

《现代大学英语》系列辅导丛书

CONTEMPORARY

Learner's Guide

COLLEGE ENGLISH

现代大学英语

精读 4

学习指南

主 编：祁洪彬

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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Contemporary College English

现代大学英语

Learner's Guide

精读4 学习指南

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前 言

《现代大学英语 精读》自2001年问世以来，受到广大师生和英语学习者的欢迎，先后被众多院校采用，成为我国高校英语专业精读教学的主干教材。在使用过程中，广大学生普遍反映教材语言材料难度较大，缺乏对相关背景知识的了解。为了帮助广大学生更好地使用这套教材，我们组织具有丰富一线教学经验的教师编写了这套《现代大学英语 精读学习指南》（1—4册）。本套学习指南针对学生的薄弱环节和实际需要，力争做到有的放矢，旨在帮助学生打下扎实的英语语言基础，形成较强的英语综合应用能力。

本套学习指南与学生用书同步，每册由15课组成，每课分别对课文A和课文B两大部分进行详细讲解与辅导。

课文A部分

一、语言要点

将课文中出现的重点单词、词组、典型句式分类列出，便于学生掌握学习重点。

二、背景介绍

紧密结合课文，介绍相关的背景知识，帮助学生拓展视野。

1. 作者介绍：简要介绍作者的生平、主要作品、社会影响、在社会和文学界的地位。
2. 文章介绍：介绍作品的写作动机、时代背景、发表情况、相关评论等。
3. 文化知识：介绍文中涉及的文化知识，包括历史、地理、宗教、政治、经济、体育、音乐、军事、科技、文学、戏剧等各个方面以及有文化内涵的俚语表达法。

三、篇章分析

1. 文章主题：剖析文中的观点和作者的写作目的。
2. 写作手法与语言特色：分析作者在文中运用的写作手法与主要修辞手段，帮助学生进一步欣赏文章。
3. 篇章结构：以表格形式列出文章的主要组成部分，并归纳每部分的主要内容，一目了然。

四、句子解析

对课文中出现的重点词汇、短语以英汉双解的形式进行解释，并提供包含典型用法的例句。对文中一些较难或比较有代表性的句子进行分析，理清句子结构，分析作者运用的各种修辞手段，并以典型句式的形式予以强调。

五、译文

本着忠实原文、顺畅自然的原则给出课文的参考译文，以帮助学生加深理解。

六、练习答案

提供除口头练习和写作练习外的课后练习参考答案。

课文 B 部分

一、句子解析

挑选课文中出现的一些较难或比较有代表性的句子进行分析，理清句子结构，并对重点词汇、短语以英汉双解的形式进行解释，提供包含典型用法的例句。

二、译文

本着忠实原文、顺畅自然的原则给出课文的参考译文，以帮助学生加深理解。

本套学习指南的编写人员为国际关系学院英语系的专业教师（以姓氏笔画为序）：

王雪鸽 王朝英 石延芳 白郁 祁洪彬 李亚丽

沈文香 房为群 岳星 柳青 高静 谢葵

在本书编写过程中，我们得到了外语教学与研究出版社高等英语教育出版分社和国际关系学院英语系领导的热情指导和大力协助，有关中外专家和教授帮助我们解决了许多语言和背景知识方面的问题，在此一并致以诚挚的谢意。

由于编者水平所限，书中难免存在错误和疏漏，不妥之处，敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2008年8月

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Text A Thinking as a Hobby

一 语言要点

1. 单词

eternal	panic	delinquent	symbolize	integrate	muscular
contemplate	simply	anguish	endow	modest	exalt
oratory	trap	impediment	settled	detestation	disinterested
remorselessly	proficient	innocence	contempt	dismiss	contradiction
stampede	lag	heady	confer	literally	compulsive
flicker	slide	indignant	undeserved	libertine	deficiency
ego	irreverent	tumble	conversion	trifle	

2. 短语

leap to one's feet	leave sth./sb. out	be given to doing sth.	of itself
out of sight	set sb./sth. doing sth.	make for	few and far between
in the flesh	aspire to	at the best of times	leave sth./sb. out
stand by	stand to do sth.	do away with	

3. 典型句式

lest	倒装句	if anything	there is no sense in doing sth.
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二 背景介绍

作者简介

威廉姆·戈尔丁 (William Golding) (1911—1993) 毕业于牛津大学, 他酷爱文学, 24 岁便有诗集问世。曾先后做过中学校长、大学讲师、演员、水手和音乐家, 并参加二战。战后, 戈尔丁继续其教学生涯, 直至 20 世纪 60 年代初。主要作品有长篇小说《蝇王》(*Lord of the Flies*) 和《航行的仪式》(*Rites of Passage*), 后者获得英国文学的最高奖——布克文学奖。他的小说采用明快清晰的现实主义叙述手法, 通过丰富多彩故事情节, 揭示现代社会中人类的生存状况。1983 年, 戈尔丁荣获诺贝尔文学奖。

三 篇章分析

1. 篇章结构

	段落	段落大意
第一部分	1-15段	通过小学时被校长训诫的经历引入文章主题——思维。
第二部分	16-24段	通过典型事例和典型人物勾勒三级思考者。
第三部分	25-29段	通过自己不成功的恋爱经历揭示二级思考者的困惑和烦恼。
第四部分	30-35段	表达自己做一级思考者的勇气和决心。

2. 文章主题

作者以幽默的笔触，通过切身体会，为我们描述了三个级别的思考者。芸芸众生，十之有九皆为三级思考者，他们人云亦云、口是心非、夸夸其谈、道貌岸然；二级思考者不盲目从众，虽能指出三级思考者的自相矛盾之处，但缺乏探究真理的勇气和行动；一级层次最高，不仅能指出自相矛盾之处，并能在此基础上孜孜不倦地探求真理，但世人中达到一级者寥寥。作者讽刺挖苦三级思考者的无知、伪善、偏执，同时也指出二级思考者愤世嫉俗、高高在上的人生态度不仅于事无补，而且其危害较三级思考者更甚。因此，作者在篇尾指出，虽然做一级思考者让他损失惨重，但仍选择做“职业”的一级思考者，恪守自己的思维习惯，无怨无悔。

3. 写作手法与语言特色

本文语言幽默诙谐，辛辣犀利，语言洗练。作者主要使用了以下几种修辞手段：

(1) 反语 (irony)

第 23 段：Technically, it is about as proficient as most businessmen's golf, as honest as most politicians' intentions, or as coherent as most books that get written. 作者对热衷于打高尔夫球但球技欠佳的商人、缺乏诚意的政治家和写作水平低劣的三流作家进行了讽刺。

(2) 重复 (repetition)

第 25 段：To hear people justify their habit of hunting foxes by claiming that foxes liked it. To hear our Prime Minister talk about the great benefit we conferred on India by jailing people like Nehru and Gandhi. To hear American politicians talk about peace and refuse to join the League of Nations.

(3) 借代 (metonymy)

第 23 段：It will lecture on disinterested purity while its neck is being remorselessly twisted toward a skirt. 该句中的 skirt 用来借代漂亮的姑娘。

四 句子解析

1. She seemed frozen in an **eternal panic** lest the bath towel slip down any farther...[Para. 2]

eternal: *adj.* continuing for ever and having no end; seeming to continue for ever, esp. because of being boring or annoying 永恒的，永远的；没完没了的

例：Church members express a belief in eternal life after death. 教友们表达了对永生的信念。

panic: *n.* a sudden strong feeling of fear or nervousness that makes you unable to think clearly or behave sensibly 惊慌，恐慌

例：The children fled in panic. 孩子们惊慌地逃走了。

She got into a panic when she couldn't find the tickets. 买不到票时她慌了。

[典型句式] **lest:** used to show that sb. is afraid or worried that a particular thing might happen 唯恐；以免。此句中，lest 引起一个表示否定或消极的目的状语从句。从句中动词形式为“should + v.”或者用动词原形。

例：He doesn't dare to leave the house lest he should be recognized. 他不敢出门，以免被认出来。

[注] lest 有时也用在 danger, fear, afraid, worried 等类似含义的词后，代替 that。

例：There was danger lest the plan should become known. 这个计划有被泄漏的危险。

She worried lest he should tell someone what had happened. 她担心他把发生的一切告诉别人。

2. **Beyond the leopard** was a naked, muscular gentleman... [Para. 2]

此句为倒装句。介词短语、形容词、副词、分词置于句首，以加强语气时，句子要倒装。

例：Among those invited were some ladies. 受邀者中有一些女士。

Sitting under the tree was a charming girl aged about seventeen to eighteen.

坐在树下的是位年约十七八岁的女孩子。

3. The headmaster had placed them where they would face **delinquent** children, because they **symbolized** to him the whole of life. [Para. 3]

delinquent: *adj.* acting in a way that is illegal or that society does not approve of 有过失的；犯法的

例：Jail is not a good place to rehabilitate delinquent youths. 监狱不是教育失足青年的好地方。

symbolize: *vt.* to represent 象征

例：In Europe, the color white symbolizes purity, but in Asia it is often the symbol of deep mourning.

在欧洲，白色象征纯洁，在亚洲则往往象征悲伤。

4. As we now say, I was not **integrated**. I was, **if anything**, disintegrated. [Para. 4]

integrate: *vt.* to become part of a group or society and be accepted by them, or to help sb. do this 使……成为某组织的一员；整合

例：Disabled students are integrated in regular classrooms. 残障学生被编入普通班。

[典型句式] **if anything:** used when you are adding sth. to emphasize what you have just said (用于补充强调) 甚至正相反；甚至还不如说

例：Sam didn't seem too disappointed at losing. If anything, he seemed relieved that it was all over.

对于失败，山姆并不觉得十分失望。正相反，他看上去倒是如释重负：一切终于结束了。

5. ...where the naked lady was frozen in her panic and the **muscular** gentleman **contemplated** the hindquarters of the leopard in endless gloom. [Para. 9]

muscular: *adj.* having large or strong muscles 肌肉的，强健的

例：The player is big and muscular. 这个运动员魁梧健壮。

contemplate: *vt./vi.* to think about sth. seriously for a period of time; to look at sb. or sth. for a period of time in a way that shows you are thinking 沉思；凝望

例：He had even contemplated suicide. 他甚至想过自杀。

He contemplated her with a faint smile. 他望着她，浅浅地一笑。

6. I was **simply** waiting in **anguish** for the interview to stop. [Para.11]

simply: *adv.* used to emphasize what you are saying; only 简直, 仅仅

例: He simply won't accept the committee's decision. 他简直不能接受委员会的决定。

anguish: *n.* mental or physical suffering caused by extreme pain or worry 痛苦, 苦恼

例: The anguish of not knowing the truth was almost unbearable.

被蒙在鼓里的痛苦几乎让人难以忍受。

7. On one occasion the headmaster **leaped to his feet**, reached up and put Rodin's masterpiece on the desk before me. [Para.13]

leap (get/rise/jump, etc.) to one's feet: to stand up 站起身来

例: He put down his glass and rose to his feet. 他放下杯子, 站起身来。

8. Nature had **endowed** the rest of the human race with a sixth sense and **left me out**. [Para.15]

endow: *vt.* (with) to equip or supply with a good feature or quality 使……(天生)具备(某种好品质)

例: She was endowed with both good looks and brains. 她天生丽质, 天资聪颖。

leave sth./sb. out: not to include sb. or sth. 遗漏

例: She outlined the case to him, being careful not to leave anything out.

她简要地把案情向他进行了描述, 尽力做到没有什么遗漏。

[注] **be/feel left out:** to feel that you are not included or accepted in a situation 感到受到冷落

例: New fathers often feel left out when baby arrives.

孩子一出生, 初为人父的人往往感到受到了冷落。

9. With a **modest** satisfaction, he would tell me that he had thought a bit himself. [Para. 16]

modest: *adj.* not very great, big, or expensive 适度的; 不大的, 不多的; 不贵的

例: There is a modest increase in costs. 成本略有增加。

10. Or **was there** more **sense in** drinking than there appeared to be? But if not, and if drinking were in fact ruinous to health—and Mr. Houghton was ruined, there was no doubt about that—why was he always talking about the clean life and the virtues of fresh air? [Para.16]

此句意为 It is not very sensible to drink despite the fact that people drink for seemingly good reasons. But if Mr. Houghton truly believed that drinking did more harm than good (Mr. Houghton had apparently fallen victim to heavy drinking). was it right for Mr. Houghton, who was a heavy drinker himself, to keep talking about decent life and the greatness of fresh air since he was a heavy drinker? 本句中, 两个破折号中间为插入语, 起到补充说明和加强语气的作用。

[典型句式] **there is no sense in doing sth.:** it is not sensible to do sth. 做某事是没有意义的

例: There is no sense in getting upset about it now. 现在就为这件事烦恼没有道理。

11. Sometimes, **exalted** by his own **oratory**, he would leap from his desk and hustle us outside into a hideous wind. [Para.17]

exalt: *vi.* to glorify, praise, or honor; to increase the effect or intensity of; to heighten 使喜悦, 使得意; 使情绪高昂

例: We were exalted by his poems. 他的诗让我们兴奋不已。

oratory: *n.* the skill of making powerful speeches 演讲术, 演讲的技巧

例: He is well known for his oratory. 他的能言善辩远近闻名。

12. You could hear the wind, **trapped** in his chest and struggling with all the unnatural **impediments**.
[Para. 19]
过去分词短语 *trapped in his chest* 和现在分词短语 *struggling with all the unnatural impediments* 均为定语，修饰 *wind*。
trap: *vt.* to prevent sb. from escaping from somewhere, esp. a dangerous place 设陷阱捕捉；使陷入困境
例：Dozens of miners remained trapped. 几十个矿工仍被困井下。
impediment: *n.* a physical problem that makes speaking, hearing, or moving difficult (言语) 障碍；口吃
例：He should seek professional advice for his speech impediment. 他该找专家治疗口吃。
13. Mr. Houghton **was given to** high-minded monologues about the good life, sexless and full of duty.
[Para. 20]
此句中的 *sexless* 和 *full of duty* 作前面名词 *life* 的后置定语。
此句意为 *Mr. Houghton couldn't help talking about the decent life with duties and without sex.*
be given to doing sth.: to tend to do sth., esp. sth. that you should not do 有……倾向；习惯于……
例：He was a quiet man, not usually given to complaining. 他不大讲话，很少抱怨。
14. Yet in the middle of these monologues, if a girl passed the window, his neck would turn **of itself** and he would watch her **out of sight**. [Para. 20]
此句意为 *While he was talking of the moral principles at length, if he caught sight of a girl passing, he would turn his eyes on her and watch her until she disappeared.*
of itself: considered separately from any other facts 自行，自然而然地
例：The dog came back of itself. 狗自己回来了。
out of sight: outside the area that you can see 在看不见的地方，在视线之外
例：Out of sight, out of mind. 眼不见，心不烦。(谚语)
Karen waved at her aunt until the car was out of sight. 卡伦向她的姨妈挥手道别，直到车看不见了。
15. But Mr. Houghton had fought in the First World War alongside Americans and French, and had come to a **settled detestation** of both countries. [Para. 21]
此句可理解为 *But Mr. Houghton had gone to the First World War fighting together with Americans and French, and had developed a constant strong dislike for both countries.*
settled: *adj.* remaining the same, and not likely to change 不变的，固定的
例：She was tired of moving around and longed for a more settled existence.
她已厌倦了四处漂泊，渴望有一个归宿。
detestation: *n.* strong dislike or hatred; abhorrence 厌恶，憎恶
例：He was held in detestation. 人们讨厌他。
16. It will lecture on **disinterested** purity while its neck is being **remorselessly** twisted toward a skirt. [Para. 23]
disinterested: *adj.* able to judge a situation fairly because you are not concerned with gaining any personal advantage from it; objective, impartial, unbiased 无私的；公正的
例：a disinterested observer 无偏见的观察员
A lawyer should provide disinterested advice. 律师应该提供客观的建议。
remorselessly: *adv.* continuing to happen and seeming impossible to stop 不休止地；不屈不挠地
例：It drizzled remorselessly all day long. 小雨淅淅沥沥下了一整天。

17. Technically, it is about as **proficient** as most businessmen's golf, as honest as most politicians' intentions, or as coherent as most books that get written. [Para. 23]

本句是一个反语 (irony), 同时也是一个类比, 商人们不高明的高尔夫球技、政治家的假大空和不知所云的垃圾书籍都用以讽刺像霍顿先生一样的三级思考者: 他们言行不一, 口是心非。

proficient: *adj.* able to do sth. well or skillfully 熟练的, 精通的

例: There is only one way to become proficient at anything—practice!

任何事情, 要想成为行家里手, 办法只有一个——练习!

18. True, often there is a kind of **innocence** in prejudices, but in those days I viewed grade-three thinking with **contempt** and mockery. [Para. 24]

此句意为 It is true that prejudices result from a lack of knowledge, but at that time I looked down upon and mocked grade-three thinking.

innocence: *n.* lack of experience of life or knowledge of the bad things in the world 无知

例: In our innocence we believed everything we were told. 由于无知, 别人说什么, 我们就信什么。

contempt: *n.* a feeling that sb. or sth. is not important and deserves no respect 轻视; 轻蔑

例: Most people feel contempt for such an attitude. 大部分的人蔑视这样的态度。

19. ...because of her, I no longer **dismiss** lightly a mental process which for nine tenths of the population is the nearest they will ever get to thought. [Para. 24]

此句意为 Thanks to her, I don't consider the grade-three thinking unimportant any more for the reason that nine people out of ten are grade-three thinkers and, when it comes to thinking, grade-three thinking is just as far as the majority of people can get.

作者将三级思考说成是 mental process, 说明在作者看来三级思考根本算不上思考, 充其量就是脑力活动。

dismiss: *vt.* to refuse to consider sb.'s idea, opinion, etc., because you think it is not serious, true, or important 不理睬; 不考虑

例: The government has dismissed criticisms that the country's health policy is a mess.

有人批评国家的医疗保健政策一团糟, 但政府对这样的批评毫不理睬。

20. A crowd of grade-three thinkers, all shouting the same thing, all warming their hands at the fire of their own prejudices, will not thank you for pointing out the **contradictions** in their beliefs. [Para. 24]

此句意为 The grade-three thinkers who take delight in sharing the same biased ideas and unreasonable dislike will not thank you for telling them that their ideas are inconsistent and conflicting.

本句中的两个由分词独立结构构成的平行结构 all shouting the same thing 和 all warming their hands at the fire of their own prejudices 在句中作状语。

contradiction: *n.* a difference between two statements, beliefs, or ideas about sth. that means they cannot both be true 矛盾; 反驳

例: There is a contradiction between the government's idea and its actual policy.

政府的设想与其实际政策互相矛盾。

21. Grade-two thinkers do not **stampede** easily, though often they fall into the other fault and **lag** behind. [Para. 25]

此句意为 Grade-two thinkers do not follow the crowd easily, though they often go to the other extreme, that is, they act too slowly and fall behind others.

stampede: *vi.* to be made frightened or worried so that you do sth. too quickly, without thinking enough about it 惊慌逃窜；蜂拥；（一群人）冲动行事

例：Children came stampeding out of the school. 孩子们从学校蜂拥而出。

lag: *vi.* to move or develop more slowly than others 落后

例：China is lagging behind some developed countries in terms of education.

中国的教育落后于一些发达国家。

22. It **set me watching** the crowds cheering His Majesty the King and **asking** myself what all the fuss was about, without giving me anything positive to put in the place of that **heady** patriotism. [Para. 25]

此句意为 It made me observe people shouting His Majesty as a way of showing their praise and support of the King and had me wonder why they had to do all this. But I find it difficult to come up with an explanation of the exciting patriotism.

[典型句式] **set sb./sth. doing sth.:** 促使某人做某事，使某事发生

例：Her last remark has set me thinking. 她最后的一席话引起我的深思。

heady: *adj.* very exciting in a way that makes you feel as if you can do anything you want to; rash 振奋的；狂热的

例：the heady atmosphere of the late sixties 60年代晚期的狂热氛围

23. To hear our Prime Minister talk about the great benefit we **conferred** on India by jailing people like Nehru and Gandhi. [Para. 25]

此句意为 To hear our Prime Minister talk about what we benefited from jailing people like Nehru and Gandhi. 这是由动词不定式构成的一个不完整句。we conferred on India by jailing people like Nehru and Gandhi 作 the great benefit 的定语从句。尼赫鲁和甘地皆为领导印度人民争取独立的重要领导人。作者在这里讽刺英国政府自相矛盾。

confer: *vt.* (on/upon) to officially give sb. a title, etc., esp. as a reward for sth. they have achieved 授予

例：The university conferred an honorary degree on him. 这所大学授予他名誉学位。

24. I, too, felt the **compulsive** hand of nature and began to find that pointing out contradiction could be costly as well as fun. [Para. 26]

此句可理解为 I realized that I couldn't help the urge to point out other people's inconsistency in their speech and action and that, fun as it was, I paid a price for doing so.

compulsive: *adj.* compulsive behavior is very difficult to stop or control, and is often a result of or a sign of a mental problem 强迫性的；难以控制的

例：Compulsive behavior is often a symptom of deeper psychological problems.

强迫性行为经常是严重心理问题的症状。

[注] **compulsory:** 强制的，义务的；必须做的

例：a compulsory examination 必须参加的考试

25. She claimed that the Bible was **literally** inspired. [Para. 26]

此句意为 She said that it was true that the Bible was a complete restatement of what God revealed to the prophets.

literally: *adv.* used to emphasize that sth. is actually true, in a strict sense 字面上地；完全地；在严格意义上地

例：They reached the summit hand in hand, quite literally. 他们真的是手拉手到达山顶的。

26. An awful **flicker** of doubt appeared in her eyes. I **slid** my arm around her waist and murmured that if we were counting heads, **the Buddhists were the boys for my money**. [Para. 27]

此句可理解为 There was an expression of doubt in her eyes. I put my arm around her waist quietly and secretly and said to her in low voices that the Buddhists would be the largest in number.

flicker: *n.* an unsteady light that goes on and off quickly; a feeling or expression that continues for a very short time 摇曳，闪烁，忽隐忽现；闪现

例：the flicker of an oil lamp 摇曳的油灯灯光

a flicker of envy in sb.'s eyes 眼中流露出一丝嫉妒

slide: *vt.* (slid, slid) to move sth. quietly and smoothly 悄悄地移动；悄悄地迅速放置

例：He slid the gun into his pocket. 他悄悄把枪放到衣兜里。

the boys: *spoken* followers of a belief (口语) 政治上的追随者；信徒们

for my money: *spoken* used when giving your opinion about sth. to emphasize that you believe it strongly (口语) 在我看来

例：For my money, he's one of the best comedians ever. 我敢肯定，他是最好的喜剧演员之一。

the Buddhists were the boys for my money: the Buddhist were the greatest in number in my opinion 我敢说佛教徒数量是最多的

27. The night her father visited my father and left, red-cheeked and **indignant**. **I was given the third degree** to find out what had happened. I lost Ruth and gained an **undeserved** reputation as a potential **libertine**. [Para. 28]

首句中的形容词短语 red-cheeked and indignant 作主语 her father 的补语。

indignant: *adj.* angry and surprised because you feel insulted or unfairly treated 愤怒的，愤慨的

例：The actress was indignant at the reporter's personal question.

女演员对记者有关私生活的问题感到愤怒。

give sb. the third degree: to question sb. for a long time and in a thorough way; to use threats or violence to get information from sb. 盘问；拷问

例：I got home after midnight and Dad gave me the third degree.

我半夜三更才回家，爸爸盘问了我半天。

undeserved: *adj.* that sb. does not deserve and therefore unfair 名不符实的；不该受的，不应得的

例：an undeserved attack 不该遭受的攻击

libertine: *n.* sb. who leads an immoral life and always looks for pleasure, esp. sexual pleasure 放荡不羁的人，浪荡子；淫荡的人

例：He is quite a libertine with women. 他与许多女人有染。

28. Grade-two thinking, though it filled life with fun and excitement, did not **make for** content. [Para. 29]

make for: to cause a particular result or situation 导致，造成，促成

例：The music makes for absolute pleasure. 这音乐给人带来莫大的愉快。

Cultural exchanges make for mutual understanding. 文化交流有助于相互了解。

29. To find out the **deficiencies** of our elders satisfies the young **ego** but does not make for personal security. [Para. 29]

deficiency: *n.* a lack of sth. that is necessary; a weakness or fault in sth. 缺乏；缺点，缺陷

例: a deficiency of vitamins 维生素缺乏

Her deficiencies as an organizer were soon discovered. 她作为组织者的缺点不久就被发现了。

ego: *n.* the opinion that you have about yourself; the sense of one's own value and importance 自我中心; 自负, 自尊心

例: They both have enormous egos and tremendous ambition. 他俩都非常自负且野心勃勃。

30. But these grade-one thinkers were **few and far between**. [Para. 30]

few and far between: rare 稀少的

例: Good novels are few and far between these days. 近来, 优秀的长篇小说寥寥无几。

31. They did not visit my grammar school **in the flesh** though they were there in books. [Para. 30]

此句意为 I didn't come across any such grade-one thinkers in my elementary school days though I read about them in books.

in the flesh: alive; present here and now 活着的; 亲自, 到场

例: I saw him in the flesh in the movie house. 我在电影院看见他本人了。

32. I **aspired** to them, because I now saw my hobby as an unsatisfactory thing if it went no further. [Para. 30]

此句意为 I desired strongly to become a grade-one thinker, because I now realized that it would not bring me content and pleasure to remain a grade-two thinker.

aspire: *vi.* (to/after/for) to have a great ambition or ultimate goal; to desire strongly; to strive toward an end 渴望; 追求

例: aspire after knowledge 追求知识

She aspired to a scientific career. 她渴望从事科学事业。

33. I was **irreverent at the best of times**. Political and religious systems, social customs, loyalties and traditions, they all came **tumbling** down like so many rotten apples off a tree. [Para. 31]

这里作者用了比喻 (simile)。他用 rotten apples 来比喻政治宗教制度、社会习俗和传统。这些东西在作者的价值观中已经腐朽, 失去了存在价值, 一个个像烂苹果一样从树上滚落下来。这也正是作者对这些东西有失恭敬并冷嘲热讽的原因所在。

irreverent: *adj.* lacking or exhibiting a lack of reverence; critical of what is generally accepted or respected; disrespectful; satirical 不虔诚的, 不恭敬的

例: an irreverent reply 无礼的回答

at the best of times: even when the circumstances are very good, implying that it could be a lot worse 即使在最好的时候 / 条件下 (暗示在状态最好的时候都不好, 更不用说在状态差一点的时候)

例: The bus is crowded at the best of times but today it was unbearable.

最好的情况下公交车也很挤, 今天更是难以忍受。

tumble: *vi.* to fall suddenly and in a dramatic way; to fall rapidly in value or amount 突然跌落; (价值或数量) 突然下降

例: The scaffolding came tumbling down. 脚手架突然塌落。

The price is still tumbling. 油价依然在大幅回落。

34. Of course, as I readily admitted, **conversion** of the world to my way of thinking might be difficult, since my system **did away with** a number of **trifles**, such as big business, centralized government, armies, marriage. [Para. 31]

此句中, 作者采用隐喻 (metaphor) 把人们价值体系中已经习以为常的东西 (大企业、集权统治、

军队、婚姻)直接说成是 trifles, 用以说明这些东西可有可无, 其价值根本不足为道。

conversion: *n.* (from sth.) (into/to sth.) the act or process of changing sth. from one form, use or system to another 转换; 转化

例: Conversion to gas central heating will save you a lot of money.

供暖系统改造成天然气供暖会节省很多钱。

do away with: *infml.* to stop doing or having sth.; to abolish 摆脱; 废除, 取消

例: He thinks it's time we did away with the monarchy. 他认为该是我们废除君主制的时候了。

trifle: *n.* sth. of little importance or value 微不足道的东西; 琐事

例: There's no point worrying over such trifles. 为这样微不足道的小事烦恼毫无意义。

35. It was all Ruth **all over again**. [Para. 32]

此句意为 What had happened between Ruth and me happened again. People dismissed my thinking in the same way as Ruth had done.

all over again: if you do sth. all over again, you repeat it from the beginning 重新开始

例: The computer crashed and deleted all my work—I had to start the essay all over again.

计算机瘫痪了, 把我做的工作都删除了——我只好从头再写这篇论文。

36. I had some very good friends who **stood by** me, and still do. [Para. 32]

stand by: to be loyal to sb., even in difficult situations; to aid or support 忠诚于; 支持

例: She stood by her husband despite all of the rumors. 面对流言蜚语, 她仍然对丈夫不离左右。

37. In those prewar days, I **stood** to lose a great deal, for the sake of a hobby. [Para. 33]

此句可理解为 The hobby as a grade-one thinker tended to get me into trouble in those days before World War II.

stand (to do sth.): *vi.* to be in a position of possible gain or loss; to be likely to 处于一种可能得到或失去的状态

例: She stands to make a fortune. 她很可能要大赚一笔。

38. I **dropped** my hobby and turned professional. [Para. 35]

此句意为 Being a grade-one thinker was no longer my hobby; I became a professional grade-one thinker, taking it seriously and making a living out of it. 该句中的 turned 为系动词, 相当于 became, 意为“变得”。

drop: *vt.* to stop doing sth., discussing sth., or continuing with sth. 停止, 结束

例: Because of strong opposition, the government has dropped plans to increase taxes on fuel.

由于遭到强烈反对, 政府放弃了提高燃料税的计划。

五 译文

思考是一种爱好

威廉姆·戈尔丁

[1] 童年时我就得出结论: 思考有三个等级, 而我自己根本就不会思考。

[2] 第一个把思考作为问题向我提出的是我的小学校长。在他的书房里, 几尊小雕像摆放在写字台后面的柜子上。第一尊是位一丝不挂的妇人, 身上只披了条浴巾。其惊慌神态仿佛已经定格——因

为妇人双臂尽失，倘若浴巾滑落，她无法将浴巾再拉上去，这可真是她的不幸。她身旁蹲伏着一头豹子，正伺机扑向文件柜最上面的抽屉。紧挨着豹子的是一个男子，赤身裸体，肌肉发达，一手握拳，托着下巴，肘部则抵住膝盖，他看起来十分痛苦。

[3] 后来，我才对这三尊雕像有所了解。校长将它们放在那里，就是想让违纪的学生能看到它们。因为在校长看来，他们象征着人生的全部内容。裸体的妇人是维纳斯，她是爱的化身。她不是担心浴巾滑落，而是忙着展示美。豹子则代表大自然，他所呈现的就是自然的常态。肌肉发达的男子并不痛苦。他是罗丹的“思想者”——一位沉思者的形象。

[4] 说到这里，我该做点儿解释。由于该做的事情没做或者不该做的事情做了，我成了校长办公室的常客。用现在的话说，我没有被整合进去。真要给我归归类，我就是那另类。每当我犯了事要受处罚时，我就站在校长的办公桌前，耷拉着脑袋，使劲儿用一脚蹭另一只脚。

[5] 校长这时会看着我说：

[6] “我们可把你怎么办呢？”

[7] 是呀，他们会把我怎么办？我两只脚蹭得更厉害了，眼睛死命盯着那块破地毯。

[8] “抬头，孩子！你就不能抬起头来吗？”

[9] 我便仰头看着柜子，这时候，惊慌表情已经定格的裸体女子和肌肉发达、一筹莫展地望着美洲豹后腿的男子便闯入我的视野。我不知该跟校长说什么。他的眼镜反光，你感受不到镜片后面的眼神。我们简直没办法交流。

[10] “你难道从来就没思考过吗？”

[11] 是的，从来没有，之前没有，此时没有，再说我也根本不会思考——我只是痛苦地期盼着这场谈话快点儿结束。

[12] “那你该学学了，你说是不是？”

[13] 记得还有一次，校长腾地一下子站起来，伸手把罗丹的代表作拿了下来，放在我面前的写字台上。

[14] “真正思考的人应该是这个样子。”

[15] 显然我身上缺少点儿东西。造物主给其他人都配上了第六感，却偏偏把我落下了。像是有人天生失聪，但却痛下决心去探求声音，我开始观察我的老师，探求思想的内涵。

[16] 我观察的第一位老师是霍顿先生。他总是在教导我多思考。有时他还会沾沾自喜地告诉我说，他常常要进行一些思考。可他怎么还花那么多时间在喝酒上呢？难道酒里有着我们普通人感受不到的意义吗？如果没有，如果饮酒伤身——霍顿先生也的确被伤着了——可他干吗还对纯洁无瑕的人生、益处多多的新鲜空气夸夸其谈呢？

[17] 有时高谈阔论到兴头上，霍顿先生会从桌子后一跃而起，把我们赶进骇人的冷风中。

[18] “来，孩子们！深呼吸，你会感到空气进入你们的身体，大口大口呼吸上帝赐予我们的绝好空气吧！”

[19] 这时的他站在我们面前，双手叉腰，深吸一大口气。这时的你会听到风被困在他的胸中，与所有非自然的障碍抗争着。冷风让他一时难以适应，身体跟着抖动起来，脸也白了。他踉跄着回到办公桌前，瘫坐在那儿，一上午都缓不过气来。

[20] 霍顿先生喜欢高谈阔论，生活品味、清心寡欲、尽职尽责常挂在嘴边。但是，谈兴正浓时若有一妙龄女子从窗前走过，他的脖子会不由自主地转向她，目送她离去，直到其倩影消失。在我看来，这时的霍顿先生不是被思想左右着，而是受制于他脖子上那根无形又无法抗拒的弹簧。

[21] 我对他的脖子产生了极大的兴趣。通常，他的脖子从领子里鼓出来一点点。霍顿先生曾在第一次世界大战中与美军和法军并肩战斗过，两个国家皆令他恨之入骨。倘若两国中任一国成为时事焦点，