



英语教学节目丛书

王少如 高 路 主编

SPECIAL
ENGLISH

美国之音
授权出版



This is America & Agriculture Report

美国大观 · 农业概览

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
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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'David S. Jackson', is located above the typed name.

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,既可用作英语泛读的课本,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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1. Reopen the Statue of Liberty

Welcome to *This Is America*, in VOA Special English. I'm Steve Ember.

And I'm Faith Lapidus. This week, learn about a campaign to let the public back inside one of America's most famous symbols, the Statue of Liberty.

Before September eleventh, two-thousand-one, two-million people a year visited Liberty Island in New York Harbor. Then, terrorist hijackers¹ flew airplanes into the World Trade Center buildings three kilometers away. The attacks by al-Qaida² on the United States that day killed more than three-thousand people.

Liberty Island closed immediately. The island reopened in December of that year. But not the great landmark. People still cannot go inside the statue. Attendance at the island was down five percent last year.

Officials say the statue must be made more secure. New communication systems are needed in case of fire or other emergency. And more emergency doors to get visitors out safely.

A five-million-dollar campaign is in progress to reopen the Statue of Liberty. To help lead the effort, movie director Martin Scorsese made a television movie for the History Channel. The movie is called "Lady by the Sea: The Statue of Liberty".

The goal is to get the public to give at least one-million dollars to add to improvements already made by the government.

The American Express company paid for the movie, and Mister Scorsese gave his time. American Express also has guaranteed at least three-million dollars to the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation. The Folger's coffee company has promised one-million dollars.

The foundation cares for Liberty Island and nearby Ellis Island. The nonprofit group works in cooperation with the National Park Service.

Ellis Island served for many years as the main immigration center for people who arrived in America. Now parts of it are a museum. Ellis Island was closed after September eleventh. But, like Liberty Island, it has been open again since December of two-thousand-one.

In his movie, Martin Scorsese explains the spirit of cooperation with France that brought the Statue of Liberty to the United States. "Lady by the Sea" also celebrates the idea that the statue was meant as a way to mark the end of slavery in the American South. The Frenchman who had the idea for the statue was against slavery. But today, others argue that any relationship to slavery was lost as the project moved ahead.

In any case, the Statue of Liberty has special meaning for Martin Scorsese. He says it had a great effect on his grandparents. Like so many immigrants, they saw it when they first arrived from Italy early in the last century.

People like to say the Statue of Liberty is in good condition for someone

her age. France gave the statue to the United States in eighteen-eighty-four. The full name is “Liberty Enlightening the World”. Ships that sailed into New York Harbor carried millions of immigrants past the statue.

The statue is forty-six meters tall. It is made mostly of copper. The color was reddish-brown, until time and weather turned it green. Liberty’s right arm is high in the air and holds a torch, a golden light. Her left hand holds a tablet with the date July fourth, seventeen-seventy-six — the date of the American Declaration of Independence.



On the head of the Statue of Liberty is a crown³ with seven points. Each of these rays is meant to represent the light of freedom as it shines on seven seas and seven continents. A chain⁴ that represents oppression lies broken at her feet. The people of France gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States as a gift to honor freedom.

The two nations became friends during the American Revolution against Britain. France helped the revolutionary armies defeat the soldiers of King George the Third. The war officially ended in seventeen-eighty-three. A few years later, the French rebelled⁵ against their own king.

A French historian and politician named Edouard-Rene Lefebvre de Laboulaye thought of the idea for a statue. He was giving a party in his home near Versailles in eighteen-sixty-five. This was the year the American Civil War ended. Slavery also ended in the United States.

It was a time when Laboulaye and others were struggling to make their

own country democratic against the rule of Napoleon the Third. Laboulaye suggested that the French and Americans build a monument together to celebrate freedom.

One of the guests at the party was a young sculptor⁶, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. For years Bartholdi had dreamed of creating a very large statue. By the end of the party he had been invited to make one for the United States.

In eighteen-seventy-five the French established an organization to raise money for Bartholdi's creation. Two years later the Americans established a group to help pay for a pedestal⁷ to support the statue.

American architect Richard Morris Hunt was chosen to design the pedestal. It would stand forty-seven meters high. In France, Bartholdi designed a small version of his statue. Then he built a series of larger copies.

Workers created wooden forms covered with plaster⁸ for each main part. Then they placed three-hundred pieces of copper on the forms. The copper "skin" was less than three centimeters thick.

Now, in addition to a pedestal, the Statue of Liberty needed a structure that could hold its weight of more than two-hundred tons. Engineer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel created this new technology. Later he would build the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Eiffel and his helpers worked in Paris to produce a strong support system for the statue. The design also needed to let the statue move a little in strong winds.

France had hoped to give the statue to the United States on July fourth, eighteen-seventy-six. That was the one-hundredth anniversary of the

signing of the Declaration of Independence. But technical problems and lack of money delayed the project by eight years.

At last France presented the statue to the United States. The celebration took place in Paris on July fourth, eighteen-eighty-four. Americans started to build the pedestal that same year. But they had to stop. People had not given enough money to finish it.

A New York newspaper urged Americans to give more money for the pedestal. People gave one-hundred-thousand dollars more.

Now the huge statue had a pedestal to stand on. In France, the statue was taken apart for shipping to the United States. It arrived in two-hundred-fourteen wooden boxes.

On October twenty-eighth, eighteen-eighty-six, President Grover Cleveland officially accepted Liberty Enlightening the World. He said: "We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home."

Over the years Americans shortened the name of the statue. They called it the Statue of Liberty, or Miss Liberty.

Twelve-million immigrants passed the Statue of Liberty by ship between eighteen-ninety-two and nineteen twenty-four. By then, Ellis Island had stopped much of its operations. The great wave of European immigrants was mostly over.

But millions of visitors kept coming to see the Statue of Liberty. By the nineteen-eighties, the statue badly needed repairs. Again people on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean raised money. Fireworks lit the sky at the celebration for the restored Statue of Liberty on July fourth, nineteen-eighty-six.

Even if the current campaign gathers enough money, there is still another step before the Statue of Liberty can reopen. The National Park Service must get permission within the government.

Liberty Island is open to visitors. But many people look forward to the day when they can again visit the museum inside the pedestal. Some want to climb the three-hundred-fifty-four steps to the crown. Others want to ride up to observation areas in an elevator to look at New York Harbor.

They say a symbol of freedom that has welcomed so many newcomers to America should once again welcome visitors inside.

Note

1. hijacker: 劫机犯
2. al-Qaida: 盖达, 基地恐怖组织
3. crown: 王冠
4. chain: 镣铐
5. rebel: 反抗, 造反
6. sculptor: 雕塑家
7. pedestal: 底座
8. plaster: 石膏



2. Health Care in the United States

In recent years, health care spending in the United States has grown to fifteen percent of the economy. The care is often described as the best in the world, but the cost is a big problem. I'm Doug Johnson.

And I'm Faith Lapidus. Welcome to *This Is America*, in VOA Special English. This week our program is about health care in the United States.

Forty years ago, a Chicago businessman had an operation for cancer. Doctors could offer no further treatment. The cancer spread. The man died about a year later. His medical care cost about ten-thousand dollars.

Six years ago, an office administrator in Washington, D.C., had an operation for cancer. Later she had treatment with radiation¹ and powerful chemicals. Today she feels fine. Her doctors say she will probably live many more years. But her care cost several hundred thousand dollars.

Medical science today saves many more lives. But this can also mean major debt. Government programs provide health insurance to the poor and elderly.

Others depend on private insurance. Companies guarantee to pay part or all of the costs of care. But the more the policy covers, the higher the price.

Around sixty percent of working Americans have health insurance through their jobs. Their employers usually pay at least part of the cost. But, as

those costs increase, employers feel the pressure.

The Department of Health and Human Services reported this month on health care spending for two-thousand-two. It says spending rose nine percent that year, to one-point-six million-million dollars. Health costs per person averaged more than five-thousand-four-hundred dollars.

Some employers no longer offer health coverage. Others have increased the share paid by their employees.

Getting insurance can be difficult for those who work only part time. The same is true for people who are already sick.

Some Americans have no health insurance. The Census Bureau says fifteen percent of the population had no coverage in two-thousand-two. The number was forty-three-point-six million people.

Last week a committee of experts called for health coverage for all by two-thousand-ten. The report was from the Institute of Medicine, one of the National Academies. The report says about eighteen-thousand people each year die unnecessarily because of lack of insurance.



The experts also estimated how much money the United States loses as a result of poor health and early deaths of uninsured adults. The estimate is between sixty-five-thousand-million and one-hundred-thirty-thousand million dollars a year.

A top official in the Bush administration, however, says it is not realistic to expect universal health coverage by two-thousand-ten.