# 快乐英语阅读

何朝阳 黄 石



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#### 内容提要

本书向读者提供了 14 篇活泼有趣的英文文章, 意在提高读者的阅读兴趣, 变以往被迫阅读的痛苦和厌倦为主动阅读的愉悦和渴望。

不用查字典,难词难句均有注释,生词还用黑体排出,有助于阅读中引起你的注意,刺激你的记忆系统。所有 14 篇文章均配有中文译文,同页中英对照,阅读十分方便。

本书能使大学生和具有中等以上英语水平的读者耳目一新.是难得的阅读材料。

DW04/12

#### 前 言

法国大思想家孟德斯鸠说:"喜欢读书,就等于把生活中寂寞的辰光换成巨大享受的时刻。"英国著名散文家、诗人约瑟夫·艾迪生也说过,"生活中的一切娱乐,都不及阅读有益而有趣的作家之作品。只有它,才是填补空余时间的最好办法。"哲人与文人对阅读都情有独钟,充分享受读书的愉悦。其实,我们普通人又何尝没有这愉快的经历呢? 曾记否,孩提时当我们初识阅读时,书中神秘、奇特的文字符号向我们展现出一幅幅生动的画面和种种紧张冒险的情节,使我们突然感受到阅读的魔力给我们带来的自豪和愉悦。虽然当时还没有清醒的认识,但我们确确实实感受到:阅读,为我们打开了一个全新的世界。可是,随着年龄的增长,这种惊喜之感日益淡漠,阅读的负担却与日俱增;它意味着考试,意味着作业;它不单单只是随意地阅读,它更需要积极主动地吸收,理解,想象和思考。读物越具挑战性,读者越需要思维活跃。阅读不仅愉悦人生、扩大眼界,阅读亦极富挑战性。

我们学习第二语言又何尝不是如此?学习外国语言本为求知和交流,可是,从中学到大学,乃至走上工作岗位后,我们要通过很多考试。为此,我们一定做过不少的英语阅读理解题。当你如释重负地通过考试后,你是否还有阅读英文的心情?你是否想过在学英文的过程中,换一种阅读方式,或者说增加一种阅读方式,正如孩提时代的你,享受初识阅读的快乐呢?

语言学家们认为,人们学习和应用第二语言有两个完全不同的过程:即"习得"(acquisition)和"学习"(learning)。美国语言学家克拉申在 The Input Hypothesis: Issues and Implications (Longman Group Ltd.)一书中指出:前者的学习过程是一种潜意识过程,学习者不靠别人教语法规则就发展了自己的"语言能力"(competence);后者是一种有意识的学习语言规则过程。而学习中,往往是习得过程对外语学习者更为重要。语言习得过程是一个内在化过程,在外语教学与学习中,为了加速这个过程,必须强化输入。"输入"(input)是指学习者通过听和读接触到的语言材料;语言学上另一个专业术语"摄入"(intake)是指学习者在习得过程中真正理解并吸收的语言材料。在语言习得

过程中,语言输入要充分,因为输入是前提,学习者摄入的仅仅是输入的一部分而已。而输入还必须有分寸,即输入的应当是学习者可以理解的,克拉申称之为"可理解性输入"(comprehensible input,简写为 ci)。学习者所以能够习得语言,是因为语言中包含稍高于他自己目前语言水平的语言材料。因此,他把这种输入加以公式化:i+1,i代表学习者现有的语言能力,i+1表示略高于原来的语言能力。学习者通过这种合理的输入强化,也就是前面所说的有分寸的输入强化,便可以自然而然地习得语言了。

美国著名教育理论专家 Stephen Krashen 在其新近出版的《阅读的效力》 (The Power of Reading - Insights from the Research, Libraries Unlimited., Inc, 1993) 一书中,也特别推荐一种提高第二语言的阅读方式——随意自愿阅读(free voluntary reading,简称 FVR):读自己爱读的书,不用写读书报告,不要求在每章阅读后回答问题,也不要求查阅生词,碰到不爱读的书就放下,再另找一本。

专家们没有历数语言学习 ABC,而是强调在大量的阅读过程中,在有关知识的积累中,在有关问题的解决中,实践地形成自己最佳的阅读方法,提高语言水平。自述读书多的人,往往读写能力都较强。以读书为乐的人其阅读理解能力、词汇量和阅读速度必然都高。Alexander(1986)和 Foertsch(1992)的两项研究也表明:1. 进行 FVR 的学生在标准测试中成绩很好;2. 多做以训练技巧为目的的阅读练习对阅读理解并无帮助。Applobee(1978)发现,获全美教师协会杰出英语写作奖的学生都是有阅读情趣的学生。多项研究证实了第二语言的阅读量与语言习得之间存在肯定的正比例关系。

既然阅读如此愉悦而有益,我们为什么不做一个快乐的阅读者呢?而处于世纪之交的今天,在信息丰富环境中的阅读,又必须具有高度的选择性,必须"有所不为,然后有所为"。为此,我们有意选编了这样一本书,供具备中等以上英语水平,有志于继续学习,扩大视野的读者阅读。书中七个栏目中的十四篇文章,均为当代英美名家精品,内涵丰富,题材广泛,体裁多样,信息量大。它不仅需要我们进行输出型阅读(efferent reading, Rosenblatt 语, The Reader, The Text, The Poem),即遗过第二语言的文字符号,读出文章传递的信息;更需要审美型阅读(aesthetic reading),关注阅读过程中所发生的奇妙事情:读者在和作品的交流中产生诗一般的感受,并以自己本身的经历来承受作品的内涵,扩展读者的思绪。

找一个安静的角落坐下来品读。倘若你有倚在床上或偎在沙发里读书

的习惯,一册在手,随便翻翻,舒适而安详,不亦乐乎。(当然,你一倚床就想入梦,那就另当别论!)不用查字典,难词难句均有注释,生词还用黑体排出,有助于阅读中引起你的注意,刺激你的记忆系统;不用回答阅读理解问题,书中没有这样的要求,但这不等于你在阅读中不用思考,恰恰相反,阅读中你应勤于思考。不要急于看中文译文,那只是你的拐杖,是你遇到障碍时,倚仗看到的另一道风景。愿这道风景给你架起理解、升华的桥梁。

本书原文选自英美各种书刊杂志,在此向有关作者表示谢意。

编者

#### 目 次

	聆听大师(Listening Respectfully to Masters)
1.	The Importance of Doing Things Badly (1)
	草草行事的重要性
	格言指示我们"一件事只要值得一做,一定得好好去做"。果真如此吗? 英国
	作家 I.A. 维廉斯认为没有哪种谬论像这条格言这样被人们如此认真不断地重复
	着。维廉斯如是说:草草行事同样重要。
2.	On Happiness In Marriage(10)
	论婚姻的幸福
	纵观世界,抚躬自问,造成婚姻幸福或不幸的一般条件是什么?"人越有文化
	越难与一个伴侣幸福地白头偕老"吗? 哲人罗素鞭辟人里的分析给人们以深刻的
	启迪。
	百味人生(Various Human Experience)
3.	Joy And Pain ····· (20)
	愉悦与痛苦
	愉悦与痛苦似乎是一对不可调和的矛盾,可是生活中你是否有这样的感受:每
	经受一次痛苦,在平凡之中发现愉悦的能力就增加一分。人啊,当你能从痛苦中更
	加理解自己,同情他人,你将享受痛苦之后的无尽快乐。
4.	My Wood (28)
	我的树林
	财产是什么? 财产对人的性格会起什么影响? 福斯特的经历与感受,读后你
	是否也感问身受?
	小说欣赏(An Appreciation of Stories)
5.	The Storm
	风暴
	违背理性的自然冲动是什么?它如风暴,劈天盖地,狂放不羁。
6.	My Oedipus Complex (49)
	我的俄底蒲斯情结

#### 儿时我们似乎也有过类似的感伤与愤懑?

青春字典	(Youth	Dictionary)
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7. Youth
青春
青春不只是生命的一段时间,它体现出一种精神状态。
8. To Take A Risk
冒险
生活中最大的危险就是不冒风险。
9. The Significance of Failure
失败的意义
失败不表明你是一个失败者,它只是意味着你尚未成功而已。
他山之石(Advice to Follow)
10. The Unhappy American Way (79)
不幸福的美国方式
获取、竞争、虚荣和权欲,人的原始动机,导致了多少不幸福的生活方式。
11. Put Your Problem in Proper Perspective (88)
将面临的难题放在适当的远景之下
实事求是、冷静客观地对待你所面临的难题,生命之舟将永远扬起远航的帆。
大千世纪(The Boundless World)
12. The Greatest Hoaxes of All Time (111)
历史上几大著名的骗局
听说过这些曾以假乱真为期不短的骗局吗?
走近诗人(Approaching Poets)
13. A Visit to Whitman
惠特曼访问记
从这篇没有任何溢美之词的记实文字中,我们看到了一个伟大而质朴、可亲
又可敬的真实诗人。
14. The Tradition and the Individual Talent
传统与特殊才能
诗人论诗。"传统"是什么?传统是一种历史感,一种对历史和现实的感悟。

### 1. The Importance of Doing Things Badly (草草行事的重要性)

#### I.A. Williams<sup>1</sup>[(英)I.A. 维廉斯]

Charles Lamb<sup>2</sup> wrote a series of essays upon popular fallacies. I do not, at the moment, carry them very clearly in my memory; but, unless that treacherous<sup>3</sup> servant misleads me more even than she usually does, he did not write of one piece of proverbial so-called wisdom that has always seemed to me to be peculiarly pernicious<sup>4</sup>. And this saw<sup>5</sup>, this scrap of specious<sup>6</sup> advice, this untruth masquerading<sup>7</sup> as logic, is one that I remember to have had hurled at my head at frequent intervals from my earliest youth right up to my present advanced age. How many times have I not been told that "If a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well"?

Never was there a more untruthful word spoken in earnest. For the world is full of things that are worth doing, but certainly not worth doing well. Was it not so great a sage as Herbert Spencer<sup>8</sup> who said to the young man who had just beaten him at billiards<sup>9</sup>, "Moderate skill, sir, is the sign of a good eye and a steady hand, but skill such as

没有哪个谬论被人们如此 认真不断地重复了。这个世界 充满了值得一做的事情,但绝 非件件都值得好好去做。哲人 如赫伯特·斯宾塞,就曾对桌球 场上击败自己的年轻人说:"先 生,桌球技艺中等的标准是眼 准、手稳,不过你展示的技艺表 yours argues a youth misspent"? Is any game worth playing supremely well, at the price of constant practice and application?

Against the professional player I say nothing; he is a public entertainer, like any other, and by his skill in his particular sport he at least 'fulfills the first social duty of man - that of supporting himself and his family by his own legitimate exertions. But what is to be said of the crack<sup>10</sup> amateur? To me he seems one of the most contemptible of mankind. He earns no money, but devotes himself, for the mere selfish pleasure of the thing, to some game, which he plays day in day out; he breaks down the salutary11 distinction between the amateur and the professional; eventually his skill deserts him, and he leaves behind him nothing that is of service to12 his fellow men - not a brick laid, not an acre ploughed, not a line written, not even a family supported and educated by his labor.

It is true that he has provided entertainment for a certain number of persons, but he has never had the **pluck**<sup>13</sup> to **submit himself** to the test<sup>14</sup> by which we demand that every entertainer should justify his choice of a calling<sup>15</sup> – the demonstration of the fact that the public is willing to pay him for his entertainment. And, when his day is over, what is

明,你的青春错度了"。哪一个游戏值得如此不断地反复练习与操作,玩到这样如火纯青的娴熟程度呢?

他也许为一小撮人带来了 娱乐,可他从没敢奢望公公是 为他的表演付款,而这可是现 们检验表演者选择职业的 由。当一天结束以后,他给这 个世界,给他自己留下了什么 呢?除了很快会淡忘的名声, 了无他物,至多被俱乐部的肥 left, not even to the world, but to himself? Nothing but a name that is at once forgotten, or is remembered by stout gentlemen in clubs.

The playing of games, certainly, is a thing which is not worth doing well.

But that does not prove that it is not worth doing at all, as the proverb would, by implication, persuade us. There is nothing more agreeable and salutary than playing a game which one likes, and the circumstance of doing it badly interferes with the pleasure of no real devotee 16 of any pastime. The man who minds whether or not he wins is no true sportsman – which observation is **trite**<sup>17</sup>, but the rule it implies is seldom observed, and comparatively few people really play games for the sheer enjoyment of the playing. Is this not proved by the prevalence and popularity of handicaps<sup>18</sup>. Why should we expect to be given points unless it be that we wish to win by means other than our own skill?

"Ah! but," my reader may say, "the weaker player wants to receive points in order that he may give the stronger one a better game." Really, I do not believe that that is so. Possibly, sometimes, a strong and vainglorious<sup>19</sup> player may wish to give points, in order that his victory may be the more notable. But I do not think that even this is the true explanation. That, I suspect,

胖绅士们偶尔提起而已。

游戏显然不是值得好好一做的事情。

"哦,是这样,"读者会说, "给劣者额外加分,是想刺激可 者淋漓尽致地发挥技能。"可 不信原因真正在此。有时,的 不信原因真正在此。有时的的 家为了胜局的格外炫目愿意并 分,但我认为问题的症结地 分,但我认为问题的症结地 对 在此。前几天我参加草地做过 赛时,竞赛秘书曾跟我做过以 was given to me the other day by the secretary of a lawn-tennis tournament, in which I played. "Why all this nonsense of handicaps? Why not let us be squarely beaten, and done with it?" I asked him. "Because," he replied, "if we did not give handicaps, none of the less good players would enter." Is that not a confession that the majority of us have not realized the true value of doing a trivial thing badly, for its own sake, and **must needs**<sup>20</sup> have our minds **buoyed**<sup>21</sup> and cheated into a false sense of excellence?

Moreover it is not only such intrinsically trivial things as games that are worth doing badly. This is a truth which, oddly enough<sup>22</sup>, we accept freely of some things but not of others - and as a thing which we are quite content to do ill let me instance acting. Acting, as its best, can be a great art, a thing worth doing supremely well, though its woth, like that of all interpretative arts, is lessened by its evanescence<sup>23</sup>. For it works in the impermanent medium of human flesh and blood<sup>24</sup>, and the thing that the actor creates - for what we call an interpretative artist is really a creative artist working in a perishable medium<sup>25</sup> - is an impression upon, an emotion or a thought aroused in, the minds of an audience, and is incapable of record.

并不仅仅游戏之类的小事 可以草草处之。说来奇怪,有 些事情我们表示可以随便做 做,有些事情却觉得万万不能。 在我们认为能随便做做的事情 中,我举戏剧表演这个例子来 谈谈。戏剧表演若能登峰造 极,达到巅峰,实为了不起的艺 术,是值得好好一做的事业,虽 说它的价值和所有其他表演艺 术一样,会因其瞬息性而减弱。 戏剧表演对人类瞬息多变的情 感产生影响,演员所创造的 -我们说的表演艺术家是对 人类瞬息万变的情感产生影响 的真正的创造性的艺术家—— 是唤起观众心灵深处的一种印 象,一种情感或者一种思想,因 而那是一种无法记录的感觉。

Acting, then, let me **postulate**<sup>26</sup> – though I have only **sketched**<sup>27</sup> ever so briefly the proof of my belief – can be a great art. But is anyone ever deterred from taking part in amateur theatricals by the consideration that he cannot act well? Not a bit of it! And quite rightly not, for acting is one of the things about which I am writing this essay – the things that are worth doing badly.

Another such thing is music; but here the proverbial fallacy again exerts its power, as it does not, for some obscure and unreasoning discrimination, in acting. Most people seem to think that if they cannot sing, or play the piano, fiddle, or **sackbut**<sup>28</sup>, admirably well, they must not do any of these things at all. That they should not **indiscriminately**<sup>29</sup> force their inferior performances upon the public, or even upon their acquaintances, I admit. But that there is no place "in the home" for inferior musical performances, is an untruth that I flatly deny.

How many sons and daughters have not, with a very small talent, given their parents – and even the less **fondly**<sup>30</sup> prejudiced ears of their friends – great pleasure with the singing of simple songs? Then one day there comes to the singer the serpent of dissatisfaction; singing lessons are taken, and – if the pupil is of moderate talent and modest disposition – limitations are discov-

我认为戏剧艺术是门很了不起的艺术,虽说我只简要地概述了自己的这一信条。但有没有人因为怕演不好戏而不敢参加业余戏剧表演呢?没有!没有就对了,因为演戏是本文所谈论的不值好好一做的事情之一。

另一件事是音乐。上面那句格言的谬误在音乐上应为不上应该妙原因,不知出于什么微妙原因,它在戏剧表演上没能应验。多数人认为,唱不好歌,弹不好歌,如钢琴、小提琴或管乐,就别自己,是自不分地硬将直引,是自不分地硬将至身,是自不会类似的蹩脚表演就过分了。

多少儿女虽无技艺,但他 们简单的歌却给父母,给有,你不会 在偏见的朋友带来何唱呢 乐?然而,新新地小歌唱。 好有烦恼了,他得赴声乐, 始有烦恼了,他得赴声乐, 大师,而若天资平平,性情一般, 其弱项便开始暴露,最终,十有 八九,音乐如一枚不值钱的 士,被弃之一边。有多少父亲 ered. And then, in nine cases out of ten, the singing is dropped, like a hot penny. How many fathers have not **banished**<sup>31</sup> music from their homes by encouraging their daughters to take singing lessons? Yet a home may be the fresher for singing that would deserve **brickbats**<sup>32</sup> at a parish concert.

I may pause here to notice the curious exception that people who cannot on any account be persuaded to sing in the drawing-room, or even in the bath, will without hesitation uplift their tuneless voices at religious meetings or in church. There is a perfectly good and honorable explanation of this, I believe, but it belongs to the realm of metaphysics and is beyond my present scope.

This cursed belief, that if a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well, is the cause of a great **impoverishment**<sup>33</sup> in our private life, and also, to some extent, of the lowering of standards in our public life. For this tenet of proverbial faith has two effects on small talents: it leads modest persons not to exercise them at all, and immodest persons to attempt to do so too much and to force themselves upon the public. It leads to the decay of letter-writing and of the keeping of diaries, and, as surely, it leads to the publication of memoirs and diaries that should remain locked in the writers' desks.

It leads Mr. Blank<sup>34</sup> not to write verses

因为鼓动女儿学歌而没有把音乐逐出家门? 然而,家是唱歌的好地方,但在教区音乐会上练喉,可能就会遭骂了。

但我也注意到这样一个反 常现象,有些人在自家客厅甚 至浴室从不张嘴唱歌,但在宗 教集会或教堂却毫不犹豫地拉 开五音不全的噪门。我相信这 种现象不难阐释,但它属玄学 体系,已不是我现在论述的范 围了。

它让布兰克先生从此不再

at all – which he might very well do, for the sake of his own happiness, and for the amusement of his friends – and it leads Miss Dash<sup>35</sup> to pester the overworked editors of various journals with her unsuccessful imitations of Mr. de la Mare, Mr. Yeats, and Dr. Bridges<sup>36</sup>. The result is that our national artistic life now suffers from two great needs; a wider amateur practice of the arts, and a higher, more **exclusive**<sup>37</sup>, professional standard. Until these are achieved we shall not get the best out of our souls.

The truth is, I conceive, that there is for most of us only one thing-beyond, of course, our duties of citizenship and our personal duties as sons, or husbands, or fathers, daughters, or wives, or mothersthat is worth doing well—that is to say, with all our energy. That one thing may be writing, or it may be making steam-engines, or laying bricks. But after that there are hundreds of things that are worth doing badly, with only part of our energy, for the sake of the relaxation they bring us, and for the contacts which they give us with our minds. And the sooner England realizes this, as once she did, the happier, the more contented, the more gracious, will our land be.

There are even, I maintain, things that are in themselves better done badly than

我甚至认为有些事只值做槽,不值做好。比如说钓鱼,一

well. Consider fishing, where one's whole pleasure is often spoiled by having to kill a fish. Now, if one could contrive always to try to catch a fish, and never to do so, one 杀它,感觉可能会很不错 might—But that is another story.

想到钓到的鱼待会儿会被宰 杀,所有的愉悦顿时荡然无存。 当然,你既能钓到鱼,又不用宰 不过那就另当别论了。

from Dimentions – Essays for Composition

- I.A. 维廉斯(1890-1962),二战后曾任英国(伦敦时报)记者。本文 1 最初发表于 1923 年伦敦的《观点》。
- **查尔斯·兰姆(1775-1834),英国散文作家。** 2
- 3 奸诈的
- 有害的 4
- 5 格言
- 6 似是而非的
- 7 假装.冒充
- 8 赫伯特·斯宾塞(1820-1903),英国哲学家。
- 紅泉 9
- 10 第一流的,顶呱呱的
- 有益的 11
- 12 对……有用
- 13 勇气
- 14 接受检验
- 15 职业,行业
- 16 爱好者,热心之士
- 17 (言词、观念等)陈腐的,老一套的
- 18 给优者不利条件,给劣者有利条件以使得胜机会均等的一种竞赛 (比如赛马时一马带一重物与他马比赛: 跑马拉松时优者让他人先 跑五分钟:打高尔夫球时,优者让弱者若干分等。)
- 19 自负的,极度虚荣的
- 20 一定,必须,偏要
- 21 鼓励、支持
- 22 说来奇怪(插入语)

8