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床头灯英语学习读本 I

床头灯



THE THREE MUSKETEERS

三个火枪手

美国作家改编 纯英文版

原著 Alexandre Dumas
[法] 亚历山大·大仲马
改编 Jeffrey Wells

航空工业出版社

8元丛书

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三个火枪手学院图书馆
藏书章

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注释 丁国声 申玉阁

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

床头灯英语学习读本 I /毛荣贵等主编.

—北京:航空工业出版社,2004.5 (2006.7 重印)

ISBN 7-80183-349-X

I. 床… II. 毛… III. 英语-高等学校-水平
考试-自学参考资料 IV. H310.42

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 026603 号

航空工业出版社出版发行

(北京市安定门外小关东里 14 号 100029)

北京富生印刷厂

全国各地新华书店经销

2004 年 5 月第 1 版

2006 年 7 月第 4 次印刷

开本:787×1092 1/32

印张:59

字数:1280 千字

印数:15001~18000

(全 10 册)定价:80.00 元

本社图书如有缺页、倒页、脱页、残页等情况,请与本社发行部联系负责调换。联系电话:64815618

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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

故事以 17 世纪法国路易十三时期为历史背景,叙述了主角达达尼昂和三个火枪手为完成皇家使命,以谋求与邻国英国之间的和平所发生的冒险历程。是一个家喻户晓、脍炙人口的侠义英雄故事。

达达尼昂是个 17 世纪法国典型的年轻好胜的世家子弟。他出生于加斯科尼一个没落贵族家庭,为了实现梦寐以求的愿望,即成为一名英勇的火枪手,他怀揣父亲给他的介绍信,骑着一匹黄色瘦马,来到巴黎拜见父亲的老相识特雷维尔先生。特雷维尔先生是国王贴身卫队火枪队的队长。达达尼昂跑到火枪队驻地去找他,无意中却因失礼而触怒了三个火枪手——阿托斯、波尔托斯和阿拉米斯。真是不打不相识,一架之后,他们竟成了形影不离的朋友。出于共同利益,他们又齐心协力打败了围捕他们的红衣主教的手下并因此而成为莫逆之交。为了维护国王与王后的利益,达达尼昂和三个火枪手经历了种种艰险。

当时的国王路易十三、王后安妮和红衣主教黎塞留三分国权,争权夺利,矛盾重重。国王对达达尼昂几次打败红衣主教部下暗自褒奖,而红衣主教却怀恨在心。黎塞留假托书信寄给王后的旧时情人英国白金汉公爵,要他赶到法国。白金汉公爵对王后情丝未断。王后以钻石肩带相赠以示怀念。主教遂利用这个机会进行挑拨,要国王派人组织宫廷舞会,并建议让王后配带国王送给她的那条钻石肩带参加舞会。王后眼见舞会日期逼近,张皇失措,幸得心腹侍女波那舍献计,请达达尼昂帮忙相助。达达尼昂对波那舍一见钟情,慨然应允。为破解黎塞留主教的阴谋,达达尼昂和另外三个火枪手赶往英国,向白金汉公爵索取钻石肩带。经过重重波折,惟有达达尼昂如期抵达,向白金汉公爵说明原委,及时取回钻石肩带,解救了王后的燃眉之急,粉碎了红衣主教的阴谋诡计。

黎塞留恼羞成怒,派人绑架了达达尼昂的情人波那舍。达达尼昂

和三个火枪手又为了营救波那舍与黎塞留的手下展开了殊死搏斗。后来波那舍惨遭黎塞留手下心狠手辣的米拉迪(阿托斯的前妻)毒杀。达达尼昂等人也活捉了米拉迪,并将她惩办。黎塞留得知心腹米拉迪遇害——且达达尼昂是主谋,便命亲信罗什福尔将他捉拿。达达尼昂不卑不亢,坦言相陈,明示原委。黎塞留见他视死如归、英勇机智、少年有为,深为感动,非但不予治罪,反而擢升其为火枪队队长。阿托斯、波尔托斯、阿拉米斯三人或回归故里,或娶贵妇人,或做修道士,各有归属。

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CHAPTER ONE

Leaving Home

D'Artagnan did not come from a rich family. When it was his time to leave home and find his *fortune* in the world, his father only had a few things to give him. The first thing his father gave him was a strange yellow horse — that horse would cause d'Artagnan a lot of trouble in the future. The second thing his father gave him was a letter to Mister Treville, his old friend — this letter would help d'Artagnan find work in Paris. Finally, the old man gave his son fifteen gold pieces and this advice:

“My son,” he began, “you must now leave your family and go out into the world to find fortune and fame. In the world today men become rich by using bravery and their skill with a sword. Take this letter to my old friend, Mister Treville; he will help you. Listen to Mister Treville’s words and do what he says. Mister Treville is a great example to follow. When he was your age he *left* home for Paris to make his fortune. Now he is a powerful and famous man; he is the captain of the Musketeers who guard our great king. Take this

letter to him and ask him for work. Work hard and work with honor, my son."

D'Artagnan took the letter and the gold pieces and went to see his mother. His mother loved her only son and would miss him greatly, but she did not show her tears. She told him to *stay* safe and gave him a bottle of medicine, which could heal all *but* death wounds. D'Artagnan kissed her goodbye and jumped on his yellow horse.

On the first Monday of April 1626 d'Artagnan arrived at the city of Meung. The people in the town watched him ride by on his strange horse. A few young women waved at him from their high windows. D'Artagnan was a tall and strong young man, his face was thin and brave, and his eyes were dark and deep. Though he was only nineteen, he was already quite handsome.

D'Artagnan was from the town of Gascony. The men of Gascony are famous for being brave when faced with danger and sometimes for having violent moods. He stared into the eyes of the people on the street fiercely.

Eventually he arrived at an inn and jumped down from his horse. He heard a loud sound of laughter. D'Artagnan turned quickly around on his feet and stared where he had heard the sound.

There was a window open on the first floor. A

man was sitting by the window. He looked about thirty years old; his eyes were sharp and black, and his skin was dark. D'Artagnan saw that the man had a large scar cut into his face above his black beard.

There were two men sitting next to him. They were both quite large and they were listening to the scarred man's words with great *concentration*. The stranger was staring at d'Artagnan's yellow horse. He then pointed at the horse, smiled and said something that made his friends again laugh loudly.

D'Artagnan was quickly *filled* with anger. He reached down and grasped the handle of his sword and moved towards the window. He pointed at the stranger, "You, sir," he loudly said, "tell me what you men are laughing at, and we can laugh together!"

"I was not speaking to you, sir," the man coldly replied.

"But I was speaking to you!" cried d'Artagnan.

The stranger looked at him with small eyes. He then stood up and came out of the inn.

"Your horse," he said, "must have been born of a flower. Yellow flowers are quite common, but yellow certainly is a strange color for a horse."

The man turned around again and moved a step

back towards the inn. D'Artagnan pulled his sword out and yelled: "Turn around, funny sir — or will I have to strike you from behind?"

The stranger turned around quickly and stared at the young man feeling both surprised and angry. He exclaimed, "Strike me! You must be crazy!"

D'Artagnan became *angrier* at the man's words and jumped violently at the stranger with his sword. The stranger was fast with his sword and pulled it out before d'Artagnan could hit him. The stranger's friends rushed out of the inn carrying bats and sticks. They *jumped* on d'Artagnan, and attacked him from all sides at the same time. One of the stranger's servants hit d'Artagnan's sword and broke it into two pieces. Then a second man hit d'Artagnan on his head and he fell to the ground, unconscious.

The inn owner looked down at d'Artagnan's body and asked the stranger what to do with him.

"Take him inside and cure his wounds," the stranger said coldly. "When he wakes up, put him on his yellow horse, and tell him to go back to where he came from."

The inn owner raised his hand up and two of his servants came over and carried d'Artagnan inside.