



★ 课外英语

英语下午茶

# Knowledge Essays

# 英语知识小品

天星 尘影 / 编



远方出版社

◎英语下午茶◎

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The action was not right  
To see a world in grain of sand  
And heaven in a wild flower  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
And eternity in an hour

NICE DAY

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课外英语——英语下午茶  
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## 前 言

某著名小说家曾经说过：“英语的独特之处就在于，它使得任何在十四岁就离开校园的人在他长大之后，不可能再学习另外一门外语。”他的说法虽然有点偏执，但同时也指出了英语的独特魅力以及其巨大的语言影响力。对英语的理解和掌握不只是一门科学，还是一种艺术。随着世界经济迅速发展和各国人民之间交流的进一步加强，掌握好英语不再只是一种升学的基本要求，更重要的是，它已经成为我们赖以在这个竞争日益激烈的“地球村”上更好生存的本领。

对于我国英语学习者来说，中学无疑是学习英语的最佳时期。十几岁的孩子，机械记忆力依然强健，理解力与日俱增，对一切文化财富都充满了好奇，正是汲取知识的大好时机。我们都知道打好英语基本功尤其重要，而我们认为，英语水平的增进在更大的程度上主要取决于阅读，因为阅读可以提供从词汇、语法到社会文化的方方面面的知识，让学生在微笑中

领悟,在见闻中成长。为此,我们编写了这套取材广泛的《英语下午茶》。

这套丛书集故事性、趣味性于一体,从中学生的英语实际水平出发,让学生在巩固课本词汇和语法的同时,能够充分发挥自学能力,展开广泛阅读,探索英语知识与技能。

本丛书难免有纰漏之处,请广大读者与同行不吝指正。

编 者



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## 1. Diamonds in the United States

Most of the world's diamonds come from Africa, but there is one place in the United States where they are found. It is near Murfreesboro, Arkansas.

Diamonds were first found near Murfreesboro in 1906. About fifty thousand diamonds have come from this field. One forty-carat diamond was the largest ever found in North America. But most of the stones were too small to make mining worthwhile. Soon all mining stopped there. Today a visitor to Murfreesboro can hunt for diamonds himself.

1

A few diamonds have been found in sand and gravel along the Great Lakes, too. But none of these were in their original blue ground. They may have been formed far to the north and carried south by the last great glaciers.

## 1. 美国的钻石

世界上的钻石大部分出自非洲，但美国也有一个钻石产地，它位于阿肯色州默弗里斯博罗附近。





1906年，在默弗里斯博罗附近首次发现钻石，从这个矿里一共开采了大约5万颗钻石，其中一颗重40克拉的钻石是迄今在北美洲发现的最大的一颗。但是，多数钻石都太小，没有什么开采价值，不久那里的采掘工作就都停止了。今天去默弗里斯博罗的游客可以亲自去寻找钻石。

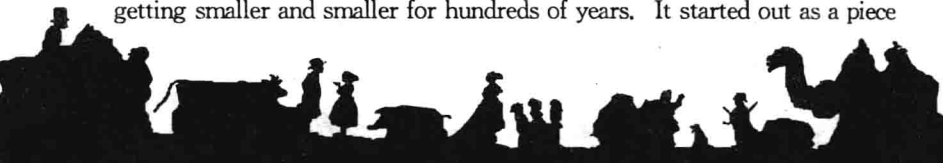
在五大湖沿岸的沙地和砾石中也发现一些钻石，但是没有一颗保持原有的蓝色。它们也许是在遥远的北方成形，然后由最后一批大冰川带到南方的。

## 2. The Necktie through Thick and Thin

From hat to shoes, men's clothes are useful. Only one piece of clothing is worn just for decoration. It is the necktie, or cravat. The necktie is left over from the time when men wore ruffles, ribbons, and tassels.

Beau Brummel was an Englishman of the early 1800's. He was famous for his fancy clothes. The story is told that he used to invite guests just to watch him knot his white cravat.

Now, perhaps, even the necktie is going out of style. It has been getting smaller and smaller for hundreds of years. It started out as a piece





of lace and turned into a silk bow. Then it became a triangle that was tied around the neck. Now many neckties are no wider than a piece of string.

## 2 领带的沧桑

人的衣物，从帽子到鞋，都有实用价值。唯有一样完全是为了装饰，那就是领带，或者叫“克拉瓦特”。领带是人们从佩戴饰边、缎带和帽穗的时代遗留下来的。

3

博·布伦美是 19 世纪初叶的一位英国人，因穿着的花哨而出名。传说他常邀请客人专程去观看他给自己白色的领带打结。

现在，也许连领带也快不时髦了。几百年来，领带变得越来越小。当初，它只不过是一段带子，后来变成丝制的蝴蝶结，以后又演变为缠在脖子上的三角形饰物。现在许多领带的宽度只不过相当于一根绳子的粗细罢了。

## 3. Who First Made Ice Cream

Most Americans think that ice cream is as American as baseball and apple pie. But ice cream was known long before







America was discovered.

The Roman emperor Nero may have made a kind of ice cream. He hired hundreds of men to bring snow and ice from the mountains. He used it to make cold drinks. Traveler Marco Polobrought back recipes for chilled and frozen milk from China.

Hundreds of years later, ice cream reached England. It is said that King Charles I enjoyed that treat very much. There is a story that he bribed his cook to keep the recipe for ice cream a royal secret.

4

Today ice cream is known throughout the world. Americans alone eat more than two billion quarts a year.

### 3. 谁是冰淇淋的首创者

大多数美国人认为，冰淇淋像棒球和苹果饼一样，是属于美国的。但是，早在人们发现美洲大陆之前，冰淇淋就已经问世了。

古罗马国王尼禄可能配制过一种冰淇淋。他曾雇用几百人从山上搬来雪和冰，用以制作冷饮料。旅行家马可波罗也曾从中国带回了冷冻奶和冰奶的配方。