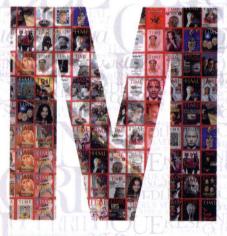


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精选片段选读

王欣◎丛书主编 王玮◎本册主编 张丽敏 高巍◎副主编







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## 日子 精选片段选读

王欣◎丛书主编 王玮◎本册主编 张丽敏 高巍◎副主编 王冠辉 彭娟◎参编



### 内容提要

本书精选美国《时代》周刊中的优秀文章,供广大英语专业人士和各类英语学习者阅读欣赏。各篇文章均包括"中文简介"、"英语原文"、"单词和短语注解"和"难句翻译"四部分,语言地道,内容有趣,深入浅出,引人入胜。本书英语书面用语和口语兼备,网罗国计民生的方方面面,适合读者各取所需,在享受阅读快乐的同时,更能体会富有现代气息的人生百态。

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### 写在前面的话

### 书中的人生百态

人人心中都有一个理想国,时态上属于将来,技术上偏向于魔幻,情感上却更倾向于对原始社会的回忆。英语有一个短语"the old good days"(过去的好时光),似乎无论现时如何,关于过去的一切都笼罩着一层绚烂的金色,闪烁着氤氲的幸福感和神秘的盖亚智慧。面对未知的前路,过去辐射来的股股暖意总会在我们的心中激荡起勇气。生存的本能就是世代传继,生生不息。

我们像海边拾贝的孩子,在无尽的知识潮汐间大胆地探索着,在广阔的信息大洋的岸边欣喜地寻觅着——伟大的时刻总会成为镌刻在脑海中的层叠的涟漪,抑或弥散的水汽,不久便成为风中的传说,不留一丝痕迹。间或有一些记忆成为深藏在博物馆里的标本,偏安一隅,却难为大众赏玩。正如资料一旦成为故纸堆,便失去了留存的价值。如何赋予旧信息新活力,是一个由来已久的难题。

### 如何使用本书

通过阅读原汁原味的文章来学习地道英语,一直以来是英语学习最行之有效的方法之一。作为以英语为外语的读者,我们关注的重点往往是语言本身,对其叙述的事件倒不似源语读者那般执著于事实。因而,经由本书编译者介绍给广大读者的林林总总,是基于学习语言的目的,对其背后折射的宣传喉舌的作用并不加涉及。

本套书共四册,分别定位于"科技·教育"、"体育·健康"、"商业·管理"、 "艺术·时尚",读者可以各取所需,或者一并纳之。每篇文章有共同的体例:

"中文简介"——力求言简意赅,引人入胜;

"英语原文"——精选的各类文章原文;



"单词和短语注解"——以专业词汇、新词难字为主,释义贴近原文;

"难句翻译"——以达到"最大等效"为目的,将文中牵绊读者的难句转化为优美中文,帮助读者理解。

本套书可供英语专业人士、英语学习者、各界精英等阅读消遣和回味赏玩,随时随地,朗朗上口,对学习地道美式英语大有裨益。本套书编译者(排名以姓氏笔画为序)来自天津外国语大学、天津工业大学、天津商业大学、天津职业大学等高等院校,希望以专业水准的视角,带给读者极品的阅读享受。此间虽竭力追求完美,却难免有不当之处,望读者诸君不吝赐教。

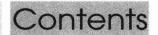
丛书主编 王欣

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### Three Ways to Tell When a Real Recovery Has Begun 经济复苏的三种表现形式

本文主要讲述了经济复苏的三种表现形式,包括失业 率降低,房价稳定和居民财富增长。

ou could conclude just about anything from the daily **cavalcade** of economic statistics. Some suggest an **imminent** recovery. Others seem to foretell years of gloom. The bent of the expert interpreting the latest news — bull, bear, Obama-basher, Wall Street-hater — has as much to do with the outlook as the numbers themselves.

For the foreseeable future, there will be an aggressive hunt for two economic recoveries. One is the technical improvement in economic indicators that signals the economy is growing again. That's the one economists care about, which is why they scour the numbers on retail sales, business inventories, purchasing manager sentiment, subatomic inflation, the mood in Shanghai, and anything else that could help pinpoint the exact inflection point for a **turnaround**<sup>®</sup>.

The other recovery, the one that most consumers are waiting for, is the one in which companies stop firing and start hiring, banks return to normal lending, and families stop worrying about jobs and income. And that turnaround — the consumer recovery — is likely to take much longer to  $materialize^{\oplus}$  than the technical recovery.

The danger of hyping a technical recovery is that it will arrive, with much fanfare — but fail to make ordinary consumers feel better off. Many economists, for example, are predicting that the recession will officially end by this summer or



fall. The only problem is that when a technical recovery begins, a lot of companies fail to get the memo. They don't play along; they keep payrolls lean and maybe even continuing to lay off workers. So to guard against false optimism, here's how to tell when a real recovery is finally kicking into gear.

### **Unemployment Improves**

The single best indicator of the health of the economy is the job market. People who have lost their job, or worry that they might, obviously hoard their money and don't spend. That spells doom for an economy driven by consumer spending, as ours is. But once it's clear that jobs are coming back, consumers are more likely to relax and open their wallets.

Projections about unemployment should make anybody **queasy** about the prospects for a recovery this year. The unemployment rate is currently 9.4 percent, a steep rise from one year ago, when it was an unremarkable 5.5 percent. And by most accounts, it's going to get worse. The International Monetary Fund expects the U. S. unemployment rate to be 10.1 percent in 2010. Economist Gary Shilling thinks unemployment will hit 11.4 percent and not **peak** until late next year.

It's hard to imagine a "recovery" in which jobs are even more scarce than they are now. When the unemployment rate finally starts to go in the other direction, we can start to think about putting the umbrellas away. Until then, no number of upticks or volume of optimistic talk will persuade Americans worried about their jobs that they should part with precious cash.

### **Housing Prices Stabilize**

This has become a mantra by now: For the economy to get healthy, housing prices must stop falling. Problem is, the houses haven't been listening.

Housing matters for two reasons: It represents a big  $\mathbf{chunk}^{\mathbb{T}}$  of the economy, and it's the largest single  $\mathbf{repository}^{\mathbb{B}}$  of Americans' household wealth. With prices falling, buyers are scarce, since nobody wants to buy an expensive good today if



it's going to be worth less tomorrow. With few buyers, all the other economic activity that swirls<sup>®</sup> around real estate — remodeling, appliance and furniture sales, relocation services — is depressed. Homeowners are worse off, too, because the value of one of their vital assets is eroding.

House prices have already fallen by 32 percent nationwide from the 2006 peak. And they have further to go. The latest readings on the S&P/Case-Schiller home price index, one prominent measure, showed another record decline in May. At some point, the declines will moderate and stop being records. But prices need to stop falling altogether, and probably rise, for a real recovery to happen.



The Federal Reserve thinks home prices could stop falling in 2010, after a total decline of 41 to 48 percent. Other metrics, like housing starts and new-home sales, might point upward before then. Those will be signs of a turnaround, not the real thing.

### **Household Wealth Increases**

The housing bust and the **volatile**<sup>®</sup> stock market have hammered the traditional investment tools that most Americans use, causing **epic**<sup>®</sup> declines in the wealth of Americans. Since 2006, household net worth has declined by about \$12 trillion, which equates to about \$107,000 of lost wealth for each of America's 112 million households. That's partly because of the 40 percent plunge in the stock market since October 2007 and partly because of the steep declines in real estate values.

Americans simply own less, too. Home equity for the typical homeowner is just 41. 1 percent, a record low. In 2002, it was 58. 4 percent.

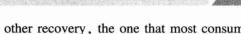


Owning less means we owe more and will have to rebuild savings before we can spend like we used to. "This will be a drag on all **discretionary** purchases," says Dirk van Dijk, an analyst at Zacks Investment Research who thinks the **tight-fistedness** will cut into the earnings of firms ranging from hotel chains to furniture makers to motorcycle manufacturers. Those are the same kinds of companies that need to start hiring again for a real recovery to develop. But they won't if sales stay sluggish. A turnaround will require sustained stock market gains and an end to the housing bust.

- ① cavalcade n. 系列,序列 ② imminent adj. 即将来临的
- ③ turnaround *n.* (经济等的) 突然好转
- ④ materialize vi. 实现,使具体化
- ⑤ queasy adj. 不安的, 忧虑的
- ⑥ peak vi. 到达最高点
- ⑦ chunk n. 大块
- ⑧ repository n. 贮藏室
- 9 swirl vi. 盘旋, 围绕
- no volatile adj. 不稳定的
- ① epic adj. 大规模的
- ⑫ discretionary *adj.* 任意的,自由决定的
- 13 tight-fistedness n. 吝啬



### Sentences Translation



The other recovery, the one that most consumers are waiting for, is the one in which companies stop firing and start hiring, banks return to normal lending, and families stop worrying about jobs and income.

另外一种恢复,也是很多消费者所一直期盼的就是:公司 能够不再解雇职员,而是开始雇佣员工;银行可以恢复正常的 信贷;家庭可以不用再担心其工作和收入。

The single best indicator of the health of the economy is the job market. People who have lost their job, or worry that they might, obviously hoard their money and don't spend.

一个国家的经济是否健康,其最好的参照指数便是就业市场。那些已经失业的人们或者担心可能会失业的人们势必会开始存储金钱,不再消费。

With prices falling, buyers are scarce, since nobody wants to buy an expensive good today if it's going to be worth less tomorrow.

随着价格的不断下跌,购买者越来越少,因为没有人会愿意在今天买了一件很贵的物品,而明天它的价值就减少了。

With few buyers, all the other economic activity that swirls around real estate — remodeling, appliance and furniture sales, relocation services — is depressed.

随着购房人数的下降,所有其他围绕房地产业的经济活动,如房屋改造业,家电、家具销售业,房屋装修,也都随之低迷。

That's partly because of the 40 percent plunge in the stock market since October 2007 and partly because of the steep declines in real estate values.

造成这种情况的部分原因在于自从2007年10月份以来股票市场暴跌40个百分点,而还有一部分原因要归结于房地产价值的急剧下降。









### A Healthy Merger? 有益的并购?

本文主要讲述了美国两家最大的医疗机构— 美国医疗保健公司的并购情况与民众对此次并购的态度和 看法,以及此次并购对全美医疗行业的深远影响。

onsumers and investors often get nervous stomachs when they hear talk of synergy<sup>®</sup>, that snaggle-toothed harbinger of bad mergers. So Aetna Life & Casualty Co. chairman Ronald Compton was administering verbal sedatives<sup>2</sup> last week when he talked about the proposed merger between Aetna and U.S. Healthcare Inc. that will create the country's largest medical-benefits corporation. "The two companies are in fact complementary," said Compton. "They are yin and vang<sup>3</sup>."

Feel better now? If the deal is approved by stockholders, as expected, the combined entity, to be known as Aetna Inc., will provide health care for 23 million people, or 1 in every 12 Americans. The \$8.9 billion merger, which mirrors a recent batch of smaller consolidations in the managed care field, is a clear signal that big medicine is here to stay, whether you like its bedside manner or not. "The main effect of the huge merger is that it will be replicated by insurers across the country," says Kenneth Abramowitz, a health-care analyst for Sanford C. Bernstein in New York City.

The pressure to get big — and to use that leverage<sup>4</sup> against other competitors, doctors and hospitals — is spreading like a virus through the entire industry. "These giant health-care mergers are happily galloping toward an