Have Your Cake and Eat It Too

吃蛋糕也吃

And now, Words and Their Stories, from VOA Learning English.

现在，来自美国之音学习英语的单词和他们的故事。

On this program, we explore words and expressions in the English language. We give examples, notes on usage, and sometimes we use them in short stories.

在这个节目中，我们探索英语中的单词和表达方式。我们给出例子，使用说明，有时我们在短篇小说中使用它们。

Today we talk about a popular dessert -- cake.

今天我们来说说一种流行的甜点——蛋糕。

Cakes are made by baking a mixture of flour, sugar, eggs, and butter. They come in just about any flavor you can imagine – from chocolate, vanilla, and lemon to unusual flavors like cherry, coconut, and pumpkin. And do not forget about the icing. This sweet topping also comes in just about any flavor imaginable.

蛋糕是通过烘烤面粉、糖、鸡蛋和黄油的混合物制成的。它们几乎有你能想象到的任何口味——从巧克力、香草和柠檬到樱桃、椰子和南瓜等不寻常的口味。不要忘记结冰。这种甜味配料也有几乎任何可以想象的味道。

We often eat cakes to celebrate birthdays, weddings, and other important events. All this talk about cake has brought my attention to a common expression: to have your cake and eat it too.

我们经常吃蛋糕来庆祝生日、婚礼和其他重要事件。所有这些关于蛋糕的话题都让我注意到了一个共同的表达方式：拥有你的蛋糕并吃掉它。

This expression, or idiom, can be used to describe a couple different situations.

这个表达或成语可以用来描述几种不同的情况。

One is where two good things happen at the same time. For example, a friend of mine loves to read so she got a job at a library. Now, she reads all day long and gets paid! Talk about having your cake and eating it too!

一种是同时发生两件好事。例如，我的一个朋友喜欢阅读，所以她在图书馆找到了一份工作。现在，她整天阅读并获得报酬！谈论你的蛋糕和吃它！

We also use the idiom to describe a situation in which two good things happen at the same time, but they don't usually exist together in the same situation.

我们也用这个成语来形容两件好事同时发生，但它们通常不会在同一情况下同时存在的情况。

Here's an example: My friend just had a baby. She has a good job that pays well. And now she spends more time with her new baby by working from home. We can say that she is having her cake and eating it too!

这是一个例子：我的朋友刚生了一个孩子。她有一份薪水不错的工作。现在，她在家工作，花更多的时间陪伴她的新宝宝。我们可以说她正在吃蛋糕并且也在吃它！

In both of these examples, we could also use this expression: to have the best of both worlds.

在这两个例子中，我们也可以使用这个表达：拥有两全其美。

Now, here is another form of our cake idiom. We also commonly use it in the negative form: You can't have your cake and eat it too.

现在，这是我们蛋糕习语的另一种形式。我们也经常以否定形式使用它：你不能吃蛋糕也不能吃。

In the negative, it means you cannot have or do two things at the same time that are impossible to have or do at the same time. You must decide which one you want because you can't have both. In other words, you cannot have two conflicting things.

否定的意思是，你不能同时拥有或做两件不可能同时拥有或做的事情。你必须决定你想要哪一个，因为你不能同时拥有两者。换句话说，你不能有两个相互冲突 的东西。

For example, let's say your friend is complaining about the amount of taxes he pays. But at the same time, he complains about the lack of services the city provides. You could say to him, "Look, you can't have your cake and eat it too. Better services cost money."

例如，假设您的朋友正在抱怨他缴纳的税款。但与此同时，他抱怨这座城市提供的服务不足。你可以对他说，“看，你不能一边吃蛋糕一边吃。更好的服务要花钱。”

You could also say, you can't have the best of both worlds. Another similar expression is: you can't have it both ways.

你也可以说，你不能两全其美。另一个类似的表达是：你不能同时拥有它。

You can't have your cake and eat it too also means we should not try to have more than is reasonable. In other words, you can't possess the cake and eat it at the same time. Once the cake is eaten, it is gone.

你不能吃蛋糕也不能吃也意味着我们不应该尝试超过合理的范围。换句话说，你不能在拥有蛋糕的同时吃掉它。蛋糕吃完，就没了。

And that's the end of this Words and Their Stories.

这就是这个词和他们的故事的结尾。

If you want to get caught up on world events and practice your English, you can come to VOA Learning English. Here, you have the best of both worlds. You can have your cake and eat it too!

如果你想了解世界大事并练习你的英语，你可以来美国之音学习英语。在这里，您拥有两全其美。你可以吃蛋糕也可以吃！

Until next time.

直到下一次。