

张从益 编 著

英语阅读与会话

(美、中概况与文化)

中南工业大学出版社

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Reading and Speaking in English

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前 言

本书是依据心理语言学关于语言运用的理论编写而成。其特点是：一、阅读与会话的有机结合。读者可得到对所学内容经过思维到理解再到表达的积极反馈。二、中西文化对比。要学好一种外语，必须了解使用这种语言的民族的文化、概况及生活方式，否则，尽管你该门外语的基础相当好，但由于缺乏对其文化背景的了解，以致说出话来，让人不知所云。据此，本书适应所有英语爱好者。

本书在编排上分为四大部分。第一部分：背景与指南，阐述了英语国家中的社会风尚、社会礼仪和生活习惯等，并着重指出中西方文化之间的差异。第二部分：二篇要求细读的课文，内容均为美国概况与文化。第三部分：与课文紧密结合的会话材料，其中一篇是谈论中国概况与文化。第四部分：参考译文与练习答案。

在编写过程中，得到了美籍老师 John McGuire 的支持，并对本书内容进行了审阅，在此深表谢忱。

书中的疏漏和不当之处，衷心希望读者批评指正。

编 者

1993年9月

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Unit one

Land and People

BACKGROUND AND DIRECTION 背景与指南

同我国一样，英美各国也是礼仪之邦，在同英美人对话时，一些在国内英语学得不错的人，也会有劲用不上，有想说而说不出的感觉，因此，都不同程度地存在着语言障碍。这种情况，在我国学生中较普遍存在，大致表现在以下三个方面：

第一是本身的功底差。比如你只学了半年或至多一年的英语，认识了一些单词，还能背出一些常用的对话，但对于一些基本语言知识，诸如语法结构，习惯用语表达法，以及必要的词汇量都没有很好地掌握。这样除了一些简单的招呼用语外，恐怕很难与英美人进行哪怕是简单的对话。

第二种情况是本人的语言功底还不错，但是到时候却觉得使不上劲。有一位英语相当不错且又自尊心很强的中国学生，在一次和外宾交谈时，当外宾对他说：“Your English is pretty good.”（你英语相当不错。）他竟不知道如何回答。外宾觉得奇怪，又问了一句：“Why, you don't think so?”（怎么，你不这么认为吗？）那位同学急忙中脱口而出：“No, I don't.”（是的，我不认为我的英语很好。）外宾听了之后很不高兴地走了。事后那位同学很后悔。这只是因为当时同外宾讲话，他总在考虑讲得好些，想讲出一个漂亮、得体的句子，结果句子没想出来，连简单的对话也不会回答了。

还有一种情况，尽管语法用词都没错，但由于缺乏对欧美一些国家文化背景的了解，以致话说不出来，让人不知所云。例如中国人习惯问别人：“吃饭了吗？”“现在到哪儿去？”等，以表示对人的一种关切心情，但这往往引起外国人的困惑甚至反感。曾经有一位从英国来的年轻女教师碰到过这样的事。她走出机场去银行兑换人民币，在办完事后，这位工作人员或许是为了实际运用一下他学会的口语，顺口问了一句：“Have you eaten your lunch?”这位女教师非常吃惊地望着这位陌生的中国青年，然后回答说：“Yes, I have already had it.”其实，她当时并没有吃过饭。在英美国家中，问人家吃过饭没有，通常是间接地想邀请他人一起用餐。在未婚青年中，这还意味着希望与对方交异性朋友。第一次踏上别国土地，一位陌生的异国青年就要同自己交朋友，难怪这位年轻女教师感到十分惊异了。而当她来到工作的学校，许多中国老师又多次重复了上面那句话，又过了好几个星期，这位女教师总算彻底搞清了这句话的真正涵义，原来它与“It's a lovely day, isn't it?”（今天天气很好，是吗？）一样，除了作打招呼之用外，没有任何别的含意。

要克服第一种语言障碍比较简单，虽然得花一定的时间，可是只要你多读、多听、多讲，熟能生巧，总会进步的。但克服第二与第三种语言障碍就比较困难，因为不仅有语言本身的问题，而且还牵涉到语言外的问题。许多初次出国的中国留学生，都在不同程度上存在着以上三方面的语言障碍。要克服这些障碍，不妨在以下几个方面加以注意。

首先，当你听不懂对方的话时，一定要向对方说明。可以说：“Pardon?”也可以直接告诉对方：“I'm not a native speaker.”（我是外国人。）因此请他说得慢些，

“Could you speak slowly?” 不管使用哪种说法，目的都是为了让对方把话讲得让你听懂。由于美国和许多西方国家的居民来自世界各地，因此当地人在同你讲话时不一定把你当作外国人，他们的讲话速度也不会因为你的黑眼睛黄皮肤而因此减慢。相反，他们认为怀疑你听不懂，会有轻视你的意味。而只有当你向他说明我是外国人（I am not a native speaker.）或是说我是新来的（I am quite new.），他才会考虑使用你能听懂的语言，你能接受的速度。而有些中国学生则往往觉得承认自己听不懂怪不好意思的，结果模模糊糊地听了个大概之后，就忙不迭地说：“Thank you. Good-bye.” 事后还是一无所知。久而久之便觉得自己听力实在不行，再也不敢和当地人交谈了。

在同英美人对话时，一些在国内英语学得不错的人，也会有劲用不上，有想说而又说不出的感觉。需要指出的是，这和我国的英语教学有一定关系。就我国英语教学的实践来看，目前大部分学校还是强调书面英语，因此有很多人会背优秀的散文，能够复述一些故事，然而当他们同外国人日常对话时，就觉得自己常挂在嘴边的一些漂亮的句子老是用不上，只能重复干巴巴的套话。如果要他们表述一些较复杂的事件时，他们往往反复考虑句子结构，及语法、用词是否准确。国内的英语教学是注重考试（test-oriented）的，所以也就重视对话的 accuracy（精确性）。在一些旅游事业发达的国家，如东南亚国家，旅游服务人员则被要求做到 Fluency first, accuracy second.（流利第一，精确第二。）因为别人一般会很耐心地等你讲出一个正确的词汇来，他关心的主要还是信息（information）。比方在向别人叙述一件交通事故，一个普通的美国人也可能会说：“I see an accident yesterday. A lady is killed.” 在这里，听他讲的人主要关心的是在事故中有几个人丧生这个重要信息，并不在乎他的话里时态方面是否有问题。对于一个英语学得不错的中国人来说，他经过一番琢磨后，很可能会这么说：“Yesterday, I saw an accident in which a lady was killed.” 这说明美国人把语言作为交流思想的工具，只要能达意，出些小错误并不十分在意。问题是这种在国内课堂上训练出来的精确性，到底在多大程度上能够达到“达意”的目的。所以我们只管大胆地讲，不要过多考虑语言规则，实践多了，自然就达到既精确而又流利的目的。

Reading Passages

Passage 1

1. The United States is a varied land—of forests, deserts, mountains, high flat lands and fertile plains. Almost every kind of climate may be found but the country lies mostly in the temperate zone. The continental United States stretches 4,500 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west. It borders Canada on the north, and reaches south to Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico. A fast railroad train, traveling 96 kilometers an hour, takes more than 48 hours to cross the country.

2. A jet plane crosses the continental United States from east to west in about five hours. Taking off from an Atlantic coast airport, the plane is soon flying over the gentle slopes of the Appalachian Mountains. Then, for hundreds of kilometers it

crosses the fertile fields of the farm belt of the great Middle West. To the north, on clear days, passengers may see the five Great Lakes located between the United States and Canada. Continuing into the West, the plane flies over vast prairies and rough cattle-grazing country. Soon the snow-topped Rocky Mountains appear in the distance. After crossing these high ranges, the plane can almost glide down into the rich valleys of California and, finally, to a landing not far from the beaches of the Pacific Ocean.

3. Including the states of Alaska and Hawaii, the United States covers an area of 9,363, 123 square kilometers. Alaska borders on northwestern Canada, Hawaii lies in the Pacific 3,857 kilometers from the San Francisco. Alaska is the largest in area of the 50 states, and Texas, in the southern part of the country, is second in size. Texas alone is larger than France, and Alaska is twice as big as Texas.

4. From the Appalachian Mountains in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West, the center of the country is drained by the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and their branches. These rivers form a 19,000-kilometer system of waterways that are connected to the Great Lakes in the north by a canal. The Mississippi is one of the world's great rivers, it was known to American Indians as the "father of waters". Water from the source of its main branch, the Missouri River, flows about 6,020 kilometers from the northern Rocky Mountains, to the mouth of the Mississippi in the Gulf of Mexico.

5. Other important rivers are the Yukon in Alaska, 2,554 kilometers long, the Rio Grande, which flows for 3,050 kilometers and forms part of the United States-Mexico border, the Columbia, which rises in western Canada and continues in the United States for about 1,954 kilometers west of the Rocky Mountains, and the Colorado, which begins in the Rocky Mountains and flows southwest for some 2,320 kilometers. For 342 of these kilometers the Colorado flows through the magnificent Grand Canyon, carved through the ages by the river's waters. Other well-known rivers include the Hudson, which meets the Atlantic Ocean at New York City, the Potomac, bordering the national capital at Washington, and the Ohio, a branch of the Mississippi that flows west from the Appalachian Mountains.

Multiple Choice

1. The United States lies mostly in _____.
 - A. the tropic zone
 - B. the sub-tropic zone
 - C. the temperate zone
 - D. the arctic zone
2. Canada is to _____.
 - A. the south of the United States.
 - B. the north of the United States
 - C. the south of the Gulf of Mexico.
 - D. the north of the Gulf of Mexico
3. The main idea of the second paragraph is that _____.

- A. five hours are quite enough for a jet plane to cross the United States
B. on clear days, passengers may see the Great Lakes from the plane
C. passengers can see the Rocky Mountains from the plane
D. the Great Lakes lie between the United States and Canada
4. The sentence which best expresses the main idea of the third paragraph is _____.
A. the first sentence
B. the second sentence
C. the third sentence
D. the fourth sentence
5. The United States is _____.
A. smaller than China
B. bigger than China
C. as big as China
D. twice as big as China
6. According to the fourth paragraph, you know that _____.
A. the Mississippi and the Missouri rivers flow through the middle of the country.
B. the Appalachian Mountains are on the west side of the U. S.
C. the Rocky Mountains are on the east side of the U. S.
D. the Appalachian Mountains are divided into two parts
7. The boundary river between the United States and Canada is _____.
A. the Yukon
B. the Rio Grande
C. the Colorado
D. the Hudson

Passage 2

1. The United States has long been known as a "melting pot," because many of its people are descended from settlers who came from all over the world to make their homes in the new land, which was sparsely populated by native Indian tribes. The first immigrants in American history came from England and the Netherlands. Attracted by reports of great economic opportunities and religious and political freedom, immigrants from many other countries flocked to the United States in increasing numbers, reaching a peak in the years 1880-1914. Between 1820 and 1973, the United States admitted more than 46 million immigrants. The greatest numbers came from Europe, but many came also from Latin America, Asia, Africa, Australia, and Canada.

2. Some 825,000 American Indians, descendants of North America's first inhabitants, now reside in the United States. Most live in the West, but many are in the south and north central areas. Of the more than 300 separate tribes, the largest is the Navaho in the Southwest.

3. Black people were first brought to America from Africa as slaves (in 1863 President Abraham Lincoln freed all who remained enslaved). Their descendants now make up more than 12 percent of the population. They once lived mainly in the

agricultural South but now are scattered throughout the nation. In the mid-western city of Chicago, for example, there are more than one million black residents—more than three times as many as in 1940. New York State has the largest black population—2,170,000 an increase of more than three-quarters of a million in 10 years.

4. In Hawaii, more than a third of the residents are of Japanese descent, a third are Caucasians, about 15 percent are of Polynesian background, and the others are mainly of Filipino, Korean, and Chinese descent.

5. Every 10 years the United States makes a complete count, or census, of its people and industries. When the first count was made in 1790 the new nation had fewer than 4 million people, almost all living along the East Coast. Today, there are more than 236 million. In the past 20 years many people have moved to the western and southern parts of the country. The State of California on the Pacific Coast now has the largest population and the Atlantic Coast State of New York is second. The Southern State of Florida, known for its pleasant climate, has almost twice the number of residents it had in 1950.

6. The American people are always on the move—from one part of the country to another, from one city to another, from farm to city, from the city to the suburbs. One in ten Americans moves to a new home every year seeking new job opportunities, a better climate, or for other reasons. Many industries have scattered their factories, often far from the parent plant, and many of their workers have decided to try the new locations.

7. Today three out of four Americans live in towns, cities or suburbs, about 54 million live in rural areas. Two-thirds of all families live in separate households, and 64.2 percent own their own homes. The number of households has increased from 3 million in 1950 to about 65 million. This is due in part to medical discoveries which have greatly reduced infant mortality and extended life expectancy.

8. New York City is America's largest city. Its population was 7 million. At the same time, the population of its suburbs was nearly 10 million more. The city's 1,040 kilometers of waterfront give it the largest harbor in the world. It is visited by nearly 17,000 ships annually. Some 500,000 ship passengers and another 40 million air travelers pass through New York yearly.

9. Chicago is the second largest city, with 3 million inhabitants. Los Angeles, California, is third with a population of 3 million. Philadelphia, fourth largest, has about 2 million people. Philadelphia is important in American history, because the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were born there.

10. The nation's capital, Washington, is seventh in population with about 638,432 residents. Specially planned and built as a national capital, Washington was laid out by French architect Pierre L'Enfant late in the 18th century. A city of great beauty is also becoming a leading cultural center.

11. Some of the large cities, such as Chicago, Illinois; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Detroit, Michigan, have lost population, to their suburbs (the surrounding areas just outside the cities) where there is more room for gardens and places for children to play. Shopping centers, schools, churches, theaters and community centers have been built in great numbers to serve the increasing numbers of people living in the suburbs.

Multiple Choice

8. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
- A. The Importance of Immigration B. "The Melting Pot"
C. Why People Are Immigrants D. How People Immigrated
9. The United States is called "The melting pot", because_____.
- A. its most important industry is melting
B. its people are descended from settlers who came from throughout the world
C. the native Indians are good at melting
D. the people tend to gather in racial groups
10. According to the passage, the earliest immigrants were_____.
- A. the English people B. native Indians
C. the Netherlandish people D. both A and C
11. People immigrated into the country because of_____.
- A. rich land B. economic opportunities
C. friendly people D. the mild climate
12. According to the passage, the first inhabitants in America were_____.
- A. Indians B. descendants of Canadians
C. descendants of Australians D. both B and C
13. Black people were first brought to America from_____.
- A. Africa B. Europe C. Latin America D. Canada
14. The largest black population is in_____.
- A. Texas B. New York State C. California D. Washington
15. The state which has the largest population is_____.
- A. New York B. California
C. Indiana D. Philadelphia
16. Philadelphia is important in American history because_____.
- A. Lincoln was born there B. Washington was born there
B. the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the U.S. were written there
D. Philadelphia is very large
17. The city of Washington was planned by_____.
- A. a French architect B. a British architect

C. an American architect

B. a Canadian architect

I. Oral Practice

(1)

John: Hello, Jean. What are you reading here?

Jean: Oh, come in, John. I'm reading an article entitled the "melting pot".

John: What does the "melting pot" mean? Does it call the United States a "melting pot"?

Jean: Yes. You are quite right.

John: What's the reason for calling the U. S. a "melting pot"?

Jean: It's because its population consists of various kinds of people.

John: I hear most American people are descendants of early immigrants, is it true?

Jean: Yes, but the land was also sparsely populated by native American tribes.

John: Where did the first immigrants to the U. S. come from?

Jean: They came from England and the Netherlands.

John: And what was the number of immigrants who entered the U. S. between 1820 and 1973?

Jean: More than 46 million. The greatest numbers came from Europe, but many also came from Latin America, Asia, Africa, Australia and Canada.

John: How about black people in the U. S. ? They came from England?

Jean: No, they came from Africa. They were first brought to America as slaves. In 1863 President Lincoln freed them.

John: Do you have any idea of the total population of the U. S. ?

Jean: Yes, there are more than 236 million. The U. S. makes a complete census of its people every ten years.

John: I hear few American people live in one place for longer than five years.

Jean: It's true. Mobility is an important part of American life.

John: That's to say, mobility and change have perhaps become a way of life in the United States.

Jean: You are right. That's different from the way of life in China.

John: O. K. Thank you very much. I'm afraid I must be going now.

Jean: Just drop in, whenever you have time. So long!

(2)

Tim: Have you ever been to the United States?

Tom: No. What is it like?

Tim: It's a very large country with an area of 9,363, 123 square kilometers.
It takes five hours for a jet plane to cross from east to west.

Tom: But I hear a fast train takes more than 48 hours to cross the country,
is that right?

Tim: Yes. You are right. But the train must travel 96 kilometers an hour.

Tom: Well, can you tell me something about the location of the United States?

Tim: Certainly. The continental United States stretches 4,500 kilometers from
the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Pacific Ocean on the west.

Tom: Does it border Canada on the north?

Tim: Yes. It reaches south to Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico.

Tom: It's a varied—of forests, deserts, mountains, high flat lands and fertile
plains, isn't it?

Tim: Yes. You may find every kind of climate in the country, but it lies mostly
in the temperate zone.

Tom: There are two great mountain ranges in the United States, aren't there?

Tim: Yes. They are the Appalachian Mountains and the Rocky Mountains. May
I say something about them?

Tom: Yes. Please do.

Tim: The Rockies are much higher than the Appalachians. The former lie in the
west, and the latter in the east.

Tom: Do you know anything about the two well-known rivers?

Tim: Well, the two well-known rivers are the Mississippi and the Missouri. They
flow between the Appalachians and the Rockies.

Tom: I hear the Mississippi was known to American Indians as the "father of
waters". Is it true?

Tim: Yes. You are right. This is because it is one of the longest rivers in the
world.

Tom: I hear the two rivers are connected to the Great Lakes in the north by a
canal.

Tim: Oh! You know...you know the Great Lakes?

Tom: Just a little. Tell me something about them, will you?

Tim: Sure. In the north central part of the United States are the Great Lakes.
They are used for shipping farm products and lumber. Many large cities
developed on their shores.

Tom: Ah, good. I see now.

(3)

A: Why, John! What a nice surprise! What brings you out here?

B: I have a question for you.

A: I would be glad to help you. what's up?

B: I would like to know something about China's land and people.

A: Well, yes—China is situated in the eastern part of Asia, on the west coast of the Pacific Ocean.

B: That's to say, China is situated on the side of the ocean opposite the United States of America.

A: Right. Also, China is the third-largest country after the former USSR and Canada and the US is the fourth-largest after China.

B: I've learned China has a vast territory of 9.6 million square kilometers. The distance from east to west measures 5,000 kilometers, and from north to south over 5,500 kilometers. Is it all right?

A: Yes. When the sun rises over the Wusuli River in the northeast, the Pamirs in the west are still dark. When Blizzards wrap the north in winter, spring sowing is under way on Hainan Island in the south. Western China consists of highlands often sparsely populated, and eastern China of lowlands densely populated.

B: Oh, something like the States. People say, in China, some areas are warm year round while others have long winters and short summers. Is that right?

A: True, but most of the land lies in the temperate zone with four distinct seasons. A combination of high temperatures and plentiful rain provides favourable conditions for farming.

B: How interesting! Maybe that's the way the Lord created the world.

A: OK, You might say so. With the neighboring countries, China borders on Korea in the east, the former Soviet Union in the northeast and northwest, and Mongolia in the north.

B: Then, how about Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan?

A: Well, they all border China in the west and the southwest.

B: What countries border China in the south and southeast?

A: Burma, Laos and Viet Nam in the south. Across the sea to the east and southeast it faces Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

B: As you know, my country is a Varied land—of forests, deserts, mountains and so on. How about your country?

A: The same as yours. Specifically, plateaus and mountains occupy 60 per cent of China's land area.

B: I hear most of the main rivers originate in the highlands or mountains and have a large volume of flow.

A: According to rough estimates, the annual total volume of flow of all Chinese

rivers is 2,700,000 cubic metres, but the distribution is uneven, the south having more than the north. All the main rivers have navigable stretches, and the distances already opened to transport total 160,000 kilometers.

B: Can you tell me what the main rivers of China are?

A: Sure. The main rivers of China are the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, the Heilung River, the Haiho River, the Huai River and the Pearl River.

B: I hear the Yangtze is China's largest river, rising in the Koko Shill Mountains in Western Chinghai Province. It traverses 5,800 kilometres through 9 or so provinces to empty into the East China Sea.

A: And the Yellow River is the second largest. Originating in the northern foothills of the Bayan Kara Mountains in Chinghai Province, it flows 4,800 kilometers through about 9 provinces to flow into the Pohai Sea.

B: Of course, it is well-known in the world. As people usually say, the Yellow River is the birthplace of Chinese history and the cradle of Chinese Culture.

A: It seems to me that you are quite familiar with China's rivers.

B: Not very, but a little. Now how about the other rivers?

A: The Pearl River, south China's largest, is formed by the confluence of three rivers—the Sikiang, Peikiang and Tungkiang. The Sikiang, largest of the three, rises in the Wumeng Mountains in east Yunan, flowing 2,100 kilometres into the South China Sea. The Haiho River originates in the mountainous areas of Hopei and Shansi provinces.

B: OK. The middle section of the Heilung River forms part of the border between China and the former Soviet Union. Eventually flowing into the sea of Okhotsk of the former Soviet Union, it measures 2,850 kilometres in length.

A: So the two countries share the river. Is there anything more you want to know about rivers?

B: No. Thank you for the introduction to China's land. Now would you be so kind as to talk briefly about China's people?

A: My pleasure. China is a multi-ethnic country. Of the 56 ethnic groups the Han is the largest with a population of 910 million, making up approximately 94 percent of the country's population.

B: So, the Han inhabit most of the country's area?

A: No, even though the ethnic nationalities total approximately 55.8 million people, and constitute only 6 percent of the country's population of over one billion, they inhabit 50—60 percent of the total area.

B: I was told relations between different ethnic nationalities are taking on a new look along with economic development.

A: Quite right. With the development of the national economy, people of

different nationalities have broken away from their former isolated lives and engaged vigorously in co-operation with others to develop their local economies.

B: So relations between different ethnic groups have improved greatly.

A: Since the 1950s, large numbers of Han people have moved to the areas historically populated by ethnic minorities to support their economic construction. These Han people have helped set up some large energy and raw material enterprises.

B: It seems to me the cases of our two countries are similar. Moreover, our two countries are vast in territory and population, and influential in the world.

A: Right. An easing of relations between China and the west led to China's entry into the UN in 1971, and an exchange of visits between China and Western political leaders. President Nixon visited China in 1972, and President Ford in 1974.

B: Yeah, diplomatic relations were formerly established between China and the US on Jan. 1, 1979.

A: Well, I must be going now. Thank you very much for your information.

B: Must you? It's still early.

A: I'm afraid I really must. I have a few things to do before lunch.

B: In that case I won't keep you.

(4) Translation

A

流动性历来就是美国文化的一大特点。地理、社会和职业上的这种流动,曾在征服西部的过程中得到最好例证。今天依然如此:美国公民,不像大多数欧洲人,他们毫不犹豫地改变其职业和居住的城市。

汽车的出现使流动更加方便。20年代末的大萧条时期,整个家庭到处奔波寻找工作。

最新调查表明,现在存在着一种稳定趋势(最近的移民除外),但是开拓和创新精神犹存,美国人依然四处奔走,寻找更好的机会。

在大城市的边缘,公园里有专门容纳流动工人的住房拖车。同时,还能满足美国社会那种追求变换口味和新奇感的基本特征的要求。漫游嗜好在文学和电影里被当成重要特色,并常常作为追求个人命运或民族前途所不可缺少的因素。

B

美国辽阔的幅员使得乘飞机旅行极为普遍。因为客运铁路网在密度和质量标准方面不如欧洲的同行,所以在大的交通枢纽间的主要航线上,每天有多达50个航班往返飞行。这就使人们觉得方便,好象是在乘公共汽车,而不是在空中运行。

您只需要一张登机卡,就可以订到下一班飞机的座位。您还可以在途中付钱。机票比较便宜,而且还有各种各样的削价机票。

II . Supplementary Reading

Passage 3

The United States is almost three thousand miles across from east to west, and fourteen hundred miles from north to south.

Along the Atlantic coast the land is flat, and there are many good harbors where large cities have grown up. In the northern part of the coastal plain, called New England, the ground is stony and not very good for farming. There are forests in this part of the country, and lumbering is an important industry. New England also has many factories, particularly for making cloth and leather goods.

On the middle Atlantic coast are several large cities whose deep harbors have made them centers of trade. New York, the largest of these, is the largest city in the United States.

In the southern part of the nation, the coastal plain is wide, and the land is good for farming. The climate is quite warm for much of the year and tobacco, cotton, rice, and peanuts are grown on southern farms. Oranges, lemons, and other fruits grow well in the warm and sunny state of Florida.

The first of two great mountain chains, about one hundred and fifty miles from the coast, is the Appalachian range of mountains, reaching from Maine in the north to Georgia in the south. They are 'old' mountains, not very high and covered with trees. Their scenic trails and mountain streams attract thousands of vacationing Americans every year.

West of the Appalachians is fertile farmland. Many trees had to be cut down to make room for the farms in the river valleys here. One thousand miles from the shore of the Atlantic is the Mississippi, the longest river in the United States. In the early part of the country's history, the Mississippi was like a big road, crowded with travelers and ships full of food and cotton. Now railroads, airplanes, and highways have made the Mississippi less important as a trade route, although it is still used a great deal. West of the mouth of the Mississippi is the state of Texas with its many oil wells, some of them offshore in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

In the north central part of the United States are the five Great Lakes, large, deep bodies of water set in rich farm land. From the time this area was settled, the lakes were used for shipping farm products and lumber, and many large cities developed on their shores. Iron from Minnesota and Michigan can be easily shipped eastward to steel factories which are close to coal supplies; milk, butter and cheeses