

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

传奇聚焦

第7辑

Henry Billings Melissa Billings / 著
李力 苏宁宁 / 编译

追星学英语
做最好的自己

Also inside:

- **Serena Williams**

A tennis champ
with priorities

- **Coldplay**

Not your
ordinary
rock band

- **Queen Latifah**

Strong, proud,
and successful

- **And more!**

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Oprah Winfrey
The very definition
of success

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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7辑重点介绍以下三种阅读技能：

Asking Questions to Get Information	提问获取信息
Fact and Opinion	事实与观点
Drawing Conclusions	得出结论

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



Serena Williams



Coldplay



Lisa Fernandez

Serena Williams

More Than Just a Tennis Star



Birth Name Serena Williams

Birth Date and Place September 26, 1981; Saginaw, Michigan

Homes Los Angeles, California, and Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Think About What You Know

What do you think is most important in life? What are your priorities? Read the article to find out how Serena Williams balances her tennis career with the other priorities in her life.

Word Power

What do the words below tell you about the article?

perfectionist *n.* 完美主义者

insatiable *adj.* 无法满足的

sharecropper *n.* 将部分土地收成代替
租金交给地主的佃农

illiterate *n.* 文盲，目不识丁的人

endorse *vt.* 认可，支持，同意做品牌代
言人

bluntly *adv.* 坦率地

be devastated 为……而伤心

underscore *vt.* 强调，突出

Reading Skill

Asking Questions to Get Information (提问获取信息)

会读书的人都善于发问。边读边提出问题、思考答案，这样有助于找出文中的重要观点。当然一定要针对主旨用what, where, when, how, why提问，才能找出文章要点。有时一个段落中会有一个以上的要点。所提的问题要跟段落中大多数甚至所有句子都有关联。

Example

Homeschooling offers an alternative to traditional education. Home-schooled children don't go to a school building. They are taught by a parent or teacher at home. Parents choose to homeschool their children for many different reasons. They may be unhappy with the quality of the local schools, or a family may decide to homeschool for religious reasons.

"Why do parents choose to homeschool their children?" is one good question you might ask yourself to find important information. What is another question you might ask to find important information?

Serena Williams

More Than Just a Tennis Star

If you had devoted your entire childhood to tennis and then had battled your way through tournament after tournament to become one the very best players in the world, tennis would likely be the most important thing in your life, right? Well, maybe not—at least not if your name is Serena Williams.

2 When Williams made her first appearance on the world tennis scene in the late 1990s, she impressed everyone with her athletic ability. She and her sister Venus, who is 15 months older, seemed destined to lead the way in women's tennis for years to come. Although Williams was just a teenager, she displayed enormous confidence and commitment to her sport, telling reporters, "I fear no one" and "I know what I want. I want not to lose a match."

3 Williams's dedication to tennis was obvious. "When I am on the court, it is kind of like my life depends on it," she said. She also declared, "I'm a perfectionist. I'm pretty much insatiable. I feel there's so much I can improve on." But while tennis was clearly one of her top priorities, it wasn't first on the list. For her, family, religion, and education have always been more important. To understand why, it helps to remember Williams's background.

4 Williams grew up in Compton, California, a section of Los Angeles challenged by high crime and poverty. Her father, Richard, was the son of a Louisiana sharecropper, and her mother, Oracene, was a nurse from Mississippi. Richard believed that tennis could help his daughters escape a life of poverty, so when they were very young he began teaching them to play. The three older sisters didn't show particular talent with a racket, but the two youngest—Venus and Serena—did.

5 For six hours every day Richard worked with his daughters, looking up information from a tennis manual and shouting it out to them as they bounded around the court. Playing at Compton's public facilities, the girls learned to ignore the gangs that were always hanging around and the occasional sound of gunfire and police sirens. They learned to focus solely on the ball.

6 Serena competed in her first tournament when she was just four and a half, and by the time she was ten, both she and Venus were playing on the national

junior tennis circuit, the place where most promising players sharpen their skills before turning pro. Richard, however, didn't like having his children in such a competitive environment. He also thought the tennis world was "lily-white" and worried that his daughters would encounter racism. He therefore took them off the circuit, moved the family to Florida, and continued working with them on his own.

- 7 Consequently, Serena Williams didn't spend much time with other young tennis players except, of course, for her sister Venus. She didn't spend much time with classmates, either, because starting at age 12 she was homeschooled by her mother. This schooling was something the whole family took seriously. "My girls are very great players," Richard declared, "and they'll win lots of tournaments, but I'll tell you what I tell them: education is much more important." He bluntly told one reporter, "When they've finished their tennis careers, I don't want a couple of gum-chewing illiterates on my hands."
- 8 And so for Serena and Venus Williams, life consisted of family, schoolwork, religion, and tennis. The family had its share of troubles—in fact, Richard and Oracene divorced in 2002—but Serena felt an intense bond with all the members of her family. "Family's first," she said, "and that's what matters most." To her, "tennis is just a game, family is forever."
- 9 Williams maintained this attitude as she made her quick ascent up through the ranks of professional tennis. At age 16, when she was ranked 304th in the world, she stunned tennis fans by beating 7th-ranked Mary Pierce. By age 18, she had moved into the top ten. And at age 21, Williams became the number-one female tennis player in the world, taking the title away from her sister Venus.
- 10 Without a doubt, Williams was at the top of her game. Opponents and observers alike expressed awe at her speed and the power of her serves, which often came blasting over the net at 120 miles per hour.

Skill Break

Asking Questions to Get Information

Look at paragraph 6. The paragraph describes what happened after Williams competed in her first tournament.

What would be a good **question** to ask to find the **important information** in this paragraph?

What is the **answer** to your question?

- 11 Williams relished the praise, yet she knew that athletic success was a fleeting thing. When asked what advice she liked to give young fans, she said, “I like to stress the importance of education, especially in sports, because you never know what could happen.” While growing her tennis career, Williams made sure to nurture her other interests, particularly acting. She began doing guest spots on TV shows and investigated the possibility of starring in a Hollywood film.
- 12 Williams’s balanced perspective about her sport proved useful in the summer of 2003, when she injured her knee in a tournament and needed surgery to repair it. But before her knee had fully healed, something much worse happened. In September 2003, Serena’s oldest sister, Yetunde, was shot and killed while she sat in her car. Serena, Venus, and the entire Williams family were devastated, and Serena didn’t return to competition until early in 2004.
- 13 Being out of competition for so long made it difficult for her to remain in peak condition, so when she did return she struggled to win her matches and was troubled by various injuries. People wondered if her best days of tennis were behind her. Williams insisted they weren’t, saying, “As long as I’m healthy I’m still definitely a top competitor.”
- 14 In 2005 Williams proved that she was still one of the world’s best players by capturing the Australian Open singles championship. At the same time, though, she knew that it didn’t really matter if she continued to win or not. She had already secured a prominent place in the history of women’s tennis. And she had already earned enough money to last for the rest of her life. She had made \$13 million playing in tournaments and another \$60 million by endorsing products. Besides, Yetunde’s death had underscored her long-standing belief that “there is more out there than winning and losing the tournament.”
- 15 Even as she continues to work on her tennis career, she keeps her eye out for acting roles and has begun experimenting with fashion design. Despite her phenomenal talent as a tennis player, Serena Williams clearly isn’t kidding when she says, “I’ve never considered tennis as my only outlet.”



- ▶ Serena Williams enjoys surfing and playing guitar.
- ▶ She and her sister Venus appeared in their own reality TV show in 2005.
- ▶ She has studied fashion design at the Art Institute of Florida.
- ▶ Her favorite place to visit is Italy.

Activities

A Understanding What You Read

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

1. Unlike Venus and Serena, the three oldest Williams sisters
 - ☐ A. did not go to church every Sunday.
 - ☐ B. were not homeschooled by their mother.
 - ☐ C. did not show any talent for tennis.
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. Venus and Serena learned to focus solely on the ball
 - B. Venus and Serena stopped playing on the national junior circuit
 - C. Venus and Serena had to practice around gangs and gunfire
3. In which paragraph did you find the information to answer question 2? _____
 4. Which of the following statements is an opinion rather than a fact?
 - ☐ A. Williams's dedication to tennis was obvious.
 - ☐ B. Williams began doing guest spots on TV shows.
 - ☐ C. Williams became the top female tennis player in the world.
 5. In addition to tennis, Williams is also interested in
 - ☐ A. working on crime prevention.
 - ☐ B. acting in Hollywood movies.
 - ☐ C. being a sports announcer.

_____ Number of Correct Answers: Part A

B Asking Questions to Get Information

◆ Read the paragraph below. Fill in the circle next to the **best** question to ask to find important information in the paragraph.

1. Consequently, Serena Williams didn't spend much time with other young tennis players except, of course, for her sister Venus. She didn't spend much time with classmates, either, because starting at age 12 she was homeschooled by her mother. This schooling was something the whole family took seriously. "My girls are very

great players,” Richard declared, “and they’ll win lots of tournaments, but I’ll tell you what I tell them: education is much more important.” He bluntly told one reporter, “When they’ve finished their tennis careers, I don’t want a couple of gum-chewing illiterates on my hands.”

- ☐ A. When did Serena’s mother start homeschooling her?
- ☐ B. What does the Williams family think about education?
- ☐ C. Why was Richard Williams talking to reporters?

◆ Reread paragraph 12 in the article. Write **one** question that would help you find the most important information in the paragraph. Then write the answer to your question.

2. Question: _____
 Answer: _____

_____ Number of Correct Answers: Part B

C Using Words

◆ Cross out one of the four words in each row that does not relate to the word in dark type.

1. **perfectionist**

expectation	quality	collection	error
-------------	---------	------------	-------

2. **insatiable**

playful	eager	thirsty	wanting
---------	-------	---------	---------

3. **sharecropper**

occupation	acre	harvest	distance
------------	------	---------	----------

4. **illiterates**

newspaper	pledge	tutor	weakness
-----------	--------	-------	----------

5. **endorsing**

advertisement	promotion	communication	nutrition
---------------	-----------	---------------	-----------

◆ Choose one of the words shown in dark type above. Write a sentence using the word.

6. word: _____

_____ Number of Correct Answers: Part C



Writing About It

Write a Speech

- ◆ Suppose you were going to give a speech about Serena Williams. Write a speech about Williams's life, her family, and her tennis career. Write **at least four** sentences. Use the checklist on page 82 to check your work.

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