

04.21-High-tech sanitation

High-tech **sanitation**

Race to the bottom

A rush to buy Japanese **toilet-seats prompts soul-searching** in China
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Vocab

1. **sanitation** n. 公共卫生;环境卫生 Sanitation is the process of keeping places clean and healthy, especially by providing a sewage system and a clean water supply.

e.g. ...the hazards of contaminated water and poor sanitation.水污染和恶劣卫生环境的危害

2. **toilet seat** n. 马桶座圈

3. **prompt** v. to make sb decide to do sth; to cause sth to happen 促使; 导致; 激起

e.g. The discovery of the bomb prompted an increase in security. 此次发现炸弹促使当局加强了安全工作。

4. **soul-searching** n. 自我剖析; 深刻反省 **Soul-searching** is a long and careful examination of your thoughts and feelings, especially when you are trying to make a difficult moral decision or thinking about something that has gone wrong.

e.g. My year was really spent doing a lot of soul-searching and trying to find out what had gone wrong in my life.这一年来, 我真的进行了许多深刻的反思, 努力地找出自己的生活中到底哪里出了问题。

JAPAN is often viewed with **antipathy** in China, but increasingly commerce is **trumping contempt**. During the lunar new-year holiday in February, Chinese tourists **thronged** to Japan in record numbers. Many came home **lugging** a high-end Japanese luxury: a heated toilet-seat complete with **pulsating water jets**, **deodorisers** and even music to **drown out** less **melodious** tinklings. In recent weeks the run on Japanese **loos** has been a topic of much debate among Chinese **commentators**, revealing deep insecurities.

Vocab

1. **antipathy** n. ~ (between A and B) | ~ (to/ toward(s) sb/ sth) (formal) a strong feeling of dislike 厌恶; 反感

e.g. **personal/ mutual antipathy** 个人/相互反感

2. **trump** v. 胜过;压过 If you **trump** what someone has said or done, you beat it by saying or doing something else that seems better.

e.g. The Socialists tried to trump this with their slogan...社会党党员设法用他们的口号把它压过去。

3. **contempt** n. ~ (for sb/ sth) the feeling that sb/ sth is without value and deserves no respect at all 蔑视; 轻蔑; 鄙视

e.g. She looked at him **with contempt**.她轻蔑地看着他。

4. **throng** v. (*literary*) to go somewhere or be present somewhere in large numbers 群集; 拥塞; 拥向

e.g. The children thronged into the hall. 孩子们拥进了大厅。

5. **lug** v. to carry or drag sth heavy with a lot of effort 吃力地搬运；用力拖；使劲拉
e.g. I had to lug my bags up to the fourth floor. 我只得费劲地把我的几个包拖上五楼。
6. **pulsate** v. (有节奏地) 搏动, 跳动, 震动 If something **pulsates**, it beats, moves in and out, or shakes with strong, regular movements.
e.g. ...a pulsating blood vessel. 搏动着的血管
7. **jet** n. 液体或气体的) 喷射流 A **jet** of liquid or gas is a strong, fast, thin stream of it.
e.g. A jet of water poured through the windows. 一股水流从窗口喷涌而入。
8. **deodorize** n. 除去...的臭味; 脱去...的异味 If you deodorize something, you remove unpleasant smells from it.
e.g. The machine uses minute quantities of ozone to sterilise and deodorise refrigerated food vehicles. 这种机器使用极少量的臭氧为食品冷藏车消毒杀菌和去除异味。
9. **drown out** n. 淹没, 压过
10. **melodious** adj. pleasant to listen to, like music 悦耳的; 优美动听的; 像音乐的
e.g. a rich melodious voice 圆润悦耳的声音
11. **loo** n. 厕所; 洗手间 A **loo** is a toilet.
e.g. I asked if I could go to the loo. 我问是否可以上厕所。
12. **commentator** n. 评论员 A **commentator** is someone who often writes or broadcasts about a particular subject.
e.g. A. M. Babu is a commentator on African affairs. A. M. 巴布是一位非洲事务评论员。

Chinese visitors bought more high-tech **lavatory** seats than almost any other Japanese product during the week-long break, according to Hottolink, a Japanese **consulting** firm. Most popular was a new variety with hands-free lid opening, say staff at a branch in Tokyo of Bic Camera, a consumer electronics store where Chinese shoppers are so numerous that signs advertise wares in Chinese and assistants speak Mandarin. These cost around ¥65,000 (\$540). Some bought several seats, including portable, battery-powered ones.

Vocab

1. **lavatory** n. a toilet, or a room with a toilet in it 抽水马桶; 厕所; 卫生间; 洗手间; 盥洗室
e.g. There's a bathroom and a lavatory upstairs. 楼上有浴室和卫生间。
2. **consulting** adj. (of a business or company) giving specialist advice (企业, 公司) 提供咨询业务的
3. **hands-free** adj. 电话等) 免提的 A **hands-free** telephone or other device can be used without being held in your hand.
4. **lid** n. a cover over a container that can be removed or opened by turning it or lifting it (容器的) 盖, 盖子
e.g. a dustbin lid 垃圾箱盖
5. **electronics** n. 电子设备; 电子仪器 You can refer to electronic devices, or the part of a piece of equipment that consists of electronic devices, as **the electronics** .
e.g. All the electronics are housed in a waterproof box. 所有电子设备都储放在一个防水盒中。
6. **assistant** n. a person who helps or supports sb, usually in their job 助理; 助手
e.g. My assistant will now demonstrate the machine in action. 现在我的助手将演示机器运转情况。

Sentence

Most popular was a new variety with hands-free lid opening, say staff at a branch in Tokyo of Bic Camera, a consumer electronics store where Chinese shoppers are so numerous that signs

advertise wares in Chinese and assistants speak Mandarin.

主干: say staff at a branch in Tokyo of Bic Camera

说话的内容是: Most popular was a new variety...

a consumer electronics store 解释说话人所在的店 Tokyo of Bic Camera

where Chinese shoppers are so numerous 定语从句, 解释这家 store

that signs advertise wares in Chinese and assistants speak Mandarin. 定语从句, 解释 so numerous 造成的后果

Relations between China and Japan have shown recent, **tentative** signs of warmth after a long **chill**. But only three years ago **demonstrators** in several Chinese cities called for a **boycott** of Japanese goods in **protest** against Japan's **stance** in a **still-festering** dispute over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. Some Japanese companies responded by minimising or hiding their branding on products sold in China.

Vocab

1. **tentative** *adj.* not behaving or done with confidence 踌躇的; 犹豫不定的; 不果断的
e.g. a tentative greeting 怯声怯气的问候
2. **chill** *n.* a feeling of being cold 寒冷; 寒意; 凉意
e.g. A small fire was burning to **take the chill off** the room. 房间里生着小火炉驱寒。
3. **demonstrator** *n.* 示威者; 示威游行 (或集会) 者 **Demonstrators** are people who are marching or gathering somewhere to show their opposition to something or their support for something.
e.g. I saw the police using tear gas to try and break up a crowd of **demonstrators**. 我看见警察正试图用催泪弹驱散一群示威者。
4. **boycott** *v.* to refuse to buy, use or take part in sth as a way of protesting 拒绝购买 (或使用、参加); 抵制
e.g. We are asking people to boycott goods from companies that use child labour. 我们正呼吁大家抵制雇用童工的公司产品。
5. **protest** *n.* the expression of strong disagreement with or opposition to sth; a statement or an action that shows this 抗议; 抗议书 (或行动); 反对
e.g. The director resigned **in protest** at the decision. 主任辞职以示抗议这项决定。
6. **stance** *n.* 态度; 立场 Your **stance** on a particular matter is your attitude to it.
e.g. The Congress had agreed to reconsider its **stance** on the armed struggle... 国会已同意重新考虑其对武装斗争的态度。
7. **fester** *v.* to become much worse because you do not deal with them successfully 更加苦恼; 愈益恶化

China's state-controlled media have found little comfort in the discovery that many Japanese loos are actually **made-to-order** in China, a situation that is not **confined to the water closet**. Many Chinese consumers do not trust the **reliability** of such items sold at home—and refuse to pay the often higher prices charged for export-standard goods.

Vocab

1. **made-to-order** *adj.* (of clothes, furniture, etc. 衣服、家具等) made specially for a particular customer 订制的; 订做的
2. **confined** *adj.* 受限制的; 被限定的 If something is **confined to** a particular place, it exists only

in that place. If it is **confined to** a particular group, only members of that group have it.

e.g. The problem is not confined to Germany...问题不仅限于德国。

3. **water closet** n. (*old-fashioned*) a toilet 盥洗室; 厕所

4. **reliability** n. 可靠

Sentence

China's state-controlled media have found little comfort in the discovery that many Japanese loos are actually made-to-order in China, a situation that is not confined to the water closet.

主干: China's state-controlled media have found little comfort

that many Japanese loos are actually made-to-order in China 这里是对 discovery 的说明

a situation that is not confined to the water closet 这里的 a situation 是指前面说的这样的事情, is not confined to 不仅仅局限在...

The **thorny** issue was even raised during meetings this month of China's **parliament** and its **advisory** body. The prime minister, Li Keqiang, chimed in, calling for Chinese firms to raise the quality of their own seats. "At least that could save consumers the price of a plane ticket," he said. Relations between the two countries may become **bogged down** in yet another **intractable rivalry**.

Vocab

1. **thorny** adj. **=knotty** causing difficulty or disagreement 棘手的; 麻烦的; 引起争议的

e.g. a **thorny question/ issue/ problem** 棘手的问题

2. **parliament** n. the group of people who are elected to make and change the laws of a country 议会; 国会

e.g. The German parliament is called the 'Bundestag'. 德国的议会称为 Bundestag.

3. **advisory** adj. 顾问的; 提供咨询的 An **advisory** group regularly gives suggestions and help to people or organizations, especially about a particular subject or area of activity.

e.g. ...members of the advisory committee on the safety of nuclear installations...核设施安全顾问委员会的成员

4. **bog down** **PHR V**, **bog sth/ sb 'down (in sth)** to make sth sink into mud or wet ground 使某人/某物陷进烂泥 (或泥沼)

e.g. The tank became bogged down in mud. 坦克陷入了烂泥中。

5. **intractable** adj. **opp=tractable** very difficult to deal with 很难对付 (或处理) 的

6. **rivalry** n. a state in which two people, companies, etc. are competing for the same thing 竞争; 竞赛; 较量

e.g. a fierce rivalry for world supremacy 夺取世界霸权的激烈竞争

From the print edition: China

High-tech sanitation

Race to the bottom

高科卫生: 逐“底”竞争

A rush to buy Japanese toilet-seats prompts soul-searching in China.
购买日本马桶盖的热潮引发中国的自我反省。

JAPAN is often viewed with antipathy in China, but increasingly commerce is trumping contempt. During the lunar new-year holiday in February, Chinese tourists thronged to Japan in record numbers. Many came home lugging a high-end Japanese luxury: a

heated toilet-seat complete with pulsating water jets, deodorisers and even music to drown out less melodious tinklings. In recent weeks the run on Japanese loos has been a topic of much debate among Chinese commentators, revealing deep insecurities.

中国人总是对日本没有好感，但是两国间愈发频繁的贸易活动渐渐胜过了这种厌恶感。在2月份中国农历新年的假期里，涌入日本的中国游客数量创下了历史新高。许多人都扛着一个日系高端奢侈品回家：加热马桶盖。这个马桶盖完整配备了脉动式喷射水流功能和除臭剂，甚至可以发出音乐铃声来盖过那不怎么悦耳的如厕声。

Chinese visitors bought more high-tech lavatory seats than almost any other Japanese product during the week-long break, according to Hottolink, a Japanese consulting firm. Most popular was a new variety with hands-free lid opening, say staff at a branch in Tokyo of Bic Camera, a consumer electronics store where Chinese shoppers are so numerous that signs advertise wares in Chinese and assistants speak Mandarin. These cost around ¥65,000 (\$540). Some bought several seats, including portable, battery-powered ones.

最近几周，抢购日本马桶的的话题一直在中国评论员间引发争论，透露出深深的不安感。日本咨询公司Hottolink称，在为期一周的假期里，中国游客购买的高科技马桶盖的数量几乎超过了所有其他日本产品。消费电子产品店必酷（Bic Camera）里的中国消费者众多，以至于标牌用中文标明商品，服务员讲普通话。其东京分店的工作人员说，最受欢迎的马桶盖是一种能自动打开的新品种。这些马桶盖售价在65000日元左右（合540美元）。有的顾客买了好几个马桶盖，甚至包括电池供电的便携式产品。

Relations between China and Japan have shown recent, tentative signs of warmth after a long chill. But only three years ago demonstrators in several Chinese cities called for a boycott of Japanese goods in protest against Japan's stance in a still-festering dispute over uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. Some Japanese companies responded by minimising or hiding their branding on products sold in China.

最近，中日关系在经历了漫长的寒冬后初步显现出回暖的迹象。而仅在三年之前，示威者在中国的几个城市呼吁抵制日货，以抗议日本对中国东海海域争议不断恶化的无人岛的立场。对此，一些日本企业的应对措施是，在中国销售的产品上缩小或直接隐去品牌。

China's state-controlled media have found little comfort in the discovery that many Japanese loos are actually made-to-order in China, a situation that is not confined to the water closet. Many Chinese consumers do not trust the reliability of such items sold at home—and refuse to pay the often higher prices charged for export-standard goods.

实际上，很多日本马桶盖是在中国定做的，这类情况并不仅限于抽水马桶，中国官方媒体对这一发现深感不快。许多中国消费者不相信在本国出售的这些产品的可靠性，也拒绝购买通常来说价格更高的用于出口的产品。

The thorny issue was even raised during meetings this month of China's parliament and its advisory body. The prime minister, Li Keqiang, chimed in, calling for Chinese firms to raise the quality of their own seats. "At least that could save consumers the price of a plane ticket," he said. Relations between the two countries may become bogged down in yet another intractable rivalry.

这一棘手的问题甚至在本月的两会中被提及。总理李克强表态，呼吁中国企业提升自己的产品质量：“起码这能为消费者省下机票钱。”两国之间的关系可能会因此深陷另一个棘手竞

争。