

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

传奇聚焦

第6辑

Henry Billings Melissa Billings / 著
王瞳 杨睿 / 编译

追星学英语
做最好的自己

Also inside:

- **Shaquille O'Neal**

Going beyond
great basketball

- **Norah Jones**

Not expecting
so much fame

- **Ronaldo**

An amazing
soccer comeback

- **And more!**

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Education

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Penelope Cruz
Full of energy and
wisdom

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前言

《In the Spotlight 传奇聚焦》是由青岛出版社和麦格劳-希尔教育（亚洲）出版公司共同合作奉献给广大英语学习爱好者的精品读物。本套丛书共有八辑，每辑精选了九位当今明星级成功人士的传奇故事。他们当中有影视明星，有运动健将，也有作家或者音乐家。他们有的在成长过程中生活窘迫，但是通过不懈的努力，最终获得了成功；有的专注于实现自己的梦想，不理睬别人的诋毁和嘲笑；有的在功成名就之后依然会经受种种挑战。这些名人的成功历程将带给你超越语言学习的更多人生感悟和启示。

本套丛书将美国的阅读学习方法原汁原味地呈献给中国的英语学习爱好者。不要担心你看不懂文中的一些生词或句子，多读几遍，只要你按照书中的阅读技巧提示和训练坚持不懈地逐本书读下去，你一定会看到惊喜的变化！英语阅读水平的提高并不是本套丛书带领你学习的惟一目标，启迪思考、活跃思维、激发讨论才能让你真正会学习，并一生受益无穷！

第6辑重点介绍以下三种阅读技能：

Problem and Solution

问题与解决方案

Making Inferences

进行推断

Summarizing

总结概述

书中还附有其他阅读技巧和词汇提示，能帮助你理解和思考所读到的内容。每篇文章后面附有精心设计的练习题，通过各部分的测评分值可以让你更有针对性地提高阅读能力。

无论你追星与否，书中一定有几颗星星曾经照亮过你追梦的旅途。透过文章中朴实的文字了解这些名人成名前的真实经历，撩开辉煌的面纱看清颗颗巨星原本平凡如你我，从他们的励志故事中汲取营养，将漫天闪烁的星辉化作自己追梦旅途中的明灯吧，努力去做最好的自己！

如何使用本书

关于本书

本书共包含三个单元，每个单元有三课，每课中有一篇关于某位名人的文章，之后是相关练习题。

认真完成每一课

Photo 照片 每一课开始时，请先看照片。读一读题目和副标题，了解该篇文章主要谈论的内容。

Think About What You Know 思维链接、Word Power 单词加油站、Reading Skill 阅读技巧点拨 这几部分将帮助你做好阅读准备。

Article 文章 现在就开始阅读名人故事吧！祝你阅读愉快！

Activities 练习 完成所有的练习，然后进行检查。根据书后的参考答案，记录下你在每部分练习中答对的题目数量。在课文结尾处，把A、B和C三个练习部分的总分相加，然后在表格中查出相对应的百分比分数。在第84页的理解力和评判性思维进度图表（Comprehension and Critical Thinking Progress Graph）中记下你的百分比分数。

Compare and Contrast Chart 比较和对照表 在每个单元最后，你要填写一个比较和对照表。这个表会让你清楚地了解该单元中出现的一些名人具有的共同特质。

Notes 注释 在本书末尾选取了每一课中出现的一些难点词汇、短语或句子作了附注，有助于你加深理解文章内容，学习更多的语言表达。

My Personal Dictionary 我的词典 你可以把想要进一步了解的单词记录在本书的末尾，向老师或同学请教这些单词的意思，然后给这些单词加上自己的定义注释。

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Unit 1



Cedric the Entertainer



Norah Jones



Dave Mirra

Cedric the Entertainer

Making People Laugh



Birth Name Cedric Antonio Kyles

Birth Date and Place April 24, 1964; Jefferson City, Missouri

Home Los Angeles, California

Think About What You Know

Do you like to make your friends laugh? Do you have any friends who can really make you laugh? Read the article to find out how Cedric Kyles used humor to launch his career as an entertainer.

Word Power

What do the words below tell you about the article?

engagement *n.* 雇用, 聘请

reluctantly *adv.* 不情愿地

prod *vi.* 督促

hooked *adj.* 着迷的

emcee *n.* 主持人, 司仪

profanity *n.* 亵渎

offensive *adj.* 无礼的

old-timer *n.* 老人, 老前辈

Reading Skill

Problem and Solution (问题与解决方案)

作者经常在作品中描述问题 (problems) 及其解决方案 (solutions)。问题就是会造成困难或麻烦的因素, 可能是一件不幸的事、两人之间的一次争论、某事进行中遇到的障碍, 或者其它负面的或令人不快的情況。解决方案就是解决问题的方法。读文章遇到作者设置的问题时, 可以从文章中找到解决办法。文章中的人物一定要做些什么或者说些什么才能解决问题。边读边做笔记, 找出各种问题的实例, 记录下问题及其解决办法, 一个问题可能有多种解决办法。这样做有助于提高你对文章的整体理解程度。

Example

Problem

It was time for the talent show to begin. The first act was a band, but the musicians still needed to set up their instruments. The audience was getting impatient and

Solution

starting to complain. The singer for the band went out on stage and started telling jokes. He kept the audience laughing until the band was ready to play.

This paragraph describes a problem and a solution. The problem, or difficulty, was that *the audience was getting impatient*. The problem was solved when *the singer went out on stage and started telling jokes*. How did this action solve the problem?

Cedric the Entertainer

Making People Laugh

Cedric Kyles never thought about being a comedian. Instead, he dreamed of becoming a singer. He constantly amused his family and friends with songs and dances. His mother, Rosetta, recalls that “he was very bent on entertaining with singing and dancing.”

2 Cedric knew he could be funny. His humor was obvious to everyone. “My mother said I was pretty funny, and I can remember, starting around junior high school, I was known for being funny,” he says. As a teenager his reputation had spread to the point that classmates at Berkeley High School in St. Louis, Missouri, voted him Most Humorous. “I was one of the guys sitting in the cafeteria who made everyone laugh,” he acknowledges. Still, he considered comedy to be something he did just for friends. He never seriously thought of making it his career. “I really thought I was going to be a singer,” he says.

3 After high school, Cedric studied communications and theater at Southeast Missouri State University to prepare for a singing career. When he graduated, however, he found himself with bills to pay and no singing engagements in sight. He didn’t want to give up his dream, but he had to be realistic. He had to find a way to support himself. Reluctantly, Cedric took an office job with an insurance company. Working in an office wasn’t what he wanted to do, but he figured he might still look for singing opportunities in his spare time.

4 Meanwhile, Cedric’s friends were urging him to forget singing and to try comedy instead. “At the time I was in denial because I considered myself a singer,” says Cedric. That thought changed one night in 1988, when he went to a St. Louis comedy club called the Funny Bone. The club was holding an open competition. After much prodding from his friends, Cedric went on stage and mixed song, dance, and poetry with some jokes. He not only won the contest but also got \$500 in prize money. At that point, he says, “I was hooked.” After all, he points out, “I never made \$500 at singing.”

5 Determined to see how far he could go on this new career path, he gave up his day job and focused all his energy on doing stand-up comedy. Soon after becoming a stand-up comic, Cedric Kyles became Cedric the Entertainer.

6 It happened when he was getting ready to perform at a local comedy club. “The emcee used to introduce the next act by saying, ‘So-and-so the comedian will be out next,’” recalls Cedric. Although the emcee called everyone a comedian, Cedric didn’t think the label was right for him. “I didn’t want to be known as a comedian because I didn’t have 30 minutes’ worth of jokes,” he says. “I would dance, sing—whatever it took to fill that time.” So Cedric talked to the emcee. “I told him not to call me ‘the comedian’ because I do more than that. I said, ‘Call me The Entertainer.’ And it stuck.” Cedric Kyles has been known as Cedric the Entertainer ever since.

7 Many nightclub comedy acts rely on crude humor to make people laugh, but Cedric’s mother often came to see him perform, and he didn’t want to embarrass her by telling dirty jokes or using lots of profanity. So he developed an act that used mostly clean language. “You feel comfortable with me and that comes from not cursing you out and not coming out being offensive,” he explains. He uses a friendly, relaxed delivery and bases his humor on everyday life. As he puts it, “I perform like somebody you already know. The energy onstage is that we’re all friends here. I just happen to be the one talking.”

8 Cedric’s career got a boost in 1989, when he happened to attend a comedy club in Dallas, Texas. The featured comedian was having a horrible night. He couldn’t get the crowd to laugh. All his jokes were falling flat. It was painful for Cedric to see a fellow entertainer struggling. Cedric asked club owner Steve Harvey if he could try his own routine for five minutes. He went on stage and quickly had everyone roaring with laughter. The crowd gave him a standing

Skill Break

Problem and Solution

Look at paragraph 6 on this page. The paragraph describes a problem and a solution.

The **problem** is that the emcee called everyone a comedian, and Cedric didn’t want to be called a comedian. What is the **solution**?

ovation. Not only did Cedric rescue the other comedian but he also proved he could win over a tough crowd.

- 9 After that night, Harvey hired Cedric to perform in his club regularly. “I paid him the first big money he had ever made as a stand-up,” says Harvey. “That let him know he could make it. I respect Cedric because I know he’s one of the funniest guys out there.”
- 10 In 1992 Cedric broke into television with an appearance on *It’s Showtime at the Apollo*, a variety show taped at the Apollo Theater in the Harlem section of New York City. He was such a hit that he soon appeared on other shows, including the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno and *Politically Incorrect* with Bill Maher. In 1996 Cedric joined the cast of *The Steve Harvey Show*, where he played a high school coach named Cedric Jackie Robinson. This role earned him four Image Awards from the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). It also earned him a chance at his own show, called *Cedric the Coach*. The show didn’t last long, but that disappointment didn’t slow Cedric down.
- 11 In 1998 he made his first movie appearance in *Ride*. His second movie, *Big Momma’s House* (2000), was a big hit. The same year, he also starred in the Spike Lee film *The Original Kings of Comedy*. Perhaps his most famous on-screen character, however, comes from the movie *Barbershop* (2002). In that film, he plays Eddie, an old-timer who has an opinion on just about everything. *Barbershop* was the number-one movie across the country for two straight weeks, and it gained Cedric many new fans. Since then he has appeared in several other films as well as many television commercials.
- 12 Cedric still enjoys doing stand-up comedy, and he still likes to blend it with singing and dancing as well as acting. He has proved himself to be a multitalented actor who can perform on stage and screen alike. Yet he remains open, friendly, and down-to-earth. “I’m a regular dude,” he says, and perhaps that trait is what makes him so appealing.



- ▶ In high school, Cedric worked on the school newspaper.
- ▶ He is known for wearing stylish hats.

- ▶ His neighbors include Shaquille O’Neal and George Clooney, and he works out at the gym with Denzel Washington.

Activities

A Understanding What You Read

◆ Fill in the circle next to the correct answer or write the answer.

1. When he was in school, Cedric did comedy
 - ☐ A. to keep out of trouble.
 - ☐ B. just for his friends.
 - ☐ C. on special occasions.
2. Choose from the letters below to correctly complete the following statement. Write the letters on the lines.
On the negative side, _____, but on the positive side, _____.
 - A. Cedric went to a St. Louis comedy club
 - B. Cedric won \$500 in a comedy contest
 - C. Cedric could not get any singing engagements
3. Cedric won many awards for his role in
 - ☐ A. *Cedric the Coach*.
 - ☐ B. *Barbershop*.
 - ☐ C. *The Steve Harvey Show*.
4. In which paragraph did you find your information to answer question 3? _____
5. The author probably wrote this article in order to
 - ☐ A. inform the reader about a famous entertainer.
 - ☐ B. entertain the reader with funny performance stories.
 - ☐ C. persuade the reader to pursue a career in comedy.

_____ Number of Correct Answers: Part A

B Understanding Problem and Solution

◆ Read the paragraph below. This paragraph describes a problem and a solution. Fill in the circle next to the sentence that **best** describes the **problem**.

1. After high school, Cedric studied communications and theater at Southeast Missouri State University to prepare for a singing career. When he graduated, however, he found himself with bills to pay and no singing engagements in sight. He didn't want to give up his dream, but he had to be realistic. He had to find a way to support

himself. Reluctantly, Cedric took an office job with an insurance company. Working in an office wasn't what he wanted to do, but he figured he might still look for singing opportunities in his spare time.

- ☐ A. Cedric studied communications and theater.
- ☐ B. Cedric had bills to pay and no singing engagements.
- ☐ C. Cedric took an office job with an insurance company.

◆ Reread the paragraph above. What is the **solution** to the problem? Write the solution on the lines.

2. _____

_____ Number of Correct Answers: Part B

C Using Words

◆ Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Write the missing word on the line.

engagements denial emcee profanity offensive

1. She was asked to be the _____ for the awards ceremony.
2. I think your joke about short people is mean and _____.
3. He was in pain, but he kept on playing because he was in _____ about being seriously hurt.
4. Please don't use _____ when you speak to us.
5. My boss has scheduled a few speaking _____ for next week.

◆ Choose one of the words from the box. Write a new sentence using the word.

6. word: _____

_____ Number of Correct Answers: Part C

D Writing About It

Write Interview Questions

- ◆ Suppose you were to interview Cedric the Entertainer. What **four** questions would you like to ask? Write your questions on the lines. Use the checklist on page 82 to check your work.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Lesson 1 Add your correct answers from parts A, B, and C to get your total score. Then find the percentage for your total score on the chart below. Record your percentage on the graph on page 84.

_____ Total Score for Parts A, B, and C

_____ Percentage

Total Score	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Percentage	8	15	23	31	38	46	54	62	69	77	85	92	100