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时代英语

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内容简介

随着改革开放的不断深入,对外合作日益增多,对英语人才的需求越来越大,许多智士仁人纷纷献计献策,力图改变枯燥的英语学习方式。编写本书的目的在于让大家在轻松愉快的环境中学习英语。该书文章全部选自最新报刊,涉及时事新闻、经济贸易、文化娱乐、婚姻家庭等方面,内容广泛,紧扣当今热门话题,富有通俗性和趣味性。书中还有许多小幽默和格言,并配有丰富的插图,使形式更加活泼,读者乐于接受。

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1. A Belgian couple tour China by bicycle

比利时夫妇的自行车中国行

迪卡斯特认为,看世界最好的办法就是骑车



On the road from Wuzhou to Yangshuo in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, I met Patrick Decoster and Nathalie Meert for the first time. It was drizzling, so few people were on the road. The foreign couple, their bikes draped with bags, were quite conspicuous. At first I thought they were just riding bikes for fun like other tourists in Yangshuo or Guilin, but then they told me they'd already ridden about 9000 kilometers.

Two years ago, Decoster, a guard, and Meert, a supermarket cashier in Brussels, left their jobs and began their world bicycle tour. So far, they've toured Eastern Europe,

Southeast Asia, Hong Kong and Macao. In April 1997, they flew to Shenzhen; they plan to spend three months touring China.

Decoster thinks the best way to see the world is by bicycle. They have had more experiences than most travelers. They have encountered dangers and hostilities, but no disaster, only incidents that added color to their trip.

On their way to Wuzhou, they stayed in a villager's home. The hostess brought them food and made a bed for them. She even supplied them with hot water and basins which were beyond her service range.

"We felt she was quite sincere and really wanted to help us," they said. "The payment for that night's food and lodging was only 20 yuan. We were surprised at the low price." Meert said it was very comforting for lonely travelers to meet warm-hearted people.

A day later, I unexpectedly met the couple again on a famous tourist street, West Street, also called Foreigners Street. Meert said they had got lost after we separated. A man had told them to just go straight ahead but they had run into a narrow lane.

Decoster said: "Anything can happen when touring by bicycle." But they still think China is a good place to tour by bicycle; the wide roads are in good condition.

"The dwelling space for Chinese people is very crowded, but it seems spacious to European people," Meert commented. This is new knowledge to them. Learning such information firsthand is entirely different from obtaining it via the media.

“When he first suggested this bicycle tour, I thought he was mad. But, now I think he was right,” Meert said.

Luckily their jobs in Brussels are still waiting for them.

(*from*: China Today, Vol. 8, 1997)

New words and expressions

drizzle['drɪzl] *v.*

下毛毛雨

conspicuous[kən'spɪkjʊəs] *adj.*

显著的, 显而易见的

hostilities[hɒs'tɪlɪti] *n.*

战事, 战争行动

dwell[dwel] *vi.*

住, 留居

spacious['speɪʃəs] *a.*

广阔的

Humor — When I became the manager of an ice-cream stand where my teen-age son was working, I wasn't quite sure how he would react. Then I overheard him telling a friend that it was “pretty cool” having me as his boss. “Yeah,” he went on, “now I get paid for listening to her tell me what to do.”

比利时夫妇的自行车中国行

在广西壮族自治区梧州通往阳朔的大道上，我第一次遇到了帕特里克·迪卡斯特和纳萨莉·墨特，天下着小雨，路上行人稀少，这对外国夫妇，自行车上捆扎着背包，十分引人注目。

最初我以为他们只是象来阳朔或桂林的其他游客一样骑车玩玩，可是他们告诉我他们的行程已经有 9000 公里了。

两年前，在布鲁塞尔，迪卡斯特是保卫，而墨特在超级市场作收银员。他们辞去工作，开始骑自行车环游世界。到目前为止，他们已经游历了东欧、东南亚、香港和澳门。1997 年 4 月，他们飞往深圳，计划三个月环游中国大陆。

迪卡斯特认为看世界最好的办法就是骑车。他们的经历比大多数游客都丰富。他们遭遇过危险、敌对冲突，但没有灾难，只是一些意外事故，反而给他们的旅行增色不少。

在去梧州路上，他们住在一村民的家中。女主人给他们提供了饭菜、住宿之外，出乎意料地为他们提供了热水和澡盆。“我们认为她十分诚恳，而且真地想帮助我们。”他们说，“那晚的食宿仅 20 元钱。我们非常惊讶于这价格之低”。墨特说，对于孤独的旅游者能遇到热心的人们是十分令人欣慰的。

一天后，我无意中在著名的旅游街——西街，也称作外国人街，又遇到了这对夫妇。墨特说那天我们分手之后他们就迷了路，一位男子告诉他们径直向前走即可，但他们却走上了羊肠小道。迪卡斯特说：“骑车旅游时任何事情都可能发生。”但是他们仍认为中国是骑车旅游的好去处。道路宽阔，路况又好。

“中国人的居住空间十分拥挤，但对欧洲人来说面积够大”，墨特评论道。这对他们是一种新知识。这样学习了解第一手的信息完全不同于通过媒介获得。

“当他最初提出骑车旅游时，我认为他疯了。但是，现在我想他是正确的”，墨特说。幸运的是布鲁基尔的工作仍旧在等待着他们。

2. Trekking Tibetan peaks

Snow-capped mountains leave special memory

攀登西藏雪峰

每次旅行都会让我联想到不同的景物



Every trip leaves words etched in my mind.

My two trips to Xishuangbanna in southwest China's Yunnan Province left "jungle" and "elephant" on my mind. My stay in Luang Prabang of the Laos left "vat (temple)" in my head. The word "rafting" reminded me of my drifting down the Yellow River. "Monastery" and "yak butter" would bring thoughts of Lhasa and its majestic monasteries.

My recent trip to the Yading Nature Reserve has also done the same, even though the memory of the journey is still fresh and vivid.

The words left behind this time are “*yakou* (mountain pass)”, “*niupeng* (cowshed)”, and “hot spring.”

Yakou

The first time I heard the word *yakou*, I was leaving Zhongdian, a Tibetan town in Yunnan Province, in a shabby jeep together with four friends from Yunnan.

We hired the jeep owned by a Tibetan man to take us to Daocheng, a Tibetan town in Sichuan Province, near which the Yading Nature Reserve is located.

Before the trip, none of us had even been to that part of Sichuan, which was closed to the outside world, especially foreign travelers, until the end of last year. I wondered how rough the road would be.

“It isn’t really rough,” our driver told us. “But we have to pass three *yakou* before getting to Daocheng.”

So on that early November morning, finding *Yakou* became the goal of our journey.

The first *yakou* we passed en route is known as the Big Snow Mountain Pass. Two Tibetan stupas, the symbol of mountain areas of Tibet, stand side by side by the side of the road, and a string of colourful Tibetan prayer flags flutter.

Elevation gauges on our wristwatches showed that we were more than 3,800 metres above sea level. Under the piercing sunshine, there was no snow atop the mountains, but it was quite cold.

There was a great view from the *yakou*. Around us, bold jagged peaks bristled like granite quills. Below are forests of pines, ferns and shrubs in autumn colours. The vistas were beautiful and we snapped many pictures.

In late afternoon, our jeep ascended the second *yakou*, the Small Snow Mountain Pass, which is more than 4200 metres high.

Snow remained on leaves of rhododendron shrubs. The setting sun rolling mountains and forests. Dusk found us a bit behind schedule and we spent the night in Xiangcheng of Sichuan Province. A pretty riverside town featuring square stone houses with elaborately carved wooden windows of local Tibetans, Xiangcheng is 220 kilometers north of Zhongdian.

The next day, we began our ascent to the third *yakou*, which is unnamed. At an elevation of about 4500 metres, it was covered with snow.

We entered the Khamba Plateau, inhabited by Khamba people—a branch of Tibetans.

Instead of staying, we directly headed for Riwa that afternoon. Some 83 kilometres from Daocheng, it is a hamlet nestling in valleys at the entrance of the Yading Nature Reserve.

Experienced locals suggested that we decide our route and pack our supplies before departure. "Once you get inside the mountains, there will be nowhere to buy food," a Kangba man warned.

So we had to choose between two itineraries.

A three-day trip to the reserve, from which the three famous Tibetan peaks Xiannairi, Yangmairong and Xianuo

Duojie can be seen, and a visit to an alpine pasture, the usual route for travellers.

The other option was a five-day stay which features a pilgrimage around the Xiannairi and closer view to lakes, mountains and forests of the reserve. The route is usually chosen by Tibetan pilgrims in the summer.

“There are two difficult *yakou* on the route,” another Khamba man told us. “Now it is almost winter. No outsider has ever tried this route before during this season.”

But we would. Our team included three experienced mountain climbers and our expedition was the brainchild of one of them, Zhuang Jian.

The three even decided to hike through the reserve. So we only hired four horses — two for our supplies and gears and two for the only woman on our team and I — and four grooms for the journey.

The journey had been exciting and wonderful since we set off into the wild. As a part of the Gongga Mountain Range, the reserve not only has three peaks in a triangle, but also studded with clear rivers, lush virgin forests, vast alpine meadows, emerald lakes, snow-capped peaks and of course, *yakou*.

The two *yakou* inside the reserve were the hardest challenges of our adventure.

When we headed for the first one from an alpine pasture at an elevation of 4200 metres on the third day, the first heavy snow of the year in Yading began to fall.

It was an arduous trek. The trails became very slippery because of the snow.

When we finally entered the vast snowland, we began to scramble towards the *yakou*.

Guided by our Khamba grooms, we climbed a steep hill, on top of which we visited a clear alpine lake and walked a mountain trail to the *yakou*.

The climb was hard for a city dweller like me. The air was so thin that I gasped for breath every few steps. My gloved fingers were numb and my muscles ached. There were moments when I really want to give up. But I knew that there was no turning back.

Finally we arrived at the *yakou*, a pass at an elevation of some 4700 metres, after a four-hour climb. Despite of the cold and snow, we sat down to rest. Slowly recovering from fatigue, I relaxed.

"So are you enjoying climbing snow-capped mountains?" Zhuang asked. I grinned.

The last *yakou* was the steepest one. In about two hours we climbed about 500 metres. The climb was so hard, I wanted to ask my buddies for the oxygen tank, but I couldn't even speak.

The summit of the col is narrow. Standing side by side on top, we soaked up the dazzling vistas stretching in all directions. To the east, the 6032-metre Xiangnairi looked especially close and spectacular under the cold blue sky.

Down the last *yakou*, the trail became flat and the last part of the trip was much easier.

Niupeng

In Yading, *niupeng*, or cowshed, does not actually mean a home for yaks. *Niupeng* are the temporary homes of local

herdsmen when they herd yaks in alpine grazing lands over the summer. The wooden huts also provide free shelter for travellers at other times of year.

During our expedition, we stayed in cowsheds for three nights. We cooked, ate and slept there.

Usually only about 10~15 square metres, the cowsheds are pretty small for nine people. When I opened my eyes in our cowshed in the morning, Zhuang's feet were in my face and another guy's knees were jabbing me in ribs.

The cowsheds are low. When we weren't lying down in our sleeping bags, we had to sit around the fire to cook, eat and chat.

But the cowsheds were cozy anyway.

Inside the huts, we would spend two or three hours cooking our potato-and-tinned-pork rice. Even though it was only half-cooked, the meal accompanied with fragrant yak butter tea and melodious singing of our Khamba grooms was warm and delicious.

Inside the cowsheds, we became friends with our grooms. They even gave me a nickname, Jiabo, which means "fat guy" in Tibetan.

Hot spring

As we basked in the sun, we talked about the hot springs.

Zhuang Jian told us that there were nine hot springs on the outskirts of Zhongdian.

After our 11-day trip to Daocheng, we dunked our exhausted bodies in the scalding hot springs at Tianshengqiao, or the Natural Born Bridge, in Zhongdian.

Facing a steep granite wall, basking the scorching sun, drinking beer in the bubbling, sulphur-smelling hot spring, I knew that we were safely home and the aches and pains faded. My thoughts flashed back to the summits of *yakou*. I told myself in memory.

So did Zhuang.

He climbed onto a small island and tried to get sit in a chair. Suddenly he stepped on a thorn and tumbled to the ground. The bottle of beer he had in his hand jammed into his front teeth. Zhuang ended up chipping his teeth.

"I thought I was still in the snowland," he told us later, his broken front teeth shimmering.

(*from*: China Daily, Dec. 3, 1999, p. 9)

New words and expressions

trek [trek]v.	旅行
etch [etʃ]v.	侵蚀; 描述; 铭刻
stupas ['stupə]n.	(西藏)佛塔
flutter ['flʌtə]v.	飘扬; 不宁
granite quill [kwil]	花岗石羽茎
fern [fə:n]n.	蕨类植物
inhabited [in'hæbitid]adj.	无人居住的
itinerary [ai'ti:nərəri]n.	行程
alpine ['ælpain]n.	高山植物
pilgrim ['pilgrim]n.	香客
supplies and gears	必需品和工具
groom [gru:m]n.	马夫

stud [stʌd]v.	散布,点缀
arduous ['a:djuəs]adj.	费力的;艰巨的
scramble ['skræmbl]v.	爬
buddy ['bʌdi]n.	伙伴
col [kɒl]n.	山口,拗口
vista ['vistə]n.	林荫路景;峡谷风光
cowshed ['kauʃed]n.	牛棚
yak [jæk]n.	牦牛
jab [dʒæb]v.	顶
bask [ba:sk]v.	晒太阳,取暖;
dunk [dʌnk]v.	浸泡
scorching ['skɔ:tʃɪŋ]adj.	酷热的
thorn [θɔ:n]n.	荆棘
tumble ['tʌmbl]v.	跌倒;摔倒
chip [tʃɪp]v.	切,削,凿,刻

Humor— A small plane with an instructor and student on board hit the runway and bounced repeatedly until it came to a stop. The instructor turned to the student and said, "That was a very bad landing you just made."

"Me?" replied the student. "I thought you were landing."

攀登西藏雪峰

我曾两次前往位于中国西南部云南省的西双版纳，那里的“丛林”和“大象”一直萦绕在我的脑海中，而我的老挝琅勃拉邦之旅则使我时时想起“庙宇”。“救生筏”一词令我记起曾经漂流黄河的经历；“喇嘛”及“牛油”使我忆起拉萨和神秘的布达拉宫。

我最近到过亚丁自然保护区，所见所闻至今记忆犹新。此次旅行印象深刻的是“崖口”（山路）、“牛棚”及“温泉”。

崖口

我首次听到“崖口”一词是在我和四位来自云南的朋友一起乘坐破烂的吉普车离开中甸的时候，这是位于云南省境内的一个藏族自治县。我们租了西藏人的一辆吉普前往“稻城”——四川境内的一个藏族自治县，它位于亚丁自然保护区附近。到去年年底我们开始此次旅行之前，无一人（尤其是外国朋友）到过四川的这个地区，它与外面的世界已经隔绝了。我一直在想这条路究竟有多么崎岖难行。

司机告诉我们：“它并不崎岖，但在到达稻城之前，我们必须穿过三个崖口。”

于是，在一个十一月的清晨，找到崖口成了我们此行的主要目的。

我们经过的第一个崖口是“大雪山路”，两座藏族佛塔——西藏山区的标志，并排地位于公路一侧，一行色彩斑斓的西藏祈祷旗迎风飘扬。

手表上的计量器表明我们位于海拔 3800 米之上。阳光耀眼，但山上并无积雪，只是很冷。

那里的景色很壮观。在我们周围，是高耸入云、连绵起伏的群

山，状如花岗岩的羽茎。下面是有大片松树、蕨类植物和灌木丛组成的颇具秋季色彩的森林，景致迷人，我们抢拍了许多镜头。

在下午将近的时候，我们的吉普车登上第二个“崖口”——“小雪山路”，高达 4200 米。

杜鹃花丛的叶子上覆盖着白雪，落日的余晖缓缓滑过山脉、森林。夜幕降临了，当晚我们住在四川省的襄城。这是位于河边的一座美丽的小城，位于中甸北 220 公里处。当地的西藏人建造了四方形的石头房子，那些木窗雕刻得很精美。

第二天，我们开始攀登白雪皑皑的第三个崖口，它没有名称，海拔大约 4500 米。

我们进入了康巴人居住的康巴高原，他们是西藏人的一个分支。未经停留，我们当天下午就直奔理汪，这是个距稻城 83 公里的小村庄，安详宁静地躺在亚丁自然保护区入口处的山谷中。

有经验的当地人建议我们在出发前确定好路线并带好补给。“一旦你们进入山区，将无处买到食品。”一个康巴人告诫说。

于是我们必须两条旅行路线中作出选择。

一条路线是行程三天到达保护区，从那里可以看到三座著名的西藏山峰：先乃瑞、阳麦荣和夏诺多捷，然后进入高原牧场，这是旅行者通常走的路线。

另一条路线需行程五天，它绕过先乃瑞，靠近保护区的山脉、湖泊和森林。夏天，西藏的朝圣者通常选择这条路线。

“这条路上有两个崖口，”另一位康巴人告诉我们。“现在已近冬季，在这个季节，从来没有外来人走过这条路。”

但是，我们将走这条路线。我们这一行人中有三名经验丰富的登山运动员，此次远征就源自于他们中的庄健的提议。

自进入这片荒地以来，我们的旅行一直是激动人心、多姿多彩的。作为贡嘎山脉的一部分，保护区不仅有三个呈三角形的山峰，还遍布着清澈的河流、茂盛的原始森林，大片的高原牧场、绿莹莹