

大学英语阅读教程

(2)

总主编 张增健

College English



东华大学出版社

Unit Ten

大学英语阅读教程

(2)



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前言

《大学英语阅读教程》是为配合大学英语教学而编选的一套英语读物,共四册。

本书按题材分成 10 个单元,选文大多取自近年出版的英美报刊书籍,语言清新,体裁多样,有故事、随笔、杂感、短评、新闻报道等。在编选过程中,为确保原作的“真实性”,不随意改动原文,不作任何文字上的“加工”。

本书的每篇选文,都配有适量的阅读和翻译练习。“理解检测”,旨在提高学生语篇水平上的阅读理解能力,确保学生对整篇文章从主题思想到重要细节以至语言难点的全面理解。

“佳句试译”这一练习的设置,不仅着眼于为读者提供翻译实践的机会,因为所选的语句,大多是文章的精髓,也是难点所在,读者反复琢磨、玩味之余,自然会对文章有更深入的理解。

阅读应该是一种享受,而不该视为一种负担。享受阅读,寻求书中的逸趣,是学术求知的最高境界。愿本套丛书能成为当今大学生们的学习生活之友。

编者

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Unit One

Prologue 序言

Stories About Celebrities

Every life has a story.

— Biography Magazine

Celebrities seek fame. They take action to get attention. Heroes have risked something to help others. Their action involves courage.

— James Bradley and Ron Powers

Reading 1 Prologue (From Celine Dion: My Story, My Dream)

Reading 2 “It’s the Books That Changed Me”

Reading 3 Prince William: To Be the King of Hollywood Action Movies?

Reading 1

Prologue 序言

From Celine Dion: My Story, My Dream

*Celine Dion is one of the world's most popular and well-known singers today. When she sang at the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Atlanta, her voice reached 3.5 billion people worldwide. Her **albums** 唱片集 are instant bestsellers upon release. 18 million copies of "My Heart Will Go On," the theme from Titanic has been sold. Celine Dion is admired and loved by fans around the world. And her concerts fill **stadiums** 露天体育场, whatever the size. With 115 separate music awards to her name, she is a living **legend** 传奇 (人物).*

One beautiful morning last winter, a *manatee* 海牛 appeared in the canal right behind our house in Jupiter, Florida. It stayed there for hours, as if it were waiting for something. Or somebody. As soon as I went into the water, it started coming toward me. I spoke to it, petted it, and we swam together for a while.

This was no big feat. A lot of people in southern Florida have fun swimming with manatees. They are nice, large, very *affectionate* 温柔亲切的 animals that we call sea cows. People say they come from the legend of the *Sirens* 塞壬 (希腊神中的女海妖, 以美妙歌声诱惑过往水手而使船只触礁沉没) because of the very sweet and *unsettling* 令人神魂不安的 sound they make.

The incident made me realize how much I've changed during these last months. When I was working on my singing career, and was subject to certain precautions, the idea never would have come to me to *dive* 跳 (水) right into cloudy water and go make friends with an unknown animal.

But on that morning, I hadn't been working for more than three months,

and I was already doing all sorts of things that had been almost unimaginable before, things that even I sometimes found surprising.

While I was swimming with my Siren, a flood of memories crashed through my head, clear, precise images of my childhood, of summer, of happiness.

I was eight, nine, ten years old. I was on a picnic with my brothers and sisters in the *Laurentides* (加拿大境内蒙特利尔市北面的) 劳伦河流域, just north of Montreal. There were farms, a lot of animals, planted fields, woods, a river, horses that my sisters and I rode. I saw all of it again so clearly. I saw myself climbing trees, swimming in the river, walking in the woods. And I was saying to whoever would hear me that one day I'd buy a horse, as soon as I earned my first money as a singer.

And then I forgot all about it, carried away by another dream of being a singer, a dream that left room for nothing else in my life. A few years later, when I got my first pay as a singer, my thoughts were already elsewhere, instead of a horse, I bought myself a pair of *high heels* 高跟鞋.

Now, twenty years later, it was all springing forth from my memory. That horse I never bought and never thought about again, the light of summer, the freshness and the smell of the *Laurentides* rivers and lakes, the fragrance of the earth and of cut hay. Again I saw the path that we took to get down to the river, the overturned *canoe* 独木舟 on the beach, the laughter of my sisters, the thick trees my brother dove from, the pebbles, the sand, the *raspberry* (植物)覆盆子 bushes that scratched our legs, the *crackling* 噼啪(爆裂)声 of burning branches in the fires we made during evenings on the shore. And all of us singing together late into the night, watching shooting stars and northern lights.

As I got out of the canal after saying goodbye to my Siren, I didn't feel like speaking or being spoken to. I hardly dared move, my head was so filled to the *brim* (杯、碗等的)边 with all these memories, and I didn't want to lose a single drop. I wanted to keep these images in me as long as possible, to review them one by one and maybe to remember others.

I don't think it was nostalgia, but rather a kind of curiosity about a very faraway period of my life that I thought I'd forgotten, and in any case, had never thought about so intensely. I felt as if I were seeing and hearing the real living little girl I had been, feeling her very close to me again, so close I could recognize her dreams, her wishes, her plans. And I felt a little like one of those dolls that contain a series of smaller dolls, each inside the other, with that little girl Celine inside of me.

But these images quickly began to lose their color and clarity. Afterward, I thought for days and days about my childhood, and the whole journey I had traveled. Of what I'd been and done or tried to do for twenty years, starting with my first performances and that first pair of high heels.

And I kept asking myself why I wanted and dreamed so much about all of this, all that's happened to me. Why, at twenty, fifteen, at twelve, even at eight, I think, and even at five, I so wanted to succeed, why I dreamed so much of becoming a famous singer, who'd be listened to in every corner of the planet.

Not everyone is driven by such ambition. A lot of young boys and girls spend a long time wondering what to do with their lives. Some never find an answer. But I always knew. Not that I claim any credit for knowing. I'm like that *tubby* 肥胖的 Obelix, a character in a famous French *comic strip* 连环漫画, who fell into a magic potion(有魔力的) 饮剂 when he was a baby. As soon as I was born, I fell into singing, show business. And once in it, I felt like a fish in water.

I've loved every bit of the life I've led up to this *sabbatical* 休假. I lived my most beautiful dreams to the fullest—a rare piece of luck. I've been fulfilled emotionally, professionally, artistically, and I always will be. I love and I'm loved. I sing and that is my happiness. And I thank heaven for it everyday of my life.

I am good at being happy. Happiness comes to me in waves, always unexpectedly and unexplainable. I'm not talking about the sweet and shallow feeling that comes with a *platinum* 白金 album or a good review, but about real

happiness, the kind that comes and goes without warning. I never felt this happiness so close at hand, so overwhelming, as I did that winter of 2000, during the first months of my sabbatical.

(988 words)

Comprehension Check

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. In this prologue, Celine Dion intends to tell readers _____.
 - A) what has motivated her to be a famous singer ever since childhood
 - B) what kind of person she really is behind that magnificent voice
 - C) what prompted thoughts of revealing her story and dream as a singer
 - D) what a wonderful vacation she enjoyed in the winter of 2000
2. The author tells us that on a beautiful winter morning she got into the canal and made friends with a "sea cow." From her description we may infer that she did it _____.
 - A) merely out of curiosity
 - B) in order to have great fun
 - C) because she was fascinated by the manatee's sweet melodious voice because she felt totally carefree, inclined to find surprises in new experiences
3. The expression "was subject to" (Paragraph 3) is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A) "was used to"
 - B) "tended to have"
 - C) "was ruled by"
 - D) "was exposed to"
4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the selection?
 - A) Celine Dion was swimming with the manatee one winter morning when memories of the childhood raced across her mind.
 - B) ZK(While swimming with the "sea cow," Celine Dion was nostalgic for her earlier days.

C) Staying in the canal with her Siren, Celine Dion recalled her happy childhood in the Canadian countryside, conjuring up many clear images in her mind.

D) When a child, Celine Dion wished to buy a horse but, later on, she totally forgot about it because she was too absorbed in the dream of being a singer.

5. The phrase “(be)carried away by” can best be replaced by _____.

A) “(be)too excited about”

B) “(be)much devoted to”

C) “(be)overwhelmed by”

D) “(be)fully satisfied with”

6. Having got of the water that winter morning, Celine Dion was _____.

A) unable to recover from the overwhelming emotions

B) entirely lost in thought

C) trying hard to keep alive all those memories and images

D) in a state of great bewilderment

7. What did Celine Dion do after that winter morning?

A) She kept thinking hard about her childhood, trying to “see” and “hear” the real living little girl she had been.

B) She was trying to look back on her earlier days in perspective—her days both as a child and as a singer.

C) She kept asking herself why she had ever since dreamed so much of becoming a famous singer.

D) Both B) and C)

8. According to Celine Dion, when does “real happiness” come to her?

A) When she is singing.

B) When a platinum album is issued.

C) When a favorite review comes out.

D) All of the above.

Translation Practice

Carefully read the following passage and translate it into Chinese.

Now, in her own words, the most dynamic vocal talent of our time—the international singing sensation whose recordings have sold millions, and whose performances electrify the world's great arenas—gives us her poignant, intimate, and inspiring life story ... from the heart.

Celine Dion

My Story, My Dream

She was born into a working-class Canadian family, the youngest of fourteen children. She gave her first performance standing on a kitchen table and dreamed of becoming a superstar. Few in her field can rival the phenomenal God-given abilities of Celine Dion. Fewer still, have experienced the love, sorrow, accomplishment, and ecstasy that have shaped her remarkable life and carried her to the pinnacle of the entertainment world.

Reading 2

"It's the Books That Changed Me"

By Peter Swet

Sean Connery, as James Bond and in some other film roles, seems to be a man who has always been wealthy and **well-polished** 很有教养的. Also, you most likely see him as a well-educated man. But it was not always so. You will probably be surprised as you learn about his background and how Sean Connery says he changed his life.

As a young boy in Scotland, Thomas Sean Connery was put to bed each night in the bottom drawer of the family wardrobe 衣柜. "When my brother Nell came along," he remembered, "he got the wardrobe, and I graduated to the settee (small sofa)."

Connery was recalling Edinburgh during the *Depression* (1929 年至 30 年代早期世界性的) 经济大萧条. "There was a lot of industry there, and every house had coal, so there was also a lot of smoke. We lived in a tenement—no electricity or hot water, six floors up with four flats per floor, and one hallway toilet for each two flats. My dad was a laborer who brought in a week and was glad to have it."

We were seated in the garden of a hotel in *Marbella* 马贝勒(西班牙南部滨海小城), Spain, resort on the *Costadel Sol* 科斯塔索尔(西班牙南部海滨疗养区) that is known for its gleaming white buildings, warm sun, and soft Mediterranean breezes. At 61, Sean Connery was still fit, *trim* 修长的, and handsome—even without the *toupee* 遮秃假发 he often wears in films. A major international star since he first created a sensation as James Bond in 1962, the actor has a home in Marbella, another in *Monaco* 摩纳哥, and yet a third in the

Caribbean 加勒比海。I wanted to know how he has escaped the mean streets of a poor, smoke-filled neighborhood to become what is, for many, an example of wealth, fame, and elegance. Had he known, as a child, that he was poor?

“No, I don't think so,” Connery said. “As a kid, you're not concerned about life's unfairness of how disadvantaged you are. You just do what you have to. Me, I went to work when I was 9 and delivered milk by horse cart seven days a week. I was at the job 6 A. M. , then straight to school, which I left at age 12. It was 1943. The war was on, and schools were *dispersed* (被)疏散 into people's homes because of the bombs. And there was a shortage of men, which meant work to be had.”

His earnings went to the family, with Connery's “mum” setting aside just enough for his expenses. Meanwhile, “Big Tam,” as he was called by *pals* 伙伴, grew tall and strong, devoting what little free time had to soccer and swimming at the public baths—“which you did often,” he explained, “just to keep clean.”

“I grew up with no notion of a career, much less acting,” Connery continued with a smile. “When I was 16, I signed into the Navy for 12 years but was out in three because of *ulcers* 胃溃疡. Obviously, I wasn't suited for the service. I mean, someone who gets ulcers has got certain feelings of anxiety. I wanted something to do in life but didn't know what, so I came back to various laborer jobs, then learned that as a disabled *vet* 老兵(veteran 的缩略)I was entitled to schooling to learn a trade: barber, *upholsterer* 室内装潢工, tailor, or French *polisher* 罩光漆漆工. I chose the latter, which meant putting the finishes on things like pianos and coffins.”

One day in 1953, a friend talked him into going down to London to enter the *Mr. Universe contest* 世界先生选拔赛。The trip proved to be *fateful* 决定性的。Not only did Connery place third in the tall men's category but he also was told *audition* 试演 at the *Drury Lane* 特鲁里街(伦敦西区街名,以剧院集中著称) Theatre for the male *chorus* 合唱队 in *South Pacific*. “I thought, ‘What the hell, it's an easy way to make a living for a few hours' work,’” he recalled. “Well, I got on stage and sang good and loud, and did some *handstand*

手倒立。I must've looked right as a sailor, because I got the job, and that's what started me as an actor.

"This American in the cast 演员班子, Robert Henderson, helped me," Connery continues. "Gave me a list of books to read." He started *ticking off* (在书名旁边)打钩号 the works. All of George Bernard Shaw, *An Actor Prepares* and *My Life in Art*, by *Stanislavsky* 斯坦尼斯拉夫斯基(前苏联戏剧家), all of *Thomas Wolfe* 托马斯·乌尔夫(美国小说家), all of *Oscar Wilde* 奥斯卡·王尔德(爱尔兰剧作家), all of Ibsen, *Remembrance of Things Past*, by *Proust* 普鲁斯特(法国小说家), *Joyce's Finnegan's Wake* and *Ulysses* (爱尔兰小说家)乔伊斯的《菲涅根的守灵夜》和《尤利西斯》。

What was it like to face these masterworks as a 22-year-old who hadn't been to school since he was 12? "Well, it was tough going!" he said. "But the power of those works does seep 渗漏 through. Plus, I had a dictionary at my side." Connery laughed, his face turning bright red. "I spent my South Pacific tour 巡回演出 in every library in Britain, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales," he said, "and on the nights we were dark. I'd see every play I could, meet the actors and learn. But it's the books, the reading, that can change one's life. I'm the living evidence."

Comprehension Check

Make the best choice or fill in the blank with suitable words to complete the following statements.

1. Sean Connery is a (n) (American/Scottish/English) actor, noted for the role of James Bond he has played in the serial film "007."
2. Connery was born into a worker's family; they lived in a (n) (townhouse or near the inner city/apartment building in the suburban area/overcrowded apartment building in the slums) and, his parents were so poor that they could not even provide him or his brother with a milkman/paperboy/office boy.
3. Connery started to work at the age of 12 as a (milkman/paperboy/office boy).

4. Connery left school at age 12 because _____.
5. As a teenager, Connery had to work to help _____ and, whenever he had a little free time, he would _____ to keep himself "clean."
6. _____ Connery had to leave the navy after 3 years instead of the 12 years he had planned on.
7. Later on, when Connery came to know that as a disabled veteran he had the right to _____, he decided to learn the trade as a (tailor/barber/French polisher).
8. Sean Connery started his acting career in 1953 after he _____, and his first acting job was to play a menial part in a(n) (opera/musical comedy/feature film).
9. On the suggestion of Robert Henderson, another actor in the troupe, Sean Connery began to _____.
10. Sean Connery attributes his success as a film star to _____.
11. This article most probably appears (as a news story in a popular magazine/ in a biography as a preface or introduction/ as an episode in a film scenario) _____.

Translation Practice

Carefully read the following passage and put it into Chinese.

Amazing Fall of Miss America

Here she is, Miss America 1998 — and she's serving hot dog at a New York fast food restaurant !

Beauty queen Kate Shindle, 22, has gone from wearing a diamond-studded crown and pocketing a six-figure salary to wearing a waitress uniform for minimum wage.

It seems a terrible comedown for the pageant winner. But Kate is happy and has already won the admiration of her co-workers for her hard-working, but clumsy style. After graduating from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, in June, the former Miss Illinois moved to New York in hopes of