

# 跟新概念英语 学英美文化

(第2册)

Learn British and  
American Culture Through  
New Concept English

中国石化出版社

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# 前言

现如今,学习英语成为了中国人的必谈话题,越来越多的人加入到了英语学习的队伍中,而英语学习受到英美文化的制约,人们越来越认识到文化学习对语言学习的重要性。这就要求我们在学习英语的过程中,不但要学好作为交际工具使用的英语语言,还要深入了解英美文化。

文化是人类在社会历史发展过程中所创造的物质财富和精神财富的总和,特指精神财富,如文学、艺术、教育、科学等。简而言之,文化就是英文中的 way of life(生活方式)。文化是区分民族最重要的标志,在英语中,文化和社会在很多场合是可以互换的同义词。因此,不同国家和民族之间的一切交流,都必须建立在互相理解和尊重彼此文化的基础之上。

《新概念英语》是以零基础为起点,涵盖了小学到高中的所有必须掌握的语法知识点的教材,能够让学生在学英语的过程中,又同时感受到英语所带来的乐趣。“学习一门语言,不仅仅是掌握一套规则,积累大量词汇。教师工作的重点不应该是告诉学生关于一门语言的知识,而应是使学生能够使用这门语言。”不同的民族语言产生于不同的民族文化土壤,并随着该民族的文化发展而发展,因此,不懂一个民族的文化,就不可能真正学懂这个民族的语言,更不懂这个民族的人民。没有对英美文化的深刻了解,也就无法真正学好该民族的语言。所以,要想学好英语,就必须要了解英美等西方国家的背景文化。因此,我们以新概念英语作为媒介,从中发现丰富的英美文化,感受地道的英语学习。

本书具有以下特点:

## 一、趣味性强,内容新颖

书中内容与当下的社会生活热点息息相关,话题丰富多彩,极具现代生活气息。话题中既有传统的对人生、家庭、爱情的探讨,又不乏新鲜时尚的生活资讯。

## 二、简易性与知识性并举

书中尽量选用内容丰富、涉及面广同时语言简易的客观介绍文章,以扩大读者的知识面,提高对英语的理解能力和使用能力。

## 三、在学习英美文化的过程中学习英语

为便于在轻松的阅读中学习英语,文章中给出的英语词语,一般都是学习英语必须掌握的词语,涉及到英美文化的各个方面,包括常用专有名词、习语、惯用语及著名的英语文章佳句、段落等。本书便于读者边学文化边学英语,可达到一箭双雕之目的。

英美文化知识浩如烟海,不可能一一罗列。鉴于读者的需要,我们这里只选编在《新概念英语》中经常遇到的、与英语学习密不可分的英美文化知识,而且注意选择趣味性强、可读性强、思想健康的有关知识。

《跟新概念英语学英美文化(第2册)》精选了反映西方文化的文章,包含地理、民族、政治、法律、文化名人、服饰饮食、人文典籍等方面的知识,英汉对照,适用于各专业学生和广大英语爱好者。大家在阅读完本书后,不但能够深入了解英美文化与生活的方方面面,而且能够切实提高自己的英语交流能力。

编 者



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# Lesson

## 背景知识 >>>

剧院是专门用来表演戏剧、话剧、歌剧、歌舞、曲艺、音乐等文娛的场所，一般较正式。通常分舞台和观众席。现在的剧院也兼有放映电影的功能。

Theatre (sometimes theater in American English) is a collaborative form of fine art that uses live performers to present the experience of a real or imagined event before a live audience in a specific place. The performers may communicate this experience to the audience through combinations of gesture, speech, song, music or dance. Elements of design and stagecraft are used to enhance the physicality, presence and immediacy of the experience. The specific place of the performance is also named by the word "theatre" as derived from the Ancient Greek *théatron* ("a place for viewing") and *theáomai* ("to see", "to watch", "to observe").

Modern Western theatre derives in large measure from ancient Greek drama, from which it borrows technical terminology, classification into genres, and many of its themes, stock characters, and plot elements. Theatre scholar Patrice Pavis defines theatricality, theatrical language, stage writing, and the specificity of theatre as synonymous expressions that differentiate theatre from the other performing arts, literature, and the arts in general.

Theatre today includes performances of plays and musicals. Although it can be defined broadly to include opera and ballet, those art forms are outside the scope of this article.

## 文化美文阅读 >>>

### *Romans Fear for Colosseum as Backdrop for MTV Gig*

Rome's mighty Colosseum risks being damaged and diminished by a major MTV rock concert, traditionalists and conservationists warned. As a prelude to the MTV Europe Music Awards taking place on the outskirts of Rome in the late evening, an array of pop and rock artists were set to play in front of the huge 2000-year-old arena where gladiators fought in ancient times. The venue was used twice in recent times for rock concerts, by Paul McCartney

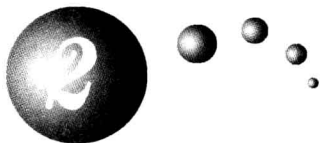


in 2003 and Simon and Garfunkel in July 2004, with thousands of fans packed into a street which cuts through the ruins of the Roman Forum. But some people fear the noise of amplified rock music could harm the architecture. “Has anyone considered the impact of rock on the Colosseum?” politician Teodoro Buontempo asked in Italy’s parliament. “Have the authorities... considered the inevitable damage that will be caused to the monument by the huge noise?” The head of the government’s archaeological heritage department, Adriano La Regina, said even worse than the physical damage would be what he saw as the cheapening of the Colosseum’s image as it is used to promote commercial pop music. “What kind of image is this?” La Regina said in an interview in *Corriere della Sera* newspaper in which he said the authorities should not have allowed the MTV show. “It’s debased, exploited, commercialized. An image (of Rome) that in the end will have less value because it will have lost its fascination, its integrity, its beauty.”

### 摇滚危及大剧场

传统主义者及环保主义者警告,MTV举办的一次大型摇滚音乐会可能会对罗马的圆形大剧场造成破坏,并有损其声望。MTV欧洲音乐奖的颁奖典礼将于深夜在罗马郊区举行,作为典礼的序幕,一些流行乐手及摇滚乐手将在圆形大剧场前演出。这座巨型竞技场已有2000年历史,在古代是角斗士们搏杀的地方。近年来这里曾举办过两次摇滚音乐会,一次是2003年保罗·麦卡特尼的演唱会,一次是2004年7月西蒙与加芬克尔的演唱会,当时都有成千上万的歌迷挤在穿过罗马广场废墟(在圆形大剧场附近——译者注)的一条街道上。不过,有些人担心摇滚音乐的巨大噪声会损及剧场的建筑。“有没有人想过摇滚乐对圆形大剧场的影响?”政界人士提奥多罗·布翁滕坡质问意大利议会,“有关当局想没想过……巨大的噪声必定会对这座历史建筑造成破坏?”意大利政府考古遗产部门主管阿德里亚诺·拉·雷金纳则认为,用圆形大剧场给商业流行乐捧场将会损害它的形象,这比物质上的损坏还要严重。他在接受《晚邮报》采访时说,当局不应该同意MTV在那里搞演出:“这算什么形象?是个堕落、惟利是图的商业化形象。(罗马的)这个象征到头来只会贬值,因为它丧失了自己的魅力、完整性和美感。”

# Lesson



## 背景知识 >>>

### · 美国人的待客之道

American hospitality begins at home—especially when it involves food. Most Americans agree that good home cooking beats restaurant food any day. When invited for a meal, you might ask, “Can I bring anything?” Unless it’s a potluck, where everyone brings a dish, the host will probably respond, “No, just yourself.” For most informal dinners, you should wear comfortable, casual clothes. Plan to arrive on time, or else call to inform your hosts of the delay. During the dinner conversation, it’s customary to compliment the hostess on the wonderful meal. Of course, the biggest compliment is to eat lots of food!

美国人的待客之道从家里开始——尤其是和食物有关。大多数美国人都同意，无论如何，好的家常菜胜过餐馆的菜。受邀吃饭时，你或许可以问：“我可以带些什么吗？”除非是每人带一道菜的聚餐，否则主人很可能会回答：“不用，你来就可以了。”大多数非正式的聚餐，你应该穿舒适、轻便的衣服。如果没法准时到，就打电话告诉主人你会晚点到。用餐时，习惯上，人们会称赞女主人烹调的美食。当然，最大的赞美是多吃！

## 文化美文阅读 >>>

### *It's a New Record for Cockroach Eating!*

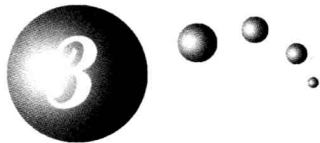
Some people will do anything to get into the record books—eat cockroaches, catapult coins or just sit around and navel-gaze. Australian Graham Barker has extracted his own bellybutton fluff every day since 1984, collecting a world record 0.54 ounces. His collection is just one of the weird and wonderful feats recorded in the 2002 edition of *Guinness World Records*, published recently. “Some people gaze into their navel for inspiration. I look into mine and see navel fluff,” said Barker, whose ambition is to collect enough navel pickings to stuff a pillow. Briton Ken Edwards, a former ratcatcher and part-time entertainer, made it into the record book after eating 36 medium-sized cockroaches in one minute on March 5, 2001. Other record-breaking feats include the loudest burp, by Briton Paul Hunn, which registered 118.1 decibels—comparable to a plane taking off, according to the record book. Sooty was

crowned the most romantic guinea pig after fathering 43 babies during a single night of passion with 24 partners in December 2000. British actor Vic Gallucci holds the record for most appearances as a television extra. Since 1989 he has appeared 819 times as Detective Constable Tom Baker in police TV drama *The Bill*. He has yet to speak a line.

### 吃蟑螂新纪录!

有些人为了创纪录什么都肯干——吃蟑螂、弹硬币,或者干脆傻坐着看自己的肚脐眼儿。澳大利亚的格雷厄姆·巴克尔从1984年开始每天收集自己肚脐上的软毛,现已收集了创世界纪录的0.54盎司。最近出版的《吉尼斯世界纪录大全》2002年版记载了各种稀奇古怪的“成就”,他的收藏只是其中之一。“有些人盯着肚脐寻找灵感,而我向自己的肚脐看去——看到了软毛,”巴克尔说。他的志向是收集足够的软毛来填充一个枕头。英国人肯·爱德华兹曾经是捕鼠人及业余演员,他于2001年3月5日在一分钟内吃下了36只中等个头的蟑螂,成功进入了吉尼斯大全。其他破纪录壮举还包括由英国人保罗·哈恩打出的最响亮的饱嗝。根据《大全》的记录,他的饱嗝声达到了118.1分贝,可与飞机起飞的声音媲美。豚鼠苏提在2000年12月与24只母鼠一夜激情之后成了43只小鼠的父亲,由此成为了世界上最浪漫的豚鼠。上镜次数最多的电视临时演员纪录由英国演员维克·加鲁西保持。他在警匪电视剧《钞票》中饰演警探汤姆·贝克,自1989年来已经出镜819次,不过还没有一句台词。

## Lesson



### 背景知识 >>>

明信片是用硬纸卡印制的,正面印有邮资图(或印有线框标志贴邮票位置)和收信人、寄信人地址、姓名的格式,背面供书写通信内容。明信片一般由国家邮政部门印制发行。分印有邮资图和未印有邮资图两种(印有邮资图的明信片特称邮资明信片)。其他非邮政部门也可以印制明信片,但不得印有邮资图。未印的明信片有普通明信片、纪念明信片、美术明信片、军邮明信片和贺年明信片等。

明信片的问世,距今已有130多年的历史。据史籍载,1865年10月的一天,有位德国画家在硬卡纸上画了一幅极为精美的画,准备寄给他的朋友作为结婚纪念品。但是他到邮局邮寄时,邮局出售的信封没有一个能将画片装下。画家正为难时,一位邮局职员建议画家将收件人地址、姓名等一起写在画片背面寄出。果然,这没有信封的“画片”如同信函一

