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趣闻·乐道天下

常春藤

赖世雄 主编

英语学习读本

Ivy League English Reading



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序

PREFACE

《常春藤英语学习读本》是针对想提高自己英语基础、增强应试能力的社会人士和在校学生所推出的一系列书。

该系列书中的内容来自台湾知名的英语学习杂志《常春藤解析英语》和《常春藤生活英语》。这两本杂志隶属于著名英语学习品牌“常春藤”旗下,由赖世雄教授担任主编。

《常春藤解析英语》创刊于 1988 年,是一份制作严谨的专业英语广播月刊,也是台湾首创针对升学考试及各种英语考试、并结合广播所发行的英语杂志。发行后,一路畅销,并获得全台湾英语老师的口碑肯定,被多所高中指定为英语课外教材,成为无数青年学子心目中的第一品牌。

1993 年,《常春藤生活英语》杂志应运而生,内容更贴近生活、更具流行性,符合现下读者求新求变的需求。同时也加入一些简易语法单元,以深入浅出的方式在无形中奠定读者的英语基础。

为了使大陆英语学习爱好者以及想提高自己英语基础、增强应试能力的读者共享这一盛宴,我们从这两本杂志中选取大量精彩的内容,分门别类,以飨读者。

该系列书的特点如下:

1. 题材广泛,内容新鲜有趣,涉及人文、趣事、生活、科技、娱乐、旅游等各个方面,是你欣赏美文的最佳选择。
2. 文章文笔精炼,好词好句多,有利于你提高英语表达能力。

3. 原汁原味的“广播式讲解”和“纯正美音朗读”，让你在赖老师和美籍老师们的谈笑风生中，轻松增强英语听说能力。
4. 练习和词汇讲解内容充实，是升学考试及其他各类英语考试的完美课外教材。

希望你在欣赏美文的同时，善加利用“课文讲解 MP3 + 美音朗读 MP3”，你会发现你进入了一个美妙的充满欢声笑语的课堂！最后预祝你英语综合能力步步高升！

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塔斯马尼亚魔鬼

Wild for the Tasmanian Devil

01

If you watch cartoons, you are probably familiar with the character of the Tasmanian Devil¹. For years, this somewhat cute, devilish² creature has been trying to **take a bite** out of the beloved Bugs Bunny.

The real Tasmanian devil, or Tassie devil, isn't so cute. About the size of a small poodle³, its fur is mostly black with patches⁴ of white on its chest. It has a broad head, wide jaws, sharp teeth, and a fierce screech⁵ that lets any creature know a Tassie devil is right around the corner.

The Tasmanian devil has been extinct⁶ for some 600 years from mainland Australia. It now mainly exists in the north, east, and central parts of the Australian island-state⁷ of Tasmania. This animal was named by European settlers due to the fierce screeches it lets out to **scare off** enemies. Besides its scary noise and appearance that keep people and animals at bay, the Tassie devil also produces a strong, unpleasant smell as a weapon. Because they sleep during the day, they prefer to hunt for their meals of reptiles⁸, amphibians⁹, birds, and small mammals¹⁰ after dark.

Tasmanian devils and koalas **have** something **in common**. At

one time, they were both considered a pest¹¹ to European settlers with rewards given for their slaughter¹². Though not an animal you'd want to hold, the Tasmanian devil is now a symbol and icon¹³ of the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

如果你看动画片,你可能对动画人物“塔斯马尼亚魔鬼”(袋獾)很熟悉。多年来,这只有点可爱又凶恶的动物一直都想咬一口大家所喜爱的宾尼兔。

真正的袋獾(塔斯马尼亚魔鬼),或称“塔斯鬼”,并不是那么可爱。它的体型约是小贵宾犬的大小,毛几乎全黑,胸前有白色斑块。它的头很大、下巴很宽、牙齿锋利,还有种能让任何生物知道它就在附近的恐怖叫声。

袋獾从澳大利亚大陆绝种约有 600 年左右。它现在主要栖息于澳大利亚塔斯马尼亚岛的北部、东部及中部。这种动物当初是由欧洲殖民者所命名,原因便是它为了吓跑敌人所发出的恐怖叫声。除了可怕的声音和外型使人类和动物竞相避开,袋獾也通过发出强烈恶臭作为武器。因为它们在白天睡觉,它们喜欢在夜晚到来后猎捕爬虫类、两栖类、鸟类和其他小型哺乳类动物为食。

袋獾和树袋熊有着共同点:它们都曾经被欧洲殖民者视为有害生物,于是奖励宰杀它们。虽然不是你想拥抱的动物,袋獾如今可是塔斯马尼亚野生国家公园的象征和吉祥物。

Extra Words

1. Tasmanian devil [tæz'menɪən 'dɛvl] *n.* 袋獾

Tasmania [tæz'menɪə] *n.* 澳大利亚的塔斯马尼亚岛

2. devilish [ˈdɛvəlɪʃ] *a.* 凶恶的

3. poodle [ˈpuːdl̩] *n.* 贵宾狗

4. patch [pætʃ] *n.* (与周围部分不同的) 斑点

5. screech [skritʃ] *n.* 尖锐刺耳的叫声

6. extinct [ɪk'stɪŋkt] *a.* 绝种的
7. island-state ['aɪlənd'stet] *n.* 岛州省; 岛屿国家
8. reptile ['reptail] *n.* 爬虫类动物
9. amphibian [æm'fɪbiən] *n.* 两栖类动物
10. mammal ['mæml] *n.* 哺乳动物
11. pest [pest] *n.* 有害的动物
12. slaughter ['slɔ:tə] *n.* 宰杀, 屠杀
13. icon ['aɪkən] *n.* 代表图像; 偶像

Phrases for Learning

1. **take a bite of...** 咬一口……

After taking a bite of the toast, the boy rushed to school.
咬了一口土司后, 小男孩匆忙去上学。

2. **scare off...** 吓跑……

Be quiet or you'll scare off the rabbits.
安静点, 否则你会吓跑小兔子。

3. **have...in common** 有……共同处

Though they're twins and look exactly alike, Tom and Ted have nothing in common.
虽然汤姆和泰德是双胞胎, 长得也一模一样, 但却没有任何共同点。

你今天巫毒了吗？ Do You Do Voodoo?

02

When most people hear the word Voodoo¹, they instantly think of dolls with pins stuck in them. **Poking** pins in a doll is said to **inflict** pain **upon** the person that the doll represents. Of course, this isn't reality but how Hollywood sees it. Voodoo, or more accurately² Vodun, is a very ancient, complex³ religion.

Vodun **is estimated to** be 6000 years old. The word itself can **be traced to** an African word for "spirit." Its followers believe that all things have spirits within them. Just like believers in other world religions, followers of Vodun often **look to** their ancestors **for** guidance⁴ in today's world.

The religion began in and around present-day⁵ Nigeria. It was later spread to the Caribbean⁶ and the Americas when slaves¹¹ were **transported** there. Slave masters, primarily⁷ Roman Catholics, made Vodun illegal because it **connected** the slaves **to** their African roots. Adherents⁸ of Vodun were forced to worship at night, long after their "masters" had gone to bed. When followers were caught, they often paid for it with their lives.

With changing times have come changes in the way Vodun is viewed by the world. It is now practiced by millions of people in

countries such as Benin and Haiti. It should not be feared. After all, most priests and priestesses⁹ of Vodun **confine** their work to white magic¹⁰, leaving Voodoo dolls to scenes in horror films.

大部分人一听到巫毒(Voodoo)这个词,就会立刻想到身上插满针的娃娃。将针插进娃娃身体据说能让娃娃所代表的人感受到同样的疼痛。当然,这并非事实,而是好莱坞对 Voodoo 的诠释。其实 Voodoo 正确来说是 Vodun,是种古老而复杂的宗教。

巫毒教(Vodun)据今约有 6000 年的历史。这个词可追溯至表示“灵魂”的非洲字。信徒相信万物皆有灵魂。就像世界上大部分其他宗教信仰一样,巫毒教徒也仰赖祖先给予他们在现今世界的指引。

这个宗教兴起于现今的尼日利亚附近,而后由于贩卖奴隶而传到加勒比海地区和美洲。奴隶的主人大部分是天主教徒,他们不让巫毒教合法,因为这会让奴隶与其非洲根源有所牵连。这迫使信徒们只好在主人入睡后的深夜里朝拜。当信徒被逮到时,常常要付出生命的代价。

物换星移,也改变了世人对巫毒教的看法。如今在贝宁和海地等国有好几百万人信奉巫毒教。这没什么好害怕的。毕竟,大部分巫毒教的男女祭司都只限于施展无害的魔法,巫毒娃娃就留给恐怖电影吧。

Extra Words

1. voodoo [ˈvʊdʊ] *n.* 巫毒教 (的巫术)
= vodun [ˈvɒdʌn ˈvɒˈdʌn]
2. accurately [ˈækjʊrətli] *adv.* 准确地
3. complex [ˈkɒmpleks] *a.* 复杂的
4. guidance [ˈɡaɪdəns] *n.* 指导
5. present-day [ˈprezəntˌdeɪ] *a.* 当今的
6. the Caribbean 加勒比海地区
Caribbean [ˌkærəˈbiən] *a.* 加勒比海 (人) 的

7. primarily [praɪ'mɛrəlɪ] *adv.* 主要地
8. adherent [əd'hɪərənt] *n.* 信徒; 拥护者
9. priest [prɪst] *n.* 祭司
 priestess ['prɪstɪs] *n.* 女祭司
10. white magic 白法术 (为人祈福、无害的法术)
 black magic 巫术, 妖术

Building Your Vocabulary

1. **poke** [pɒk] *vt.* 戳进; 伸进
 poke one's nose into... 某人干预 / 插手……的闲事
 If you poke your nose into my business one more time, you'll be sorry you did.
 如果你再管我的闲事, 你会后悔的。
2. **transport** [træns'pɔ:t] *vt.* 运送, 传送
 The shipping company unknowingly transported the illegal goods.
 船运公司在不知情的情况下运送了非法物品。

Phrases for Learning

1. **inflict...upon / on sb** 将……打击、处罚施加到某人身上
 inflict [ɪn'flɪkt] *vt.* 施加 (打击)
 The prison guard enjoyed inflicting pain upon the inmates under his control.
 这个监狱看守喜欢将痛苦施加到受他控制的囚犯身上。
2. **be estimated to V** 据估计 (有) ……
 This structure is estimated to be over 2,000 years old.
 = It is estimated that this structure is over 2,000 years old.
 这栋建筑物据估计有 2000 多年的历史。
3. **be traced (back) to...** 追溯到……
 Our family can be traced back to the early inhabitants of this island.
 我们的家族可以追溯到这个岛上的早期居民。

4. **look to sb for...** 依赖某人给出……（指导、建议等）

We often look to our minister for guidance in times of uncertainty.

当我们摇摆不定时，经常求助牧师为我们指引方向。

5. **connect A to B** 将 A 与 B 联想 / 连在一起

These traditions connect us to our ancestors.

这些传统将我们和祖先联系在一起。

6. **confine A to B** 将 A 限制在 B 内

confine [kən'faɪn] vt. 使局限；禁锢

John confined himself to his bedroom until he had solved the math problem.

约翰把自己关在屋子里，直到做完那道数学题。

小知识，大惊奇 Pursuing Trivia

▶ 03

How many bones are there in the human body? How often does the average person laugh in the course of a day? If you know the answers to both of these questions, you're either a doctor with a good sense of humor, or one of the millions of people with a passion for the insignificant¹. The little tidbits² of information are commonly called **trivia**.

Random³ facts and figures in your brain may only be useful if you're competing⁴ on a game show, but this knowledge is still fun to have. Why? To put it simply, because they're there. Here are a few examples of trivia that may make you **the life of the party**.

Did you know that an ostrich's⁵ eye is bigger than its brain? Speaking of feathered friends⁶, the average chicken lays 260 eggs a year. Now, that's a lot of tea eggs. If you happen to be left-handed⁷, there is a bit of bad news: you might die nine years earlier than a right-handed person. But don't despair⁸. When you do die, your ashes⁹ will weigh an average of nine pounds.

If you're into fast food and have eaten your share of Big Macs, did you know that there are typically¹⁰ 178 sesame¹¹ seeds on the bun¹²? That hamburger that you bite into happens to be worth more than you

might imagine. It's estimated that pound for pound, hamburgers cost more money than new cars.

OK, you won't win an award for these bits of information, but worthless¹³ trivia is good for breaking the ice. Speaking of ice, did you know...

人体中有多少根骨头？一般人一天之内发笑的次数是多少？如果你知道这两个问题的答案，你若不是位幽默的医生，就是对不重要的小事特别感兴趣的人中的百万分之一。这些无关紧要的有趣信息一般被称为“冷知识”。

你脑子里随意想到的常识与数字只有在参加益智节目时才能派上用场，但拥有这些知识仍是一种乐趣。此话怎讲呢？简单地说，他们就在那儿等着你去发掘。下面列举一些也许可以讨你欢心的冷知识。

你知道鸵鸟的眼珠子比它的脑袋瓜还大吗？说到我们的鸟类朋友，一只鸡平均每年下 260 颗蛋。那可是很多的茶叶蛋呢。你若碰巧是左撇子，有个坏消息，你可能会比右撇子少活 9 年。但别沮丧，你死后的骨灰将重达 9 磅。

如果你喜欢快餐，也吃过麦香堡，那你知道汉堡上通常有 178 颗芝麻吗？你吃的汉堡比你想象中的还值钱。以每一磅的价格比较，汉堡比新车还要来得贵。

你无法因为这些信息而得什么奖，但是这些无用的琐事却是打破僵局的好题材。说到冰块，你知道……

Extra Words

1. insignificant [ˌɪnsɪɡˈnɪfəkənt] a. 无关紧要的，微不足道的
2. tidbit [ˈtɪd,bɪt] n. 趣闻，花絮
3. random [ˈrændəm] a. 随机的
4. compete [kəmˈpɪt] vi. 竞争，竞赛

5. ostrich ['ʌstrɪtʃ] *n.* 鸵鸟
6. feathered friend ['feðəd,frɛnd] *n.* 鸟类
poultry ['pɒltrɪ] *n.* 家禽 (集合名词, 不可数)
7. left-handed [,lɛft'hændɪd] *a.* 左撇子的
right-handed [,raɪt'hændɪd] *a.* 右撇子的
8. despair [dɪ'spɛə] *vi. & n.* 绝望
9. ash [æʃ] *n.* 灰烬
10. typically ['tɪpɪkəlɪ] *adv.* 典型地; 通常
11. sesame ['sesəmi] *n.* 芝麻
12. bun [bʌn] *n.* 小圆面包
bread [brɛd] *n.* 面包 (不可数名词)
13. worthless [wɜ:θlɪs] *a.* 无价值的

Building Your Vocabulary

1. pursue [pə'su] *vt.* 追求

He spent all his life pursuing fame and fortune.
他穷尽一生追求名声和财富。

2. trivia ['trɪviə] *n.* 琐事 (不可数)

trivial ['trɪviəl] *a.* 琐碎的

trifle ['traɪfl] *n.* 无关紧要的事情 (可数名词)

注意:

trivia 除了指不重要的琐事外, 也在问答游戏中, 有关历史事件、名人或体育运动的冷门知识。

She cares nothing about trivia and other things that won't help her career.
她对琐事或其他无益于她事业的事毫不在乎。

Phrases for Learning

1. the life of the party 讨人欢心的人 / 物

After one beer, Fred was the life of the party.
一杯啤酒下肚后, 弗莱德变得很讨喜。