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Say It Right

by Denyse Tessensohn

Answers and a Winner

1. "Gostan" is derived from "go astern", probably of nautical origin, and the standard English equivalent is "reverse".
2. "Half-past-six" means "shoddy" or "of poor quality". The origin of the word has been extensively explored and so far no conclusion has been reached. It is very possibly a phrase that was coined in Singapore or Malaya.
3. "Ta pau" is a Cantonese word used to mean a "takeaway". Its original meaning refers to a shroud.

This Week's Winner is: Lawrence Tan Congratulations!

We will answer some of your spoken English language questions in this column, and a book prize will be awarded weekly for the question, anecdote or suggestion most useful to our readers.

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