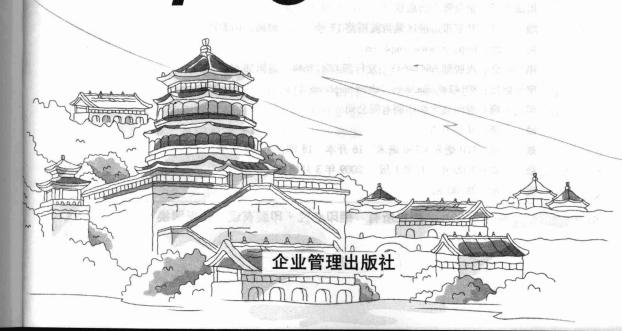


76 TOPICS ON CHINESE CULTURE 英语畅谈中国文化76主题

- 从古典文明到现代文明
- 从历史古迹到流行文化
- 从传统文化到时尚生活
- 从人际关系到文化碰撞







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电 话: 出版部 68414643 发行部 68414644 编辑部 68428387

电子信箱: 80147@ sina. com zbs@ emph. cn

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前言

本书一共由7个大主题和76个小主题组成,涉及传统文化,中国特色,历史遗迹,人际交往,时尚生活,流行文化和文化碰撞等中外交流的热门话题。基本上每个小主题都包含了英语口语情景对话,背景材料阅读以及词汇扩展三个部分,以便读者自主学习。

在跨文化交际中,深入的交流是文化理解和传播的重要前提。随着中外文化 交流越来越密切,许多中国学生也有越来越多的机会与以英语为母语的学生交流 切磋,然而通常情况下,除了一些客套的寒暄外,双方的对话通常无法深入下 去。当外国朋友对中国传统文化表示极大的兴趣并想要深入了解时,很多中国人 由于传统文化方面词汇或表达的限制而无法将对话继续进行下去。

本书的对话和背景阅读为中国人介绍中国文化和外国朋友了解中国文化搭建了一座桥梁。丰富的双语材料和情景对话能使您身临其境地感受文化的交流。想要对外传播中国文化,首先自己要对中国文化有深刻的认识和理解。本书介绍中国文化的中文部分都是具有独到见解的文章,可以启发读者更加深入地和外国朋友探讨文化问题。

当然,本书不仅仅局限于传统文化方面,在现代生活方面也有所涉足。在时尚生活和流行文化中就有关于现代多样生活方式和流行文化的介绍,可以提高时下年轻人和外国朋友用英语交流文化的浓厚兴趣,紧跟时代的步伐和文化的发展。

本书包含的信息量大,话题热门新颖。文化乃对外交流中必不可少的重要元素,在全球化的今天,我们有责任将中国特色文化传播到世界各地,增进与世界各地朋友们的相互理解和信任,为彼此的进一步的交流打下坚实的基础。基于此编写了本书,希望对读者朋友有较大的帮助。

编者

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Dialogue 对话

- A: Would you like to go out this weekend?
- B: We can do it, if you want. But why this weekend? We planned to enjoy some drama and music.
- A: I attended a photography club. Each member is asked to hand in some photos for the coming exhibition. You will see it!
- B: Okay then. Do you have a theme?
- A: Yes. I want to take some photos about folk custom.
- B: Sounds interesting. Why do you pick this theme?
- A: The Olympics is close. As a volunteer, I want to show our folk custom to the people from all over the world.
- B:Good. Where do you want to go?
- A:I think the suburbs of Beijing will do. Beautiful sceneries, fresh air, a rustic cottage, and a country retreat.
- B: How much do you know about Chinese folk custom?
- A: Chinese like hilarity. On festivals, it is happier and everywhere is full of exciting air.
- B: How can you show this in your photos?
- A:I plan to shoot some photos about traditional Chinese festivals. Though in the freedom Chinese traditional festivals are washed and globed by the western culture, every traditional entertainment of the festivals have not stopped and vanished. Many folk custom and entertainments have added to the happiness of the festivals and the competition of celebrating the New Year and handed down from generation to generation, in which the most common one is the playing with dragon or lion.
- B: Wow, it's not an easy job! Spring festival must be the first choice.
- A: Right. I want to take photos of people writing and hanging Spring Festival couplets, posting paintings of God or joyous designs on their front doors to ward off evil spirits, family getting together for the reunion dinner before the Spring Festival eve.
- B: And you can add the firecracker blasts when people are seeing off to the old year! When clock strikes midnight, people will light firecrackers and welcome the New Year. Early in the next morning before the opening of the front gate, people need to light firecrackers again, symbolizing great happi-

ness when the door is open.

- A: Sounds fantastic! I've got so many materials for just this one subject!
- B: Because the Chinese folk custom includes so many aspects that I think you can consider subdividing it to different topics.
- A: That's very important. Thanks for your advice.
- A: 这个周末想要出去玩吗?
- B: 可以啊, 如果你想。但是为什么是这个周末呢? 我们不是打算看看戏曲听听音乐吗?
- A: 我参加了摄影俱乐部。每个会员要为即将举行的展览拍些照片。你到时候能看展览哦!
- B: 那好吧。你有主题吗?
- A: 是的。我想拍一些关于风俗的照片。
- B: 听起来很有趣。为什么选这个主题?
- A: 奥运会就快到了。作为一个志愿者,我想向来自世界各地的人们展示我们的民族文化。
- B: 真不错。你想去哪里呢?
- A: 我想北京的郊区就可以了。漂亮的风景,新鲜的空气,乡村小屋,还有乡间的静处。
- B: 那你关于中国民俗又了解多少呢?
- A: 中国人喜欢热闹。尤其是逢年过节的时候,人们会更开心,到处都洋溢着热闹的气氛。
- B: 你准备如何在你的摄影作品里面展现这种气氛呢?
- A: 我打算拍一些关于中国传统节日的照片。虽然很多传统的中国节日被西方的文化冲刷并且全球化了,传统节日的娱乐活动没有停止也没有泯灭。许多民俗和娱乐活动为节日添加了快乐的气氛,庆祝新年的这种传统一代又一代的传承下来,而流传的最为广泛的就是舞龙舞狮。
- B: 哇, 这个工作不简单哦。春节肯定是你的第一选择呢。
- A: 没错。我想要拍摄一些人们写春联挂春联的照片,在门上张贴神像或喜庆图画驱鬼祈福的 照片,以及家人聚在一起吃除夕年夜饭的照片。
- B: 你也可以加入一些人们在爆竹声中除旧岁的照片啊,新年的零点人们会点燃爆竹、辞旧迎新。第二天一大清早开门之前也要点燃爆竹,这就是让人开门见喜。
- A: 太棒了! 单单就这一个主题我已经找到这么多素材了。
- B: 因为中国民俗包含太多方面, 我觉得你可以把它分成许多丰富的小标题。
- A: 那是非常重要。非常谢谢你的建议。

Words: 词汇扩展

Rustic adj. 乡村的 Retreat n. 度假胜地 Hilarity n. 热闹 Vanished adj. 消失的

Huarity n. 热闹 Vanished adj. 消失的 Spring Festival couplets 春联 New Year Painting 年画 Reunion dinner 团年饭 Spring Festival eve 除夕 Firecracker blasts 爆竹 Subdivide v. 细分

Background Reading: 背景阅读

Traditional Chinese festivals are mostly occasions for relatives to exchange greetings and for neighbors to pay courtesy calls on each other. Some of them are of a social or entertainment nature, so as to create opportunities for social activities; while some are of a sacrificial nature and evolved from old religious beliefs and sacrificial ceremonies; some are of memorial nature associated with important historic events or figures. During the festivals, Chinese people celebrate by hanging up red lanterns or Chinese knots. These festive folk customs are an embodiment of 5,000 years of Chinese history. These traditional festivities are hallmarks of our national culture. Spring Festival, Lantern Festival, Duan Wu Festival, Qing Ming Festival, Mid-autumn Festival, and Chong Yang Festival of the Han people and several festivals of China's different minority ethnic groups are the most important and representative festivals in traditional Chinese culture. The festivals, with their long histories, as well as their unique cultural flavors, and their solid roots among the ordinary people, showcase the Chinese concept of morality and life style along with Chinese people's hope for happiness.

中国传统节日有的是庆贺性的,亲友邻里与此时相互往来拜贺;有的是社交娱乐性的,为人们提供社会交往的良机;有的是祭祀性的,它们由原先的信仰和祭祀活动演变而来;有的是纪念性的,它们与历史上的重大事件、历史人物有密切关联。人们在节日里以张灯结彩等各种方式庆贺、聚会、狂欢,种种节日民俗,也是中国5000年历史文明的世俗体现。传统节日凝聚起了中华民族文化心理,已经成为了中华文化的凝结与集中体现。依然活跃在中国各民族的几十个传统节日中有春节、元宵节、中秋节、端午节、清明节、重阳节,以及若干少数民族节日,它们是中华传统文化中最重要,最具代表性的节日。它们的历史渊源、独特情趣和深广的群众基础,渗透着中华民族的传统习惯和道德风尚,寄托着整个民族的憧憬。

Spring Festival (Chinese New Year), Welcome the New Year and Pray for Good Fortune Longing for the Spring

As early as 3000 B. C., the Chinese started to hold sacrificial ceremonies for the New Year. During the first year of the reign of Emperor Wu Di of the Han Dynasty (104 B. C.), the first day of the first lunar month in the Xia lunar calendar was named as the first day of the year. Since then, over 2, 000 years, this day was called Yuan Dan, meaning the first day or the first morning, traditionally known as the big New Year.

In 1911, China began to use the Gregorian calendar and the first day in January was named the first day of the year. However, the Chinese people have continued their tradition with the celebration of the first day in the Chinese lunar calendar as the Spring Festival. According to this tradition, the Spring Festival is a month-long happy time of celebrations. Usually, the eighth day of the La Month (the 12th month of Chinese lunar calendar) marks the beginning of the Spring Festival which will last till the 15th day of the Zheng Month (the first month of Chinese lunar calendar).

As the Chinese people's most important festival, it involves a series of ceremonies and entertainment, such as to welcome the New Year, celebrate the New Year's Eve, stay up at the New Year Eve, and to make courtesy calls on New Year's Day and make sacrifices to ancestors of the family. These important and lively activities reveal the sentiments, consciousness and aesthetic orientation of the Chinese people. The spiritual concept behind all these activities stands the traditional culture of the Chinese nation.

祈福迎年----春节

期盼春天

早在上古时期(约公元前 3000 年),中国人就开始举行新年祭祀活动,到汉武帝太初元年 (公元前 104 年)正式确定夏历正月初一为岁首,此后二千多年都以这天为元日,民间习称大年。

1911 年中国改用公历纪年后,改称公历1月1日为"元旦",可中国人在节日生活中仍保留着传统,将传统阴历元旦改为春节。在中国人的传统生活中,春节是一段持续一个月左右的欢乐时光。通常,人们把腊月(农历12月)初八视为春节的开始,从此时起直到农历正月十五的整段时间都属于广义的"春节"。

春节是中华民族的第一大节,有迎年、除夕、守岁、拜年、祭祖等众多仪式与娱乐。这些隆重而热闹的活动,凝结着中国人的伦理情感、生命意识、审美趣味。它所蕴涵着的精神,是中华民族传统文化的集中体现。



Dialogue 对话

- A: Have you heard that we are going to have a course about Confucius next semester?
- B: Really? That's what I always want to have in class.
- A: I thought that it must be very difficult for us to understand.
- B: A big challenge indeed!
- A: How much do you know about Confucius?
- B: Just some general facts. Confucius (born Kong Qiu, styled Zhong Ni) was born in the village of Zou in the country of Lu in 551 B. C., a poor descendant of a deposed noble family.
- A:Confucius' thoughts have been developed into a system of philosophy known as Confucianism (儒家). What's the main idea of Confucianism?
- B: His philosophy emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of social relationships, justice and sincerity. These values gained prominence in China over other doctrines, such as Legalism (法家) or Taoism (道家) during the Han Dynasty (206 B. C. 220 A. D.).
- A: Why is it popular again in China now?
- B: It has always been very popular in China. People just didn't value it as much as they do nowadays because they all think it hard to understand because Confucius' thoughts were all written in classical Chinese, which is quite different from modern Chinese.
- A: How do people find it easy to understand nowadays?
- B: When a professor named Yu Dan teaches analects in modern language and plain words on TV, people begin to have interest in it and they find so many valuable ethics which are still practical in modern society.
- A: Can you recite some of its golden sentences?
- B: Of course. Such as, exploring the old and deducing the new make a teacher (温故而知新,可以为师矣。).
- A: You already know so much about him and it's unnecessary for you to take the course now.
- B; Just some basic facts. There are still a lot to learn about him in the course.
- A: 你听说我们下学期就要学孔子了么?

- B: 真的吗? 我一直都很想上这门课呢!
- A: 我觉得对我们来说孔子很难理解吧。
- B: 确实是一个很大的挑战!
- A: 你了解一些关于孔子的什么呢?
- B: 只有一些基本的知识。孔子(名丘,字仲尼)生于公元前 551 年鲁国的陬邑,一个没落的 贵族家族的贫穷后裔。
- A: 孔子的思想发展成一套哲学体系那就是有名的儒家学说。那么你知道儒家学说的核心思想 是什么吗?
- B: 孔子的思想哲学重在 "仁", 既是对个人又是对政府的道德要求。还有强调社会关系, 公平和诚实的正确性。这些价值观在汉朝(公元前 206 年—公元 220 年)比其它的学说像法家, 道家等都要受到更多的重视。
- A: 那为什么儒学又在中国流行起来了?
- B: 它在中国一直都很流行。现在人们更重视它是因为更理解它的内涵了,儒学思想都是用文言文写的,现代的人们理解起来有点困难。
- A: 现在人们怎么会又发觉理解起来简单些了呢?
- B: 当于丹教授开始在电视上用通俗易懂的现代语言讲解论语时,人们发现很多儒学思想在现代社会仍有它的实际意义,因而更感兴趣了。
- A: 你能背诵一些孔子的名言吗?
- B: 当然可以。像"温故而知新,可以为师矣。"
- A: 你已经对孔子了解这么多了, 看来都没必要再上这门课了。
- B: 我只略知其一二。还有很多关于孔子的知识需要在课堂上汲取。

Words: 词汇扩展

Descendant n. 后裔, 子孙

Doctrine n. 学说

Legalism n. 法家

Taoism n. 道家

Confucianism n. 儒家

Analects n. 论语

Golden sentence n. 名言

Background Reading: 背景阅读

Mencius was a Chinese philosopher of the fourth century B. C., whose influence on intellectual tradition is roughly equivalent to the joint influence of St. Paul and Aristotle on Western thought.

Mengzi thought of himself as merely defending the teachings of Confucius against rival philosophical doctrines. However, Mengzi was actually a very original thinker, whose doctrine of the goodness of human nature went far beyond anything Confucius had said. Long after his death, Mengzi's interpretation of Confucianism became orthodoxy, which means that generations of Chinese intellectuals literally memorized his work.

孟子是中国公元前四世纪的哲学家,他对思想传统上的影响等同于西方思想界的圣·保罗和亚里士多德。孟子仅仅认为他自己在为儒家思想同其它的哲学学说思想辩驳。但是,孟子实际上是一位非常有创造性的思想家,他的关于"性本善"的讨论是孔子的任何思想所没有提及的。在孟子去世后很久,他的儒家思想成为正统思想,意味着世代的中国知识分子都记得他的著作。

To learn and to practice what is learned time and again is pleasure, is it not? To have friends from afar is happiness, is it not? To be unperturbed when not appreciated by others is gentlemanly, is it not?

~ 子曰:学而时习之,不亦说乎? 有朋自远方来,不亦乐乎? 人不知而不愠,不亦君子乎?

To acknowledge what is known as known and what is not known as not known is knowledge.

子曰:知之为知之,不知为不知,是知也。

Knowledge is not equal to devotion. Devotion is not equal to joy.

子曰:知之者不如好知者,好知者不如乐知者。

To do a good job, one must first sharpen one's tools.

子曰: 工欲善其事, 必先利其器。

Not to do to others as you would not wish done to yourself.

子曰:己所不欲,勿施于人。

Learning without satiety, instructing others without being wearied.

子曰:学而不厌,诲人不倦。

Wishing to be established himself, seeks also to establish others, wishing to be enlarged himself, he seeks also to enlarge others.

子曰:己欲立而立人,己欲达而达人。



Dialogue 对话

- A: There are so many people that the tickets are all sold out!
- B: Luckily we got the last two.
- A: Look, B. The Four Great Inventions!
- B: Gunpowder, compass, the paper making, and the printing.
- A: I really admire those who made such great inventions!
- B: Yeah, ancient Chinese were really smart!
- A: They were milestones in their times. They have profound significance in Chinese traditional culture and the world development. For example, the invention of papermaking is one of China's special contributions to the spread and the development of human civilizations.
- B: What about the movable type printing?
- A: Movable type printing began with engraving printing of Sui Dynasty (581 A. D. -618 A. D.). Bi Sheng of Song Dynasty (960 A. D. 1276 A. D.) improved the movable type printing by making the baked clay into movable characters for type-setting printing; thus he accomplished a significant revolution in printing history.
- B: Well, I know that the compass was introduced to Europe approximately in the 12th century. Its application to the navigation resulted in the voyage of Columbus' discovery of the New World and Magellan's global navigation.
- A: That's true. And the Gunpowder was invented in the Song Dynasty (960 A. D. 1276 A. D.) in China. It is the mixture of potassium nitrate, sulfur and charcoal—elements that people took as medicine in ancient times, hence the name "gunpowder" in Chinese means "burning medicines".
- B: It really opened my eyes today, thank you!
- A: You're welcome, my pleasure.
- A: 人太多了, 票都卖完了。
- B: 幸好我们买了最后两张。
- A: 看, B, 四大发明!
- B: 火药、指南针、造纸术和印刷术。