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床头灯英语学习读本 I



床头灯



SONS AND LOVERS

儿子与情人

美国作家改编 纯英文版

原著 D. H. Lawrence
[英] D·H·劳伦斯
改编 Walter Williams

航空工业出版社

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Sons and Lovers

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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。还是爱因斯坦说得好:“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:“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

本书是劳伦斯以他的童年和青少年时代生活为蓝本而写成的一部成名作。小说主人公保罗的父母莫瑞尔夫妇在一次舞会上一见钟情，缔结婚姻。但莫瑞尔是矿工，而莫瑞尔太太出身中产阶级。两人的生活理念截然不同，妻子面对丈夫的浑浑噩噩，深感希望破灭。对丈夫的失望、不满和怨恨使莫瑞尔太太把自己的感情和希望都倾注到儿子身上。她先是寄希望于长子威廉，然而长子早逝。她又寄希望于次子保罗，希望他能够出人头地，实现她的理想。她爱儿子，鼓励他成名成家，跻身于上流社会；她又从精神上控制儿子，使他不能钟情于别的女人。这使得保罗在以后的感情问题上迷茫、困惑、无所适从。和女友米莉安的交往使年轻的保罗经历了精神痛苦的过程。然而和他的母亲一样，米莉安也试图从精神上占有保罗，使保罗感到窒息。后来他们分手了。保罗身边还有一个与丈夫分居的名叫克拉拉的女人。保罗从她那里得到了肉体上的满足。不过最终克拉拉结束了和保罗的感情生活，回到丈夫身边。最后莫瑞尔太太病逝，保罗和米莉安也未能重归于好。他依旧孑然一人，四处漂流，继续着他精神上的挣扎。

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CHAPTER ONE

The Early Married Life of the Morels

Mrs. Morel had been married for eight years when she and her family moved to the mining town of Bestwood.

They had only been in their new home three weeks when the town fair began. Morel, her husband, had left early in the morning. William, a seven-year-old boy, left after breakfast. Annie, who was only five, cried to her mother that she wanted to go to the fair. But Mrs. Morel did not know any of her neighbors well enough to trust them with taking her little girl to the fair. So she promised to take her after lunch.

William returned for lunch at half-past twelve. He was a very active boy, with blond hair.

“Can I have my lunch now, mother?” he asked.

“You can have your lunch as soon as it’s ready,” said the mother.

“Is it ready yet, I’m going to be late,” he said, while his blue eyes stared at her.

“No, you won’t,” she said.

When lunch was ready, William ate it very

quickly. As soon as he had finished, he ran for the door and left without saying a word. Annie started crying that she wanted to go to the fair too.

“You shall, you shall,” said Mrs. Morel.

So, later in the afternoon, she and her daughter climbed the hill leading to the fair. Mrs. Morel did not like fairs. She went to get Annie some sweets. When she returned, William ran up to her with two cups he had won.

“I won these in the game where you have to throw the balls into the holes,” he said, very excited.

She knew that he had won them for her.

“They are very pretty,” she said.

He was full of excitement **now that** his mother had come. He thought that she was the most beautiful woman at the fair. The small boy took great pride in his mother. So he was very sad when she told him that **it was time** she and Annie went home. He stood watching them walk down the hill, but soon the excitement of the fair took hold of him again.

William returned home at half-past six. He asked if his father had returned yet.

“No, he will be drinking with his friends is my guess,” said Mrs. Morel.

Chapter One

When her children went to sleep, Mrs. Morel was left alone. She thought about her life and how nothing in it would change until the children grew up. She thought about the child that was growing inside her and how **at the bottom of her heart** she knew that she didn't want it. She hated the child's father, drinking himself stupid at the fair. She told herself that she would leave if it wasn't for William and Annie.

At half-past eleven her husband came home. His face was very red above his black beard. She knew that he was drunk. He talked on and on in a drunken way about what had happened that day. Mrs. Morel, who was tired and sick of his talk, went to bed **as soon as possible**.

Mrs. Morel had come from a proud old family. Her father, George Coppard, was an engineer. He was tall and handsome, with blue eyes. Gertrude looked more like her mother, small with brown hair. But her personality was like her father's, strong and proud. George Coppard, whose father had lost all his money when the cloth business became bad, George hated his own poverty. He was a bitter man. Gertrude hated how he treated her gentle and kind mother.

When she was twenty-three she met the twenty-

seven year old Walter Morel at a party. He was tall with black hair and a big black beard. He was very different from the men she had met before. He laughed loud and often, and he seemed full of life. She was the opposite. She was usually quiet and thoughtful. Nothing excited her more than an argument with an educated man. **At heart** she was a very serious woman.

Walter Morel thought she was amazing. To the miner she represented all that was outside of his world. She spoke very well and in an educated way. This thrilled him. She watched him dance. He danced very well, as if it was natural for him to dance. His grandfather had come from France and married an English girl. Gertrude watched him dance and laugh and thought that he was wonderful. Her father never danced or laughed; he was far too serious. And even though she was very much like her father, there was something about this young miner that captured her imagination. He seemed so full of happiness and life.

He came and stood in front of her. She felt warm inside as if she had been drinking wine.

“Will you come and dance with me?” he asked.

She told him that she couldn't dance. She looked at him and smiled. Her smile was very beautiful. It

Chapter One

made him forget everything else. He sat down beside her.

“I don’t think I’ll dance either,” he said.

“Are you a miner?” she asked.

“Yes, I started when I was just ten years old,” he replied.

She looked at him in amazement. A new type of life opened up before her eyes. She thought about the hundreds of miners working below the earth. He seemed very brave to her. He risked his life every day and did it happily. Her heart went out to him.

A year later they were married. He had promised not to drink. For three months she was perfectly happy. For three months more she was very happy. They lived in a house he said he owned, which had new furniture. It was small, but she did not care, so long as her husband was with her. Sometimes she tried to talk to him about serious things. He would listen, but she could tell that he did not understand. He seemed most happy when there was a job to do around the house. He **was** very **good at** making or fixing things.

They had been married seven months when Mrs. Morel found out that the house he said he owned was in fact owned by his mother and that there was still a large

amount of money owed for the furniture. His lie destroyed her trust in him.

Morel was good to her when William was born. But she felt lonely now when she was with him. William was a beautiful child, with golden hair and bright blue eyes. She cared greatly for the child and the father was jealous. Morel's temper had become so bad that when the child cried he would hit it. Mrs. Morel would scream at him and he would leave to get drunk. She knew now that he had never stopped drinking.

William was one year old, with long golden hair; when one Sunday morning he was downstairs playing with his father, his mother could hear them from her bed. Then she fell asleep. When she woke up and went downstairs she found William sitting on the ground surrounded by his long golden hair. Morel had cut all the child's hair off.

“What do you think of him?” he asked.

“I could kill you!” she screamed.

“You don't want him looking like a girl, do you?” he said.

She started to cry. Morel sat with his head in his hands. When she stopped crying, she said that she had been silly. But his act had put further distance between