

# 网上英语短文

## 注释本

毛荣贵 张韧弦 编著

上海交通大学出版社

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## 前 言

上海图书馆四楼宽敞的阅览室里陈列着百余种美英等西方国家的报刊。从日期看,还是相当及时的。然而,能经常有时间去那里浏览美英报刊者毕竟非常有限。

笔者家住闵行,曾在一段相当长的时间里坚持每个月至少去那里阅读一日。黄昏,带着满脑子的英语,步出图书馆大门,昏花的眼向四周的居民住宅投去羡慕的一瞥,痴想:能够与上图为邻,大概是前世修来的福分!

然而,自从书房里的电脑联了网,这种深刻的遗憾则大半去矣!

黎明即起,浏览 Internet。这是一种怎样的现代享受!偌大世界,近在咫尺,小小寰球,尽收眼底!

宽不盈尺的电脑屏幕上,那个个字符向你叙述着发生在世界各地的重大新闻,也许那是刚刚发生,甚至是正在发生的事情;那行行文字向你描绘着地球村各种肤色的居民的大喜大悲,也许那故事会拨动你的心弦,令你终生难忘。

天下英语读物,车载斗量,然不读网上英语短文,乃人生一憾!

网上英语短文,不可不读,它们有些是“新闻报道”,却文笔从容、文采斐然动人。

网上英语短文,不可不读,它们也许是“急就之章”,但是,其内容却历久而弥醇。

网上英语短文,不可不读,它们可能是“文化快餐”,却融信息、趣味、知识于一体。

继“外报外刊选读”课程之后,现在是否应该开设一门全新的

课程,叫做“网上英语选读”?

在这门“课程”中,我们可以及时接触到最新信息。

清晨,在网上读到的消息,在当天或是几天以后的日报或晚报上,你就可以读到其“中文版”。此刻,你会油然而生“领先一步”的欣慰,更重要的是,有“中文版”的助读,我们仿佛请了老师在旁指点。

在这门“课程”中,我们可以看到平时所学的“死”的英语知识,得到了何等鲜活的运用!

比如,我们在词典上也许学到过 *kind of* 可以用作副词词组。在网上英语短文中,我们就读到了这样的句子:

“When you’ve lived through something that traumatic, *subsequent* (接下去的) events that would be traumatic or trying *kind of* pale in comparison to surviving an airplane crash,” Capobianco said in an interview.

如果读者不能识别句中的 *kind of* 的含义,不能对起副词作用的 *kind of* “另眼相看”,那么,就有可能将 *trying kind of pale* 视作一个整体,而无法正确理解全句。

*kind of* 常用于口语,含义是:有点儿,有几分;可以这么说。另如:

It’s *kind of* late to begin now. (现在开始有点晚了。)

I *kind of* like her. (我有点喜欢她。)

据此,上句是否可译:

“当你能够躲过如此大难而不死,接下去发生的痛苦的或是难受的事件,和空难相比,就有点显得微不足道了。”Capobianco 在接受采访时说。

每篇短文前的“提示”,其实是一位尽职的“导游”。她用三言两语把文章的核心内容加以概括,阅读原文若是一场赛事,那么,“提示”让你在赛前先“热身”。

在本书所辑的每篇文章后面附有三道选择题,供读者自测阅

读能力和检验阅读效果。为方便自学,在本书的最后附有参考答案和相关提示。

需要指出的是,“每篇一练”中的三道选择题不作为任何等级考试或出国考试的模拟题(尽管在一些题目的编写上参考了某些标准化考试的出题思路),除非读者愿意这么认为。我们的宗旨是以练辅读,练习的目的是使读者更好地理解文章内容,提高阅读能力。在此前提下,练习编写的原则是少而精,注重考察理解上的重点、难点。有兴趣、有时间的读者不妨借此掂掂自己的份量;没兴趣、没时间的读者也可不理睬这些题目,因为除去这些题目,难道短小精悍的网上时文、精彩的导读和详尽的注释不能给你带来阅读的乐趣吗?

在选择题的编写上,本书克服了某些英语读物中的练习“一拥而上”的缺点,采取了梯度原则。即每篇文章后的第一道选择题较为容易,答案是文章中现成的或简单地改变说法而已;第二题稍难,需要读者将文章字面材料仔细咀嚼,慢慢消化,才能选出正确的答案;第三题难度最大,答案肯定不是现成的,读者应吃透原文,融会贯通,才能回答好。读者应对此心中有数,可根据自己的实际情况选做一部分题目。所有选择题基本上都是阅读理解题。不过以上只是一般情况,也有个别例外。比如有些文章的第三题考察的是写作技巧、段落安排、篇章布局、修辞特色甚至构词法等知识,作为一种尝试,这类题目在本书只占了很小的比例,也不知能不能受到广大英语爱好者的欢迎,怀着一份忐忑不安的心情,我们盼望读者的反馈。

“每篇一练”的最大特色是参考答案以外的解答提示。通过提示,读者将知其然并知其所以然。而且,绝大部分的题目后都有提示(比较简单的例外),从答题者的心理出发,有逻辑、有条理、循循善诱地导出答案,个别处穿插生动的演绎和发挥。希望通过我们的努力,能切切实实地提高广大英语爱好者的阅读水平和综合英语能力。

美国教授 Rosemary Adang 和 Bill Hofmann 为本书的若干语言难点及文化背景作了解释。

参加本书编写工作的还有姚蔷珍,毛竹晨,陈衡,陆小鹿等。没有他们的积极参与,本书就难以目前的面貌同读者见面。特向以上各位致以诚挚的谢意!

**毛荣贵 张韧兹**

1999 年 11 月

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# 星汉灿烂

## Eclipse Thrills Millions From West To East

北京时间 1999 年 8 月 11 日晚 17 时 31 分,本世纪最后一次日全食在加拿大新斯科舍附近的大西洋海域开始,随后日全食覆盖带开始以 2400 公里的时速向欧洲、中东和印度洋地区延伸。本次日全食于北京时间 11 日晚 20 时 30 分在印度洋孟加拉湾结束,持续时间长达 3 小时 7 分钟,覆盖带长约 1.4 万公里,宽约 100 公里。估计全球有 20 亿人观赏这次日全食,在白昼感受黑暗和寒冷。本文全景式地扫描了这次日全食在世界各地发生时的情景,信息丰富,可读性强。

### 动物归巢:

At Bucharest zoo, birds and monkeys returned to their quarters preparing for the night. Ponies at the zoo, misled by the darkness, tried to mate.

### 气温突降:

The temperature *plummeted* (骤降) by up to 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

### 交通中阻:

There were huge traffic jams in Europe — some as long as 50 km (30 miles) — as motorists stopped to look at the eclipse.

### 谣言破产:

Many laughed at fashion designer Paco Rabanne's *apocalyptic* (预示世界末日的) predictions that the Russian space station Mir would crash into the French capital at the time of the eclipse.

### 眼睛灼伤:

British hospital authorities said 200 calls were received from people who looked at the eclipse without protection for their eyes.

然而,英国的一位天文学家 David Hughes 所说的一句话,最能激发起人们的遐想:

Imagine what our ancestors(祖先) must have felt like when it happened to them 2,000 years ago!

The last *total solar eclipse* (日全食) of the 20th century raced across vast *swathes* (大片地区) of the world, dramatically *plunging* (使……陷入) day into night and thrilling millions from Canada's east coast to the Bay of Bengal.

In one of nature's great spectacles, the sun turned black and appeared ringed with fire for just a minute or two Wednesday — presenting a diamond ring effect to many watching on earth.

*Druids* (德鲁伊特教徒) danced, Muslims prayed, *Hindus* (印度教教徒) bathed and Europeans stopped work and took to the streets as an *eerie* (奇异的) *twilight* (昏暗光线) followed by darkness covered their countries.

Although cloud and rain *obscured* (使模糊不清) the view for many, those who fully saw the three-hour long eclipse were *awestruck* (惊叹不已).

“Imagine what our *ancestors* (祖先) must have felt like when it happened to them 2,000 years ago,” said astronomer David Hughes as the eclipse *snuffed out* (熄灭) the light at Land's End in southern England, where the eclipse first cast its shadow on land.

Pope John Paul, a keen *astral* (星体的) watcher, peered at the last solar eclipse of the millennium through a square of *tinted* (染色的) glass and cut short his weekly general audience to be sure not to miss the event.

In the Iranian city of Isfahan, where the U. S. space agency NASA (国家航空航天局) said there was the best viewing, Muslims performed the “namaz-e ayat,” a special prayer offered at times of



natural phenomena to celebrate God's glory and power.

Thousands of Iranians and tourists poured into the majestic central square of the trading city, *erupting* (爆发) in whistles, applause and shouts of "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest).

The eclipse began over the Atlantic Ocean nearly three hours earlier when the moon completely covered the sun at 09:31 GMT off Canada's east coast near Nova Scotia.

It set off across the ocean at 1,500 miles per hour (2,400 kmph) and ended in the Bay of Bengal off India three hours later.

The final *homage* (敬意) to nature came from around 700,000 *devout* (虔诚的) Hindus who took a "lucky dip" in a gigantic pond in the northern Indian city of Kurukshetra, a sacred site because it is where the Bhagwad Gita, the Hindu holy book, appeared.

"According to Hindu *mythology* (神话), if you take a dip during the solar eclipse or do a nice deed on this day, the benefit is a thousand times more," said Holy man Manu Kumar Sharma.

At 10:10 GMT the eclipse first appeared over land at Britain's Scilly Isles and then within a minute swept over the English mainland at the county of Cornwall.

People cheered, wept and popped *champagne* (香槟酒) corks as an eerie darkness fell and the horizon glowed.

The temperature *plummeted* (骤降) by up to 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

The reaction was repeated in the eclipse's 70-mile (110-km) wide path of totality across Europe.

In Paris, traffic stopped and office blocks emptied as hundreds of thousands poured into avenues, parks and open spaces under the Eiffel Tower and Tuileries gardens.

Many laughed at fashion designer Paco Rabanne's *apocalyptic* (预告世界末日的) predictions that the Russian space station Mir would crash into the French capital at the time of the eclipse.

Not only did Mir not plunge to earth, it also got the first view of