《美国地道习语：软骨头》

每种语言都有一些特殊的词汇用来形容人的不同特性。例如，在中文里我们把那些只会念书的人叫做“书呆子”，把那些老是屈从于别人意志的人叫做“软骨头”等。美国人也有好多类似的习惯用语。今天我们首先要给大家介绍一个美国人常用的字：wimp。美国人经常用wimp这个字来形容一些比较软弱，缺乏勇气，办事无效的人。参加竞选的政界人士往往喜欢用wimp这个字来描述竞选对手。不管是不是符合事实，有的时候，这种形象就在选民心目中留下了印象。例如，下面这个人正在和一个朋友讨论投哪个候选人的票。他对他的朋友说：

??-1: "As far as I know, this guy Roger Bly is honest. And he's had a pretty good voting record in Congress. But he looks like such a wimp: I'm afraid he doesn't have the guts to handle a real crisis when it comes up. So I guess I'll vote for the other guy."

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??-2: "I'm afraid my sister married a real wimp. Sure, he makes a good salary and treats her well. But he lets himself get pushed around by everybody--waiters, clerks in stores, the guy who pumps gas--he's afraid to stand up for his rights."

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??-3: "I'm worried about this young fellow my daughter is dating. He never finished school, he doesn't have a job, he dresses like a bum--he looks like a real turkey to me."

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??-4: "Some private firms and official agencies have what they call a "turkey farm", a part of the organization where their turkeys can be sent to get them out of the way until it's possible to fire them."

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