



Obama signs note for girl who played hooky to see him 女童蹺課 歐巴馬代寫假條

A visit to see the president of the United States is probably the best excuse in the world to skip school, especially if he then personally writes your teacher a note.

President Barack Obama, who has two girls, swiftly sought to help a fellow dad out of a **dilemma** when he discovered John Corpus had brought his daughter to see him at a public meeting in Wisconsin, instead of taking her to school.

"I am fortunate enough to be here with my 10-year-old daughter, who is missing her last day of school for this. I hope she doesn't get in trouble," Corpus told the president.

"Oh, no," replied Obama, **all ears**.

"Yes," came the reply.

"Do you need me to write a note?" asked the president.

"I'll take you up on that, actually, Mr. President."

"All right. Go ahead. I'll start writing it now," replied Obama.

"What's her name?"

"John Corpus," replied the startled father. "No, her," Obama corrected him.

Corpus then tried to pose his question at the town hall meeting in Green Bay, when Obama **interrupted** him, say-

ing "No, no, I'm serious. What's your daughter's name?"

"Her name is Kennedy," the **bemused** Corpus said. "Kennedy. All right. That's a cool name," replied Obama.

A few minutes later Kennedy made her way through the crowd to receive her note from Obama written as the president was listening to her father's question about healthcare **reform**. (AFP)

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見美國總統可能是世上最好的蹺課藉口，尤其如果總統還親自幫你寫假條給老師。

自己有兩位千金的總統巴拉克·歐巴馬一知道約翰·柯普斯為了帶女兒到威斯康辛州的鎮民大會一睹其風采，竟選擇讓她蹺課後，當下決定幫助這位陷入兩難的父親。

柯普斯告訴歐巴馬：「能和十歲的女兒來這裡，我感到很幸運。她為了來這裡，沒去上這學期最後一天課，我希望她不會因此惹上麻煩。」

凝神傾聽的歐巴馬說：「不會吧？」

柯普斯回答：「是真的。」

歐巴馬問：「你需要我幫你寫假條嗎？」

「總統先生，我想我會接受你的提議。」

歐巴馬說：「好，我現在就寫。她叫什麼名字？」

這位嚇了一跳的父親回答：「約翰·柯普斯。」歐巴馬糾正他說：「不是你的名字，是她的名字。」

柯普斯之後便試圖在綠灣舉行的這場鎮民大會上提問。歐巴馬打斷他說：「我是說真的。你女兒叫什麼名字？」

困惑的柯普斯說：「她叫甘迺迪。」歐巴馬回答：「甘迺迪。好。很好的名字。」

幾分鐘後，甘迺迪穿越人群去領取歐巴馬幫她寫的假條，而歐巴馬則正在傾聽她父親所提出的健保改革相關問題。

(法新社 / 翻譯：林倩如)

Top left: US President Barack Obama hands a 'get out of school' note to Kennedy Corpus at a town hall-style meeting where he came to pitch his healthcare reform plan at Green Bay Southwest High School in Green Bay, Wisconsin, on June 11, 2009. PHOTO: EPA

Top right: Kennedy Corpus, 10, holds a note President Barack Obama gave to her after learning she was missing her last day of school, on June 11, 2009. PHOTO: AP

上圖左：六月十一日，到威斯康辛州綠灣市綠灣西南中學出席鎮民大會、宣揚健保改革計畫的美國總統巴拉克·歐巴馬，在會中遞給甘迺迪·柯普斯一張「假條」。

上圖右：六月十一日，十歲的甘迺迪·柯普斯手拿著歐巴馬總統得知她沒去上期末最後一天課後寫給她的假條。

照片：歐新社

照片：美聯社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **dilemma** /dɪˈlɛmə/ n.

進退兩難 (jin4 tui4 liang3 nan2) · 困境 (kun4 jing4)

例：Richie is facing a dilemma about where to go to college. (瑞奇正面臨不知要選擇哪所大學的兩難處境。)

2. **interrupt** /,ɪntəˈrʌpt/ v.

打斷 (da3 duan4)

例：The meeting was interrupted by a loud noise outside the office. (會議被場外的吵鬧聲打斷。)

3. **bemused** /brɪˈmjuzd/ adj.

困惑的 (kun4 huo4 de5)

例：Josh's incoherent speech left the audience bemused. (喬許沒條理的演說讓聽眾聽得一頭霧水。)

4. **reform** /,rɪˈfɔrm/ n.

改革 (gai3 ge2)

例：I'm going to attend a conference about welfare reform. (我準備出席一場探討福利改革的會議。)

IDIOM POINT 重要片語

all ears
凝神傾聽

Somebody who is **all ears** is very attentive and listening carefully. In the article, Obama was **all ears** when the man explained his situation.

Examples: "When Justine started talking about her adventures in South America, we were **all ears**," or "The announcer talks very fast, so make sure you're **all ears** or you'll miss what he says."

「all ears」用來形容人凝神傾聽的樣子。文章中提到，該男子說明自己的處境時，歐巴馬十分專注地傾聽。

例如：「賈絲汀開始說她在南美的種種冒險經歷時，我們都凝神傾聽」，或「解說員說得很快，所以務必仔細聆聽才不會遺漏」。

OUT LOUD 對話練習

Roger: So, have you ever been diving before?

Harriett: No, I haven't. But it looks straightforward to me.

Roger: Actually it's quite hard — and it can be dangerous.

Harriett: Yeah, sure.

Roger: You have to remember to check your oxygen level regularly or you could get into trouble.

Harriett: Uh-huh.

Roger: Are you listening to me?

Harriett: Yes, I am. Carry on, I'm all ears.

羅傑：所以，妳以前有潛過水嗎？

哈利特：沒有耶。不過我覺得那看起來蠻簡單的。

羅傑：其實很難——而且有時候蠻危險的。

哈利特：是，當然了。

羅傑：妳要記得常檢查氧氣量，不然可能就有麻煩。

哈利特：嗯。

羅傑：妳有在聽我說話嗎？

哈利特：有。繼續啊，我很專心在聽。