

新概念英语（新版）拓展学习系列

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新概念英语

大耳朵工作室 编著

西方文化拾贝



中国水利水电出版社
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内 容 提 要

语言是一种民族文化的表现与承载形式,不了解一个民族的文化,也就无法真正学好该民族的语言。所以,要想学好英语,就必须要了解英美等西方国家的背景文化。

作为广大新概念英语学习者的补充阅读素材,本书从 10 个方面,精选了 100 余篇反映西方文化的小短文,包含地理、民族、政治、法律、文化名人、服饰饮食、人文典籍、网络文化等方面的知识,英汉对照、图文并茂,旨在帮助学习者加深对西方文化和风俗的了解。

来这里一起采摘英文,尽享文化拾贝的滋味吧!

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前言

语言学习的目的不仅仅是学会使用一种工具,更重要的是学习一种文化。要想真正把英语学好,不了解英美国家的历史文化背景是不行的。

长期以来,在我国的英语教学中,语言和文化的这种关系一直未得到足够的重视。大家似乎认为只要进行听、说、读、写的训练,掌握了语音、词汇和语法规则,就能理解英语并且能够用英语进行交际。而实际上,由于不了解语言的文化背景,不了解中西方文化的差异,国人在用英语进行交际中屡屡出现因为表达“义”与愿违造成理解偏差、语用失误的现象。例如:

- 用 How much money can you earn a month?来表示对外国人的关心,殊不知这句话很不礼貌,侵犯了别人的隐私,可能引起对方的反感。
- 见面打招呼,若是向一位外国朋友问: Have you eaten your lunch? (吃过午饭了吗?)他可能会觉得非常奇怪,不知如何应对,因为英美文化中没有这样的问候语。
- 中国人以谦逊为美德,如当外国人称赞中国人某一方面的特长时,中国人通常会用 You are over praising me. (过奖)来应酬,这往往会让说话者感到你在怀疑他的判断力……

这些都说明,如果语言和文化脱钩,语言就什么也不是了。

为帮助英语学习者增进对西方文化和社会风俗的了解,本书从 10 个方面,精选了 100 余篇反映西方文化社会的小短文,英汉对照,图文并茂,内容包含地理、民族、政治、法律、文化名人、服饰饮食、人文典籍、网络文化等方面的知识,英汉对照、图文并茂,旨在帮助学习者加深对西方文化和风俗的了解。

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神话伊甸园与节日揭秘

西方人文地理拾贝

美术摄影建筑天地

西方文化名人集萃

闪耀智慧的人文典籍

服饰与饮食大观

奢侈名品和企业家一瞥

电影流派与表演之花

音乐与体育的殿堂

轰轰烈烈的网络文化

本书由辽宁石油化工大学外国语学院顾玉梅主编,参与本书编写的有夏丽、高巍、侯晓莉、邵雪梅、安鑫、冯旭、冯薇、田苏、孟红、尹洪燕。

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第一章 神话伊甸园与节日揭秘

The Creation of Universe

In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and *desolate*. The raging ocean that covered everything was *engulfed* in total darkness, and the power of God was moving over the water. Then God commanded, "Let there be light"—and light appeared. God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night". Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.



Then God commanded, "Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places"—and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. He named the dome "Sky". Evening passed and morning came—that was the second day.

Then God commanded, "Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear"—and it was done. He named the land "Earth", and he named the water which had come together he named "Sea". And God was pleased with what he saw. Then he commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit"—and it was done. So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. Evening passed and morning came—that was the third day.

Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin. They will shine in the sky to give light to the earth"—and it was done. So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night. He also made the stars. He placed the lights in the sky to shine the earth, to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. Evening passed and morning

came—that was the fourth day.

Then God commanded, “Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings, and let the air be filled with birds.” So God created the great sea-monsters, all kinds of creatures that live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce, and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number. Evening passed and morning came—that was the fifth day.

Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: *domestic* and wild, large and small”—and it was done. So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

God said again, “And now we will make human beings. They will be like us and *resemble* us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small.” So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, “Have many children, so that your *descendants* will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals. I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and *leafy* plants for food”—and it was done. God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came—that was the sixth day.

So the whole universe was completed. By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working. And that is how the universe was created.

宇宙的创造

起初，当神创造天地时，大地无形荒凉。狂暴的海洋淹没万物，也被无边无际的黑暗吞噬；神的力量运行于水上。于是神命令：“要有光”——光就出现了。神为眼前的景象而喜悦。于是他把光、暗分开，称光为“昼”，称暗为“夜”。夜晚消逝，晨光来临——这是第一天。

然后，神命令：“要有一个穹隆把水分开，隔离在两处”——事情就这样成了。神造出一个穹隆，将水上下分开。他称穹隆为“天”。夜晚消逝，晨光来临——这是第二天。

然后，神命令：“天下的水要汇集一处，以便大陆显现”——事情就这样成了。他称大陆为“地”，称汇集一处的水为“海”。神为眼前的景象而喜悦。然后，神命令：

“地要生出各种植物，有结籽的，有结果的”——事情就这样成了。于是地生出了各种植物，神为眼前的景象而喜悦。夜晚消逝，晨光来临——这是第三天。

然后，神命令：“天上要有光体来区分昼夜，显示日期、年岁和祭神庆典的起始；它们将在天上发光，照亮大地”——事情就这样成了。于是神造了两个较大的光体，太阳管昼，月亮管夜；他还造了星辰。他把这些光体放在天上照耀大地，分管昼、夜，区分明、暗。神为眼前的景象而喜悦。夜晚消逝，晨光来临——这是第四天。

然后，神命令：“水里要长多种生物，空中要飞满鸟雀。”就这样，神创造了海底巨兽、各类水中生物，还有各种鸟雀。神为眼前的景象而喜悦。他赐福给它们全体，告诉水里的生物要不断繁殖，长满海洋，并告诉鸟雀要增加数量。夜晚消逝，晨光来临——这是第五天。

然后，神命令：“地要生出各类动物：家禽、野兽，无论大小”——事情就这样成了。于是神造出百兽，他为眼前的景象而喜悦。

神又说：“现在我们要造人；他们将与我们的模样一样。他们将统治鱼、鸟、百兽。”就这样，神造出人来，使他们同自己长得一样。他造出男人，造出女人，赐福给他们，并说：“多生子女，让你们的后代遍布大地，成为它的主宰。我让你们主管鱼、鸟和百兽。我提供了五谷、百果供你们享用；不过，对百兽和飞鸟，我给他们提供的食物是青草和带叶的植物”——事情就这样成了。神看着自己所创造的一切，十分满意。夜晚消逝，晨光来临——这是第六天。

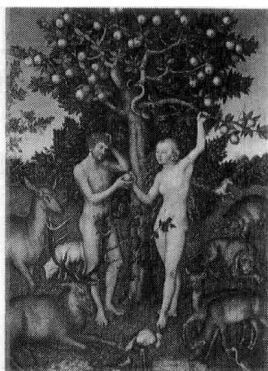
就这样，整个宇宙创造完毕。到了第七天，神完成了他所做的一切，停止劳作。他赐福给第七天，并将它定为特殊的日子，因为这一天他完成了创世，停止了劳作。就这样，宇宙便创造出来了。

Tips

- ◆ desolate adj. 荒芜的，无人居住的；孤寂的，凄凉的
- ◆ engulfed v. 使陷入，使消失
- ◆ domestic adj. 家的，家庭的；（动物）驯养的（非野生的）
- ◆ resemble v. 像的，与……相似
- ◆ descendant n. 后裔；后代；子孙
- ◆ leafy adj. 多叶的，叶茂的

The Garden of Eden

God had made a beautiful garden for the first man and woman to live in. The garden, called **Eden**, was full of many wonderful things. Flowers as beautiful to look at as they were to smell grew everywhere. Soft, green grass grew under foot. The joyful music of songbirds **drifted** cross gentle, warm **breezes**. A clear flowing stream gave cool, fresh water to drink, while hanging from the limbs of the many trees were all sorted of delicious fruits. Tasty vegetable grew free for the gathering. In the Garden of Eden were also all manner of animals, both large and small. **Adam and Eve** didn't have to be afraid of any of the beasts, for all the animals were their friends. God told the man and woman that it was their job to take care of their new home. He also told them that two special trees grew in the garden. One was the Tree of Life. The other was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.



God told them, "You may eat the fruit that grows on all the trees except for one. You mustn't touch the fruit that grows on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If you eat the fruit that grows on that tree, you will die."

伊甸园

上帝（耶和华）给他制造的第一个男人和女人建造了一个美丽的花园来居住。这个被称为伊甸园的花园里充满了许多奇妙的事物。到处都是美丽而又香气怡人的鲜花，脚下长满了柔软的青草，温暖和煦的微风中传来鸟儿悦耳的歌声，清澈的小溪送来清凉干冽的活水，果树枝头挂满了累累的鲜果，美味的蔬菜可以任意采摘。在伊甸园里有大大小小的动物。亚当和夏娃不必害怕任何野兽，因为所有的动物都是他们的朋友。上帝告诉亚当和夏娃，他们的工作就是看管好他们的新家。他还告诉他们，园子里有两种特殊的树，一种是生命之树，一种是善恶知识之树。

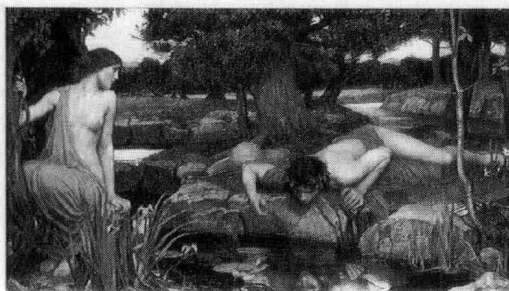
上帝吩咐他们：“园中各种树上的果实你们都可以吃，只有善恶树上的不能动。如果你们吃了这棵树上的果子你们就会死。”

Tips

- ◆ Eden n. （圣经）伊甸园，乐园
- ◆ drift v. 漂流
- ◆ breeze n. 微风
- ◆ Adam and Eve 亚当和夏娃（《圣经》中的人物，所谓的人类始祖）

Figures in Greek Mythology

Narcissus: a beautiful youth who *spurned* the love of the *nymph* Echo and in punishment was made to fall in love with his own *reflection* when he sat by a pool and *pined* away gazing at himself in a pool one day, and at his death was changed into the flower bearing his name narcissus.



Prometheus: a *Titan* (Titan in Greek Mythology) who made the first man from clay and stole fire from the gods to give to mankind. In revenge for the theft, *Zeus* chained Prometheus to a rock Caucasus Mountains, where his liver was eaten by an eagle which Zeus sent every day, only to grow again every night. Prometheus had to bear and wait someone would be willing to die for him. *Hercules* eventually rescued him. Prometheus has been seen as a hero, a symbol of freedom, *rebellion* against *tyranny*, and of creative imagination. It was said that Prometheus also taught mankind in building houses, sailing, medicine, reading and writing and so on.

希腊神话人物

纳西瑟斯: 一个漂亮的年轻人，因轻蔑地拒绝了小仙女爱蔻的爱情而遭到惩罚。有一天，坐在一个池塘边，凝视着水中自己的影子，并爱上了自己的影子。他死后变成花，后来人们用他的名字表示自恋的意思。

普罗米修斯: 一个巨人（希腊神话中的提坦神），是用泥土做成的第一个人类，他为人类盗取了天神的火。为了惩罚他的盗火行为，宙斯用铁链把普罗米修斯锁在高加索山上的岩石上，并每天派一只鹰去啄食被缚的普罗米修斯的肝脏。肝脏被恶鹰吃掉，每天晚上随即又恢复原样。他必须忍受这种痛苦的折磨，直到有一天有人自愿为他献身为止。赫拉克勒斯最终拯救了他。后来普罗米修斯被人们看做是一个英雄，一个具有创造力、敢于反抗暴行的、自由者的化身。据说普罗米修斯也教人类建造房子、航海、读书写字。

Tips

- ◆ spurn v. 轻蔑地拒绝，唾弃
- ◆ nymph n. (希腊、罗马神话中居于山林、河上的) 小仙女
- ◆ reflection n. (镜中的) 影像
- ◆ pin v. 钉住，使不能行动
- ◆ Titan n. 巨人，伟人，高人；(源自提坦诸神，在希腊神话中被宙斯打败的众神)
- ◆ Zeus n. 宙斯(是希腊神话的最高主神，主宰一切天象，尤其是雷电。他就像犹太人的耶和华或现实中的帝王一样受到崇拜)
- ◆ Hercules n. 赫拉克勒斯(希腊神话中宙斯神和阿尔克墨涅所生的儿子，据说从小就力大无比)
- ◆ rebellion n. 反叛行为
- ◆ tyranny n. 暴虐，残暴；暴行

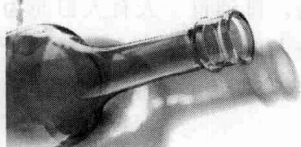


Top 6 Distinct Cultures of the World

环球六大传奇文化地标

- The United States of America—Cowboy Mentality
美国——牛仔精神
- The Republic of France—Drunk in the Brewing Culture
法国——美酒文化
- The Kingdom of Spain—Bullfight Legend
西班牙王国——斗牛传奇
- Japan—Animation Wonderland
日本——动漫世界
- Russian Federation—Elegance in Ballet
俄罗斯联邦——优雅芭蕾
- The Kingdom of the Netherlands—Fairy Tales on Windmills
荷兰王国——风车童话

摘自《边品环球文化边学英文》



The Origin of Christmas

The name Christmas is the shortened for “Christ’s Mass”. A Mass is a kind of Church service. Christmas is a **religious** festival. It is the day we celebrate as the birthday of Jesus. There are special Christmas services in Christian churches all over the world. But many of the festivities of Christmas do not have anything to do with religion. Exchanging gifts and sending Christmas cards are the modern ways of celebrating Christmas in the world.



There was a story about the birth of Jesus. God **bestowed** Virgin Mary a child on her. Joseph, her fiancé was minded to put her away secretly. While God sent Gabriel, an angel of the Lord to appear in Joseph’s dream and told Joseph to marry Mary. Mary will give a birth a Son, and he shall call him Jesus because he will save people from their sins.

Before Jesus birth, the government of Rome ordered that everyone go to Bethlehem to get registered. Joseph and Mary had to obey. When they arrived there, it was already dark. All the hotels were full of people. There was no room for them to stay in but a **stable**. Then Jesus was born. Later, people honored the birth of Jesus on December 25, namely Christmas Day.

Christmas cards appeared in 1846 and the concept of a **jolly** Santa Claus was first made popular in the nineteenth century. Many of the celebrations at Christmas are traditional customs. Some people dress up in a red suit and wear a long white beard. They pretend to be Father Christmas or Santa Claus and put presents in socks hung by the beds of children. “Santa Claus” is another name people give to Saint Nicholas, a good man who helped the poor and gave gifts to them more than 300 years ago.

To most Westerners in European and America, Christmas Day symbolizes the end of the year, although there are still a few days left. Shop windows are decorated with Christmas trees about a month before December 25th. Cotton wool is stuck on the shop windows to resemble snow, and **holly** and **mistletoes** are hung up. Everyone is wearing a smiling face and enjoying the seasonal sea of happiness.

On Christmas Eve, children are all very excited. Usually they are sent to bed early so that their parents can get the presents ready. Younger children think that Father Christmas will come down the chimney or fireplace, so they hang up a sock for him to put presents in. The greedy ones even hang up a pillowcase to try to get more presents. Later that night it is their parents that put presents in the sock or pillowcase and leave others under the Christmas tree.

圣诞节的由来

“圣诞节”这个名称是“基督弥撒”的缩写。弥撒是教会的一种礼拜仪式，圣诞节是一个宗教节日，把这一天当作耶稣的诞辰来庆祝。全世界所有的基督教堂都举行专门的礼拜仪式。但是其中很多圣诞节的欢庆活动和宗教并无关联。交换礼物和互赠圣诞卡都是现代人庆祝圣诞节的方式。

耶稣的出生是有一段故事的。耶稣是童女玛利亚因着圣灵成孕。玛利亚的未婚夫约瑟夫很介意，想暗中把玛利亚送走。神派遣天国的天使加伯列出现在约瑟夫的梦中，并告诉他与玛利亚结婚。玛利亚将会生一个儿子，他应该给那孩子起名叫“耶稣”，因为此人会把百姓从罪恶中拯救出来。

当玛利亚快要临盆的时候，罗马政府下了命令，人人都得到伯利恒申报户籍。约瑟夫和玛利亚只好遵命。他们到达伯利恒时，天色已昏，两人未能找到旅馆，只好在马棚暂住。就在这时，耶稣出生了。后人为了纪念耶稣的诞生，便定12月25日为圣诞节。

圣诞卡出现于1846年，快乐的圣诞老人也在19世纪开始流行了。圣诞节期间的许多庆祝活动已经成为传统习俗。有些人穿着一身红色套装，戴上长长的白胡须。他们装扮成圣诞老人，把礼物放进孩子们挂在床头边的袜子里，“圣诞老人”是人们称呼圣·尼古拉斯的另一个名字，300多年前，他就是个帮助穷人，并给他们礼物的好人。

对于大多数欧洲和美国的西方人来说，虽然还有几天才到新年，但他们认为圣诞节象征一年的结束。大约12月25日之前一个月，商店橱窗就已经用圣诞树装扮起来了。商店橱窗里的棉绒看起来像雪，冬青树和槲寄生都挂了起来。每个人都面带笑容，享受着幸福快乐。

圣诞节前夕，所有的孩子都非常兴奋。通常他们很早就上床睡觉，好让他们的父母准备礼物。小孩子认为圣诞老人会从烟囱或壁炉下来，所以就在他们挂一只袜子用来装圣诞礼物，贪心的孩子会挂起一个枕套，想得到更多礼物。当晚深夜，孩子们的父母把礼物放进袜子或枕套里，然后放在圣诞树下。

Tips

- ◆ religious adj. 宗教的
- ◆ bestow v. 赠予，给予
- ◆ stable n. 马厩
- ◆ jolly adj. 高兴的，愉快的
- ◆ holly n. (植物) 冬青树
- ◆ mistletoe n. (植物) 槲寄生 (用做圣诞节的装饰物)

The History of Halloween

Halloween is an autumn holiday that Americans celebrate every year. It comes every October 31. The origin of Halloween dates back 2,000 years ago to the *Celtic* celebration of the dead. A Celtic festival was held on November 1, the first day of the Celtic New Year, honoring the Shaman, the Lord of the Dead. Celtic

ritual believed that the souls of the dead returned on the evening before November. The celebration included burning *sacrifices* and costumes. These early events began as both a celebration of the harvest and an honoring of dead ancestors.

The custom of Halloween was brought to American in the 1840's by Irish immigrants fleeing their country's potato *famine*. At that time, the favorite *pranks* in New England included tipping over outhouses and unhinging fence gates.

It is said that Halloween evening used to be thought the most wonderful night of the year. It was the night when *witches* and evil spirits came back on earth. People kept up many strange old customs in an effort to keep these evil things away. Farmers used to light big fires in their fields, and the farm workers and their families would walk around the fields singing old songs. Sometimes they would stop to hear the local priest offer prayers to the good spirits, and ask them to help the evil ones away.

In more recent times, Halloween has become a time for the parties, when children dress up as witches and play all kinds of special games. After the games there is often a big supper with plenty of pumpkin pie, cakes and a lot of other delicious things to eat. Every autumn, there is the harvest season of the Vegetables. People pick large orange pumpkins. Then they cut faces in the pumpkins and put lights inside. It looks like there is a person looking out of the pumpkins! These lights are called jack-o'-lanterns, which means "Jack of the lantern". But in this modern age many of the pumpkins are being replaced with plastic electric ones that can be brought out each year.



万圣节的来历

万圣节是个秋天的节日，美国人每年都要庆祝。每年的十月三十一日是万圣节。万圣节的由来追溯到两千年前凯尔特人对死者的追念。凯尔特人的节日在十一月一日，正是凯尔特新人年的第一天，也是纪念死神萨满的日子。凯尔特人举行典礼是认为十一月前的晚上死者的灵魂会回归。庆祝包括焚烧祭品和戏装。早先的祭奠有两方面意义：庆祝丰收及祭奠死去的先辈。

万圣节的风俗是由1840年爱尔兰移民为了逃避本国的土豆大饥荒而带到美洲的。当时，在新英格兰最流行的恶作剧是捣毁房屋和砸破栅栏门。

据说在以前，万圣节前夕被视为一年中最奇妙的夜晚。就在那个夜晚，巫婆和邪恶的精灵重返人间。人们一直保留着很多古老奇特的习俗，就是为了驱赶这些邪恶的东西。农场主会在自己的田里生起大火，农场工人和家人绕着田地唱着古老的歌曲。有时候他们停住脚步和歌声，倾听当地的牧师向仁慈的精灵祈祷，祈求它们帮助驱赶邪恶的精灵。

近些年来，万圣节前夕已经成为聚会的时刻，孩子们化装成巫婆，玩各种特别的游戏。游戏结束后，往往还有丰盛的晚餐，有许多南瓜馅饼、蛋糕和其他佳肴。每年秋天是各类蔬菜大丰收的时刻，人们摘下橘色的大南瓜，在南瓜上刻上人脸，把灯放在里面。这样看起来就好像有个人从南瓜里往外看！这些灯就被称为南瓜人面灯笼。但是现在，许多用南瓜做的灯正在逐步被塑料的电南瓜灯所取代。

Tips

◆ Celtic	adj. 凯尔特人的	◆ ritual	n. 典礼
◆ sacrifice	n. 祭品	◆ famine	n. 饥荒
◆ prank	n. 恶作剧	◆ witch	n. 巫婆