



National News

First Rescue Baby in Asia Born in NTUH

Last month National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH) successfully helped a couple, who are both carriers of thalassemia genes, deliver their second baby. This baby girl is seen as Asia's first "rescue baby" since she was born for a particular purpose—to save her brother, who has suffered from Mediterranean anemia since birth. (1)

Dr. Su, a **geneticist** at NTUH, said that this couple had their first baby two years ago. (2) Their **desperation** led them to consider having a “rescue baby.” However, the decision was easy since they had planned to have more than one child and a second child who was free of the disease might be able to save their son’s life.

(3) After a couple of attempts, a suitable embryo was created with **antigens compatible** with the suffering boy.

(4) For example, how might a rescue baby think if it learned that its entire existence **were predicated upon** saving the life of a **sibling**? (5)

Doctors expect to perform the transplant operation in the near future. Controversy aside, it is hoped that the surgery will be a success and the boy will be able to lead a normal healthy life.

◆ Discourse Structure

- (A) They had been looking for suitable **bone marrow** or **umbilical cord** blood **transplant donors** for their son **in vain**.
 - (B) Others, however, believe that the moral **implication notwithstanding**, it is a **revolutionary** technology that could end suffering and save lives.
 - (C) Some **critics** claim that it is **unethical** to use a baby as a means of saving a person's life due to the **moral** questions raised.
 - (D) However, it seems while that the **cutting-edge** medical technology the doctors applied has brought hope to this couple, it has also caused some **controversy**.
 - (E) Using **embryonic** pre-selection, the doctors were able to ensure that the embryo was healthy.

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5)



►地中海型貧血 (thalassemia 或稱為 Mediterranean anemia)，為世界上常見的遺傳性血液疾病。這項疾病在地中海國家、中東及亞洲（包括香港）尤為常見。若夫妻都為帶有地中海型貧血隱性基因的話，生出患有此種疾病的機率為四分之一。臺大醫院這項救人寶寶的產生，從胚胎篩檢到生產，需要許多部門的醫師聯合執行，像是基因醫學科 (Department of Medical Genetics)、婦產科 (OBGYN : Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology) 以及小兒科 (Department of Pediatrics) 等，以確保這對夫妻可以生出健康且能拯救哥哥的寶寶。

◆ Vocabulary and Idioms

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|---|--|
| 1. cutting-edge [kʌtɪŋ'edʒ] <i>adj.</i> 尖端的 | 11. antigen ['æntɪdʒən] <i>n.</i> 抗原 |
| 2. controversy ['kantrə'verſɪ] <i>n.</i> 爭論；論戰 | 12. compatible [kəm'pætəbl] <i>adj.</i> 相容的；符合的 |
| 3. geneticist [dʒet'etɪkəſt] <i>n.</i> 遺傳學家；基因醫學科醫師 | 13. critic ['krɪtɪk] <i>n.</i> 批評者 |
| 4. bone marrow ['bon ,maero] <i>n.</i> 骨髓 | 14. unethical [ʌn'θɪkəl] <i>adj.</i> 違反道德的；沒有道德的 |
| 5. umbilical cord [ʌm'bɪlɪkəl kɔrd] <i>n.</i> 脐帶 | 15. moral ['mɔrəl] <i>adj.</i> 道德的 |
| 6. transplant [trænſ'plænt] <i>n.</i> 移植 | 16. be predicated (up)on sth. <i>v. phr.</i> 以某事物為依據 |
| 7. donor ['donər] <i>n.</i> 捐贈者 | 17. sibling ['sɪblɪŋ] <i>n.</i> 兄弟姊妹 |
| 8. in vain <i>adv. phr.</i> 徒然 | 18. implication [implɪ'keʃən] <i>n.</i> 含意；暗示 |
| 9. desperation [,despə'refənſɪ] <i>n.</i> 不顧一切；拼命 | 19. notwithstanding [,natwɪθ'stændɪŋ] <i>adv.</i> 儘管如此 |
| 10. embryonic [,embri'ənɪk] <i>adj.</i> 胚胎的 | 20. revolutionary [,revə'lju'ʃənəri] <i>adj.</i> 革命性的 |

◆ Patterns

Others, however, believe that the moral implication notwithstanding, it is a revolutionary technology that could end suffering and save lives.

句中的 notwithstanding（儘管如此；仍然；然而）和 in spite of this、however 及 nevertheless 意思相同，為文學上的用語，較為正式。

→ The political situation between China and Taiwan notwithstanding, the two have strong economic ties.
(儘管中國與臺灣之間的政治關係如此，這兩個地方仍有很堅固的經濟關係。)

◆ Translation

個月臺大醫院成功地幫助一對帶有地中海型貧血基因的夫妻，生下他們的第二個寶寶。這個女寶寶被視為亞洲第一位「救人寶寶」，因為她是為了某個特別的目的而出生的：拯救她從出生就患有重度地中海型貧血的哥哥。然而，似乎這一項醫師們所應用的尖端醫學科技在帶給這對夫妻希望的同時，也造成了爭論。

臺大基因醫學科的蘇醫師表示，這對夫婦兩年前生下了他們第一個寶寶。他們一直都在為兒子找尋合適的脊髓或臍帶血移植捐贈者，但徒勞無功。絕望使得他們考慮生一個「救人寶寶」。然而這項決定很容易，因為他們本來就計畫生不只一個孩子，而且第二個沒有這項疾病的寶寶還可以救哥哥一命。

醫師們利用胚胎篩檢，使他們可以確保這個胚胎是健康的。在幾次嘗試後，終於產生了一個帶有符合這位患病男孩抗原的胚胎。

有些批評者宣稱，利用一個寶寶當作拯救人命的工具是不道德的，因為會引發一些道德倫理的問題。比方說，當這個寶寶得知他（她）的存在是為了要拯救他（她）的兄姐，他（她）的感受為何？然而，有些人則認為若將道德意涵暫且擺在一邊，這是一個可以結束痛苦和拯救性命的革命性科技。

醫生們希望能在近期內進行移植手術。撇開爭論不提，大家都希望手術很成功，而且這位男孩也可以過正常健康的生活。

◆ Answer

- (1) D (2) A (3) E (4) C (5) B

International News

America Destroys Spy Satellite in Space

On February 21st, the United States military used a **missile** to successfully **destroy** one of its own spy satellites **orbiting** the Earth. It was the first attempt by America in over 20 years to knock out a satellite, and **authorities** say that they are satisfied with the results of the **mission**. While American officials claim that destroying the satellite was necessary for safety reasons, many experts in the international community are troubled by the recent rise in the use of weapons in space.

The recently destroyed satellite was **launched** in late 2006 as part of an American program to put large numbers of inexpensive spy satellites into space. Once in orbit, however, it failed to respond to any of the **commands** it was given. It then began **descending** slowly but steadily, and experts agreed that it was going to crash back down to Earth some time in March of this year. U.S. officials were afraid that the satellite might come down near a **populated** area and claimed that its unused fuel **posed** a serious danger to anyone who came near it. The destruction of the satellite in space, therefore, was done **in the interest** of public safety. U.S. officials now claim that the danger is over and the remains of the destroyed satellite **disintegrated** upon reentering the Earth's **atmosphere**.

The American mission has **renewed** the controversy that began early last year when the Chinese destroyed one of their own weather satellites in orbit above the Earth. Many nations, including the United States, **condemned** China's anti-satellite test for fear that a race to develop space weapons was getting underway. Some **skeptics contend** that destroying a satellite in space was America's way of sending a message to both China and Russia that they have the **capability** to **wage** war in outer space.

1. According to the article, which of the following is FALSE?
 - (A) America had never tried to destroy a satellite in space before this year.
 - (B) American authorities claimed the satellite may crash near a town or city.
 - (C) The satellite did not work properly after it was launched into space.
 - (D) America had previously criticized China for destroying a satellite in space.
2. What can be inferred from the article?
 - (A) America is the only country with the technology to destroy satellites in space.
 - (B) American astronauts had tried to fix the satellite before it was destroyed.
 - (C) America and China have more satellites in space than any other country.
 - (D) America wants China and Russia to know that it has effective space weapons.
3. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word "disintegrated"?
 - (A) fell down
 - (B) broke apart
 - (C) landed softly
 - (D) heated up



Before You Read

►當提到間諜 (spy)，人們想到的可能是像詹姆斯·龐德 (James Bond) 這樣的人，或像是美國中情局 (CIA : Central Intelligence Agency) 這樣的組織 (organization)。然而現今，許多情報 (intelligence) 的蒐集都是藉由間諜衛星 (spy satellite)。在美國這些衛星是由一個政府的秘密部門 (secretive arm) 叫做國安局 (National Security Agency) 所掌控。這個部門所擁有的預算 (budget) 龐大，且預算花費流向何處不對外公開。

Vocabulary and Idioms

1. missile ['mɪsl] *n.* 飛彈
2. destroy [dɪ'stroɪ] *v.* 摧毀；破壞
3. orbit ['ɔrbit] *v.* 繞軌道而行 *n.* 軌道
4. authority [ə'θɔrəti] *n.* 當局
5. mission ['mɪʃən] *n.* 任務
6. launch [ləntʃ] *v.* 發射
7. command [kə'mænd] *n.* 指令；命令
8. descend [dr'send] *v.* 下降
9. populated ['papjə,letɪd] *adj.* 被居住的；有人居住的
10. pose [poz] *v.* 造成；引起
11. in the interest of sth. *conj. phr.* 為了某事的緣故
12. disintegrate [dɪs'ɪntəɡret] *v.* 碎裂；崩解
13. atmosphere ['ætməs,fir] *n.* 大氣層
14. renew [ri'nju] *v.* 重新開始；恢復
15. condemn [kən'dem] *v.* 贊責
16. skeptic ['skeptɪk] *n.* 持懷疑態度的人
17. contend [kən'tend] *v.* 認為；主張
18. capability [kəpə'bilitɪ] *n.* 能力
19. wage [wedʒ] *v.* 進行；開始

Patterns

1. While American officials claim that **destroying the satellite was necessary for safety reasons**, many experts in the international community are troubled by the recent rise in the use of weapons in space.
2. Some skeptics contend that **destroying a satellite in space was America's way of sending a message to both China and Russia that they have the capability to wage war in outer space**.

文中的這兩個句子，都是以動名詞當主詞。特別要注意的是，以動名詞當主詞時，都視為單數，後面要加單數動詞。

Translation

美國摧毁太空中的間諜衛星

二月二十一日，美國軍方用一顆飛彈成功地摧毀一個他們自己所擁有的，繞著地球運行的間諜衛星。這是美國二十多年來第一次嘗試摧毀衛星，而有關當局表示他們對於這項任務的結果十分滿意。雖然美方的政府官員表示，摧毀這顆衛星是基於安全上所必須做的，然而國際社會上許多專家都對近來在太空中武器使用的增加感到煩惱。最近被摧毀的這顆衛星，是美國在2006年一項將許多價廉的間諜衛星發射至太空的計畫中的一顆。在進入軌道之後，這顆衛星無法回應任何一項指令。然後，它就開始緩慢但穩定地下降。專家們一致認為它即將在今年三月的時候墜毀在地球上。美方官員擔心這個衛星有可能會掉落在有人居住的地區，並且表示未使用的燃料對於任何接近的人會造成相當大的危險。因此，這項衛星摧毀的任務是基於公共安全。美方官員現在宣稱，危險已經解除，而被摧毀的衛星殘骸在重新返回地球大氣層時就瓦解了。

美方的這項任務已經恢復了在去年初開始引發的爭論，當時中國摧毀他們自己的一顆在地球上方軌道運行的氣象衛星。包括美國在內的許多國家都譴責中國的反衛星試射，他們害怕發展太空武器的競賽就要展開。一些持懷疑態度的人認為，將太空中的衛星摧毀的舉動，是美國向中國及蘇俄傳遞他們已經有能力展開在外太空戰爭的訊息。

Answer

- (1) A (2) D (3) B