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at a time

# Battles over definitions make 'skr' top trendy word

By Sue Liu

"Skr," an equivocal word, went unexpectedly viral in China over the latter part of July because of a battle over its definition.

The word is slang that originated in the U.S. and it is the abbreviation of "skrt." This letter represents the sound of rubber wheels when someone drifts or turns abruptly. Nowadays, it is used by many rappers to express excitement and humor. Canadian-Chinese singer Kris Wu used this word on season two of the reality show "The Rap of China" and made it become a new fad in China. Wu is a judge of the show and he had been using "skr" to describe how skillful and talented their rapping was. Wu's fans even posted the word on Urban Dictionary, a well-known online dictionary that collects trending slang words and phrases.

However, many netizens believe that the word "skr" has a contradictory meaning. It is used to describe bad ideas and something completely ridiculous.



Kris Wu, judge of "The Rap of China"

The battle over the word's definition made it undoubtedly an online hit. Even though the meaning of the word remains unclear, young people in China have unleashed their creativity in playing around with the term.

People commonly use "skr" as an adjective, which means "good or great." They use 你很skr (nǐ hěn skr), which means "you're great" to praise someone. Also, netizens showcased their word-play wizardry on suggesting a new application for the word. They now use "skr" instead of "是个 (shì gè)," which sounds like a Chinese word "be a." In

Mandarin the Chinese word for "deadly" also has a similar sound to "skr", in which case the netizens add "skr 人(rén)" after an adjective to indicate the degree is very high. As a heat wave was hitting vast areas of the country, "热 skr 个人"(rè sǐ gè rén) became a common way to describe the weather as broiling. Another humorous use of a "skr" refers to making a desperate attempt, because of the similar pronunciation of the word "死磕(sǐ kē, fight desperately to the end)" in Chinese. Netizens are now creating batches of "skr" stickers to show their feelings.

Translation  
appreciation

## It's 32 degrees in the Arctic Circle this week!

(北极圈本周气温32度!)

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Translated by Ya Ning (严宁 译)

The Arctic Circle — the realm of polar bears and dwindling sea ice at the top of the world — hit 32 degrees Celsius this week.

The greater Northern Hemisphere and Europe itself have been repeatedly scorched by both record and near-record temperatures this summer, a consequence of overall rising global temperatures. Caused by high temperatures, more than 10 forest fires in Sweden have started to burn in the Arctic Circle.

In the past 40 years, Earth's climate has experienced an accelerated warming trend, which adds an extra level of background warming to hot spells — making heat waves more extreme, climate scientists have said.

Andrew Derocher, a professor at the University of Alberta who studies polar bears, said climate change is shrinking the ice on which bears usually hunt, making them spend more time on land closer to humans. (Excerpt)

上周, 北极圈达到了90华氏度, 32摄氏度的高温。这里位于地球最北端, 是北极熊的栖息地, 海上浮冰在不断融化。

由于全球气温上升, 今年夏天, 北半球和欧洲屡次遭遇创纪录或接近创纪录的高温。瑞典, 因高温引起的10余起森林火灾烧进北极圈。

气候学家表示, 过去40年, 地球的气候加速变暖, 这使得全球出现了更多高温天气, 热浪更加极端。

阿尔伯塔大学研究北极熊的教授安德鲁·德罗谢尔说, 气候变化正在减少北极熊捕猎区的冰面, 使它们花更多的时间在离人类更近的陆地上游荡。(节选)

## 1. Wuhan Dialect

mài guān zi

卖关子

Meaning: to pause at a climax in storytelling or keep people guessing  
Chinese:

bié mài guān zi le, kuài diǎn  
别卖关子了, 快点

gào su wǒ ba.

告诉我吧。

English: Don't keep me guessing, just tell me.

## 2. Chinese character

shài

晒

Development:

篆文一: 篆文二: 金文: 甲骨文:

Meaning: [v.] bask; dry in the sun  
[adj.] burning

Chinese:

wài miàn tài shài, wǒ jiù  
外面太晒, 我就

dāi zài jiā lǐ.

待在家里。

English: It's burning outside, I'll stay at home.

## 3. Buzzwords

Qīn yǒu jià qī

亲友假期

Meaning: A paliday is a holiday in which you rely on the goodwill of your friends or relatives to feed and house you in their own home.

Chinese:

zuì shòu huān yín de "qīn  
最受欢迎的"亲

yǒu jià qī" shì dào hǎi biān dù  
友假期"是到海滨度假。

English: The most popular type of paliday is a seaside break.

## 4. Sentence of the week

English: "It's better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life." — Elizabeth Kenny

Chinese:

yí rì yǒng gǎn, shèng  
一日勇敢, 胜

guò zhōng shēng wēn ruǎn.

过终生温软。

—伊丽莎白·肯尼