



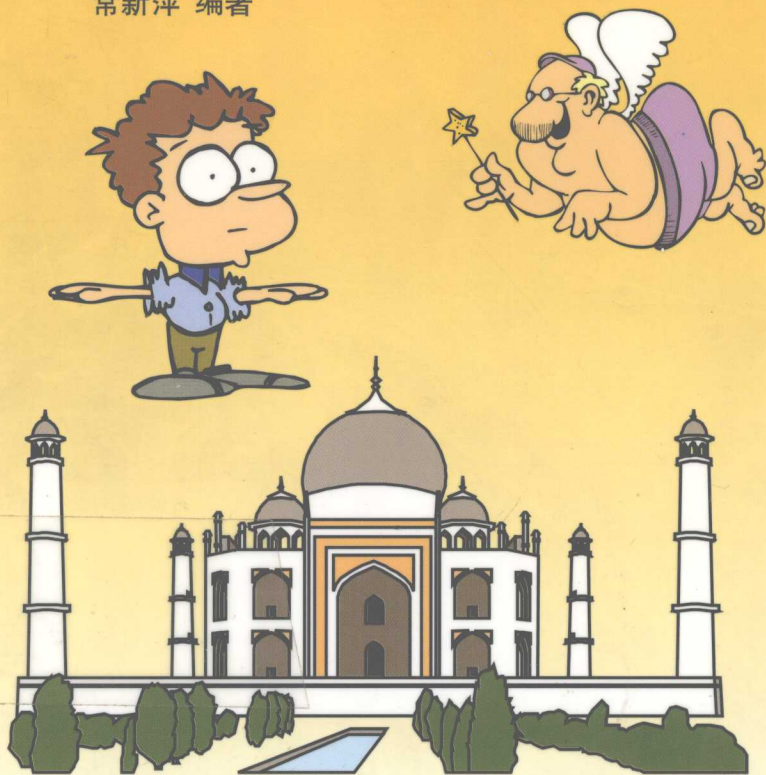
Relaxing English Gas Station

轻松英语加油站 · 学生英语课外阅读系列

World-Famous Cities and Universities

世界名城名校

常新萍 编著



广东教育出版社



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编 者 的 话

浓厚的兴趣和广泛的知识是学习英语的重要条件，盖惟此才有开卷之欲，惟此才能触类旁通。《轻松英语加油站》英语系列读物集趣味性和知识性于一体，旨在激发英语学习者的学习兴趣，拓展英语爱好者的知识面，进而达到轻轻松松学习、地地道道使用英语之目的。

该系列读物选材新颖，内容涉及文化、教育、科技等各个方面，如文化习俗（《西方节日习俗》）、幽默故事（《走进幽默天地》）、逻辑推理（《侦探故事乐园》）、科技知识（《科普世界新知》）、文化教育（《世界名城名校》）、名人轶事（《名人趣闻轶事》）等。

书中所选各篇相对独立，且大多短小精悍，便于随时翻阅。文中较难较重要的词语均附有读音注解，以扩充读者的词汇量；篇末还配有练习题及参考答案，以加深读者对文章的理解。尤其值得一提的是，书中不少篇章颇适于朗诵复述，而用英语向同学、朋友讲述一个幽默故事，或介绍一个节日习俗，于己于人往往会收到意想不到的奇效！总之，该系列读物力图使英语阅读既生动有趣，回味无穷，又学以致用，益学益智。



本系列读物适合一切英语学习爱好者，尤其是中学生和大学低年级学生使用。

由于时间仓促，加之编者水平有限，书中错漏在所难免，恳请广大读者指正。

编者

2002年7月



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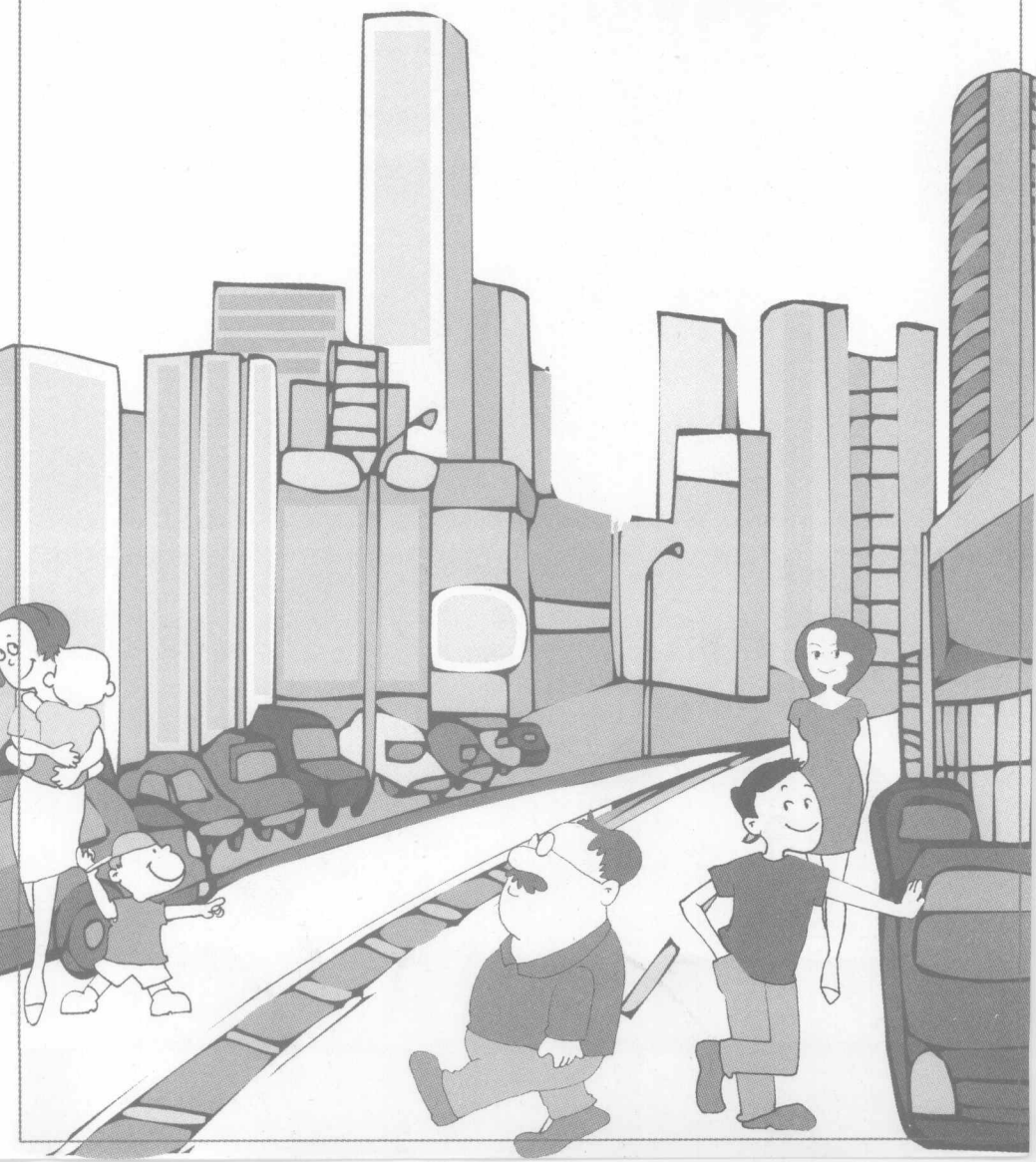


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Part I Cities





North America

1 New York City

New York City^① is located at the mouth of the Hudson River, southeastern New York State, and northeastern United States. It isn't the capital of New York State, but residents of the "Big Apple" **compensate**^② for that fact by considering their city the capital of the globe. There's good case to be made: New York is the home of the United Nations and a surprisingly diverse population, as well as the largest investment market in the world.

Depending on one's point of view, New York City is any one of four cities: To social scientists, it is a laboratory in which to study the challenges of urban life, from horrible **slum**^③ to **tycoon**^④ luxury; To tourists it is a city of

① New York City 纽约市

② compensate [ˈkɒmpenseɪt] v. 补偿; 赔偿; 报酬

compensate (sb) for sth

③ slum [slʌm] n. 贫民窟

④ tycoon [taiˈkuːn] n. (企业界、政界等的) 巨头

jostling ^① crowds, horn-**honking** ^② traffic jams, dirty streets, smelly subways — all in dramatic **contrast** ^③ to such international symbols as the skyscraper skyline, the United Nations buildings, Wall Street, the Statue of Liberty, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Times Square, and Broadway theatres; To **commuters** ^④ it is an unbearable **beehive** ^⑤ of world trade and finance, mass media, business administration, fashion, and various business activities and manufacture — a place to leave as soon as possible in the evening for the more calm and peaceful atmosphere of greener suburbs. But to the residents of this mild, humid city, New York is in reality a collection of many neighborhoods scattered among the city's five **boroughs** ^⑥ — Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island (formerly called Richmond) — each exhibiting its own life-style. To move from one neighborhood to another in the city's 787 square kilometers may be like passing from one country to another.

① jostling [ˈdʒɒstliŋ] *adj.* 摩肩接踵的

② honk [hɒŋk] *n. & v.* (汽车喇叭) 鸣响

③ contrast [ˈkɒntræst] *n.* 对比; 悬殊差别; 大不相同的人(或物)

④ commuter [kəˈmjʊtə] *n.* 月票旅客; 乘公交车上下班者

⑤ beehive [ˈbiːhaiv] *n.* 吵闹拥挤的地方

⑥ borough [ˈbʌrəʊ] *n.* 美国纽约市的行政区



The Boroughs

Most of New York's skyscrapers are located on the island of Manhattan. Cultural landmarks include Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Madison Square Garden, and the elegant Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where visiting presidents and royalty stay.

Tourists and even most New Yorkers, when they speak of "the city", mean Manhattan. The boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island — each of them a separate county — remain the subject of jokes among New Yorkers as well as strangers. Brooklyn continues to be laughed at with the title of the Thomas Wolfe story *Only the Dead Know Brooklyn*. Queens is known as "the borough of **cemeteries**"^①. The Bronx is constantly reminded that its greatest claim to fame may be the funny noise popularized in the borough's Yankee Stadium and known as "the Bronx cheer". And Staten Island, closer to the big chimneys of New Jersey than to its political family, is treated as **outlying**"^② wilderness. Since most residents of these four boroughs work in Manhattan, the ever-lasting feeling

① cemetery ['semitri] n. 公墓; 墓地

② outlying ['autlaiɪŋ] adj. 边远的



remains that Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Staten Island are mere “bedrooms” of Manhattan.



Economy

Contrary to the impression created by its *soaring*^① buildings, transportation *crushes*^②, and mass outpourings from office buildings, the economic life of New York City rests not on a few vast corporations but on a *multitude*^③ of small businesses and manufacturing establishments. This diversity in the world's financial capital gives the city the *flexibility*^④ and strength to withstand recession or depression with less suffering than Detroit, for instance, with its dependence on huge automobile plants, or southern California, supported so heavily by government contracts in the aerospace and defense industries.

New York also has the one of the most complex subway systems in the U.S. and some of the world's largest airports (John F Kennedy — JFK, La Guardia, and Newark), which provide visitors from the world easy and

① soaring [ˈsɔːrɪŋ] *adj.* 高耸的

② crush [krʌʃ] *n.* (交通的) 极度拥挤

③ multitude [ˈmʌltɪtjuːd] *n.* 多数; 大批

④ flexibility [ˌfleksəˈbɪlɪti] *n.* 灵活性; 适应性; 弹性



efficient transportation.



Education

New York is the only city in the United States with a large public-university system. The many fine institutions of higher education throughout the five boroughs include Columbia University (1754), New York University (1831), Pratt Institute (1887), the Manhattan School of Music (1917) etc. The higher education program has become increasingly important since the introduction of "open admission" in 1970, which allows any high school graduate into either a senior or a community college, depending on *grades*^①. Before open admission the standards for entrance into senior colleges were very high.

The private universities offer, in addition to the usual courses, special areas of study. Columbia University, for instance, offers Russian studies and has a school of journalism; Fordham University offers *medieval*^② studies; and New York University has courses in art scholarship. The Juilliard School is world-renowned for music, theatre,

① grade [greɪd] *n.* 等级; 级别

② medieval [ˌmediːiəl] *adj.* 中古的; 中世纪的 (约公元 1100 - 1140 年)



and dance, and the Rockefeller University is famous for bio-medical science.



Cultural Life

Though many New Yorkers have come to think of the Fun City label pinned on their city as a bad joke, there may still be a great deal of truth in the nickname. For those who seek pleasure in almost any form, New York City is, as it has been for more than a century, “the place to go”. Whether it is theatre, music, ballet, painting, or literature or whether it is baseball, football, basketball, track, **hockey**^①, boxing, horse racing, soccer, cricket; or whether it is live, filmed, or printed **erotica**^② — whatever the taste of man or woman in culture, arts, sports, or sex, New York City has it in **abundance**^③. The city is the nation’s greatest culture center — and a major **fleshpot**^④. So many movies, books, plays, and television shows have been written about New York that even its street names are known nationwide. Wall Street is famous for finance,

① hockey [ˈhɒki] n. 曲棍球

② erotica [iˈrɒtikə] n. 色情文学; 色情艺术作品

③ abundance [əˈbʌndəns] n. 丰富; 充足; 充裕

④ fleshpot [ˈfleʃpɒt] n. 满足肉欲的场所



Madison Avenue means advertising, and Fifth Avenue stands for world-class shopping. New York's neighborhoods are also famous. Greenwich Village, or the Village, has fostered some of the world's great writers; Soho is an **enclave**^① of artists and Harlem has a priceless musical **heritage**^②.

The twin towers once stood over lower Manhattan as a proud symbol of New York City's strength in the world of finance. But they're no longer there. On the morning of September 11, 2001, a **terrorist**^③ attack destroyed immediately both towers and the area surrounding them. But New Yorkers face the tragedy with great courage and confidence. New York is still a city of energy and prosperity.

New York City's secret is the ongoing **infusion**^④ of energy and talent it gets from the rest of the country and immigrants from around the world. **Moss Hart**^⑤ once said, "The only certificate the city asked was the courage to dream. For those who did, it unlocked its gates and

① enclave [ˈenkleiv] *n.* (被包围的)领地、区域

② heritage [ˈheritidʒ] *n.* 遗产; 继承物; 传统

③ terrorist [ˈterərɪst] *n.* 恐怖分子

④ infusion [ɪnˈfjuːʒən] *n.* 灌输

⑤ Moss Hart 默斯·哈特 (1904~1961), 美国剧作家及导演。生于纽约市。