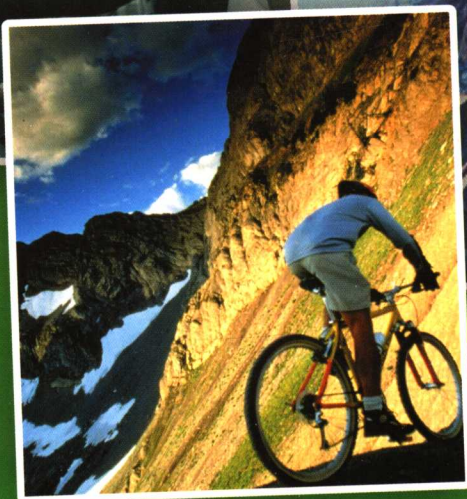
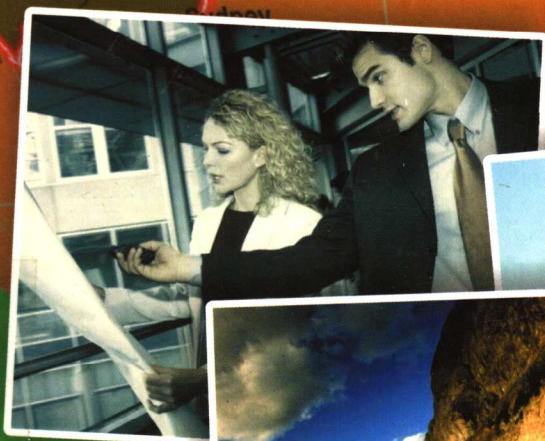


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What A Life

英语看人生

朗文英汉双语阅读



吉林出版集团有限责任公司
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英语看人生

WHAT A LIFE

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如有印刷、装订质量问题捷进可一公司负责调换。

英国思想家培根说过,"阅读使人深刻",而阅读在外语学习中的重要性更是不言而喻。只是长期以来中国英语教学中的功利主义思想使学习者无法真正利用这一工具,更谈不上体味其中的乐趣了,学生只会感到沉重的 **Pressure**。

通过阅读来提高英语水平归根结底有三个问题要解决,为什么读,怎么读和读什么。阅读的真正目的绝非是为了做豆腐块文章后面几道枯燥的练习,而是获取信息,增长知识,开拓视野和陶冶情操。从语言学习角度来说方法有精读和泛读之分:精读强调纵向挖掘,要一丝不苟地吃透文章,包括词汇用法和语法知识;而泛读则强调横向拓宽,要"不求甚解"地大量阅读,以此来培养语感,锻炼英语的应用和思维能力。至于读什么,当面对市场上汗牛充栋的英语图书时,许多学习者都踌躇难断。

另一位伟人的话似乎可以给我们一些启发。牛顿说过,"我成功是因为我站在巨人的肩膀上"。事实上,许多成功人士都曾表示,自己或多或少地从一些名人传记中获取过有用的知识和奋斗的信念。正是在这一思路的引导下,我们推出这套《英语看人生》及其姊妹篇《英语看世界》,二者相映成趣。

本书收录了 70 多位世界著名人物的生平事迹,他们来自政治、经济、文化、艺术和体育等各个领域,既有如雷贯耳的彼得大帝、莎士比亚和李小龙,也有不太为中国人所熟悉的山崎实、霍华德·休斯、理查德·布兰森等。他们的经历和成就并不相同,但每个人都是真正意义上的成功者。成功的人生不可复制,但成功的故事可以分享和启迪。

除了阅读故事的精彩之外,文章后面的练习题也是本书的亮点所在。非传统形式的题目趣味性强,做起来毫不枯燥。多采用启发式、拓展性的问题,鼓励学生积极思考,真正起到检验阅读效果和巩固知识的作用。

VOCABULARY:除了鼓励学生利用上下文猜测词义的习题之外,还配有以应用为目的的口语练习,使学生抓住短暂记忆,循环利用,加深印象。

COMPREHENSION:从理解大意和把握细节两方面入手,锻炼学生的阅读技能,并巧妙地促使学生回视课文,进一步增进理解。还有复述故事和听写等项目,鼓励学生组对进行口头练习。

DISCUSSION:让学生对与阅读内容相关联的话题展开联想,表达自己独立的见解,并探讨不同文化之间的差异。

WRITING:"读书必须过笔"是古今中外学人的共同体会。只有经过笔头练习,才能真正将阅读到的知识内化为自身的技能。

本书的姊妹篇《英语看世界》内容同样精彩,值得一读。

To some people reading maybe is a pressure, but we will make it a real Pleasure!

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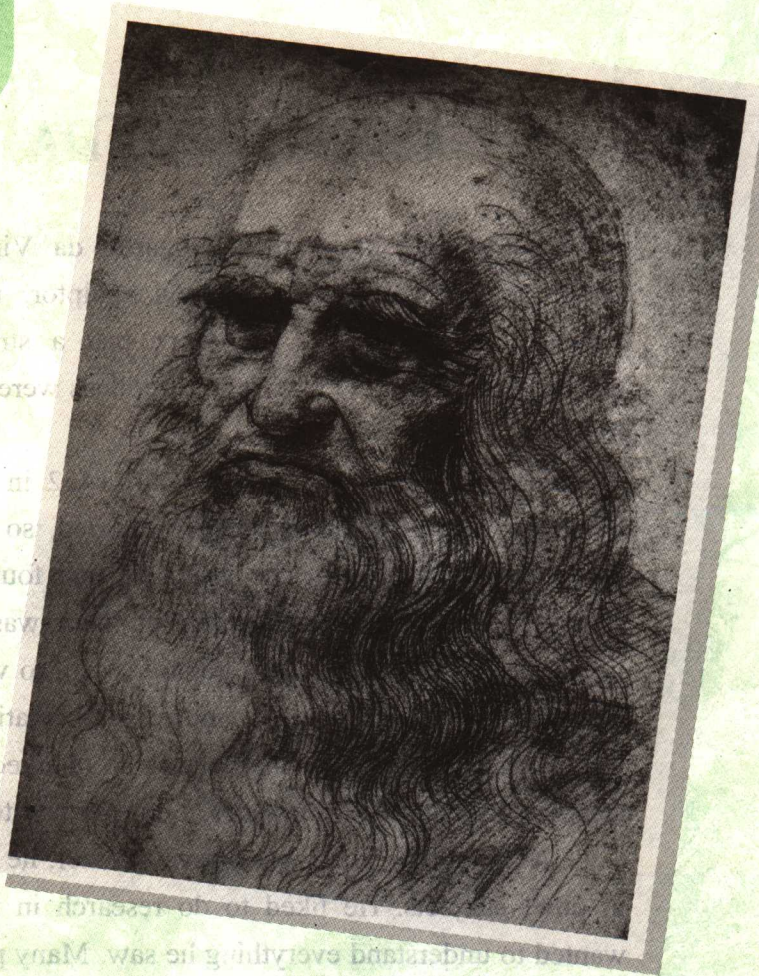
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Unit 1

LEONARDO DA VINCI

(1452–1519)



BEFORE YOU READ

Leonardo da Vinci was a genius with many extraordinary talents and abilities in many fields. What talents and abilities do you think he had? Make a list.

intelligence

Now read about Leonardo da Vinci.

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Most people know that Leonardo da Vinci was a great painter. However, he was also a talented sculptor, musician, poet, scientist, architect, and engineer. His work had a strong influence on artists throughout Europe, and his scientific ideas were centuries **ahead of their time.**

Leonardo da Vinci was born in 1452 in the town of Vinci, near Florence, Italy. His parents never married, so Leonardo lived with his **father** in Florence. Over the years, he had four stepmothers and eleven stepsisters and stepbrothers. One of them was 45 years younger than Leonardo! At the age of 15, Leonardo went to work with a famous artist. **He studied painting, sculpture, music, mathematics, and science.** By 20, he was a master painter. Leonardo was so talented that one day one of his teachers threw down his brushes and never painted again.

Although da Vinci was a great painter, he never gave up his interest in other subjects. He liked to do research in many different areas. He wanted to understand everything he saw. Many people think of him as the first modern scientist because he liked to **make observations** and look for explanations for things. For example, he was one of the first people to dissect human bodies. He cut the bodies open in order to figure out how they worked. Da Vinci wrote down all his ideas and observations in notebooks. He also filled the notebooks with more than 5,000 drawings of plants, animals, and the human body.

Da Vinci was a great inventor, too. His scientific research and knowledge of architecture and mathematics helped him to design many new things. For example, he drew a flying machine 400 years before the airplane was invented. He also designed an air conditioner, an alarm clock, a reading lamp, a submarine, a bridge, and many other things. In all,

da Vinci designed more than 1,000 inventions. Unfortunately, he did not have time to develop many of his ideas.

As a matter of fact, da Vinci started many projects that he never finished. He was always more interested in thinking about and planning projects than doing them. He was so brilliant that he quickly lost interest in one project and couldn't wait to start another. Because of this, he completed very few paintings. Sometimes people paid him to do a painting or a sculpture but he never did it. Other times he started the work, but he never finished it. Some people got tired of waiting, so they hired someone else to finish his work.

The pieces that da Vinci completed were magnificent and unique. He created a new, more realistic style of painting. At that time, when artists painted people, they looked flat. When da Vinci painted people, they looked real. No other artist of his time painted people or animals as well as da Vinci. His famous painting, the Mona Lisa, is a good example of this style. Da Vinci took four years to paint the Mona Lisa. Unfortunately, the man who ordered the painting didn't like it and refused to pay him. However, ten years later, da Vinci sold it to the King of France for 492 ounces of gold (about \$300,000). The King hung it in the Louvre palace in Paris. Today the Mona Lisa still hangs in the Louvre, which is now a museum.

Often, da Vinci painted in religious buildings, like churches and monasteries. In 1495, he painted another of his greatest paintings, The Last Supper, on the dining room wall of a monastery. It took him three years to complete it. People came to see it even before it was done. They admired the painting because it showed the emotions of the people in the scene. People also liked the bright colors that da Vinci used. Unfortunately, the painting had problems. In just a few years, the paint started to peel off the wall. Later, the people in the monastery made a doorway that went right through the painting. The rest of The Last Supper was almost destroyed

when foreign soldiers threw stones at it. Fortunately, it has been repaired.

Da Vinci was greatly admired for his artistic talent and his skill in many areas. However, some people probably thought he was quite strange. He was a very mysterious, **private** man. He wrote backwards in his notebooks so nobody could read what he wrote. Many people thought that his scientific experiments were some kind of **evil** magic. He was also left-handed. At that time, some people believed that being left-handed was the sign of the devil.

Most people liked and admired da Vinci. He was a strong and handsome man. He was also generous to his friends, both rich and poor. Although he never married, he **adopted** a son and he was a very good father. People invited him to parties because he was very entertaining. He talked about interesting things and people laughed at his clever jokes. He was also a great musician. He sang well and played an instrument that he had invented. Da Vinci was always well dressed, although he liked to wear unusual clothes. He wore short robes when everyone else wore long ones and loved to wear pink.

Da Vinci had some other unusual habits for his time. He was extremely clean when many people were not. He even hated to have paint on his fingers. He was also a vegetarian because he did not believe in killing animals. He used to buy birds just to let them free and to study their flight.

During his lifetime, da Vinci traveled to all the great cities of Italy and did many different kinds of work. Once, when he was trying to get a job, he made a list of 36 different jobs he could do. In addition to working as an artist, he had also worked as an architect and engineer. He designed buildings and canals and he figured out how to change the direction of rivers. At one point, he was a military **adviser** to the Duke of Milan.

Later in life, Leonardo da Vinci went to Rome to work for the pope. However, he was unhappy there because the younger artists were given

more work than he was. As da Vinci grew older, he stayed alone more and more. Although people admired him, many didn't understand him because his ideas were far ahead of his time. Da Vinci spent the last years of his life working for King Francis I of France. He made architectural designs, worked on engineering projects, and entertained the king with all his ideas. He also worked on his notebooks so they could be published after his death. Da Vinci died peacefully on May 2, 1519, at the age of 67.

WORD STUDY

- sculptor** *n.* someone who makes sculptures 雕塑家
- stepmother** *n.* a woman who is married to your father but who is not your mother 继母
- dissect** *vt. & vi.* to cut up the body of a dead animal or person in order to study it 解剖
- figure out** to think about a problem or situation until you find the answer or understand what has happened 了解; 解决; 算出
- magnificent** *adj.* very good or beautiful, and very impressive 壮丽的; 壮观的
- monastery** *n.* a place where monks live 男修道院; 僧院
- private** *adj.* for use by one person or group, not for everyone 私人的; 秘密的; 私立的; 隐蔽的
- evil** *adj.* someone who is evil deliberately does very cruel things to harm other people 邪恶的; 不幸的; 有害的; 诽谤的
- adopt** *vt.* to take someone else's child into your home and legally become its parent 采用; 收养; 接受
- entertaining** *adj.* amusing and interesting 令人愉快的; 有趣的

Vocabulary



MEANING

What is the best meaning of the underlined words? Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Da Vinci adopted a son.
 - a. was nice to a child
 - b. took someone else's child as his own
 - c. offered to become a child's private teacher
2. The people in the scene looked real.
 - a. view of a place
 - b. type of activity
 - c. area where people get together
3. Da Vinci made observations in order to understand the world around him.
 - a. built a machine for looking at the stars
 - b. read many books on a subject
 - c. looked carefully and noticed things
4. Da Vinci's ideas were ahead of their time.
 - a. very important and expensive
 - b. modern; not used by most people until later
 - c. useful, but dangerous
5. Da Vinci worked as a military adviser.
 - a. someone who gives opinions to others
 - b. someone who fights against the government
 - c. someone who designs and produces things
6. Da Vinci couldn't wait to start another project.
 - a. did a good job with something
 - b. spent a lot of time do something
 - c. was very excited to doing something
7. The paint started to peel off the wall.
 - a. lose its color
 - b. wash away

- c. come off in small pieces
8. Other artists made people look flat in their paintings.
a. smooth and even b. full and round c. real
9. Da Vinci was a very private man.
a. enjoyed being with people
b. didn't like to talk about himself
c. didn't like to work
10. Some people thought da Vinci's scientific experiments were some kind of evil magic.
a. interesting b. funny c. very bad



• USE

Work with a partner and answer these questions. Use complete sentences.

1. What are some things that are *flat*?
2. Why do some people *adopt* children?
3. Who are some *evil* characters in movies or stories?
4. What fruits or vegetables do you *peel*?
5. What are some examples of people or things that are *ahead of their time*?
6. Who would you choose as an *adviser*?



• EXTENSION: Make And Do

Look at the sentences from the reading:

Many people think of him as the first modern scientist because he liked to **make** observations.

He liked to **do** research in many different areas.

Many languages have only one verb for *make* and *do*. In English, these two verbs are found in many fixed expressions. Often, we use *make* when we create or build something. We use *do* when we perform or act something. In many cases, there are no clear rules for which word to use.

Write *make* or *do* next to these words and expressions.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. _____ a mistake | 6. _____ a difference |
| 2. _____ a choice | 7. _____ homework |
| 3. _____ business | 8. _____ a favor |
| 4. _____ money | 9. _____ a discovery |
| 5. _____ harm | 10. _____ peace |

Use each expression in a sentence. Then, make a list of your own expressions with *make* and *do*. Whenever you hear a new expression add it to your list.

COMPREHENSION



UNDERSTANDING MAIN IDEAS

Circle the letter of the best answer.

- Paragraph 3 is mainly about the fact that da Vinci _____.
 - was a great painter
 - was interested in science
 - kept notes and drawgs of his observations
- The main topic of paragraph 6 is _____.
 - how other artists painted
 - da Vinci's style of painting
 - the King of France's attitude toward da Vinci
- The main topic of paragraph 9 is _____.
 - da Vinci's son
 - da Vinci's parties
 - da Vinci's interesting qualities
- The last paragraph is mainly about _____.
 - why da Vinci was unhappy in Rome
 - how da Vinci spent the last years of his life
 - what people's attitudes were toward da Vinci

REMEMBERING DETAILS

Circle **T** if the sentence is true and **F** if it is false.

True False

- | | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| 1. Da Vinci made more than 10,000 drawings of plants, animals, and the human body. | T | F |
| 2. Da Vinci's studies in math and philosophy helped him to design many inventions. | T | F |
| 3. Many of da Vinci's paintings were never finished. | T | F |
| 4. The Mona Lisa is a good example of how da Vinci made people look real. | T | F |
| 5. Da Vinci liked to wear long robes, even though most people wore short robes. | T | F |
| 6. Da Vinci worked as an architect, an engineer, and an artist. | T | F |

ORDER OF EVENTS

Number the sentences 1–6 to show the correct order.

- _____ Da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa*.
- _____ Da Vinci lived with his father in Florence.
- _____ Da Vinci studied with a famous artist and learned painting, sculpture, music, and science.
- _____ Da Vinci worked as an architect and engineer for King Francis I.
- _____ Da Vinci went to Rome to work for the pope.
- _____ Da Vinci painted *The Last Supper*.

MAKING INFERENCES

The answers to these questions are not directly stated in the passage.

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. The passage suggests that da Vinci _____.
 - a. didn't do much with his life because he never finished anything
 - b. would have been a better painter if he had concentrated on art alone
 - c. could accomplish great things in many areas

2. The passage implies that _____.
 - a. in his work and habits, da Vinci was quite different from other people
 - b. da Vinci was selfish and people didn't like him
 - c. da Vinci tried to follow the style of other artists of his time
3. The passage concludes that da Vinci _____.
 - a. worked very quickly on his paintings and produced many
 - b. was slow to produce a completed painting because of his other interests
 - c. was better at inventing than painting

DISCUSSION

Discuss the answers to these questions with your classmates.

1. Leonardo da Vinci was successful at many different things. Who are some people who are talented and successful in different fields?
2. Would you prefer to have one career or several different careers in your life? Give reasons.
3. Leonardo da Vinci adopted a son even though he wasn't married. Do you think that single people should be able to adopt children?

WRITING

On a separate piece of paper, write a paragraph or more about the career you would like to have and why.

Example: *I would like to be a teacher. I decided I wanted to be a teacher when I was in high school because I had a great history teacher.*