



# 初中篇

饶健华 选注

## 英语背诵文萃

*Memory work for  
English learners*

湖南大学出版社



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## 前 言

众所周知，要学好一种语言，除了多读、多写、多实践外，还要多练“背功”——选择自己喜爱的名篇佳作反复朗读，直至烂熟于胸，这对于积累词汇，培养语感，提高阅读、写作水平和听说能力，乃至本身的素质均大有裨益。古人云：“熟读唐诗三百首，不会吟诗也会吟。”“读书破万卷，下笔如有神。”“腹有诗书气自华”，说的就是这个道理。

为了给莘莘学子提供一份精美的精神食粮，我们从古今中外的文献典籍中，爬罗剔抉，选择了近200篇(段)文章，分为《小学篇》、《初中篇》和《高中篇》。内容涉及文学、历史、语言、哲学、经济、政治、军事、艺术和其他文化门类，林林总总，构成了生活的万花筒。读者打开此书，定会有“山阴道上，应接不暇”之感。

“厚今薄古”是本套书的编选原则。但“古人”(其实大多数离今日也不过一二百年)的文章写得流利清新、明白如话而又文采斐然的，我们也不忍割爱，酌情选入。近人和今人入选的文章须晓畅流利自不必说，但还须寓意深刻，富于哲理，言语隽永，耐人咀嚼。政坛领袖的演说也选得不少，一来演说词更接近口语，宜于诵读，易于模仿学习；二来他们眼观五洲风雨，胸有人世情怀，高屋建瓴，指点江山，墨溅珠玑，舌吐莲花，他们的声音将长久地在历史的长廊里回响。寻常百姓的儿女私情和人生感悟，只要是真情实感，我们也采撷若干片断。总之，在这套选本中，革命导师、哲学家、文学家、科学家、军事家……从国家元首、文人学者到升斗小民，聚集一堂，谈人生、社会、理想、事业，谈责任、治学、工作、处世，无不深中

肯綮，读来给人启迪，益人神智。

苏东坡诗云：“好书不厌百回读，熟读深思子自知。”我们这套选本是否属于这类好书，读者诸君开卷便知分晓，我们就不再饶舌，以避“王婆卖瓜”之嫌。最后我想用一位香港青年作家谈背书的话来结束这篇前言：“一课书，是一坛酒，趁早珍放在心的地窖里，锁好，先不要品尝，为的是三十年后，当你独登高楼，推开放西边的一扇窗，但见一天星斗，满地江湖……”

编者

2002年3月15日

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# 1. How Should We Live

Man's dearest possession is life, and it is given to him to live but once<sup>(1)</sup>. He must live so as to<sup>(2)</sup> feel no torturing<sup>(3)</sup> regrets for years without purpose<sup>(4)</sup>, never know the burning shame of a mean and petty past<sup>(5)</sup>; so live that<sup>(6)</sup>, dying<sup>(7)</sup>, he can say: all my life, all my strength were given to the finest cause in all the world—the fight for the liberation of mankind.

*N. Ostrovsky<sup>(8)</sup>: How the Steel Was Tempered*

- 
- (1) it is give to him to live but once: 生命给予人只有一次(生命属于我们只有一次)。it 指代上句的 life。but = only。
- (2) so as to: 为的是;结果是。
- (3) torturing: [ˈtɔ: tʃəɪɪŋ] a. 折磨人的,使人痛苦的。
- (4) years without purpose: 无目的(或无意义)的岁月;虚度年华。
- (5) the burning shame of a mean and petty past: 因碌碌无为而羞耻。burning: a. 炽烈的;极端的。a mean and petty past: 平庸的、委琐的过去。
- (6) so live that: that 引起结果状语从句(dying, he can say...)
- (7) dying: 临死的时候。现在分词作时间状语,修饰 can say。
- (8) N. Ostrovsky: 尼·奥斯特洛夫斯基(1904 ~ 1936),前苏联作家。

## 2. Labourer, Craftsman and Artist



A man who works with his hands is a labourer; a man who works with his hands and his brain is a craftsman<sup>(1)</sup>; but a man who works with his hands and his brain and his heart is an artist.

---

(1) craftsman: ['krɑ:ftsmən] *n.* 手艺人, 工匠。

### 3. How Can People Be Happy in Their Work

In order that people may be happy in their work, three things are needed: They must be fit for it; they must not do too much of it; and they must have a sense of success<sup>(1)</sup> in it.

---

(1) a sense of success: 成就感。

There is nobody who has never met with some good chance or other in his life. Simply he has not seized one.

——Carnegie

A man is not finished when he is defeated. He is finished when he quits.

——Richard Nixon

I have only one life and it's short enough, why waste it on things I don't want most?

——L. D. Brandeis

## 4. *A Rich Man and Picasso* <sup>(1)</sup>

A rich American was visiting Picasso's studio<sup>(2)</sup>. He paused in front of a painting that puzzled<sup>(3)</sup> him. "What does this picture represent<sup>(4)</sup>?" he asked.

"Two hundred thousand dollars." Picasso replied.

---

(1) Picasso: [pi'kæsəu] *n.* 毕加索 (1881 ~ 1973), 西班牙画家、雕刻家。

(2) studio: ['stju: diəu] *n.* 工作室。

(3) puzzle: ['pʌzl] *vt.* 使迷惑。

(4) represent: [ɪrepri'zent] *vt.* 代表; 体现; 相当于。

To care for wisdom and truth and improvement of the soul is far better than to seek money and honor and reputation.

——Socrates

A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees.

——William Blake

## 5. The Worst Thing

“The worst thing that can happen to a youngster starting school<sup>(1)</sup>,” said the lawyer, “is to be caught<sup>(2)</sup> cheating.”

“Not at all,” said the clergyman<sup>(3)</sup>, “the worst thing at the start of a person’s life is to cheat and not get caught.”

---

(1) a youngster starting school: 刚开始上学的小孩。

youngster: [jʌŋstə] *n.* 小孩; 年轻人。

(2) catch: 偶然(或突然)撞见; 发觉。例如:

The boy was caught smoking. 有人发现这孩子抽烟。

(3) clergyman: [ˈklə: dʒimən] *n.* 牧师。

A man called his doctor’s office for an appointment. “I’m sorry,” said the nurse, “we can’t fit you for at least two weeks.”

“But I could be dead by then!”

“No problem. If your wife lets us know, we’ll cancel the appointment.”

## 6. *The Tragedy* <sup>(1)</sup> *of a Man*

I believe in the tragic element<sup>(2)</sup> of history. I believe there is the tragedy of a man who works very hard and never gets what he wants. And then I believe there is the even more bitter tragedy of a man who finally gets what he wants and finds out that he doesn't want it.

— Henry Kissinger<sup>(3)</sup>

---

(1) tragedy: ['trædʒɪdi] *n.* 悲剧。

(2) element: ['elimənt] *n.* 要素;成分。

(3) Henry Kissinger: 亨利·基辛格(1923 ~ ), 美国前国家安全事务顾问、国务卿(1973 ~ 1977)。

### *Proverbs*

He only truly lives who lives in peace.

He is unworthy to live who lives only for himself.

A man's discontent is his worst evil.



## 7. Life Isn't Fair <sup>(1)</sup> to Men

Life isn't fair to us men.

When we are born, our mothers get the compliments<sup>(2)</sup> and the flowers.

When we are married, our brides get the presents and the publicity.<sup>(3)</sup>

When we die, our widows get the life insurance<sup>(4)</sup>.

What do women want to be liberated from?<sup>(5)</sup>

- 
- (1) fair: [fɛə] *a.* 公平的;美丽悦目的。  
(2) compliment: ['kɒmplɪmənt] *n.* 祝贺。  
(3) publicity: [pʌb'lisəti] *n.* 公众的注意。  
(4) life insurance: 人寿保险金。  
(5) What do women want to be liberated from? 妇女还要获得什么解放呢?

### *Proverbs*

Man is the head, but woman turns it.

A man is as old as he feels, and a woman as old as she looks.