

Modern English Reading

现代英语阅读

葛宝祥 常雁 徐晓丹 主编

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黑龙江人民出版社

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1 Bold Words for a New Generation

¹ Let me say that I am pleased and privileged to be here, honoring you, the class of 1994, on this, your day of days. As I gaze out at your sea of bright and shining faces, it goes without saying that you will not just live in the future; you are that future.

² I feel certain of this, just as I feel certain that you will fill that future to the brim with the distinguished gifts and talents that are so very much uniquely yours.

³ I believe it was Robert Frost, or perhaps Plato, who said, "Old men dream dreams; young men see visions." what lesson can we take here from Frost, or Plato apart from the obvious sexism of the reference to "men" instead of "persons"?

⁴ I believe it is this. I believe this quotation enjoins you all, as it must, to dream the impossible dream, to be all that you can be, to empower yourselves, to get in touch with your inner child and make it your own best friend, to feel each other's pain while looking out for No. 1, to know no boundaries, to not stop thinking about tomorrow, to explore strange new worlds, to boldly go where no one has ever gone before. Imagine all the people, living for today!

⁵ This much is obvious, as you know. If you are at all like I was at your age, I imagine that you feel a mixture of hope and apprehension, partly because you aren't sure how long this speech is going to go on.

⁶ Now you are on your own. Years from now, when you leave your parents' homes and get your first jobs, I hope you will reflect back on what happened here, not on this ceremony itself, or on my poor words, or on the lousy economy and the crushing debt we have inadvertently dumped on you but on what you yourselves have accomplished.

⁷ The president of your university assures me that he graduates no mind before its time, so the fact that you are here today surely indicates that he feels it is time for you to leave. Of course, there's always grad school.

⁸ Now you embark on one of the more significant legs of that endless series of connecting flights we call life. Just as all Delta flights go through Atlanta, for some reason, even the ones from San Francisco to Los Angeles, so too may all of your life's short hops fly you spiritually through the values of your alma mater. And re-

member, since baggage has a way of getting lost now on almost all flights, may these values always be with you as carryons.

⁹ You should know that, in a sense, you are not really leaving this university today, for a university is more than buildings and bricks and mortar and sexual harassment hearings and pointless tribal conflict observed from afar by college administrators.

¹⁰ It is also a long line of the many generations who have walked these campus paths, stretching from the distant past to the equally distant future and beyond.

¹¹ What will the future be like? No one knows, of course, but I believe there will be a great deal of change. Paradoxical as it may sound, I believe that change is the one constant in life. Make it your friend and not your enemy. As Heraclitus, the great Greek philosopher, once observed, "You can't step twice into the same river." This may have been a reference to water pollution. Nobody knows for sure.

¹² You are entering a world far different from the one my generation entered. My generation grew up with no MTV, no college loan deadbeats, no \$175 sneakers, no underwear worn in public and very little jewelry worn on the tongue. Yet somehow we broke through and achieved all these things, and more.

¹³ I believe that your generation is far more humane and caring than my own. You ask questions: "What is the meaning of life?" "How can I make a fortune in cattle futures with almost no money down?" "Why do we have to sit around in the hot sun listening to a commencement speech?"

¹⁴ I do not recall who it was who spoke at my own graduation. Whoever it was, I know I looked to him for wisdom and guidance, just as you now look to me. I suppose if there is one single message I'd like to leave with you, it is this: Concentrate on what you are doing.

¹⁵ If you do it well, you will ultimately be successful, unless you are trying to eliminate the federal deficit or establish an indoor smoking zone.

¹⁶ Act boldly. Do not fear making mistakes, though if you make one, look out. Frankly, the fast-food industry is filled with people hoping you will fail at you McJob.

¹⁷ Make a contribution. Even though 70 percent of you will be lawyers, engaged in suing or defending the other 30 percent from one another, still I say to you: Try to do something useful with your life, if only in your spare time.

¹⁸ In a very real sense, your graduation here today is not an ending but a beginning, literally a commencement. If I may say so, this is, in fact, the first day of the rest

of your lives. I realize it is startling to look at graduation this way, but I believe we must. Thank you, and lots of luck. You'll need it.

I . CHECK YOUR READING COMPREHENSION

1. The students are urged not to _____.
 - A. dream the impossible dream
 - B. stop thinking about tomorrow
 - C. explore strange new worlds
 - D. boldly go where no one has ever gone before
2. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. The students are standing in the open air listening to the speech.
 - B. The students are sitting in the open air listening to the speech.
 - C. The students are sitting in a classroom listening to the speech.
 - D. The students are sitting in an auditorium listening to the speech.
3. The main purpose of this speech is to _____.
 - A. summarize what the students have accomplished
 - B. give the students some advice
 - C. tell the students how to make a fortune
 - D. tell the students how to become good lawyers
4. The students are encouraged to _____.
 - A. concentrate on what they are doing
 - B. act boldly
 - C. try to do something useful
 - D. all of the above
5. This article is _____.
 - A. a prompt speech

- B. an impractical speech
 - C. a speech prepared in advance
 - D. a long and tedious speech
6. The sentence "You can't step twice into the same river" implies that ____.
- A. the river has been polluted
 - B. the river is in constant change
 - C. it is forbidden to step twice into the same river
 - D. the river is stationary
7. According to the author, the students feel hope and ____.
- A. hatred
 - B. relief
 - C. fear
 - D. bewilderment
8. In paragraph 4, "inner child" most probably means ____.
- A. stomach
 - B. soul
 - C. heart
 - D. invention

II . LEARN ABOUT WORDS

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from other words and ideas in the story.

Directions: In the paragraph, find the word that best fits the meaning below.

Write the word.

- 1. the opinion that one sex is not as good as the other (3)
- 2. to give someone the power or lawful right (4)
- 3. orders or urges someone to do something (4)
- 4. very bad (6)
- 5. without paying attention or by accident (6)
- 6. to go, put, or take on a ship (8)
- 7. a mixture of lime, sand, and water (9)
- 8. of an improbable combination of opposing qualities (11)

9. lazy persons (12)

10. the amount by which money that goes out is more than money that comes in
(15)

B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is
used.

Directions: Look back at the paragraph and see how the word is used.

Decide which of the three meanings below fits best. Write A, B or C

1. privileged (1)

A. having a special favour

B. having a special right

C. that must be respected by the law as secret

2. uniquely (2)

A. being the only one of its type

B. considered nonstandard unusual

C. unequalled

3. No. 1 (4)

A. the highest in importance

B. the chief person in an organization

C. oneself and no one else

4. apprehension (5)

A. anxiety, esp. about the future; fear

B. ability to understand; understanding

C. the act of seizing (a person who breaks the law); arrest

5. commencement (13)

A. beginning

B. trade

C. graduation ceremony

III . TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why do the students feel a mixture of hope and apprehension?
2. How to act boldly?
3. Please explain the sentence in the last paragraph "In a very sense, your graduation here today is not an ending but a beginning, literally a commencement."

2 Youth and Booty

¹ Little Swiss bank: teenaged tennis prodigy Martina Hingis pocketed more than \$ 650,000 for barely a fortnight's work in winning twin crowns at the Australian Open. It took a 16-year-old Swiss and a little known Spaniard to show the world at the Australian Open that tennis can still be a game of artistry and finesse. Martina Hingis became the youngest woman Grand Slam champion of the century with a brand of tennis that the cleverest players of the past would have been proud to purvey. And Carlos Moya, though well beaten by Pete Sampras in the men's final, fascinated fans in earlier matches with his mixture of pace and spin, and ability to deceive.

² In an era noted more for slugging than subtlety, Australia's Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde reinforced the lesson that finely honed skills can rule supreme. They defeated the North American duo of Sebastien Lareau and Alex O'Brien to win their eighth Grand Slam title, becoming the most successful doubles team since open tennis began in 1968.

³ Ascendancy: Hingis' 6-2, 6-2 victory over the harder-hitting but inconsistent Frenchwoman Mary Pierce heralded her ascendancy in women's tennis. While Steffi Graf remains No. 1 in the rankings, the youngster is now breathing down her neck and almost cockily predicting she will oust the 27-year-old German this year unless thwarted by injury. A wan and unhappy Graf left Australia after hearing that her father had been sentenced to three years and nine months' jail for tax evasion. It had been one of the worst weeks of her life; she had suffered back spasms and an infected toe, and been afflicted with heat exhaustion while losing to South African Amanda Coetzer in the fourth round. She now faces further investigations by the Women's Tennis Association for having received millions of dollars in illegal appearance fees.

⁴ Hingis, who also won the doubles title with Natasha Zvereva of Belarus, did not drop a set in seven singles matches at Melbourne Park, and was only once taken to a tiebreak. What her rivals found difficult to accept was not only her uncanny ball sense and cool nerve, but her insouciance. On one free afternoon she went horseriding, got thrown from her mount and blithely picked herself up laughing. She went

rollerblading along the Yarra and shopping with her mother, Melanie Molitor (who is her coach), and took in the musical *Sunset Boulevard*. On semifinals day she defied convention by eating a bacon and cheese roll in the media area while watching Pierce beat Coetzer on a video screen, then hurried to play Mary Joe Fernandez, whom she duly thrashed.

⁵ Rules: While Hingis' style on and off the court was refreshing, her triumph appears to make nonsense of the rules introduced by the WTA to protect young players from burnout. One rule bars anyone under 16 from playing in Grand Slam tournament (although each tournament can countermand the rule in individual cases). Hingis made her Australian Open debut at 14 and played in eight majors before her breakthrough at 16 years, three months and 26 days. It seems a pity that officialdom, by denying brilliant prodigies opportunities to gain experience, is making it virtually impossible for other youngsters to emulate Hingis.

⁶ The Open was a tournament of embarrassments as well as upsets. After defending men's champion Boris Becker was beaten by Moya in the first round, he suggested the organisers had ordered softer balls than usual in an endeavour to counter the big servers. Tournament director Paul McNamee responded that the balls, which were made in the Philippines, were the same as in previous years and denied any "hidden agenda". It did seem, however, that some balls were substandard, possibly because of a lack of pressure in the cans in which they were supplied.

⁷ A few days later, a heatwave caused officials far worse anguish. With the air temperature around 40 degrees and the courtside reading several degrees higher, many seeded players—including Graf, Conchita Martinez and Lindsay Davenport—wilted and lost their matches. Some, such as Graf and Belgium's Sabine Appelmans, were so dehydrated they required medical treatment. Ash from bushfires 40 kilometres away was falling on the courts and a banner headline in the Melbourne Age newspaper emoted: "Players protest: lives on the line".

⁸ On the third consecutive day of scorching heat, tournament referee Peter Bellenger decreed that the stadium roof be closed. Television pictures of distressed players were giving Melbourne a bad image; attendances were falling sharply from the record highs of the first week, and there was risk of a ghastly centre court tragedy being witnessed by the world. In shutting out the sun, Bellenger believed he was doing the players and the public a favour.

⁹ Outraged: The spectators who had been sitting in the hottest seats certainly thanked him but several players were outraged. They argued that the fittest, best

acclimatised players were disadvantaged, and that as not all matches would be played indoors, the integrity of the event was compromised. One of the most upset was Moya's higher-ranked compatriot Felix Mantilla, who had filled up with fluids and warmed up in the open air before being informed the roof would be closed for his vital quarter-final match. Disoriented and uncomfortable, he lost to Moya. Some top players put their names to a strongly worded letter to the organisers attacking Bellenger's action and urging that it never be repeated.

¹⁰ These difficulties apart, it was a memorable Open. Besides Hingis, who took home a total of \$654,500 for her singles and doubles victories, Belgium's Dominique Van Roost made a deep impression as she courageously beat second seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and 15th seed Chanda Rubin despite carrying several injuries, which eventually caused her to retire against Fernandez.

¹¹ Moya, runner-up to England's Tim Henman at the Sydney International on the eve of the Open, was the sensation of the men's singles. As well as beating Becker he eliminated second seed Michael Chang (who had beaten Henman) and, at 20, looks the most promising of a fresh pack of hardcourt-wise Spaniards.

¹² As for Sampras, he had a point to prove after losing to Andre Agassi in the 1995 final when emotionally and physically drained, and to Philippoussis in the third round last year. He again showed he is one of the most complete players of all time, although he had some tight matches, especially against Slovakian teenager Dominik Hrbaty and Spanish baseliner Albert Costa. It was important for him to win in Melbourne, where his late coach, Tim Gullikson, fell gravely ill two years ago.

¹³ "It was tough, sure it was tough, when Tim passed away," Sampras said while savouring his ninth Grand Slam triumph. "I didn't want to play tennis, but time heals and this year is a great start to win here."

I . CHECK YOUR READING COMPREHENSION

1. It took a 16-year-old Swiss and a little-known Spaniard to show the world at the Australia Open that... The little-known Spaniard refers to _____.
A. Martina Hingis
B. Mary Pierce

- C. Carlos Moya
- D. Pete Sampras

2. Carlos Moya fascinated fans with _____.
 - A. his smart appearance
 - B. his sweet personality
 - C. his mixture of pace and spin and ability to deceive
 - D. his deceitfulness
3. Since 1968, the most successful doubles are _____.
 - A. Moya and Sampras
 - B. Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde
 - C. Hingis and Graf
 - D. Pierce and Hingis
4. During the Australia Open, Graf suffered a lot except _____.
 - A. a broken leg
 - B. an infected toe
 - C. back spasms
 - D. heat exhaustion
5. Graf is investigated by the WTA because _____.
 - A. her father evaded tax
 - B. she played foul
 - C. she had received illegal appearance fees
 - D. she insulted the referees
6. According to Boris Becker, he was beaten by Moya because _____.
 - A. Moya played foul
 - B. Moya bribed the referees
 - C. there was something wrong with the court
 - D. there was something wrong with the balls
7. At the Australia Open, many seeded players lost their matches partly because _____.

- A. the court was too soft
- B. the balls were too soft
- C. the referees were not fair
- D. the air temperature was too high

8. After closing the stadium roof, some players were outraged because ____.
- A. it became too dark in the stadium
 - B. it became even hotter in the stadium
 - C. they were disadvantaged
 - D. they were hurt

II . LEARN ABOUT WORDS

- A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from other words and ideas in the story.

Directions: In the paragraph, find the word that best fits the meaning below.
Write the words.

- 1. person who has unusual or remarkable abilities (1)
- 2. artful or delicate way of dealing with a situation (1)
- 3. position of having power over others (3)
- 4. to drive or push someone out (3)
- 5. sudden and involuntary tightening of a muscle or muscles (3)
- 6. careless (4)
- 7. (of a young woman) first appearance on the public stage (5)
- 8. severe suffering (esp. of mind) (7)
- 9. accustomed oneself to a new climate (9)
- 10. quality of being honest and upright in character (9)

- B. A word or a phrase may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Look back at the paragraph and see how the word or the phrase is used.
Decide which of the three meanings below fits best. Write A, B or C.

1. slugging (2)
 - A. hitting hard and wildly
 - B. walking steadily
 - C. fouling in the match
2. honed skill(2)
 - A. sharp skill
 - B. delicate skill
 - C. outstanding or extraordinary skill
3. heralded (3)
 - A. announced the approach of something
 - B. carried messages from a ruler to a person
 - C. came near; approached
4. thrashed (4)
 - A. won a victory over in a contest
 - B. cleared up a problem by discussion
 - C. moved or beaten violently
5. on the line (7)
 - A. act in this way
 - B. on the dangerous condition
 - C. on the playground

III. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Whether Hingis won all the singles matches at the Australian Open?
2. Please explain the title "Youth and Booty".
3. What enlightenment can the readers obtain from this passage?