

*The Life
of Thomas
Edison
(1847-1931)*

爱迪生
的生平
(1847-1931)



Thomas Edison was probably the greatest inventor in American history. But when he first attended school in Port Huron, Michigan, his teachers complained that he was “too slow” and hard to handle. As a result, Edison’s mother decided to take her son out of school and teach him at home.

The young Edison was fascinated by science. At the age of 10 he had already set up his first chemistry laboratory. Edison eventually produced in his lifetime more than 1,300 inventions.

爱迪生大概是美国历史上最伟大的发明家。他最初在密歇根州休伦湖港学校上学时，教他的老师曾抱怨说：他“太迟钝了”，而且还难于管教。因此，他的母亲决定让他退学，由自己来教育儿子。

年轻的爱迪生对科学着了迷。他十岁的时候，就起建了自己的第一间化学实验室。爱迪生精力旺盛、具有无限的天才，他一生共有 1 3 0 0 多项发明。

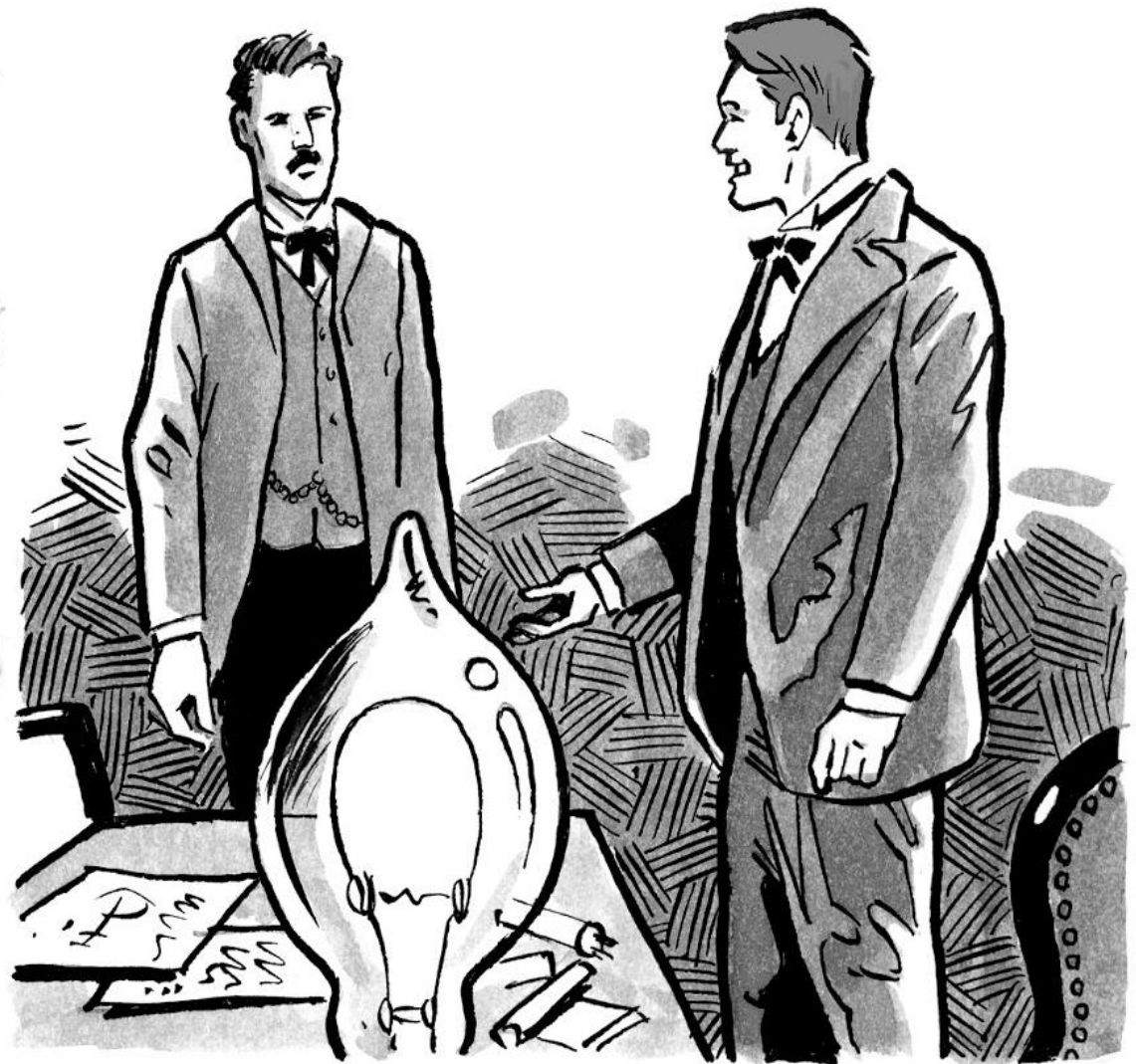


When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, he tried over 2,000 experiments before he got it to work. "I haven't failed," he told someone midway in his experiments. "Those were steps on the way. In each attempt, I was successful in finding a way not to create a light bulb. I have discovered more than 1,000 things that will not work. I will soon find one that will."

爱迪生在发明灯泡时，共试验了2000次，才获得成功。“我并没有失败，”他在实验过程中对某人说：“这些都是前进的阶梯。每尝试一次，我都会成功地发现一种不去制造灯泡的方法。我已经发现1,000多种物质不适合作灯泡。不用很久，我就会找到合适的了。”

When a reporter asked Thomas Edison how it felt to have failed 25,000 times in his effort to create a simple storage battery, his reply was, "I don't know why you are calling it a failure. Today I know 25,000 ways not to make a battery. What do you know?"

爱迪生在发明一种简易蓄电池期间曾失败了25,000次，当一位记者询问他的感受时，爱迪生回答说：“我不知道你为什么要说这是失败。现在，我已经知道：有25,000种方法不能造出蓄电池来！你知道什么呢？”





The evening of December 9, 1914, an explosion set fire to Edison's scientific laboratory. At least ten buildings were destroyed, along with years of research and development. "There go all our mistakes," Edison said as he watched the blaze. "Thank God we can start anew."

Three weeks after the fire, Edison managed to deliver his first phonograph.

1914年12月9日晚，爱迪生的实验室毁于一场火灾。大火中，至少十栋建筑被烧毁，包括多年的研究与发现。“我们所有的错误都没了，”爱迪生说。“感谢上帝，我们能够重新开始。”

大火之后的三个星期，爱迪生就发明了首台留声机。

Most of the reversals you and I face aren't nearly as catastrophic, but they have two things in common with Edison's inferno. First, they present us with a choice: How will we react to our change of circumstances? Second, depending on how we react, such changes inevitably change *us* for better or for worse.

Learn from your failures and go on to the next challenge. It's okay to fail. If you're not failing, you're not growing.

你我面对的逆境大都不会如此严重，但它们和爱迪生遇到的大火有两个共同点。一) 无论情况如何，我们都面对一个选择：我们将如何应对环境的改变？二) 按照我们的反应，这些改变会或者使我们变得更好，或者更糟。

要从失败中学习，然后，去迎接下一个挑战。失败乃平常事，你若不失败，就不会成长。



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