**《“东西”的由来》**

我上小学的时候，常常想一个问题：“东西”真是个有意思的词。为什么我们说“买东西”，不说“买南北”？或者，在中文里我们为什么要用两个方位词来表示“事物”的意思呢？教中文以后，我发现很多学生跟我一样，也对“东西”这个词很感兴趣。那我们今天就来讲讲“东西”的由来吧。

关于“东西”的由来，有好多种说法。最流行的一种说法是，在唐朝的首都长安，有两个大的市场，一个在城市的东边，叫“东市”；一个在城市的西边，叫“西市”。所以，人们慢慢就用“东西”来指各种事物了。

*The Origin of the Word ‘东西’*When I was in elementary school, there was a topic I often thought of: ‘东西 – dōngxi’ (literally ‘east-west, meaning ‘object/thing/stuff’) is really a very interesting word. Why do we say “buy east-west” and not ‘buy south-north’? Or I’d think about why we used two orientations to express ‘事物 – shìwù – thing/object’. After teaching Chinese, I have found that many students are also very interested in the word ‘东西 – dōngxī’ like I was, so today let’s discuss the origins of the word ‘东西’.

There are many different kinds of theories regarding the origins of ‘东西’ . The first theory suggests that during the Tang dynasty, when the capital was ‘长安 – Cháng’ān, there were two big markets. One was in the city’s east, and called ‘东市 – dōngshì – East Market’. The other was in the west and called ‘西市 – xīshì’. And so people slowly began to use ‘东西’ to refer to all kinds of things.

**《“東西”的由來》**

我上小學的時候，常常想一個問題：“東西”真是個有意思的詞。為什麼我們說“買東西”，不說“買南北”？或者，在中文裡我們為什麼要用兩個方位詞來表示“事物”的意思呢？教中文以後，我發現很多學生跟我一樣，也對“東西”這個詞很感興趣。那我們今天就來講講“東西”的由來吧。

關於“東西”的由來，有好多種說法。最流行的一種說法是，在唐朝的首都長安，有兩個大的市場，一個在城市的東邊，叫“東市”；一個在城市的西邊，叫“西市”。所以，人們慢慢就用“東西”來指各種事物了。

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**故事（简体）**

老师：你知道“东西”是什么意思吗？

小王：不知道。

老师：东西就是指物,比如说,房子是东西,桌子是东西,汽车是东西,等等！懂了吗？

小王：噢,老师,我懂了,那人也是东西喽！

老师：你错了,人是有思想,有感情的,不能用东西来表达。

小王：噢,我知道了,那人不是东西。

**故事（繁體）**

老師：你知道“東西”是什麼意思嗎？

小王：不知道。

老師：東西就是指物,比如說,房子是東西,桌子是東西,汽車是東西,等等！懂了嗎？

小王：噢,老師,我懂了,那人也是東西嘍！

老師：你錯了,人是有思想,有感情的,不能用東西來表達。

小王：噢,我知道了,那人不是東西。

***“你真不是东西！”= You are an asshole! / You suck!***