



21

世纪英语专业系列教材

北京市高等教育精品教材立项项目

范守义 总主编

第三册

# 英语时文泛读

武波 王振玲 / 主编

Current News Articles  
for Extensive Reading



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS



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总主编 范守义

主 编 武 波 王振玲



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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语时文泛读(第3册)/范守义总主编. —北京:北京大学出版社,2009.3  
(21世纪英语专业系列教材)

ISBN 978-7-301-14514-2

I. 英… II. 范… III. 英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2009)第038456号

书 名: 英语时文泛读(第3册)

著作责任者: 范守义 总主编

组稿编辑: 张 冰

责任编辑: 李 颖

标准书号: ISBN 978-7-301-14514-2/H·2141

出版发行: 北京大学出版社

地 址: 北京市海淀区成府路205号 100871

网 址: <http://www.pup.cn> 电子信箱: [zpup@pup.pku.edu.cn](mailto:zpup@pup.pku.edu.cn)

电 话: 邮购部 62752015 发行部 62750672 编辑部 62767315 出版部 62754962

印 刷 者: 北京大学印刷厂

经 销 者: 新华书店

787毫米×1092毫米 16开本 8.75印张 220千字

2009年3月第1版 2009年3月第1次印刷

定 价: 20.00元

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## 《21 世纪英语专业系列教材》编写委员会

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# 总序

北京大学出版社自 2005 年以来已出版《语言与应用语言学知识系列读本》多种,为了配合第十一个五年计划,现又策划陆续出版《21 世纪英语专业系列教材》。这个重大举措势必受到英语专业广大教师和学生的欢迎。

作为英语教师,最让人揪心的莫过于听人说英语不是一个专业,只是一个工具。说这些话的领导和教师的用心是好的,为英语专业的毕业生将来找工作着想,因此要为英语专业的学生多多开设诸如新闻、法律、国际商务、经济、旅游等其他专业的课程。但事与愿违,英语专业的教师们很快发现,学生投入英语学习的时间少了,掌握英语专业课程知识甚微,即使对四个技能的掌握也并不比大学英语学生高明多少,而那个所谓的第二专业在有关专家的眼中只是学到些皮毛而已。

英语专业的路在何方?有没有其他路可走?这是需要我们英语专业教师思索的问题。中央领导关于创新是一个民族的灵魂和要培养创新人才等的指示精神,让我们在层层迷雾中找到了航向。显然,培养学生具有自主学习能力和能进行创造性思维是我们更为重要的战略目标,使英语专业的人才更能适应 21 世纪的需要,迎接 21 世纪的挑战。

如今,北京大学出版社外语部的领导和编辑同志们,也从教材出版的视角探索英语专业的教材问题,从而为贯彻英语专业教学大纲做些有益的工作,为教师们开设大纲中所规定的必修、选修课程提供各种教材。《21 世纪英语专业系列教材》是普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材和国家“十一五”重点出版规划项目《面向新世纪的立体化网络化英语学科建设丛书》的重要组成部分。这套系列教材要体现新世纪英语教学的自主化、协作化、模块化和超文本化,结合外语教材的具体情况,既要解决语言、教学内容、教学方法和教育技术的时代化,也要坚持弘扬以爱国主义为核心的民族精神。因此,今天北京大学出版社在大力提倡专业英语教学改革的基础上,编辑出版各种英语专业技能、英语专业知识和相关专业课程知识的教材,以培养具有创新性思维的和具有实际工作能力学生,充分体现了时代精神。

北京大学出版社的远见卓识,也反映了英语专业广大师生盼望已久的心愿。由北京大学等全国几十所院校具体组织力量,积极编写相关教材。这就是

说，这套教材是由一些高等院校有水平有经验的第一线教师们制定编写大纲，反复讨论，特别是考虑到在不同层次、不同背景学校之间取得平衡，避免了先前的教材或偏难或偏易的弊病。与此同时，一批知名专家教授参与策划和教材审定工作，保证了教材质量。

当然，这套系列教材出版只是初步实现了出版社和编者们的预期目标。为了获得更大效果，希望使用本系列教材的教师和同学不吝指教，及时将意见反馈给我们，使教材更加完善。

航道已经开通，我们有决心乘风破浪，奋勇前进！

胡壮麟  
北京大学蓝旗营

# 写给本书使用者的话

21世纪的中国是改革向广度和深度进军的世纪，21世纪的世界是全球化走向优化整合和更高水平的世纪。中国与世界各国交往向全方位推进和巩固是历史发展之必然。走在历史发展最前沿的是双语或多语工作者；而在当今世界上，英语使用之广泛是举世公认的。中国的外语教育中英语是最为重要的外国语言。外交学院作为外语类院校在过去的半个多世纪中为中国外交外事和各个部门培养了大批外语人才，他们在各个领域发挥了巨大作用，做出了杰出的贡献。

外交学院是具有外交特色和外语优势的重点大学，外交学院的英语教学在复校后的三十年中，积累了丰富的教学经验。“英语时文泛读”是外交学院英语本科教学的核心课程；该课程为学生提高英语阅读水平，扩大词汇量和阅读技巧，丰富文化和国际知识提供了很好的学习平台。学习这门课程以及其他相关课程，可为学生走向职场奠定坚实的基础。外交学院培养出的学生具有国际视野和外交外事专业水准是十分恰当的评价。

2005年以来外交学院英语系将英语泛读作为精品项目立项，2007年夏被评为北京市精品课程；目前我们正在向国家级精品课程努力。该精品课程由两大板块组成，即课堂教学和课外阅读——课堂教学使用了精选的时文作为主要的教学内容；课外阅读使用了精选的英语简易读物、注释读物和英语原著作为主要内容，并为每一部书设计了100个问题，可以在计算机网络上进行在线测试，并立即得到结果，同时教师也能够立即看到全部参加测试者的成绩以及学生学期和学年的累计成绩。我们与北京外国语大学英语学院和首都师范大学外国语学院英语系合作，进行异地登录测试也取得了满意的结果。这种英语泛读课程创新的教学模式为迅速提高学生的英语水平和综合运用能力起到了很好的作用，深受教师和学生的欢迎。

这里我们主要谈一下课堂用书《英语时文泛读》的编辑情况。

我们的编辑设计思路如下：

1. 所选文本要语言地道、内容新颖（除个别为略早的文章，其余课文全部为2005年以后英美主要报纸杂志上发表的文章）、题材广泛多样（涉及政治、经济、文化、教育、科技、环保、法律、社会等诸方面内容），贴近时代与生活，易激发学生兴趣。
2. 该教材就不同主题设不同单元，知识内容较成体系，既有助于学生系统学习、积累和运用所学知识，又有助于学生分类学习记忆相关词汇。

3. 练习设计合理、实用，既有很强的针对性（针对每个单元具体的阅读技巧及目标），又能考查学生的综合能力，形式比较灵活，易于操作。
4. 为使所选用的文本难度符合学生的英语程度，既不要过易，也不要过难的考虑，我们使用了根据美国著名教育家鲁道夫·弗莱什（Rudolf Flesch）博士的研究，即“英语文章难易度与单位长度的音节数和词数密切相关”的理论，将其教学模型化，并在其基础上编写的程序，进行《英语时文泛读》文本的选材，剔除了过难和过易的文本。
5. 编写旨在为使用《英语时文泛读》的教师准备的《教师参考书》，提供必要而丰富的备课参考资料和练习答案。
6. 制作课堂使用的PPT文档，供授课使用，教师亦可增添或删节内容，以适应具体需要。
7. 编辑快速阅读文本，以及相关的英国英语和美国英语的知识等内容，供教学参考使用。
8. 使用者可以根据本教学单位学生的英语水平，使用合适的单元和文本长度进行课堂阅读活动。
9. 为了锻炼学生自己查字典和确定词义的能力，在文本A和文本B之后的词汇表中，只给出没有在练习中出现的词；为照顾部分学生学习的需要，各单元的生词按英语字母表列在全书之后，学生可以查阅、记忆，然后再去做练习。

为保证教材编写的专业水准，我们组成了以范守义教授为负责人的《英语时文泛读》教程编辑委员会，人员如下：

范守义：总主编，负责策划统筹、审阅和编辑等工作。

石毅、于倩：共同主编，负责《英语时文泛读》第一册的编写工作；

张蕾、吴晓萍：共同主编，负责《英语时文泛读》第二册的编写工作；

武波、王振玲：共同主编，负责《英语时文泛读》第三册的编写工作；

徐英、魏腊梅：共同主编，负责《英语时文泛读》第四册的编写工作。

我们期待《英语时文泛读》的出版能够为我国大学本科和程度相当的英语学习者提供一套新的泛读教程，以满足与时俱进的教学要求；为此我们期待广大教师和学生提出宝贵意见和要求，以改进我们的编辑工作。我们也期待以《英语时文泛读》为主和能进行在线测试的课外阅读为辅的创新英语泛读教学模式为推动和提升全国英语泛读教学做出贡献。

《英语时文泛读》教程编辑委员会

2008年12月26日



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# HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

## Target of the Unit

- ☞ To get a glimpse of modern health issues
- ☞ To practice reading skills
- ☞ To enlarge your vocabulary

### 1) LEAD IN

*Directions: In this unit, you will read 3 passages about aspects of medical care and health issues in the US and in China. As you read the texts, try to see the differences in different practices.*

### 2) DISCUSSION

*In what way can we learn from the American system of medical care system? Are you satisfied with the present practices in China in terms of medical care and medical aid?*

## Text A



### Children in the Balance

*By Austin*

## Warming-up Exercises

- ☞ Do you know anything about healthcare in the US? What do you think might be the reason for Bush to veto a healthcare bill for children?
- ☞ Are children covered in health-care in your hometown? Do you think it is important to cover them? Why/why not?

## · First reading ·

Directions: Now please read the following passage as fast as you can and summarize the main idea.

1



2

George Bush has some fight left in him and he has chosen a thankless battle. On Wednesday October 3rd the president vetoed legislation that would have reauthorized and expanded the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which provides health-care insurance to more than 6 million poor children.

It is a popular programme and the bill passed the House and Senate with robust **bipartisan** majorities. So Mr Bush's veto—it is only his fourth—has done nothing for his public image. Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, called the veto "heartless" and asked how the president sleeps at night. "It is incomprehensible," said Ted Kennedy, a Democratic senator from Massachusetts. Some usually reliable allies were less melodramatic but still critical. Orrin Hatch, a conservative Republican senator from Utah, suggested that the president is receiving some bad advice.

**bipartisan** *adj.* of, consisting of, or supported by members of two parties, especially two major political parties 两党的

**specification** *n.* a detailed description of how sth is or should be, designed or made 规格, 明细单, 说明书

3

The programme was launched in 1997 as an effort to provide health-care insurance to families whose incomes put them at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Such families might not be able to afford private insurance and nor would they qualify for Medicaid, which provides health-care insurance to the poorest. States design their SCHIP programmes to their own **specifications**, but the federal government provides roughly 70% of the funds.

4

The combination of Medicaid and SCHIP helped reduce the number of uninsured children in the United States by a third from 1997 to 2005, according to the Kaiser Foundation. But that number has started to creep up again over the past two years, largely because more employers are not providing coverage. Some 12% of Americans under 18 now lack insurance. Lowering that figure should be a priority.

5

The bill that Congress passed called for \$35 billion in increased spending over the next five years, to bring the total to \$60 billion. Part of the extra money would be eaten up by

rising health-care costs, but it would also allow SCHIP to be extended to families at up to 300% of the federal poverty level. Proponents said that 10 million children would then be covered. The funds were to come from higher tax on cigarettes, an extra 61 cents on each packet.

- 6 Up with children, down with smokers: it was, in other words, an easy sell. But Mr Bush balked for several reasons. He said that expansion would mean shifting the programme's focus away from poor children. Better off parents might be tempted to drop their private coverage in lieu of the government option, nudging the country down the dangerous road to nationalised care. Mr Bush objected to the tax increase. And although this White House is not known for **fiscal** restraint, it thought the expansion would cost too much. Mr Bush had previously said that a \$5 billion spending increase would be about right.

**fiscal** *adj.* connected with government or public money, especially taxes 财政的, 国库的

**expire** *v.* to be no longer valid because the period of time for which it could be used has ended 失效, 到期

**advert** *n.* short for advertisement 广告

- 7 The programme's fate thus hangs in the balance: it **expired** on September 30th, but Congress has authorised additional funding for the next six weeks. Democrats are vowing to override Mr Bush's veto. It would take a two-thirds majority in each house of Congress to do so. The Senate passed the bill with more than enough votes in the first place, but the House did not. Nancy Pelosi, the House speaker, will need to persuade some 20 representatives to reconsider. Democrats have launched an advertising campaign against a handful of the Republicans who voted against SCHIP.
- 8 Mr Bush says he is willing to work with Congress to come up with a compromise, but his opponents seem readier to attack him. For now, politicking seems to be more important than planning, as the president is accused of being cruel to children. One **advert** by FamiliesUSA.org shows adorable children who, apparently, have just had their health-care coverage cancelled because of Mr Bush's veto. Melancholy music plinks away in the background. It may be a cheap shot. But it will resonate.

(Words: 650)

## • Second Reading •

Directions: Read the text again more carefully to find enough information for Exercises I, II & III.

### Exercise I True or False

*Directions: Please state whether the following statements are true or not (T/F) according to the text.*

1. George Bush vetoed the health-care bill because he did not want it to continue.
2. From paragraph two we can see that even the usually reliable allies of Bush were critical of his veto.
3. SCHIP provides health insurance for children whose family incomes are at or below the 300% of the federal poverty level.
4. According to the article, the federal government provides about 70% of the funds for Medicaid.
5. The Congress wanted to reauthorize and expand SCHIP because together with Medicaid it has helped reduced the number of uninsured children in the US by a third so far and the congress wanted that trend to continue.
6. If the bill were passed, it would be able to cover 10 million children.
7. According to the article, some funds for the new bill were to come from higher tax on alcohol and cigarettes.
8. As can be inferred from the article, the Bush administration tends to overspend its budget.
9. If the president vetoes a bill, the congress would have to strive for a two-thirds majority in each house to bring it into effect.
10. George Bush vetoed the bill with no will to compromise with the congress.

### Exercise II Word Inference

*Directions: Often you can guess the meaning of a word/expression by reading the words around it. Please read the given sentence to see how each word/expression in bold type is used in the text. Then choose the answer that is closest in meaning to the bold-faced word/expression.*

1. It is a popular programme and the bill passed the House and Senate with **robust** bipartisan majorities.  
 A. strong                      B. healthy                      C. rough                      D. rugged
2. Some usually reliable allies were less **melodramatic** but still critical.  
 A. sentimental                      B. sensational

- C. exaggerated  
D. melody
3. But that number has started to **creep up** again over the past two years.  
A. increase sharply  
B. increase gradually  
C. climb carefully  
D. climb secretly
4. **Proponents** said that 10m children would then be covered.  
A. advice  
B. follower  
C. supporter  
D. opponent
5. Better off parents might be tempted to drop their private coverage **in lieu of** the government option.  
A. instead of  
B. because of  
C. after  
D. prior to
6. Better off parents might be tempted to drop their private coverage in lieu of the government option, **nudging** the country down the dangerous road to nationalised care.  
A. push gradually  
B. elbow  
C. nod  
D. shuffle
7. Mr Bush **objected to** the tax increase.  
A. aimed at  
B. opposed  
C. supported  
D. made progress
8. The programme's fate thus hangs **in the balance**.  
A. surplus  
B. balanced  
C. uncertain  
D. mistaken
9. Democrats are vowing to **override** Mr Bush's veto.  
A. suppress  
B. reject  
C. surpass  
D. flounder
10. It may be a cheap shot. But it will **resonate**.  
A. reverberate  
B. vocal  
C. exert  
D. present

### Exercise III Discussion

*Directions: Please discuss the following questions in pairs or groups.*

1. What do you think may be the reason for the US to oppose nationalized care?
2. What effect do you think the veto will have on Bush's public image?

## Text B



# Chubby Gets a Second Look

By Gina Kolata

### Warming-up Exercises

- ☞ Do you think being slim is being healthy? Why/why not?
- ☞ Do you mind if your boyfriend or girlfriend is overweight?

### • First reading •

Directions: Now please read the following passage as fast as you can and summarize the main idea.

1 Health and beauty. They seem inextricable. That smiling, slender woman on the cover of *Self* magazine. The ripped guy looking out from the pages of *Men's Health*. They're thin. Their eyes are bright. They look like they're bursting with energy.



2 Causes of Death Are Linked to a Person's Weight (November 7, 2007). They may well be. But they might be better off if they had listened to their grandmother and put a little meat on those bones. Chubby, it turns out, may be the new healthy. Who knows if it will be the new beautiful.

3     A    . Investigating further, they were able to link causes of death to specific weights. Obese people had more deaths from heart disease, they reported last week. And thin people? They had more deaths from everything but cancer and heart disease.

4 But there were 100,000 fewer deaths among the overweight than would have been expected if those people had been of normal weight. This is what might politely be called the chubby category, with **body mass indexes** (a measure of weight for height) of 25 to 30. A woman, for instance, who is 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs between 146 and 175 pounds.

**inextricable** *adj.* too involved or complicated to solve 难以解决的

**body mass index** *n. phr.* The body mass index (BMI), or Quetelet index, is a statistical measurement which compares a person's weight and height. 体重指数



5 About a third of Americans fall into that range, defined, less politely, as “overweight” by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

6     B    . Perhaps Rubens, the Baroque master, was closer to the mark. The women in his paintings were considerably rounder than the women celebrated today. “Over upholstered,” as Holland Cotter, a culture critic for *The New York Times*, once put it.

7 It’s too soon to say. But it may not be a bad thing, say some social scientists. “The ideal image of a woman is almost impossible for anybody to achieve,” said Peter J. Brown, an anthropologist at Emory University.

8 Dr. Brown is among those social scientists who say that being thin really isn’t about health, anyway, but about social class and control.

**anthropologist** *n.* a person who studies the human race, especially its origins, development, customs and beliefs 人类学家  
**airy** *adj.* immaterial, illusory 虚幻的, 轻盈的

9 When food was scarce and expensive, they say, only the rich could afford to be fat. Thus, in the 19th century, well-do-do men with paunches joined Fat Men’s Clubs, which gave rise to the term “fat cat.” Heavy women of that era were stage stars. Lillian Russell, “airy fairy Lillian, the American beauty,” weighed 200 pounds.

10     C    .

11 The sponsors of a 1904 contest to find “the best and most perfectly formed woman” settled on Emma Newkirk, an athlete from Santa Monica, Calif., who stood 5-foot-4 ¼, measured 35-26-36, and weighed 136 pounds. That would have given her a B.M.I. of 23.3—not overweight, but close.

12 The body mass indexes of Miss America winners, according to a 2000 study, have been steadily decreasing since 1922, so much so that for most winners in the last three decades their indexes would cause them to be considered underweight.

13 How thin is thin enough? One Miss America had a body mass index of 16.9, which is considerably underweight. A woman of Emma Newkirk’s height would have had to weigh 99 pounds to have that body mass index. That may help explain why, in recent years, as many as two-thirds of women and more than half of men have expressed dissatisfaction with their weight.

14     D    .

15 George Armelagos, an anthropologist at Emory University, calls it the King Henry VIII—Oprah Winfrey effect.

16 Henry VIII, king of England in the 16th century, “was huge,” he said, which was a symbol of his wealth. To get that way, Dr. Armelagos said, “it took 100 people collecting food for him and cooking it.” Compare that to the billionaire Oprah Winfrey. “She has to have a