

读故事·学英语

科学普及
系列

百科百问

What a World I
第①辑

阅读提高·知识扩充·文化解读·思维拓展

徜徉于世界文化经典的长河，学习地道英语，感悟别样人生！

[美]Milada Broukal ◎主编

胡亚红◎译

麦格希 中英双语阅读文库



吉林出版集团有限责任公司



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I 前言

英语思想家培根说过：阅读使人深刻。阅读的真正目的是获取信息，开拓视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习的角度来说，学习语言若没有大量阅读就如隔靴搔痒，因为阅读中的语言是最丰富、最灵活、最具表现力、最符合生活情景的，同时读物中的情节、故事引人入胜，进而能充分调动读者的阅读兴趣，培养读者的文学修养，至此，语言的学习水到渠成。

“麦格希中英双语阅读文库”在世界范围内选材，涉及科普、社会文化、文学名著、传奇故事、成长励志等多个系列，充分满足英语学习者课外阅读之所需，在阅读中学习英语、提高能力。

◎难度适中

本套图书充分照顾读者的英语学习阶段和水平，从读者的阅读兴趣出发，以难易适中的英语语言为立足点，选材精心、编排合理。

◎精品荟萃

本套图书注重经典阅读与实用阅读并举。既包含国内外脍炙人口、耳熟能详的美文，又包含科普、人文、故事、励志类等多学科的精彩文章。

◎功能实用

本套图书充分体现了双语阅读的功能和优势，充分考虑到读者课外阅读的方便，超出核心词表的词汇均出现在使其意义明显的语境之中，并标注释义。

鉴于编者水平有限，凡不周之处，谬误之处，皆欢迎批评教正。

我们真心地希望本套图书承载的文化知识和英语阅读的策略对提高读者的英语著作欣赏水平和英语运用能力有所裨益。

丛书编委会

Contents

Why Do People Give Gifts for Weddings?

为何人们在婚礼上馈赠礼物？ / 1

How Did Disneyland Start?

迪斯尼乐园是如何创建的？ / 4



Who Is Andrew Carnegie?

安德鲁·卡内基是谁？ / 7

What Is Life Like in Antarctica?

南极洲的生活是什么样的？ / 10

Where Do People Live Under the Ground?

哪里的人们居住在地下？ / 13

Why Do People Decorate Their Bodies?

为何人们要装扮自己呢？ / 16



How Did the Red Cross Start?

红十字会是如何创立的？ / 19

Who Are the Blue Men of the Sahara?

谁是撒哈拉的蓝人？ / 22

What Is Canada's Favorite Sport?

加拿大最受欢迎的体育运动是什么？ / 25

Where Is the Outback?

澳洲内陆在哪里？ / 28

Why Is the Elephant Important in Thailand?

大象在泰国为何如此重要？ / 31

How Did Rich Romans Live?

富有的罗马人是如何生活的？ / 34

Who Is the Most Important Person from History?

谁是历史上最重要的人？ / 37

What Are Fattening Rooms?

何谓增肥室？ / 41

Where Do People Celebrate Girls' Day and Boys' Day?

哪里的人们庆祝女孩节和男孩节？ / 45

Why Is Marco Polo Famous?

为什么马可·波罗如此出名？ / 49



Who Reached the South Pole First?

第一个到达南极的人是谁？ / 53

What Is the Royal Flying Doctor Service?

什么是皇家飞行医生服务？ / 57

How Did the Egyptians Make Mummies?

埃及木乃伊是如何制作的? / 61

Who Is Stephen Hawking?

史蒂芬·霍金是谁? / 66



What Does Hair Tell Us About People?

头发向我们揭示了有关人的什么奥秘? / 71

Where Did Certain Wedding Customs Come From?

一些婚俗的起源 / 78

Who Are the Cyber Angels?

何谓网络天使? / 86

Why Is the Renaissance Important?

文艺复兴运动为何重要? / 94

What Is the Most Popular Sport in the World?

世界上最受欢迎的体育运动 / 102

How Did Convicts Help Settle Australia?

罪犯在建立澳大利亚中的作用 / 109



How Do Greetings Differ Around the World?

世界各地不同的问候语 / 116

Who Is Maria Montessori?

玛丽亚·蒙特梭利是谁? / 124



Who Is J. K. Rowling?

谁是J. K. 罗琳? / 132

What Are Some Special Rules for Chinese New Year?

中国新年的特殊传统是什么? / 135



Where Is Buckingham Palace?

白金汉宫在哪里? / 138

Why Are Cows Special in India?

为何印度的奶牛很特别? / 141

How Do Mexicans Celebrate the Day of the Dead?

墨西哥人是如何庆祝死亡日的? / 144

Who Are the Inuit?

谁是因纽特人? / 147

What Is Beatlemania?

什么是披头士热? / 150

1

Why Do People Give Gifts for Weddings?

People give gifts for weddings for different reasons. Usually, people want to help the **bride** and **groom**. Many countries have their own customs. In the United States, both families give gifts to the couple. In other places, the customs are very different.



为何人们在婚礼上馈赠礼物？

人们在婚礼上馈赠礼物是出于不同的原因。通常人们是想帮助新娘和新郎。每个国家有各自的习俗。在美国，双方家庭都会馈赠礼物给新婚夫妇。地方不同，习俗也就不一样。

bride *n.* 新娘

groom *n.* 新郎

In India, the groom's family asks for a large payment from the bride's family. The payment is called a **dowry**. Sometimes the payment is a special gift with a **brand** name. For example, some families ask for a Singer sewing machine or a Sony television set. Sometimes the payment is money. The money may be equal to the family's **salary** for two or three years. Both families agree about the money. They agree on how much money the bride's family can **afford** to pay. Some Indian families do not like to have many daughters. It is too expensive! Today in India, a woman with a large salary is the same as a woman with a large dowry.

In the Middle East, the bride's family asks for a large amount of money from the groom. The gift is called a mahr. The mahr is money and sometimes land or a home. In Saudi Arabia, the groom gives a lot of money. He buys clothes for the bride for one year and buys

在印度，新郎家庭会要求新娘的家庭支付一大笔钱，即所谓嫁妆。有时可把一件名牌商品作为特别礼物。比如，有的家庭会要求一台“歌唱家”牌的缝纫机或一台索尼电视机。有时就馈赠现金，其数目相当于整个家庭两三年的收入。双方会根据新娘家庭经济承受力的大小商定彩礼数目的多少。所以有些印度家庭不希望有太多女儿，因为那样太昂贵。现在，印度妇女挣得多就表明她嫁妆也多。

而在中东是由新娘家庭向新郎家庭索要大笔钱，这个礼物被称为“mahr”，它有时是钱，也可以是土地或者房屋。在沙特阿拉伯，新郎会给新娘一大笔钱，还会在一年内负责新娘的着装和给新房添置家具。较富

dowry *n.* 嫁妆

salary *n.* 工资；薪水

brand *n.* 商标；牌子

afford *v.* 提供；负担得起

furniture for their new home. Rich couples get **expensive** gifts from both parents. The parents often give nice furniture or a new car.

At one time in Saudi Arabia, the mahr for a bride was very, very high. Men could not afford to marry Saudi Arabian women. They married women from Lebanon and Egypt. This was bad for Saudi women. Soon, many Saudi women did not have husbands. The government made new rules. They made it hard to marry a foreigner. Another Middle Eastern country, Oman, had problems, too. Soldiers in the army could not afford to get married. The **sultan** of Oman made a law against large mahr payments. This helped couples in Oman to get married.

A wedding is a very special and important time. People give gifts for different reasons, but one thing is the same. Everybody wants to help the bride and groom start a happy life together.

裕的夫妇会从双方父母那得到非常贵重的礼物，父母们通常会给他们添置家具或新车。

曾经有段时间，沙特阿拉伯的新娘索要的钱款非常多，以至于很多人根本娶不起沙特阿拉伯的姑娘，他们只好娶黎巴嫩或埃及的姑娘。这对沙特的姑娘就很不利，不久很多沙特阿拉伯的姑娘嫁不出去了。于是政府颁布了新法令，使人们很难和外国人结婚。在另一个中东国家安曼也存在同样的问题。军队的士兵没有经济能力结婚，于是阿曼的苏丹就颁布法令禁止高额彩礼，这项举措帮助很多安曼人成了家。

婚礼是一段很特别又很重要的时光，虽然朋友们出于不同的原因馈赠礼物，但有一点是相同的：每个人都希望新娘新郎能开心、幸福地生活在一起。

furniture *n.* 家具

at one time 曾经；一度

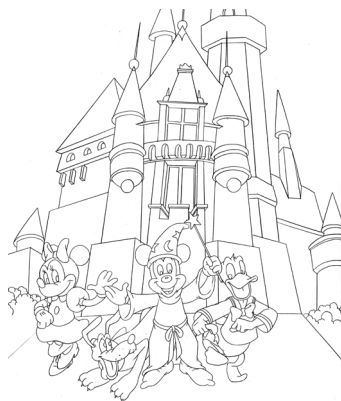
expensive *adj.* 昂贵的

sultan *n.* 苏丹（某些伊斯兰国家统治者的称号）

How Did Disneyland Start?

One day, a man named Walt Disney took his daughters to an amusement park. At the amusement park, they went on the rides, played games, and saw animals. But the park was not exciting. It was also dirty. He *looked around* and said, "I want to take my children to a better place. I want families to have fun together."

Walt Disney *was famous for* his



迪斯尼乐园是如何创建的？

有一天，沃尔特·迪斯尼带他女儿去游乐园。他们骑车，玩游戏，还观赏动物。可他觉得游乐园一点都不刺激而且还特别脏，他环顾四周说：“我想带我的孩子去更好玩的地方，我希望家人能非常开心地在一起。”

沃尔特·迪斯尼因其电影和卡通片闻名于世。现在，他开始策划一

look around 环顾；环视

be famous for 因……而闻名

movies. He was also famous for his *cartoons*. Now Disney started to think about a new park. He wanted a park with different parts with special names. One part was “Fantasyland” and another part was “Adventureland”. He also wanted to use ideas from his movies and cartoons. His most popular cartoon was Mickey Mouse. Disney wanted Mickey Mouse and other cartoon people to walk around the park and talk to the *guests*.

Disney’s dream of a special park took many years to come true. People did not understand his ideas. Nobody wanted to give him money. So Disney used all his own money to build the park. On July 17, 1955, Disneyland opened in Anaheim, California. It was an *immediate hit*. The first year, about five million people went to Disneyland. People came from all over the United States and all over the world.

Walt Disney wanted Disneyland to be perfect. Every night,

个新的乐园，一个不同位置有各自特别的名字的乐园。这部分叫“童话世界”，另一部分叫“冒险乐园”。他甚至还想把他从电影和卡通片里得到的灵感运用到这上面。他最受欢迎的卡通人物是米老鼠，他希望米老鼠和其他卡通人物能游走于乐园中和游客攀谈。

迪斯尼关于创建一个别出心裁的乐园的梦想很多年后才得以实现，因为人们并不能领会他的意图，没人愿意捐资。迪斯尼把他毕生积蓄都用来修建乐园。这个乐园于1955年7月17日在加利福尼亚州的阿纳海姆正式成立。刚成立便引起了巨大的轰动，仅第一年，就接待了来自美国和世界各地的近五百万游客。

沃尔特·迪斯尼希望迪斯尼乐园尽善尽美。每晚，工人们都会清洗

cartoon *n.* 卡通片；动画片

immediate *adj.* 立刻的；马上的

guest *n.* 客人；来宾

hit *n.* 轰动一时的人或事物；成功

workers washed the streets. They **made sure** the streets were clean. They also made sure there was no chewing **gum** on the ground. They painted the signs again at night. They wanted the signs to look new.

Disneyland always had many plants and flowers. But Disney did not want any signs that said, “Do not walk on the plants.” So every year, the workers changed 800,000 plants and put in new ones.

Disney wanted the workers to be happy and clean all the time. He started a special school for his workers called the University of Disneyland. The workers learned to be happy and polite to guests. They could not wear **perfume**, jewelry, or bright nail polish. They had to follow rules for how to dress and how to wear their hair.

Walt Disney became very rich. He was a **millionaire**. He died in 1966, but his dream of more Disneylands came true. In 1971, Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Florida. Today, there are Disneylands in Tokyo and Paris.

街道以确保乐园里街道一尘不染，还得确保地面没有口香糖。他们还会刷新各种路标，使路标看起来像新的一样。

迪斯尼乐园里还有许多植物和花草，但迪斯尼并不希望乐园里有“不准践踏植物”的标志，因此每年都会将八十万株植物更换成新的。

迪斯尼希望自己的员工既能愉快的工作又能保持整洁的面貌，他为员工开办了一所很特别的大学——迪斯尼乐园大学。学校教育员工要愉快、礼貌地迎接客人；不能喷香水，佩带首饰或涂指甲油。他们还学习一些如何着装，留何种发型的礼节。

沃尔特·迪斯尼富裕起来，变成了百万富翁。他死于1966年，但他希望开办更多迪斯尼乐园的梦想变成了现实。1971年，迪斯尼乐园在奥兰多、佛罗里达相继开放。迄今，东京、巴黎也都有迪斯尼乐园。

make sure 确信；确保

perfume *n.* 香水

gum *n.* 口香糖

millionaire *n.* 百万富翁

Who Is Andrew Carnegie?

Andrew Carnegie was born in 1835 in Scotland. He was from a poor family. When he was twelve, his family moved to the United States. They wanted a better life.

The Carnegie family lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Andrew started to work *right away*. He got a job in a factory. He was a good worker, but he didn't like the job.



安德鲁·卡内基是谁？

1 835年，安德鲁·卡内基出生在苏格兰一个贫苦的家庭。他12岁时，举家迁往美国寻求更幸福的生活。

安德鲁家住在宾夕法尼亚州的匹兹堡。他很快在一家工厂找了份工作并且成了一名好工人，但他并不喜欢这份工作。后来，他去了宾夕法尼亚

right away 立刻

Later, he changed his job. He worked at the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Everybody there liked Andrew. He did many different jobs. His salary got higher every year.

In his free time, Andrew loved to read. He lived near Colonel James Anderson. Colonel Anderson was a rich man with many books. He let young boys use his library for free. In those days, the United States did not have free public libraries. Andrew read *as much as possible*. He read *throughout* his life. He always thought that reading was very important.

Andrew learned a lot at the railroad company. He *realized* that the railroad was very important for big countries. He had an idea to start a business with railroads. He saved all his money and opened a business. He was thirty years old.

First, his company made bridges for the railroads. Ten years later, they made steel. The Carnegie Steel Company became the

铁路公司，在那里他受到了大家的欢迎。他做各种不同的工作，薪水一年比一年高。

业余时间，他喜欢看书。他跟詹姆士·安迪生上校是邻居。詹姆士·安迪生上校家很有钱，家里有丰富的藏书。他允许安德鲁无偿使用他家图书馆，而当时美国没有免费的公共图书馆。安德鲁都尽可能多的阅读，他整个一生都在阅读，他一直认为读书对人类来说是非常重要的。

安德鲁在铁路公司学到了很多，他意识到铁路对一个大国来说至关重要。他开始计划创办与铁路有关的公司。他拿出所有积蓄创建了公司，当时年仅30岁。

最初，他的公司是为铁路修建桥梁。十年后，他开始炼钢并且使卡内基钢铁公司成为了美国最大的一家钢铁公司。为桥梁，机器和其他很多项

as much as possible 尽可能多

realize *v.* 认识到；意识到

throughout *prep.* 遍及；贯穿