

ENGLISH READINGS

英语注释读物

WITH ANNOTATIONS

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石油大学出版社

编者的话

本书中的三十篇短文均系从美国新近出版的地方报刊杂志上摘编的。文章短小精悍,内容丰富,语言新颖,题材广泛,通俗易懂。它涉及美国的政治、经济、文化、教育、医疗卫生、科技发展、婚姻家庭、生活常识、风土人情等各个方面。它有助于学生开拓视野、丰富词汇、扩大知识面、提高阅读能力。为了便于学生自学,我们对文章的某些背景知识,语法难点,生词难词,旧词新用等均做了注释。

在编写过程中,得到了在我校任教的美籍专家 Dale L. Stache 先生, Jennell Scherbel 和 Kathlyn J. Hinesley 女士以及加拿大籍专家 Ruth Koehle 女士的热情指导和帮助,对此表示衷心感谢。

由于编者水平所限,错误不足之处在所难免,衷心希望读者提出修改意见。

编者

一九八九年六月

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1. Survey sniffs out^① facts about smelling

In the largest scratch-and-sniff test ever^②, 1.5 million people with a nose for science^③ have shown that the little-understood sense of smell can vary widely depending upon gender^④, age and culture.

In a worldwide survey of readers, *National Geographic Magazine*^⑤ and collaborating researchers said Thursday some common preconceptions^⑥ about smell—such as pregnant women being more odor-sensitive^⑦—appear unfounded^⑧ and that people take the sense of smell for granted^⑨.

"We had a lot of people reporting temporarily losing their sense of smell, because of a cold or such things, and they didn't think much of it," Dr. Avery Gilbert told a news briefing^⑩. "Can you imagine their reaction if it were their sight and they were temporarily blinded by a cold? I don't think they'd be as casual about it^⑪."

The survey, consisting of questionnaires^⑫ containing scratch-and-sniff panels^⑬, produced an unprecedented amount of information about smell, the least understood of

the five senses, said *National Geographic* Editor Wilbur Garrett.

Instead of the expected 1 percent to 3 percent reply rate, almost 13 percent of the magazine's readers sent back 29 tons of surveys, he said.

Early findings of the survey, which resulted in so much data that full analysis may take years, confirmed some beliefs about smell and called others into question[®], said the researchers.

They included :

- * Almost two out of three[®] people have suffered at least a temporary loss of smell, usually because of a cold, flu[®] or sinus infection[®], but only 1.2 percent have a permanent loss.

- * Smoking tobacco affected perceptions of almost every odor, making some weaker and other stronger. Smokers had a blunted response to odor quality[®], generally finding unpleasant odors to be less so and pleasant smells to be less pleasant.

- * Women usually smell more acutely than men. However, pregnant women may experience a diminished sense of smell[®], opposite of what had been believed.

- * Both pleasant and unpleasant odors can evoke[®] vivid memories of the past, but this ability appears to decrease gradually with age.

* Odor detection ability declines slowly with age, starting when people are in their 20s, although it remains near youthful levels well into the 60s.

From *The Daily Texan* Sept. 11, 1987.

注 释

1. 原意为“嗅出”，这里为“觉察出，觉察”。题目可译作“调查所表明的关于嗅觉的一些事实。”
2. scratch-and-sniff 随便拿起什么嗅一嗅
scratch 抓，拿
ever 与比较级或最高级连用时加强语气，表示“比以往任何时候更……” e. g. the biggest crop ever 空前的大丰收
3. 对科学有鉴别能力的人
4. vary widely depending upon = vary widely with
gender /'dʒendə/ n. 性别
5. (美) 国家地理杂志
6. preconception /'pri:kən'sepʃən/ n. 偏见
7. odor-sensitive a. 对味道敏感的
8. unfounded a. 没有事实根据的
9. take...for granted 以为不成问题的，认为当然
e. g. I took it for granted that he would fulfil his promise.
我认为他一定会履行诺言的。
10. 新闻简报
11. casual /'kæʒjuəl/ a. 漫不经心的，偶然的。这里 as casual 后省略了 as they did，整句意思是：我认为他们对这一点（即失明）不会轻视。
12. questionnaire /kwes'tʃə'neə/ n. 调查表

13. panel/'pænal/ n. 一组有代表性的调查对象
14. 使他人怀疑
15. 三分之二
16. flu/flu:/ n. 流感
17. sinus/'sainəs/infection 鼻窦感染
18. 对味道的反应迟钝
19. 嗅觉减弱
20. evoke/i'vəuk/ v. t. 引起, 唤起

2. Sign-language learning ①

Three types of sign language are used under various conditions : fingerspelling^②, signed English and American Sign Language.

Fingerspelling, by far the most cumbersome^③, is used mainly in situations such as spelling a person's name, a city or any other rarely used word.

Signed English, the version most frequently taught to young people learning sign language as their first language, involves learning a sign for each English word. Word order and usage is unchanged. Signed English is often used for simultaneous interpretation^④ and often appeared on public television before the days of closed-captioning^⑤.

The most common form of sign language, American Sign Language (ASL), bears almost no relation to spoken English®. "I have gone to California " would be roughly translated to "touch finish California. "

With ASL, words from any language may be substituted for English versions. The spoken translation of gestures changes, but physical gestures and meaning stay the same®.

ASL does what Esperanto®, the so-called "universal language, " failed to do. If one can communicate in ASL, one can speak to the French, Russians, Chinese or any other people on the planet. Can a student of Sanskrit® make the same claim®?

The frequency of closed-captioned television demonstrates the tremendous number of deaf or hearing-impaired people in the United States. Actions by the University, such as making it more attractive for students to learn sign language, have the potential to make a significant percentage of the student body able to communicate with these future coworkers, employers and friends.

Sign language has every characteristic of spoken languages, including slang®, dialects® and words that cannot be directly translated to English. Learning sign language requires students to master completely different rules of grammar and a new vocabulary, just as they must with

French, German or Spanish^④.

From *The Daily Texan* Jan. 14, 1988.

注 释

1. (聋哑人等的) 手势语学习
2. 指语
3. cumbersome/'kʌmbəsəm/ a. 麻烦的, 笨重的; by far 常与比较级和最高级连用, 起加强语气作用, 意为“……得多, 最……”
e. g. 1) His explanation is clearer by far. 他的解释清楚得多。
2) He is by far the tallest among us. 他在我们这些人中间个子最高。
4. 同声翻译
5. 闭路电视
6. bears almost no relation to... = has almost no relation to...
7. stay the same = remain the same
8. Esperanto/ɛspə'ræntəu/ n. 世界语
9. Sanskrit/'sænskrit/ n. 梵文
10. make (...) claim 提出要求
11. slang n. 俚语
12. dialect n. 方言
13. 这是一省略的状语从句, 后省去了 “master completely different rules of grammar and a new vocabulary.”

3. Austin man plants flowers to improve roadside views

Traffic jams and black exhaust^① can make driving to work or school a chore^②, but in the spring the drive may be less tedious^③, thanks in part to^④ one Austinite^⑤ and his love of wilflowers.

Every September for the past seven years, John Street, a local builder, has been planting wildflowers along highways in Austin. "We've now done nearly all of Mopac (Loop 1) and Ed Bluestein Boulevard^⑥," he said.

Street's seeds don't all fall on Texas soil. About 8,000 seed packages are mailed out around the world, and state Attorney General^⑦ Jim Mattox even took some to Russia, Street said.

"It's like a little bit of Texas going out^⑧ once a year," he said.

When Street started planting bluebonnets^⑨ along Mopac, he did not know whether it was legal. "We are going to do it at night," Street said. He later found out that the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation loves what he is doing.

"We think he is doing a great service for the community and the department," said Barrie Cogburn, a highways department landscape architect. She said the bluebonnets are not only beautiful, but they also add nitrogen[®] to the soil.

Every year, Street receives help from a different Austin youth group. This year he plans to plant around Austin High School and have Austin High students help with the planting[®].

He also receives help from his three children, David, 10, Katie, 8, and Andrew, 6. "It's the most natural thing in the world for them," Street said. He said his children have been planting bluebonnets for as long as they can remember.

With all this help, Street declines the offers of volunteers. He also declines[®] offers of money for his bluebonnet seeds. He said he believes "the best way to receive is to give."

Street's efforts are rewarded every March and April when the wildflowers bloom. "I can't tell you how good I feel every spring when I see the bluebonnets coming up[®]," he said.

From The Daily Texan Dec. 10, 1987.

注 释

1. 排出的黑色气体, 此处指汽车排出的废气
2. 使驱车上班或上学成了一大难题。chore/tʃɔ:/ n. 困难的 (不合意的) 工作
3. tedious/'ti:diəs/ a. 使人厌烦的
4. thanks to... 幸亏, 由于
e. g. Thanks to your help, we finished the task ahead of schedule. 多亏你的帮助使我们提前完成了任务。
in part 一部分地; 有几成; 在某种程度上; 多少
5. 奥斯汀人
6. 奥斯汀地区的两条高速公路名称
7. 州司法部长
8. 出国
9. 一种蓝色花, 被称为得克萨斯州花。
10. nitrogen/'naitridʒən/ n. 氮
11. help with sth. 还可以说 help to do sth. 或 help do sth.
12. decline/di'klein/ vt. 谢绝
13. (从土中) 长出, 发芽

4. Girls are mentally stronger than boys, say psychologists

"Contrary to^① popular belief, girls are not by nature^② psychologically weaker and less resilient^③ than boys, but rather^④, "it is boys who are more likely to

develop psychological problems throughout their childhood," report two Maryland[®] psychologists.

Julius Segal, Ph. D., and Zelda Segal write in the April issue of *Parents Magazine* that "during the first grade, they (boys) are referred for psychological help[®] about ten times more frequently than girls."

In further analyzing gender differences in children, the Segals said, "In terms of[®] overall intelligence levels, girls and boys are equal — but where specific intellectual abilities are concerned, some sex differences do emerge[®]. For example, in the early years, girls are better at spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing than boys. Boys, on the other hand, are more adept at perceiving depth, solving mazes[®], and working with geometric forms. In math, girls do as well as boys in the early grade — but later on, boys assume[®] the advantage; indeed most children who reveal exceptional talents[®] in math by junior high[®] are males. Whether this advantage is innate or absorbed through exposure and experience, however, is still very much a matter of debate[®]."

The psychologists note[®] that convictions regarding children's behavior, personality traits[®] and capacities are often based on personal opinion and expectation rather than scientific evidence[®]. Girls, for example, are typically viewed as considerably more altruistic[®] and helpful than

boys despite the fact that boys' and girls' behavior on this score shows no marked differences^①. Yet even when mothers and fathers are well enough informed about^② sex differences, the information often tends to unduly color^③ their perceptions of their children and their relationships with them. It is true, of course, that on the average, certain sex differences do exist in children. Some are based on biological makeup^④, others on differences in the ways we rear^⑤ our boys and girls—most are combinations of the two.

"No matter how intriguing the findings of psychologists on sex differences may seem, keep in mind that they are based on averages of large numbers of children—and moreover, that the differences are small," the Segals caution in their monthly column^⑥. "For example, many girls exceed many boys in physical prowess^⑦ and mathematical skill. Remember, too, that group differences tell us absolutely nothing about any particular youngster."

From *Austin American-Statesman*, May 4, 1987.

注 释

1. 与……相反
2. 本性, 本性上
3. resilient/ri'ziliənt/ a. 心情开朗的
4. rather ad. 相反地, 反而

5. 马里兰州(美国)
6. (男孩的家长)让他们获得心理学家的指教
7. 在……方面,从……方面(说来)
e.g. There are some problems to be solved in terms of theory. 在理论上有些问题有待解决。
8. 在涉及到独特的才能时,肯定会出现性别上的差异。
emerge = appear, do emerge, 这里的 do 强调动词 emerge.
9. 比较擅长深刻领会,解决迷津, be adept at(in)……, 善于做……, perceive/pə:'si:v/ vt. 觉察,领悟,理解
maze/meiz/ n. 迷宫,迷网,难以解决的问题
10. assume/ə'sju:m/ v. t. 呈现出,表现出
11. 卓越的天才
12. (美)初级中学. 高级中学为 senior high. 中学为 high school.
13. "Whether...experience" 为主语从句; innate/i'neit/a.
天生的,固有的,遗传的; absorbed through exposure and experience. 通过接触实践和亲身经验而吸收的; very much a matter of debate. 非常值得争论的问题
14. note vt. 注意到
15. trait /treit/ n. 品质,特性,特征
16. are often based on...rather than..., 常常取决于……, 而不是……
17. altruistic/æltru'istik/ a. 利他的,利他主义的
18. 在这一点上没有表现出明显的差异。
19. 精通,熟知
20. unduly/'ʌn'dju:li/ad. 过度地,不适当地; color = colour
vt. 歪曲
21. makeup n. 构造,性格,体格
22. rear/riə/ vt. 抚养,培养

23. intriguing /in'trɪɡɪŋ/ a. 引起兴趣(或好奇心的), 有迷惑力的

24. 月刊专栏

25. prowess /'praʊs/n. 杰出的才能(本领)

5. Druid Halloween^①

Did you know that Halloween was once actually a New Year celebration and that trick-or-treating^② is based on an ancient custom?

The ancient Druids celebrated an important feast, Samhain^③, on the last day of October. Celebrated after the harvest, Samhain marked the beginning of a new growing season and a new year.

An important rite^④ was the lighting of great bonfires^⑤ to frighten away evil spirits^⑥, as it was thought that ghosts and witches^⑦ feared fire. Children were sent out to beg for alms^⑧ and material to light the fires — hence, the custom of trick-or-treating began.

The tradition of Halloween pranks^⑨ resulted from the belief that ghosts, witches and other visiting spirits created mischief^⑩ on this night. Therefore, the Druids assumed any practical joke could be blamed on these supernatural forces^⑪.

From *Austin American-Statesman* Oct. 5, 1987