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## Select Essays for Recitation

赖世雄 编著

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# 序

背诵好文章肯定是学习英文的好方法之一。

藉由背诵，我们可以不知不觉地学会实用的句型及词汇语法，大幅增进我们的阅读理解及写作能力。藉由背诵，我们更可练就流利的口语能力，在与老外对话时，不时会说出隽永的句子，让老外惊讶折服。

我自己就是背诵受益的活见证。我的做法是：

1. 选定一篇好文章；
2. 在不查字典的情况下慢速念文章一遍，以大致了解文意；
3. 然后再查字典，设法弄懂单词的意思或复杂的句子结构；查字典时，同时将字词的定义及用法抄在笔记本内，以供日后复习用；
4. 文章全盘了解之后，再慢速将文章念一遍，边念边绘草图，将文章内容图画化；
5. 按绘好的草图思考所代表的句子，逐句念出来，重复多遍，自然而然就可把文章背下来了。

这种看草图背诵文章的做法是活背书，而不是死背句子。它给了我莫大的好处，因此我相信遵循这种背诵方法的其他人也一定会有同样的受益。

为了推广背诵的好处，数年前我特别将我在年轻时期所学过及背过的文章整理出来，编写了《名家散文背诵选》，推出之后即获好评。多次印刷之后，我决定将原书重新校对及改版，充实内容，并将书名改为《背出你的好英文》，另请美籍老师录制CD一片，以供读者从事发音及语调练习的依据。但愿读者能善用本书，让自己的英语程度更上一层楼。

林文雄  
于台北常春藤

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**UNIT 1****A Great Friend****一个伟大的朋友**Anonymous<sup>1</sup>

As I am now a senior high school student, I have a great many<sup>2</sup> friends, but there is one whom I prize<sup>3</sup> over all the rest. I first made his acquaintance<sup>4</sup> when I began to go to school. He has been my constant<sup>6</sup> companion<sup>7</sup> ever since<sup>8</sup>.

Though he is serious in appearance<sup>9</sup>, he never fails to<sup>10</sup> be interesting. Often he is clever, sometimes even merry<sup>11</sup> and gay<sup>12</sup>. He is the most knowledgeable<sup>13</sup> friend a person could have. He knows virtually<sup>14</sup> every language of the world, all the events<sup>15</sup> of history, and the words of all the great poets<sup>16</sup> and philosophers<sup>17</sup>. A kindly<sup>18</sup> benefactor<sup>19</sup>, he is admired<sup>20</sup> and enjoyed by everyone who makes his acquaintance.

To me, he has been a great teacher as well as<sup>22</sup> a friend. He first taught me the secrets of my own language and then those of others. With these keys<sup>24</sup> he showed us how to unlock<sup>25</sup> all the arts and sciences of man.

My friend is endlessly<sup>26</sup> patient<sup>27</sup>. Dull<sup>28</sup> though I may be<sup>29</sup>, I can return to him again and again<sup>30</sup>, and he is always ready to teach me. When I am bored<sup>31</sup>, he entertains<sup>32</sup> me. When I am dispirited<sup>33</sup>, he lifts me up<sup>34</sup>. When I am lonely, he keeps me company<sup>35</sup>. He is a friend not only to me but to



millions around the world. Shall I tell you his name? His name is "Reading."

由于我现在是高中生，因此有许多朋友，但我最看重其中一位。我开始求学就认识他了。从此以后他便是我永远不变的朋友。

虽然他外表严肃，但他总能令人感兴趣。他平时挺聪明，有时甚至是一副欢喜愉悦的模样。他可称得上是我们最有学问的朋友。世界各国的语言，历史上所有的大事，以及所有伟大的诗人与哲学家的话语，他几乎无所不知。他是个乐善好施的大好人，认识他的人个个都赞赏与喜爱他。

对我而言，他一直是个伟大的老师和朋友。他先后教会我母语和其他语言的奥秘。借着这些秘诀，他教我们如何开启人类所有的艺术与科学之门。

我的朋友有无限的耐心。虽然我可能很迟钝，但我可以一再地求助于他，而他也随时准备要教导我。当我感到厌烦时，他会逗我开心。当我气馁时，他会使我振作。当我孤独时，他会陪伴我。他不只是我的朋友，同时也是世界各地成千上万人的朋友。要我告诉你他的名字吗？他的名字是“阅读”。

### 单词短语精解

1. **anonymous** [əˈnɒnəməs] *a.* 作者不详的, 佚名的

2. **a great many + 复数可数名词** 相当多的/好多好多的……

比较:

**a good many + 复数可数名词** 蛮多的……

**例:** A great many actors and actresses have eaten at this restaurant.  
(有许多演员都曾在这家餐馆用过餐。)

3. **prize** [praɪz] *vt.* 珍视, 重视 & *n.* 奖(赏)

prize A above B 看重 A 胜于 B

**例:** I prize my health above everything else.

(我把我的健康看得比什么都重要。)

Willy won first prize in the speech contest.

(威利在演讲比赛中得了第一名。)

\* 此处 first prize 表“第一名”，视为专有名词，之前不置定冠词 the；若说 the first prize 则指“第一个颁发的奖项”，未必是“第一名”。故表“第一名”、“第二名”、“第三名”……时，之前均不置 the。

#### 4. acquaintance [ə'kwentəns] n. 熟悉; 相识的人

acquaint [ə'kwent] vt. 使认识/熟悉

make one's acquaintance 结识某人

= make the acquaintance of sb

acquaint sb with sth 使某人熟悉某事

get acquainted with... 与……认识; 熟识……

**例:** I believe I made your acquaintance a year ago at a party.

(我相信我在一年前的一个派对上认识了你。)

Peter found out that the murderer was an old high school acquaintance of his.

(彼得发现凶手竟是他中学时期的一个旧识。)

The teacher acquainted the new student with the rest of the class.

(老师让那名新同学与班上其他同学认识。)

After we move to a new country, it takes time to get acquainted with new customs.

(我们迁到新的国家后，熟悉当地的新风俗需要花些时间。)

#### 5. 本文:

I first made his acquaintance when I began to go to school.

= I first got acquainted with him when I began to go to school.

我一开始求学就认识他了。

6. **constant** [ˈkɒnstənt] *a.* 永恒不变的

**例:** My toothache has been a constant nuisance all day.

(我的牙整天痛个不停。)

\* nuisance [ˈnjuːsəns] *n.* 讨厌的物或人

7. **companion** [kəmˈpænjən] *n.* 伙伴; 朋友

**例:** When traveling, we'd better go with a companion.

(旅行时最好找个伴同行。)

8. **ever since** 从此以后

**注意:**

此处 **ever since** 为 **since** 的强调用法, 作副词用, 修饰现在完成 (进行) 时的主句。since 译成 “之后”, 可置于句尾, 或句中完成时助动词 **have**、**has**、**had** 之后。

**例:** I moved here in 2002 and have been learning English since.

一般过去时

现在完成进行时

= I moved here in 2002 and have since been learning English.

(我在 2002 年搬到这里, 之后就一直在学英文。)

**注意:**

**since** 作副词时, 句型结构一定为:

主语 + 动词过去式 + 明确的时间副词词组 + **and**

have/has +		since + 过去分词
		过去分词 + since

9. **in appearance** 外貌上

**appearance** [əˈpiərəns] *n.* 外貌

**例:** The dog's menacing appearance frightens away intruders.

(那条狗威吓的外貌吓走了闯入者。)

\* menace [ˈmenɪs] *vt.* 威胁, 恐吓

10. **never fail to V** 总是会……

**例:** The postman never fails to come on time.

= The postman always comes on time.

(那位邮差总是准时到。)

11. **merry** [ˈmɛrɪ] *a.* 快乐的, 欢乐的

**例:** Each year we have a merry banquet for Christmas.

(每年我们都会举办一场欢乐的圣诞宴会。)

12. **gay** [geɪ] *a.* 愉快的 & *n.* 男同性恋者

\* **lesbian** [ˈlezbiən] *n.* 女同性恋者

**例:** This restaurant has a lively and gay atmosphere.

(这家餐厅有一股活泼愉快的气氛。)

A gay is often looked upon as abnormal.

(男同性恋者常被视作不正常的人物。)

13. **knowledgeable** [ˈnɒlɪdʒəbl̩] *a.* 博学的, 有知识的

**例:** A knowledgeable person is usually one who is well-read.

(有学问的人通常都是书读得很多的人。)

14. **virtually** [ˈvɜːtʃʊəli] *adv.* 几乎, 差不多

= almost

**例:** The loud stereo speakers virtually shook the house down.

(那台音响震耳的音箱几乎把房子给震垮了。)

15. **event** [ɪˈvɛnt] *n.* 事件

in the event +  $\left| \begin{array}{l} \text{(that) + S + V} \\ \text{of + N} \end{array} \right|$  万一/倘若……

= in case +  $\left| \begin{array}{l} \text{S + V} \\ \text{of + N} \end{array} \right|$

**例:** In the event (that) a fire occurs, please use the stairs, not the elevator.

= In case a fire occurs, please use the stairs, not the elevator.

= In case of a fire, please use the stairs, not the elevator.

(万一发生火灾, 请走楼梯, 不要搭电梯。)

Call the police in the event of an emergency.

= Call the police in case of an emergency.

(万一有紧急状况, 请打电话给警察。)

16. **poet** [ 'pɔ:t ] *n.* 诗人

**poem** [ 'pɔ:ɪm ] *n.* 诗 (可数)

**poetry** [ 'pɔ:tri ] *n.* 诗作 (不可数)

**例:** Blake sat under a tree writing poems praising spring.

(布雷克坐在树下写诗来咏赞春天。)

Mr. Johnson is especially fond of political poetry.

(强森先生特别偏好政治性的诗。)

17. **philosopher** [ fə'lasəfə ] *n.* 哲学家

**例:** Plato was the greatest Greek philosopher.

(柏拉图是希腊最伟大的哲学家。)

18. **kindly** [ 'kaɪndli ] *a.* 亲切的 (如本文用法, 相当于friendly “友善的”) & *adv.* 亲切地

**kind** [ kaɪnd ] *a.* 仁慈的 (interested in the happiness of others “好心的”)

**例:** I like her because she has a kindly smile.

(我喜欢她, 因为她有亲切的笑容。)

I'll let you borrow my bike if you ask me kindly.

(如果你和善地问我, 我会把脚踏车借你的。)

The kind old man offered me some food.

(那位好心的老先生给了我一些吃的。)

19. **benefactor** [ 'benə,fæktə ] *n.* 帮助者; 恩人

**例:** Richard luckily found a benefactor to support him in college.  
(理查德幸运地找到一位赞助人供他念大学。)

20. **admire** [ əd'maɪə ] *vt.* 羡慕; 赞赏

**例:** I admire your ability to play so many instruments.  
(我很羡慕你能弹奏这么多的乐器。)

21. 本文:

A kindly benefactor, he is admired and enjoyed by everyone who makes his acquaintance.

他是个乐善好施的大好人, 认识他的人个个都赞赏与喜爱他。

\* 此处 A kindly benefactor 是主语 he 的同位语。原句实等于:

“Being a kindly benefactor, he is admired...” 或 “Because he is a kindly benefactor, he is admired...”。

22. **as well as...** 以及/和……

**注意:**

as well as 为并列连接词, 相当于 and 之意, 可连接对等的单词、词组或从句。连接主语时, 动词要随第一个主语作变化。

**例:** John as well as I likes shopping.

(约翰和我都喜欢购物。)

A positive attitude as well as medical treatment will help you recover sooner.

(乐观的态度与医疗将有助你早日康复。)

He failed because he was lazy as well as because he had no friends to turn to.

(他失败了, 一方面因为他懒惰, 另一方面因为他没有朋友可以依靠。)

## 23. 本文:

He first taught me the secrets of my own language and then those of others.

= He first taught me the secrets of my own language and then the secrets of other languages.

他先后教会我母语和其他语言的奥秘。

24. **key** [ki] *n.* 钥匙; 秘诀 (与介词 to 连用)

the key to sth 获致某物之秘诀

**例:** The monk claimed to know the key to eternal life.

(那位和尚宣称他知道长生不老的秘诀。)

25. **unlock** [ʌn'lak] *vt.* 打开 (门、箱等) 的锁; 透露 (秘密等)

lock [lak] *vt.* 锁住; 关住

**例:** The police unlocked the suspect's briefcase and found a million dollars in counterfeit money.

(警方将该嫌疑人的公文包打开, 发现了一百万美元的伪钞。)

\* counterfeit [ˈkauntəfɪt] *a.* 伪造的 & *n.* 伪造品

Don't forget to lock the door before you leave.

(别忘了关好门再离开。)

26. **endlessly** [ˈendlɪslɪ] *adv.* 无止境地

**例:** The nine planets endlessly revolve around the sun.

(九大行星不停地绕着太阳运行。)

27. **patient** [ˈpeɪənt] *a.* 耐心的

be patient with... 对……有耐心

**例:** The teacher was very patient with the children until they threw paper airplanes at her.

(那位老师对孩子们非常有耐性, 直到他们向她丢纸飞机才失去耐性。)



28. **dull** [dʌl] a. 迟钝的, 愚昧的

**例:** All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

(一味用功不玩耍, 聪明小孩变笨瓜。——谚语)

29. 本文:

Dull though I may be, I can return to him...

= Though I may be dull, I can return to him...

= Dull as I may be, I can return to him...

**注意:**

though 引导的状语从句, 有下列结构出现时, though 可用 as 取代:

a. Though + S + be + adj., S + V

= adj. + though + S + be, S + V

= adj. + as + S + be, S + V

**例:** Though he may be young, he is very clever.

= Young though he may be, he is very clever.

= Young as he may be, he is very clever.

(虽然他或许年轻, 但却非常聪明。)

b. Though + S + be + N, S + V

= N + though + S + be, S + V

= N + as + S + be, S + V

\* 若此名词为单数可数名词, 则须去掉其前的不定冠词 (a 或 an), 而复数名词则仍维持复数不变。

**例:** Though he is a good student, he is never thus arrogant.

→ A good student as he is, he is never thus arrogant. (×, 应将句首冠词 A 删除)

→ Good student as he is, he is never thus arrogant. (✓)

(虽然他是好学生, 却从不因此而傲慢。)

c. Though + S + V + adv., S + V

= adv. + though + S + V, S + V

= adv. + as + S + V, S + V

**例:** Though he ran fast, he still did not win the race.

= Fast though he ran, he still did not win the race.

= Fast as he ran, he still did not win the race.

(虽然他跑得很快, 但是仍然输了比赛。)

**注意:**

在上列结构中, 亦有不少美国人采用下列写法:

As fast as he ran, he still did not win the race.

\* 上句中, 第一个 As 视作虚词不必翻译, 第二个 as 视作连接词, 译成“虽然”。

### 30. **again and again** 一再地

**例:** The police asked him the same questions again and again.

(警方一再地问他相同的问题。)

### 31. **bored** [ bɔrd ] a. 感到厌烦的

be bored with... 对……感到厌烦

= be fed up with...

= be tired of...

= be sick of...

**例:** Marcy is bored with city life and wants to move to the countryside.

(玛西厌倦了都市生活而想搬到乡下去。)

### 32. **entertain** [ ɛntəˈten ] vt. 娱乐; 招待

entertainment [ ɛntəˈtenmənt ] n. 娱乐; 招待

entertain sb with sth 用某事娱乐/招待某人; 以某物逗某人开心

**例:** The comedian entertained the audience with his impersonations.

(那位喜剧演员以他的名人模仿秀来娱乐观众。)

\* impersonation [ ɪmˌpɜːsəˈneɪʃən ] n. 模仿 (尤指名人)

### 33. **dispirited** [ dɪˈspɪrɪtɪd ] a. 沮丧的, 气馁的 (= discouraged)

**例:** After falling off his surfboard three times, Tom became dispirited