

# Reading Course

助你掌握现代实用英语 步入报刊新闻自如境界

精选版

主 编 ⊙ 端木义万



## 美英报刊 阅读教程

Reading Course in American &  
British News Publications

(普及本)



南京大学出版社

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# 前 言

我所编著的《美英报刊阅读教程》，承蒙广大读者厚爱，自 1994 年出版以来，已连续印刷 20 次。近些年来，我又根据不同类别和不同层次大学生的需求编著了《美英报刊阅读教程》高级本、中级本和普及本，《大学英语外报外刊阅读教程》和《21 世纪报 大学英语报刊阅读教程》。（详情请见主编简介）

笔者从事高校英语报刊教学已有 42 年，多年的教学实践证明，英语报刊是十分理想的教学资料。

报刊具有贴近时代、贴近大众、贴近现实、贴近生活的特点。作为教学资料，英语报刊具有以下四点显著优势：内容新颖、语言现代、资料丰富、词语实用。

伴随我国与国际交流的迅猛增加，英语报刊课程的重要性日趋突出，越来越多的高校为英语专业和非英语专业学生开设了这门课程。

教育部对英语报刊教学给予高度重视。高校英语专业教学大纲的四、六、八级阅读项目都明确将阅读英美报刊水平作为评定阅读能力的标准。

教育部高等教育司《大学英语课程教学要求》也对英语报刊阅读能力明确提出了三个层次的要求。其中较高要求和更高要求都是针对外报外刊阅读能力提出的。

《美英报刊阅读教程》（普及本）是特别为大学英语中、高级水平和专业英语初级水平的学生而选编的教材。它是一本英语报刊阅读入门教材。新版《普及本》除保留了原教材中少量精华文章之外，大部分采用的是近几年所刊登的文章。

这是一本“能力型”的教材。选材所坚持的标准是：题材覆盖面广、文章内容典型、语言质量上乘、知识含量丰富、使用时效较长。

为了突出能力培养，本书每篇课文之后共设七个栏目：

1. 课文生词 (New Words)
2. 知识介绍 (Background Information)
3. 难点注释 (Notes to the Text)
4. 语言简说 (Language Features)
5. 内容分析 (Analysis of the Content)
6. 问题思考 (Questions on the Article)
7. 话题讨论 (Topics for Discussion)

教材除保留一般英语报刊教材所设的“课文生词”、“难点注释”和“问题思考”栏目外，还增设了“知识介绍”、“语言简说”、“内容分析”和“话题讨论”四个栏目。

“知识介绍”栏目根据课文内容，简明系统地提供文章相关专题的内容，旨在拓宽读者

社会文化和科技等方面的知识。“语言简说”栏目结合课文,简单扼要地介绍报刊英语和现代英语的常见语言现象,意在帮助读者熟悉外报外刊语言的规律和特点。这两个栏目有助学生构建和丰富外报外刊语言和文化的认知结构,引导他们步入轻松自如阅读英语报刊的理想境界。“内容分析”栏目提供课文内容和语言的多项选择练习,目的在于帮助学生培养深入理解、分析推断和综合归纳能力。“话题讨论”栏目提供与课文内容相关有一定深度的宏观讨论题,意图在于培养学生的思辨能力和表述能力,增加口头交际实践的机会。

为了减轻授课老师的备课负担,本书配有教学参考手册,提供“内容分析”与“问题思考”两项练习的答案和课文篇章层次的分析。

本书凝结着许多人的深情厚谊和汗水心血。高校英语报刊教学界的许多同仁和我的博士生、硕士生们为此书献计献策。我的夫人郭荣娣同志为我创造理想的工作环境,全力保障我的教学和科研。在课文文化点注释方面得到过美国 James R. Jackson 的热情帮助。邱旭强先生和方薇女士源源不断地给我提供外报外刊资料。

在此,谨向为此书做出贡献的所有人士致以诚挚、深切的谢意。

由于功力不深、锤炼不足,书中定有不少疏漏和错误,竭诚欢迎并殷切期望高校英语教师和广大读者提供宝贵意见。

端木义万

2008年5月18日

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# Boomers<sup>1</sup> Can't Be Lumped into a Single Generation

*By Bernard Starr*

Watch out, the boomers are coming. That's the warning sounded by demographers, economists, sociologists, psychologists and others alerting us to the huge generation of baby boomers—77 million strong—now approaching retirement<sup>2</sup>.

Will society, they ask, be able to withstand the assault on the fragile programs like Social Security and Medicare<sup>3</sup>?

But is it an army at all<sup>4</sup>? Here are the profiles of two boomer couples. What do they have in common?

At 34, Jim is still at the beginning of his career at a high-tech company. His 34-year-old wife, Marge, just gave birth to their first child. Marge plans to be mommy-at-home for two years before she gets her career in investment banking back on track<sup>5</sup>. They wonder how they'll handle the finances without Marge's income, and they worry about saving for education.

Jane, 50, is a teacher and her husband, Bob, is 52. He's been at his job in advertising for 27 years and is thinking of retiring before he gets "downsized". Their oldest daughter, Susan, just graduated from college and the younger daughter is a junior in college.

These two couples live in vastly different worlds. Jim and Marge—the young boomer couple—probably have more in common with Bob and Jane's young adult children. And Jim and Marge's parents, in their mid-60s and recently retired, would surely have a lot to talk about with Bob and Jane.

Yet these two profiled couples<sup>6</sup> are called baby boomers—part of one generation. Does that make any sense<sup>7</sup>?

True, they were products of a post-World War II birth-rate explosion—from 1946 to 1964—that peaked in 1957 with 3.7 births per woman<sup>8</sup>. But the 34~52-year-old boomers span many religions, ethnic groups, educational backgrounds and socioeconomic levels, representing a wide range of needs, interests, planning, lifestyles and dreams<sup>9</sup>.

To talk about one entity of 77 million boomers for social and financial policy makes about as much sense as coming up with a single life plan for our two couples<sup>10</sup>. One size will not fit all. The boomers are no army. They surely don't march to a single drum beat<sup>11</sup>.

As the boomers cross the senior line<sup>12</sup>, older Americans will begin to evolve into

the largest group in society for the first time.

But each incoming wave will be different. The precise shape of those differences is the challenge for policy-makers. It's the pressing task that lies beyond the war cry, "The boomers are coming".<sup>13</sup>

(Starr is a psychologist-gerontologist at Marymount Manhattan College)

From *Scripps Howard News Service*, May 19, 1999



## I. New Words

assault	[ə'sɔ:lt] <i>n.</i> to attack in a violent way
approach	[ə'prəʊtʃ] <i>v.</i> to come nearer to
demographer	[di:'mɒgrəfə] <i>n.</i> 人口统计学家
downsize	[ˈdaʊnsaɪz] <i>v.</i> 裁员, 精简机构
entity	[ˈentɪtɪ] <i>n.</i> 实体, 独立存在体
ethnic	[ˈeθnɪk] <i>adj.</i> 种族的
evolve	[ɪˈvɒlv] <i>v.</i> to develop by gradually changing
fragile	[ˈfrædʒaɪl] <i>adj.</i> easily damaged, spoilt, or destroyed
gerontologist	[ˌdʒerən'tɒlədʒɪst] <i>n.</i> 老人学家
high-tech	[ˌhaɪ'tek] <i>adj.</i> using high technology
incoming	[ˌɪnkʌmɪŋ] <i>adj.</i> (only before noun) arriving or coming in
lump	[lʌmp] <i>v.</i> 把……归为一类
peak	[pi:k] <i>v.</i> to reach the highest point or level
profile	[ˈprəʊfaɪl] <i>n.</i> a short description
psychologist	[saɪ'kɒlədʒɪst] <i>n.</i> 心理学家
senior	[ˈsi:njə] <i>adj.</i> 较年长的, 年高的
socioeconomic	[ˌsəʊʃɪəʊi:kə'nɒmɪk] <i>adj.</i> 社会经济的
span	[spæn] <i>v.</i> to include



## II. Background Information

### 战后七代人

美国内战后出生的几代人分别是:传教士一代(Missionary Generation)、迷惘的一代(Lost Generation)、大兵一代(GI Generation)、沉默的一代(Silent Generation)、婴儿潮

代(Boom Generation)、第十三代(Thirteenth Generation)、千禧代(Millennial Generation)。他们身上深深地打上了美国内战后各个时期的烙印。

代	传教士一代	迷惘的一代	大兵一代	沉默的一代	婴儿潮代	第十三代	千禧代
类型	理想型	反叛型	公民型	适应型	理想型	反叛型	公民型
出生时间	1860~ 1882	1883~ 1900	1901~ 1924	1925~ 1942	1943~ 1960	1961~ 1981	1982~ 2003
时间跨度	23年	18年	24年	18年	18年	21年	22年
总人数	4,500万	4,500万	6,300万	4,900万	7,700万	9,300万	7,600万
现有人数	0.3万	1,100万	2,900万	4,000万	6,900万	7,900万	7,600万
移民比例	23%	21%	9%	9%	10%	11%	12%
代表人物	爱因斯坦	海明威	肯尼迪 里根	罗斯福 路德·金	克林顿 金·里奇	泰森	

20世纪30年代经济大萧条以及随后的二战期间,许多美国妇女没有结婚,或者成婚很晚。战后,随着数百万退伍士兵回国,美国的出生率猛增。1957年,美国的出生率(birth rate)达到最高点,全年共出生了430万婴儿,比1945年多150万。

美国不同时期出生率对比表

年代	大萧条时期	'47~'50年	'60年	'64年	'93年
出生率	18%	25%	23.7%	21%	15.5%

在美国的报刊杂志上,可以看到婴儿潮代人各种各样的别称:注重现在的一代(Now Generation)、以我为中心的一代(Me Generation)、动辄抗议的一代(Protest Generation)、追随斯波克大夫的一代(Spock Generation)(斯波克大夫著有《育婴常识》,反越战)、越战的一代(Vietnam Generation)、伍德斯托克一代(The Woodstock Generation)(摇滚史上的一次盛会)、摇滚的一代(Rock Generation)。

据报道,这代人中40%吸过大麻;27%曾效仿嬉皮士的装扮;16%参加过反战和民权运动;10%练瑜伽、静坐或迷信东方的宗教;5%尝试过群居生活。这代人开始进入美国的领导阶层。1992年,二战后出生的克林顿击败了大兵一代的老布什,入主白宫。



### III. Notes to the Text

1. boomers: 又称 baby boomers。参见本文“Background Information”。
2. That's the warning sounded by ... alerting us to the huge generation of baby boomers—77 million strong—now approaching retirement. 这是人口统计学家、经济学

家、社会学家、心理学家和其他一些人发出的警告,使我们关注到婴儿潮代,这个拥有七千七百万巨大人口数目的一代即将退休。(① alert sb to sth—to make someone notice something important or dangerous; ② 77 million strong-- The word “strong” is used to give the number of people in a group.)

3. Will society be able to withstand the assault on fragile programs like Social Security and Medicare? 我们社会像社会保障与老年医疗保险这类脆弱的福利计划能否经受得起冲击?(① Medicare system—a system by which the US government helps to pay for the medical treatment of old people; ② Social Security—a system of insurance run by the American government into which workers make regular payments, and which provides money when they are unable to work, especially because they are old; ③ 由于美国人口日趋老年化,社会福利开支负担不断加重。1965年美国老年人的养老金与医疗项目所占国民生产总值(GNP)比例为4.4%,但到1990年已猛增到9.7%。据美国社会学家分析,到婴儿潮代全部进入退休时期,老年人将占全国人口的21%,美国将出现“失衡现象”(top-heaviness)。到那时,老年人养老金和医疗项目将占国民生产总值的14.5%!)

4. But is it an army at all? 但是它到底是不是一个大的群体?(army— a large number of people bearing similarity in some respects)

5. get back on track: 使……回到正常轨道上

6. these two profiled couples: 这两对简要介绍的夫妇(profile— to write or give a short description of someone or something)

7. make sense—to have a good reason or explanation

8. ... that peaked in 1957 with 3.7 births per woman. 在1957年达到最高峰,平均每个妇女生育3.7个孩子。

9. But the 34~52-year-old boomers span many religions, ethnic groups, educational backgrounds and socioeconomic levels, representing a wide range of needs, interests, planning, lifestyles and dreams. 但是由34岁到52岁的人组成的婴儿潮代有着许多种不同宗教、种族群体、教育背景、社会经济水准,并且代表了广泛各异的需求、兴趣、计划、生活方式和梦想。

10. To talk about ... for our two couples. 将七千七百万人看作一个整体来为他们制定社会、金融政策,就像为这两对夫妇制定同一个生活计划一样,不合情理。

11. They surely don't march to a single drum beat. 他们不会步调一致(亦即:不会乐于接受完全一样的政策)。

12. cross the senior line—become old

13. It's the pressing task that lies beyond the war cry, “The boomers are coming”. 这是急需处理的事,仅仅呐喊“婴儿潮代人来啦!”是无法奏效的。(pressing—needing to be dealt with very soon; urgent)



## IV. Language Features

### 报刊英语总体特色

新闻英语主要受以下五个因素制约:大众性,节俭性,趣味性,时新性和客观性。报刊是大众传媒(Mass Media),写作必须适合广大读者水平,语言必须通俗易懂。报业十分珍惜版面,读者看报珍惜时间,这就迫使新闻写作人员养成文字简洁的风格。

报刊面临电视、广播、网络传媒的巨大挑战,要稳住报业市场就得加强趣味性,因而新闻报道必须写得生动有趣。

新闻报道在提供最新消息的同时也传播了相关的新词。此外,不少新闻写作人员为了增加文章的吸引力,在语言上刻意求新,因而新闻英语具有新颖活泼的特色。

客观性是纯新闻报道所遵循的准则,没有客观性报道就要丢掉可信性,也就会失去读者。客观性要求新闻报道文字准确具体,避免使用情感词语和夸张手法。

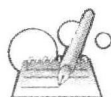
初读美英报刊的人往往会遇到很多困难。之所以如此,主要是因为他们对报刊英语特点了解不够。譬如,新闻标题短小精悍,在句式和用词上都有相应的省略手段。又如,新闻报道为了节约篇幅,采用一系列手段浓缩、精炼句式。较常见的有前置定语、名词、身份同位语前置、词性转化、借代、缩略词等。再如,为使语言生动、活泼,报刊常常使用比喻和成语活用手段。新闻刊物不仅是报道新闻的媒介,而且是“使用新词的庞大机器和杜撰新词的巨大工厂”。这些特点会给读者带来理解上的困难。新闻报道结构有其自身特色,报刊中许多词语具有特定文化内涵。不了解这些情况,便会构成理解障碍。为了帮助读者克服这些困难,本书把新闻英语特色分成若干细目,结合每篇课文具体情况,逐一进行介绍。



## V. Analysis of the Content

1. According to the author, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. boomers can be seen as one entity
  - B. boomers were born during the Second World War
  - C. boomers live in vastly different worlds
  - D. boomers will all get retired soon
2. Which statement is Not true?
  - A. The differences between boomers will have an impact on policy making.
  - B. The differences between boomers are reflected on many aspects.
  - C. The differences between boomers are often overlooked by some people.

- D. The differences between boomers actually have little significance.
3. The phrase “get downsized” in paragraph 5 means “\_\_\_\_\_”.
- A. become unemployed  
B. get smaller in size  
C. become old  
D. become lower in position
4. According to the article, the year of \_\_\_\_\_ witnessed the highest birth rate.
- A. 1946  
B. 1957  
C. 1964  
D. 1960
5. The author’s purpose in stressing the differences between boomers is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. prove that baby boomer is a wrong term  
B. warn about the heavy burden formed by boomers’ retirement  
C. show the complexity of boomers’ make-up  
D. show the need to work out different policies for each wave of retired boomers



## VI. Questions on the Article

1. What is the warning sounded by demographers, economists, sociologists, psychologists and others?
2. What are Jim and Marge worried about?
3. What are Bob and Jane thinking of?
4. What similarities or differences exist between the two couples?
5. Does it make any sense to lump boomers into a single generation? Why or why not?
6. According to the author, what is the challenge for policy-makers?



## VII. Topics for Discussion

1. Should baby boomers be grouped into a single generation?
2. Can America’s welfare system shoulder the heavy load of the retired baby boomers?

# 2

## A Population's Assimilation

*Will the next generation of Hispanics' be part of the American melting pot?*

*By Will Sullivan*

Good Friday is meant to be a reflection on death, but new life was the order of the day at St. Anthony of Padua's Way of the Cross procession.<sup>3</sup> More than a thousand predominantly Latino onlookers lined the streets for the Spanish-language ceremony, whose cast of over a hundred wound through several blocks of Falls Church, Va.<sup>4</sup> But even in the large crowd, the number of baby strollers<sup>5</sup> weaving through the throng stood out.

President Bush was back on the US-Mexico border last week, pushing for immigration reform and renewing the debate about the booming Hispanic influx. But researchers are increasingly turning their attention to second-generation Hispanics, whose US birth automatically makes them citizens. As many in the second generation approach adulthood, they will be the ones who begin to assuage or aggravate concerns about how schools, the economy, and the culture will fare in an increasingly Latino America. The data so far reveal a population that is moving forward but one with significant ground to cover as well.<sup>6</sup>

The demographics are changing rapidly. While Hispanics made up less than 15 percent of the population in 2005, the Census Bureau<sup>7</sup> predicts they will be a quarter of the country by 2050. The Hispanic population is expected to jump from 42 million to over 100 million, making up nearly half of the nation's total projected growth during that time.

**Births.** Immigration, both legal and illegal, is an important component of that growth. But native births—spurred by a high, though declining, Hispanic birthrate—have now topped immigration as the largest driver of the population surge. The median second-generation Latino is still in his or her early teens, and children are rapidly supplanting adults as the face of the Hispanic boom.<sup>8</sup> “We do about 70 percent of our baptisms in Spanish, even though only about 35 percent of our parish is Hispanic,” says the Rev. Kevin Walsh, the pastor at St. Philip Roman Catholic parish in Falls Church.

The trend has caused plenty of teeth-gnashing.<sup>9</sup> In his 2004 book *Who Are We?*

*The Challenges to America's National Identity*<sup>10</sup>, Harvard Prof. Samuel Huntington argues that Hispanic, and particularly Mexican, immigrants have been unusually resistant to assimilation. He cites the high Hispanic high school dropout rate, the large number of Mexican immigrants receiving some form of welfare, and research suggesting Hispanic parents want their kids to retain fluency in Spanish.

"There is no Americano dream," Huntington writes. "There is only the American dream created by an Anglo-Protestant society."<sup>11</sup>

A portrait of the country's Latino population, released by the Census Bureau in February, shows a community that lags on key measures.<sup>12</sup> A full 40.4 percent lack a high school diploma, compared with 16.1 percent of the general population. The median income in Hispanic households is nearly \$13,000 lower than in white households.

But the picture is more optimistic when only native-born Hispanics are included. In 2003, Rand<sup>13</sup> economist James P. Smith's research suggested that Hispanics had historically made educational and economic progress similar to that of previous European immigrant waves. While Hispanic immigrants had only about 70 percent the lifetime earnings of native-born whites, the most recent data showed the second generation cutting that gap nearly in half.

Perhaps the best sign of this growing assimilation is the high rate of Hispanics marrying outside of their ethnic group. Few foreign-born Hispanics marry non-Hispanics, partly because many arrive married. But studies show only 68 percent of their children, and 43 percent of their grandchildren, marry fellow Latinos.

**Definitions.** Far from the separate cultures Huntington envisions, some experts contend that the Hispanic population's growth will bring it increasing irrelevance as a designation.<sup>14</sup> "Hispanic" has always been a more amorphous characterization than other definitions of origin<sup>15</sup>; the Census Bureau does not define it as a race. Research from the Pew Hispanic Center<sup>16</sup> shows that Hispanics in later generations increasingly identify as "white." And America's definition of the majority group has historically proved elastic, expanding to include previous waves of Irish, Italian, and Polish immigrants.

Educational and economic disparities may narrow but will most likely persist long into the future. However, the most readily voiced fear—that the Spanish language will displace English—seems the least grounded. Last year, research on Spanish retention in heavily Mexican Southern California found that Mexicans in the region retain proficiency in their native tongue longer than other immigrant groups, but English quickly dominates. Fewer than 30 percent of the children of Mexican immigrants reported preferring to speak Spanish at home. By generation three, only 17 percent of the Mexican-Americans spoke fluent Spanish.



“If there's not retention of the Spanish language in Southern California, it's not going to be retained anywhere,” says Princeton Prof. Douglas Massey, one of the study's authors.

That includes Falls Church. As they watched the elaborate Good Friday procession, the adults were wistful. “Especially in a Spanish country, this happens every year,” says Victor Doria, 47, an immigrant from El Salvador who was playing Pontius Pilate.<sup>17</sup> And while the parents mostly talked among themselves in Spanish, their children joked and gossiped in English. By the time the occupants of the baby carriages have the chance to take the role of Pilate, the Spanish blaring from the ceremony's sound truck may sound very foreign.<sup>18</sup>

From *US News & World Report*, April 23, 2007



## 1. New Words

aggravate	[ˈægrəveɪt] v. to make (a situation or problem) worse
assuage	[əˈswɛɪdʒ] v. to relieve (pain, worry or thirst)
baptism	[ˈbæptɪzəm] n. (宗教仪式) 洗礼, 浸礼
boom	[bu:m] v. to increase fast
cast	[kɑ:st] n. 一组演员, 一队表演者
demographics	[deməˈgræfɪks] n(复数). 人口统计数据
dropout	[ˈdrɒpəʊt] n. 退学
elaborate	[ɪˈlæbəreɪt] adj. carefully prepared and organized
elastic	[ɪˈlæstɪk] adj. 有弹性的; 灵活的
envision	[ɪnˈvɪʒən] v. to imagine what a situation will be like in the future
fare	[feə] v. to get on
foreign-born	[ˈfɔ:rnbo:n] adj. 出生在国外的
influx	[ˈɪnflʌks] n. the arrival of many people
irrelevance	[ɪˈreləvəns] n. 不相关, 不切题
Latino	[ləˈti:nəʊ] n. 拉丁族裔人
median	[ˈmi:dʒən] adj. 中间的, 中位数的
native-born	[ˈneɪtɪvbɔ:n] adj. 本国生的
parish	[ˈpærɪʃ] n. 教区; 堂区的全体教徒
pastor	[ˈpɑ:stə] n. (基督教的) 本堂牧师
predominantly	[priˈdɒmɪnəntli] adv. 占主导地位地, 显著地
proficiency	[prəˈfɪʃənsɪ] n. 熟练, 精通
retention	[rɪˈtenʃən] n. the action of keeping sth.
supplant	[səˈplɑ:nt] v. to take the place of