

Re: Chinese-style measure words in English?

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From: John Atkinson (johnacko_at_bigpond.com)

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"Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@worldnet.att.net> wrote ...

> *John Atkinson wrote:*

> >

> > *"Lee Sau Dan" <danlee@informatik.uni-freiburg.de> wrote...*

> >

> > > *I'm curious. When would "one trouser" or "one scissor" be useful?*

> > > *How come English make it this way? It looks so ridiculous that you*

> > > *MUST say "a pair of trousers" and "a pair of scissors", which are so*

> > > *clumsy. (Is it why people like to say "pant" now? I guess "pant" is*

> > > *related to French "pantalon"?)*

> >

> > *I've never heard of anyone say "pant". It's always "a pair of pants" --*

> > *exactly the same as with trousers.*

>

> *So you've never been to a custom tailor's!*

Not since I was last in Hong Kong, which was in 1963. That tailor couldn't speak English at all, as far as I can remember.

John.