

# 英语时文选读

第三辑

葆青 编注

人民教育出版社

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# 1

## Standing Room Only

1 Look at your watch for just one minute. During that time, the population of the world increased by eighty-five people. ① Perhaps you think that isn't much. ② In the next hour, more than 5,000 additional people will be living on this planet. So it goes, ③ hour after hour. In one day, there are about 120,000 additional mouths to feed. ④ Multiply this by 365. What will happen in a hundred years?

2 This population explosion ⑤ may be the greatest challenge of the present time. Within the next forty years ⑥, the world population may double. Can the new frontiers of science ⑦ meet the needs of the crowded world of tomorrow?

3 If the present rate of population increase continues for the next 600 or 700 years, there will be standing room only. Each person will have between half to one square meter of space in which to live. This includes the mountain-tops, deserts, and the ice and snow fields of the polar regions. Of course, no

one expects such a thing to happen. Actually, the danger is not in an overcrowded world where people are huddled together so that they cannot move arms and legs, but in an upset balance<sup>⑧</sup> between population and resources.

4 Since 600 years is so far away, take a look at the years directly ahead. How can the hungry people be fed? Is the world running out of water? Will there be enough fuel? What will supply the energy needed to run the machines of tomorrow's world? Certainly, man must look to the future and find new ways of providing for his needs. <sup>⑨</sup>

5 People around the world are becoming more and more concerned about<sup>⑩</sup> the population explosion. Some are hoping that there can be some control of the number of people that are born; but population control is a subject which touches on the moral and religious beliefs of many people. <sup>⑪</sup> Even if many families have fewer children, the speed of the population explosion will only be reduced, not halted. There will still be problems of food supply, water and power.

6 People are being born faster than they are dying, or they are dying at a slower rate than they are being born. The average life span has doubled in the last 500 years. If you were living in the days of

Columbus,<sup>12</sup> you can expect to live only thirty-five years. Today a person in America can expect to live until he is almost seventy. Longer life span is a fine achievement. The chief reason for this has been improvements in health, but it does add to the number of people who live on the earth,<sup>13</sup> in fact, it has been a major factor in increasing the population.

7 Perhaps you do not think of the earth as a crowded planet. Perhaps you live in a part of the world where there are vast stretches of fields and forests, and your nearest neighbor may be kilometers away. Such is not the case in all parts of the world.<sup>14</sup>

8 In many countries people are huddled together in shacks built one next to the other. Some sleep in the streets, for there is no room for them in the tiny shelters which they know as home. Picture a part of a city that is eight blocks long and eight blocks wide, and try to imagine about 1,000 people living one next to the other in shelters built on the ground in this small area. This is the way people are crowded together. In twenty-five years, the population may double. In India, where there are only 130 persons for every square kilometer of land, it is crowded. In Japan, the population is twice as dense. In Holland, many young people wait for years before marrying in order to

obtain a place to live. Asia, which covers one-sixth of the world's land, holds one-half of its population. People from around the world are flocking to<sup>⑬</sup> the wide open spaces of Australia and the less crowded parts of the earth.

### 参考译文

#### 只有立锥之地

请你看着你的表走一分钟。就在这一分钟里，世界上增加了八十五个人。也许你觉得这并不多。但是一小时以后，我们这个地球上就多了五千人。就这么一小时一小时地下去，一天就多出十二万张要吃饭的嘴。再乘以三百六十五天，那么，一百年以后将会怎么样？

在现时，这个人口爆炸问题可能是最大的挑战了。在今后的四十年内，世界人口将增加一倍。科学上新的突破能否满足明天这个过分拥挤的世界的需要呢？

如果目前的人口增长率再继续六百或七百年的话，那么这个地球就只有立锥之地了。每个人将只有半平米到一平米的地盘，这还得把山顶、沙漠、南北极的冰天雪地都算在内。当然，谁也不愿意真会有这么一天。但是，危险还不在于世界上人口过多，人们必须挤在一起，连手臂、腿都伸不开；而是在于它破坏了人和资源之间的平衡关系。

既然六百年还很遥远，那么，让我们看看今后的几年吧。怎么使饿肚子的人都吃饱？世界上的水是不是快不够用了？

燃料够吗？用什么热能来发动明天世界上的机器？的确，人必须向前看，寻找维持生存的新的出路。

全世界的人都越来越关心这个人口爆炸的问题。有人希望对人的出生有所控制，但是控制人口涉及到不少人的道德观念和宗教信仰。即使很多家庭少生一些孩子，也只能是放慢人口爆炸的速度而不是阻止它。还是存在粮食、水和能源的问题。

现在出生的人多于死亡的人，或是说死亡率低，出生率高。在过去的五百年中，人的寿命平均增长了一倍。如果你生活在哥伦布的时代，你只能指望活到三十五岁，今天在美国一个人能活到将近七十岁。寿命的延长是一个重大的成就。主要的原因是人们的健康状况改善了，但是这也增加了世界上人口的数目，事实上这是人口增长的一个主要因素。

也许你认为地球并不挤。也许你住的地方有大片的田地和森林。最靠近的邻居也许在好几公里外。但并不是世界上所有地方都象你那里一样。

在很多国家，人们挤在一个挨一个的棚户里，有人睡在街上，因为在那个他们叫作家的小房子里没有他们的地盘。试想想，一个城市里，一块长度是八段街、宽度也是八段街的小小的地方，有一千人一个挨一个地住在建造在这块地面上的栖身之所中。人们就是这样挤在一起的。二十五年后人口可能成倍地增加。在印度，每平方公里只住一百三十个人，这算是挤的，但日本的人口密度要比这大一倍。在荷兰，很多年轻人因为没有住房，要等好几年才能结婚。亚洲占世界土地面积的六分之一，但人口却是全世界的一半。现在世界各地的人们



正向澳大利亚辽阔空旷的土地和地球上其它尚不太拥挤的地方蜂拥而去。

**注释:**

1. ... the population of the world increased by eighty-five people. ……世界上增加了八十五个人。

这里介词 *by* 用来说明达到什么程度, 增加(或减少)了多少, 又如:

He missed the target *by* a hair-breadth. 他只一发之差, 没有打中目标。

The skirt is shortened *by* two inches. 裙子改短了两吋。

2. Perhaps you think that isn't much. 也许你觉得这并不多。

在英国用法中, *think* 后面的宾语从句是否定句时, 一般将否定的形式移至主要动词 *think* 上, 如:

Perhaps you *don't think* that is much.

又如: I *don't think* he can do it. 我认为他干不了这事。

但在美国用法中也常常见到本课中所出现的这种形式, 即, *think* 后面的宾语从句为否定句。

3. So it goes. 就照这样下去。

So it goes. = It goes like this. 这里 *so* 是个指状态的副词, 意思是 *in this way*, 倒置在句首。

4. In one day, there are about 120,000 additional

mouths to feed. 一天就多出十二万张要吃饭的嘴。

在这里 120,000 additional mouths to feed, 事实上是 120,000 additional mouths to be fed。但英语里常常用主动形式的不定式代替被动形式, 又如:

I don't have anything to do tomorrow (to do 在意义上是被动的 to be done)。

mouth [mauθ] 的复数 mouths 应读作 [mauðz]。

5. population explosion [ˌpɒpjəˈleɪʃn ɪksˈpləʊzən] 人口爆炸。

explosion 一字在英语里常用来指“过多”。又如目前在西方国家, 上班时间缩短了, 空暇多了, 产生了一个词 leisure explosion (意思是空闲的时间太多了, 要想法去消磨这个空暇)。

6. within the next forty years 在今后的四十年内。

within 是“在……以内”的意思, 和上文的 in one day, in a hundred years 中的 in 有些不同, in 在此有“在……后”的意思, 如:

in one day 一天后

in a hundred years 一百年后

7. new frontiers of science 科学上新的领域或新的突破。

frontiers [ˈfrʌntiəz] 在这里是指科学上尚未得到充分研究或利用的尖端或领域, 在这种情况下中要用复数形式 frontiers。frontier 原作“边疆”解, 例如美国在开发时期, 西部的边界叫 frontier。

8. an upset balance 平衡失调。

upset 颠倒、翻倒, 在这里作形容词, 读作 ['ʌpset], 作动词时读作 [ʌp'set]。

9. Certainly, man must look to the future and find new ways of providing for his needs. 的确, 人必须向前看, 寻找维持生存的新的出路。

1) 这里用单数的 man 来指人类, 在 man 用于这个意义时, 不用冠词。

2) provide 可作及物动词也可作不及物动词。在作及物动词时, provide 的意思是“供给”, 用法和 supply (供应) 很相象:

provide a person *with* a thing  
(supply a person *with* a thing)

provide a thing *for* a person  
(supply a thing *for* a person)

provide 在作不及物动词时, 后面往往跟介词 for。provide for 的意义比 provide 在作及物动词时较笼统一些, 不是指供给具体的东西或必需品, 而是指“负担某人的生活需要”, “供养”。如:

He has to *provide for* his parents. 他要供养父母亲。

10. be concerned about 关心。

不要将这个短语和 be concerned with 混淆, be concerned with 是“有关”的意思, 如:

They are concerned about (with) the population problem. 他们很关心人口问题。(他们和人口问

题有关系。)

11. ... which touches on the moral and religious beliefs of many people. .... 它涉及到不少人的道德和宗教信仰。

touch on 是“涉及”的意思，这里 touch 是不及物动词。在 touch 作及物动词时，意思是“触、摸、碰”，如：

Don't touch that socket. 别碰那个电源插座。

12. If you were living in the days of Columbus ... 如果你生活在哥伦布的时代……

这里 If you were living ... 中的动词是虚拟语气，说明不可能是事实。哥伦布 (Christopher Columbus 1451—1506)，意大利人，于 1492 年发现美洲。

13. ... but it does add to the number of people who live on the earth. .... 但这确实增加了世界上人口的数目。

add to 增加，在这里 add 作不及物动词。add 作及物动词时，后面往往跟介词 to，如：

add insult to injury 雪上加霜

add oil to the fire 火上加油

14. Such is not the case in all parts of the world. 不是世界上所有地方都是这个情况。

case 在这里是“情况”的意思，如：

That's his case, not your case. 这是他的情况，你的情况不是如此。

15. flock to (a place) 蜂拥(至一地)。

flock 原意是指鸟群，或牛群、羊群。作动词用时是指群鸟或群兽蜂拥至某地。

## 2

### An African Student in the United States

1 Students from different countries may have different kinds of first reactions, but I can say that no foreign student is fully prepared for the shock<sup>①</sup> of coming to the United States to study. When I first arrived, it took me a long time to get used to New York City<sup>②</sup>. The shops, the tall buildings, the heavy traffic, the speed, the activity, the noise — it was almost too much.

2 Living arrangements often present the greatest problem, especially for students from black Africa.<sup>③</sup> Food, too, may be a problem. In Ethiopia our food is spicy<sup>④</sup>; everything I tasted in America seemed flavorless and flat<sup>⑤</sup>. Food isn't a major problem, but it is one of those little things which cause you to feel homesick<sup>⑥</sup>.

3 Studies also create problems, even for students who are familiar with the academic world of tests and lectures and papers<sup>⑦</sup>. Even though I had had the

advantage of having done my studies in English in Ethiopia, I found that I couldn't keep up with the reading assignments. We were given long chapters or even books to read in a single day. American students read fast, but I could not.

4 Many students who go to America aren't realistic about their choice of a field of study. The student should ask himself before he leaves home: "Which field of study will serve my country's real needs? How can I use my studies when I come home again?" Often a high value is placed upon studying abroad, so that "getting out of the country" becomes the main goal rather than learning something that one's country needs. When students have this idea, they may already have mistaken notions® about the United States.

5 Americans do not understand how many false notions are put into people's heads by American movies. I am really angry about this because American movies don't really reflect American life at all. The movies show a life of comfort and luxury; they never show the work and the sacrifice that has gone before. Most American movies give the impression that all these material comforts sprang into being® without effort. Foreign students soon learn how wrong this impression is.

6 Another mistaken notion is that an African student can go to school in America and earn his living at the same time. Today, with costs so high, a foreign student has difficulty earning enough to pay for food; it is almost impossible to earn enough to pay the high tuition fees. What kind of jobs can students get? Most students with jobs work as waiters, waitresses, dishwashers, or babysitters. With such jobs there is little hope of paying for one's education.

7 The African student needs to understand how expensive it is to go to school in the United States. In Africa, educational costs are very low for those who are fortunate enough to get into the universities. It is a shock to learn that tuition fees in the United States are high, and that even American students can't work for a living and pay school expenses, too.

8 The student who goes to the United States will learn many things outside the classroom. He will learn many things from American students and from other foreign students. And I hope that some American students are learning some things from us. The essence of my own experience in America is that there is a great deal to learn from this country. One of the exciting, though confusing, things is that you find people expressing many different opinions and views.

Issues are always being discussed — local issues, world issues, issues concerning all mankind. One has to be able to listen and ask oneself: “Where do I stand? What do these issues mean to me in the context of my own country?①”

9 Often I have been asked how I like certain places. As I look back, I find that my answer has depended on the people, not the place. The warm, human relations have made the difference.②

10 Finally, there is the problem of going home. When, after four years, I returned home to teach, I found I was looking at my own country with the eyes of a foreigner. It seemed a dull color; it seemed different. But I knew I must be a part of it.

11 As students living abroad, we develop a taste for comforts and luxuries. When we are abroad, we should keep in mind what the home environment is, and we should remember that we will be going back to it. Young people must keep sight of their origins, for then the return home is not a bad dream but a new beginning.

### 参考译文

#### 一个在美国的非洲留学生

从各国初次到美国来的学生,可能有各种不同的反应。但



是我可以说，没有一个外国学生对于来后所感受到的种种不习惯有充分的思想准备。当我初来时，费了很长时间才适应纽约市的生活。店铺、高楼大厦、拥挤的车辆；节奏快速、活动频繁、噪音震耳——简直令人难以忍受。

住宿往往是个大问题，特别是对黑非洲的学生来说更是个问题。吃也可能成为问题，在埃塞俄比亚，我们吃的东西口味重，在美国好象什么都是淡而无味。吃倒不是一个主要的问题，但就是这种日常琐事会使你想法。

在学习上也有问题，即使你对学校里的考试、讲课、写文章那一套并不陌生。我虽然在埃塞俄比亚时有条件用英语学习各门课程，但我发现我来不及读完教师指定的必读书籍。教师要求我们在一天中看完许多章节，甚至是整本书。美国学生的阅读速度快，但是我快不了。

很多到美国留学的人不是根据实际的需要来选择自己的专业。在去以前应该问问自己：“什么专业是自己的国家所真正需要的？回国后又怎么样运用自己的所学？”现在人们往往把留学看得很高，因此，要“出国”成了主要的目标，而不是要为国家的学习。当人们有这种想法的时候，他们可能已经对美国有了错误的了解。

美国人并不清楚他们的电影在人们头脑里造成了多少错觉。我对这点是非常生气的，因为美国电影没有真正反映美国的生活。电影给人看到的是舒适豪华的生活，但从来不给人看看在这后面所付出的劳动和代价。大部分美国电影给人一种印象：好象一切物质享受毫不费力就会从地上蹦出来。外国留学生很快就体会到这种印象有多错误。