

Olympic English

# 奥运英语 大家说

李林波 主编

提

高

篇

扩充奥运知识

更快

独特训练角度

更高

全面提升技能

更强

世界图书出版公司



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主 编 李林波

编 者 孙 劼 丁 惠

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# 前 言

2008年第29届北京奥运会正在向我们走来。它以其无与伦比的包容性和吸引力赢得了全世界包括中国在内的202个国家和地区的积极支持和热情参与；它不仅为我们带来了前所未有的体育饕餮大餐，也为我们带来了传播奥运知识、营造和谐社会环境、激发民众学习英语热情的良好机遇。随着北京奥运会进入倒计时，中国更是出现了一股“学英语，迎奥运”的热潮。为此，我们精心编写了这套《奥运英语大家说》丛书。

本丛书以“传播奥运知识，促进英语学习”为着眼点，集奥运知识、体育知识和英语知识于一身，突出奥运题材英语，兼顾日常主题会话，以“学英语，迎奥运”为全书主线，几乎涵盖了与奥运有关的所有主题，能够在很大程度上增强读者对奥运会的认识，参考性强。

本丛书分为基础篇和提高篇两个分册。基础篇以听说为主，提高篇以说译为主，读者可按需选择，渐进式的学习使读者更易理解每一章节的内容。此外，情景式口语应用以练习为主，辅之以所需词汇及释义，语言流畅，朗朗上口，实用性强。

本丛书读者面广，层次多样，且有一定的针对性。既可面向急需快速提高英语口语交流能力，特别是急需补充奥运知识和相关接待口语的商务人士，也可作为一种教材来用，帮助学习者尤其是奥运志愿者提高英语水平，增强交流能力。

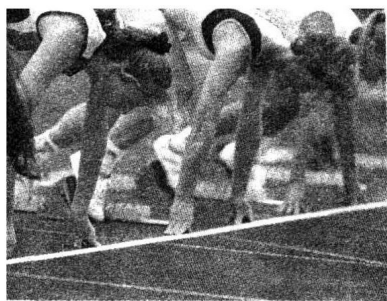
本书是提高篇,以说译为主,所选的文章和对话难度适中,涉及的知识面广,注重提高读者对奥运知识和文化的理解。全书中英文对照,共分为6个单元,每个单元都分为文章和对话两部分,相关的重难点词汇及释义可帮助读者快速、有效地掌握文章和对话的内容,并达到学以致用目的。

本书内容丰富,选材新颖,配有MP3,语言地道规范,能有效激发学习者学习英语的积极性,快速提高学习者用英语进行日常的,以及与体育有关的交流和沟通的能力。

由于时间仓促,加之编者水平有限,书中难免会有一些错误和缺点,敬请有关专家和广大读者给予批评指正。

编 者

2007年7月



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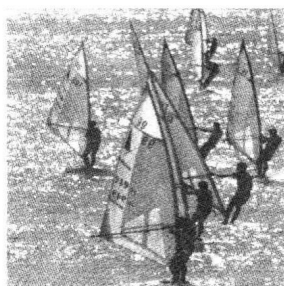
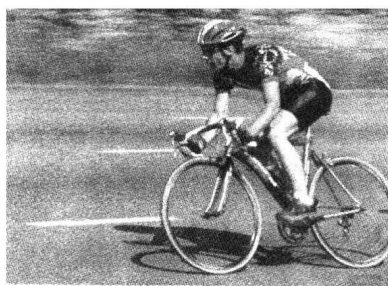
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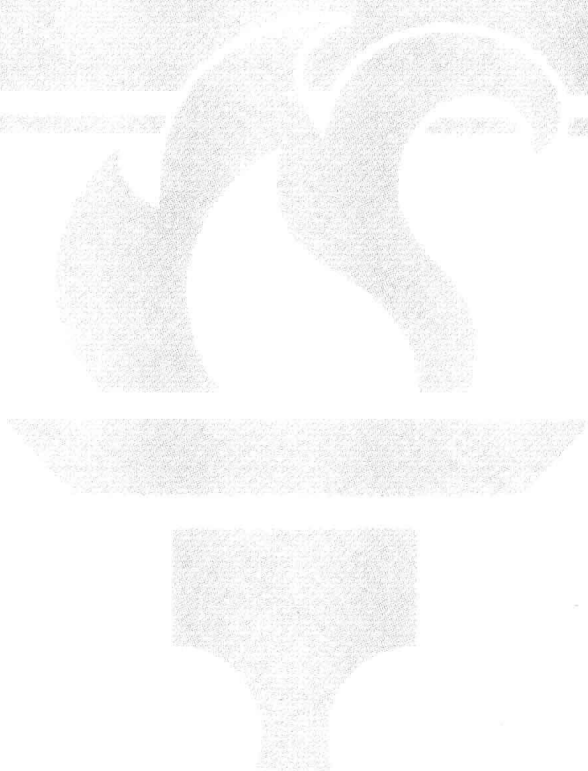
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# **Unit 1**

**Origins of the Olympics**

**奥运溯源**





# 1. Origins and Myths of the Olympics

## 奥运会的起源与传说

### Part A: Text

The Olympic Games or the Olympics are an international multi-sport event held every four years by the International Olympic Committee. The origins of the Olympic Games were lost in the fog of time. The Ancient Olympic Games were originally held in Olympia, Greece in 776 BC, although scholars' opinions diverge on the date—as early as 884 BC and as late as 704 BC. The origin of the Olympic Games can be attributed to Greek people's worship to their God to a certain extent, but the Olympic spirit is in fact the esteem of human health and the beauty of human body. In other words, the ancient Greek people took advantage of their God's worship to develop their own interests and dreams. The ultimate concern is not the worship itself but human beings themselves. There are many different beautiful stories about the beginning of the Olympics. Some people hold that it is gods' invention, while some others believe that it is human's heroic undertaking. According to the legend, King Ifitos of Elis, seeking to establish peace among warring Greeks, visited the Oracle of Delphi. There, he was advised to break the cycle of conflict every four years by replacing wars with friendly athletic competitions. Ifitos sought the cooperation of Kings of Sparta and Pisa. They agreed to a truce and organized the first Olympic Games at Olympia. Fighting would cease for 12 days before the Games and another 12 days after the Games, allowing athletes, artists and spectators to travel to Olympia, participate in the Olympic Games and return to their homelands in peace.



Throughout the world, all ancient or primitive cultures have held a similar type of ceremony to celebrate New Year. In general, this ritual usually involved someone who represented the old year, driven out by someone representing the new year. The New Year person usually led a procession of some kind, often made up of dancers or people who jumped and leaped. Such a procession was precisely what occurred during the earliest Olympic festivals in Greece. One myth says that Cronus, the father of Zeus, wanted Zeus to succeed the throne of his kingdom, so he had a wrestling competition with Zeus, and if Zeus won the game he could win the throne at the same time. The result was that Cronus was defeated by Zeus. After Zeus became the king he held a grand celebration including some athletic competitions to celebrate his victory over his father Cronus. So the celebration is considered as the earliest form of the Ancient Olympic Games.

Another fable is about a bet made by king of Elis and heroic Herakles. If Herakles could clean up 3,000 cows' stockyards in one day, he could obtain 300 cows as his reward. Intelligent Herakles brought in the water of River Alphis. Soon all the stockyards were flushed cleanly and tidily. But king of Elis did not want to keep his promise and wanted to kill Herakles. Luckily, with Zeus' help, Herakles killed king of Elis at last. Afterwards, Herakles held athletics in Olympia to commemorate his victory and showed his admiration for Zeus as well; thereupon we had the Ancient Olympic Games.

Among these myths of the Olympics, the myth of Peolps would be the most prestigious as well as the most wide-spread. In the Ancient Greek city Pisa, King Oenomaus had a beautiful daughter named Hippodamia, and there were thousands of suitors everyday. But the King listened to the prophet's sayings that he would die in the hand of his son-in-law, thereupon he wanted to find a solution which could prevent his daughter from getting married on the one hand, and give the candidates no excuse of reproaching him on the other hand. So he decided



to challenge all the suitors of his daughter with a chariot race, and the loser would be decapitated. The result was that 13 suitors went to their graves before Peolps, the son of Dione and Tantalus, went to participate in the chariot race. The King had two coursers — “the Philippines pulls” and “Hall other that” which were as quick as tornado. So Peolps invoked the help of Poseidon. Poseidon provided Peolps with divine horses and a chariot. Then, Peolps bribed Oenomaus' charioteer to switch the linchpins of Oenomaus' chariot with fake ones made of beeswax: predictably the wheels flew off their axles in the race and Oenomaus was killed on the spot. Peolps married Hippodamia as he wished and at the same time also inherited the throne of the Pisa City. In order to celebrate the victory, Peolps held the grand Olympic Games in Olympia. In today's Olympia, people still could see the vestige of Peolps' grave.

Although there is no unified explanation of the origin of the Ancient Olympics, they share the commonality that all myths and fables have something to do with the divinity. There are many gods in Greek mythology too. So the pious Greeks held various sacrificing rituals and celebrations to please the gods so that these gods could protect them and help them in many fields such as agriculture, sailing, war, etc. They held the athletic competition just because they thought the gods would enjoy it. For example, they had several different athletic meetings, such as the meeting for sea-god Poseidon, for sun-god Apolline, etc. Among them, the Olympic Games were dedicated to king of the gods Zeus so the Olympic Games became the most influential meeting in ancient Greece. Just as the famous Greek poet Pinda said: there was no such a grand competition as the Olympics to be extolled.

## Notes:

Cronus *n.* 克罗诺斯, 希腊神话

一直统治着宇宙。

中的巨人, 在被他的

chariot *n.* 战车

儿子宙斯废黜之前

ultimate *adj.* 最后的, 最终的, 根



本的

heroic *adj.* 英雄的, 英勇的

ritual *n.* (宗教)仪式, 礼节

succeed *v.* 继……之后, 继任,

继承, 取得成功

worship *v.* 崇拜, 礼拜, 尊敬

Zeus *n.* 宙斯, 众神之首

Poseidon *n.* 海神波塞冬

myth *n.* 神话, 虚构的故事

linchpin *n.* 制轮楔

simultaneously *adv.* 同时地

suitor *n.* 求婚者

wrestling *n.* 摔跤

diverge *v.* (道路等)分叉, (意见等)分歧, 脱离

attribute to 归因于

prestigious *adj.* 享有声望的, 声望很高的

decapitate *v.* 将……斩首

AD 公元

BC 公元前

vestige *n.* 遗迹, 痕迹, 残余

## Part A: 参考译文

奥林匹克运动会是国际奥林匹克委员会主办的包含多种体育运动项目的国际性运动会, 每四年举行一次。奥运会的历史起源已渐渐随着历史的变迁迷失在了岁月的长河中。奥林匹克运动会于公元前 776 年起源于古希腊的奥林匹亚, 尽管现在对具体起源时间还存在着争议, 有一部分学者认为应该在远远早于这个时间之前的公元前 884 年, 还有一部分学者认为应该开始于在此之后的公元前 704 年。奥运会的起源在一定程度上应该归结为希腊人民对他们心中上帝的崇拜, 但实际上奥林匹克的灵魂应该是对人类自己的健康, 自己身体的美的一种崇拜与热爱。换句话说, 希腊人民利用他们对上帝的崇拜发展了自己的爱好与梦想, 最终关注的并不是简单的崇拜本身而是人类自己。关于奥运会的起源, 有许多不同的美丽传说。有人说是神的创造, 有人说是英雄的壮举。据说, 厄利斯的国王伊费托斯想为不断受战乱困扰的希腊寻求和平, 于是请教德尔菲德神谕, 神谕告诉他要打破每过四年必有战争的这个循环, 必须用友好的体育竞赛来代替战争。伊费托斯就与斯巴达和比萨城的国王们协商, 最后达成了一次停战协议并在奥林匹亚举办了第一次奥林



匹克运动会。各国在比赛期间的前 12 天和后 12 天休战,从而让运动员,艺术家和观众们可以来往于奥林匹亚参加,观看比赛并且平安回到他们的家乡去。

世界上所有古老和原始的文化为了庆祝新一年的到来,都会举行一些形式上大体相同的庆典。一般在这种仪式上,代表着旧的一年的人会被代表着新一年的人驱逐出去。在希腊最早的奥林匹克节上,那些代表着新年的人们通常会表演一种跳跃的舞蹈来庆祝新年的到来。有一个神话讲述的是宙斯的是父亲克罗诺斯想把王位传给宙斯,为了考验儿子的能力,决定与宙斯进行摔跤比赛,如果宙斯获胜,便可继承王位。结果克罗诺斯不敌宙斯。宙斯接过万神之首的王冠后,在奥林匹亚举行了盛大的庆典活动,庆祝自己的胜利,其中也有竞技比赛,这就是最初的古代奥运会。

又有传说,伊利斯国王曾与英雄赫拉克勒斯打赌,如果赫拉克勒斯在一天内,把 3 000 头牛的牛圈打扫干净,就能得到 300 头牛的奖励。聪明的赫拉克勒斯引来阿尔菲斯河河水,很快就把牛圈冲洗得干干净净。可是伊利斯国王不仅毁约,而且想杀死赫拉克勒斯。结果赫拉克勒斯在宙斯的帮助下,杀死了伊利斯国王。之后,赫拉克勒斯在奥林匹亚举行竞技比赛来庆祝胜利,以报答宙斯,于是便有了古奥运会。

在众多的传说中,最著名并流传最为广泛的应该是关于英雄珀罗普斯的传说了。传说古希腊比萨城邦的国王俄诺玛诺斯,有一个美若天仙的女儿希波达弥亚,慕名而来的求婚者络绎不绝。但有预言家告诉国王他将死于女婿之手,于是俄诺玛诺斯想出了一个既不让女儿出嫁,又让求婚者无法指责他的办法。他要求所有求婚者都要与他进行一次驾车比赛,若求婚者获胜,就可以娶得公主为妻,但若输给他,就要失去生命。结果,前后一共有 13 位求婚者因驾车比赛败给国王而丧命。一日,狄俄涅和坦塔罗斯的儿子青年英雄珀罗普斯也闻讯前来参加驾车比赛。国王的两匹骏马“菲拉”和“哈尔彼那”快如旋风。于是珀罗普斯求助于海神波塞冬,波塞冬给了珀罗普斯一辆神奇的马车和骏马。随后,珀罗普斯又贿赂了俄诺玛诺斯的车夫,并让他把俄诺玛诺斯战车上的关键零件换成用蜂蜡制成的假



零件。不出所料,俄诺玛诺斯战车的轮子在比赛中果然飞出了车轴,俄诺玛诺斯当场堕地而亡。最后,珀罗普斯则如愿以偿地娶了美丽的希波达弥亚,并继承了王位。为了庆祝胜利,珀罗普斯在奥林匹亚举行了盛大的庆典,也就是最早的奥运会。在今天的奥林匹亚,人们仍能看到珀罗普斯基的遗迹。

尽管这些神话内容各异,但有一点是共同的,那就是古奥运会与神有关。希腊神话有许多他们自己的神灵。虔诚的古希腊人为了使诸神高兴,使他们在农业、航海、打仗等活动中帮助自己,就举办了名目繁多的祭神仪式。在他们看来,众神应该喜欢观看竞技比赛,所以就将竞技作为祭品献上,比如,古希腊有献给海神波塞冬的,也有给太阳神阿波罗的等等。奥运会是献给万神之尊宙斯的,因此成为古希腊影响最大的盛会。就像古希腊诗人平达所说,没有任何其他的比赛能像奥林匹克运动会一样值得歌颂。

## Part B: Conversation

### Summer Vacation

*A and B are classmates.*

A: Hi, it's nice to see you on the first day of this semester. How is your summer vacation?

B: Very nice to see you too. Well, my summer vacation is just so so. I only stayed at home and read some books during the day.

A: It seems that you have had a meaningful vacation. What kind of books did you read? I almost idled all day during these two months.

B: I just read a few books on the Olympics. Summer vacation is really long and tedious.

A: Really? I guess that you must be an Olympic expert now. I want to learn something about the Olympics too. Since the 2008 Beijing Olympics will be held in our country, more and more people are paying attention to the Olympics. Well, could you tell me something about the



Ancient Olympics?

B: I am flattered. Of course! What do you want to know?

A: You know I am preparing an essay about the Ancient Olympics for our college magazine. I want to know their origin, fundamentals, development and abolishment, etc.

B: No problem, I know you are always a good writer. The original place of the Ancient Olympics is Olympia, in Athens, which is a beautiful plain on Peloponnesus Peninsula. And it is famous as the "Holy Land" of sports. There are many legends about the origin and the founder of the Ancient Olympic Games. It is said that the first Ancient Olympic Games were held in 776 BC.

A: The Olympics are so profound. I think I should read some myths and fables to find some detailed information about the origin of the Ancient Olympics.

B: Sure, you are so smart. In fact, the origin of the Olympics has close relation to the divinity, and the Greek mythology is fairly famous around the world. It is worthy of your reading.

A: Were all the participants native Greeks at that time?

B: Yes, there were only Greeks at the beginning. But people came to participate in the Games from the land and sea of other places with the development of the Olympics. And the sports events were much fewer than those of present ones, and the time did not last as long as it does now, either. The Games were always held in Olympia instead of moving around to different sites every time.

A: Oh, the ancient Greeks were really geniuses! That's why we could have the Olympics today.

B: Yes, but it was a pity that the Ancient Olympic Games began to decline after the Roman Empire was dominated by ancient Greece. In 393 AD, the Roman emperor Theodosius I, a Christian, abolished the Games because of their great influences. What's more, Olympia was





destroyed completely due to two earthquakes and some battles.

A: Oh, my God! You are really a genius too. Thank you so much for telling me so many interesting things about the Ancient Olympic Games.

B: My pleasure.

## Notes:

- |                                                       |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>genius</b> <i>n.</i> 天才, 天赋, 天才人物                  | <b>influence</b> <i>n.</i> 影响, 感化, 势力, 有影响的人 (或事), (电磁) 感应<br><i>vt.</i> 影响, 改变 |
| <b>Peloponnesus</b> <i>n.</i> 伯罗奔尼撒半岛 [希腊南部] (即摩里亚半岛) | <b>decline</b> <i>v.</i> 下垂, 斜面, 斜坡, 衰败, 衰落                                     |
| <b>abolish</b> <i>v.</i> 废止, 废除 (法律、制度、习俗等)           | <b>Christian</b> <i>n.</i> 基督徒, 信徒                                              |
| <b>dominate</b> <i>v.</i> 支配, 占优势                     | <b>participant</b> <i>n.</i> 参与者, 共享者                                           |
| <b>semester</b> <i>n.</i> 学期                          | <b>worthy of</b> 值得的, 应得的                                                       |
| <b>earthquake</b> <i>n.</i> 地震, [喻] 在震荡, 在变动          | <b>holy</b> <i>adj.</i> 神圣的, 圣洁的                                                |
|                                                       | <b>tedious</b> <i>adj.</i> 单调乏味的, 沉闷的, 冗长乏味的                                    |

## Part B: 对话

### 暑假

A 和 B 是同学。

A: 嗨, 太好了, 新学期第一天就碰到你了。暑假过得怎么样啊?

B: 见到你也很高兴。一般般吧, 我就待在家里, 哪儿也没有去, 读了几本书。

A: 那看起来你的假期还是非常有意义的。你都读了些什么书呢, 我暑假里整天无事可做, 虚度光阴。

