



大学生英语阅读文库

② 文化之旅

a quick guide to
customs & etiquette

通文化 知礼节 品风土

文化之旅
Culture Smart!

英国
BRITAIN

Paul Norbury (英) 著 朱云奇 注



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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by Paul Norbury

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写给读者的话

阅读，是心灵的滋养，是人生版图的拓展；用母语之外的文字阅读，更是体悟异族文化、知识、智慧的最直接方式，往往可以避免隔靴搔痒的尴尬。亲爱的读者，这里我向你们推荐外语教学与研究出版社最新推出的“大学生英语阅读文库”。该文库以原版引进图书为主，涵盖人物传记、西方文化、职业技能等，首批出版“传记人生”和“文化之旅”两个系列。

“传记人生”系列由从国外经典传记系列中精选的人物传记组成，书中的主人公们在政治、经济、科技、教育、体育、艺术等各个领域深具影响力，他们的成长经历、职业生涯、个性魅力、成功与失败的故事在作者生动、浅显、风趣的语言中娓娓道来。“文化之旅”系列则在薄薄书册中浓缩了英国、法国、德国、意大利、美国、澳大利亚等国家的风土人情，对各国地理、历史、政治、国民性格、商业文化、日常生活、跨文化交际等领域的重要事实或所独具的特色进行了详略得当的介绍，文风清新，端庄中不乏善意的调侃，令人会心一笑。这两个系列作为“大学生英语阅读文库”的先行军，很好地融合了知识性、趣味性、启发性与可读性，既能拓宽视野、滋养心灵，又是语言学习的好素材，特别适合成长中的大学生阅读。

大学阶段是人生中最宝贵的学习时光。历经了艰苦的高考、成功进入大学校园的莘莘学子在努力学习各学科知识之余，也将目光投向了更广阔的世界。如何在学习的同时做到启蒙思想、扩展心灵、磨砺人格？聪明的学子选择多读书，读好书。在菁菁校园里，我们忘却了世事的纷扰，品一杯香茗，读一本可心的英文读物，于无声处或漫步于异国街头，或游走于伟人之间。在静谧的阅读中，我们学外语，品人生，看社会，在方寸之间触摸大千世界。

毋庸赘言，课外阅读是外语学习的重要环节。课程学习虽然重要，但课程教材的内容窄、信息量少，语言输入极为有限，而语言学习需要重复，语言素材需要在不同的语境中复现，并在复现中得以强化。大量的课外阅读能够扩大词汇量，使学生在潜移默化中吸收新的语言形式，加强语感，获取相关的文化背景知识，提高对文化差异的敏感度与宽容度。然而，当今社会已经进入一个

泛阅读的时代，人们面对浩如烟海的信息心生焦躁。浅尝辄止的阅读往往徒然浪费时间，深度阅读又对时间和精力要求很高。阅读也需要适当的方法。这里谨就英文课外阅读提供两条原则：控制速度原则；处理难点原则。

1. 控制速度原则

人们的阅读速度往往会根据阅读的目的和时机做出调整。一般说来，控制速度的原则有三条：先慢后快、新慢旧快、主慢次快。

1) 先慢后快。阅读一本新书，开头的章节要慢读。这是全书的开场白，如果没看懂，情节理不出头绪，人物分不清主次，或者是对书的主要内容没有概念，阅读的积极性就会受到影响。

2) 新慢旧快。语言上没有明显的障碍时，就尽量读得快一点。碰到新单词新句型时，就要慢一点，一是要花时间从上下文中猜测其意义，二是要让新的语言知识在脑子里留下印象。

3) 主慢次快。阅读主要人物及情节或者有关主旨的主线时要慢一点，那些烘托气氛的描写通常可以看得快一些，只要有总体的感受就可以了。

2. 处理难点原则

课外阅读有别于课内的精读，在基本读懂的前提下，所追求的是速度，是阅读量。如果像处理教科书中的难点要点一样，一字一句寻根问底，速度上不去，阅读量就成空谈。如果一味地求快求多，难点疑点一概不理睬，稀里糊涂，走马观花，也达不到阅读的目的。这里有三条恰当处理阅读中难点的原则，它们之间有内在的逻辑关系，需依下列次序运用：分清难点与重点；回避“鱼头”，“粗刺”、“细刺”区别对待；猜测和查字典要有机结合。

1) 分清难点与重点

碰到难点时，不要先急于解决，难点不一定是重点。只有当难点是重点或直接阻碍正常阅读的进行时，才需要着力去解决。

2) 回避“鱼头”，“粗刺”、“细刺”区别对待

读书如同吃鱼，鱼头无肉，吃起来且费时间。鱼刺又分粗刺和细刺。粗刺要剔除不能强吃，否则要出问题，而细刺如混在鱼肉里咀嚼吃下去，虽不舒服，却无大碍。遇到像鱼头一样难读且无关大局的地方可以且放一旁；遇到类似“粗刺”的难点要认真解决；遇到类似“细刺”的难点只需稍加处理就放行。

3) 猜测和查字典有机结合

有人读书不离字典。有人读书不用字典，这两种倾向都不好。阅读过程好

比猜谜，人们通过语言符号，由表及里，层层深入，逐步“猜出”作者所要表达的意思。遇到生词时不急于查字典，先根据上下文猜测一下词义，这是一种阅读技能。我们读书碰到生字时，可用铅笔划一下，不查先猜，如果这个词很重要，它会在上下文中反复出现，或是自然而然地明朗化。稍后再把所有碰到的生词捋一遍，确定需要查词典的生词，并将猜测的意思和词典作比对。这种先猜后查的方法既节省了时间又强化了记忆。

以上所说的阅读方法是一家之言，却也在实践中得到了很好的反响，希望能对读者有所裨益。言之不尽，还是让我们尽快展开令人心驰神往的“大学生英语阅读文库”阅读之旅吧。

文秋芳

中国外语教育研究中心主任 教授

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Map of Britain



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introduction

Many visitors to Britain have preconceived (事先构成的) notions of what they will encounter—and they are frequently surprised. Even those who speak English as their mother tongue can be nonplussed (使迷惑): Oscar Wilde described Britain and America as “two nations divided by the same language.” The peoples of these islands are the product of a long and varied history. They can baffle, charm, and sometimes dismay those who have grown up elsewhere.

The Act of Union of 1707 that united the governments of England and Scotland, thereby creating Great Britain, was complex—early as confusing as the national game of cricket. For visitors, the character of the British themselves has always been a puzzle. Words like “complex,” “enigmatic,” and “idiosyncratic” come to mind, as do other epithets (表述词语) such as “reserved,” “quaint,” and “eccentric.”

It is also true that for many British people there is still pride in the past and a kind of nostalgia for the “good old days”—a collective memory of the country as it was before World War II. Britain has a reputation abroad, not surprisingly, for being insular (具有岛民特性的) and “different.” None of these stereotypes bother the British at all. As a people they are immensely inventive, reflective, focused, and tenacious (顽强的) —qualities that have generated some extraordinary outcomes, not least an empire that was the biggest the world has ever known, a monarchy that has endured for over a thousand years, and a parliamentary democracy

that has been the template (样板) for the rest of the world.

Britain has produced some of the world's greatest literature, gave rise to the Industrial Revolution, was the source of most of the world's major sports, and has invented countless items of technology that have advanced the quality of modern life. It has won more Nobel Prizes than the countries of Europe combined, and has done more than any other nation to unite the world, first through its great trading empire, and then through the legacy of English as a global language. Frequently at the forefront of change, the British remain peculiarly attached to their past.

The following pages aim to help the visitor to understand something about the customs, values, and changing way of life of this remarkable island people who once ruled over a third of the world.

Key Facts

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Official Name | The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Member of NATO, the EU, G7, G8, OECD, and the UN Security Council |
| Capital Cities | London: the EU's largest city, with a pop. of 7 million. | Other capitals: Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast. |
| Other Main Cities | <i>England:</i> Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool <i>Scotland:</i> Glasgow, Aberdeen <i>Wales:</i> Swansea, Wrexham, Newport <i>Northern Ireland:</i> Londonderry | |
| Area | Total area approx. 93,832 sq. miles (243,025 sq. km): <i>England:</i> 50,318 sq.miles (130,324 sq. km) <i>Scotland:</i> 30,297, sq. miles (78,469 sq. km) <i>Wales:</i> 8,021 sq. miles (20,774 sq. km) <i>N. Ireland:</i> 5,196 sq. miles (13,458 sq. km) | |
| Climate | Temperate | London temp. ranges from 36-43°F (2-6°C) in January to 55-90°F (13-32°C) in July. |
| Population | 59,756,000, broken down as follows: <i>England</i> 49,997,000 <i>Scotland</i> 5,115,000 <i>Wales</i> 2,946,000 <i>N. Ireland</i> 1,698,000 | White: 92.1% Minority ethnic groups: 7.9% Princ. ethnic groups: Indian, Pakistani, Black Caribbean, Black African. |
| Family Makeup | Average members per household: 2.4 | Pop. under 15: 19% Pop. over 65: 15.8% |
| Religion | Church of England, Churches of Wales and Scotland (Protestant traditions), Roman Catholic. | Principal minority religions: Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism. |
| Language | English | English and Welsh in Wales |

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Government | Constitutional Monarchy. No written constitution: the relationship between state and people is based on statute law, common law, and conventions. Parliament comprises two chambers, the House of Commons (elected) and House of Lords (unelected), and remains the supreme authority of government and law-making in the UK, despite devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. | |
| Currency | Pound Sterling | |
| Press | Broadsheets: <i>The Times</i> , <i>The Guardian</i> , <i>The Independent</i> , <i>The Daily Telegraph</i> , and <i>The Observer</i> (Sunday). There are five national "tabloid" newspapers. | Regional newspapers are published throughout the country, the biggest being <i>The Daily Record</i> (circulation 0.6 million) in Scotland. |
| Broadcasting | BBC-TV has two main channels, 1 and 2, plus six digital channels. Independent TV has various commercial plus digital channels. There are two principal cable companies. | Radio is still dominated by the BBC, but there are many independent broadcasters. Approx. 40% of households are connected to the Internet. |
| Electricity | 240 volts throughout the country. | |
| Video/TV | PAL system | |
| Telephone | Britain's country code is 44. | Following deregulation, there are now around 50 service providers. |





LAND AND PEOPLE

彼国彼民

Britain is located on the westernmost edge of the continental shelf of Europe. It consists of two large and several hundred small islands.

英国位于欧洲大陆架最西端，由两个大岛和几百个小岛组成。