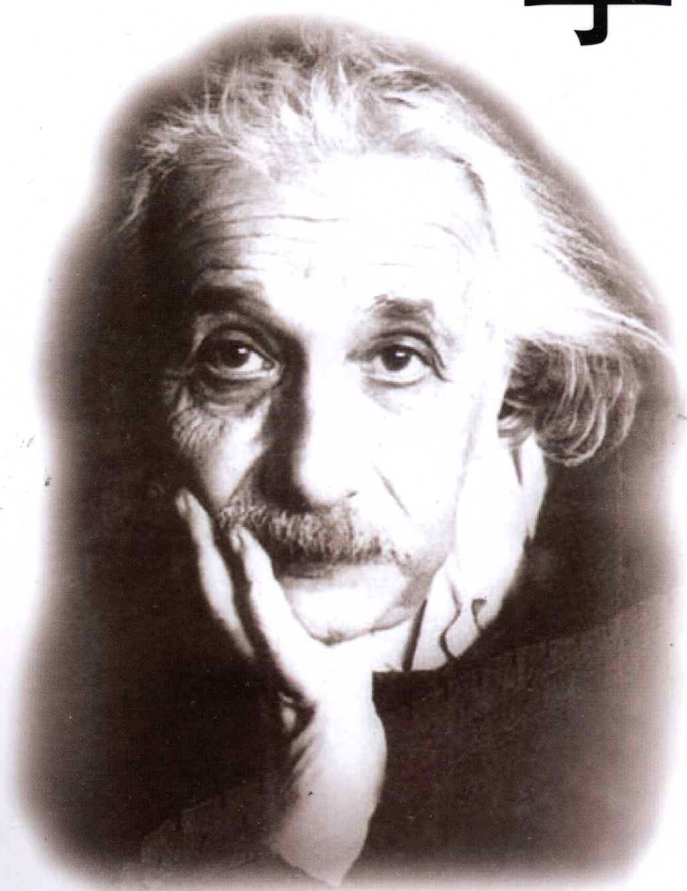


From Text to Talk  
Famous People

# 读名人小传 学英语

Paul O'Hagan 编著  
罗慕谦 译



含  
MP3  
光盘

 华东理工大学出版社  
EAST CHINA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRESS

## 单元内容

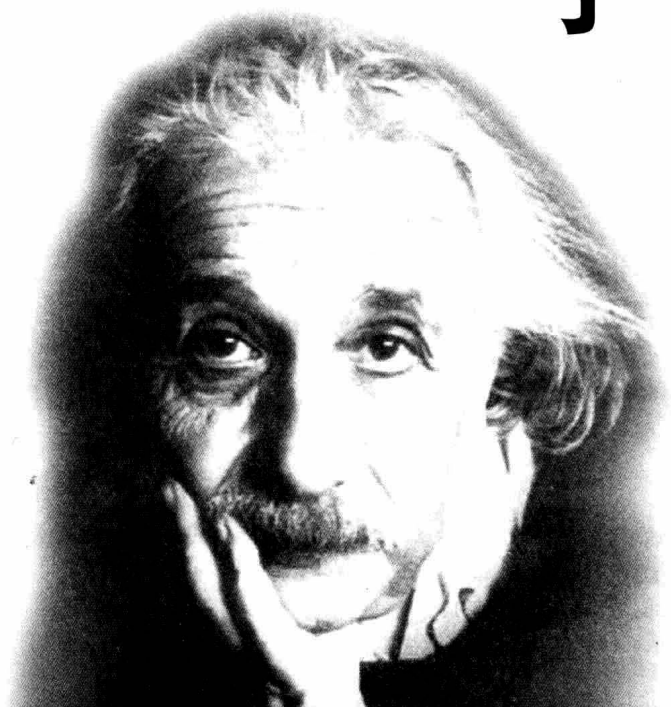
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# 改变世界与人类生活的人们

## 作者序

很多人都觉得自己在这个世界上没什么重要性,不管自己做什么,对这个世界也不会造成多大的影响。他们可能会自问:“一个人怎么可能改变世界?”但看完这些世界名人的事迹之后,你就会看到,一个人的确可以改变所有的事物。这并不容易,需要决心与恒心,有时候还需要过人的热忱。

本书介绍的名人,其中有些为整个世界带来了很好的改变,如孔子、哥伦布等。

有些虽然还没达到改变世界的地步,但他们的确改变了某些人的生活,或许透过某些我们看不到的方式,他们也改变了这个世界,如罗琳和贝克汉姆。或许有些小孩已经受到他们的鼓舞,决定要充分运用自己的天分,说不定以后他们就会改变这个世界。

本书介绍的世界名人并不限于秦始皇、恺撒大帝等这些呼风唤雨的君主,还有来自各个阶层和各个领域的,如哲学、科学、艺术和科技等方面。这些人一开始大都经历过一番挣扎,就连那些君主也是(而且往往性命危在旦夕)。没有一个人一开始就一帆风顺。他们的事迹让我们看到,一个人如果真的很渴望某个目标,只要有决心(关键就在“决心”),就可以达到不凡的成就。所以,我希望本书除了能教你英文,也能鼓舞你改变自己的命运,让自己的一生更美好。

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# Unit 1

## Confucius

### 孔子

Confucius: September 28, 551 B. C. – 479 B. C. the state of Lu in China, a renowned Chinese thinker and social philosopher

#### Passage 1

MP3 1

Confucius<sup>1</sup> is probably the most famous Chinese thinker. He was born in the state of Lu around the year 551 B. C. Lu was one of the states<sup>2</sup> that existed before China was brought together as one country. His father was a governor<sup>3</sup> of one of the districts<sup>4</sup> of Lu and if he had lived, Confucius' family would probably have been fairly well-off<sup>5</sup>. Unfortunately for Confucius and his family, his father died when he was about three and so they suffered<sup>6</sup> great poverty<sup>7</sup>.

However, as the son of an aristocrat<sup>8</sup>, he was able to have a good education. He would have been able to practice such arts as archery<sup>9</sup> and music. He would also have studied classical Chinese writing which would have influenced his ideas.

Confucius married young and had several children. In order to make a living, he did several jobs in succession<sup>10</sup>. They were often the types of jobs an aristocrat would normally never do, so he must have been very poor. For example, he kept a market and was also a farm laborer who looked after animals. Therefore, as well as having a good education, he



Confucius

## From Text to Talk:

### Famous People

would have learned how to be a practical man and would know something of the lives of poor people. However, not all his jobs were manual<sup>11</sup>; he also worked for a local governor for a while. Eventually he rose to an important position in the government of Lu and was successful in many of the measures<sup>12</sup> he implemented<sup>13</sup>.

## Word Bank

1. **Confucius** *n.* Chinese philosopher (circa 551 – 478 B.C.) 孔子
2. **state** [stet] *n.* a country or nation with its own sovereign independent government 国家; 政府
3. **governor** ['gʌvənər] *n.* a person in charge of a particular political unit 首长
4. **district** ['dɪstrɪkt] *n.* an area of a town or country, especially one with a distinguishing feature or one that is an administrative division 辖区
5. **well-off** [wel'ɔ:f] *a.* having sufficient money for comfortable living; well-to-do 富裕的
6. **suffer** ['sʌfər] *v.* to experience or show the effects of something bad 遭受; 经历; 受苦
7. **poverty** ['pɔ:vəti] *n.* the state of not having enough money to take care of basic needs such as food, clothing, and housing 贫穷
8. **aristocrat** [ə'rɪstəkræt] *n.* a member of the nobility or the highest social class in a country 贵族
9. **archery** ['ɑ:rtʃəri] *n.* the art or sport of shooting arrows 箭术
10. **in succession** happening one after another 连续地
11. **manual** ['mænjuəl] *a.* involving or using human effort, skill, power, energy, etc. 用手操作的; 费体力的
12. **measure** ['meʒər] *n.* a way of achieving something, or a method for dealing with a situation 措施; 方法
13. **implement** ['ɪmplɪmənt] *v.* to put a plan or system into operation 履行; 实施



**Passage 2**

As was common at the time, the eldest son had the duty of looking after the parents. But Confucius' elder brother was disabled<sup>14</sup> and so Confucius had to take care of his mother till she died in 535 B. C. One of his teachings was that a person should mourn<sup>15</sup> for their parents for three years. The reason is that they looked after the child completely until it was three. Filial piety<sup>16</sup> is thus very important in Confucianism the system of thought derived from<sup>17</sup> his ideas.



子贡, one of Confucius' followers

After he had finished mourning for his mother he began to teach and gather followers around him. The number of followers he attracted is not really known. Many put<sup>18</sup> it at 72 but as this is a special number, it is not certain that it is true.

He lived in a time of instability<sup>19</sup> and it is therefore not surprising that many of his teachings are connected to social harmony<sup>20</sup>. They are also concerned with<sup>21</sup> humanity's place in the world and in society. He also spent much effort trying to get his government to adopt his ideas more fully. However, other officials who were jealous of him prevented him from succeeding. Finally at the age of about fifty-five, feeling that they were being ignored<sup>22</sup>, he began to travel around China.

**Word Bank**

14. **disabled** [dis'ɜ:blɪd] *a.* to describe somebody with a condition that makes it difficult to perform some or all of the basic tasks of daily life  
残废的;有缺陷的
15. **mourn** [məʊn] *v.* to feel or express great sadness, especially because of someone's death 哀悼
16. **filial piety** in Confucian thought, one of the virtues to be cultivated, a love and respect for one's parents and ancestors 孝道

**From Text to Talk:**  
**Famous People**

17. **derive from** to obtain something from a source, or come from a source 起源于; 来自
18. **put** [put] **v.** to express something in words 表达; 表述
19. **instability** [ɪnstəˈbɪlɪti] **n.** the quality or state of being unstable; lack of stability or firmness 不稳定; 不固定
20. **harmony** [ˈhɑːməni] **n.** when people are peaceful and agree with each other, or when things seem right or suitable together 和谐; 融洽
21. **concern with** to become involved with something, or worried about something 与……有关
22. **ignore** [ɪgˈnɔːr] **v.** to refuse to notice or pay attention to somebody or something 忽视; 不理睬

**Passage 3**

Unit 3

As he developed his teachings from what he had learned he traveled around the various states of China. It was common for teachers like Confucius at the time to travel of course but he also wanted to talk with the rulers. No doubt, in those days travel was difficult and dangerous and he probably suffered great hardship.



Confucian Temple in Qufu

It would have taken a man of great determination to travel but to attempt<sup>23</sup> to talk with the rulers was probably not easy either. Many of them were strong tyrannical<sup>24</sup> rulers and it would have been risky to anger them.

The idea of good government was very important to Confucius. There is a story of how he met a woman weeping over the grave of several relatives. They had all been killed in exactly the same way, by a tiger in that place. When she was asked why she did not leave such a dangerous place she replied that at least there was no tyrannical government there. Confucius told his followers that a tyrannical government is more frightening than a wild animal.

**Word Bank**

23. **attempt** [ə'tempt] *v.* to try to do something, especially something difficult 试图; 尝试
24. **tyrannical** [ti'rænikəl] *a.* ruling with absolute power over a population cruelly and keeping people submissive and fearful 暴君的; 专制君主的

**Passage 4**

NIP3 4

For Confucius it was important that people should not just obey<sup>25</sup> the law out of fear of punishment. They should follow the law because it was the right thing to do. If their moral<sup>26</sup> values, their sense of right and wrong, were strong, they would follow the law naturally. Of course the law itself has to be morally correct; no one who is virtuous<sup>27</sup> is going to follow a bad law. So the ruler himself must also be a virtuous person who is enacting<sup>28</sup> morally correct laws.

In Confucius' time another way of thinking called legalism<sup>29</sup> was gaining support with the rulers. But for him there was no use passing laws unless the ruler and the people had the right moral values. Imposing<sup>30</sup> the law does not work in the long run because if the people do not feel the law is right (virtuous) they will try to break it when they can. The ruler must himself be virtuous, leading by example. If not, the people have the right to overthrow<sup>31</sup> him. Confucius also supported the golden rule saying that a person should not do to others what he does not want them to do to him.

This led Confucius to put forward the idea of a hierarchy<sup>32</sup> of society. The ruler was at the top, above his subjects<sup>33</sup>. There would of course be nobles, rich people and the not so rich. The basic part of society would be the family, with the wife subordinate<sup>34</sup> to the husband and the children to their parents. If everyone knew their proper place in society and behaved in accordance with<sup>35</sup> that, society would prosper<sup>36</sup>.

**Word Bank**

25. **obey** [ə'beɪ] *v.* to comply with or follow the commands, restrictions, wishes, or instructions of 服从; 遵守

26. **moral** ['mɔ:rəl] *a.* relating to issues of right and wrong and to how individual people should behave 道德的
27. **virtuous** ['vɜ:tʃuəs] *a.* having good moral qualities and behavior 有道德的; 善良的
28. **enact** [ɪ'nækt] *v.* to put something into action, especially to change something into a law 制定; 颁布
29. **legalism** ['li:gəlizəm] *n.* strict adherence to a literal interpretation of a law, rule, or religious or moral code 守法主义; 此指法家
30. **impose** [ɪm'pəʊz] *v.* to officially force a rule, tax, punishment, etc. to be obeyed or received 把……强加于
31. **overthrow** [əʊvər'θrəʊ] *v.* to remove a person or group of people from a position of power by force 推翻; 废除
32. **hierarchy** ['haɪərɑ:rkɪ] *n.* a system in which people or things are arranged according to their importance 阶级制度
33. **subject** ['sʌbdʒɪkt] *n.* somebody who is ruled by a king, queen, or other authority 国民; 臣民
34. **subordinate** [sə'bɔ:rdɪnət] *a.* having a lower or less important position 下级的; 次要的
35. **in accordance with** following or obeying a rule, a law, a wish, etc. 与……一致; 依照
36. **prosper** ['prɔ:spər] *v.* to be successful, especially in financial or economic terms 繁荣; 昌盛

## Passage 5

MP3 5

Therefore as Confucius wandered around China he tried to persuade<sup>37</sup> the local rulers to adopt<sup>38</sup> his ideas. Perhaps he also hoped to be given a position where he could put them into practice. But he was largely ignored. Finally after 14 years he returned home to Lu where he died a few years later.

His followers wrote his teachings down and two of them became famous thinkers themselves. Because of this, Confucius succeeded in China after he died though he could not do it when he was alive. Today, he is revered<sup>39</sup> throughout the Chinese-speaking world and many temples have been built in his honor.

## **Word Bank**

- 37. persuade** [pər'sweɪd] *v.* to make somebody believe something, especially by giving good reasons for doing so 说服; 劝服
- 38. adopt** [ə'dɒpt] *v.* to take up something such as a plan, idea, cause, or practice and use or follow it 采纳; 采取
- 39. revere** [rɪ'vɪr] *v.* to greatly respect and admire someone or something 尊敬

## **Figure out the questions from the answers**

1. His father was a governor.
2. He died when Confucius was three.
3. He had several children.
4. Because he did some jobs that people from his kind of family would not normally do.
5. He would have learned how to be a practical man and would know something of the lives of poor people.
6. The eldest son.
7. A person should mourn for their parents for three years.
8. Because parents looked after the child completely until it was three.
9. No one knows but some people think it was 72.
10. A woman weeping over the grave of several relatives.
11. Because there was no tyrannical government there.
12. A tyrannical government is more frightening than a wild animal.

## **Tips for figuring out the questions**

- Q1: The verb in the question will be different to the verb in the answer.
- Q2: Again, the verb in the answer will be different.
- Q3: The answer does not contain a number but the question sounds as if it does.
- Q4: The question includes the phrase “Confucius must have been poor.”
- Q5: Use the word “what.”
- Q6: The question includes the word “duty,” “parents” and “time.”
- Q7: Not so much a question but a request for information.

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### Famous People

Q8: Make it a short “why” question relating to the previous answer.

Q9: This is a question whose answer is uncertain and contains the word “followers.”

Q10: This is a question about a woman he met.

Q11: This is almost the same as an indirect question in the text; what Confucius would have asked her.

Q12: The answer gives the message of what Confucius was saying.

## Conversation 1

NIP3 6

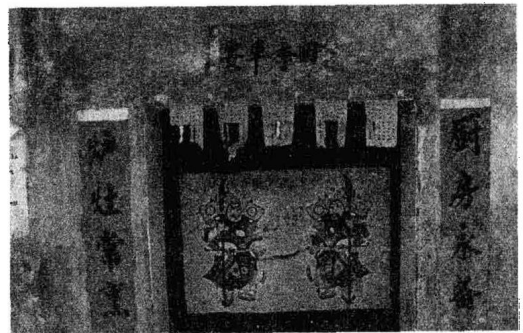
M: Marcus D: Doris

M: So, you're going to try English teaching. Eh?

D: Yes, I'm here for the year.

M: Well, I think you'll find it an interesting experience.

D: It's a little difficult to understand Chinese culture sometimes.



social harmony

M: A lot of that is due to<sup>1</sup> Confucius, so they say.

D: Yes, I heard he still has a lot of influence. Can you think of anything specific?

M: I think his ideas of social harmony have probably influenced the Chinese the most.

D: Do you mean looking after your parents, obeying the Emperor, that kind of thing?

M: These are consequences<sup>2</sup> of his main ideas. Anyway, up until recently those ideas were common in the West and many other societies. I'm talking more about the idea that with social harmony coming from people wanting—not being forced so much—to do morally correct things, society will benefit.

D: Perhaps he was right.

**Word Bank**

1. **due to** attributable to; ascribable to 由于
2. **consequence** ['kɒnsɪkwəns] *n.* something that follows as a result 结果

**Conversation 2**

MP3 7

D: Thinking about it, it seems to me that the average Chinese still pretty much acts in the way that Confucius recommended<sup>3</sup>.

M: In the West there are many people who still act the way Christ or whatever religion they follow says. But you have to ask what's going on below the surface. The Victorians<sup>4</sup> in England acted in public very differently from how they acted in private.



Victorians

D: Well, at least they look after their elderly parents quite well, sweep the graves every year and so on.

M: They do, but I think the same thing as occurred in the West is happening here. As they modernize, attitudes change. A lot of the respect for old people came from it being an agricultural society with no pensions<sup>5</sup>. You looked after your parents not just out of duty or love but also because if you got old you wanted your children to look after you.

D: Of course many people died before they got old. So it was relatively easy for a large family to look after survivors.

M: That's right. So what's going to happen in twenty or thirty years time when they are a lot of old people and only a few workers to pay the taxes to look after them?

D: Maybe they'll be looked after by robots or maybe each worker will be more productive<sup>6</sup>. Let's not forget too that older people will be healthier and perhaps they'll look after themselves.

M: I hope so. But even if that happens, it'll be interesting to see if Confucius' ideas still survive in thirty years time.

## **Word Bank**

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3. **recommend** [ˌrekəˈmend] *v.* to suggest that someone or something would be good or suitable for a particular job or purpose, or to suggest that a particular action should be done 建议; 推荐
4. **Victorian** [vɪkˈtɔːriən] *n.* a person who lived during the Victorian period 维多利亚女王时代的人
5. **pension** [ˈpenʃən] *n.* a fixed amount of money paid regularly to somebody during retirement by the government, a former employer, or an insurance company 养老金; 退休金
6. **productive** [prəˈdʌktɪv] *a.* resulting in or providing a large amount or supply of something 多产的; 生产的



# Unit 2

## Emperor Shih Huang Ti

### 秦始皇

Emperor Shih Huang Ti: November/December 259 B.C. – September 10, 210 B.C. the state of Qin, First Emperor from 247 B.C. to 221 B.C.

#### Passage 1

MP3 8

In 1974 some farmers who were digging wells in the Chinese countryside made a fantastic discovery. While digging they came across a terracotta<sup>1</sup> statue lying in the ground. What was it doing there? Curious, they dug further and found some more statues.

Soon the archaeologists<sup>2</sup> heard news of the discovery and they came to find out what was going on. As they dug they too began to uncover<sup>3</sup> more and more statues. Finally the total number of statues came to around 8,000. Some of course, were damaged and discolored<sup>4</sup> but they were altogether an impressive sight. They were an army of terracotta soldiers which had been carved to guard the tomb of the first Emperor of China, Shih Huang Ti.



Shih Huang Ti

Before he became the first Emperor, Shih Huang Ti had been King Zheng of Qin. For many years there had been war in the area that was to become the country of China. Over a hundred small states were controlled by warlords<sup>5</sup> and they were fighting among themselves to gain territory<sup>6</sup>