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Larry 已经开始在一家公司做暑期工作。他正在向李华抱怨工作上的问题。今天李华会学到两个常用语：swamped 和 to get axed。

LL: I've only been working there two days and I'm already totally swamped with work! It's unbelievable!

LH: Larry, 你说 swamped with work, 是不是说你不知道怎么做这份工作?

LL: No, I know how to do the work. It's just that there is too much of it. To be swamped means to have too much work to do.

LH: 噢, 我懂了, swamp 一般是沼泽地的意思, 你说 swamped with work 就是工作太多, 好象陷进了沼泽地一样, 让你觉得喘不过气。那他们到底给你什么样的工作?

LL: It's all relatively simple stuff like filing, typing, copying. It's just that there are piles of it and everyone wants it finished right now.

LH: 啊! 归档、打字、复印都是很简单的事, 可要是办公室每个人都要你做这些事, 每个人都要你马上给他做, 这确实难以对付。Larry, 也许你该建议他们再多雇个人来帮你啊!

LL: I doubt that. Besides, I don't want them to think I'm lazy. I guess I just have to accept the fact that I'll be swamped with work for the rest of the summer.

LH: 真是的。一个暑假就陷在这些繁琐的工作里, 太没劲了。我只想在暑假里轻松轻松。

LL: I was hoping to relax a little, too, but it doesn't look as though that's going to happen.

LH: 不过 Larry, 虽然你白天在公司里工作很忙, 可是你晚上回到家可以轻松一下啦, 因为你不必像学期当中忙于写作业或交报告!

LL: That's true, but I'm so tired by the time I get home from being swamped all day that I don't have the energy to do anything fun.

LH: 这你就跟我不一样了。我呀, 再累也没有关系, 只要一听到玩, 我就精神百倍了。不过, Larry, 我真希望能帮你一点忙。

LL: Oh, it's not your fault, Li Hua. I'm sorry for complaining like this.

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LH: 嗨! Larry! 你的暑期工作现在怎么样了! 还是很忙吗?

LL: It's even worse than ever! The management just axed one of the other employees and now they're giving me all of his work!

LH: Ax 不是斧头吗? 你说你公司把那个雇员怎么啦? Axed? 不是把他砍了吧? 听起来好吓人的!

LL: To ax someone is to fire them. The other guy was really unreliable so management decided to ax him.

LH: 噢, 我明白了, to ax someone 就是把某人开除的意思。你真倒霉。公司把那个不可靠的人开除了, 他的工作也就落在你头上。你们公司有没有考虑雇用新人来接替他的工作?

LL: I have no idea. In the mean time, I have so much work that I'm running around all day long.

LH: 你真可怜, 每天忙得晕头转向的。也许你可以问问他们什么时候会雇用一个新人啊?

LL: I want to ask, but I'm afraid of getting axed, too.

LH: 你不过问问而已嘛! 他们为什么要开除你呢?

LL: Well, I guess they wouldn't fire me, because I've been doing a good job although I'm swamped with work. I just don't want them to think that I'm lazy or that I'm complaining.

LH: 我肯定他们不会开除你。他们也不傻, 知道你做很多工作, 而且还做得很好。你要不说, 他们绝对不会再顾一个人。这样不是省钱嘛!

LL: I guess you are right. I'm more likely to get axed for messing up rather than telling them I'm overworked.

LH: 没错。老实地告诉他们你太忙, 总比你忙不过来, 把事情搞砸了要好。

LL: Li Hua, you're so smart!

今天李华学到两个常用语。第一个是 swamped, 是指陷入大量工作, 或其他什么事。另一个常用语是 to get axed, 就是被开除的意思。