

Reading Between the Lines

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读透英美时文报刊





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## 读透英美时文报刊

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#### 《读透英美时文报刊》

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#### 前言

报刊杂志是重要的信息传播工具之一。学会怎样读懂英语报刊文章对于英语学习者来讲是非常重要的。这是因为:第一,报刊文章的语言及内容具有很强的时效性,有利于英语学习者了解英语国家在社会经济等各方面的最新状况以及人们的思想动态,同时还有助于英语学习者掌握一些新事物在英语中的说法。第二,英语报刊文章所涵盖的内容非常广泛,从政治、经济、军事、外交到科技、文化、教育、体育、娱乐,一应俱全。这样丰富的学习材料是英语学习者从一般的英语学习课本里无法获得的。第三,读懂英语报刊文章对英语学习者来说是极富挑战性的一件事情。英语报刊文章不易读懂主要是因为其涉及到英语国家纷繁的政治、文化、历史背景知识以及报刊文章有别于英语课文的在文字和篇章结构方面的特点。鉴于此,我们编写了本书。希望通过阅读本书能够使读者初步掌握英语报刊阅读的基本技巧和知识。

本书所有文章均选自最新的著名英美报刊杂志。文章题材广泛,涉及当今世界最热门的话题。内容覆盖社会、政治、文化、经济、科技等各方面。每篇课文都由预习、报刊文章正文、词汇注释表、文章内容注释、阅读理解题和词汇练习几大部分组成。另外还有一个独立篇章简要介绍报刊文章阅读技巧。

本书适用于具有英语中级水平及以上的英语爱好者阅读。亦可用于大学高年级英语阅读补充教材。

在本书的编撰过程中,我们参阅了国外多种报刊,在每篇选用的文章结尾都注明了 出处,恕不在此一一列出,谨向原作者表示衷心感谢。同时,还要感谢新航道教育文化有 限公司的大力支持,并在此向所有在该书出版过程中付出过劳动的人们表示诚挚的 谢意。

> 编者 2007.11

#### 如何读懂英语报刊文章

英语学习者感觉报刊文章难读懂,主要原因在于缺乏有关英文报刊的基本知识,比如报刊英语的结构特征和语言特点、修辞与逻辑等等。如果了解了报刊英语的基本特点,加以这方面的阅读练习,就可以收到事半功倍的效果。以下,我们从几个方面简介一下报刊英语的特点:

#### 一、报刊英语的结构特征

报刊英语的文章不同于其他一些的常见媒体,有其自身的特点。一般来讲,从结构上可以把一篇报导或文章分成三个部分:标题(Head),引言(Lead),主体(Body)。而且这种格式相对固定。标题是全文的概括,引言用来引导文章内容,主体就是整篇文章的内容。

#### 二、标题

标题是文章内容的浓缩和概括。读报纸时,要先浏览标题,以决定读什么或先读什么。特别是英文报纸版面多,栏目多,内容庞杂,从何读起,标题可以起到"向导"作用。

- 1. 英文报刊标题主要有四大功能:概要文章内容;激发读者兴趣;显示新闻轻重;活泼美化版面。
- 2. 常见标题形式有单行式和双行式,例如:本书中 India's Skills Famine 为单行式,亦可称为直述式,这种标题直接告诉读者故事或事件的主题,是英文报纸中最常见的最容易理解的标题形式。双行式分两个层次,一主一副相互补充和配合,起到概要故事内容,准确反映文章基调,引起注意,激发兴趣的功能。例如,本书中的: As Demand for Donor Eggs Soars, High Prices Stir Ethical Concerns。
- 3. 英文报刊标题的语言有其自身的风格,其主要特点是:用词简洁,语法独特,修辞丰富,标点巧用。

英文报刊标题的特点是见解明了。其形式可以是一个简短的句子或一个短语甚至仅仅是一个单词。例如,本书中的: Because We Can, We Do (句子); The lost Youth of Europe (短语); The Graduates (单词)。

在英文报刊文章标题部分,常用一些修辞手段,例如,本书中的:The Faustian Generation(比喻); Sunbed, Sunbad (押韵)。

英文报刊常用的标点符号有逗号、分号、问号、引号和冒号。用逗号可以替代连接词

"and":问号常常用来引起读者的兴趣,例如,本书中的:Genetic Testing + Abortion = ???

- 4. 文章标题部分几乎都用现在时态,例如,本书中的:Man With TB Apologizes for Putting Others at Risk。
- 5. 文章标题部分通常省略某些词,尤其是冠词和动词 to be 。例如,本书中的:Activists Want Chimp Declared a 'Person'。

#### 三、掌握技巧、克服生词障碍

英文报刊文章包含的词汇量大,涉及面广,政治、经济、军事、文化、体育等无所不包。 因此,要读懂报刊原文,除了了解有关背景知识、中外文化差异,掌握一定的语言知识外, 很大程度上有赖于对词汇的领会。我们阅读报刊文章时,并没有时间逐个单词去查字 典,在很多情况下也无此必要,读读停停会影响对文章内容的整体理解,而且会失去阅读 兴趣。我们读报刊的主要目地是获取信息,应抓要点、明大意。报刊上的文章有其自身 的特点,如果对此有所了解并掌握阅读技巧,就能收到事半功倍的效果。

#### 1. 利用构词法猜测词义

英文报刊文章所涉及的词汇浩如烟海,但构成这些单词的词缀和词根是有限的,读者应充分利用自己所掌握的前缀、后缀和词根知识推断词的意义。例如:

前缀	意思	例词
ambi-	both	ambiguous, ambivalent
be-	to make, cause to be	bewilder, belittle
de-	away, from, negative	decompose, decanter
extra-	outside, outward	extracurricular, extrasolar
fore-	before, far(away)	foretell, foreword
hyper-	above, beyond	hypersensitive, hypersonic
mis-	wrong, unfavorable	misuse, misfortune
pseudo-	false	pseudonym
out-	beyond, further	outnumber, outrun
mal-	bad, evil	malnutrition, maltreat
词根	意思	例词
-anim-	mind, life, alive	animation, inanimate
-bene-	good, well	benefit, benevolent
-cred(o)-	to believe	credible, discredit
-flu(o)-	to flow	fluid, flush
-fus-	to pour, melt	fuse, fusion

-miser-	wretched	misery, miserable
-nov-	new	novelty, innovation
-sim-	similar, copy	similarity
-voc-, -vok-	voice, cry	vocal, provoke
后缀	意思	例词
-able, -ible	able to be	eatable, reducible
-age	amount of	mileage, tonnage
-ate	to act as, cause to become	fascinate, liberate
-cracy	rule by, rule of	democracy, bureaucracy
-fy	cause to become	purify, unify
-ia	disease, state, quality	hysteria, militia
-ship	state, quality, rank	friendship, relationship
-ster	a person of a certain type	songster, roadster
-wise	in the manner of	clockwise, likewise
-y	state, quality, act	jealousy, smoky

尽管这些词缀和词根看起来孤零零,枯燥难记,但我们可以用所熟悉的单词反向来记。如果真正掌握了这些词缀和词根,我们的词汇量将成倍扩大,阅读时会更加得心应手。

#### 2. 从上下文找线索

报刊文章往往会出现新的词语或比较专业的术语,这时文章的作者会考虑到广大的读者并不都是专业人员因此会提供这样或那样的线索,如利用标点符号引出定义或释义,举例说明,使用同义词或反义词等。通过这些线索,一个敏锐的读者能迅速猜测出生词的大意。

#### 1) 标点符号线索

逗号、冒号、破折号、括号等可以为我们提供猜测词的大意和了解句子各部分之间关系的线索。注意利用这些标点符号线索,能够使我们进行高效率的阅读。

逗号——列举并列成分,或对前面的词和内容进行解释;

冒号——对前面的词或内容进行补充和解释;

破折号——对前部分予以补充、说明;

括号——为前面出现的词或词组做注解。

例如:

(1) ... the general secretary of Amicus, the manufacturing, technical and skilled persons' union, ... 分析:很明显,逗号后面的部分是对 Amicus 的注释,即"生产、技术和

#### 熟练工人的协会"。

- (2) The singer's performance was not very good; the notes he sang were often the wrong pitch: sometimes they were too low and sometimes too high. 分析:pitch 后面的冒号提示我们,后面的内容是对该词的补充和解释,音符有时高有时低,由此可推出 pitch 在这里的意思是"音调"、"音高"。
- (3) "I kind of did it shotgun—different campuses, different places, all across the country," said Mr. Martin, who said he hoped to become a wildlife veterinarian. 分析:破折号后面的是对 shotgun 给予了提示和说明,"漫无目标地"。
- (4) A satellite is a machine which orbits the earth to relay (that is, send) communication signals over long distances. 分析:显而易见,括号内的词 send 是对 relay 一词的注释,即"传递"、"传播"。

#### 2) 举例线索

举例的目的是对重要的观点予以支持和论证,或对难懂的概念和术语进行解释和说明。举例往往会使观点和概念更加清楚、明了、易懂。有时被举例说明的词亦会为后面的例子起到提示作用。表示举例的信号词有:for example, for instance, such as, as, like, a case in point, take sth. for example, for one, for another 等。例如:

Both Gateses read scientific books and travel extensively in developing countries. They share a sense of urgency. "We're not doing enough in developing countries to distribute the therapies and practices we know are effective in fighting diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV," the couple told U. S. News. 分析:diseases 后面所举的例子可以由读者所熟知的单词"疾病"反向推断出,这些都是令人棘手的疾病名(此时,对文章的理解也就足够了),同时又帮助读者了解 therapies 的意思一定是"疗法"。

#### 3)同义词或反义词线索

作者为了加强所要表达的意思,用 and 连接两个意思相同或相近的词语,用 or 连接两个意思相反的词。读者如果了解其中一词的含义,便可推断出另一词的大体含义。例如:

- (1) The Friday after Thanksgiving may be the kickoff of the holiday shopping season in malls and stores. 分析:如果 mall 对于读者是生词,那么 store 一词便可提示,此词意思为"商场"、"商业中心"。
- (2) It has to do with our suspicion and skepticism of government power being able to take private property. 分析:同上例,大多数读者都了解的 suspicion 一词可以帮助我们得知 skepticism(英国英语为 scepticism)意思为"怀疑(态度)"。

#### 4) 同位语线索

阅读时,我们常常会发现,在一个不熟悉的词后面紧跟着一个解释性或说明性的词(组)或词群,即同位语。作者通常用同位语来为读者提供一个较生疏单词或专业术语的

通俗表达方法,以利于读者的理解。例如: In the early 1800s, groups of English workers wrecked machines that they felt threatened their jobs. They were called "Luddites" after one of their leaders, a term that now used for anyone who puts up resistance to new technologies. 分析: Luddite 后面的 a term that now used for anyone who puts up resistance to new technologies 是它的同位语,是对该词的解释,即,此术语现用来指任何以行动抵抗新技术的人。此词来源于十九世纪初用捣毁机器等手段反对企业主的自发工人运动的一个领头人的名字——卢德。

#### 5) 其他

除上述所列举线索外,读者还可利用比较与对照线索、因果关系线索及常识线索等。例如:..., a former prosecutor in the Manhattan district attorney's office and a professor of the Catholic University of America's Law School in Washington. 这段文字中的 attorney(律师)、Law School (法律学校)都可帮助读者推断出 prosecutor 的意思可能是"原告"、"起诉者"或"检察官"。

简言之,如果阅读时能够充分利用各种语言线索,就会较好地把握生词的含义,较快 地达到高效的阅读状态。

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### Women's Brains Are Different 女性的大脑是不同的

#### Before you read

#### > Preview:

多年来,"男女平等"、"男女同工同酬"等是常被谈及的话题。对于那些在不同领域受到不公平待遇的妇女来说,这的确是个值得社会各界给予高度重视的问题。很多国家以及国际上的妇女组织都在为此孜孜不倦地做出努力。然而,男女在体力方面的不同,是不可否认的事实。那么,男女在大脑方面又究竟有多大差异?这些差异具体反映在哪些方面?本文把我们带入针对这一问题的科学探讨中。

#### Warm-up questions:

- 1. In your opinion, what is the biggest difference between men and women?
- 2. Do you really believe that men and women think differently? Can you give an example?
- 3. Do you suppose that the brains of men and women are not the same?

#### Women's Brains Are Different

Louann Brizendine's<sup>1</sup> feminist ideals were forged in the 1970s, so the UCSF<sup>2</sup> neuropsychiatrist is aware that some parts of her new book, *The Female Brain* sound politically incorrect.

Such as the part about how a financially independent woman may talk about finding a soul mate, but when she meets a prospective mate her brain is subconsciously sizing up his portfolio<sup>3</sup>. Or the part describing the withdrawal pains moms feel when they return to work and can no longer cop a hormonal high from breast-feeding their babies. 4

Women have come a long way toward equality over the past 50 years, but the Yale-trained Brizendine, 53, says her research indicates that human brains are still wired for Stone Age necessities.

Male and female brains are different in architecture and chemical composition, asserts Brizendine. The sooner women—and those who love them—accept and appreciate how those neurological differences shape female behavior, the better we can all get along.

Start with why women prefer to talk about their feelings, while men prefer to meditate on sex.

"Women have an eight-lane superhighway for processing emotion, while men have a small country road," she writes. Men, however, "have O'Hare Airport as a hub for processing thoughts about sex, where women have the airfield nearby that lands small and private planes."

Untangling the brain's biological instincts from the influences of everyday life has been the driving passion of Brizendine's life—and forms the core of her book. The Female Brain weaves together more than 1,000 scientific studies from the fields of genetics, molecular neuroscience, fetal and pediatric endocrinology, and neurohormonal development. It is also significantly based on her own clinical work at the Women's and Teen Girls' Mood and Hormone Clinic, which she founded at UCSF twelve years ago. It is the only psychiatric facility in the country with such a comprehensive focus.

A man's brain may be bigger overall, she writes, but the main hub for emotion and memory formation is larger in a woman's brain, as is the wiring for language and "observing emotion in others." Also, a woman's "neurological reality" is much more deeply affected by hormonal surges that fluctuate throughout her life.

Brizendine uses those differences to explain everything from why teenage girls feverishly swap text messages during class, to why women fake orgasms to why menopausal women leave their husbands.

So the next time parents scold their daughters for excessive text messaging, consider Brizendine's neurological explanation:

"Connecting through talking activates the pleasure centers in a girl's brain. We're not talking about a small amount of pleasure. This is huge. It's a major dopamine and oxytocin rush, which is the biggest, latest neurological reward you can get outside of an orgasul."

Part road map for women looking for scientific explanations for their behavior, part geeky manual for relationship woes, *The Female Brain* already has become fodder for the morning chat shows. On the "Today" show this week, one critic downplayed the book's explanation gender differences, saying men and women are "more like North Dakota and South Dakota."

Brizendine's goal isn't manbashing (despite snippets like "the typical male brain reaction to an emotion is to avoid it at all costs"). Instead, she celebrates the differences.

"There is no unisex brain," Brizendine writes. "Girls arrive already wired as girls, and boys arrive already wired as boys. Their brains are different by the time they're born, and their brains are what drive their impulses, values and their very reality."

Brizendine's book offers a 1/2 page appendix on the female brain and sexual orientation, but she doesn't mention transgender folks. Sexual orientation, she writes,

"does not appear to be a matter of conscious self-labeling but a matter of brain wiring." All women are wired for a sexual orientation during fetal development, and "the behavioral expression of her brain wiring will then be influenced and shaped by environment and culture."

That's not to say either sex is more intelligent. Just different, Brizendine said. Nor do she or other scientists who study the brain, like Bruce S. McEwen, a Rockefeller (N. Y.) University brain rescarcher, dismiss the role that parenting and environment and experience play in shaping a person.

"The basic idea is that men and women approach the same problems in somewhat different ways, at least in part because of the biological differences in the brain, which in turn interact with experience—the nature-nurture story," said McEwen.

"This does not imply whether either sex is superior..., but it does provide the basis for such cultural sayings as 'Men are from Mars, and women are from Venus.'"

Indeed, *The Female Brain* covers ground that has been tilled, to various degrees, in books from 1993's "Men are From Mars, Wonlen are From Venus" to 1999's "The First Sex," to last year's "The Mommy Brain: How Motherhood Makes Us Smarter." Brizendine takes the research a step further and stretches it to cover a female's life from womb through menopause.

Katherine Ellison, author of "The Mommy Brain," said Brizendine represents a trend among neuroscientists who have been inspired by their experiences as parents to investigate what scientists have recently dubbed "the maternal brain."

"It has become more OK to talk about brain differences between genders over the past few years, whereas before, if you said men and women were 'different', it seemed to imply women were at a disadvantage," said Ellison, who lives in San Ausehno. "Now scientists are pointing out some clear advantages of the female brain, and in particular the 'mommy brain.'"

Among the more controversial subjects addressed in Brizendine's book is: Can new mothers successfully juggle career and family life?

Perhaps not, writes the onetime single mother. And that's OK, Brizendine said, if the work place can be reshaped to better accommodate new mothers.

"This book is a call-to-arms for women and society to rework the social contract that women have with employers throughout their childbearing years," said Brizendine, while sitting in the Sausalito<sup>5</sup> home she shares with her second husband of 10 years and teenage son. "We cannot afford to lose half the brainpower in this country. Our intelligent women are getting completely out of the loop for five to 10 years, and they cannot get back in.

"The message is that women can't stay at home 100 percent of the time and cut

themselves off from their careers. The workplace should realize that women are wired to take care of children, and they want that time and need that time."

It is a sentiment that wasn't around when she was born in Hazard, Ky. <sup>6</sup> a poor Appalachian<sup>7</sup> mining town, where her parents, Protestant<sup>8</sup> missionaries, were stationed. Her father, a minister, was active in the civil rights movement of the late 1950s and early 1960s, often appearing as a guest preacher in African American churches throughout the South. Despite Brizendine's mother being the valedictorian of her high school class Brizendine's maternal immigrant grandparents believed that women should not be educated and refused to give their daughter any money for college.

"One of the things that has been passionate in my life is to have a profession that would allow me to support myself," Brizendine said. "Watching my mother, an intelligent woman, have limited choices because of the culture—and because she was married to the typical male of that time in the 1950s in this country—it was clear to me that I had to find a different way myself."

She attended UC Berkeley on an academic scholarship, initially in the nearly allmale world of architecture majors. But in her junior year, she switched to neurobiology, fascinated by experiments where manipulating the hormones of an animal produced different behaviors.

"To me, that hit pay dirt," Brizendine said. "To have that kind of explanation for behavior that wasn't based on how your family raised you—or how the stereotypes of society were set on you."

From there she went to Yale Medical School, less than a decade after the undergraduate campus went coed. One day in class, Brizendine asked the professor why females weren't used in the study they were reviewing. She recalled him saying, "We don't use females in the study because their menstrual cycles would mess up the data."

"To be honest with you, the reason that this astounds me to this day," said Brizendine, "is because I didn't argue with him." But back then it was unthinkable to say, "Well, how can you then make medications, and how can you make assessments that you'll apply to female patients when you don't really know?"

Next, Brizendine hopes to expand her clinical work.

In the next month, she will open a satellite branch of the Women's and Teen Girls' Mood and Hormone Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, which will focus on issues of most concern to African American women, Latinas and lesbians—a further attempt to see how cultural issues affect the female brain.

For all women—and those who love them—she offers a tip.

Research shows that the female brain naturally releases oxytocin after a 20-second hug. The embrace bonds the buggers and triggers the brain's trust circuits. So Brizendine