



Our Own Stories

英语背后的故事



一个小女孩第一次去美国的学校上学，打扮得漂漂亮亮，没想到招来老师和同学异样的目光；被美国人邀请去家里吃饭，却发现居然要自己带着做的菜过去；精心为朋友准备了生日礼物，可是却被对方拒绝。这一切到底是因为什么？若想知道原因，就请您打开这本《英语背后的故事—OUR OWN STORIES》。



吉林出版集团有限责任公司
—— 外语教育出版公司 ——



Longman.co

Our own Stories 英语背后的故事



本书是《英语背后的故事》系列丛书的第二本，主要介绍了英语语言、文化、历史、地理、政治、经济、社会、科技、艺术、体育、娱乐等方面的知识。本书旨在帮助读者了解英语背后的故事，提高英语学习的兴趣和效率。本书适合英语学习者、教师、家长、学生等阅读。

《英语背后的故事》系列丛书
第二本



英语背后的故事

OUR OWN STORIES

总主编 杨 枫(博士) 刘庆双(博士)
主 编 Norine Dresser
副主编 齐洪英 李慧君
编 者 任运国 高 扬 杨永艳
吴 蓉 付卫艳 贲建国
于 鑫 张 楠

吉林出版集团有限责任公司
培生教育出版集团

一本书一个世界

捷进可一

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语背后的故事:英汉对照/捷进可一编委会编.

—长春:吉林出版集团有限责任公司, 2008.1

ISBN 978-7-80762-308-3

I. 英... II. 捷... III. 英语—汉语—对照读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2007)第 198302 号

吉·版权合同登记图字 07-2005-1455

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage retrieval system, without permission from Pearson Education Inc.

English Reprint edition published by Pearson Education Asia Ltd. and Jilin Publishing Group

Copyright © 2008

本书封面贴有由 Pearson Education Inc.提供的防伪标签,无标签者为盗版。

本书仅限于中华人民共和国境内销售。



网 址:www.expresskey.com.cn
电子信箱:expresskey@hotmail.com
发行电话:0431-85618714

OUR OWN STORIES

英语背后的故事

责任编辑:张绍纯

出 版:吉林出版集团有限责任公司

地 址:长春市人民大街 4646 号,130021

承 印:长春市博文印刷厂

印 张:12

版 次:2008 年 5 月第 1 版

2008 年 5 月第 1 次印刷

封面设计:十二月工作室

发 行:吉林出版集团捷进可一图书经营有限公司

地 址:长春市同志街 1660 号,130021

开 本:787 毫米×1092 毫米 1/16

字 数:245 千字

定 价:16.50 元

书 号:978-7-80762-308-3

如有印刷、装订质量问题捷进可一公司负责调换。

一个小女孩第一次去美国的学校上学,打扮得漂漂亮亮,没想到招来老师和同学异样的目光;被美国人邀请去家里吃饭,却发现居然要自己带着做的菜过去;精心为朋友准备了生日礼物,可是却被对方拒绝。这一切到底是为什么呢?如果想知道原因的话,就请你打开这本《英语背后的故事—*OUR OWN STORIES*》吧。

本书精选 20 篇在美国生活的外国移民学生的习作,讲述了他们在成长过程中曾经发生过的一些故事,有误会,有尴尬,还有几分淡然的无奈。也许文笔有些略显稚嫩,但正是那份青涩的感觉让人读起来不仅趣味盎然,而且很容易让有类似背景和经历的人产生共鸣,堪称青春版的《喜福会》。对生活在大洋另一端的中国学生来说也同样具有很好的借鉴意义。

练习形式不拘泥传统,趣味性强。

COMPREHENSION 部分中的问答题并不只是简单的判断正误,而多采用启发式的问题,引发学生展开联想。有的根本没有可供参考的答案,只要积极思考,言之有物,就算有些荒谬也是好的,毕竟追求独立的思想和自主的见解是我们学习知识的最终目的。

CULTURE CAPSULE 将每单元所涉及的文化背景知识浓缩提炼,提高学习者的理性认识。

CULTURAL EXCHANGE 和 *EXPANSION* 让学生根据自身的知识和经验,对焦点知识进行更深入的讨论和深化吸收。

FOLLOW-UP 则给学生提供了一次进行综合口头或笔头练习的机会。

目前市场上涉及跨文化交际方面的图书多以专业研究性学术著作为主,普通读者很难涉猎。像这种浅显易懂、生动有趣的读物实为少见。内容讲的是作者的亲身经历,都是有感而言,绝非编造,增强了阅读材料的真实性,也使读者的阅读过程充满了轻松和趣味,尤其是那些来自相同种族或文化背景的人读后更会感同身受,让人一旦展卷便难以释手。

本书与其姊妹篇《英语背后的文化—*Our Own Journeys*》可以适应各

博进可一缩系公

Contents

Unit 1	<i>Clothing</i>	1
	Reading: The Dress of Lace	
Unit 2	<i>Holidays</i>	9
	Reading: Trick or Treat?	
Unit 3	<i>Health and Illness</i>	17
	Reading: Coining	
Unit 4	<i>Food Taboos</i>	26
	Reading: Hamburgers	
Unit 5	<i>Eating out</i>	34
	Reading: Eating the Western Way	
Unit 6	<i>Guests and Hosts</i>	43
	Reading: Potluck	
Unit 7	<i>Confusing Phrases</i>	51
	Reading: Quit Pulling My Leg	
Unit 8	<i>Greetings</i>	58
	Reading: Hand Kissing	
Unit 9	<i>Forms of Address</i>	66
	Reading: What Should I Call You?	
Unit 10	<i>Body Language</i>	74
	Reading: An Eye for an Eye	

Unit 11	<i>Touching in Public</i>	82
	Reading: I Want to Hold Your Hand	
Unit 12	<i>Dating</i>	90
	Reading: Breaking up	
Unit 13	<i>Weddings</i>	99
	Reading: Lady in Red	
Unit 14	<i>Good Luck and Bad Luck</i>	108
	Reading: Debby's Birthday Present	
Unit 15	<i>Parents and Children</i>	116
	Reading: Respect	
Unit 16	<i>The Classroom</i>	124
	Reading: School Daze	
Unit 17	<i>The Changing Role of Women</i>	132
	Reading: Who Pays the Check?	
Unit 18	<i>Attitudes toward Aging</i>	140
	Reading: Jack's Tale	
Unit 19	<i>Stereotypes and Prejudice</i>	148
	Reading: Sticks and Stones	
Unit 20	<i>Religious Practices and Beliefs</i>	156
	Reading: The Surprise	
	<i>World Map</i>	164
	<i>Answer Key</i>	166
	<i>Chinese Version</i>	173

UNIT 1

Clothing



Do you know...

1. What do most Americans wear to school?
2. What do teachers wear?



The Dress of Lace



Read the story.

My name is Linh. I'm an eighteen-year-old girl. My ethnic background and native language are Vietnamese. This is a story about what happened to me on my first day of school in America. I was nine years old.

A few weeks before school started, my aunt, my uncle, and some of my dad's friends came to visit us and they brought a lot of presents. I was surprised when I found clothing in one of the boxes. The clothes were nice but ordinary. They weren't special or fancy except for one dress. It was a dress of **lace**. There was lace surrounding the neck and the sleeves and lace on the bottom. I was very happy when I saw this dress.

On the first day of school I wanted to look my best and impress the other students. I wanted them to make friends with me, so I put on my fancy dress of lace. But when I got to school, all the students stared at me. They were laughing and saying something in English. I didn't know why they were doing this. I thought that maybe they had never seen an Asian girl in a dress before or that they wanted to make friends with me but were embarrassed to come over.

In the classroom an American teacher spoke English to me and pointed at my dress, but I didn't know what she was saying so I just smiled. The whole morning she didn't let me walk around or stand up. I had to sit all the way in the last row in the back of the room. During lunch, when all the other students had gone, an Asian teacher came into the room. The minute she saw me she spoke to me in Vietnamese. She told me that I shouldn't wear a **nightgown** to school, that in America people only wear nightgowns to sleep in! I was so embarrassed that I almost burst into tears. That morning when I left home, I thought I looked good, but I didn't. Instead, I embarrassed myself on my first day of school. I felt like not going to school anymore.

This embarrassment taught me not to try to impress others or I might end up making a **fool** out of myself. I also learned the difference between a fancy dress and a nightgown!

lace—A cloth that is made of fine threads and looks like net

nightgown—A piece of women's clothing, like a loose dress to sleep in

fool—A person who acts unwisely

Comprehension



A. Tell whether these sentences are true or false.

1. Linh came to the United States when she was eighteen years old.
2. Linh and her parents have other relatives in the United States.
3. Linh wore her dress of lace in a store.
4. Linh wore her dress of lace on the first day of school.
5. Linh's schoolmates were surprised when they saw her because they had never seen an Asian girl in a dress before.
6. The American teacher put Linh in the back of the classroom.
7. As soon as the American teacher explained the problem, Linh understood.
8. Linh did not enjoy her first day of school.

B. Answer these questions.

1. How did Linh get her dress of lace?
2. Why did Linh want to wear the dress of lace to school?
3. What did Linh's schoolmates do when they saw her?
4. What did the American teacher have Linh do? Why?
5. When did Linh find out she was wearing a nightgown?
6. How did Linh feel when she found out she was wearing a nightgown?

C. Give your opinion.

1. Do you think Linh's classmates behaved badly toward her?
2. What do you think Linh's teacher should have done?
3. Linh says she learned that she should not try to impress others.
Do you agree with Linh's conclusion? Why or why not?
4. What kind of clothes would you wear on your first day of school or work? Explain your choice.
5. Suppose you were going someplace and you did not know what would be appropriate to wear. What would you do?

D. Now add your own ideas to the story.

1. What did some of the students say to each other about Linh in her nightgown?
2. What did the teacher think about Linh? Did she like her or dislike her? Did she think Linh was smart or stupid? Did she feel sorry for Linh?
3. What did Linh's mother say to her when she came home so upset?
4. How did Linh feel when she returned to school the next day?
5. How did the students treat Linh when she returned the next day?

E. Compare yourself with Linh.

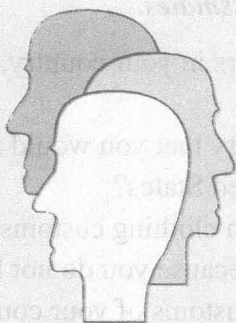
1. What did Linh learn?
2. What did you learn from Linh's story?

Vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the appropriate words. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. When Linh described her ethnic background she was referring to _____.
 - a. part of a picture or painting
 - b. the cultural group to which she belonged
2. If Linh's native language is Vietnamese, that means _____.
 - a. it is the language she first learned as a child
 - b. it is a language she learned later on in life
3. When Linh found ordinary clothes in the box she was describing something _____.
 - a. unusual
 - b. usual
4. Linh's fancy dress was _____.
 - a. plain
 - b. elegant

5. If Linh's dress had lace on it, that means it was _____.
a. probably pretty
b. probably not pretty
6. When Linh wanted to impress the other students, that meant _____.
a. she cared what they thought about her
b. she didn't care what they thought about her
7. When Linh felt embarrassed, she felt _____.
a. happy
b. unhappy
8. Linh was worried about making a fool of herself. That means she feared that _____.
a. others would have respect for her
b. others would have no respect for her
9. When the teacher pointed to Linh's dress, she was _____.
a. using her finger to direct attention to the dress
b. drawing a picture of the dress
10. Linh wanted to make friends with the students. She wanted them _____.
a. to like her
b. to like someone else but not her



fads—short-lived popular interests
or practices

CULTURE CAPSULE

Students usually wear casual, not formal, clothes to school. Jeans, T-shirts, and sneakers are popular among both girls and boys. It is also acceptable to dress up more. Students dress according to their personal preferences and sometimes are influenced by *fads*, or the latest fashions.

In some private schools and religious schools, students wear uniforms. Although public schools do not use uniforms, they sometimes have "dress codes," or rules about what clothes may *not* be worn to school.

Cultural Exchange

A. Tell whether these sentences about the United States are true or false.

1. Students wear uniforms to public schools.
2. There are no rules, and students can wear whatever they want.
3. Wearing a nightgown to school is acceptable.
4. Students cannot wear sneakers to school.
5. Students are not allowed to wear the latest fashion clothing to school.

B. Answer these questions about your country in writing or aloud. What kinds of clothing do you usually wear when you go to...

1. School?
2. Work?
3. The market?
4. A restaurant?
5. The movies?
6. Bed?

C. Discuss these questions with your classmates.

1. What clothing would you wear indoors in your country, but never outside in public?
2. Is there any clothing from your country that you would not wear in public if you visited the United States?
3. From what you know about American clothing customs, is there anything you would not wear because you do not like it or because it is against the clothing customs of your country?
4. In what ways are American clothing customs similar to clothing customs in your country? In what ways are they different?
5. What American clothing customs do you especially like or dislike?

6. Do American students dress more formally or more informally than students in your country?

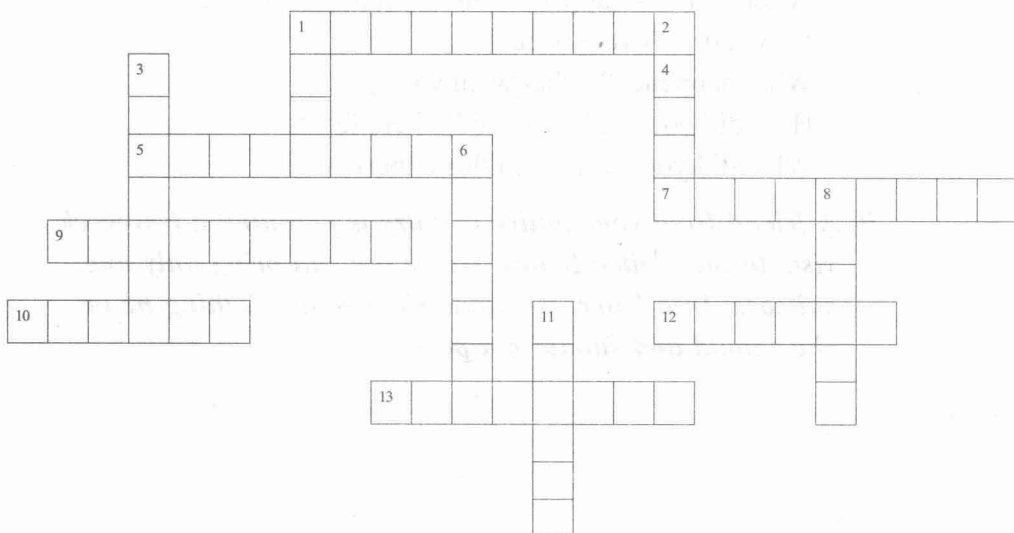
7. Did anything surprise you about this story?

Expansion



To increase your vocabulary about clothing, solve this crossword puzzle with words from the list below.

bikini	necktie	shoes	sweatsuit
bracelets	nightgown	sneakers	tuxedo
hat	purses	suit	
jacket	sandals	sunglasses	



Across

1. Good for the beach but not for the office
4. Good for outdoors but not for indoors
5. Good for sleeping but not for school
7. Good for exercising but not for a wedding
9. A person can wear many of these at the same time
10. Most women carry these, and some wear them on belts around their waists
12. Good for the winter but not for the summer
13. Good for the gym but not for church

Down

1. Good for job interviews
2. Some people wear them indoors; others take them off
3. Good for the summer but not for the winter
6. Good for a business meeting but not necessary for school
8. Good for a wedding but not for work
11. Good for the beach but not to go shopping

tuxedo—A man's formal evening suit, usually black

Follow- Up



A. Give a brief oral or written report. Choose number 1 or 2.

1. Tell about a special occasion when you were either underdressed or overdressed.
2. Tell about a time when you tried to impress someone by your appearance but it did not work out as expected.

When you describe the event, consider including some of the following details:

When did this happen? Where did it take place?

Why did the event occur?

What happened? What went wrong?

How did you feel? How did others feel?

What did you learn from this experience?

B. A friend from your native country is planning a two-week visit to the United States. He or she can bring only one suitcase. In a letter, tell your friend what clothing he or she should and should not pack.

UNIT 2

Holidays



Do you know...

1. How do children celebrate Halloween?
2. What are three other American holidays?

