

# 3000词读遍天下书

## BEDTIME READING

### 床头灯英语学习读本IV



THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE

## 卡斯特桥市长

美国作家改编 纯英文版

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# 写在前面的话

## ——中国人学英语现状分析

### ◆英语是语言的帝国

全球 60 亿人中,有 8 亿人的母语是英语;2.5 亿人的第二母语是英语。12.3 亿人学习英语,33.6 亿人和英语有关。全世界电视节目的 75%、E-mail 的 80%、网络的 85%、软件源代码的 100% 使用英语。40~50 年后,全球 50% 的人精通英语。全球约 6000 种语言,本世纪末其中的 90% 将消亡。届时英语作为主导语言的地位将进一步得到提升。

目前中国大约有 3 亿人在学英语,超过英国和美国的人口总和,这是中国努力与时代接轨、与国际接轨的一个重要标志。大量中国人熟练掌握国际通用语言是中华民族走向繁荣富强的必要保障。

### ◆英语学习的远期目标

在中国,英语已经远远超出一个学科的范畴,一个人英语水平的高低总是和事业、前途、地位,甚至命运联系在一起。对于个人来讲,英语在人生旅途中具有战略意义,不失时机地在英语上投入时间、投入精力、投入金钱符合与时俱进的潮流,是明智之举。

### ◆目前存在的问题

尽管在中国学习英语的人很多,但收效却令人担忧,学了这么多年英语,能够运用自如的人实在是凤毛麟角。由于运用能力差,无法品尝到英语学习成功的快乐,很多人不得不承认学英语的目的只是为了考试”。

### ◆考试的压力对英语学习的积极影响

在我国,与个人命运休戚相关的各类考试,如中考、高考、四六级、

硕士研究生入学考试、博士研究生入学考试、职称考试、出国考试,都考或只考英语。目前,很多人把中国人学不好英语的责任推到英语考试身上,好像中国人学不好英语就是因为有了英语考试,甚至有人还产生了将英语考试废除的想法。

大家可以冷静地反思一下:如果没有各种各样的英语考试,哪里有这么多人坚持学英语?国家正是利用了考试这个指挥棒引导很多人去学英语。说句实话,你不能指望每个中国人都怀着与国际接轨的远大抱负去学英语。中国曾经取消过考试,结果造成了10年的人才断层。所以,我的看法是在谈论考试的不足时,首先应该承认它在选拔人才、培养人才方面的不可替代的作用。英语考试对中国人学英语起到了很大的积极作用,功不可没。但必须承认:如果真想把英语学好,光会做几道考试题是远远不够的。

### ◆不可缺少的环节

没有几百万字的输入无法学好英语。语言的习得是一个长期的过程,需要大量的“输入”。一个由汉语武装起来的头脑,没有几百万字英文的输入,即使要达到一般水平也难。绝大多数的英语学习者正是由于缺少了这一环节,所以停留在一个无奈的水平上。

### ◆“圣人”学英语的做法

在学英语的长远目标和考试的压力共同作用下,自然会产生学好英语的强烈愿望,但这一愿望的实现需要有很强的“韧劲(自我约束力)”。春来不是读书天,夏日炎炎正好眠,秋有蚊虫冬又冷,收起书包待明年。随着物质文明的繁荣,总有一些理由使人不能安心学习。这样下去,我们的英语之树永远长不高。古人云:人静而后安,安而能后定,定而能后慧,慧而能后悟,悟而能后得。很有道理。在四川大足佛教石刻艺术中,有一组大型佛雕《牧牛图》,描绘了一个牧童和牛由斗争、对抗到逐渐协调、融合,最后合而为一的故事。佛祖说:“人的心魔难伏,就像牛一样,私心杂念太多太多;修行者就要像牧童训练他们,驯

服他们,以完美自己的人生。”那些具有很强心力的人,我们姑且称其为“圣人”,他们能够驯服那些影响我们学习的大牛、小牛,抵制各种诱惑,集中精力,专心学习,到达成功的彼岸。

### ◆凡人的困惑

在目前的教育体系中,学好英语是需要坚韧不拔的毅力的。但问题是我们大多数平凡的人无法和圣人相比,所以在学英语的征途上,失败者多,成功者少。客观地讲,即使采用不太高的标准来衡量在中国英语学习的失败率应该在 99% 以上,有的人说难道我们不能把大多数的人都变成圣人吗,这样大多数人就可以学好英语了。我们不得不承认大多数凡夫俗子是不能够成为圣人的。值得我们深思的是,目前的英语学习体系没有给大多数人提供一条平坦的道路。

### ◆兴趣——英语学习成功的真正源泉

我和大家一样都是凡人,我也曾经遇到过学英语的困惑,干巴巴的课文无论怎样都激不起我的兴趣。幸运的是我有一个在国外生活多年的姐姐,有一次她回国,给我带来很多浅显有趣的读物。我拿起一本一读,觉得很简单,一个星期就读完了。就英语学习而言,一部英文小说其实就是用英语建构的一个“虚拟世界”。那里有人,有人的心灵和人与人之间关系的揭示,有人与自然、与社会的冲突和调和。走进一部英文小说,你实际上就已经“生活”在一个“英语世界”里了,不愁没有东西可学。经典作品要读,写得好的当代通俗小说也要读。我一共读了 50 本,从此对英语产生了兴趣,英语水平有了很大的提高。还是爱因斯坦说得对:“兴趣是最好的老师。”

### ◆《新概念英语》的主编 L. G. Alexander 的启示

中国人读英语书有个特点,越读不懂越读,习惯于读满篇都是生词的文章。L. G. Alexander 先生是世界著名的英语教学专家,他的经典之作《新概念英语》对于中国的英语教学产生了深远的影响。针对这一现状 Alexander 先生说过:“记住,你的接受型词汇量(即你听或阅读英

语时能理解的部分)比你的积极词汇量(即你在说或写时能自如运用的部分)要大得多。如果要扩大词汇量,最好的办法是多听英语,多读英语,但不要超出自己的水平,即阅读那些比你目前水平稍低的书。”这才是提高英语运用能力的诀窍。

### **本套读物的特色:**

●情节曲折:本书选材的时候非常注意作品的吸引力。比方说:

《查泰莱夫人的情人》(Lady Chatterley's Lover):我当年读大学的时候,班上每个同学都买一本看。有的同学甚至熄灯后,打着手电筒躲在被窝里看。

《吸血鬼》(Dracula):这个故事真吓人,我看完以后好几天没睡好觉。后来我的一个学生说他对英语从来不感兴趣,我就把这本小说推荐给他。后来他对我说:“这是我一口气读完的第一本英语书,就是太吓人了。老师,能不能再给我来一本?”

《呼啸山庄》(Wuthering Heights):讲述的是一个骇人听闻的复仇故事,当初没有想到这本书的作者竟然是一个生活在几乎与世隔绝环境中的女孩。

《飘》(Gone with the Wind):几乎所有的美国女孩都读过这本书,主人公斯佳丽是美国女孩的偶像,可以说我见过的每个美国女孩都是一个 Scarlett。

.....

本套丛书收入的都是你在一生中值得去读的作品,读这些作品不但可以提高你的英语水平,而且能够提高你的个人修养。

●语言地道:本套读物均由美国作家执笔,用流畅的现代英语写成。他们写作功底深厚,这是母语为非英语的作者很难达到的。

●通俗易懂:本书是用 3300 个最常用的英语单词写成,易读懂,对于难词均有注释,你躺在床上不用翻字典就能顺利地读下去。

●配有高质量的音带:这样大家可以在读懂的基础上进行听的训

练,请注意:阅读需要量,听力更需要量。大量的语音输入是用英语深入交谈的源泉。

这套读物供你在下课后或下班后闲暇时阅读,其优点是帮你实现英语学习的生活化,使英语成为你生活的一部分。这才是英语成功的真谛,更是任何有难度事情成功的真谛。

王若平 于北京

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## 故事梗概

《卡斯特桥市长》是托马斯·哈代 1886 年写成的一部重要小说。故事发生在 19 世纪的英国，小说中的主人公——亨查德勤奋努力，发家致富，从一个无名小子爬到市长的宝座，最终因性格的弱点而受到命运的捉弄，最终在贫困孤独中凄惨地死去。

迈克尔·亨查德年轻时是个打草工，为人正直、善良。在一次喝醉酒时，以区区五几尼的价钱，就把他的妻子和女儿卖给了一个水手——纽森。酒醒后，他幡然悔悟，发下重誓，二十年绝对滴酒不沾。后来，通过努力工作，他生意亨通，受人尊敬，还当上卡斯特桥市长。十八年后，当他决定要娶他的情人露西塔时，他的前妻出现了。他前妻以为她的水手丈夫葬身大海了，便带了她的女儿——伊丽莎白·简来找亨查德。于是，他又与前妻重归于好。亨查德却由于对生意合伙人法尔弗雷的嫉妒、排挤，加之他生性倔强执拗，结果生意失败，并失去市长的公职。前妻死后，他意外地发现他的女儿伊丽莎白并不是他的亲生女儿。他为此感到非常烦恼，开始冷落伊丽莎白。她只好搬出去和亨查德的旧情人露西塔同住。本来打算与亨查德结婚的露西塔后来与法尔弗雷相爱并嫁给了他。法尔弗雷成了亨查德生意和爱情上的竞争对手。破产和羞辱使他陷入狼狈的境地，而且他有伤风化的卖妻行为也开始流传开来。落魄不堪的他靠给法尔弗雷干活来养活自己。伊丽莎白成了他惟一的慰藉。可好景不长，纽森回来并与女儿伊丽莎白相认。在伊丽莎白与法尔弗雷的婚礼上，他受到了冷遇。于是他黯然离开了卡斯特桥市，在孤独中悲惨地离开人世。

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## CHAPTER ONE

On a summer night in the early nineteen hundreds a young couple came to the village of **Weydon-Priors**, England. The woman was carrying a child in her arms. It was obvious from the **dirty**ness of their clothing that they had been walking for a very long time.

The man looked healthy and strong and his skin was sundarkened. Over his older clothing he wore a new dress coat and, on his head, a hat made of **straw**. From his shoulders hung a basket, which contained his work tools. He walked like a common countryside worker.

The man and the woman were very quiet. Not a word was spoken between them. The man held a book in front of his eyes, paying no attention at all to the woman at his side. She, on the other hand, did not appear to be bothered by this. She simply continued to walk **alongside** the fellow, sometimes quietly talking to the baby in her arms.

The woman had a face that could sometimes be described as pretty. However, this was only when she looked at her child. At all other times she **wore** an expression of hopelessness.

It was clear that the man and woman were married to one another. Only marriage could make a man and a woman **get used to** living in such an unhappy way.

The area around them was also silent, except for the occasional singing of a bird. As they came closer to the village, however, voices could be heard here and there in the distance. And just as they had passed the first house on the edge of town, the couple came upon a farmer, carrying a **shovel**. The young man suddenly stopped reading his book and looked at the old worker.

“Hey, you think I might be able to get some work here? Maybe in the hay fields or something?” he asked.

“You aren’t going to find any kind of work in this village,” answered the farmer.

“Well then is there a little house we can rent from someone? Something newly built?”

“No, we mostly **tear down** houses here. Why, just last year we got rid of about four or five homes. And we might **beat** that number this year, because we’ve already destroyed three in the last few months.”

The young **hay-worker** found the farmer’s words disappointing. As he looked down the road toward the village, he said, “It seems like there’s something

## Chapter One

happening here today.”

“Yes, today there’s a fair in town. But I’m not interested in that, since I’ve nothing to trade and no money to spend.”

The couple walked over to the **fairground** and found that most of the sellers had already gone home. The only people there now were those whose animals were **ignored** by the buyers earlier in the day because of their poor condition. The evening fair was devoted less to trade and more to fun and games. There were performances by dancers and singers. There were places where, if you paid enough money, you could see strange-looking people and animals. And there were people there who could tell you about your future just by looking at your hands.

The young couple did not care much for the entertainment. They were hungry and thirsty, so they entered a tent that served soup and drinks. An old, witch-like, woman poured them each a bowl of hot soup. The man tasted it and immediately found it **disgusting**. He noticed, however, that the woman had a bottle of alcohol down below the counter. He passed his bowl back to her and made a motion with his head for

her to put some of the alcohol into his soup. She did so. He tasted it and found it much more delicious.

After four more bowls of the same mixture, the man was completely drunk and complaining loudly about his troubles. He blamed most of his unhappiness on his wife, whom, he said he had made the mistake of marrying at the age of eighteen. His wife did her best not to pay any attention to what he said and quietly whispered to her baby.

“You know, I think that these fairs ought to allow people to be sold as well as animals,” the young man continued, “If they did, I’d be the first to come and sell my family to any poor fool who’d take them!”

“Some people might make you an offer,” said a few people around the drunken hay-worker.

“Well, then let them offer. **My ears are open to it!**”

“Please, Michael, I’m tired of this silly joke of yours,” said the young man’s wife, “Besides, you might one day be **taken** seriously. Now stop.”

But the drunken man would not stop. All night, as he continued to drink more and more of that horrible soup, he asked for offers from the people in the tent.

## Chapter One

Everyone found it funny and laughed. His wife, however, became more anxious and upset.

“Alright, that’s enough!” she cried, “I hope someone does take us away from you!”

“Did you all hear that?” asked Michael, “She wants to be sold! Now where’s the **seller**? Is anyone a seller here?”

“I am,” said a short man with a little round nose, “Alright, someone make an offer!”

“Start at two **Guineas!**” shouted Michael.

No one accepted the **bid**. Michael then told the seller to raise the price to three Guineas. Again, no one said a word.

“**I’ll tell you people what!** Any of you can have her for five Guineas. As long as you’re a good man and you don’t be mean to her, she’ll be yours until the day you die. I promise never to come and bother you about her, either. What do you say?”

“This is it! The last bid!” cried the seller.

“Alright! I’ll take her for five Guineas!” said a voice from the doorway.

A sailor came walking into the middle of the room, looking directly at Michael as he **approached**. He took



one more look at the wife being sold and then threw five silver coins, one at a time, down on the table in front of Michael. No one said a word. Most of the people in the tent, seeing that this was no longer a joke, had looks of surprise on their faces.

“This is **for real**, Michael. Do you realize that?” asked his wife.

“Of course I do! You agreed to this **the other day**. You said that if you could keep the kid, you’d let yourself be sold!”

“Is that true?” asked the sailor.

“Yes,” answered the woman.

“Then our business is finished,” said Michael, picking up the coins and putting them safely in his coat pocket.

The sailor gently took the newly **purchased** wife by her arm and said, “Let’s go.” She picked up her child and slowly followed the man toward the door. Just before going out, she turned around and threw her **wedding ring** at her former husband across the room.

“Me and Elizabeth-Jane are leaving you, Mike. We’re hoping to be luckier with this man than we were with you. Goodbye!”