



英语教学节目丛书

王少如 高 路 主编

SPECIAL
ENGLISH

美国之音
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American Mosaic & In the News

社会万象 · 新闻透视

与VOA最受欢迎的英语教学节目同步，原声播音地道美语

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June 30, 2004

Shanghai World Publishing Corporation
1704, Tower B
185 Shangwen Road
Shanghai, China

Dear Sirs:

Congratulations on publishing scripts of the Voice of America's Mandarin Service radio programs *Popular English* and *Words and Idioms*. I would like to express my most sincere thanks to the Shanghai World Publishing Corporation's cooperation with the Voice of America to put these two popular English-language teaching programs into print. As the standards of English teaching and learning rise in China, Chinese students' understanding of American slang and popular phrases is important to advance communication between our peoples, especially the younger generation.

Popular American and *Words and Idioms* are now broadcast by dozens of provincial and local radio stations across China. Listeners across China have requested scripts of the programs to enhance their study of English. VOA is proud to work with Shanghai World Publishing Corporation to assist the listeners of these programs to more effectively study and comprehend the English language as it is spoken in the United States.

I wish you and your readers the greatest success in learning to communicate effectively in American English.

Sincerely,

David S. Jackson
Director

前言

1620年11月,乘坐“五月花”号帆船远渡重洋的102个英国清教徒,历经66天的艰险漂泊,终于踏上了北美大陆。从此,来自欧洲的移民络绎不绝。他们在这块自由的土地上劳作生活,建立殖民地,后来又组成了独立的国家。星移斗转,沧海桑田,如今的美国已跃居世界列强之首。

作为一个移民国家,美国的语言就像它的人种一样,具有“大熔炉”的特点。美式英语兼收并蓄,除了继承原来英国英语的基本内容之外,又混杂了土著印第安人、非洲黑人和欧洲大陆国家的语言,且因地域辽阔而受到一些次文化社会阶层的影响。20世纪以来,随着现代美国的崛起,美式英语的应用已日益广泛。

美国之音(Voice of America, VOA)的英语教学节目,以其流行的美国语言、纯正的美式发音和丰富的教学内容,对中国广大的英语学习者、尤其是青年学生,产生着重要的影响,成为人们学习美式英语、练习听力和口语的有效途径。

奉献给读者的这套《VOA 英语教学节目丛书》,由 AA Culture & Publication Inc(美亚文化出版有限公司)特别策划,经 VOA 授权上海世界图书出版公司出版。

本丛书继《流行美语》和《美国习惯用语》之后,这次又推出 VOA 特别英语节目的学习用书和词汇手册共七种,以后还将陆续推出 VOA 的其他英语教学节目。

美国之音的特别英语节目(VOA Special English),以美国社会生活为题材,通过美国人的文化视野学习美式英语,不仅句子简练,基本词汇约1500余个,而且播送的语速约一分钟90个单词,比正常语速慢三分之

一,因此尤其适合中学生、大专院校低年级学生和广大英语初学者,既可用于英语泛读的课本,又可用作听力训练的教材。

目前,VOA 英语广播节目已是大学英语 4-6 级听力考试的重要内容之一。而这套 VOA 特别英语节目的学习用书,完全按照原节目的 12 个栏目分类,并选取今年最新播出的节目内容,配上 VOA 资深播音员朗读的 MP3 原声光盘,将成为广大 4-6 级应试者迅速提高 VOA 听力的阶梯。

为了便于中学英语程度的读者阅读和训练听力,这套 VOA 特别英语节目的学习用书除了配有《VOA 特别英语词汇手册》之外,又以 2003 年教育部制订的《普通高中英语课程标准(实验)》为依据,在其词汇表的基础上,适当地加注了一部分中文解释。各书所附 MP3 原声光盘,可以在电脑、MP3 和具有 MP3 功能的手机、DVD 等家用电器上播放学习。

本丛书在出版过程中,承蒙 VOA 台长 David Jackson 来函致贺,并得到 VOA 中文部主任 William Baum (彭慕仁)、中文部节目推广及因特网主任陈光、上海世界图书出版公司总经理冯国雄、副总编辑陆琦及何耀萍、王丹等诸位鼎力相助,在此一并致谢!

愿《VOA 英语教学节目丛书》成为读者学习美式英语的良师益友!

丛书编委会

2004 年 12 月

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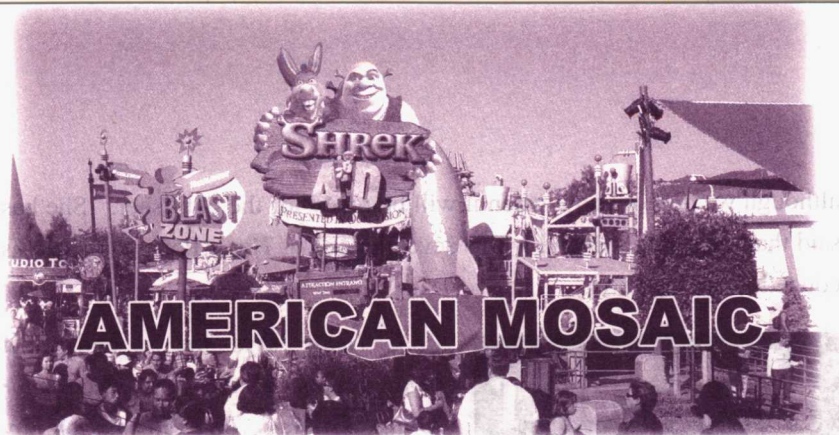
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1. Yearender 2003

This is Doug Johnson. Two-thousand-four has arrived. On our show today, we tell about the most popular books, movies and recordings of the year two-thousand-three.

Top Books

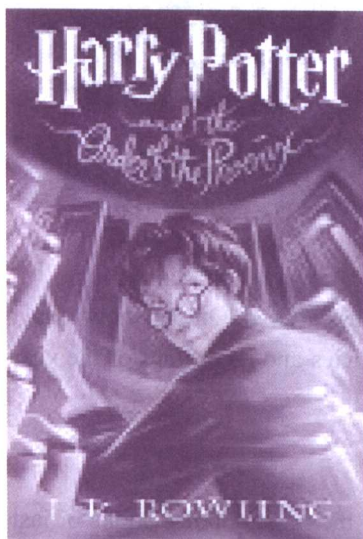
The newspaper *USA Today* recently listed the most popular books of last year in the United States. It creates the list from information about the number of books sold during the year. Phoebe Zimmermann tells us about a few of them.

The top book on the list is *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by British writer Joanne Rowling. This book is the fifth in the best selling series of children's stories about the boy wizard, Harry Potter.

Each of the books in the series tells about what happens to Harry and his friends during one year at the Hogwarts School for Witchcraft¹ and Wizardry². In *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, Harry again defeats the evil Lord Voldemort. But he suffers a great loss.

Joanne Rowling reportedly is working on the sixth book in the series,

although we do not know when it will be ready for the publisher. She has said that the series will end with a seventh book as Harry Potter finishes his education at Hogwarts.



USA Today says the second most popular book of the year was *Doctor Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert Atkins. Doctor Atkins is famous for helping people lose weight by eating fewer carbohydrates³ and more protein⁴. This means that people on the Atkins diet can eat fatty meat products and still lose weight. This newest book reportedly tells people how to burn even more calories⁵ and lose weight.

The newspaper says the third most popular book in the United States last year was *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. The newspaper says that more than five-million copies of the book are in print.

The Da Vinci Code is an imaginary story about an art expert who tries to solve a murder mystery⁶. The mystery involves the Roman Catholic Church and questions some of its beliefs. The questions involve clues to the murder believed to have been left in artworks by Leonardo da Vinci.

The information in the book has led some readers to question the teachings of their church. Religious leaders and history experts have both praised and criticized⁷ *The Da Vinci Code*. They say Dan Brown has given a new meaning on an old story that has not been proved. And they all say that it is

important to remember that it is a work of fiction and not to be read as truth.

Top Movies

At the end of the year, the American movie industry reports about the most popular movies of the year. The results are based on the amount of tickets sales in theaters throughout the United States.

The most popular movie of two-thousand-three in the United States was released in December of two-thousand-two. But it earned most of its money in two-thousand-three. “Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers” earned more than three-hundred-forty-million dollars in the United States last year.

The story continues the one begun in the earlier movie “The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring”. A third and final “Lord of the Rings” movie has just been released. All the “Lord of the Rings” movies are from books by British writer J.R.R Tolkein. They tell about a magic ring that has powers to destroy life in a place called Middle Earth. A human-like creature called a Hobbit is the hero of the stories. His name is Frodo Baggins, and he must destroy the ring to save his world.

The second most popular movie in the United States last year was “Finding Nemo”. It is a cartoon made for children, but adults enjoyed it too. “Finding Nemo” earned more than three-hundred-thirty-nine-million dollars



in the United States last year. It is about a small fish who has lost his son, Nemo, in the ocean. The movie follows Nemo and his father as they try to find each other again.

The third most popular movie in the United States last year earned more than three-hundred-five-million dollars. It was "Pirates⁸ of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl". The idea for the movie came from a popular ride at the Disneyland amusement park in California.

It is about a pirate named Jack Sparrow who is played by the actor Johnny Depp. Jack Sparrow is looking for his lost ship. The ship has been seized by pirates who have been cursed⁹ by a sailor they betrayed. Jack Sparrow must find the pirates, their ship and their hidden gold to defeat them. Officials of the Disney Company say the movie was so popular that they are planning another Jack Sparrow pirate adventure. And they say that Johnny Depp will star in the new movie.

Top Recordings

Each December, *Billboard* magazine lists the most popular albums, records and performers of the year. Steve Ember tells us about a few of them.

Billboard magazine says two-thousand-three was the first year since nineteen-ninety-four that the same artist has the number one single and album of the year. The album is Fifty Cent's, "Get Rich or Die Trying". The single is "In Da Club".

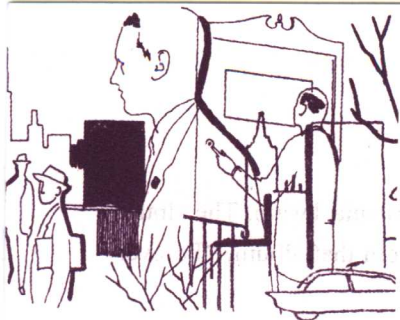
Billboard says the second most popular album of the year was Norah Jones' "Come Away With Me". The album was released in two-thousand-two, but became extremely popular in two-thousand-three. Here is the title song from that album. Norah Jones also wrote the song.

The magazine says third most popular record album in the United States

last year was performed by country music singer Shania Twain. The album is called “Up!” We leave you now with a song from that album, “Forever and For Always”.

Note

1. witchcraft: 魔法
2. wizardry: 巫术
3. carbohydrates: 碳水化合物
4. protein: 蛋白质
5. calorie: 卡路里, 热量单位
6. mystery: 神秘, 神秘事物
7. criticize: 批评, 指责
8. pirate: 海盗
9. curse: 诅咒, 咒语



2. *The Empire State Building*

Welcome to *American Mosaic* — a program in VOA Special English about music and American life. And we answer your questions. This is Doug Johnson. On our show today, we answer a question about a tall building in New York City, and play some music by a group nominated for a Grammy Award. But first, a report about a recent student science competition.

Siemens Westinghouse Competition

The winners of the Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science and Technology were announced last month. The Siemens Foundation created the competition to improve mathematics and science studies among American high school students. The competition awards two top prizes of one-hundred-thousand dollars each to pay for college. The money goes to one individual and one team. Jim Tedder tells us about the top winners.

Seventeen-year-old Yin Li of New York City received the individual award for his work in brain research. Mister Li did research on nerve cell activity in mice that could help improve understanding of the human brain.

Experts say his project represents progress in understanding how neurons¹ communicate. Mister Li discovered a protein that could be linked to neurons. His project explores how nerve cells work and how the strength of their connections may be ruled by the action of local proteins.

Mister Li was born in Shanghai, China and came to the United States at the age of nine. He said that he has always been interested in the brain, especially since reading a speech given by Nobel Prize-winning scientist Eric Kandel. Mister Li did his award-winning research at Mister Kandel's laboratory at Columbia University.

The team award went to two brothers from the state of Connecticut.

Eighteen-year-old Mark and sixteen-year-old Jeffrey Schneider studied the West Nile virus. They developed a model describing the spread of the virus in order to study ways to prevent and control it. Such models can help public health officials study different ways to stop the spread of viruses. The experts say

the brothers' work may help public health professionals make better decisions about the growing threat of West Nile disease.

The Schneider Brothers said they chose to study the West Nile virus as a result of personal experience with the problem in their home town of South Windsor, Connecticut. And they reportedly entered the science competition as a result of seeing the movie, "October Sky". In the movie, high school students in the state of West Virginia learn to build rockets and win a national science contest.

Empire State Building

Our VOA listener question this week comes from Vietnam. Ngoc Lien



Winners ring the closing bell
at the New York Stock Exchange