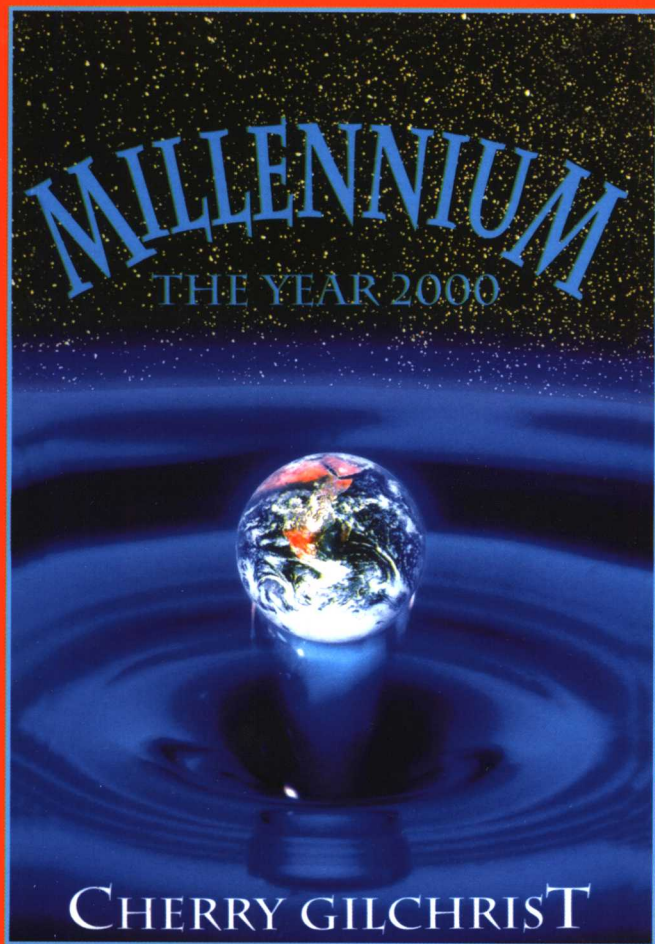




企鵝英語簡易讀物精選

新千年2000



世界圖書出版公司





企鵝英語簡易讀物精選 (高三學生)

Millenium The Year 2000

新千年 2000



(1200 - 1700 词)

世界图书出版公司



图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

新千年 2000/[英]吉尔克里斯特 (Gilchrist, C.) 著. —北京: 世界图书出版公司北京公司, 2006.8

(企鹅英语简易读物精选·高三学生)

ISBN 7-5062-8532-0

I. 新… II. 吉… III. 英语—语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2006) 第 103121 号

This edition of *Millenium The Year 2000*, First Edition is published by arrangement with Pearson Education Limited and Penguin Books Limited.

Text copyright © Cherry Gilchrist 2000

企鹅英语简易读物精选 (高三学生)

新千年 2000

作 者: Cherry Gilchrist

责任编辑: 张颖颖 王志宇

出 版: 世界图书出版公司北京公司

发 行: 世界图书出版公司北京公司

(地址: 北京朝内大街 137 号 邮编: 100010 电话: 64077922)

销 售: 各地新华书店和外文书店

印 刷: 北京东海印刷有限公司

开 本: 889×1194 1/32

印 张: 1.625

版 次: 2006 年 8 月第 1 版 2006 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

版权登记: 图字 01 - 2006 - 5075

ISBN 7-5062-8532-0/H.942

版 权 所 有 翻 印 必 究

大量阅读简易读物 打好英语基础（代序）

北京外国语大学英语系历来都十分重视简易读物的阅读。我们要求学生在一、二年级至少要阅读几十本经过改写的、适合自己水平的英语读物。教学实践证明，凡是大量阅读了简易读物的学生，基础一般都打得比较扎实，英语实践能力都比较强，过渡到阅读英文原著困难也都比较小。这是我们几十年来屡试不爽的一条经验。

为什么强调在阅读英文原著之前必须阅读大量的简易读物呢？原因之一是简易读物词汇量有控制，内容比较浅易，而原著一般来说词汇量大，内容比较根深。在打基础阶段，学生的词汇量比较小，阅读原著会遇到许多困难。在这种情况下，要保证足够的阅读量只能要求学生阅读简易读物。其次，简易读物使用的是常用词汇、短语和语法结构，大量阅读这类读物可以反复接触这些基本词语和语法，有助于他们打好基础，培养他们的英语语感。第三，简易读物大部分是文学名著改写而成，尽管情节和人物都大为简化，但依旧保留了文学名著的部分精华，仍不失为优秀读物。大量阅读这些读物对于拓宽学生视野、提高他们的人文素养大有帮助。

在这里我们还可以援引美国教学法家克拉申（Stephen Krashen）的一个著名观点。他认为，学生吸收外语有一个前提，即语言材料只能稍稍高于他们的语言理解水平，如果提供的语言材料难度大大超过学生的水平，就会劳而无功。这是克拉申关于外语学习的一个总的看法，但我们不妨把这个道理运用到阅读上。若要阅读有成效，必须严格控制阅读材料的难易度。目前学生阅读的英语材料往往过于根深，词汇量过大，学生花了很多时间，而阅读量却仍然很小，进展缓慢，其结果是扼杀了学生的阅读兴趣，影响了他们的自信心。解决这个问题的关键是向学生提供适合他们水平的、词汇量有控制的、能够引起他们兴趣的英语读物。“企鹅英语简易读物精选”是专门为初、中级学习者编写的简易读物。这是一套充分考虑到学生的水平和需要，为他们设计的有梯度的读物，学生可以循序渐进，逐步提高阅读难度和扩大阅读量，从而提高自己的英语水平。

应该如何做才能取得最佳效果呢？首先，要选择难易度适当的读物。如果一页书上生词过多，读起来很吃力，进展十分缓慢，很可能选的材料太难了。不妨换一本容易些的。总的原则是宁易毋难。一般来说，学生选择的材料往往偏难，而不是过于浅易。其次，要尽可能读得快一些，不要一句一句地分析，更不要逐句翻译。读故事要尽快读进去，进入故事的情节，就像阅读中文小说一样。不必担心是否记住了新词语。阅读量大，阅读速度适当，就会自然而然地记住一些词语。这是自然吸收语言的过程。再次，阅读时可以做些笔记，但不必做太多的笔记；可以做一些配合阅读的练习，但不要在练习上花过多时间。主要任务还是阅读。好的读物不妨再读一遍，甚至再读两遍。你会发现在读第二遍时有一种如鱼得水的感觉。

青年朋友们，赶快开始你们的阅读之旅吧！它会把你们带进一个奇妙的世界，在那里你们可以获得一种全新的感受，观察世界也会有种新的眼光。与此同时，你们的英语水平也会随之迅速提高。

· INTRODUCTION ·

It's nearly midnight.

'Hello, Jack,' says a voice from the TV.

A woman is standing in a strange city. The buildings are round, like domes, and they are painted in unusual colours.

'You don't know me,' she says. 'I've come from the year 3000, your time. Our time is different, of course.'

As Jack watches the Millennium New Year celebrations on TV, he has a big surprise. Arindata comes from the future and tells him about life in the year 3000. She can read minds, and her people live on other planets.

As we begin a new Millennium, we think about our future. Will there be peace in the world? Will we find answers to all our problems with the environment? These are serious questions – but there is plenty to enjoy in the new Millennium too. Read your Millennium horoscope! Find out if you are ready for the new Millennium!

You can also read about events in the world at the start of the year 2000. Why were American schoolchildren writing about Mars? Where is Millennium Island, and what is the Millennium Planet? Did the Millennium Bug really make trouble? Why did people go to Antarctica on the last day of 1999? And when exactly is the New Millennium?

Cherry Gilchrist has written *Princess Diana*, *The Royal Family* and *The Streets of London* for Penguin Readers. She has also written about calendars, horoscopes, history, Russian art and many other subjects. Cherry often visits Russia but her home is in Bristol, England.

contents

pages

iv

Introduction

The New Millennium

1 - 5

The Big Step into 2000

6 - 11

Your Millennium Horoscope

12 - 15

Story in the Stars

16 - 21

Millennium Prophecies

22 - 23

Past Times, Future Times

24 - 25

The Next Millennium

26 - 29

Millennium Quiz

30 - 31

Special Events for the Year 2000

32 - 35

The Future

36 - 39

Answers

40 - 41

Activities

42 - 44

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

It was the most important
date for a thousand years.

Did you miss it? Of course not! If you did,
you weren't living on this planet!

What do you know about times and dates?

- 1 What does 'millennium' mean?
a 50 years b 100 years c 1,000 years
- 2 What language does the word come from?
a Latin b French c English
- 3 What do we learn about from calendars?
a Money b Time c Space
- 4 When was Jesus Christ born?
a AD 1 b 6 BC c We don't really know
- 5 Where is Greenwich?
a In the Pacific b In New Zealand c In the UK
- 6 What is Greenwich important for?
a Calculating international time b Making money
c Learning about space
- 7 Where can you cross the International Date Line?
a London b The Pacific c The USA
- 8 West of the International Date Line, is the date
a the same as the date to the east? b one day earlier?
c one day later?
- 9 In which of these places did the sun first come up in the
new Millennium?
a Australia b Greenwich c Kiribati
- 10 If it is 6 a.m. in London, what time is it in New Zealand?
a 9 a.m. b 6 p.m. c Midnight

Turn to page 40 for the answers.

When does a new millennium begin?

The word 'millennium' means 'a thousand years'. We use it as part of the Christian calendar; this calendar calculates the years from the date of Jesus Christ's birth. So the year AD 1000* was the end of the first Millennium. The year AD 2000 is the end of the second Millennium, and the beginning of the third. Easy? No, not really!

First, many countries and religions have different calendars. About forty calendars are used around the world. They calculate the years from different dates, and the year also changes on a different date in each calendar.

CALENDAR	DATE
Christian	AD 2000
Chinese	4636
Indian (Saka)	1921
Islamic (Hegira)	1420
Jewish (A.M.)	5760

There is another problem too. Nobody knows exactly when Jesus Christ was born! In our year 532, a Christian man, Dionysius Exiguus, changed the Roman calendar into a new Christian one. He decided that Christ was born on 25 December, 532 years earlier. But Christ was probably born earlier than that, perhaps in about 6 BC*.

Also, Dionysius calculated in a different way. He didn't use the number 0, so there was no year 'AD 0'. But if Christ was born in AD 1, each new millennium begins in 01 too. For this reason, many people want to count the new Millennium from 1 January, 2001, not 2000.

*AD, BC: After Christ (from the Latin, Anno Domini); Before Christ

? **How do we calculate calendars?**

People have always counted time. We want to remember when something happened in the past. And we can also predict when something is going to happen in the future. From the beginning of history, people have tried to count time from the movements of the sun, moon and stars. This way, they knew when spring was coming.

People also tried to calculate the number of days in a month and in a year from the movements of the sun and moon. But we need to put in one more day every fourth year. Without that day, spring will come later and later each year.

But our calendars also come from our gods and religions. There can be a lot of history in a calendar. In the Christian calendar, for example, people count the **years** from the birth of Jesus Christ. But the **week** is even older. People in Babylonia, more than 3,000 years ago, first chose to have seven days in the week. They named the days after their own gods. And our **months** come from the Roman calendar. But the names of the seven **days** of the week were taken from the sun and moon (Sunday, Monday) and from the old gods of Northern Europe (Woden for Wednesday and Thor for Thursday, for example).

Great periods of time

We can count bigger periods of time too. These are often part of a special view of the world. Indian Hindus believe that there are four different periods of time. Together, these periods are 12,000 years. The Greeks and Romans believed in a 'Golden Age' at the beginning of history. In this period, all men were good and wise.

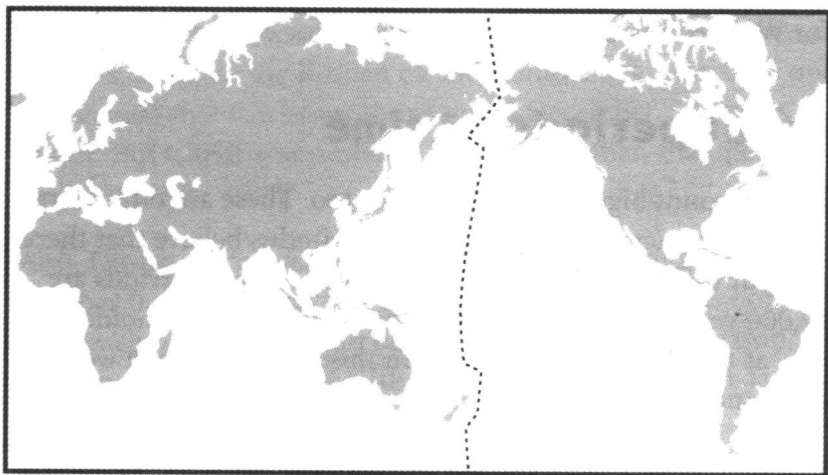
A millennium, a thousand years, is another great period of

time. There is something special and important about the number 1,000. There were many prophecies about the change from the old millennium to the new one. There were predictions about the end of the world or about great changes to it. Some people were afraid, but others hoped for a new and better world – a 'New Age' of peace.

Times and dates

Greenwich, in London, is the 'home of world time'. Since October 1884, the world has used the same international time; it is calculated from the time line there. But there are different time zones in the world. When it is 3 p.m. in Greenwich, it is not 3 p.m. in every other country. A large country can have different time zones. For example, in Russia there are eleven different time zones.

The date changes by one day at the International Date Line in the Pacific. This isn't a real line – you can't see it or touch it. But the date in countries west of this line is always one day earlier than in countries east of the line.



PLACE	TIME	DATE
London	3 p.m.	3 January
Japan	midnight	3/4 January
East Australia	1 a.m.	4 January
New Zealand	3 a.m.	4 January
California, USA	7 a.m.	3 January

Where did the new Millennium start?

Because of the differences in time and date, the new Millennium came to some countries earlier than to others.

- In 1995 Kiribati, a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean, changed its place from the east side of the International Date Line to the west side of the line. Kiribati wanted to be the first place on earth to welcome the new Millennium. The time difference between the different islands in Kiribati was only a few minutes.
- Kiribati dancers in grass skirts were seen on TV around the world as they celebrated the new Millennium on Caroline Island, now 'Millennium Island'. In Tonga, south of Kiribati, the government changed the clocks to a special 'summer time', so Tonga could also celebrate early.
- But who saw the first daylight of the new Millennium? In Antarctica, in January, there is daylight all the time. It was light at midnight on 31 December 1999. So some people went to Antarctica for a special Millennium party. They put on flowery shirts from Hawaii, and danced in the snow. It cost them a lot of money, but they were happy.

THE BIG STEP INTO 2000

When the world went crazy

There were parties all over the world. Many people went out into the streets. They wanted to be a part of history as it happened. Other people preferred to stay quietly at home with their families and friends.

Some of the best firework shows were in Sydney, Paris and London. In Sydney, a million people watched the fireworks over the water. About 6,000 people took out their own boats. The water was very crowded – you could walk across from boat to boat.

In Paris, mountain climbers worked for weeks to put fireworks on the Eiffel Tower. And in London, people waited all day by the River Thames to see the fireworks at midnight. They looked wonderful over famous buildings like the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben.

SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS

Israel: Two thousand white birds of peace flew up into the air in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus.

Mexico: By 31 December, 1999, there were no yellow underclothes in the shops. Everybody bought them for New Year, because the colour yellow is lucky!

Spain: Thousands of people ate twelve pieces of fruit at midnight. As they ate each piece, they thought about their hopes and dreams for each month of the next year.

Scotland: In Stonehaven, a town in the north-east of Scotland, men threw balls of fire on long lines round and round their heads. In this way, they sent away bad luck and brought good luck for the Millennium.

Thailand: Four thousand people got married at the same time. The wedding cake was more than ten metres high!

People in the news at the start of the Millennium

SOUTH AFRICA

Nelson Mandela Returns to Robben Island

Nelson Mandela visited Robben Island and gave a flame of peace to a young boy. Mandela was a prisoner on the island for twenty-seven years. He wanted people to remember his fight to free black people in Africa.



Then a group of people stood in the shape of Africa and held up flames in the dark.

ALASKA, USA

Man Walks to Alaska from Patagonia

A British man, George Meegan, forty-seven, arrived in Alaska to celebrate the new Millennium. He walked there from Patagonia, in South America. The journey took him 2,425 days – more than six and a half years.

British Actor Builds Millennium Dome

Rowan Atkinson is the actor who plays 'Mr Bean'. He decided to build his own Millennium Dome. It cost £50,000 and was like the Millennium Dome in London, but smaller! Atkinson invited 150 friends to a Millennium party and firework show.

Man Steals Famous Painting

A thief climbed on to the roof of a building in Oxford and cut a hole in it. Then he climbed down through the hole and stole a famous painting by the artist, Paul Cézanne. People were busy celebrating in the streets outside. So nobody saw or heard the thief because of the noise!



Student Makes Millennium Clock

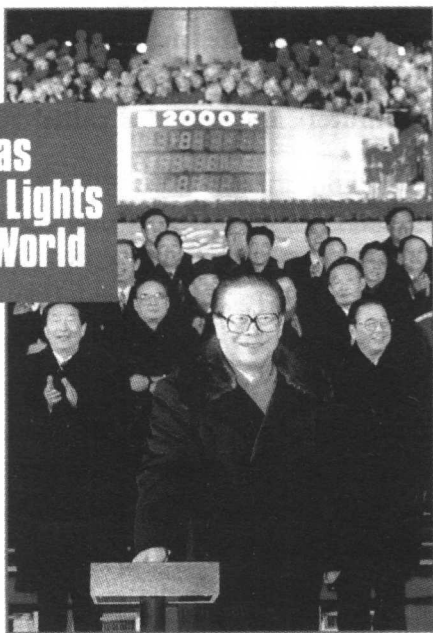
Yair Revivo, a student, made a Millennium clock. He lived and slept on a narrow wooden platform above a busy road for weeks before the Millennium. Every hour, he walked along the platform and changed the time on the clock. His father was worried about him and slept below on the ground. But Yair wasn't crazy. People gave him money, and he made £4,225 for his studies.

RUSSIA

President Boris Yeltsin Leaves His Job

CHINA

Thousands Watch as President Jiang Zemin Lights a Flame for a Better World



And finally . . .

NEW ZEALAND

The World's Most Boring Millennium Man

A man took his bed into the street and told his friends, 'I'm not interested in the Millennium. I'm going to sleep through all the celebrations.'

'We don't believe you can do it,' said his friends.

'Well, give me money if I can,' replied the man.

'And I'll give you money if I can't!'

The man stayed asleep all night. His friends tried hard to wake him, but they couldn't. So he won a lot of money!



THE MILLENNIUM BUG



There are different kinds of bugs. There are bugs that make you ill. There are bugs that fly. But the most famous bug in the years 1999–2000 was the Millennium Bug. It lived in computers and was also called Y2K (Year Two Thousand).

All computers use dates. But older ones use only the last two numbers, and so 00 can mean 1900 or 2000. Computer programmes can go wrong because of this. Governments and businesses were very worried. 'Planes will fall out of the sky!' said the newspapers. 'There will be no electricity! Hospitals will have to close!'

But nothing really terrible happened. Some American spy cameras in space stopped working for a few hours. Some machines in Swedish hospitals didn't work. When the lights went out in New Zealand, people were frightened. 'Is this the Bug?' they asked. But it wasn't. Somebody drank too much and knocked down some electricity lines by mistake!

COMPUTERS THAT WENT WRONG

USA: A man borrowed a video and took it back to the shop after New Year. 'It's late! That's \$91,250!' they told him. On the shop's computer, it was 100 years late.

GERMANY: A bank's computer went wrong and gave a man nearly four million pounds by mistake!

CHINA: A writer lost his new book when his computer stopped working because of Y2K. What was his book about? The Millennium Bug, of course!

FIRST AND LAST

First Millennium baby	New Zealand	A boy, Tuahati Manaakitunga Edwards, was born less than a minute after midnight.
First wedding	Chatham Islands, east of New Zealand	Dean Braid, twenty-seven, a local shopkeeper, married Monique Croon, thirty-three.
First person to be 100	Australia	Violet Dickinson was born three minutes after midnight in Sydney in 1900.
Last places to celebrate the Millennium	UK	A village in Wales and an island in Scotland. They use an old calendar which was changed in Britain in 1752. New Year's Day is on 14 January.
Last people to see the sun in the new Millennium	Arctic	Workers in the Arctic didn't see the sun for weeks, because it is completely dark in winter.