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出版前言

人类满怀喜悦地步入 21 世纪,带着无限美好的希望和向往。然而,当人们的脚步刚刚迈过新世纪的门槛时,迎面却吹来了一阵又一阵寒风,对于正在努力实现中华民族伟大复兴的中国人来说,这也可能是春寒,但无论怎样,"WTO"、克隆人、基因图谱、炭疽粉、艾滋病、疯牛病、口蹄疫、"UFO"、电脑病毒、网络犯罪、地球变暖等等新事物、新词汇,的的确确给人们带来了忧虑和恐慌,使人们不能不关注它们。

这套《热门话题丛书》正是为满足读者这方面的需要而编著的。书中收录的文章全是原汁原味的英语,内容反映的正是当今世界这些方面的最新信息与研究动态。为便于读者阅读和在获取最新知识的同时,提高自己的英语水平,我们本着先感性后理性,先易后难,先简后繁,循序渐进的原则,对大量的文献资料进行了科学的取舍和编排。本丛书以专题分册,共由《警惕手机'害'了你》,《你相信吗——UFO?》,《网上的美丽杀手》,《无声的武器:炭疽热与生物战》,《被宰割的羔羊》,《团结起来共同战斗》等分册组成。为了提高读者的阅读兴趣,让读者带着问题去阅读,编著者在每个分册前加了导语,给每篇文章中出现的生词加了脚注,这样既便于读者查找,为读者扫清了阅读障碍,又可以节省读者的阅读时间。为了让读者对每一个专题的知识有个比较深刻的了解,编著者在每个分册后面又列出了相应的思考题。

本丛书可供高等院校文、理、工科各年级学生及广大英语爱好者阅读,可以帮助读者提高英语阅读水平,在阅读中了解新知识,扩展新词汇。参加各类英语水平考试的考生阅读此书,也将大受其益。本丛书作为泛读教材,集知识性、趣味性、科学性和可读性为一体,一定会受到广大英语爱好者的喜爱。

"9.11" 事件不仅改变了美国,而且将要或正在改变着世界,人 们从此不得不提高对 "炭疽热"、"细菌邮件"和各种生物化学武器 的警惕; 疯牛病、口蹄疫的蔓延,不能不引起人们的高度防范; 电脑病毒、电子炸弹造成的可怕后果,不能不使人们高度戒备......读了此丛书,相信你一定会对诸如此类的敏感问题有个很好的了解,并使你在掌握知识的同时,提高自己的英语水平。

编 者 2003年2月 短短几年间, 手机的"旋风"已横扫全球, 它的最大好处是让你充分享有"微空间自由", 满足你特殊的沟通与时尚的心理需求, 无论你身在何处, 一机在手, 即可随时随地沟通四方, 这无疑给人们生活以及经济发展带来了极大的便利和机会。但是, 随着手机在人们日常生活中的普及, 它的双刃效应也越来越多地摆在人们的面前: 它在为人们提供着极大方便的同时, 也在制造着让人无可奈何的麻烦——

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Michael Hill

Taking Calls Anywhere, Even Into the Woods

High above the trees and surrounded by sky, the Adirondack peaks can seem far removed from the everyday world.

Unless, of course, the guy next to you is jabbering on his cell phone.

Such a surreal² scene played out on Mount Marcy's³ summit in front of state forester⁴ Jim Papero. He remembers it well "It was cold and windy. Beautiful. You could hear the wind whistling and everything, then this ... he was talking to his stockbroker."

Call It Crazy

Cell-phone chatter, already common at restaurants and shopping

⁴ forester: n. 护林人, 林务官。



¹ jabber: v. 急促地说话, 喋喋不休, 危言。例如: He jabbered out the words in what seemed a foreign language. 他叽里咕噜地好像在说外国话。

² surreal: adi. 离奇的,梦幻般的,具有古怪梦幻般性质的。

³ Mount Marcy: n. 马西山(美国纽约州东北部一山)。

malls¹, is heard more and more often in the wilderness². Hikers and campers are tapping³ into personal directories⁴ to ask directions and apologize for dinner delays, to bum⁵ rides and call in sick⁶.

This is not amusing to many campers, hunters or others who appreciate nature's quiet. The problem has prodded⁷ New York environmental officials, who also worry about hikers using cell phones as lifelines⁸, to promote⁹ phone etiquette¹⁰ in the wilderness.

"To be walking down a trail or expend the effort it takes to climb one of the high peaks, and to see someone on the telephone ... it's disconcerting," says Stu Buchanan, regional director of the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

¹ mall: n. 购物中心, 商场。

² wilderness: n.荒野,荒地,保留天然条件的无人定居的未开垦地区,尤指植被或森林覆盖的大片野生土地。

³ tap on (against): 轻叩。

⁴ personal directories: 私人通讯录。

⁵ bum: n. v. 乞求。

⁶ call in sick: [口]打电话请病假。

⁷ prod: v. 刺,促使…行动,诱发。

⁸ lifeline: n. 救生索,生命线,重要的交通线(或通信联络线)。

⁹ promote: v. 发起,促进,助长促使采纳,倡议。例如: promote a constitutional amendment.倡议宪法修正案。

¹⁰ etiquette: n. 礼节,行规。

Millions Carrying the Things

There's no backwoods¹ cell-phone epidemic² just yet. But calls³ from the wild have become noticeable recently, now that wireless phones reach an estimated 74 million users nationwide.

What can be a mere irritant⁴ in civilization can be a lifesaver⁵ in the wild. Rescues have been launched after timely⁶ calls for help from remote areas. Even many "Ridge Runners," whose job is to help hikers on the Appalachian Trail⁷, now carry cell phones.

Problem is, cell phones aren't reliable in the wild because cell towers tend to be far apart. Then there's the problem of getting a phone to work in gorges, gullies and other pockets⁸ amid peaks. It's a Catch-22⁹ because efforts to build cell towers in remote areas are often opposed by locals and conservationists concerned about rural eyesores¹⁰.

¹ backwoods: adi. 荒地的,未开发的,森林的,粗野的。

² epidemic: n. 时疫,疫疾流行,(风尚等的)流行,流行病。

³ call: n. 打电话。

⁴ irritant: n. 刺激物,刺激品。

⁵ lifesaver: n.救生者。

⁶ timely: adv.及时地,适时地。

⁷ the Appalachian Trail: 阿巴拉契亚小径,位于美国东部。

⁸ pocket: n.凹地,地球的小凹穴,尤其含有矿石的凹穴。

g catch-22: n.令人左右为难的规定。词语出自美国作家 Joseph Heller 于 1961 年写的小说 Catch-22,中文译为《第二十二条军规》。

¹⁰ evesore: n. 刺眼的东西, 丑的东西, 眼中钉。

Even when phones can hail a signal¹ in the backwoods, rescuers complain about "trivial emergencies²." Rangers³ in New York report picking up the phone to hear hikers asking directions or complaining about sprained wrists.

Asking Too Much?

Rick Donovan, owner of an outdoor gear store in the Berkshire hills at Great Barrington⁴, Mass., has received cell-phone queries about how to light the camp stove⁵. Or worse: "They're calling my store and asking me for a ride. What happened to the days of walking down the mountain?"

Baxter State Park in Maine has banned the use of cell phones on park grounds, as it had earlier excluded radios and cassette players.

Park naturalist Jean Hoekwater says the ban in part targets⁶ nuisance calls the likes of, "Honey? Guess what I'm in front of right now. A big moose!⁷"

⁷ Moose: n.[动] 驼鹿(产于北美的一种大鹿)。



¹ hail a signal: 发出信号。

² trivial emergency: 琐碎的紧急事件。

³ ranger: n. 巡逻骑兵,突击队员,护林员, 游荡的人,测距仪。

⁴ Great Barrington: 巴灵顿, 美国罗德岛东部一城镇, 位于普罗维登斯东南部, 1746 年成为马萨诸塞州的一部分。

⁵ camp stove: n. (便于携带的)炉子, 手提油炉。

⁶ target: n.目标,对象,靶子。

New York has no bans yet, but the state-sponsored 1 effort to discourage frequent and non-emergency use of cell phones is to begin this summer with brochures, videos and trailhead postings2.

Can education work? Michele Morris, senior editor of Backpacker magazine³, calls it the key. She's hoping for new attitudes of self-reliance⁴ and consideration.

Will Manners Win Out⁵?

Stephen Jacobs, an associate professor of information technology at the Rochester Institute of Technology, predicts the problem will "auto correct⁶" over time⁷ as more people consider it rude to ring.

Don't expect cell phones to disappear from the woods any time soon though. A survey by *Backpacker* magazine last year found cell phones a popular item on readers' "to buy" lists.

Meanwhile, some high-end8 cell phones can pull in signals9 from

⁹ pull in signals:捕捉信号,接受信号。



^l state-sponsored:州发起,主办。

² trailhead postings: 小道起点处的标志牌。

³ Backpacker magazine: n.挑运者杂志,背包者杂志。

⁴ self-reliance: n.自恃, 倚靠自己。

⁵ win out: 成功或获胜,摆脱困境,获得成功。

⁶ auto-correct: 自动纠正。

⁷ over time: 随着时间的过去。

⁸ high-end: 高终端。

satellites, eliminating the need for towers. With the right equipment, even the deepest, most remote gulch¹ can be just a phone call away.

¹ gulch: n. [美] 干谷,峡谷,冲沟 (尤指金矿地的急流河床)。

ode to The Gell Phone

By Ron Schmidt¹

This morning I was drivin' behind this SUV²-Was the driver paying attention?
Didn't seem so to me.
As he weaved from left to right,
As unconscious as can be...
He jumped the curb³ with his "Burb"
And barely missed a tree.

(Chorus⁴)
Oh...he's talkin'--talkin'-talkin' on his cell.
And if you don't like what he's doin'
You can just go to hell.
He thinks he's so important--

¹ Ode To The Cell Phone:《手机颂》。ode: n.抒情诗, 颂歌。

² SUV (abbr. Sport Utility Vehicle): 运动型多用途运载车。

³ curb: n.路边。

⁴ chorus: v. 合唱,齐声背诵,异口同声地说。

He can't even hear you yell. 'Cause he's talkin'--talkin'--talkin' on his cell.

I stopped by to get some groceries—
To give myself a perk¹.

Only to see him once again—
That cell-phone-babbling² jerk³.

Cell phones seem to be everywhere,
In store aisles they do lurk⁴.

Chatting so vain—in the checkout lane—
On their way home from work.

(Chorus)

Oh...he's talkin'--talkin'-talkin' on his cell.

And if you don't like what he's doin'
You can just go to hell.

So make your obscene⁵ gesture-Use profanity⁶ as well.

¹ perk: vi. 昂首,恢复,振作。vt. 竖起,打扮。

² babbling: n. 胡说,婴儿发出的咿哑声。adj. 胡说的。

³ jerk:[美俚]笨蛋,傻瓜。

⁴ lurk: vi. 潜藏,潜伏,埋伏。

⁵ obscene: adj. 淫秽的, 猥亵的。

⁶ profanity: n. 亵渎。

He's still talkin'--talkin'--talkin' on his cell.

I took my lady dining
To a trendy¹ Beef and Beer,
And hear this annoying whining²-At a dining table near.
Who dat yakkin'³ so loudly-A sittin' there proudly?
Same flake--cell growing from his ear.

(Chorus)
Oh...he's talkin'--talkin'-talkin' on his cell.
And if you don't like what he's doin'
You can just go to hell.
He should stop for red lights?
Use turn signals? Oh, do tell.
He's too busy talkin'--talkin'-talkin' on his cell.

He's got a cell phone in his Beemer And in his Cherokee.

³ yak: vi. (yakked; yakking)[美俚]喋喋不休地说,闲扯。



¹ trendy: n. 新潮人物,穿着时髦的人。adj. 流行的。

² whine: n. 抱怨, 牢骚, 哀鸣。vi. 报怨声, 哭诉, 发牢骚, 发呜呜声。

One's in his Chevy Subdivision,
And Explorer XLT¹.

"What's with the phone," I hear you groan,
"That you have there by your knee?"

The response is very simple:
It's his security.

(Chorus)
Oh...he's talkin'--talkin'-talkin' on his cell.
And if you don't like what he's doin'
You can just go to hell.
He doesn't hear you honk² your horn-The train whistle or the bell.
'Cause he's talkin'--talkin'-talkin' on his cell.

¹ Beemer, Cherokee, Explorer XLT 均为车名。

² honk: vi.汽车喇叭响。例如: The driver honked the horn of his car hoping to disperse the crowd in the street. 司机把汽车喇叭按得嘟嘟响.想把街上的人群驱散。

cell Phone Chic

Emma Ross

Study: UK Teens Are Smoking Less, Using Cell Phones More¹

British teens are smoking less, and talking more on cell phones. A couple of researchers think that may not be a coincidence².

The cell phone seems to compete with cigarettes as teen statements of fashion and rebellion, the scientists suggested in a letter published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Smoking Down, Cell Phones Up

While cigarette smoking among British 15-year-olds has dropped from 30 percent in 1996 to 23 percent in 1999, cell phone ownership had risen sharply over the same period to about 70 percent today, the scientists noted.

² coincidence: n. 一致,相合,巧合。



¹ chic: n.别致的款式(尤指妇女的服饰)。