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生小孩 **bear / have a baby**

他太太生了一個小男孩。

His wife **had a baby** boy.

1 「生小孩」比較口語的表達方式為：
have a baby
give birth to a baby

2 bear a child 是文言的表達方式，而且甚至是有點復古，所以使用該片語時須先考慮。

◆ The most common verb phrase in English to say the same what 「生小孩」 means in Chinese is *have a baby*, or variations of this phrase like *going to have a baby*, *have a baby boy*, *have twins*, etc. This phrase can be used when speaking of a woman alone or when speaking of the parents (the man and the woman who are the parents), for example, *They are going to have a baby soon*. When speaking about the actual process of birth, the phrase *give birth* (to a child, to a daughter, etc.) can also be used, but of course this can only be said of the woman. For example,

My sister had a baby two months ago.

My mother gave birth to a child.

◆ There is one more expression in English: *to bear a child*, for example saying she has borne many children or she wants to bear a child to (a man), but this expression, at least in the active form, is very formal, literary, and rather old-fashioned, so should not be used by students when writing everyday prose. Of course the passive form of this expression can be used.

打 **beat / hit / strike / spank**

他出手打總統好幾次。

He **struck / hit** the president many times.

我們隔壁他們常在打老師。

Our next-door neighbors often **beat** the teacher.

他敲門但沒有反應。

He **knocked / pounded** on the door, but there was no response.

為了罰他，我會打那個小孩。

I would **spank / smack** that child to punish him.

1 hit 與 strike 指的是
一次的動作，而 beat
是重複打好幾下。

2

knock: 用指關節敲門

pound: 用拳頭大力敲
門。

3

smack / spank a boy

beat the child

◆ When one says that *he hit me* or *he struck me*, that usually mean just one action, which of course can be repeated, but *he beat me* means several, repeated actions, something like the Chinese「毆打」.

◆ The action 用指關節敲門 can be expressed by *knock on the door*, but 用拳頭 (大力) 敲門 one should say *pound on the door*.

◆ And when, usually as a punishment,「打小孩的屁股或腿」, that in English is said to *spank or smack the child*. But of course one can also say *he beat the child*, if that person beat the child with force and roughly in many parts of the child's body.

Additional sample from the Editor

I was reminded of all kinds of past transgressions and reminded of my mother's furies, of being sent to the headmistress to be smacked on the hand with a ruler.

Hanif Kureishi, *The Body*

相信、信教、信仰 **believe / believe in / follow**

這消息你相信嗎?

Can you **believe** this news?

我相信他。

I believe him.

她信仰基督教/佛教/道教。

She is a **Christian / Buddhist / Taoist**.

我不信教。

I don't **follow / profess / belong to** any religion.

你相信有上帝/魔鬼嗎?

Do you **believe in** God / ghosts?

中文「信」有許多可能的解釋

1 相信(某事為真):

believe

2 相信(某物/人存在):

believe in

3 信仰

(1)信仰/崇拜(某人)

believe in sb; have faith in sb, follow sb.

(2)信仰宗教

- follow Buddhism

- sb are Christians.

- sb belong to (a

Church)

◆ The Chinese verb 「信」 has many meanings. Most commonly it means the same as 「相信」, to which the corresponding English verb is *believe*, that is, believe that something is true, that somebody is telling the truth. The object of *believe*, in this sense, is what that person or those people say, or a news item, or something similar.

To believe means to accept that something is true.

◆ To believe that something or someone exist, is expressed in English as *believe in*, for example, *He doesn't believe in life after death*.

◆ Another meaning of 「信」 is 「信仰」 or 「信奉」, for which there are various English expressions. When the object of the verb is a person—in English you can say *to believe in him*, *have faith in him*, or *follow him*. When the object is a teaching or a religion, the verbs *believe* or *believe in* are not used; rather the corresponding English verb usually is *to follow*, for example, *Many Chinese follow Buddhism*.

Or, in the case of many religions there is a word (a noun) which means the person who belongs to that religion, and then you can use that word, saying, for example,

Many Chinese are Buddhists

Most Irish are Catholics.

Still another way of expressing in English is to say that somebody belongs to a religion or a church, for example,

She belongs to a Christian church.