

Trendy
expressions

The beginning of a new year is traditionally the time to read reports that summarize what happened last year and forecast what will happen in the new year. On January 3 when users logged into Alipay, China's largest mobile payment platform, they were given a personal annual digital financial report.

Users could view a list of personal consumption data which indicated such things as the date and location of payments and a diagram that illustrated their pattern of spending.

Keywords for 2018 predicted by Alipay

By Jessie Fan

The most interesting part comes at the end of the report, where each user was assigned a keyword for 2018 based on their previous spending habits, such as "旺" (wàng, meaning prosperity), "爱" (ài, meaning love), or "自由" (zì yóu, meaning freedom). Many Alipay users excitedly shared their own interpretations on WeChat's Moments and Weibo.

Some keywords are easy to understand while others not. For example, "旺" is considered a word that suggests this group of users have transferred or

received a large amount of money in 2017 and will hopefully continue to do so in 2018. One user who received "爱" expressed herself as a mother of love who has spent most of her money shopping for infant products online. Those who were assigned words like "自由" were at a loss as to why. "Maybe I ride Ofo a lot?" and "Maybe I spend a lot on traveling?" were guesses ventured.

There are also some interesting keywords, such as "颜值正义" (yán zhí zhèng yì,

standing for good looks or complexion) which has been interpreted as a result of spending a high proportion of the money on cosmetics, accessories, and clothes. In addition, many believe that "才华" (cái huá, meaning talented) is a keyword for having spent quite a bit of money on books, arts, and professions in 2017 while "潮" (cháo, meaning fashionable) was for those tending to buy electronic products.

Some people find it inaccurate but most people find it entertaining. What was your keyword for 2018?

One step
at a time

1. Wuhan dialect

mán zā dé
蛮咂得

Meaning: to act noisily or to be noisy

Chinese:

wǒ bù xiǎng gēn tā yì jiān
我 不 想 跟 她 一 间

fáng tā mán zā dé
房, 她 蛮 咂 得。

English:

I don't want to share a room with her. She is too noisy.

2. Chinese characters

guǒ
果

Development:



Meaning: [n.] fruit; result; [adj.] determined; decisive; courageous

Chinese:

nǐ xiǎng yào bù tóng de jiē
你 想 要 不 同 的 结
guǒ jiù xū zuò bù tóng de jué dìng
果, 就 需 做 不 同 的 决 定。

English:

If you want a different result, make a different choice.

3. Buzzwords

Facepalm

Meaning: a gesture of covering one's face with the hand to express embarrassment, dismay, or exasperation

English: He likes to facepalm to hide his real emotions.

Chinese:

tā xǐ huān yòng shǒu zhē liǎn
他 喜 欢 用 手 遮 脸
lái yǎn gài tā de zhēn shí qíng gǎn
来 掩 盖 他 的 真 实 情 感。

4. Sentence of the week

English: "The future is always beginning now." —Mark Strand

Chinese:

wèi lái yǒng yuǎn dōu zài
未 来 永 远 都 在
dāng xià qǐ bù
当 下 起 步。 —马克·斯特兰德

Translation
appreciation

The Call of the Wild

(《野性的呼唤》)

Written by Jack London (杰克·伦敦 著)
Translated by Zhang Chenyun (张晨云 译)

But Buck was neither house-dog nor kennel-dog. The whole realm was his. He plunged into the swimming tank or went hunting with the Judge's sons; he escorted Mollie and Alice, the Judge's daughters, on long twilight or early morning rambles; on wintry nights he lay at the Judge's feet before the roaring library fire; he carried the Judge's grandsons on his back,

or rolled them in the grass, and guarded their footsteps through wild adventures down to the fountain in the stable yard, and even beyond, where the paddocks were, and the berry patches. Among the terriers he stalked imperiously, and Toots and Ysabel he utterly ignored, for he was king — king over all creeping, crawling, flying things of Judge Miller's place, humans included. (Excerpt)

但巴克既非看家狗也非观赏狗。整个领地都是他的。他和大法官的儿子们一起跳进游泳池里游泳或去打猎;在漫长的黄昏或早晨陪大法官的女儿茉莉和艾丽斯去散步;冬天的夜晚躺在书房里大法官的脚旁烤着熊熊的炉火;背着大法官的孙子们走,或和他们在草地上打滚,守护他们穿过野外来冒险,直至马厩院的泉水处,甚至更远的放牧围场和浆果地。他傲然行走在猎狐梗们中间,全然不把图兹和伊莎贝尔放在眼里,因为他就是国王——大法官米勒的领地里所有爬行动物和飞行动物的国王,人也包括在内。(节选)