



Chinese Culture  
Reading in English

# 中国文化 英语阅读教程

黄建滨 金忍冬 / 主编



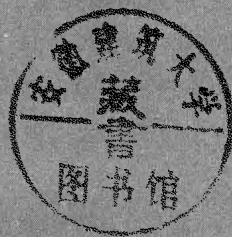
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# 前 言

21 世纪是一个全球化的世纪,中国正在迈开大步进一步融入世界,世界也越来越感受到中国的存在,各国人民也越来越想了解中国。中国的学生,从小学三年级,甚至一年级或者幼儿园,就开始学习英语,但是到了大学阶段,他们仍然感到无法和外国人进行真正的交流。问题到底出在哪里呢?根据我们的调查,外国人在和中国人交流的时候,更多的是想了解有关中国的事情:中国的历史、中国的政治体制、中国的经济、中国的文化、中国的风俗、中国的风光、中国普通人的生活等。然而,有关这些中国特有现象的英文材料在我们的大学和中学教材中却不多见。本教材正是为了改变这一现状而编写的。

本教材从多角度反映具有中国特色的社会与文化现象。我们经过对学生的调查和访谈发现,他们迫切希望能读到更多这方面的材料。本教材选取的内容涉及我国的政治、经济、历史、地理、节日习俗、著名人物、传说、旅游、饮食、中医、武术、音乐、戏剧、社会、妇女、科技等。我们将这些材料大致分为 10 个部分,每部分包括 6 篇阅读材料,分别编写有阅读理解题和问答题。每篇后均附有词汇表,书后附有总词汇表和练习答案,以方便学习者使用。本书可供大一英语选修课使用,也可作为课外阅读材料选读。

本教材的课文广泛选自国内外有关中国的出版物,由于材料来源广泛,无法一一列举,在此向原作者表示衷心的感谢。

本教材是我们在弘扬中国文化方面的一次初步尝试。疏漏和不妥之处还望专家和读者不吝指教。

黄建滨

2017 年 6 月 21 日于求是园

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# Chapter 1

## The Nation

2013



## 1. Administrative Divisions in China

Administrative divisions(行政区划) are established for the convenience of administration. According to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the administrative divisions in China today basically consist of three levels: the first (highest) level includes provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government(直辖市), and special administrative regions; the second (middle) level includes counties, autonomous counties, banners and provincially administered cities; the third (lowest) level includes townships, ethnic townships, districts and towns. In a small number of provinces and autonomous regions, there are divisions of autonomous prefectures and administrative regions above the county level. Autonomous regions, autonomous prefectures and autonomous counties are the places where regional autonomy is implemented. In addition, the administrative districts between the provincial level and the county level, and the sub-districts under the rule of cities are only the working bodies set up by the government at the next higher level.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the administrative divisions have been readjusted several times to meet the needs of national development. With the reform and opening-up policy, the administrative divisions below the provincial level have undergone great changes. A large number of cities and towns have been set up with the mode of "counties upgrading to cities and townships escalating to towns"("县升级到市,乡发展成镇"). Some smaller regions have been combined into cities, so all the counties are under the administration of cities now.



Photo by...

### New Words

administrative *a.* 行政的  
division *n.* 行政区划  
administration *n.* 管理  
constitution *n.* 宪法

municipality *n.* 自治市  
autonomous *a.* 自治的  
county *n.* 县  
banner *n.* 旗

township *n.* 乡

ethnic *a.* 民族的

prefecture *n.* 州

regional *a.* 地区的

autonomy *n.* 自治

implement *v.* 实施

provincial *a.* 省级的

readjust *v.* 再次调整

upgrade *v.* 提升

escalate *v.* 逐步升高

## Exercise One

**Directions:** *Decide whether the following statements are true or false.*

1. Administrative divisions are set up for administration.
2. There were four levels of administrative divisions in China.
3. Banners and counties are at the same level.
4. Provinces and municipalities directly under the Central Government are at the same level.
5. The People's Republic of China has reformed the structure of its administrative divisions several times.

## Exercise Two

**Directions:** *Answer the following questions.*

1. Why are the administrative divisions needed?
2. What do the administrative divisions consist of in China?
3. How many administrative divisions are there in China now? What are they?



## 2. The General Situation of China's Electoral System (Part One)

China's political system here refers to the political structure, basic laws, rules, regulations and practices that are implemented in the Chinese mainland and regulate the state power, government, and the relationships between the state and society in the People's Republic of China since her founding in October 1949.

The electoral system here refers to the way people choose public servants of the state. The electoral system of the People's Republic of China here refers to the election of deputies to the people's congresses at various levels. The general election can also be used to the choice of local deputies and deputies in ethnic self-government areas.

The system of people's congress is an organizational form for the state power in China. It is China's basic political system. The power in the People's Republic of China belongs to the people and the organ for the people to exercise state power is the National People's Congress and local people's congresses at all levels.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of China states: "The National People's Congress (NPC) of the People's Republic of China is the highest organ of state power. Its permanent body is the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. The National People's Congress and its Standing Committee exercise the legislative power of the state."



## New Words and Expression

regulation *n.* 规章, 条例

regulate *v.* 管理

servant *n.* 仆人

deputy *n.* 代表

congress *n.* 代表大会

various *a.* 多种多样的

organ *n.* 机关

self-government *n.* 自治

organizational *a.* 组织的

permanent *a.* 永久的

legislative *a.* 立法的

standing committee 常务委员会



### Exercise One

**Directions:** *Decide whether the following statements are true or false.*

1. China's political system refers to all aspects of political life in China.
2. In China, we elect deputies to the people's congresses at various levels.
3. In China, the elections of deputies are all the same.
4. The system of people's congress is the base of China's political system.
5. The National People's Congress exercises the legislative power of China.

### Exercise Two

**Directions:** *Answer the following questions.*

1. What is China's political system?
2. What is the election system in China?
3. What do you know about people's congresses in the Constitution of China?

### 3. The General Situation of China's Electoral System (Part Two)

The National People's Congress and local people's congresses are established through democratic elections, responsible to and supervised by the people. The Constitution goes as "The National People's Congress is composed of deputies elected from the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government and special administrative regions and of deputies elected from the People's Liberation Army (PLA, 中国人民解放军). All the minority nationalities are entitled to appropriate representation." Deputies to the people's congresses of provinces, municipalities directly under the Central Government and cities divided into districts are elected by the people's congresses at the next lower level; deputies to the people's congresses of counties, cities not divided into districts, municipal districts, townships, ethnic townships and towns are elected directly by their constituencies.

The NPC is elected for a term of five years. The NPC meets in session once a year and is gathered by its Standing Committee. A session of the NPC may be gathered at any time the Standing Committee considers it necessary or when more than one-fifth of the deputies to the NPC suggest so.

Direct election means voters directly elect deputies to the people's congresses by making their votes. Direct elections are appropriate to the election of deputies to the people's congresses of the counties, districts, townships and towns. Indirect election means deputies to the people's congresses at the next higher level are elected by deputies to the people's congresses at the next lower level. Indirect elections are appropriate to the election of deputies to people's congresses above the county level, deputies among the armed forces at the same level and deputies to the NPC elected from special administrative regions.

Election of deputies to people's congresses at all levels makes use of the competitive election method.



## New Words

democratic *a.* 民主的

supervise *v.* 监督, 管理

entitle *v.* 给予

municipal *a.* 市的, 地方政府的

constituency *n.* 选民

session *n.* 集会, 会议

voter *n.* 选举人

directly *ad.* 直接地

indirect *a.* 间接的

appropriate *a.* 恰当的

competitive *a.* 竞争的

## Exercise One

**Directions:** *Decide whether the following statements are true or false.*

1. People's congresses are established through democratic elections and responsible to the people.
2. The deputies are elected from all the parts of China.
3. All the deputies of people's congresses at any level are directly elected by the people.
4. The deputies of the National People's Congress have a term of five years.
5. Either direct election or indirect election is appropriate to China.

## Exercise Two

**Directions:** *Answer the following questions.*

1. What is the National People's Congress made up of?
2. When does the National People's Congress run?
3. What is the difference between direct election and indirect election?



## 4. Military Service

The People's Liberation Army is an organization of the land, sea and air forces in China. It is first known as the "Red Army" (红军) during the Civil War of China, and then as the "8th Route Army" (八路军) and the "New 4th Army" (新四军) during the Anti-Japanese War (抗日战争). The PLA started to use its current name in 1946 when the National Liberation War (解放战争) broke out. The history of the PLA dates back to the Nanchang Uprising of August 1, 1927, when the army started fighting the Kuomintang (KMT, 国民党) government. As a result, August 1 is celebrated as the PLA Day in honor of the uprising.

The Constitution of China says that it is the holy duty of every Chinese citizen to protect the motherland from any foreign aggression. Every citizen has the legal duty to perform military service and join the militia. Legally, all citizens aged 18 have an obligation to join the army no matter who they are, where they come from, what they do or what their belief and educational level are. Now, however, more young people want to join the army than it can accept, which has made enlistment competitive. The PLA is supplemented by the people's militia, whose members receive basic military training. China's military forces are made up of a regular army, the militia, and the reserve (预备役).

Chinese soldiers will spend two years performing the service and when the service ends, they may continue their services, depending on the army's need and the soldiers' willingness.

In addition to military service, the PLA soldiers have made contributions to fighting natural disasters, aiding the needy and building China's infrastructure.



## New Words and Expressions

People's Liberation Army

中国人民解放军

break out 爆发

uprising *n.* 起义

celebrate *v.* 纪念

in honor of 纪念

holy *a.* 神圣的

aggression *n.* 侵略

obligation *n.* 责任

military service 兵役

enlistment *n.* 应征入伍

supplement *v.* 补充, 增添

militia *n.* 民兵

reserve *n.* 预备役

willingness *n.* 意愿

needy *a.* 贫困的

infrastructure *n.* 基础设施

### Exercise One

**Directions:** *Decide whether the following statements are true or false.*

1. The People's Liberation Army was known as the "Red Army" during the Anti-Japanese War.
2. The National Liberation War broke out in 1947.
3. August 1st is celebrated as the PLA Day in honor of the Nanchang Uprising in 1927.
4. The PLA is supplemented by the people's militia, whose members receive basic military training.
5. Chinese soldiers are required to serve in the army for four years.

### Exercise Two

**Directions:** *Answer the following questions.*

1. What is the PLA?
2. What does the Constitution of China say about the duty of every Chinese citizen?
3. What are China's military forces made up of?





## 5. Women in China

Women in China enjoy equal rights with men in all aspects. The government protects their rights and interests by applying the principle of “equal pay for equal work”(同工同酬) and by training and choosing female cadres. Marriage, motherhood, the family and children are protected by the government. Any violation of the freedom of marriage and the abuse of women are prohibited. Women are encouraged to develop dignity, confidence, and self-esteem through such policies and laws.

The government attaches great importance to selecting and training female cadres. Since the implementation of the reform and opening-up policy, many women have become leaders in the Communist Party and the government. Many companies managed by women have emerged and have become an important force in the process of economic reform and the modernization of the country. Therefore, the expression that “women hold up half the sky” has been used to praise the role of Chinese women today.

The All-China Women’s Federation(中华全国妇女联合会) is a patriotic organization under the leadership of the Party. The federation serves as a bridge between the Party, the government and China’s women. It also makes sure that the women’s rights and interests are protected.

China has also played an active role in international women’s activities sponsored by the United Nations. China has worked hard to develop friendly exchanges and cooperation with all women in the rest of the world while making efforts to reach the goal of worldwide equality between men and women, women’s participation in social development and the maintenance of world peace.

Many modern Chinese women are facing tough challenges. They are struggling between their self-fulfilment and their dedication to the family.

