



# The Story of the Tongue

*The tongue has great power*

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Once a chief in a small village in Ghana told a servant to go to the market. “Bring me the best piece of meat that is sold in the market,” said the chief.

The servant obeyed **instantly** and ran to the market. The chief was surprised when the servant came back with the tongue of a large cow. It had just been **butchered**. It did not look like it would be good to eat. Yet when it was prepared by the cooks, the chief was **impressed**. The meat was truly delicious. It was **tender** and **savory** and quite pleasing to eat.

The chief called the servant to him again. “The tongue was truly wonderful. Now go to the market again and bring me the worst piece of meat that is sold in the market.”

The servant obeyed once again. He **dashed** right to the market. Soon he came back carrying a piece of meat that looked like the first.

## Usage Tip

*It did not look like it would be good to eat. (p. 26, line 8)*

片語 look like 表「看起來像…」，但有時候它不見得是指事物的外觀「看」起來如何，它可以單純是表達「似乎、彷彿」 seem 的意思。

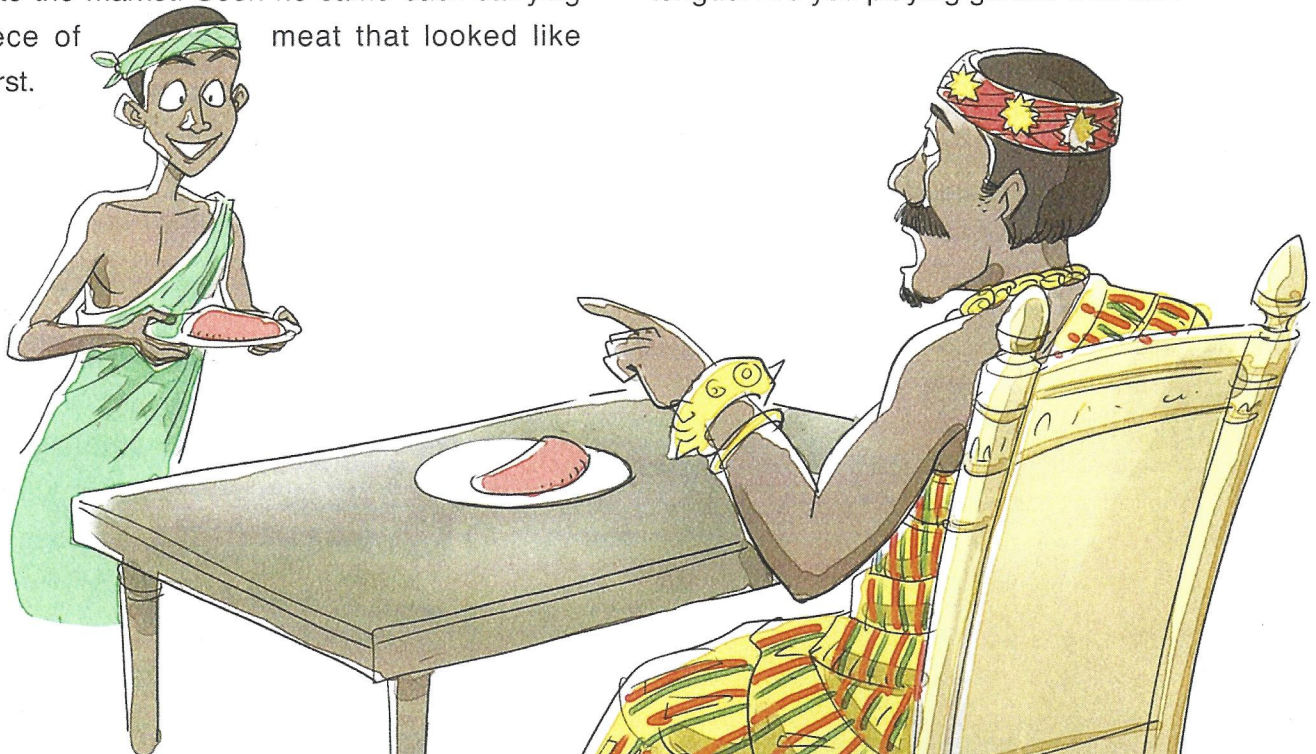
- It looks like it is going to be a lovely evening.

Your turn

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The chief was **taken aback** that the servant once again brought him a tongue from another cow. It had also just been butchered.

“What is this?” asked the chief. “When I asked you to **fetch** me the best piece of meat, you brought me the tongue. When I asked for the worst piece of meat, you brought me another tongue. Are you playing games with me?”





The servant answered, “The tongue can be beautiful or ugly. It can be sweet or bitter. It depends on the words and sounds that are heard by the listener. If a person’s words are kind and sweet, the tongue is at its best. It is delicious to the ear. The sounds of the tongue bring **happiness**. If the words we say are **crude** and sharp, they can be **hurtful** and bitter. They can bring sadness and pain.”

“Thank you,” said the chief. “Your words are wise.” Then he said to his people, “May the words of all of us be sweet and delicious to all who hear them.”

## Usage Tip

*The tongue can be beautiful or ugly. It can be sweet or bitter. It **depends on** the words and sounds that are heard by the listener. (p. 27, line 1)*

片語 depend on something 表「取決於…；視…而定」。

- Your success in this class depends on how much you participate and your test scores.

Your turn

## Talk About It

- Talk about something that has taken you aback. Why?  
- *Something that has taken me aback is ... because ...*
- Do you agree with what the servant said about the tongue? Why or why not?  
- *Yes, I do because ... / Not really because ...*

## Word Bank

**instantly** (adv) [ˈɪnstəntli] 馬上，立即

When Johnny’s mom told him to clean his room, he obeyed her **instantly**.

**impress** (v) [ɪmˈpres] 給…留下深刻印象；使欽佩

The teacher was **impressed** with his students’ math ability.

**tender** (adj) [ˈtendə] 嫩的，軟的

The steak was so **tender** you could cut it with a fork.

**dash** (v) [dæʃ] 猛衝，急奔

I need to **dash** to the store and pick up some milk for breakfast.

**take aback** (idiom) [tek][əˈbæk] 使吃驚

Frank was **taken aback** when his girlfriend told him he was not a kind person.

**fetch** (v) [fetʃ] (去) 拿來，取回

My dog **fetched** the stick I threw across the yard and brought it back to me.

**happiness** (n) [ˈhæpɪnis] 幸福，快樂

**Happiness** does not depend on how much money you have.

**hurtful** (adj) [ˈhɜːtfəl] 令人傷心的，傷感情的

What you said about me was very **hurtful**.

## More Information

**butcher** (v) [ˈbʊtʃə] 屠宰

**savory** (adj) [ˈseɪəri] 美味可口的

**crude** (adj) [krud] 粗俗的；無禮的

## Word Bank Focus

**hurtfulness** (n) [ˈhɜːtfnɪs] 受傷害

The children felt a lot of **hurtfulness** because of the way their parents treated them.

**hurtfully** (adv) [ˈhɜːtflɪ] 傷人地，傷感情地

She speaks **hurtfully** to everyone, so she has no friends.

