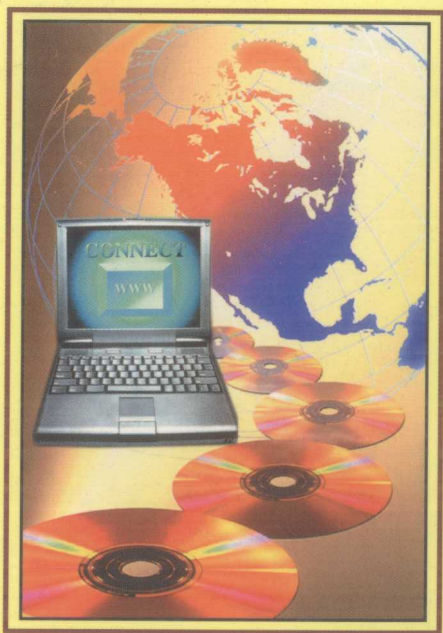


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丛书致读者

那天陪朋友逛“科技市场”，感觉到从未有过的累。

得跟您说明一下。这个科技市场是山东济南靠近山大南院的一个计算机商场。一座三层楼里面，汇集三百多家计算机商，经销整机，硬软件，耗材，配套设施，当然还有节目光盘。

说到那些节目光盘，我困惑得头大。都是些什么呀。我奶奶——愿她在地下安息——如果还活着，逢此盛世，肯定乐得再活几十年。七仙女，白娘子，老包，目连，说书的瞎子，算命的先生，都在。麻将和桥牌可能让她皱眉，三国游戏可能玩不来了；可是，金庸和琼瑶，韦小宝和小燕子，她一定喜闻乐见。

朋友曾怜悯我至今还用着十几年前的 286 和 WPS：“呵，很多享受你错过了。”But dear Grandmother，要是“享受”指的是这些，俺宁可回俺村去看俺的蚂蚁上树。

临出门，上高中的儿子对我说：“要是多媒体上能看欧几里德和牛顿讲数学，那咱就买一台。”

我问了。没那节目。有些商家连这些名字都没听

说过。“有孩子看的科技节目吗？”“有。”拿过一张盘，套封上列着“地球奥秘”，“人体奥秘”，什么什么，不用看就知道，小学三年级以下的孩子可能感兴趣。

那天是个“秋老虎”，预报说33度。可是，包围在那些媒体里面，我觉得怎么也有34度。除了一身一身的汗，没感到别的享受，也没看到什么科技。

所以，让我选择，还是看书，白纸黑字的书。最好是五块钱一本的，可看可不看的闲书（注意，这是广告）。花明柳媚时，梧桐秋雨时，长夏无聊时，没有功课也没有约会；当此时也，手执一卷，卧榻上，树荫里，安安静静，读上一叶两叶，三叶五叶，是一种心境，是一种活法儿——一种在闹市尘嚣电化声光威凌之下离我们越来越远的活法儿。

绍明

前 言

随着信息时代的来临,人们的学习方式也日益多样化。从网上学习英语就是崭新的事物之一。在很多方面,它是传统的教科书所望尘莫及的。

然而,网上英语短文涵盖的信息极为庞杂,如何攫取一般读者的注意力,是个令编者颇费心思的问题。本书所精心摘取的60篇网上英语短文,不仅语言地道,而且关于某些问题的探讨,很可能会令读者微微一震,陷入沉思。例如,“科学与宗教信仰”篇中的一组文章,是由一位优秀的美国科学家撰写的。他以丝丝入扣的论证,情真意切的语言,说服其他的科学家也成为像他一样虔诚的基督徒。其他文章独特的视角,也会让读者受益匪浅。

本书的材料,还为读者培养读、说、写、译各方面的实践能力提供了不可多得的、有价值的素材。记得我在读大学的时候,曾经和同学们进行过一次关于安乐死的英语辩论,当时这方面的资料很难找到。本书关于这一主题的一组文章,对于观点和语言的组织,都甚为有用。当然,本书所涉及的主题很多,读者可以根据自己个人的趣味和需要,适当切割,灵活运用。

本书适合具有中等及中等以上水平的英语学习者使用。对其中的语言难点,编者作了必要的注释,难免有遗漏的地方,请广大读者原谅。

编注者

2000年9月

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政坛风云

1. Contrite Clinton Claims Renewal^①

President Clinton told ministers Thursday he feels "much more at peace" than he used to thanks to pastoral counseling^②.

In starkly personal remarks^③ about his moral failings and spiritual revival^④, President Clinton today expressed anew his remorse for the sex scandal that nearly toppled his presidency^⑤ two years ago and said voters must not hold Vice President Gore responsible for sins that weren't his.

"Surely, no fair-minded person would blame [Gore] for the mistakes I've made," Clinton declared to a gathering of evangelical ministers^⑥ here, in a session beamed^⑦ by satellite to 15 cities across North America.

The remarkable event seemed to be a mix of spontaneous reflection and purposeful message-sending. Clinton spoke four days before he is to give a valedictory address^⑧ celebrating his record at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, and he seemed

① Contrite Clinton Claims Renewal: 悔悟的克林顿声称获得了新生

② thanks to pastoral counseling: 多亏牧师的劝告

③ starkly personal remarks: 完全个人性的评论

④ moral failings and spiritual revival: 道德上的弱点和精神上的新生

⑤ toppled his presidency: 使他的总统职位不保; 使他丢掉总统职位

⑥ evangelist ministers: 福音传教士

⑦ beamed: 播送

⑧ valedictory address: 告别辞

eager to directly address the most prominent^① blot on that legacy.

Some Gore loyalists, long fearful that the vice president will be hurt by public perceptions of a low moral tone in this White House, had hoped that Clinton would use that occasion to send a message of contrition similar to what he delivered today. Clinton, aides said, has no intention of doing that at Los Angeles.

In suburban Chicago this afternoon, however, the president guided his audience through the most discursive public tour of his inner life that any president has ever given. In confessional tones, he talked about the pastoral counseling sessions he began two years ago after admitting his affair with former intern Monica S. Lewinsky and professed^② to “feel much more at peace than I used to.”

Apparently referring to a pattern of adulterous behavior, Clinton said that public exposure was liberating. “I think that as awful as what I went through, humiliating as it was—more to others than to me, even—sometimes when you think you’ve got something behind you and then it’s not behind you, this sort of purging^③ process, if it doesn’t destroy you, can bring you to a different place,” he said.

“I’m in the second year of a process of trying to totally rebuild my life from a terrible mistake I made,” the president continued. “I don’t think anybody can say, ‘Hey, the state of my spiritual life is great, it’s constant and it’s never going to change. ‘I think I’ve learned enough now to know that’s not true; that it’s always a work in progress and you just have to hope you’re getting better every day. ”

① prominent:最突出的

② professed:声称;承认

③ purging:使净化

Clinton was speaking at the Willow Creek Community Church, whose pastor, Bill Hybels, is one of the clerics that Clinton meets with at regular White House sessions. Clinton's remarks came in answer to questions from Hybels during a 75-minute session.

White House aides said Clinton agreed to Hybels's request for an appearance months ago, but many of them were decidedly unenthusiastic when they realized earlier this week how public the event would be. They acknowledged, however, that Clinton may have been eager for an opportunity to address concerns that his behavior is a liability^① for Democrats.

Hybels, a showman pastor who leads a church of 17,000 members, told Clinton that some still think he never really came clean about his mistakes. Clinton asserted in response: "I think I gave a clear, unambiguous, brutally frank and frankly personally painful statement to me because I had to do it. I finally realized . . . it would never be all right unless I stood up there and said what I did and said it was wrong and apologized for it."

Clinton, in fact, has apologized frequently for his affair. But he has never acknowledged what many critics consider the most deplorable^② consequences of that affair: the misleading statements he made under oath in the Paula Jones lawsuit.

Clinton has paid a \$90,000 fine as punishment for that testimony. Even so, in an NBC News interview three months ago he said "I strongly disagree with" federal Judge Susan Webber Wright's ruling that he lied when he testified that he never had sexual relations with Lewinsky, despite his subsequent admissions that she performed oral sex on him.

① liability: 不利条件; 劣势

② deplorable: 相当糟糕的