
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Take Away English 隨身英語

Finding your doppelganger

尋找長相酷似你的那個人



詞彙 : *doppelganger* 相貌極相似的人

What is the likelihood of you having someone who looks just like you? Would it be a good thing? And if you did have one, would you want to meet them?

Consider how often your **facial features** are used to identify you. Your passport, ID card and driving licence all bare your face. To enter your workplace, you likely need to be **recognisable**. You may need your face to unlock your smartphone and possibly even need it to **exclude** you from being present at a crime scene.

The word 'doppelganger' refers to a person who looks the same as you, essentially sharing your features; those that you thought were **unique** to you and your **identity**. Not an **identical twin**, as a doppelganger has no relation to you. The idea originated in German **folklore**. A doppelganger was said to be a spirit-double that **replicated** every human and beast on earth.

So, let's get real. What are the chances of you having one in the first place? There's said to be a one in 135 chance of an absolute **dead ringer** for you existing anywhere in the world, so the chances are pretty low, despite folk wisdom promising you otherwise. And the chances of meeting? The **mathematical certainty** of finding this particular person is supposedly less than one in a trillion!

That said, these statistics may be a good thing. Historically, having a **double** hasn't always been a positive. Back in 1999, an innocent American man, **indistinguishable** from the real criminal, was sent to prison for robbery, where he stayed for 19 years. In the end, it turned out to be a case of **mistaken identity**. In a different case, a woman in New York was accused of trying to poison her doppelganger with deadly cheesecake so that she could steal her identity!

And, why are people interested in finding their possible doppelganger anyway? It may be helpful to look to the past when facial **resemblance** indicated **kinship**.

Maybe one day you'll meet your **lookalike**, but we understand that, after this, you possibly don't want to!

詞彙表

facial features	臉部特徵
recognisable	可認出的
exclude	排除...，認為...不可能
unique	獨一無二的
identity	身份
identical twin	同卵雙胞胎
folklore	民間傳說
replicate	複製
a dead ringer	酷似...的人，相像之人/物
mathematical certainty	數學準確性
a double	一模一樣的人
indistinguishable	難以分辨的，無法識別的
mistaken identity	認錯人，身份錯認
resemblance	相似
kinship	親屬關係
lookalike	長得極像...的人

測驗與練習

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. What is the difference between a doppelganger and an identical twin?
2. True or false? *There is a one in 135 chance that you will meet your doppelganger.*
3. Why was an innocent American man sent to prison in 1999?
4. Who tried to steal her doppelganger's identity and how?
5. What historical reason is given for people wanting to find their doppelganger?

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. Oh, no! They're wearing _____ outfits!

identical	recognisable	unique	indistinguishable
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2. Teenagers often _____ celebrities they admire.

exclude	poison	steal	replicate
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3. The police pulled him over but it was a case of _____.

folklore	mistaken identity	double	lookalike
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4. The new kitchen has loads of modern _____.

resemblance	identity	chances	features
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5. That woman is a _____ for your sister!

identical twin	dead ringer	lookalike	resemblance
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答案

1. 閱讀課文並回答問題。

1. What is the difference between a doppelganger and an identical twin?

A doppelganger is not related to you.

2. True or false? *There is a one in 135 chance that you will meet your doppelganger.*

False. The chance of meeting your doppelganger is less than 1 in a trillion.

3. Why was an innocent American man sent to prison in 1999?

Mistaken identity. The innocent man looked the same as the real criminal.

4. Who tried to steal her doppelganger's identity and how?

A woman in New York. She tried to poison her doppelganger with deadly cheesecake.

5. What historical reason is given for people wanting to find their doppelganger?

In the past, facial resemblance indicated kinship.

2. 選擇意思恰當的單字或片語來完成下列句子。

1. Oh, no! They're wearing **identical** outfits!

2. Teenagers often **replicate** celebrities they admire.

3. The police pulled him over but it was a case of **mistaken identity**.

4. The new kitchen has loads of modern **features**.

5. That woman is a **dead ringer** for your sister!