

朱 篱 编

最新 大学英语
阅读 60 篇 (第二版)

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MATERIALS FOR COLLEGE

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内 容 提 要

本书所选文章涉及生活、科技、经济各方面,内容生动有趣,令人爱不释手。读者可从中了解最新的知识和语言信息,从而提高阅读技能。

为方便读者了解阅读的效果,每篇文章后有一定数量的注释及练习,书末附练习答案和简明讲析。

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Passage 1

今天年轻人的求偶方式可谓五花八门,从情人节的爱信物到互联网的伊妹儿。但在100多年前的维多利亚时代,人们是怎样表达爱情的呢?

The Language of Love

1 In Victorian¹ times, rules of romance were quite different from today's dating guidelines. Here's a look at the code of etiquette that defined 19th century courtships.

2 From a young age a woman was groomed for marriage. She was trained in the skills that every eligible young lady was supposed to have at the time: music, French, needle-work, painting, and poetry to name a few². She was also trained in all the rules of young ladies and socializing with young men. She was trained to look for a young man who was: unselfish, upright, industrious, not poor, patient, and affectionate. He should have fine ideals and be 10 years older than she was.

3 Beginning a love relationship in the 19th century was much more challenging than it is today. In Victorian times, much more etiquette³ was called for⁴. A great place to meet potential partners was at a social function⁵ such as a church supper or holiday ball. Yet even here, rules were the name of the game⁶.

4 Just because a gentleman had been introduced to a lady for the purpose of dancing did not mean that he could assume to speak to her another time or place. This would be improper! If a gentleman met a lady he wished to become better acquainted with, he was to make subtle inquiries to find a mutual friend who could introduce

him.

5 One thing that was permitted at social events was flirting. Subtle flirting techniques including using various personal accessories such as fans, parasols⁷ and gloves to convey messages of interest or disinterest. Once formally introduced, the gentleman could offer to walk a young lady home by presenting her with a card that asked if he could be her escort. The woman could then weigh her offers and present her own card to the gentleman she liked best.

6 Victorian dates were almost always supervised in some way. A woman was never to go out with a gentleman late at night. In fact, it was considered extremely impolite for a gentleman to stay late at a woman's home. A gentleman could only call on a lady with her permission. When saying good night, the girl was never to go farther than the parlor door, instead, a servant would see her suitor⁸ out.

7 One of the most romantic aspects of a Victorian courtship was the written word. Not only did women keep a diary of the courtship, but both partners exchanged romantic letters. They also exchanged lockets, antique coins, portraits, poems, sketches and locks of hair. The following actions were considered extremely rude in the presence of company: crossing your legs, adjusting your hair, winking your eyes, laughing immoderately, beating time with your feet and hands, shrugging up your shoulders, placing your hand upon the person with whom you were conversing, looking steadily at one, and so on. (hmmm... maybe love in the nineties isn't such a bad thing after all!)

8 Believe it or not, there was even a code⁹ of etiquette that defined what type of people were (and weren't) suited to each other:

Those with thin, wiry, cold blooded, prominent features should marry round-featured, warm hearted and emotional types. The cool will unite the warmth.

Those with bright red hair and a florid¹⁰ complexion have

an excitable temperament and should marry those with jet-black hair or a brunette¹¹.

The very fined hair, soft and delicate should not marry those like themselves.

The curly-haired should unite with those that have smooth straight hair.

The extremely irritable, nervous person should unite with the sympathetic, slow and quiet type. This way, the excitable will be quieted by the gentleness of the other.

The quick-motioned, rapid speaking person should marry the calm and deliberate type.

The warmly impulsive should unite with the stoical.

Those who don't fit into specific categories (not short nor tall, not brunette nor blond) who are more of an average type, may marry those who are similar in form to themselves.

9 A Victorian woman did not have to accept the first time a man proposed to her. Instead, she was to be allowed time to make up her mind. She was advised to be coy¹³ in the matter. If the woman accepted the proposal, her suitor then went to her parents for approval (not the other way around¹⁴).

10 To symbolize their intent to marry, Victorian men and women exchanged rings or other love tokens. Long engagements were not recommended in the Victorian era, lest the lovers find imperfections in one another! While you may think that the behavior between two lovers was permitted to be more relaxed after the engagement, quite the opposite was true.

11 For now, the gentleman was in the most delicate position and was expected to be above reproach¹⁵ (as was the lady). The gentleman was expected to be on good behavior at all times. During the engagement, the young man was permitted to offer small presents to his bride-to-be, provided they were not too personal. Flowers and romantic cards were always appropriate. As the couple exchanged their vows, they realized that a whole new code of

选 释

1. Victorian: *a.* 维多利亚时代的
2. to name a few: 该短语用来表示所列举的事物并未穷尽。例如:
Education in a democracy has many dimensions—civic, intellectual, economic, and moral, to name a few. 民主国家的教育有许多方面,其中包括公民的、知识的、经济的和道德的。
3. etiquette: *n.* 礼节,礼仪
4. call for: *v.* 需要;要求
5. function: *n.* 社交聚会
6. the name of the game: 重要方面,要紧的地方
Quality is the name of the game. 质量头等重要。
7. parasol: *n.* 阳伞
8. suitor: *n.* 求婚者
9. code: *n.* 准则
10. florid: *a.* (脸色)红润的
11. brunette: *n.* 具有深色头发和浅黑色皮肤的白人女子
12. deliberate: *a.* 不慌不忙的,审慎的
13. coy: *a.* 忸怩作态的
14. the other way around: 相反地
Commercial banks everywhere are realizing that profitable banks may become big, but not the other way round. 所有商业银行正在意识到,盈利的银行有可能变大,但大银行不一定能盈利。
15. above reproach: 无可挑剔

Passage 2

如果你有很高的收入和巨额遗产,这并不保证你就能成为百万富翁。但是,百万富翁并不神秘,他们就在你身边,而且你也可能成为他们当中的一员。

\$ 1 Million Worth of Secrets

1 *Studying the wealthy for more than 20 years has paid off¹ for Thomas Stanley. He and coauthor William Danko, both marketing experts with Ph.D.'s, have enjoyed an 18-week bestseller run² with *The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy*. The book debunks the image of the rich as high-living spendthrifts³. He talks about how millionaires get to be millionaires.*

2 Who's a typical millionaire?

3 The corporate tycoons⁴ you see in the pages of *Forbes*⁵ and *Fortune*⁶ are actually pretty rare. Generally, the millionaire next door owns a chain of convenience marts⁷ or Burger Kings⁸. Or they're scrap-metal⁹ dealers or something like that.

4 How do millionaires get to be that way?

5 By questioning the conventional wisdom. My dad, like many baby boomers' dads, said that if you're well educated and earn a good income, you'll never have to worry about anything. Earn well, spend well, live well. And we bought¹⁰ it. But you have to understand that there's a big difference between income and wealth. You have to realize that while you can play great offense in order to make money, you need to put together a good defense in order to accumulate it.

6 Is there a magic formula?

7 We tell people that if they want to be the millionaire down the street by the time they're 50 or 55, they should put away at least 15 percent of their income every year. Start with 5 percent the first few years of your marriage, then go to 10, then to 15 by your late 40s.

8 Where do millionaires stash¹¹ the cash that they save?

9 The majority of the millionaires we interviewed said it's nice to invest in the market¹², but the mother lode¹³ of investing is in their own businesses. Those millionaires who are in the market aren't active traders at all. Over 40 percent of the millionaires we studied nationwide had made no trades in their stock portfolio¹⁴ over the 12-month period prior to being interviewed.

10 How do they generate the savings to invest?

11 It's astonishing how simple many millionaires' lifestyle is. One man I know is worth over \$25 million. He never buys new cars. They have four kids, but he only has a three-bedroom house. So his two boys are sleeping on bunk beds¹⁵ and he's driving a five-year-old Volvo¹⁶. Another man, a self-employed physician in his mid-50s, has owned a grand total of two cars since he graduated from medical school, both of them Mercedeses¹⁷. He put 200,000-plus miles on the first Mercedes. Then he bought another one six years ago that was three years old at the time. Another physician never went out to eat. His wife made his lunch, and he took it in a brown paper bag. Over 30 years, that's worth a lot.

12 But it doesn't sound like much fun.

13 These are people who get a tremendous amount of satisfaction out of being independent. If they wanted to, the millionaires in our study could live an average of 16 years without having to earn one more dollar. And many came from ground zero¹⁸, nothing inherited. One entrepreneur who sold, leased, and rented construction equipment told me he'd look at the executives driving by his place and think, "If their children were kidnapped,

they couldn't come up with \$ 10,000."

14 Here's another story that shows the importance of financial planning. I talked to a guy who's not a millionaire. He's 50 years old, a middle manager at a major corporation on the East Coast. He was told a week before Christmas he'd have to relocate to Denver the day after Christmas. He's the vice president of the PTA¹⁹, his three kids are all integrated into the schools, they're all playing sports, his wife loves the community. So what is he going to do? He's going to Denver because he only has about three months of income in savings.

15 How do you know if you're on track²⁰ for becoming wealthy?

16 Multiply your age by your annual income, before taxes, from all sources except inheritances. Divide by 10, then double the number. This, discounting any wealth you've inherited, is what your net worth should be to be on track. If you make \$ 50,000 a year and you're 50 years old, you should have \$ 500,000 in net worth.

17 What are the biggest savings saboteurs²¹?

18 Spending a lot on things that have no value—clothing, eating out, dry cleaning... If you're a doctor, lawyer, accountant, an MBA²², whatever—there's a certain standard of living you think you have to be associated with—live in a particular neighborhood, drive a particular car. We interviewed this one character with \$ 2,000 suits. How much is a \$ 2,000 suit worth after you walk out of the store with it? How much can you sell it for at a garage sale²³? A young stock broker²⁴ called me—he's making \$ 80,000 a year and he wanted to buy this enormous house. I looked at his balance sheet²⁵. He's right at the max of what he can borrow at the bank. I explained to him that there are two-career couples driving buses who are making \$ 80,000 a year with overtime. Just because you're a broker and have an MBA, doesn't mean that you have to live in a fancy neighborhood.

19 OK, forget big houses and fancy neighborhoods. Where will I find the millionaire next door?

20 Half the millionaires in this country live in middle-class, blue-collar, or rural areas, like one guy we interviewed who defied us to find²⁶ a suit in his closet. He drove a 10-year-old car and wore cowboy boots and jeans. A lot of the people he went to high school with now live in expensive homes, lease their cars, send their kids to private schools—and have not accumulated anything. He has got an expression for these people: “big hat, no cattle.”

Comprehension Questions

1. The word “debunks” (para. 1) can be best replaced by _____.
A) emphasizes B) criticizes
C) proves to be false D) renders incomprehensible
2. In paragraph 5, “the conventional wisdom” refers to _____.
A) earn well, spend well, live well
B) plan well in advance for one’s future
C) work like mad
D) listen to one’s parents
3. Which of the following best describes the relationship between income and wealth?
A) The wealth you have solely depends on how much income you have.
B) Income can never turn into wealth if you don’t save.
C) Wealth comes only if you have a large inheritance together with an income.
D) Income can turn into wealth only with a stroke of luck.
4. Which of the following is the best place to stash away the savings?
A) The bank B) The stock market
C) One’s own business D) The real estate
5. The problem with the people in paragraphs 13 and 14 is that

- A) they don't earn enough
 B) they have a large family to support
 C) they are prone to criminal acts
 D) they have poor financial planning
6. Which of the following is the formula you can use to calculate whether you are on track to be a millionaire?
 A) $[(I \times A)/10] \times 2$ B) $[(I + A) \times 10]/2$
 C) $[(I - A) \times 10] \times 2$ D) $[(I/A) \times 10]/2$
7. According to the passage, which of the following is true of the person who buys \$2,000 suits?
 A) He has an MBA.
 B) He is on track to be a millionaire.
 C) He has a comfortable income.
 D) His income may never turn into wealth.
8. Which of the following millionaires is being discussed?
 A) A corporate tycoon
 B) Someone who has an enormous inheritance
 C) A workaholic
 D) A person who stashes money away

注 释

1. pay off; *v.* 取得成果
My hard work paid off when I landed a position as a computer programmer. 我的刻苦努力使我当上了程序员。
2. run; *n.* 连续的一段时间
3. spendthrift; *n.* 挥霍者
4. tycoon; *n.* 巨头
5. Forbes: 福布斯杂志
6. Fortune: 幸福杂志
7. convenience mart; *n.* 方便商店
8. Burger King; *n.* 汉堡包大王
9. scrap-metal; *n.* 废铜烂铁