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# 跟美国总统学英语

——克林顿广播讲话

最权威、最精辟的美国英语  
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# 跟美国总统学英语

——克林顿广播讲话

*Selected Radio  
Speeches by President Clinton*

星源工作室主编

气象出版社

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## 前 言

本书收录了 50 篇美国总统克林顿的最新 (1997 年 5 月 ~ 1998 年 5 月) 广播讲话, 给您一个向美国总统学习美国英语的机会。每篇讲话都配有参考译文, 以帮助您理解; 本书还另行出版了三盘磁带 (前 43 篇), 全部是克林顿总统讲话的现场录音, 让您领略这位现任美国总统作为出色演说家的风采。

克林顿总统的演说无论在内容组织、语言技巧、气势声色上都是当今世界上第一流的。他正是凭借其卓越的演说天才才成为美国历史上除肯尼迪外最年轻的总统的。作为总统, 他的演讲内容深入浅出, 语调抑扬顿挫, 为美国朝野广为效仿。可以说, 他的演讲代表了当今英语语言艺术的最高境界。

作为面向大众的演说, 克林顿总统的广播讲话还有一个鲜明特色, 那就是其用词质朴而精炼, 十分通俗易懂。因此, 这些讲话特别适合作为英语阅读和听力资料。

本书编者发现国内许多英语学习者对配备磁带的讲话稿抱有巨大的兴趣。我们认为, 本书收录的这些材料是一本优秀的英语教材。原因在于: 一, 语言优美、实用、现代, 但词汇量并不大。因配有克林顿本人的录音, 几相当于美国总统为您朗读课文, 便于您尽情学习和摹仿; 二, 题材广泛并且时效性强, 能够帮助读者了解超级大国目前的内政外交。克林顿的演讲题材广泛, 内政、外交无所不包。在国际事务方面有北约东扩、北爱和平、制裁印度核试爆等等; 关于国内政策则有与国会协商平衡预算、改革福利制度、打击犯罪等等。可以说, 要学习发音标准、用语精炼但又对词汇量要求不很高的当代美国英语, 这本书当是首选。当然, 对一些国内外问题的提法, 由

于国情不同，价值观不同，定会有差异，尚须读者鉴别。本书重点仍是英语学习材料，它尤其适合一般大学生阅读、使用。

由于成书仓促及编者水平有限，书中参考译文难免有不畅甚至错误之处，希望广大读者批评指正。

编者

1998年6月10日

## 目 录\*

1. Balanced Budget Agreement “平衡预算” .....	(1)
2. Congress and Emergency Relief 紧急救灾法案 .....	(9)
3. Tax Cut Policy 减税政策 .....	(18)
4. Crackdown on the Hate Crimes 打击仇恨犯罪 .....	(28)
5. G8 Summit and International Cooperation 八国首脑会议与国际合作 .....	(35)
6. Free Air Time for Political Campaign 关于免费竞选广告 .....	(43)
7. Welfare Reform 救济金制度改革 .....	(51)
8. NATO Expansion 北约东扩 .....	(59)
9. Strategy to Curb Juvenile Violent Crimes 打击青少年暴力犯罪 .....	(68)
10. Young Volunteers 青年与志愿者 .....	(76)
11. American Economic Development Strategy 美国经济发展战略 .....	(84)

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\* 标题为编者所加

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12. On Anti - Smoking Legislation  
关于限制吸烟的措施 ..... (91)
13. Balanced Budget and Education  
预算协议与教育 ..... (98)
14. Presidential Fast - Track Authority  
总统外贸谈判特权 ..... (104)
15. National Tests and National Standards  
国家中小学考试统一标准 ..... (110)
16. Mourning the Loss of Mother Teresa and Princess Diana  
哀悼特利沙修女和黛安娜王妃 ..... (116)
17. The Reform of Campaign Finance  
竞选筹款制度改革 ..... (122)
18. On Chartered Schools  
关于特许学校 ..... (128)
19. On Nomination of Judges  
关于任命法官 ..... (135)
20. Responsibility for Family and Children  
对家庭和子女的责任 ..... (139)
21. The Deadly Threat of Illegal Drugs  
毒品的危害 ..... (147)
22. Strategies to Improve School Education  
关于学校教育制度改革 ..... (152)
23. Mammography and Breast Cancer  
胸透与乳腺癌 ..... (160)

24. Foreign Trade and American Global Leadership	
对外贸易与美国的全球领导地位 .....	(166)
25. Legislation on Standard Tests	
全国统考议案 .....	(173)
26. Citizen Service	
公民服务的意义 .....	(178)
27. Protecting the Medicare System	
保护医疗保障制度 .....	(183)
28. Protecting Children from Drugs	
反毒与保护青少年 .....	(188)
29. Expanding the Shield of Medicare Protection	
扩大医疗保障范围 .....	(193)
30. Cloning and Related Moral Issues	
“克隆”技术与道德 .....	(198)
31. Restricting Tobacco Industry from Advertising to the Young	
管制烟草业向青少年推销 .....	(204)
32. Progress on Curbing Medicare Fraud	
打击欺诈医疗保障制度的成果 .....	(210)
33. Meeting the Challenge of Global Warming	
迎接温室效应的挑战 .....	(216)
34. The US - British Cooperation in Gulf Region	
海湾地区的英美合作 .....	(221)
35. The New Federal Anti - Drug Initiatives	
联邦政府反毒新措施 .....	(228)

36. Reducing Racial Disparities in Healthcare  
减少族裔在医疗保健上的不平等 ..... (233)
37. A Wake Up Call on Education  
美国初等教育的警钟 ..... (240)
38. The Fight against Youth Smoking  
反对青少年吸烟 ..... (245)
39. A Legislation on American Security, International Obligations and  
Emergency Aid  
关于美国安全、国际义务和救灾的法案 ..... (250)
40. Protecting Social Security  
保卫美国社会保险制度 ..... (256)
41. Prayers for Violent Crime Victims  
哀悼暴力罪行受害者 ..... (261)
42. Restricting Tobacco Industry and Punishing Drunk Driving  
关于限制烟草业和打击酒后开车 ..... (267)
43. The Peace Agreement for Northern Ireland  
北爱尔兰和平协议 ..... (273)
44. Prayers for Tornado Victims  
慰问龙卷风灾民 ..... (278)
45. Crackingdown on Social Security Fraud  
打击欺诈社会保险 ..... (285)
46. Improving IRS Service  
改进税务局的服务 ..... (290)
47. Celebrating The Mother's Day  
庆祝母亲节 ..... (295)

48. Sanctions against India for Nuclear Testing  
制裁印度核试爆 ..... (301)
49. Condemning Violent Crimes on Campus  
谴责校园暴力 ..... (307)
50. Religious Policy on Campus  
校园里的宗教政策 ..... (313)

## 1. Balanced Budget Agreement Agreement

May 17, 1997

*The Roosevelt Room*

THE PRESIDENT: This morning, I want to talk about our new balanced budget agreement, and the way it expands opportunity through education so that we can keep the American Dream alive for all our children.

When I took office four and a half years ago, America faced growing deficits as far as the eye could see. It was a time of economic stagnation and rising unemployment. We moved quickly to put in place a policy of invest and grow — cutting the deficit, investing in our people and opening new markets around the world through tough trade agreements. And the results of that strategy are now clear: 12 million new jobs, the highest economic growth in a decade, the lowest unemployment in 24 years, the lowest inflation of any administration in 30 years, the largest decline in income inequality since the 1960s.

We proved that we make the tough decisions to put our fiscal house in order, while still protecting America's values, especially through education. Even while we were cutting the

deficit by 77 percent, we were expanding Head Start, increasing scholarships and student loans, and lowering the cost of paying back those loans.

To keep our economy strong we must keep that strategy in place. That is why I am so proud that we have reached a bipartisan agreement to balance the federal budget for the first time since President Johnson was in the White House. It brings the deficit down to zero over the next five years, but it also reflects our values — preserving and protecting Medicare and Medicaid, expanding health coverage to five million uninsured children, protecting the environment, and helping move people from welfare to work, providing tax relief for families.

All of those values are important. But, to me, the very heart of this balanced budget agreement is its historic investment in education. This agreement includes the most significant increase in education funding in 30 years. Even more important, it provides the single largest increase in higher education since the G. I. Bill in 1945, the landmark legislation that gave opportunity to millions of Americans and gave birth to our great middle class. That was my goal for this budget — to dramatically expand opportunity through education, to give all our children the tools to succeed.

Education has always been the heart of opportunity in this country. And it is the embodiment of everything we must do to prepare for the 21st century. Nothing will do more to open the doors of opportunity to every American and prepare them for unimagined new work and careers. Nothing will do more to instill a sense of responsibility in every American as they work to make the most of their education. And nothing will do more to build a strong, united community of all Americans — for if we all have the tools to succeed, we can move forward together, as one America.

That is why I insisted that America's balanced budget also be an education budget. I am pleased to say that it meets that test. While it puts our fiscal house in order, this agreement opens the schoolhouse door wider than ever before. If Congress holds firm to the basic agreement we have reached — the details of which are already moving through Congress at an expedited pace — we will go a long way toward preparing our children for the 21st century.

The balanced budget agreement will fund our America Reads challenge, which will mobilize one million volunteer reading tutors to ensure that every 8-year-old can pick up a book and say, "I can read it myself." It includes our Technology Literacy Initiative, which will help us finish the job of wiring every classroom and school library to the Internet by the year

2000, so that children in the poorest inner-city school districts and in the most remote rural schools have access to the same vast store of knowledge.

It includes \$35 billion in tax relief for higher education — including our HOPE Scholarship tuition tax credit and our \$10,000 education tax deduction. It includes the largest increase in Pell Grant scholarships for deserving students in three decades. At the same time, it expands Head Start, increases job training, and preserves our commitment to school-to-work initiatives, to help give young people the skills they need to succeed when they finish school.

The bipartisan agreement we have reached not only gives us the first balanced budget in a generation, it also helps millions of children learn to read; it gives millions of American tax cuts to pay for college; it gives hundreds of thousands more students Pell Grant scholarships, and it helps tens of thousands of schools wire their classrooms to the Internet.

Now I urge Congress: pass the biggest and best education bill in America's history; pass the balanced budget. If both parties stay true to this historic agreement — if we have the courage to eliminate the deficit, while significantly expanding education — we will enter the 21st century stronger, and better-prepared for the challenges that lie ahead.

For the first time in decades, we are strong enough to truly prepare ourselves for the 21st century — to help our children achieve the full promise of the global economy, the Information Age, and life-enhancing new technology.

The key is education, and this balanced budget agreement provides it. Now let's seize this historic opportunity, and shape the future we deserve.

Thanks for listening.

## 1. “平衡预算协议”

1997年5月17日

罗斯福会议厅

今天上午，我将谈谈我们新的平衡预算协议，以及该协议如何通过教育增加人们的机会，使我们的孩子永葆美国梦。

四年半前我刚就任总统时，美国财政赤字高耸入云。那是经济停滞，失业上升的年代。我们立即采取了投资和发展的政策——缩减赤字、在人民身上投资以及通过艰苦谈判打开国际市场。现在可以清楚地看到该战略的硕果：1200万新的就业机会、10年内最高的经济增长、24年来最低的失业率、30年

来最低的通货膨胀率以及自 60 年代以来的最大地减少收入差距。

我们用事实证明，为维持财政秩序，我们作出了艰难的抉择，而与此同时维护了美国的社会价值观，尤其是通过教育。即使在赤字缩减 77% 的情况下，我们扩大了“起跑计划”，增加了奖学金和学生贷款，并且降低了还贷费用。

为了保持我们的经济强盛，我们还必须继续执行此战略。这就是为什么我对两党自约翰逊总统以来第一次在联邦预算平衡上达成一致感到非常骄傲。这一战略不仅使赤字在五年后降为零，而且也反映了我们的价值观——保持并保护医疗保障方案（适用于大多数 65 岁以上老年人）和医疗补助计划（用于帮助无力支付医疗费的人），将五百万未保险的儿童纳入医保，保护环境，帮助人们脱离福利参加工作，给家庭提供减税。

所有这些价值都是重要的。但是，我认为，预算平衡协议的核心在于具有历史意义的教育投资。该协议包含了 30 年来教育经费的最大幅度的增长。更重要的是，它是自 1945 年划时代的《退伍军人权利法案》实施后在高等教育投入上最大幅度的增加。《退伍军人权利法案》给数百万人提供了机会，并且孕育了我们的中产阶级。这就是我对该预算案的期望——通过教育大规模增加机会，为我们的子女的成功提供手段。

在这个国家里，教育一直是获得机会的根本，也是我们在为 21 世纪所做的最重要的准备。没有什么能像教育那样向每一个美国人打开机会的大门，并让他们为将来难以想像的新工作和新职业做好准备。也没有什么能够比教育更能帮助建立一个全美国人的强大家庭——因为如果我们都掌握了成功的武器，那么我们就可以一起前进，好像一个人一样。

这就是为什么我坚持平衡的预算也必须是教育的预算。我高兴地看到这个预算满足了这个要求。这一协议在维持国家财政平衡的同时，也使学校的大门比以往任何时候都更加向人们敞开。如果国会始终支持我们达成的基本协议——协议中的细节正在国会中快速审理，那么我们在为 21 世纪培养新一代上又向前迈进了一大步。

平衡预算协议将资助“美国阅读计划”。该计划将动员一百万志愿者从事阅读指导，为的是确保每一个 8 岁的孩子能随手拿起一本书并且说：“我能自己读懂它。”这一协议包括我们的“技术扫盲计划”，帮助我们到 2000 年完成让每一间教室、每一个学校的图书馆都连上国际互联网。这样，即使是在最贫穷的小镇，最边远的乡村，孩子们都能通过国际互联网进入到贮存着丰富知识的宝库。

这一协议包括资助高等教育的 35 亿美元减税额，其中包括“希望”奖学金抵税额度和用于教育的 1 万美元税收减免。还包括 30 年来对资助学生的“佩尔奖学金”基金的最大幅度的增加。同时，这一协议扩大了“起跑计划”，增加了工作培训，保证我们“由学校到岗位”计划的承诺，以帮助年轻人毕业时获得成功所需要的技术。

两党达成一致不仅仅是给予一代人的时间里第一个平衡的预算，它还将帮助数百万儿童学会读书，给数百万美国人减税用于高等教育，给予几十万学生更多的“佩尔奖学金”资助，帮助几十万学校在教室里连上国际互联网。

现在我呼吁国会：通过美国历史上最大、最好的教育法案，通过平衡预算。如果两党忠实于这一历史性的协议——如果我们有勇气在消除赤字的同时大幅度增加教育经费——那么