稻江商職108學年度英文朗讀比賽朗讀篇目(2)

Bring the Pot and Try Your Luck

 It was almost New Year’s Eve and Cathy was really excited. She wanted to invite lots of friends over for a nice big dinner. However, she knew that she couldn’t prepare everything by herself. After several days of careful consideration, Cathy came up with a great idea－she would have a potluck party!

 At a potluck party, each guest brings a dish to share, so the host doesn’t have to do all the work. If guests can’t cook their own dishes, they can bring store-bought food. This means that there will be many kinds of dishes, and each of them can be a surprise.

 Surprises, however, are not always pleasant. If two or more guests bring the same dish, they may feel a bit awkward. Therefore, the host may need to do some planning before the party. For example, he or she can ask some guests to prepare salads and assign others to bring other dishes like pizza or fried chicken. The rest of the guests can make desserts like cakes and pudding.

 This all sounds like a lot of fun, but in fact, a “potluck”did not originally refer to a party. The word dates back to 1592. At that time, people usually did not throw out leftovers. They kept them in a pot for unexpected guest. Therefore, when guests suddenly showed up at someone’s house, they tried the “luck of the pot” and ate anything in it.

 These days, a potluck party is like a small food fair. Guests spend a lot of time preparing their own dishes to impress the others. They may use Grandma’s secret recipe for their dish or buy something at a top-rated restaurant. A potluck is thus a truly enjoyable eating experience. Next time you want to plan a party, why not try a puluck?