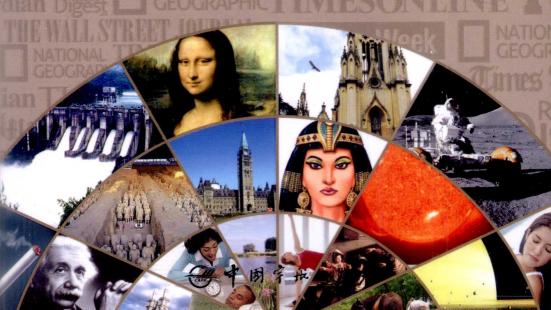




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# 轻松读懂 美国大众名刊

主 编:王娅娅

副主编:王凯琳 甘 棠 陈晶晶 审 定:[美] Ryan Wagner

[美]Michelle Woo

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我们学习英语的目的,在于听得清、读得懂、说得出、写得来。"读"这一环节在语言学习中的重要性毋庸置疑,只有大量阅读,才能真正学好英语,而"读什么"是广大读者常常感到困惑的问题。英文报刊内容包罗万象,承载着丰富的社会信息,语言规范地道,贴近日常用语表达习惯,无疑是最佳的英语阅读素材,读者可以在阅读的过程中自然而然地吸收语言。

英美报刊,尤其是权威名刊,以其独有的特色影响着各行各业的读者,为此,我们从这些报刊中选材,精心编写了本套"读英文知天下"系列丛书——《轻松读懂美国大众名刊》《轻松读懂美国财经名刊》《轻松读懂最具影响力的英美报纸》和《轻松读懂美国新闻名刊》。

本套丛书选材时效性强,涉及面广,多选自近两年的英美报刊,包括时事、财经、文化、体育、生活等各类题材,每一类中我们尽量选取最具代表性和学习性的文章。每篇文章都有导读内容、生词注释和阅读点睛,希望读者既能洞悉最新动态,获取多方面的信息,又能掌握语言知识,提高英语阅读能力。

本套丛书在编写方面做了大量的工作,具有以下特色。

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编者在选材时,既考虑英文内容的权威性,又照顾到了所选材料的可读性和趣味性,选取的大部分内容都是与广大中国读者熟知的人物、公司、事件密切相关的,大部分内容轻松有趣,避免沉闷的理论介绍和学术探讨。部分篇章根据选材的需要作了删节,使得内容更适合学习英文使用。

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因为所选杂志都是面对全球英文读者的,未考虑英语学习者的阅读能力,所以大部分读者阅读原文是较为吃力的。编者在原文的基础上做了大量的词汇批注,使得英文词汇量有限的读者也可以通读本书。

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"读英文知天下"系列丛书兼顾了不同层次读者的需求,既可作为大学生的课外英语阅读书,也可作为四六级考试或研究生考试的参考书,还可以作为广大英语爱好者提高阅读水平的参考书。

在本套丛书的编写过程中,我的两位美国好友 Ryan Wagner 和 Michelle Woo 做了大量的英文工作,在此表示感谢。亲爱的读者朋友,我们 的用心编写加上您的用心学习,在轻松愉快的阅读过程中,您一定能够开阔 眼界,提高英语综合水平。

编者 2010 年 7 月

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## More Women Decide Not to Have a Baby 更多女性不打算生小孩

美国经济陷入衰退,许多正值生育年龄的夫妻担心工作不保,进而失去健康的保障,双重压力之下只好选择减少生育,因此近来除了堕胎人数出现上扬趋势,接受节育手术的人也渐渐增多。尽管美国经济已有复苏的迹象,然而专家担忧,复苏景气仍微弱,因为消费者不愿意花钱。消费者支出近年来占美国经济活动达70%,些微下滑也会大大降低对货物和服务的需求,让企业不愿雇请更多劳工。而由此引发的减少生育的现状也可能会给美国带来更大的危机和恶性经济循环。

If the sidewalks seem less clogged with Bugaboo strollers these days and you can't remember the last time you had to diaper a doll at a baby shower, it's not your imagination or fuzzy memory. Birth rates in the U.S. fell 2% in 2008, the biggest drop in nearly four decades, and that trend is expected to continue. A new study out Sept. 23 from the Guttmacher Institute suggests that the timing is not a coincidence; the recession may be to blame, as women factor economic anxieties into their decision about having children.

Those worries are understandable. All the adorable photos now taking over your friends' Facebook pages can't mask the fact that kids are expensive. ① TIME's Nancy Gibbs recently estimated that it costs parents an average of \$221,000 to raise a child to age 17. That large economic investment is one reason that birth

sidewalk n. 人行道 clogged ajd. (如滤器)阻塞的 stroller n. 散步者 fuzzy adj. 毛茸茸的 understandable adj. 可理解的

如果现在人行道上的婴儿车不再拥堵,并且你想不起你最后一次在新生儿送礼会上为婴儿包尿布的情景,这不是你的想象力或者记忆力出了问题。2008年美国的婴儿出生率下降了2%,在近40年中是最大的,而且这种趋势被认为将持续下去。古特马赫研究所9月23日的最新研究成果表明,出生率下降并非巧合,经济萧条才是主要原因,因为女性决定是否要孩子时会担忧经济状况。

那些担心是可以理解的。朋友们的 Facebook 相册里可爱的照片不能掩盖养育后代花销巨大这一事实。《时代周刊》的南希·吉布斯最近做了一项估算,父母养育一个孩子到 17 岁平均需花费221,000 美元。美国在大萧条时期和上世纪 70 年代的通货膨胀时期经历了大幅的新生人口率下降,养育后代经济投入巨大,这就使

rates have historically fluctuated with the economy — the U.S. experienced significant dips during the Great Depression and in the inflationary years of the 1970s.

Researchers at the Guttmacher Institute, a research nonprofit that focuses on reproductive health, surveyed 947 women between the ages of 18 and 34 who have household incomes under \$75,000. More than 4 in 10 said the economy was affecting their decision about having children. The women reported waiting to get pregnant later than they had planned, deciding to have fewer children or opting for medical sterilization to prevent future pregnancies. ②A majority of the women surveyed (52%) said their financial situation had worsened in the past year, and they were most likely to make their family-planning decisions on the basis of economic concerns.

For these economically vulnerable women, the cost of having a baby would further shake their already precarious financial footing. Three-quarters of them (77%) agreed with the statement "With the economy the way it is, I can't afford to have a baby right now." And while the cost of raising a child may already be prohibitive for many, others fear the consequences of pregnancy in an unstable job market. 3 Close to half of the

historically adv. 从历史角度 fluctuate vi. 波动,涨落 inflationary adj. 通货膨胀的 pregnant adj. 怀孕的 sterilization n. 绝育 vulnerable adj. 易受伤的 precarious adj. 不确定的

得出生率随经济情况出现了历史 性波动。

古特马赫研究所的研究者们在一项非盈利性研究中着重关注生殖健康,通过观察 947 名年龄在 18 到 34 岁之间、家庭收入在75,000 美元以下的女性,其中超过 40% 的受访者表示经济情况对她们是否决定要孩子有影响。她们是否决定要孩子有影响。她们表示要打定主意少生孩子可必如何表示要打定主意少生孩子之后才会怀孕。大多数受访女性(52%)表示去年她们的经济情况不容乐观,并且她们会根据经济基础做出家庭计划。

对于这些脆弱并且善于精 打细算的女人们来说,要一个孩 子的成本会使她们本。已不稳固 的经济条件雪上加霜。她们中的 经济状况,我目前负担不起一个 经济状况,我目前负担不起一个 孩子"的说法。当养人因为 一个孩子"的说法。当养人因为怀 力少之一样,也对怀,也对怀 是的工作环境,也对怀性, 中,接近半数表示担心在怀孕期 women who are currently employed said they worried about taking time off from work for medical appointments, which increase in frequency throughout pregnancy.

The existing employer-based health-insurance system exacerbates concerns for women who are considering having a child. (4) If a woman is unsure whether she will have the same job in nine months, she may be hesitant to get pregnant for fear of losing or switching insurance plans. Federal law prevents group plans from defining pregnancy as a pre-existing condition, but individual plans vary and can end up charging women tens of thousands of dollars for a delivery.

But while anxiety about the economy has led some women to become more strict about their birth control use, the recession has forced others to take more risk. Among women who use birth control pills, 18% reported skipping pills, skipping months or waiting to get a prescription filled in order to save money. All of these practices render ineffective the Pill's use as a contraceptive, and yet a quarter of women who are financially worse off than last year reported inconsistent use of birth control. At the same time, national abortion rates continue to fall, and are now at a 30-year low.

exacerbate vt. 使恶化 insurance n. 保险 recession n. 经济衰退 contraceptive adj. 避孕的 inconsistent adj. (思想、意见等)不一致的 abortion n. 堕胎

间需要花更多的工作时间去医 院检查身体。

现存的以雇主为基础的健康保险系统加剧了出生率下降这一问题。如果一名女性不确定在未来9个月内她会不会做同一份工作,她可能会对怀孕犹豫不决,因为她害怕丢失或更换保险。联邦法律禁止以确定怀孕为前提条件的集体保险计划,但是个人保险计划改变会最后收取妇女们数万美元的分娩费用。

但是对经济的焦虑已经让一些女性更加严格地使用节育的 段。在经济衰退中不严格节育的 女性,如果怀孕就会被迫承担 大的风险。在使用避孕药的取胜中间,18% 曾经停止服用,转他 世间,18% 曾经停止服用,这些做 法都削减了避孕药的作用。这一的女性因为收入状况大如前,不能坚持使用节育措施。与此同时,全美流产率持续下降,已经跌至 30 年来最低点。

⑤One consequence of these makeshift financial strategies, says Sharon Camp, president of the Guttmacher Institute, could be a further widening of the birth rate between wealthier women and the working poor. "Those who can afford better methods with a big upfront cost—like IUDs or vasectomies—may see pregnancy rates continue to fall," says Camp. "But among lower-income women, a third of them are saying that they can't afford the contraception they'd like to use. They're relying on less effective, overthe-counter methods. We could likely see an increase for them in unintended pregnancies."

vasectomy n. 输精管切除术 pregnancy n. 怀孕



#### 阅读点睛

1. TIME's Nancy Gibbs recently estimated that it costs parents an average of \$221,000 to raise a child to age 17.

这个句子的基本结构是主 - 谓 - 宾结构。that 引导的宾语从句中又出现了一个目的状语 to raise a child to age 17, 其中两个 to 的功能及意义完全不同。第一个 to 是"以……方式"; 而第二个 to 是介词,表示"直到……为止"(类似于 till)。

2. A majority of the women surveyed (52%) said their financial situation had worsened in the past year, and they were most likely to make their family-planning decisions on the basis of economic concerns.

该句主要结构是主 - 谓 - 宾结构。其中主语 a majority of the women 由过去分词 surveyed 这一定语修饰,表示"被调查、采访的"。宾语从句中包括两个名词从句,并由 and 连接。on the basis of 意思是"以·····基础",是常用的表达,相似的表达还有 base on, 在本句中二者可以相互替换。

3. Close to half of the women who are currently employed said they worried about taking time off from work for medical appointments, which increase in frequency throughout pregnancy.

本句主语是 close to half of the women , 后面接一个由 who 引导的定语从句作修饰语: who are currently employed。紧接其后的是谓语 said 后加一个省略 that 的宾语从句:said they worried about taking time off from work for medical appointments。而最后一个由 which 引导的非限制性定语从句用来修饰 medical appointments。

4. If a woman is unsure whether she will have the same job in nine months, she may be hesitant to get pregnant for fear of losing or switching insurance plans.

本句中包含一个 if 引导的条件状语从句,该从句中 unsure whether she will have the same job in nine months 是 is 后面的表语,即又出现了一个表语从句,其中的 in nine months 为时间状语。主句的主干为 :She may be hesitant to get pregnant. 而后面的 for fear of losing or switching insurance plans 是由 for 引导的原因状语(for 是"因为"的意思), of 加两个并列的动名词 losing or switching insurance plans, 形成介宾结构。

5. One consequence of these makeshift financial strategies, says Sharon Camp, president of the Guttmacher Institute, could be a further widening of the birth rate between wealthier women and the working poor.

这句话中,says Sharon Camp 是插入语,这种用法在英文中很常见。president of the Guttmacher Institute 是 Sharon Camp 的同位语,对 says 这一动作的实施者进行进一步解释说明。去掉枝叶部分之后,该句的主干便清晰可见了。

### **2** Coral Reef Color 多彩珊瑚礁

在阴暗冰冷的海底世界中,珊瑚礁毫无疑问更像一片仙境:五颜六色的海洋动物游弋于奇形怪状的珊瑚丛中,构成了美丽的"海中热带雨林"景观。珊瑚礁的主体是由珊瑚虫组成的,它被视为地球上最古老、最多姿多彩、最珍贵的生态系统之一。珊瑚礁在全球海洋中所占面积虽然不足0.25%,但它却是海洋中生物多样性和生产力最高的水域,许多海洋生物都选择珊瑚礁作为安身立命之所,珊瑚礁因而被誉为海洋中的"热带雨林"和"海上长城"。

Gaze at the vivid yellows, blues, and psychedelic swirls of a single emperor angel-fish and you'll sense the whimsy of evolution. Go on to explore its home in lush coral reefs and you'll soon hit sensory overload, assaulted by colors and patterns that range from sublime to garish. Coral reefs are unquestionably the world's most colorful places. But why?

①For reasons known only to nature, color explodes across coral reefs, making them Earth's most vivid landscapes. Here in the shallows of a Fijian reef, brilliant soft corals wave in reds, pinks, and yellows as schools of fairy basslets flash orange and violet hues. The basslets' different colors aid in species identification, mate recognition, and even camouflage as individuals mass against

gaze vt. 凝视 whimsy n. 古怪 lush adj. 苍翠繁茂的 reef n. 礁, 暗礁 assault vt. 袭击, 突袭 sublime *adj*. 壮丽的 garish *adj*. 俗丽的 landscape *n*. 风景 basslet *n*. 鮨 camouflage *vt*. 伪装

看一看那"皇帝神仙鱼"身上 鲜艳的黄色与蓝色,还有迷幻般的 漩涡,你就能感受到生物进化中的 多样了。走进"皇帝神仙鱼"栖息的 多彩的珊瑚礁,你会马上感到感官 已超出负荷:从庄重到花哨,各种 各样的色彩与图案从四面"围拢"而 来。珊瑚礁无疑是世界上色彩最丰 富的地方,但为什么呢?

也许只有大自然才知道原 因,色彩在珊瑚礁各处蓬发,使 它们成为地球上最明艳的景观。 这里是位于斐济一处珊瑚在红色、 滩,艳丽的软珊瑚舞动在红色、 粉红色与黄色之中,而一簇色的 拟花鮨则闪耀着橘色和紫色的 辫花鮨则闪耀着橘色和紫色的 辨种群差异,识别配偶。甚明 它的多彩颜色还能作为当 它的多彩颜色还能作光的 见到的,可能跟珊瑚礁生物的 见到的,可能跟珊瑚礁生物的眼 玩过自然光所见到的完全不