

# STAR好学英语拓展课程系列

丛书主编 应建芬 唐艳芳

## 名校 毕业典礼演讲 经典品读

Commencement  
Speeches for Reading  
and Recitation

主编◎赖丽华 应建芬



ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY PRESS

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赖丽华 应建芬 主编

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## 前 言

“STAR 好学英语拓展课程”系列依托浙江师范大学 2014 年度校级重点教材建设项目“STAR 特色大学英语拓展课程”系列教材,应用 2010 年度浙江省新世纪教改项目“‘FRIENDS’教育理念下‘大学英语听说、综合课程 2+3 教学模式’的改革与实践”与 2013 年度浙江省课堂教学改革项目“‘SPORTS’理念下基于校园网的大学英语听说课程教学模式改革”这两个省级教改项目的结题成果,旨在紧密结合教育国际化与数字化时代发展的特征,大力满足学生个性化与专业化的发展需求,全面构建富含 STAR 特色的拓展类课程教学资源。

“STAR 好学英语拓展课程”系列阐释 STAR 内涵,遵循多元性、动态性和广博性的编写理念,具有以下几方面特性。

### 1. 能力多元性

S 代表技能和策略 (Skills and strategies), T 代表思考 (Thinking), A 代表实际应用 (Application), R 代表知识重构再生 (Reproduction)。STAR 教材的文本和文本解构的教学活动旨在把师生从应试型主导思想中解放出来,为学生由浅入深地提升能力、发展多元智力服务。

### 2. 生成动态性

S 代表以学生为主体 (Student-centered), 从学生的个性化需求出发,从学生的专业化发展出发,从学生成长为具有国际视野的中国公

民的育人目标出发。学生在教材使用中发挥主体作用,赋予教材个性化的解读。

T代表教师作为教材建构者(Teacher as a curriculum constructor)。教师从传统的教材输送者和教材中介的角色转换为教材的构建者,将教师的教学活动与教材有机融合,实现“教师即课程”的理念。

AR代表教学行动研究(Action research)。采用探究式和研究型的学习方式可以使教学活动从简单的教与学发展到对相关话题的深入探讨和研究。STAR教材的使用过程致力于让教师与学生共同开展与教材的对话,使原本文本化的静态的教材,通过教师和学生教与学的活动,成为一个动态的生成的过程,增强交际互动性,使得教材成为师生理解世界、对话世界的媒介,提高师生的专业素养,促使师生进行教研活动。

### 3. 资源广博性

S代表科学(Science),T代表技术(Technology),A代表艺术(Art),R代表各类资源(Resources)。教材的选材注重人文素养与科学素养并举、数字资源与科学技术结合、篇章类型多样、语言情境丰富,实现立体化和数字化的建构。

## 编者的话

语言是有声的,所以语言的积累是听和说的积累;  
语言是有形的,所以语言的积累是读和写的积累;  
语言是有情的,所以语言是唤醒真情、提升心智的媒介。  
通过讲演聆听,让我们的语言更地道;  
通过讲演品读,让我们的认知更丰富;  
通过感悟分享,让我们的视野更广阔。

《名校毕业典礼演讲经典品读》一书精心挑选与编辑 24 篇寓意深刻的文章,涵盖人生目的与意义、如何实现人生价值等主题。学生跟着 25 位卓越人士在演讲的海洋中遨游,感悟自尊自爱、勤奋执着、善良友爱、坚强勇敢和积极进取的真谛,体验大学毕业之际如何开启一段认识自我、发现自我、改变自我和实现自我的新的精彩生命旅程,真正实现把英语作为感知世界、对话世界的工具。同时,品读经典演讲也有助于学生拓宽和训练批判性思辨能力。

该书既可作为大学英语拓展课程演讲类课程教材,也可供高水平高中生、大学生、研究生,以及其他英语学习爱好者自主学习使用。希冀通过对激情演讲的聆听与品读,学习者能获得理性的知识,提高感性的认知能力,从而达到智商与情商的协调发展。

该书编写过程中承蒙浙江师范大学外国语学院英本 155 班 25

位同学的大力支持与帮助,在此特别致谢。谨向 25 位毕业典礼演讲者致以最崇高的敬意,并向各位视频分享者真诚致谢。本书必有疏漏与不妥之处,敬请专家、同行和教材使用者批评指正,使其日臻完善。

应建芬

2016 年 1 月 28 日

于芙蓉峰下

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## Speech 1

# Larry Page: Commencement Speech at University of Michigan

(2009)

Class of 2009, I don't think I heard you. Class of 2009, first I want you to stand up, wave and cheer your supportive family and friends. I am sure you can find them out there. Show your love.

It is a great honor for me to be here today. Now, wait a second. I know that is such a **cliché**. You are thinking that every graduation speaker says that, "It's a great honor." But in my case, it really is so deeply true. Being here is more special and more personal for me than most of you know. I'd like to tell you why.

A long time ago, in this cold September of 1962, there was a Steven's **co-op** in this very university. That co-op had a kitchen with a ceiling that had been cleaned up by student volunteers, probably every decade or so. Picture a college girl named Gloria climbing high on a ladder, struggling to clean that filthy ceiling. Standing on the floor, a young boarder named Carl was admiring the view. And that's how they met. They were my parents. So I suppose you could say, I am a direct result of that kitchen chemistry experiment, right here at Michigan.

My mom is here with us today, and we should probably go find the spot and put a **plaque** up on the ceiling that says "Thanks mom and dad." Everyone in my family went here to Michigan, my brother, my

mom, my dad, all of us. My dad actually got the quantity discount. He got all three and a half of his degrees here, his PhD was in communication science, because they think computers were just a passing **fad** when he earned it 44 years ago. He and mom made a big sacrifice for that degree. They argued at times over pennies while raising my newborn brother. Mom typed my dad's **dissertation** by hand. Kind of ironic of those of the computer science dissertations. This velvet hood I'm wearing, that was my dad's. And this diploma. This diploma I have here that just like the one you're about to get. This my dad's. And my underwear, never mind, sorry.

My father's father worked in the Chevy plant in Flint, Michigan. He was an assembly line worker. He drove his two children here in Ann Arbor and told them, "This is where you are going to go to college." I know it sounds funny now. Both of his kids actually did graduate from Michigan. That was the American dream. His daughter Beverly is also with us today. My grandpa used to carry an "alley oop" hammer, a heavy iron pipe with a big **hunk** of lead melted on the end. The workers made them during the sit-down strikes to protect themselves.

When I was growing up, we used that hammer whenever we needed to pound a stake or something into the yard. It's wonderful that most people don't need to carry a heavy blunt object for protection anymore. But just in case I brought it with me. My dad became a professor at Michigan State. And I was an incredibly lucky boy: A professor's life is pretty flexible and he was able to spend **oodles** of time raising me. Could there be a better upbringing than university **brat**. What I'm trying to tell you is that this is way more than just a homecoming for me. It's not easy for me to express how proud I'm to be here, with my mom, my brother and my wife Lucy, and with all of you at this amazing institution that is responsible for my very



existence. I am thrilled for all of you. I am thrilled for your families and friends. As all of us join the great, big Michigan family I feel I've been a part of all my life.

What I am also trying to tell you is that I know exactly what it feels like to be sitting in your seats, listening to some old gasbag give a **long-winded** commencement speech. Don't worry, I will be brief. I have a story about following dreams. Or maybe more accurately, it's a story about finding a path to make those dreams real.

You know what it is like to wake up in the middle of the night with a vivid dream? And you know how, if you don't have a pencil and pad by the bed to write it down, it will be completely gone by the next morning.

I had one of those dreams when I was 23. When I suddenly woke up, I was thinking, what if we could download the whole web, and just keep the links and I grabbed a pen and started writing. Sometimes it's important to wake up and stop dreaming. I spent the middle of that night scribbling out the details and convincing myself it would work. Soon after I told my advisor, Terry Winograd, it will take couple of weeks to download the web, he nodded knowingly, fully aware it would take much longer, but wise enough not to tell me. The optimism of youth is often underrated.

Amazingly, at that time, I had no thought of building a search engine. The idea wasn't even on the **radar**. But much later, we happened upon a better way of ranking, and we made a really great search engine. And Google was born.

When a really great dream shows up, grab it. When I was here at Michigan, I had actually been taught how to make dreams real. I know it sounds funny, but that is what I learned in a summer camp **converted** into a training program called Leadershape. Yes, we've got a few out

there. Their slogan is to have a “healthy disregard for the impossible”.

That program encouraged me to pursue a crazy idea at the time. I wanted to build a personal rapid transit system on campus to replace the buses. Yeah, you are still working on that, I hear. It was a futuristic way of solving our transportation problem. I still think a lot about transportation, you never lose a dream, and it just **incubates** as a hobby. Many things that people labor hard to do now, like cooking, cleaning and driving will require much less human time in the future. That is, if we have a “healthy disregard for the impossible” and actually build new solutions. I think it’s often easier to make progress on **mega-ambitious** dreams.

I know that sounds completely nuts. But since no one else is crazy enough to do it, you have little competition. In fact there are few people this crazy, that I feel like I know them all by first name. They all travel as if they are pack dogs and stick to each other like glue. The best people want to work on the big challenges.

That is what happened with Google. Our mission is to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful. How can that not get you excited? But we almost didn’t start Google actually. Because my co-founder Sergey and I were too worried about dropping out of our PhD program. None of you have that issue it seems. You are probably on the right track if you feel like a sidewalk worm during a rainstorm. This is about how we felt after we maxed out three credit cards buying hard disks off the back of a truck. That was actually the first hardware for Google. Parents and friends, more credit cards always help.

What is the one sentence summary of how you change the world? Always work hard on something uncomfortably exciting. As a PhD student, I actually had three projects I wanted to work on. Thank



goodness my advisor said, “Why don’t you work on the web for a while?” He gave me some seriously good advice, because the web was really growing with people and activity, even in 1995. Technology and especially the internet can really help you be lazy. Lazy? What I mean is, a group of three people can write software and millions can use and enjoy. Can three people answer the phone a million times? Find the **leverage** in the world, so you can be truly lazy.

Overall, I know it seems like the world is crumbling out there, but actually it’s a great time in your life, to get a little crazy, follow your curiosity, and be ambitious about it. Don’t give up on your dreams. The world needs you all.

So here’s my final story: On a day like today, you might feel **exhilarated**, like you’ve just been shot out of a cannon at the circus and even invincible. Don’t ever forget that incredible feeling. But also always remember that moments we have with friends and family, the chances we have to do things, might make a big difference in the world, or even to make a small difference to the ones we love. All those wonderful chances that life gives us, life also takes away. It can happen fast, and a whole lot sooner than you think.

In late March 1996, soon after I had moved to Stanford for grad school. My dad had difficulty breathing and drove to the hospital. Two months later, he died. I was completely **devastated**. Many years later, after a **startup**, after falling in love, and after so many of life’s adventures, I found myself thinking about my dad.

Lucy and I were far away in a steaming hot village, walking through narrow streets. There were wonderful friendly people everywhere, but it was a desperately poor place. People used the bathroom inside and it flowed out into the open gutter and straight into the river. We touched a boy with a limp leg, the result of paralysis from polio. Lucy and I

were in rural India, one of the few places where polio still exists. Polio is transmitted **fecal** to oral, usually through filthy water. Well, my dad had polio, and he went on a trip to Tennessee in the first grade and caught it. He was hospitalized for two months and had to be transported by military DC-3 back home, his first flight. My dad wrote, "Then I had to stay in bed for over a year before I started back to school". That is actually a quote from his fifth grade autobiography. My dad had difficulty breathing his whole life. And the complications of polio are what took him from us too soon. He would have been very upset that polio still persists even though we have a vaccine. He would have been equally upset that back in India we had polio virus on our shoes from walking through the contaminated gutters that spread the disease. We were spreading the virus with every footstep, right under beautiful kids playing everywhere. The world is on the **verge** of eliminating polio, with 328 people infected so far. Let's get it **eradicated** soon. Perhaps one of you will do that. My dad was **valedictorian** of Flint Mandeville High School Class of 1956 of about 90 kids.

I happened across his graduating speech recently, and it blew me away. 53 years ago my dad said, "We are entering a changing world, one of automation and employment change, where education is economic necessity. We will have increased periods of time to do as we wish, as our work week and retirement age are continue to decline. We wish that were true. We shall take part in, or witness, developments in science, medicine, and industry that we can only dream of today. It is said that the future of any nation can be determined by care and preparation given to its youth. If all the youths of America were as fortunate in securing an education as we have been, then the future of the United States would be even more bright than it is today." If my dad was alive today, the thing I think he would be most happy about is





that Lucy and I have a baby in the hopper. I think he would have been annoyed that I hadn't gotten my PhD degree yet.

Thanks Michigan! Dad was so full of insights of excitement about new things that to this day, I often wonder what he would think about some new development. If he were here today, well, it would be one of the best days of his life. He'd be like a kid in a candy store. For a day, he'd be young again. Many of us are fortunate enough to be here with family. Some of us have dear friends and family to go home to. And who knows, perhaps some of you like Lucy and I are dreaming about future families of your own. Just like me, your families brought you here, and you brought them here. Please keep them close and remember, they are what really matters in life.

Thanks mom, thanks Lucy. And thank you all very much.

## **I . Brief Introduction to the Commencement Speaker**

**Larry Page** (born March 26, 1973) is an American computer scientist and internet entrepreneur who co-founded Google Inc. with Sergey Brin, and is the CEO of Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc. After stepping aside as CEO in August 2001 in favor of Eric Schmidt, Page re-assumed the role in April 2011. He announced his intention to step aside a second time in July 2015 to become CEO of Alphabet, under which Google's assets would be reorganized. Under Page, Alphabet is seeking to deliver major advancements in a variety of industries. Page is the inventor of PageRank, Google's best-known search ranking algorithm.

Page was born in East Lansing, Michigan, United States (U S). His father, Carl Vincent Page Sr., earned a PhD in computer from the University of Michigan in 1965, when the field was being established, and has been described by BBC reporter Will Smale as "a pioneer in