



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH

World: Dangerous Seas 世界：危险的海洋世界



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Somali Pirates Take Hostages 索马里海盗扣押人质

Read the text below and do the activity that follows.

阅读下面的短文，然后完成练习：

You might have been forgiven for thinking that **piracy on the high seas** was the stuff of Hollywood movies or historical novels, but Somali pirates have made 92 attacks this year, resulting in 36 successful **hijackings**.

Their most **audacious** and significant attack to date came on Saturday with the capture of the **Saudi-owned** Sirius Star and its **crew** of 25 (including two Britons) which was taken 450 nautical miles (830km) off the coast of Kenya.

The move was described as “unprecedented” by the US **Navy** due to the size of the **vessel** and the distance of the attack from the pirates’ usual **theatre of operations**; the Sirius Star is the biggest ship taken by pirates so far, weighing three times more than an American **aircraft carrier** and capable of carrying 2m **barrels of oil**, valued at around \$100m (683m Yuan).

The pirates, who are often armed with AK-47s and **rocket-propelled grenades**, usually hijack ships in the Gulf of Aden using **powerful speedboats** to approach merchant ships which they **board** using **grappling hooks** and rope ladders.

Once the crew has been **taken hostage**, the pirates direct the ship to a **port** in Somalia where the crew and boat are held until a **ransom** is paid. There are currently 14 ships and 268 crew being held in pirate-friendly Somali ports.

Given that senior UN officials estimate that the pirates earn more than \$100m (683m Yuan) a year from ransom payments made by ship owners, many ask why more **military interventions** don’t take place.

NATO warships are in the area but US Navy officials have told the BBC they can “not be everywhere”. That said, an Indian Navy frigate attacked and sank a Somali pirate ‘**mother ship**’ on Wednesday morning after coming under fire.

Most hijackings, however, do end peacefully although it can be a lengthy process. On Wednesday the Hong Kong ship MV Great Creation and its crew of 25 Chinese and one Sri Lankan were released after two months of captivity.

Glossary 词汇表

piracy on the high seas – 公海上的海洋大盗	hijackings – 劫持
audacious – 放肆的, 大胆的	Saudi-owned – 沙特阿拉伯籍的 (油轮)
crew – 全体船员	Navy – 海军
vessel – 船只	theatre of operations – 战域, 战区
aircraft carrier – 航空母舰	barrels of oil – (2百万) 桶原油
rocket-propelled grenades -火箭推进榴弹	powerful speedboats – 大功率的快艇
board – 登船	grappling hooks – 钩锚
taken hostage – 被当作人质扣押	port – 港口
ransom – 赎回	military interventions – 军事干涉
NATO warships – 北大西洋公约组织舰艇	mother-ship – 母舰

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假? 请圈出正确答案。

1. Most pirate attacks happen off the coast of Hollywood. **True / False**
2. The hijacking of the Sirius Star was a new high for Somali piracy.
True / False
3. The Sirius Star is a tanker. **True / False**
4. The pirates fire torpedoes in order to sink merchant ships. **True / False**
5. The majority of such attacks end without killing. **True / False**

2. Label the Pictures 标注图片

Look at the pictures below. Do you know what these items are? Write the name of the object underneath the picture.

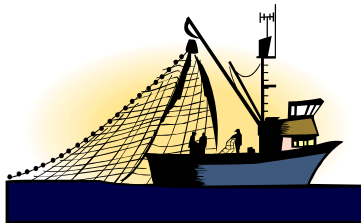
请看下列图片。你知道这些是什么物品吗？请将物品名称写在图片下面。



1. _____



2. _____



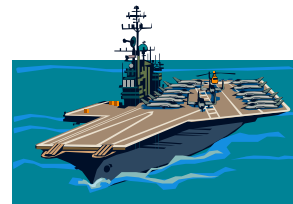
3. _____



4. _____



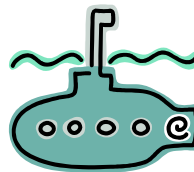
5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

aircraft carrier	tanker	yacht	catamaran
submarine	trawler	frigate	speedboat

3. Words with Sea 与大海有关的词语

Each word or phrase begins with the word 'sea'. Match each word with its definition.

下面左边的每一个短语或词汇都以 sea 大海这个词开头，请把左边的短语或词汇与其相对应的意思连线。

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. sea change | a. a plant that grows in the ocean |
| 2. seasick | b. an old and very experienced sailor |
| 3. seaweed | c. a feeling of nausea and dizziness that comes from being on the sea |
| 4. sea dog | d. a very strong change in a situation |

Now complete the sentences with the correct word or phrase from the exercise above.

请用上一练习中的短语或词汇来完成以下的句子。

1. I could never be a sailor – I get really _____ with all the rocking up and down and rolling from side to side.
2. With his big, white beard, his cap and golden earring, my grandfather looked like a real old _____.
3. Let's go to the Japanese restaurant tonight. I love the _____ they do there.
4. There has been a real _____ in public opinion with most people changing their minds on the issue.

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

Try to find the words associated with sea travel in the puzzle below.

There are ten words to find. Words can be written horizontally (→), vertically (↓) or diagonally (↘)

请在下面的字谜游戏中，找出与海上旅行有关的英语单词来。

共有10个单词，其组成方式可能以水平的(→) 垂直的(↓) 或对角的(↘)形式出现。

q	w	a	s	c	s	h	i	p	v	t	y
b	o	a	t	h	i	f	r	e	k	h	y
z	c	c	f	t	n	u	d	i	s	t	c
o	e	l	o	n	k	b	o	a	r	d	y
v	a	b	t	r	e	a	c	u	l	e	r
o	n	a	p	i	m	u	k	y	c	r	i
d	s	v	a	n	o	m	a	n	g	i	e
s	w	e	n	p	o	r	t	g	l	e	y
c	r	s	t	u	r	n	t	h	s	e	d
l	i	a	n	g	h	a	q	u	a	y	m
b	r	i	h	k	u	s	w	a	c	g	y
j	u	l	z	z	l	e	d	l	y	t	o

ocean	boat	ship	sail	board
dock	port	quay	moor	sink

Answers 答案

1. Reading Quiz 阅读测验

Are these sentences true or false? Circle the correct answer.

以下句子哪句是真?哪句是假?请圈出正确答案。

- Most pirate attacks happen off the coast of Hollywood. **False**
- The hijacking of the Sirius Star was a new high for Somali piracy. **True**
- The Sirius Star is a tanker. **True**
- The pirates fire torpedoes in order to sink merchant ships. **False**
- The majority of such attacks end without killing. **True**

3. Words with Sea

Each word or phrase begins with the word 'sea'. Match each word with its definition.

- d
- c
- a
- b

Now complete the sentences with the correct word or phrase from the exercise above.

- I could never be a sailor – I get really seasick with all the rocking up and down and rolling from side to side.
- With his big, white beard, his cap and golden earring, my grandfather looked like a real old seadog.
- Let's go to the Japanese restaurant tonight. I love the seaweed they do there.
- There has been a real sea change in public opinion with most people changing their minds on the issue.

2. Label the Pictures 标注图片

Look at the pictures below. Do you know what these items are? Write the name of the object underneath the picture.

请看下列图片。你知道这些是什么物品吗?请将物品名称写在图片下面。

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. tanker | 2. yacht |
| 3. trawler | 4. frigate |
| 5. catamaran | 6. aircraft carrier |
| 7. speedboat | 8. submarine |

4. Wordsearch 单词搜索

					s	h	i	p			
b	o	a	t		i						
	c				n		d				
	e				k	b	o	a	r	d	
	a						c				
	n				m		k				
					o						
					p	o	r	t			
		s			r						
		a					q	u	a	y	
		i									
		l									