

中国第一部双语百科全书

用英语说

中国

Talk About  
China in English

文化

Culture

[美] 王德军 吕芸芳 主编  
Robin Harrison 审校

上海科学普及出版社





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# 前 言



随着我国改革开放的不断向前推进,旅游事业也越来越兴旺地发展起来。尤其是近些年来,来自世界各地的客人涌向中国,试图揭开这块辽阔土地的神秘面纱,从而了解中国悠久的历史,以满足其难以诠释的好奇和幻想。

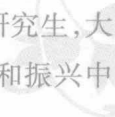
具有悠久而又丰富的历史的中国,一直为自己无数的历史遗迹和文化遗产感到自豪。几乎在中国的每一个地方,人们都能欣赏到神奇的各种景观,以及世代相传的故事和神话。

在中国人民的辛勤努力下,中国在各个方面都发生了翻天覆地的变化。从经济、文化、教育,到生活、娱乐和休闲,人们都在尽情地享受着国泰民安、和谐安睦的生活。国家的建设和发展日新月异,人们的思想、观点、生活方式也有了很大的变化。

在这种形势下,我们觉得有必要给来中国工作和旅游的外国友人——尤其是给那些来参加2008年北京奥运会的各国朋友提供一些帮助,把他们可能感兴趣的事情、人物和地方简单地作一些介绍,让他们对中国有个大致的了解。由此,我们编写了《用英语说中国》这套丛书。丛书共有10部,分别是:

- 1.《用英语说中国——历史》
- 2.《用英语说中国——民俗》
- 3.《用英语说中国——艺术》
- 4.《用英语说中国——文化》
- 5.《用英语说中国——名城》
- 6.《用英语说中国——名人》
- 7.《用英语说中国——旅游》
- 8.《用英语说中国——媒体》
- 9.《用英语说中国——体育》
- 10.《用英语说中国——名校》

《用英语说中国——文化》由八章组成,分别为:中国传统文化、中国节日、中国历史故事、中国神话、中国寓言、中国民间传说、中国文化名著、中国民间技艺。通过本书的阅读,读者可以对中国文化有个多方面的基本了解。



参编这套丛书的作者都是来自高等院校的英语教授、副教授和硕士研究生,大家都为能参与此项有意义的工作而感到兴奋和激动,都乐意为宣传和振兴中华贡献自己的一份力量。

《用英语说中国》这套丛书从策划到构思,从设计到编写,都是站在较高的角度,本着较新的水准,力求创造性地把中国的上上下下、东西南北、方方面面以简洁流畅的语言加以娓娓叙述。这无疑将给广大读者一种全新的感受。

《用英语说中国》这套丛书对于英语爱好者提高英语水平、激发学习英语兴趣会有所帮助的。丛书信息量庞大,涉及面广泛,古往今来,东南西北,犹如一部关于中国的小百科全书。丛书中的英文叙述和中文译述都严格遵循语言简练、结构明晰、形式活泼的宗旨。我们衷心希望这套丛书能够受到广大读者的喜爱和信赖。把中国介绍给世界,让世界更多的人了解中国,是每个中国人的愿望。

本书的编写得到了河南理工大学的大力支持,特表示感谢。

限于编著者的水平和第一手资料的缺乏,丛书中有些地方的内容和信息可能存在一些出入和欠缺,恳请广大读者予以批评指正。

《用英语说中国》丛书编者

2008年8月





## Preface

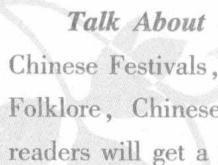
With the rapid development of China's reform and opening-up, tourism is on the rise, esp. in recent years. More and more people from all over the world come to China, hoping to unveil the mystery of the vast land, to discover the origins of the long history in China and to satisfy their own curiosities and fantasies as well.

China, with a long and rich history, is always proud of her countless historical sites and cultural relics. Almost everywhere people encounter amazing miracles or natural beauties together with their everlasting legends and myths.

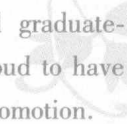
Furthermore, with the strenuous work of the whole nation, China has witnessed fundamental changes in every field. From national economy, culture and education to people's living standard, recreation and entertainments, everywhere and every soul is enjoying a peaceful and comfortable life in a friendly and harmonious atmosphere. The nation's construction and development are changing with each passing day while people's views and points are also keeping pace with the times.

Under such circumstances, we feel obliged to offer some help to those foreign visitors, esp. those who are coming to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, by giving them a brief introduction of the things, the people and the places they might be interested in. The series "*Talk About China in English*", therefore, come into being. The series consist of 10 books in all. They are:

1. **Talk About China in English—History**
2. **Talk About China in English—Folklore**
3. **Talk About China in English—Arts**
4. **Talk About China in English—Culture**
5. **Talk About China in English—Famous Cities**
6. **Talk About China in English—Celebrities**
7. **Talk About China in English—Tourism**
8. **Talk About China in English—Media**
9. **Talk About China in English—Sports**
10. **Talk About China in English—Famous Colleges and Universities**



*Talk About China in English—Culture* includes Traditional Chinese Culture, Chinese Festivals, Chinese Historical Tales, Chinese Myths, Chinese Fables, Chinese Folklore, Chinese Masterpieces, and Chinese Folk Handicraft. Through this book, readers will get a general knowledge of the rich and remarkable Chinese culture.



All the writers of the series are professors, associate professors and graduate-students of English from colleges and universities. We all feel happy and proud to have the chance to do our bit for the publicity of our motherland as well as her promotion.

From making plans to hatching plots, from working out schemes to carrying out the writings, the authors have been diligent and conscientious. Through our work, we want to provide readers with a rich and colorful introduction of an encyclopedic manner. The series are new and creative, and sure enough, they will bring fresh feelings and experiences to all readers.

The series are also helpful for all English lovers, including secondary school students and teachers, college students, office clerks and public servants.

Both the English and Chinese versions in the series are written in simple language, clear structure and lively style. We hope they will find popularity upon publication.

We are extremely grateful to the authors and publishers of all the materials we have chosen here in the series. We apologize for the insufficient information in some cases due to lack of resources. We intend to show every respect for intellectual property rights, but we hope our pleading of the permission to use these materials for the purpose of letting more foreign friends know China better will receive kind and generous consideration.

**Authors**

**August 2008**









宴席礼仪 .....	(20)
Famous Chinese Wine	
名酒 .....	(23)

## Chapter 2 Chinese Festivals 中国节日

The Spring Festival	
春节 .....	(25)
Yuanxiao Festival	
元宵节 .....	(27)
China's Tomb Sweeping Day	
清明节 .....	(29)
The Dragon Boat Festival	
端午节 .....	(32)
Qiqiao Festival	
七夕节 .....	(33)
The Mid-Autumn Festival	
中秋节 .....	(35)
Chongyang Festival	
重阳节 .....	(37)

## Chapter 3 Chinese Historical Tales 中国历史故事

There are always fish willing to be caught by angler Jiang Taigong	
姜太公钓鱼,愿者上钩 .....	(41)
When the Map is Unrolled, the Dagger is Revealed	
图穷匕现 .....	(43)
Xiangru Returned the Jade Intact to the Zhao State	
完璧归赵 .....	(44)
Sleep on Brushwood and Taste Gall	
卧薪尝胆 .....	(46)
Xiang Yu Heard the Folk Songs of the Chu State on All Sides	
四面楚歌 .....	(47)
Mao Sui Recommending Himself	
毛遂自荐 .....	(48)



- Hou Yi Shot Down the Suns  
后羿射日 ..... (71)
- When the Eight Genii Crossed the Sea, Each of Them Displayed His / Her Prowess  
八仙过海 ..... (72)
- Da Yu Led People in Curbing Floods  
大禹治水 ..... (73)

## Chapter 5 Chinese Fables 中国寓言

- Old Man Yu Gong Moved Away Mountains  
愚公移山 ..... (76)
- To Draw a Snake and Add Feet to It  
画蛇添足 ..... (78)
- To Go South by Driving the Chariot Northward  
南辕北辙 ..... (79)
- When the Snipe and the Clam Grappled, It Was the Fisherman Who Stood to Benefit  
鹬蚌相争, 渔翁得利 ..... (81)
- To Help the Shoots Grow by Pulling Them Upward  
揠苗助长 ..... (82)
- To Stand by a Tree Trunk Waiting for More Hares to Dash Themselves Against It  
守株待兔 ..... (83)
- Dong Shi, an Ugly Woman, Knitting Her Brows in Imitation of the Famous Beauty Xi Shi, Only to Make Herself All the Uglier  
东施效颦 ..... (84)
- To Penetrate One's Shield with One's Own Spear  
自相矛盾 ..... (85)
- To Act Like the Man of the Qi State Who Feared that the Sky Might Fall-Haunted by Imaginary Fears  
杞人忧天 ..... (86)
- When the Man on the Frontier Lost His Mare, He Gussed It Was a Blessing in Disguise  
塞翁失马, 安知非福 ..... (88)



Lord Ye's Love of Dragons	
叶公好龙 .....	(89)
Golden Millet Dream	
黄粱美梦 .....	(91)
The Guizhou Donkey Has Used Up All Its Tricks	
黔驴技穷 .....	(92)
To Bring the Painted Dragon to Life by Putting in the Pupils of Its Eyes	
画龙点睛 .....	(93)

## Chapter 6 Chinese Folklores 中国民间传说

Niu Lang and Zhi Nü (The Cowherd and the Girl Weaver)	
牛郎织女 .....	(95)
Lady Meng Jiang	
孟姜女 .....	(97)
Dong Yong and the Seventh Fairy	
董永和七仙女 .....	(99)
Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai (The Butterfly Lovers)	
梁山伯与祝英台 .....	(100)
The Legend of Lady White	
白娘子的传说 .....	(101)
Three Legends of Lu Ban	
鲁班的传说 .....	(103)

## Chapter 7 Chinese Masterpieces 中国文化名著

The Book of History	
《尚书》 .....	(106)
The Book of Rites	
“三礼” .....	(107)
Zhou Yi or The Book of Changes	
《周易》 .....	(108)
The Spring and Autumn Annals	
《春秋》 .....	(111)
The Great Learning	



《大学》 .....	(111)
The Doctrine of the Mean	
《中庸》 .....	(113)
The Confucian Analects	
《论语》 .....	(114)
The Works of Mencius	
《孟子》 .....	(116)
Chu Ci	
《楚辞》 .....	(118)
Zhuang Zi	
《庄子》 .....	(120)
Shi Ji	
《史记》 .....	(121)
Shujing Zhu	
《水经注》 .....	(123)
A New Account of the Tales of the World	
《世说新语》 .....	(124)
Qimin Yaoshu	
《齐民要术》 .....	(126)
Collection of Yue Fu Poetry	
《乐府诗集》 .....	(127)
The West Chamber	
《西厢记》 .....	(128)
Three Kingdoms	
《三国演义》 .....	(130)
Outlaws of the Marsh	
《水浒传》 .....	(132)
Journey to the West	
《西游记》 .....	(134)
Exploitation of the Works of Nature (Tiangong Kaiwu)	
《天工开物》 .....	(136)
Peony Pavilion	
《牡丹亭》 .....	(137)
Stories to Enlighten the World, Stories to Warn the World, Stories to Admonish the World, Amazing Stories Vol. I and Amazing Stories Vol. II	





刺绣.....	(167)
Textile	
纺织.....	(168)
Printing and Dyeing	
印染.....	(170)
Ceramics	
陶瓷.....	(173)





# C 中国传统文化

## Chapter 1 Traditional Chinese Culture



### 中国人姓名

## Chinese Personal Names

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**A** modern Chinese usually has (1) a surname (“family name”) or xìng 姓 and (2) a given name (“first name” or “Christian name”), or míng 名 (or míngzi 名字), always in that order. Thus Dèng Xiǎopíng is Mr. Dèng with the personal name Xiǎopíng the same way John Jones is Mr. Jones with the personal name John.

In ancient China, however, naming was very complicated and one person usually had several names, and naming involved xing, shi, ming, and zi. Each of these four words meant a different thing. Xing and shi together formed today’s surname, and ming and zi today’s given name. Today, people use xingshi to refer to a person’s surname, mingzi to refer to one’s given name.

Study of ancient Chinese documents shows that xing originally referred to the names of different matriarchal tribes. It also had something to do with the place where people lived. Researches show that xing came into being during the matrilineal society period, i. e. , around four to five thousand years ago.

