

北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

《英语绿地》短文精萃

让你轻松学英语

# 老外对你说

FOREIGNERS WITH SOMETHING TO SAY

主 编/张爱学  
英文顾问/W.D.White



Bring up fraternities among a group of college-educated Americans and you will observe responses ranging from smiling nostalgia to open contempt. Attitudes to sororities, which are seldom accused of anything worse than being competitive,

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的

America For A BA/BS?

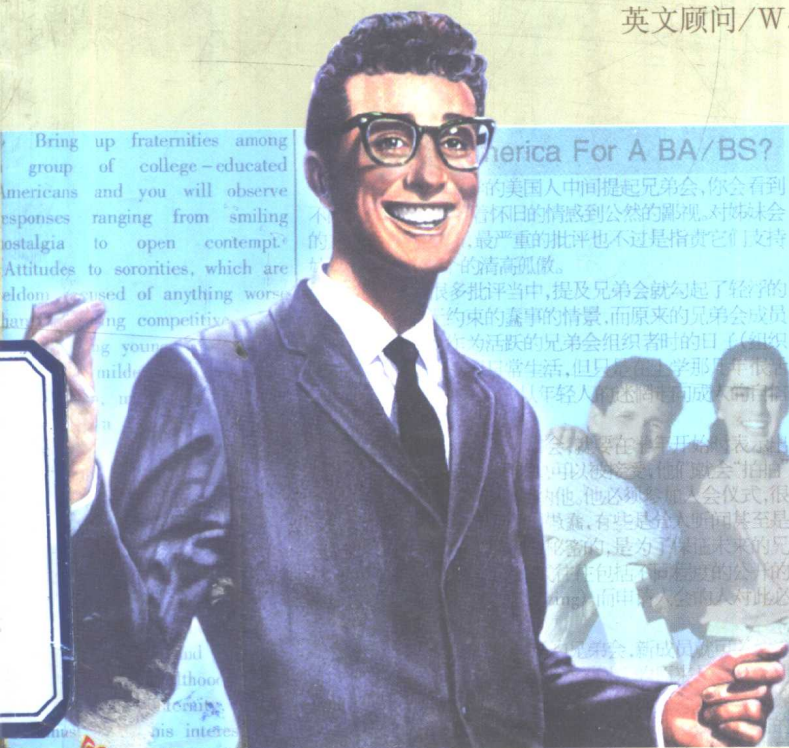
的美国人中间提起兄弟会,你会看到并不日的情感到公然的鄙视,对姊妹会最严重的批评也不过是指责它们支持的高高孤傲。

很多批评当中,提及兄弟会就勾起了辍学约束的蠢事的情景,而原来的兄弟会成员为活跃的兄弟会组织者时的日子(组织)日常生活,但只是在大学那几年很活年轻人的迷惘和成人工作

会就要在一年开始表示他  
可以接受,他们就会“拍肩  
他,他必须参加入会仪式,很  
昂贵,有些是给人时间甚至是  
昂贵的,是为了保证未来的兄  
弟会包括在过激的公开的  
ing,而甲入会的人对此必

"endowment", a block of investments from which the fraternity draws an income, elaborate building designed for fraternity purposes. He is brought into an extended family of young men who treat other with deference and affection, offering advice and in times of difficulty, feeling of extended family. Many fraternities is quite small and accounts for much of the popularity in a country denuded with countless broken malfunctioning nuclear families.

Managing a society of 20-50 members all living together in a large building is a complicated task. Normally brothers will elect men with managerial talent to do the maintenance, purchase



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# 老外对你说

## Foreigners with Something to Say

—北京青年报《英语绿地》短文精粹

主 编 张爱学  
英文顾问 W. D. White

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## 内容简介

本书摘取了北京青年报“英语绿地”专栏的部分优秀短文,采用中英文对照的形式,全部为外国友人所写,内容活泼,文字地道。既有居京的一些感想、看法,海外的趣闻杂事,也有讲述如何准备签证、去海外发展的知识性文章。本书是广大英语爱好者课外阅读的极好材料。

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# 前 言

如今,走在北京、上海乃至中小城市的大街上,都不难看到“老外”的身影。我国的改革开放使对外交流日益频繁广泛。当我们面对异邦来客,如果仅表示友好,一个微笑就够了。但是,大千世界有太多的东西需要我们去了解,我们中华五千年文明史也有太多的东西让“老外”渴望了解。如此,仅靠一个微笑就不够了,还需要语言——能够准确表达内涵的语言。

作为当今时代国际交流的“世界语”,英语被越来越多的青年朋友所重视,本报的《英语绿地》版块也越来越受读者喜爱。应该说,今天的青年学习英语,已不仅仅为了考托福出国留学,越来越多的人把它作为交流的工具——一个面向世界、面向未来、面向现代化的青年必须掌握的工具。

“外国语是人生斗争的一种武器。”这句马克思的名言从没有像今天这样在数亿中国青年中体现出它深刻的意义。今天,我们读这本《老外对你说》,明天我们就要对“老外”说。英语会帮助我们跨越肤色与国界,以实现更为充分的国际间诸方面的交流。

愿本书成为青年朋友在攻克英语关的征途上的一方绿地。

社长 陈 星  
北京青年报社  
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# Contents

## I. Foreigners with Something to Say

1. Being a “Laowai” .....	( 3 )
2. My Choice: Beijing .....	( 6 )
3. Small Matters .....	( 9 )
4. Flying Prices on a Carpet .....	(13)
5. Mother’s Day .....	(17)
6. A Chinese Bride in White – Strange or Not? .....	(21)
7. Dreaming of Owning a Car .....	(27)
8. Climbing Mountains Hand in Hand .....	(31)
9. “Thin” Milk is Better .....	(35)
10. To Yield Does Not Mean to Lose Face .....	(38)
11. My Biking Debut on the Streets of Beijing .....	(42)
12. Foreigners in Towns and Villages .....	(47)
13. “New Russians” and “New Chinese” .....	(51)
14. “China” and “Chinese” are Not Derogatory Terms .....	(55)

## II. Going to North America

1. More Than Scores .....	(63)
2. New Visa Procedures at the US Embassy .....	(66)
3. Is It Easier to Get a US Visa Before Christmas? .....	(71)
4. From a Canadian to Her Chinese Friend .....	(76)
5. If You Still Want to Go Abroad .....	(79)

6. International Marriage .....	(83)
7. Going To America For a BA/BS? ( I )、( II )、 ( III )、( IV )、( V ) .....	(87)
8. Applying to US Graduate Schools .....	(107)
9. Chinese Students in the United States .....	(112)

### III. Faxes From Abroad

1. Dressing for Success .....	(119)
2. Beyond the Gates .....	(123)
3. Behind the Film <i>Speed 2: Cruise Control</i> .....	(127)
4. Learning to Drive .....	(131)
5. Tippy .....	(135)
6. Running for President .....	(139)
7. What's So Strange? .....	(143)
8. US Fashion, East to West .....	(145)
9. The Tatshenshini River – Part One .....	(148)
10. The Tatshenshini River – Part Two .....	(151)
11. The Tatshenshini River – Part Three .....	(154)
12. Going to Church in China .....	(158)

# 目 录

## 第一部分 老外对你说

1. 当“老外” .....	( 4 )
2. 我选择了北京 .....	( 7 )
3. 请注意这些小节 .....	(11)
4. 价格的困惑 .....	(15)
5. 母亲节 .....	(19)
6. 中国新娘披婚纱——怪不怪? .....	(24)
7. 汽车梦的背后 .....	(29)
8. 登雾灵山 .....	(32)
9. “瘦”牛奶好 .....	(36)
10. 后退一步不丢面子 .....	(40)
11. 我在北京骑自行车 .....	(44)
12. 在中国, 有一群上山下乡的老外 .....	(49)
13. “新俄罗斯人”和“中国人” .....	(53)
14. Chinese 不是污蔑中国人之称 .....	(57)

## 第二部分 登陆北美

1. 不仅仅看分数 .....	(64)
2. 美使馆签证处的新举措 .....	(68)
3. 圣诞节前是否容易获得赴美签证 .....	(74)
4. 一个加拿大人的忠告 .....	(77)

5. 如果你还想出国 .....	(80)
6. 漫谈跨国婚姻 .....	(85)
7. 去美国上大学 .....	(89)
8. 自我推荐说些什么 .....	(109)
9. 中国学生在美国 .....	(114)

### 第三部分 海外传真

1. 为了学业成功——穿校服 .....	(121)
2. 走出门外 .....	(125)
3. 大片的背后 .....	(129)
4. 学车 .....	(133)
5. 我亲爱的梯匹 .....	(137)
6. 竞选“总统” .....	(141)
7. 见怪不怪才好 .....	(144)
8. 美国人的穿着 .....	(146)
9. 漂塔臣西尼河(一) .....	(149)
10. 漂塔臣西尼河(二) .....	(152)
11. 漂塔臣西尼河(三) .....	(155)
12. 在中国做礼拜 .....	(160)



第一部分  
老外对你说

**I. Foreigners with  
Something to Say**

1944-45  
1946-47  
The character of  
the organization

## Being a “Laowai”

The main difference between me and my Chinese colleague is that I can hear “laowai” 20 times a day, while he never hears the word.

In China, Confucianism teaches one to show positive feelings and hide misery, to say what makes people feel better but never to put your sadness and problems on their shoulders. Chinese have always practised that with foreigners too (may be especially with foreigners). But sometimes I think they go too far.

That reminds me of when I was a child; my family had just enough not to be called poor. When we had visitors, my parents used to serve little goodies like olives or fancy cookies but we were warned “not to take any!” After the visitors had left, we were allowed to taste the treats if there were any left.

When I visit my Chinese colleagues, I’m offered the best (and only) armchair while other people sit on benches or stand. They serve me coffee in a nice cup with a saucer while they drink tea in jars. At meals, I have my plate changed many times but not theirs. They serve me the best piece of meat and the fish invariably has its head facing me! So things are the same in East and West, except that there is a gap of 25 years. Now in developed countries there is enough for everyone; and if there is not enough, the guest will be treated just like anyone else.

I really feel uneasy when the ticket vendor on a bus asks a worker to get up and yield me his seat. Is it because I'm a woman? In China, women hold up only half of the sky, not more! Is it because I'm a grandmother? No, because they usually think I'm 20 years younger than I am in reality. So it must be because I'm a "laowai". In western countries I used to be respected for the first two reasons but not the third; that's why I feel a little embarrassed.

When the Communist Party of our unit one day held a meeting to honour the "advanced persons" who had contributed to "spiritual civilisation" (jingshen wenming), it was a great day for me. This was less because I was one of them than because I had been called, for the first time but I hope not the last, "Li Sha Tongzhi", just like anyone else, among the other "Li".

译文:

## 当“老外”

我和我的中国同事间的主要区别在于,每天我能听上 20 遍“老外”,而他却不会听到。在中国儒家思想教育人们要给人以快乐,将烦恼藏于内心;要说那些能让人感觉好受的话,决不能把你的悲伤和问题压在别人的肩上。中国人也一直以此对待外国人(也许对待外国人是特别如此)但有时候我觉得他们做得有点过。

这使我想起我儿时,我家刚刚脱贫,当有客人来时,父母常常做点好吃的,如橄榄或特别的小甜饼,但我们却被告之“不许动”,在客人走了以后,如果剩了,我们才能尝尝。

在我拜访中国同事时,主人请我坐在最好的(也是唯一的)

手扶椅上,而其他他人则是坐在凳子上或是站着。他们端给我有托盘的精美杯子装的咖啡,自己却用玻璃罐喝茶。吃饭时我的盘子换了好几次,别人却不这样。他们总是给我最好的肉,鱼头冲着我,准是这样的!你看,东方与西方在这方面是一样的,只是有着25年的时间差。如今,在发达国家,人们富裕了,如果缺少什么时,客人则会受到一视同仁的对待。

在公共汽车上,当售票员让一个工人给我让座位时,我真是感到不自在,是因为我是个妇女吗?在中国妇女只是“半边天”,不再有更多的什么。是因为我上了点年纪?可他们常常认为我比实际年龄年轻20岁。看来,是因为我是个“老外”。在西方,我习惯于受到尊重是出于前两个原因而不是第三个,这就是为什么我感到有点窘。

我们单位的党委召开会议表彰在精神文明方面做出贡献的先进个人的那天,对我来说是一个极不寻常的日子。这倒不在于我是受表彰的一员,而是因为我像其他姓李的人一样,被称作“李莎同志”,这是有史以来第一次,我希望这不是最后一次。

(本文作者现为中央电视台法语专家,精通英、法、意、西班牙四国语言,在华四年义务献血10次,并将个人画展所得捐献给希望工程。)

## My Choice: Beijing

Recently I spent a few weeks in Montreal, my home town in Canada. Montreal doesn't enjoy as many sunny days as Beijing, but even when it's cloudy, we can distinguish the clouds from the background. There is no pollution.

Montreal is a place where, when there is still room for twenty more passengers in a subway car, people prefer to wait for the next train. "Crowded" has a different meaning in Canada and in China!

On buses, passengers have the bad habit of standing in front of the doors, but they move automatically when they see someone getting off or on. They hate to be touched or pushed.

Montreal is a place where, when you ask your way on the street, six people out of ten will answer, "I'm sorry, I'm not from here."

It's a place where, a few years ago, I used to feel less safe than in Beijing, walking alone on the streets at night.

In Montreal, as in other modern North American cities, the telephone has become an instrument of non-communication. When you dial a number, you have to listen to a list of available services, choose the extension you want to reach, and end up speaking to no one.

It's a place where a letter takes three or four days to be delivered from your door to your neighbour's door, and seven if it is over the weekend.

But Montreal is also a place where road construction and repairs are done quickly, safely and without disturbing pedestrians. Information is clear and precise; if you have to change your usual route, you know where to go.

In Montreal, there are forty houses for sale for every potential buyer. A lot of stores, offices, restaurants and factories are empty. People have no money to throw into a new business and are not ready to invest where the future is so uncertain.

When something breaks or doesn't work properly, many foreigners in China say, "Well, this is China!" But in Montreal, I heard many Chinese say "How can this be in such a developed country?"

That was my general impression in October. Each day in Montreal is so predictable; each day in Beijing is a surprise. Maybe that's why I chose Beijing.

译文:

## 我选择了北京

最近,我在蒙特利尔——我的加拿大故乡度过了几周。蒙特利尔不像北京有那么多大晴天,不过,即使是在阴云密布的日子,还是能从背景中分辨出云彩,那里没有污染。

蒙特利尔是这样一个地方:在地铁车厢里还有可站 20 多人的空地时,人们就宁愿等下一趟了,“拥挤”这个词在加拿大和中国有着不同的含义。

在公共汽车上,乘客们有个坏习惯——站在车门前,但当他们看到有人下车或上车时便会自动让开。有一点可以肯定,他们讨厌被别人碰着或推着。

蒙特利尔是这样一个地方,当你在街上问路时,十个人中有六个人会说:“对不起,我不是本地人。”

这座城市是这样一个地方:几年前晚上我独自走在街上,我总是觉得不如北京安全。

在蒙特利尔,就像在其它现代的北美城市一样,电话已经成为了非交流的设施。当你拨一个号码,你必须倾听可获得的服务项目表,选择你要打的分机号,最后和谁都不说一句话,就结束了这次“通话”。

它就是这样一个地方,一封信从你家到邻居家要用3~4天,如果赶上周末,就需要7天。

但是蒙特利尔还是这样一个地方,道路建设与维修非常快而安全,并且不干扰行人。道路上的指示非常清楚准确;如果你必须变更你惯常走的路线,你会知道该往哪走。

在蒙特利尔,对于每一个潜在的购房者,有40套房子等着你买。有很多的商店、办公室、饭店和工厂是空的。人们没有钱扔到新行业中去,不准备往前景不明的领域投资。

当什么事发生了问题,或者不能正常工作时,很多在中国的外国人总爱说:“唉,这是在中国!”但是在蒙特利尔,我听见很多中国人说:“这怎么可能发生在一个发达国家?”

这就是我在十月得到的总体印象。蒙特利尔的每一天都在意料之中,而北京的每一天都令人惊奇,大概这就是我选择了北京的原因。



## Small Matters

The Chinese are a people who pay a great deal of attention to courtesy. I've noticed this in my Chinese friends ever since I came to China several years ago. Now and then, though, things happen that upset me, little events that show that there is still plenty of room for improvement in this regard.

One day, for instance, I was coming out of a supermarket in Beijing. Out of concern for the people behind me, I kept my hand on the door to prevent it from bounding back and hurting someone. What surprised and irked me was the behavior of the young woman right behind me. She walked straight on out the door as if she were the only person there. I was holding the door open in the expectation that the next person coming out would take over the task from me. Then another young woman did exactly the same thing! I felt as if I had been pressed into service as a doorman. Only when the third person out, a middle-aged man, pressed against the door could I finally release the door and be on my way. The behavior of the two women was almost inconceivably rude. Even if they didn't take the door from me, they could at least have said thank you. They converted a polite action intended as a helpful social gesture into an opportunity for exploitation.

Sometimes even small things, insignificant in themselves, can annoy others. For example, westerners always wrap up telephone conver-