工的一员，他们世代代把货物从重庆坐落的长江和嘉陵江沿岸搬上陡坡，所用的设备仅仅是竹竿和绳子。货物包括大屏幕电视、大块冰到砖块、汽车轮胎等，棒棒军会把它们绑在短棍上，再心甘情愿地把它们抬起。棒棒军是重庆特有的，也成为了重庆的标志（重庆也一度因自行车罕见而闻名，但随着中国越来越富足，自行车在各地都变得越来越稀有）。2014年，李克强总理到重庆考察时，称棒棒军是“中国人吃苦耐劳精神的象征”。

But the trade is dying. When I first came," says Mr Yu, "there were thousands of bangbang men and plenty of work, but not any more." According to a documentary made in 2015 for state television, the city had over 300,000 stick men in the late 1990s. Now there are only 3,000. "No one with any education would become a bangbang man," says Mr Yu. "It's all old people."

但是这个行业正在消亡。余先生说：“我刚来这里的时候，棒棒军成千上万，工作机会也很多，但是现在就不一样了”。中央电视台在2015年制作的一档纪录片中谈到，20世纪90年代末，重庆市有超过30万棒棒军，现在仅剩3000人。余先生说：“现在没有受过教育的人才会选择做棒棒。这些都是老人。”

He is right. A study in 2015 of 400 porters by Chen Hong, Liu Dapei and Du Zhongbo of Chongqing Normal University found that two-thirds of them were over 50. "The decline in the profession symbolises the ageing of Chinese society," says Zhou Xuexin, dean of the Chongqing Economic and Social Development Institute.

他说得对。2015年，重庆师范大学的陈宏（音译）、刘大培（音译）和杜钟博（音译）调查了400名棒棒，发现有三分之二都超过了50岁。重庆经济与社会发展研究院院长周学信（音译）说道：“这个职业的消亡象征着中国社会的老龄化”。

It also reflects improvements in urban infrastructure. When roads were unpaved and buildings lacked lifts, brawn was the only way to move goods up and down the steep hills and into tower blocks. But with better roads and more modern buildings, that is no longer true. Delivery companies with young men on motorcycles have taken over, and the remaining bangbang men are coming to terms with modern technology. They have set up an instant-messaging group to parcel out the available jobs.

这也反映了城市的基础设施在不断完善。当道路尚未铺设、建筑未装电梯的时候，体力劳动是将货物搬上/下陡坡或搬进高楼的唯一途径。但是现在路况变好，现代建筑增多，这就不再是唯一途径了。搬运公司用年轻工人和机动三轮车抢了他们的生意，目前仅存的棒棒正在与现代科技妥协。他们建立起一个即时通信小组，有工作了就可以分配到人。

For Mr Yu, it is too late. "Most people are going back to their villages," he says. He turns to write his name, using a finger to draw characters on the wet marble where he sits; the rain soon washes them away.

但对余先生来说，这一切来得太迟。他说：“多数人马上就要回老家了”。他转过身去开始在他坐着的潮湿的大理石上写他的名字，而雨水很快将其洗刷殆尽。