听力文本:

Now, the VOA Special English program WORDS AND THEIR STORIES.

Last week, I told about the number one. Today, I will tell about expressions using other numbers.

Some problems are difficult to solve. But there are a lot of number expressions that can help. For example, if we put two and two together, we might come up with the right answer. We know that two heads are better than one. It is always better to work with another person to solve a problem.

Sometimes there are no two ways about it. Some problems have only one solution. You cannot be of two minds over this.

But with any luck, we could solve the problem in two shakes of a lamb's tail. We could have our answers quickly and easily.

Sometimes we can kill two birds with one stone. That is, we can complete two goals with only one effort or action. But we must remember that two wrongs don't make a right. If someone does something bad to you, you should not do the same to him.

If you are going out with your girlfriend, or boyfriend, you do not want another friend to go along on your date. You can just say to your friend: two's company, three's a crowd.

When I was a young child in school, I had to learn the three R's. These important skills are reading, writing and arithmetic. These three words do not all start with the letter

"R." But they have the sound of "R." My teachers used to give three cheers when I did well in math. They gave praise and approval for a job well done.

Some of my friends were confused and did not understand their schoolwork. They were at sixes and sevens. In fact, they did not care if they finished high school. They saw little difference between the two choices. Six of one, half a dozen the other   that was their position. But they were really happy when they completed their studies and graduated from high school. They were in seventh heaven. They were on cloud nine.

Nine times out of ten, students who do well in school find good jobs. Some work in an office doing the same things every day at nine-to-five jobs. You do not have to dress to the nines, or wear your best clothes, for this kind of work.

Last year, one of my friends applied for a better job at her office. I did not think she would get it. I thought she had a hundred to one shot at the job. Other people at her office thought her chances were a million to one.? One reason was that she had been caught catching forty winks at the office. She slept at her desk for short periods during the day. But her supervisor appointed her to the new job at the eleventh hour -- at the very last minute. I guess her lucky number came up.

(MUSIC)

This VOA Special English program, WORDS AND THEIR STORIES, was written by Jill Moss. I'm Faith Lapidus.

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  词汇解释:

1.come up with 提出，想出，提供

The scientists are beating their brains trying to come up with a solution to the

problem.
科学家正绞尽脑汁，力求找到解决这个问题的办法。

2.arithmetic n.算术

I'm good at history but not so hot at arithmetic.
我的历史成绩不错，但算术不太好。

3.approval n.赞成，同意；批准，认可

She smiled her approval.
她以微笑表示同意。

4.supervisor n.管理人；监督人

Their supervisor is a young woman.
他们的主管是个年轻的女士。

参考译文:

这里是美国之音慢速英语"词汇典故"栏目。

上周我们学习了有关数字一的成语，今天，我们来学习其他数字的成语。

有的问题很难解决，但有很多数字短语可以帮助我们。比如说，如果我们根据事实推断（put two and two together），就能得出正确答案。我们知道三个臭皮匠赛过诸葛亮（two heads are better than one），跟人合作总是可以更好地解决问题。

有时一些问题别无选择（there are no two ways about it），有的问题只有一个解决办法，那你就不能三心二意（of two minds）。

但幸运的话，我们就能轻而易举地解决问题（in two shakes of a lamb's tail）。

有时还可以一箭双雕（kill two birds with one stone），就是说，努力一次就可以实现两个目标。但我们要记住的是负负并不得正（two wrongs don't make a right）。如果有人冒犯了你，你不能睚眦必报。

如果你和男女朋友出去约会，你不希望别的朋友做电灯泡。你就跟朋友说：二人结伴，多一人即是麻烦（two's company, three's a crowd）。

小时候上学的时候，我得学会三个R，就是阅读、写作和算术。这三个词的首字母并不都是R，但它们都有R的发音。每当我数学做的好的时候，老师就会为我叫好（give three

cheers），他们会夸奖我，对我的学业表示肯定。

我的一些朋友很迷惑，不懂得怎么做功课，实在是乱七八糟（at sixes and sevens），事实上，他们并不在乎能否高中毕业，他们觉得能否毕业不过是半斤八两（Six of one, half a dozen the other），没什么区别。这是他们的观点，但他们完成学业高中毕业时也会很高兴，简直是欣喜若狂（ in seventh heaven和on cloud nine）。

学习好的学生十有八九（Nine times out of ten）能找到好工作，一些做办公室工作的人朝九晚五（nine-to-five）。其实做这种工作，没必要多么衣着光鲜（dress to the nines）。

去年，我的一个朋友申请了办公室的一个更好的职位，我觉得她谋不到这个职位，这种可能性很小（a hundred to one shot），她办公室的同事觉得这种机会微乎其微（a million to one）。一个原因就是她被逮着在办公室打盹（forty winks）。但她的主管在最后时刻（at the eleventh hour）把这份工作给了她，我想她是中彩了（lucky number came up）。

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