

朗文 英汉对照 无师自通

# Our Own Stories

ENGLISH KNOW

# 英语知道

# 40

## 个文化故事

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留学移民英语文化必读第一书

40篇真实故事

40种青涩感悟

学英语不可不读

去美国不可不懂



吉林出版集团有限责任公司 外语教育出版社

Foreign Language Education Books, Jilin Publishing Group



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# 个文化故事

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Longman.com



吉林出版集团有限责任公司 外语教育出版社

Foreign Language Education Books, Jilin Publishing Group



# 一本书一个世界

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语知道 40 个文化故事 / 杨枫主编. — 长春: 吉林出版集团有限责任公司, 2009. 3  
ISBN 978-7-5463-0175-4

I. 英… II. 杨… III. 英语—语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2008)第 212981 号

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English Reprint edition published by Pearson Education Asia Ltd. and Jilin Publishing Group

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本书仅限于中华人民共和国境内销售。

网 址: [www.360hours.com](http://www.360hours.com)

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0431-86012675 / 86012812

## 英语知道 40 个文化故事

主 编: 杨 枫

责任编辑: 付卫艳

出 版: 吉林出版集团有限责任公司

(长春市人民大街 4646 号 130021)

发 行: 吉林出版集团外语教育有限公司

(长春市泰来街 1825 号 130011)

印 装: 省委党校印刷厂

版 次: 2009 年 4 月第 1 版

2009 年 4 月第 1 次印刷

封面设计: 李立嗣

开 本: 880×1230 1/32

印 张: 5.5

字 数: 143 千字

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5463-0175-4

定 价: 9.80 元

如有印刷、装订质量问题请与印厂调换。

## 前言

一个小女孩第一次去美国的学校上学,打扮得漂漂亮亮,没想到招来老师和同学异样的目光;被美国人邀请去家里吃饭,却发现居然要自己带着做的菜过去;精心为朋友准备了生日礼物,可是却被对方拒绝。这一切到底是为什么呢?如果想知道原因的话,就请打开这《英语知道 40 个文化故事》。

语言学习要求一个人运用不同方面的能力,这当中有人的智力因素、个人心理因素和情感因素等等。情感因素对学习成果的重要影响往往最容易被忽视。它包括学习动机,对英语本身和英语国家及其文化的兴趣、态度,个人自信心、自尊心,对不肯定事物的宽容程度等等,而其中文化因素对于语言学习的重要性长期以来一直为中国的英语教师和学生所忽视。

那么究竟什么是文化呢?它从广义上是指一个国家或民族的历史、地理、风土人情、传统习俗、生活方式、文学艺术、行为规范、思维方式、价值观念等要素的总和。任何一种现存的语言中都含有丰富的文化内涵,从小到单词、大到语篇的各个层面都体现出这种内涵来,因此外语学习离不开对所学语言所代表和负载的文化的了解。如果仍旧认为外语学习就是记单词、背语法,充其量再加上掌握听、说、读、写的技能,是不可能真正学好、用好外语的。只有把语言当作思想和文化的载体来学习,学生才会在学习语言现象的同时,注意去体会它所承载的含义、寓意、思想和表述的美妙之处,才会表现出对语言的无限兴趣和追求。

市场上涉及跨文化交际方面的图书多以专业研究性学术著作为主,普通读者很难涉猎。像这种浅显易懂、生动有趣的读物实为少见。

本书内容讲的是作者的亲身经历,都是有感而发,绝非编造,增强了阅读材料的真实性,也使读者的阅读过程充满了轻松和趣味,尤其是那些来自相同种族或文化背景的人读后更会感同身受,让人一旦展卷便难以释手。

《英语知道 40 个文化故事》英汉对照,从语言角度来看适合中级程度的学生阅读。但就其所涉及的文化背景知识来说,却可以适应各种层次的英语学习者的需求,即便是从事英语教学的老师和专门研究跨文化交际的人士也可以从中获取大量有用的素材,为自己今后的授课和研究做信息材料的积累。而培训学校把本书作为英语文化教材也是个不错的选择。

壹可亿教育培训中心编委会

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# UNIT 1

# Clothing

**Do you know...**

1. What do most Americans wear to school?
2. What do teachers wear?





# Read

## *The Dress of Lace*

---

My name is Linh. I'm an eighteen-year-old girl. My ethnic background and native language are Vietnamese. This is a story about what happened to me on my first day of school in America. I was nine years old.

A few weeks before school started, my aunt, my uncle, and some of my dad's friends came to visit us and they brought a lot of presents. I was surprised when I found clothing in one of the boxes. The clothes were nice but ordinary. They weren't special or fancy except for one dress. It was a dress of *lace*. There was lace surrounding the neck and the sleeves and lace on the bottom. I was very happy when I saw this dress.

*lace*—A cloth that is made of fine threads and looks like net

On the first day of school I wanted to look my best and impress the other students. I wanted them to make friends with me, so I put on my fancy dress of lace. But when I got to school, all the students stared at me. They were laughing and saying something in English. I didn't know why they were doing this. I thought that maybe they had never seen an Asian girl in a dress before or that they wanted to make friends with me but were embarrassed to come over.

In the classroom an American teacher spoke English to me and pointed at my dress, but I didn't know what she was saying

so I just smiled. The whole morning she didn't let me walk around or stand up. I had to sit all the way in the last row in the back of the room. During lunch, when all the other students had gone, an Asian teacher came into the room. The minute she saw me she spoke to me in Vietnamese. She told me that I shouldn't wear a **nightgown** to school, that in America people only wear nightgowns to sleep in! I was so embarrassed that I almost burst into tears. That morning when I left home, I thought I looked good, but I didn't. Instead, I embarrassed myself on my first day of school. I felt like not going to school anymore.

**nightgown**—A piece of women's clothing, like a loose dress to sleep in

This embarrassment taught me not to try to impress others or I might end up making a **fool** out of myself. I also learned the difference between a fancy dress and a nightgown!

**fool**—A person who acts unwisely



## CULTURE CAPSULE

Students usually wear casual, not formal, clothes to school. Jeans, T-shirts, and sneakers are popular among both girls and boys. It is also acceptable to dress up more. Students dress according to their personal preferences and sometimes are influenced by *fads*, or the latest fashions.

In some private schools and religious schools, students wear uniforms. Although public schools do not use uniforms, they sometimes have “dress codes”, or rules about what clothes may *not* be worn to school.

*fads*—Short-lived popular interests or practices



参考译文

## 第一单元 服饰

### 花边裙子

我的名字叫林,今年十八岁,是越南裔移民。下面这个故事讲的是我第一天去美国的学校上学时发生的事,当时我九岁。

在学校开学前几个星期,我的姑姑,叔叔,还有爸爸的朋友来我家做客,他们还带来了很多礼物。我发现其中一个盒子里装的是衣服,让我感到有些吃惊。那些衣服挺好看,但是很普通,除了其中一件之外都没什么特别之处。那是一件带花边的裙子,领口,袖口还有底边都绣着花边,看到它的时候我开心极了!

第一天去上学,我想把自己打扮得最漂亮,给别的同学留下很深的印象,希望他们和我交朋友。于是我便穿上了那件别致的花边裙子。可到了学校以后,发现所有同学都盯着我看,他们都笑出声来,并用英语说些什么。我不明白他们为什么这样做,可能他们从没见过穿裙子的亚洲女孩,或者想和我交朋友,但不好意思过来开口和我说话吧。

在课堂上,一位美国老师指着我的衣服,用英语对我说话,我听不懂她的话,所以只是一个劲儿的微笑。整个上午她都没让我走动或站起来,我只好一直坐在教室最后一排。吃午饭的时候,所有同学都走了。一位亚洲老师走进来。一看见我,她使用越南话对我说,我不该穿一件睡袍来上学,那是美国人睡觉时才穿的东西!我当时太难为情了,差点儿哭了出来。早上从家走的时候我以为自己看上去很漂亮,可根本不是那么回事。正相反,第一天去学校就把自己搞得很难堪,真想再也不来上学了。

这件尴尬的事教会了我一个道理,不要总想着给别人留下深刻的印象,有可能会自己出丑。另外还了解了漂亮衣服和睡袍之间的区别!



## UNIT 2

# Clothing Customs

### Do you know...

1. Think about a country or culture you know well. Do people wear hats?
2. Do they wear them indoors?



# Read *Hats Off*

I am a science professor. I teach at a university in the United States. Students call me Professor Singh. One day, my wife and I wanted to go out for dinner. We wanted to try a new restaurant.

When we got to the restaurant, the manager asked me to take off my hat. I was angry. I told him it was not a hat and I could not remove it. The manager would not listen. He said that I had to remove my hat or he would not serve us food. My wife and I left the restaurant.

In the United States, men take off their hats. This shows good manners. It is a sign of respect. The manager wanted his customers to use good manners in his restaurant. He felt that Professor Singh did not show him respect.

Professor Singh is a **Sikh** from India. Sikh men must wear a **turban** at all times. Their turbans are symbols of pride. For a Sikh, removing his turban is disgraceful. Professor Singh wore his turban because of his religion. He would not take off his turban to eat in the restaurant.

**Sikh**—A person who practices the Sikh religion—a religion from India

**turban**—A long piece of cloth wrapped around the head



## CULTURE CAPSULE

In restaurants in the United States, everyone must wear shoes. In some restaurants, men have to wear jackets and ties. In many offices, on Fridays people dress more informally than they dress on other days. In these offices, Fridays are called “dress-down Fridays.”

Baseball caps are the most popular hats in the United States. Men, women, and children wear them. Besides the Sikhs, other groups have special hats. Some Jewish men wear small skullcaps. *Amish* men wear large, black felt hats.

*Amish*—Christians who follow strict religious rules, wear traditional clothes, and do not use things such as telephones, cars, or televisions



### 参考译文

## 第二单元 衣着习俗

### 脱帽

我是一位在美国大学任教的自然科学教授,学生们称呼我为“辛格教授”。有一天,我和我妻子去外面吃饭,我们想尝试一家新餐厅。

我们到了餐厅,结果那里的经理让我把帽子摘下来。我当时很

生气,告诉他那不是帽子,我也不能把它摘掉。可他不听,说如果我不摘帽子的话就不为我们服务。于是我们就离开了那家餐厅。

在美国,男人摘帽是为了表示礼貌,也是一种尊敬别人的标志。经理希望客人在进入餐厅时能表现得彬彬有礼,而他觉得辛格教授对他不尊重。

辛格教授是来自印度的锡克教教徒,信仰该教的男子必须时刻佩戴头巾,这种头巾是尊严的象征,对他们来说,摘下头巾意味着耻辱。辛格教授戴头巾是出于宗教原因,他不会因为进餐厅吃饭而摘下头巾的。

## UNIT 3

# Table Manners

**Do you know...**

1. Are table manners important?
2. Did anyone ever correct your table manners?





# Read

## **Forced Feeding**

My name is Eskinder. I was born in Ethiopia, but now I live in the United States. My wife is American. Her name is Lucy. My best friend is Isaac. He recently moved here from Ethiopia. One day, he invited us to eat Ethiopian food in his home.

Lucy wasn't worried. She knew many Ethiopian eating customs. She knew how to eat with her fingers. She knew how to use our bread. We call it **injera**. We use it like a spoon to scoop up food.

That night Isaac made Ethiopian stew. At the table, Isaac took a piece of **injera**. He scooped up some stew with the **injera**. Then Isaac held out the food and put it into Lucy's mouth. Lucy was surprised. She didn't know what to do.

In Ethiopia, to start a meal, the host takes some food and holds the food up to the guest's mouth. The guest eats this food from the host's hand. Lucy did not know this Ethiopian eating custom. Isaac was making Lucy an honored guest, but she did not understand.

Americans do not eat food from someone else's hand. Isaac did not know this. He did not know that Lucy would be surprised.