



21st Century **TEENS** *Senior*<sup>®</sup>

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**Internet has fun with gravity**

**孙艾菁**

# Lead-in and vocabulary



- gravity n. 重力
- stand upright 直立
- bristle(s) n. 刷子毛 扫把毛
- position v. 放置, 安放
- center of gravity 重心
- craze n. 狂热, 风靡一时的 (东西或现象)
- sweep the Internet 在互联网迅速传播
- date back 追溯到

# Internet has fun with gravity

# Internet has fun with gravity

大热的“立扫帚挑战”，你参加了吗？



词数 280 测试见 IV 版  
建议阅读时间 4 分钟

You've surely seen the *meme* (梗) that's sweeping the internet: a broom standing upright without anyone holding it. This latest craze *originated* (来源于) with a *tweet* (推文) on Feb 10, claiming that NASA said a broom could stand up on its own because of the *gravitational pull* (万有引力) that day.

Of course, NASA didn't say anything of the sort, but that didn't stop people from around the world trying the trick for themselves. Yes, it's possible to stand a broom upright, but it has nothing to do with a special gravitational pull on a certain day. Instead, a broom has a low center of gravity. If the *bristles* (刷毛) are positioned just right, the broom can stand on its own.

"There's no special gravity that only affects brooms, but the moon's gravity creates *tides* (潮汐) on Earth," NASA's Earth Twitter account responded to the so-called "#BroomChallenge".

If the broom trick sounds familiar, that's because the *myth* (神话) has been around since at least 2012, according to CNN. However, it may date further back than that. Every year on the spring and *fall equinox* (秋分), you can supposedly balance an egg on either end. This is an *old wives' tale* (无稽之谈), a *superstitious* (迷信的) or false belief, which is likely the origin for the standing broom meme.

The standing broom craze should serve as a warning not to believe everything you see on the internet, especially social media. **TEENS**



A man tries to make his broom stand on its own. AFP

# Read for the main idea

- The latest craze that a broom can \_\_\_\_\_ only on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> sweeps the Internet . However, it proves \_\_\_\_\_. This should serve as a warning not to \_\_\_\_\_.

# Internet has fun with gravity

- You've surely seen the meme (梗) that's sweeping the Internet: a broom standing upright without anyone holding it. This latest craze originated (来源于) with a tweet (推文) on Feb 10, claiming that NASA said a broom could stand up on its own because of the gravitational pull (万有引力) that day.
- Of course, NASA didn't say anything of the sort, but that didn't stop people from around the world trying the trick for themselves. Yes, it's possible to stand a broom upright, but it has nothing to do with a special gravitational pull on a certain day. Instead, a broom has a low center of gravity. If the bristles (刷毛) are positioned just right, the broom can stand on its own.
- "There's no special gravity that only affects brooms, but the moon's gravity creates tides (潮汐) on Earth," NASA's Earth Twitter account responded to the so-called "#BroomChallenge".
- If the broom trick sounds familiar, that's because the myth (神话) has been around since at least 2012, according to CNN. However, it may date further back than that. Every year on the spring and fall equinox (秋分), you can supposedly balance an egg on either end. This is an old wives' tale (无稽之谈), a superstitious (迷信的) or false belief, which is likely the origin for the standing broom meme.
- The standing broom craze should serve as a warning not to believe everything you see on the Internet, especially social media.

# Read for the main idea

- The latest craze that a broom can stand upright without anyone holding it only on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> sweeps the Internet . However, it proves a false belief. This should serve as a warning not to believe everything we see on the Internet.

# The structure

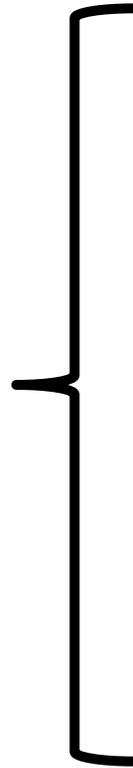
- P1 A claim that a broom could stand up on its own because of the gravitational pull that day.
- P2-P3 Evidence to show this claim is wrong.
- P4 The real origin of this craze.
- P5 We should be alert to everything we see on the Internet.

- You've surely seen the meme (梗) that's sweeping the internet: a broom standing upright without anyone holding it. This latest craze originated (来源于) with a tweet (推文) on Feb 10, **claiming that NASA said a broom could stand up on its own because of the gravitational pull (万有引力) that day.**

**claim: to say that something is true or is a fact, although you cannot prove it and other people might not believe it**

## Read for details—P2-3

- Evidence to prove it wrong



# Read for details—P2-P3

- Of course, **NASA didn't say anything of the sort**, but that didn't stop people from around the world trying the trick for themselves. **Yes, it's possible to stand a broom upright, but it has nothing to do with a special gravitational pull on a certain day.** Instead, **a broom has a low center of gravity.** If the bristles (刷毛) are positioned just right, the broom can stand on its own.
- “There's no special gravity that only affects brooms, but the moon's gravity creates tides (潮汐) on Earth,” NASA's Earth Twitter account responded to the so-called “#BroomChallenge”.



# Read for details—P2-P3

Evidence to prove it wrong

The source is not reliable---NASA didn't say anything of the sort.

It's scientifically wrong.

A broom has a low center of gravity. If the bristles are positioned just right, the broom can stand on its own.

“There's no special gravity that only affects brooms, but the moon's gravity creates tides (潮汐) on Earth,”

- The real ORIGIN of the craze:

- If the broom trick sounds familiar, that's because the myth (神话) has been around since at least 2012, according to CNN. However, it may date further back than that. Every year on the spring and fall equinox (秋分), you can supposedly balance an egg on either end. This is **an old wives' tale** (无稽之谈), a superstitious (迷信的) or false belief, which is likely the origin for the standing broom meme.

# Read for details –P4

- The real ORIGIN of the craze:

It is **an old wives' tale** which says that you can supposedly balance an egg on either end every year on the spring and fall equinox (秋分). It has been around since 2012.

**old wives' tale** : a piece of advice or a theory, often related to matters of health, that was believed in the past but is now known to be wrong

*When you're expecting a baby, people tell you all sorts of old wives' tales.*

*The belief that make-up ruins your skin is just an old wives' tale.*

- The standing broom craze should serve as a warning not to believe everything you see on the Internet, especially social media.

# Conclusion –P12

- We should be cautious about everything we read on the Internet.

- A claim
- Evidence to prove it wrong
- Real origin
- conclusion

# Questions to ponder

- Can you think of other ways to prove a claim wrong or right?

# Questions to ponder

- Can you think of other ways to prove a claim wrong or right?
- Find a reliable source
- Find out scientific theories or results of scientific research to support it or oppose to it.
- Try it.

# Activity

- A piece of news swept the Internet several days ago, claiming that a potentially hazardous asteroid (小行星) is hurtling (猛冲) towards Earth at an incredible speed. Will it crash into Earth? People were worried about it.
- Please find out some evidence to prove that it will or will not happen.
- Please search for the truth and tell people the truth.



NASA has confirmed that a 'potentially hazardous' asteroid is hurtling towards Earth at an incredible speed. [bit.ly/2HouNCA](https://bit.ly/2HouNCA)



- Yes, NASA said that the asteroid is traveling toward Earth at a speed of almost 34,000 miles per hour. A collision (撞击) would likely trigger (引发) a nuclear winter and mass extinction, but the asteroid is set to **pass the planet by approximately 3.6 million miles, which means it will not crash into Earth.**
- People were worried because the asteroid has been labeled a “Potentially Hazardous Asteroid” by NASA. It is an Apollo asteroid, which means it will intersect (与...相交) Earth’s path around the sun. According to NASA’s website, “Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHAs) are currently defined based on parameters (参数) that measure the asteroid’s potential to make threatening close approaches to the Earth.” The fact that it is labeled a PHA doesn’t mean it will crash into Earth.

**a period that scientists believe would follow a large nuclear explosion, when there would be very little light or heat and nothing would grow in the world**

核冬季（科学家假设的在巨大核爆炸后一段寒冷黑暗、生物灭绝的时期）



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