

双语悦读进阶

*English Essence for Memorizing Words*

# 读美文 记单词

4500词 (上)



考天下学习网 编

格林 主编

中国石化出版社

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# 前言



词汇,历来是各类考试的基础,词汇记忆,历来是英语学习中  
学生最头痛的环节。如何轻松、有效地记忆词汇、掌握词汇,平时  
复习不再枯燥、考场之上应用自如,几乎成为每个考生考虑的问  
题。你为什么记不住英语单词?在中国,英语单词的记忆之苦,  
困扰了整整几代人。多少人,在不断地背了忘、忘了背的无奈重  
复中耗费了青春,模糊了志向。

也有些人,以千辛万苦、历尽磨难,甚至是伤害大脑硬盘的代  
价最终死记硬背下来了洋洋洒洒的几千单词,然而,死记硬背下  
来的单词,只是在他们的大脑中演变成了一个与中文释义生硬  
相对的字母符号,最终没有取得阅读理解、听力理解的理想得分,  
多次败北之后痛苦得找不到北。当然,他们也必然不能在现实生  
活中用他们死背下来的单词活跃地表情达意,以至于想表达“重  
要”的时候,就永远只能想起来一个“important”,而那些其实背过  
上百遍的重要的“重要”单词(main—绝大多数的、necessary—必  
须的、vital—生死攸关的)此刻却想不起来,说不上口,词不达意,  
痛不欲生。英语词汇的记忆可以说是整个英语学习的基础,没有  
较大的词汇量就不可能有高水平的外语能力,这也是广大考生在  
考试中取得高分的关键。因此,在学习英语的过程中,识记生词,  
语境最重要!

结合语境记单词,这正是本书的立意所在!这样可以克服缺乏语境记忆、死记硬背的弊病。但是,如果进行泛泛的阅读练习,需要长时间的坚持与积累,似乎又不能满足大部分学习者追求快速学好语言、通过考试的愿望,让人觉得远水解不了近渴。《读美文 记单词》便是让你结合优美、睿智的语境识记单词的一本好书!在你朗读完本书的数篇精美文章之后,你会惊讶地发现,你有一种想把英语脱口而出的冲动。它是提高你学习英语的兴趣与热情,激发你冲出逆境、战胜自我的最佳精神读本。这无以伦比的阅读精品将给你或许是沉闷的生活带来清新的空气、和煦的阳光和新的希望,甚至会从此改变你的人生。本书精选的英文励志美文,短小精悍、滴水藏海,将许多人生哲理以最简单、最质朴的方式呈现给读者,寓情于理、催人上进,给人以美的享受。全书内容积极向上、难度适中、轻松愉悦,诵读性极强;此外,本书英汉对照,以助你加深对英语原文的进一步理解。短小精美的英文短篇配上精准传神的译文,便于你在阅读诵记的同时,感悟人生、陶冶情操、提升品位,增强英语语感,提高欣赏水平和英语写作能力。

《读美文 记单词》根据学生各阶段英语学习水平的不同,按照词汇量进行划分,书中收录了英语学习中所要求的 4500 个词汇,切实做到全面到位,不留死角。本书每个词条的讲解都短小精悍、准确易懂。本书适合在校学生,尤其是备考高考的学生阅读,也适合中级英语的人员应试背诵单词等。

翻开这本书,就如同交上一位良师益友。它可以改变你人生的坐标,奏响生命的乐章;它能让你变得睿智、豁达、优雅、美丽;它虽不能改变你人生的起点,但可以改变你人生的终点。书中涵盖了我们的生活最基本的英语单词,寓词汇记忆于美文阅读,为您打开词汇记忆与美文理解珠联璧合的神奇之门。相信通过本书的学习,你的英语水平会有质的飞跃,相信英语词汇不再成为阻碍你进步的绊脚石!

编 者

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第一部分

智慧人生



# 1. How I Made My Dreams Come True

## 扬起梦想的风帆

### 文章导读

连绵的青山，似露似隐，望不见尽头；眼前的天幕，如火如荼，看不尽的风景。看啊，那成片成片的金黄是水稻们的梦想，那鲜艳娇嫩是花儿们的梦想，那青翠茁壮是苗儿们的梦想，还有那雪花飘飘是冬的梦想，那甜蜜如糖的生活是蜂儿们的梦想……那么，你的梦想是什么呢？你将如何描绘你绚丽多姿的梦想呢？



Public schools are supposed to remove barriers so people can succeed. For some, the system does remove barriers and provide a solid base for achievement. For others, the system replaces one set of barriers with another. For example, creativity is killed by pressuring students to accept the status quo, by establishing a fear to be different and a fear of failure. Independent thinking is replaced by dependency. In some cases, pressure to excel in academics kills ethics, loyalty and motivation, skills needed for success in the real world. People who have a vision, that motivates them, can overcome all barriers with integrity intact.

My story begins in Summit, NJ, at the age of sixteen,



where I am sitting in a classroom staring out the window. Out of the first window I could see myself exploring the jungles of South America searching for gold, I could see myself drifting down the Amazon River on a raft, I could see monkeys swinging through the trees, I could see myself as Tarzan swinging on a vine. Through the next window, I could see the bow of my sailboat plowing through the towering waves, heading toward the South Pacific. I could see myself on a white sand beach chasing girls.

Then BANG! The teacher's yardstick hitting my desk brought me back to the real world where subjects did not relate to my interest and dreamers are related to dummies. In a loud voice the teacher said, "You are a failure! If you don't pay attention you will continue to be a failure!"

When the bell rang, instead of going to the next class I walked out of school never to return. I was tired of being called a failure. Right or wrong, I took charge of my future. When I left school, I carried the single most important element for success... A dream. During the next twenty years, every one of my teenage dreams came true.

You may be asking, "How does one make their dreams come true?" There are three elements:

First—We must have a dream that motivates us. No one has ever achieved anything without a dream attached to a burning desire.

Second—We must learn how-to-learn. In school, we learn



how to memorize or be taught. Learning how to learn frees our dependency on others for knowledge.

Third—We must learn from failure and learn how to bounce back from failure. No one ever succeed without failure. In the classroom, failure is a no-no.

In my early teens, I read the book *Kon-Tiki*. This is a story about six Norwegians sailing a raft across the Pacific Ocean. Their adventure inspired my dream of duplicating their raft voyage. As a teenager, with normal parents, a dream like this was considered ridicules. Not only did friends and family not support my dream, they told me to get serious. But the Kon-Tiki dream turned me on. I wanted to know more about the ocean world and how it could be challenged. I went to the public library looking for more books and found plenty.

During the next few years, I joined the seas scouts, read boating magazines and nautical books, and went to boat shows. To help understand seamanship techniques, I made model charts, buoys, and boats. With models, comprehension was easy. Unknowingly, I was learning the art of learning how-to-learn... Self-education... A technique that would follow me the rest of my life, a technique that would bring me success and make my wildest dreams come true.

At the age of nineteen, during the Korean War, I was in the Marine Corps and in Japan. On my first day of duty an officer told me, "You are a machinist and will be in charge of the machine shop." As he gave me the shop keys, he pointed to a trailer. In the Marine Corps,



everything is on wheels. When I opened the doors, I had my first look ever at a machine shop. In the shop was one short instruction manual titled "How to Run a Lathe." When a job came in, I followed the manual's instructions. I was surprised at my ability to complete assigned tasks. The Marine Corps experience launched my machinist career. It also made me realize that learning how-to-learn is a powerful tool. For example, every manmade object around us is the result of someone's dream and failures. Consider the light bulb. Thomas Edison believed something could burn white-hot and not burn up. A wild unrealistic dream? Everyone knows everything burns up in a short time. A thousand failures later, Thomas Edison burned a steel wire white hot that never burned up. Continuous white heat creates light.

Opportunity is attracted to people with a dream. They are the first to be hired, first to be offered opportunity, and first to be promoted. Bigger the dream, the faster doors open. People without a dream are last to be hired, last to be promoted, and first to be laid-off in a force reduction. For non-dreamers, doors remain closed. "WHY?" People with a dream act differently than non-dreamers. Dreamers develop an attitude that radiates energy; they have a sense of purpose and meaning to their lives. Radiant energy is an attitude that bosses like and to which they offer opportunity. This is how the impossible becomes possible.

When I was discharged from the Marine Corps, I decided people were right, my wild teenage dream was ridiculous. Real people do not drift across oceans on rafts. I am now an adult, I should think and act





like one. The raft dream was dead. For the next five years my life went nowhere, my ambition, hope, dreams were gone. Something else was also gone... Opportunity that came fast during my earlier years also dried up.

One day I dusted off the *Kon-Tiki* book. My dream jumped off the pages and came to life. I said to myself, "I must find a way!" Two years later, I was in Hawaii and learned how the Polynesian people populated the Pacific Islands in dugout canoes 2,000 years ago. My dream was changed from a raft to a dugout canoe. At this time, opportunity came back and fast.

I helped crew a 36 foot sailboat from Hawaii to California. This provided my ocean sailing experience. Next, I was hired by the Panama Canal Company, Panama. Soon, my supervisor asked me to attend hard hat diver school at company expense. With this skill, money was no longer a problem.

A short time later, I was living on a beach in Tahiti building a 40 foot Polynesian double-hull boat named Liki Tiki. The hulls were built by Choco Indians in the Darien Province of Panama and shipped to Tahiti. I built the boat according to popular theory and information supplied by the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. Three days at sea convinced me the double-hull theory was wrong. The two hulls worked against each other and would soon breakup.

Back in Panama, I took the problem to the Indians in the Darien Jungle. They said, "Outriggers is what works." I then succeed in