

|任务驱动型研究生公共英语系列教材|

英美 文化体验

(第二版)

Experiencing Western Culture

总主编 王慧莉 刘文宇
主 编 张 营 王冬梅



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“任务驱动型研究生公共英语系列教材”

总 序

“任务驱动型研究生公共英语系列教材”是大连理工大学研究生院2007年教改基金立项资助项目。

任务驱动型教材的目的是在教学设计过程中,以具体的任务为主线,使学生在完成任务的过程中探索、发现有关的知识技能。任务驱动型教材基于建构主义的教育思想,把“任务驱动”教学法有机结合在教材编写过程中,实现教学内容和教学方法的统一;以技能培养为本位,“理实一体化”,利于英语技能型人才培养。具体而言,本系列教材在编写过程中满足了以下几个条件:

- (1) 正确把握“任务驱动”本质内涵,科学合理设计“任务”。关键是根据教学内容,把“任务”设计得科学合理。在学习情境设计时,关键是创设实施“任务”真实情境的体验环境。在学习组织设计时,关键是突出以在教师帮助指导下的学生自主学习和协作学习为重点。
- (2) 更新教学观念,转变教学过程中的角色。任务驱动型教材的编写模式是一种新的教材编写模式,基于全新的教学观念。传统教材编写的基本特征是:“以知识为主线,教师为主体,学生为客体”,教师的“教”是立足点。而任务驱动型教材的编写模式具有“以任务为主线,教师为主导,学生为主体”的基本特征,立足点是学生的“学”。这一编写模式与现有的研究生公共英语教学模式的指导思想不谋而合。
- (3) 注意了理论与实践的紧密结合。把教学内容中的理论知识应用于实践范例,巧妙地设计成“任务”,把在传统教材编写中以理论知识体系为主的“明线”,变为“暗线”的知识链,把任务链设计为“明线”,任务链与知识链有机结合,把知识链这一“暗线”合理地包含在任务链这一“明线”之中,通过科学合理的“任务”体系,实现了教材中的理论知识与运用理论知识的实践进程的紧密结合。



本系列教材主要包括：《任务型学术写作》、《口语交际任务》、《英美名著赏析》、《实用英语口语交流教程》和《英美文化体验》等。每一本教材由若干个任务构成（相当于传统教材的单元），每一个任务下面由若干个活动构成（相当于传统教材的练习）。每一个任务由任务目标（**task objective**）、任务准备（**task preparation**）、任务实现（**task realization**）、任务拓展（**task transfer**）四个部分构成。

任务驱动型系列教材不仅可以使学生学到教学内容所要求的英语基础知识，还能够培养学生运用所学的基础知识用英语解决实际问题、完成实际“任务”的能力。任务驱动型系列教材在教学中的作用定位在“教”和“学”，更注重学生“学”的需要，把学生作为教学中的主体，注重教材与学习主体的内在关系，重视“学法”，把“教程”转变为“学程”。

《英美文化体验》

前言



《英美文化体验（第一版）》于2008年出版，拥有广大的读者群，受到英语学习者的欢迎。《英美文化体验》一书与近年相继出版问世的英美国国家社会与文化介绍类的教材相比，突出特点在于编写的主导思想是以任务驱动型教学方法为指导，选取材料，编排练习，设计活动，在师生互动和同学自主协作学习的过程中既训练语言技能，又拓宽知识面，增强文化交流意识和提高综合素质。教师可以自由选择 and 组合材料，设计教学方案，灵活方便。学生以具体任务为中心，调动一切背景知识，积极解决问题，学习动机强。

2015年修订的第二版根据第一版使用者的反馈，坚持一贯特色，保持原书的课文和练习风格，做了以下调整：

增加文化注释。任务准备阶段的阅读材料后面附上文化注释，详细解释历史、人物、风土人情、宗教和日常生活等方面的常识性知识和专业知识。

增加生词注释。参照大学英语六级考试词汇表，对于超出六级水平的词语给出汉语解释。这些解释都是该词在课文语篇语境下的意思，以期帮助学生更好地理解阅读材料，完成任务。

更新相关辅助阅读材料和视听材料。尽可能选取稳定的官方和机构的网站，提供多个视角，以便师生对某些感兴趣的话题增加了解和展开进一步研究，添加课外活动。除了可以按照参考书目与网站找感兴趣的材料充实自己，学生还可以借助视听材料扩展对英美文化的了解。



第二版保留的课文大多有所改变，主要是更新信息和增添必要内容。练习也做了相应变化，尽可能保证每单元练习形式一致，每个单元都有讨论、辩论和写作这样的开放性问题，希望能够激起课堂上百家争鸣、学生积极学习的热情。希望第二版能够继续受到使用者的欢迎。

主编

2015年4月26日

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Chapter

One

The English Language

英语语言

TASK OBJECTIVE

任务目标

In this chapter, you'll be able to accomplish the following task:

Learn about the English language, especially British and American English.

TASK PREPARATION

任务准备

- ① Which country speaks English? Please look at the following map and read the passage below to get a general idea of the English language.



Countries, states, and provinces where English is the official language are dark blue; countries, states, and provinces where it is an official, but not a primary language are light blue.



English is a language originating in England, and the first language for most people in Australia, Canada, the Commonwealth Caribbean¹ (加勒比海英联邦国家), Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It is used extensively as a second language and as an official language throughout the world, especially in Commonwealth countries² and in many international organizations.

Over 430 million people speak English as their first language. English today is probably the third largest language by number of native speakers, after Mandarin (普通话) Chinese and Spanish. However, when combining native and non-native speakers it is probably the most commonly spoken language in the world, though possibly second to a combination of the Chinese Languages, depending on whether or not distinctions in the latter are classified as “languages” or “dialects”. Estimates that include second language speakers vary greatly from 470 million to over a billion depending on how literacy or mastery is defined. There are some who claim that non-native speakers now outnumber native speakers by a ratio of 3 to 1.

Because English is so widely spoken, it has often been referred to as a “world language”, the lingua franca of the modern era, and while it is not an official language in most countries, it is currently the language most often taught as a foreign language. It is, by international treaty, the official language for aeronautical and maritime communications. English is one of the official languages of the United Nations³ and many other international organizations, including the International Olympic Committee.

This increasing use of the English language globally has had a large impact on many other languages, leading to language shift and even language death, and to claims of linguistic imperialism. English itself has become more open to language shift as multiple regional varieties feed back into the language as a whole.

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Words and Expressions

mandarin	普通话
distinction	区别
dialect	方言
literacy	识字, 读写能力
lingua franca	混合语; 通用语
aeronautical	航空的
maritime	海事的
imperialism	帝国主义

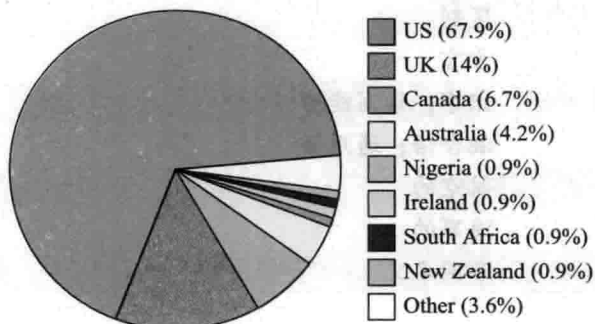


Notes











1. The Commonwealth Caribbean 加勒比海英联邦国家。加勒比海英联邦国家是指加勒比地区的英联邦国家。
2. Commonwealth countries 这里指英联邦国家。英联邦 (Commonwealth of Nations, 原名: British Commonwealth of Nations) 是一个以英国为主导的国家联合体, 由 53 个主权国家 (含属地) 所组成, 成员大多为前大英帝国的殖民地或附属国。第一次世界大战后, 英国势力遭到削弱, 各殖民地人民纷纷要求独立, 便逐渐用英联邦代替英帝国的称号。英联邦没有设立任何权力机构。该组织元首为英国女王伊丽莎白二世, 同时身兼英联邦王国内的 16 国的国家元首。基于其历史渊源, 人们常常以 “British Commonwealth” 称之, 来和世界上的其他联邦做区分。这是一个比较明显的邦联制国家联盟。
3. The United Nations 联合国。联合国是 1945 年第二次世界大战后成立的国际组织, 由主权国家组成。1945 年 10 月 24 日, 在美国旧金山签订生效的《联合国宪章》标志着联合国正式成立。联合国致力于促进各国在国际法、国际安全、经济发展、社会进步、人权及实现世界和平方面的合作。联合国现在共有 193 个成员国, 总部设立在美国纽约、瑞士日内瓦、奥地利维也纳、肯尼亚内罗毕等地。



Now study the following diagrams and acquire for yourselves the more concrete idea of the geographical distribution of the English language.



Distribution of native English speakers by country

	Country	Native speakers
1	 USA	225,505,953
2	 UK	58,200,000
3	 Canada	18,232,195
4	 Australia	15,581,334
5	 South Africa	4,892,623
6	 Ireland	4,400,000
7	 New Zealand	3,500,000+ (approx.)
8	 Jamaica	2,600,000+ (approx.)
9	 Singapore	1,097,443
10	 Spain	990,000

2 Read the following passage about the history of the English language and do the corresponding exercises.



A Brief History of the English Language

- Old English, until 1066

Immigrants from Denmark and NW Germany arrived in Britain in the 5th

and 6th centuries AD, speaking in related dialects belonging to the Germanic and Teutonic (日耳曼人/条顿人) branches of the Indo-European language family¹. Today, English is most closely related to Flemish (佛兰德斯语), Dutch, and German, and is somewhat related to Icelandic, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish. Icelandic, unchanged for 1,000 years, is very close to Old English. Viking invasions², begun in the 8th century, gave English a Norwegian and Danish influence which lasted until the Norman Conquest³ of 1066.

- Middle English, from 1066 until the 15th Century

The Norman Invasion and Conquest of Britain in 1066 and the resulting French Court of William the Conqueror gave the Norwegian-Dutch influenced English a Norman-Parisian (巴黎的)-French effect. From 1066 until about 1400, Latin, French, and English were spoken. English almost disappeared entirely into obscurity (暗淡) during this period by the French and Latin dominated court and government. However, in 1362, the Parliament opened with English as the language of choice, and the language was saved from extinction. Present-day English is approximately 50% Germanic (English and Scandinavian⁴) and 50% Romance (French and Latin).

- Early Modern English, from the 15th Century to the 17th Century

During this period, English became more organized and began to resemble the modern version of English. Although the word order and sentence construction was still slightly different, Early Modern English was at least recognizable to the Early Modern English speaker. For example, the Old English "To us pleases sailing" became "We like sailing". Classical elements, from Greek and Latin, profoundly influenced word creation and origin. From Greek, Early Modern English received grammar, logic, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. Also, the "tele-" prefix (前缀) meaning "far" later used to develop telephone and television was taken.

- Modern English, from the 17th Century to Modern Times

Modern English developed through the efforts of literary and political writings, where literacy was uniformly found. Modern English was heavily influenced by classical usage, the emergence of the university-educated class,



Shakespeare, the common language found in the East Midlands section of present-day England, and an organized effort to document and standardize English. Current inflections (词尾变化) have remained almost unchanged for 400 years, but sounds of vowels (元音) and consonants (辅音) have changed greatly. As a result, spelling has also changed considerably. For example, from Early English to Modern English, *lyf* became *life*, *deel* became *deal*, *hoom* became *home*, *mone* became *moon*, and *hous* became *house*.

• American English, from the 18th Century until Modern Times

Until the 18th century, British and American English were remarkably similar with almost no variance (变化; 变异). Immigration to America by other English peoples changed the language by 1700. Noah Webster⁵, author of the first authoritative American English dictionary, created many changes. The “-re” endings became “-er” and the “-our” endings became “-or”. Spelling by pronunciation and personal choice from Webster were influences.



Words and Expressions

Germanic	日耳曼人
Teutonic	条顿人
Flemish	法兰德斯语
Icelandic	冰岛语
Norwegian	挪威语
Danish	丹麦语
Swedish	瑞典语
Parisian	巴黎的
obscurity	暗淡
extinction	灭绝
arithmetic	算术
geometry	几何
astronomy	天文
prefix	前缀
inflection	词尾变化

vowel	元音
consonant	辅音
variance	变化, 变异

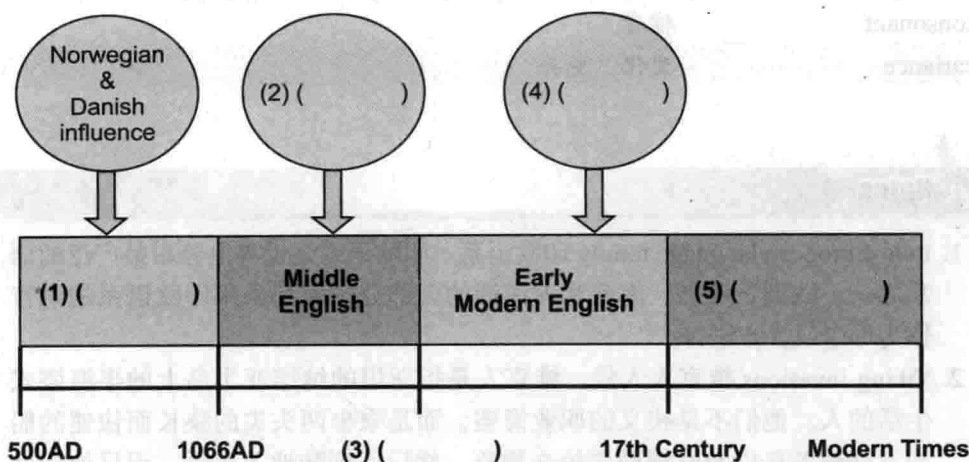


Notes

1. Indo-European language family 印欧语系。印欧语系是世界上分布最广泛的语系之一。欧洲、美洲、南亚和大洋洲的大部分国家都采用印欧语系的语言作为母语或官方语言。
2. Viking invasions 维京人入侵。维京人是指斯堪的纳维亚半岛上的半海盗式生活的人。他们不是狭义的职业海盗,而是乘坐两头尖的狭长而快速的船到不列颠各岛以及欧洲西部掠夺物资,然后回到陆地上生活。很早他们就开始骚扰不列颠,尤其在撒克逊人统治英格兰大部分的时候更甚。在英国的这段历史上涌现出了抗击维京人的传奇人物。Danes 旦恩人,常常指维京人,也有人称作丹麦海盗。他们是维京海盗的主要构成。
3. The Norman Conquest 诺曼征服。诺曼征服是指 1066 年法国诺曼底公爵威廉对英格兰的入侵及征服。这次征服改变了英格兰的走向,从此英格兰受到欧洲大陆的影响加深,而受到斯堪的纳维亚的影响逐渐衰退。诺曼征服改变了英格兰的文化,包括语言。
4. Scandinavian 斯堪的纳维亚又译斯堪地那维亚。斯堪的纳维亚在地理上是指斯堪的纳维亚半岛,包括挪威和瑞典,文化与政治上则包含丹麦。这些国家互相视对方属于斯堪的纳维亚,虽然政治上彼此独立,但共同的称谓显示了其文化和历史有深厚的渊源。芬兰、冰岛和法罗群岛等北欧国家因其与丹麦、挪威和瑞典相近的历史和文化背景,有时也被视为斯堪的纳维亚的国家。所以,斯堪的纳维亚一词对于各地的人有不同的含义。
5. Webster 诺亚·韦伯斯特(1758 年 10 月 16 日—1843 年 5 月 28 日),美国辞典编纂者,课本编写作者,拼写改革倡导者,政论家和编辑,被誉为“美国学术和教育之父”。他的蓝皮拼字书教会了五代美国儿童怎样拼写。在美国,他的名字等同于“字典”,尤其是首版于 1828 年的现代《韦氏词典》。



Please complete the following timeline according to the above passage.



※Timeline showing the history of the English language※

3 Read the following passage about the Indo-European language family (印欧语系) and do the corresponding exercises.

All of the world's languages are descended from more ancient languages spoken thousands of years ago. Many languages that we today find to be very different are in fact descended from the same original root language, just as many people are descendants of one common ancestor in a family tree.

English, along with many of the languages of Europe, parts of Asia, and India are descendants of the same common ancestor language spoken perhaps 7,000 to 9,000 years ago: Proto-Indo-European (PIE)¹. The discovery of these connections among languages, and the exploration of the historical changes in languages, cultures and peoples is one of the great detective stories of the 19th and 20th centuries.

In describing the historical development of a language group we have recourse to various metaphors and "models".

One such metaphor is that of the family, by which we speak of the Proto-Indo-European parent language with its various descendants. Another metaphor is the botanical one, by which we speak of the Indo-European stem with its several