

A Book under Pillow Crazy English

疯狂英语

2

精心提炼的英语短篇，脍炙人口的名篇佳作，
让你的英语水平在不知不觉中突飞猛进。

主编译：贾柱立

编译：贾柱立、石淑丽、刘坤娜

枕边书

中级版



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编者的话

《疯狂英语·枕边书》收录汇编了古今中外各种趣味性读物数百篇。全书的体裁和内容包括：速读篇段、通俗短文、童话寓言、幽默小品、民间传说、神话故事、人文民俗、名篇简写、佳作采撷、作家生平、故事梗概、名人轶事、传记故事、史地名胜等。文字浅显、题材广泛。每篇读物后均有注释。本书为中级版第2册，适用于高职高专A级英语水平和大学一年级以上，或具有4级英语水平的读者和其他英语学习爱好者。本书可作为泛读教辅材料，辅助英语学习。

本书系《疯狂英语·枕边书》中级版第2册。该书英语单词的再现率较高。对于一些相对再现率较低的词汇和短语，我们在另篇读物中适当做了重复注释，以便读者提高阅读效率。同时，本书在每篇文章的译文中插入了一些单词，虽然其中有些英文词性不是完全对应，但可以给读者检测记忆词汇提供很多方便。

由于编者水平有限，书中一定有一些不当之处，恳请读者批评指正。参加本书初期编写工作的人员有：贾柱立、钱伟、金环、银珠、铜锁、铁奇、田缘、梁丰。贾柱立担任本套书的主编。参加本书编译工作的还有：石淑丽、刘坤娜。天津大学出版社编辑黎恋恋对于本书的出版十分关心和重视，并提出了很好的编写和编译的设计意见，对此表示衷心的感谢。

Contents

1. Something about Colours (1)
关于颜色
2. News of the Engagement (I) (8)
订婚的消息(一)
3. News of the Engagement (II) (14)
订婚的消息(二)
4. News of the Engagement (III) (21)
订婚的消息(三)
5. A Rose for Miss Caroline (29)
一支送给卡罗兰小姐的玫瑰花
6. Abraham Lincoln (I) (41)
亚伯拉罕·林肯(一)
7. Abraham Lincoln (II) (54)
亚伯拉罕·林肯(二)
8. Abraham Lincoln (III) (65)
亚伯拉罕·林肯(三)
9. A Friend on the Line(I) (76)
电话朋友(一)
10. A Friend on the Line (II) (84)
电话朋友(二)
11. Killer Sharks Saved My Life (92)
食人鲨救了我的命
12. It Looks Like You (102)
长得像你

13. Communication in Our Daily Life (106)
日常交流
14. The Will (110)
遗嘱
15. Something about Elephants (119)
大象的故事
16. The Sleeping Princess (I) (123)
睡美人(一)
17. The Sleeping Princess (II) (128)
睡美人(二)
18. The Sleeping Princess (III) (133)
睡美人(三)
19. One More Battle (137)
再打一仗
20. The Little Children in the Forest (141)
在森林里的孩子
21. Robert Patten's Testament (I) (147)
罗伯特·帕顿的遗嘱(一)
22. Robert Patten's Testament (II) (156)
罗伯特·帕顿的遗嘱(二)
23. The Man in the Iron Mask (I) (166)
铁面人(一)
24. The Man in the Iron Mask (II) (171)
铁面人(二)
25. The British Museum (176)
英国博物馆
26. Cambridge—the University Town (179)
剑桥——大学城



27. Lucky Mrs. Neat! (182)
 Poor Mrs. Pigsty!
 幸运的尼特夫人!
 不幸的皮格斯蒂夫人!
28. What's All This about? (185)
 这是怎么回事?
29. Under One Condition (189)
 只要求一个条件
30. An Unexpected Visitor (193)
 不速之客
31. Alice's Dilemma (196)
 艾丽斯的困境
32. Hollywood (203)
 好莱坞
33. The Blind Men and the Elephant (207)
 盲人与大象
34. Pompeii (214)
 庞贝
35. A Day to Remember (218)
 记住这一天
36. "Must We Kill Them Both?" (223)
 我们一定要干掉他们吗?
37. Americans and Cars (228)
 美国人与汽车
38. Forget about Me! (233)
 别再想着我了!
39. The Lion and the Goat (236)
 狮子与山羊

40. Franklin Flies a Kite (241)
 弗兰克林放风筝
41. The Two Melons (246)
 两个甜瓜
42. The Peak That Flew Here (252)
 飞来峰
43. The Gift of a Lifetime (264)
 终身受用的礼物

1. Something about Colours



预习词汇

1. optimist [ˈɒptimist] 乐观主义者
2. shy [ʃai] 胆小的, 羞怯的
3. would rather...than 宁愿, 宁可, 较喜欢
4. pessimist [ˈpesimist] 悲观主义者
5. at least 至少, 起码
6. psychologist [saɪˈkɒlədʒist] 心理学家
7. preference [ˈprefərəns] 偏爱
8. be born with 天生的
9. mood [mu:d] (一时的) 心情, 情绪
10. cheerful [ˈtʃiəfʊl] 快活的, 使人愉快地
11. relaxed [riˈlækt] 心情舒畅的, 使人心里轻松的
12. depressing [diˈpresɪŋ] 压抑的, 郁闷的
13. suicide [ˈsjuːsaɪd] 自杀(者), 自禁(者)
14. sharply [ˈʃa:pli] 急剧地, 尖锐地
15. associate [əˈsəʊʃieɪt] 由……联想到
16. purple [ˈpɜ:pl] 紫色
17. lemon [ˈlemən] 柠檬
18. tragic [ˈtrædʒɪk] 悲惨的, 悲剧性的
19. composer [kəmˈpəʊzə] 作曲家
20. brighten [ˈbraɪtn] 使快活, 使活跃
21. can [kæn] (装液体的) 铁罐
22. personality [ˌpɜ:səˈnælɪti] 个性, 性格
23. lampshade [ˈlæmp,ʃeɪd] 灯罩





阅读故事

What is your favourite colour? Do you like yellow, orange, and red? If you do, you must be an *optimist*¹, a leader, an active person who enjoys life, people and excitement. Do you prefer greys and blues? Then you are probably quiet, and *shy*², and you *would rather follow than*³ lead. You tend to be a *pessimist*⁴. *At least*⁵, this is what *psychologists*⁶ tell us, and they should know, because they have been seriously studying the meaning of colour *preference*⁷, as well as the effect that colours have on human beings. They tell us, among other facts, that we don't choose our favourite colour as we grow up—we are born with our *preference*⁸. If you happen to love brown, you did so as soon as you opened your eyes, or at least as soon as you could see clearly.

Colours do influence our *moods*⁹; there is no doubt about it. A yellow room makes most people feel more *cheerful*¹⁰ and more *relaxed*¹¹ than a dark green one; and a red dress brings warmth and cheer to the saddest winter day. On the other hand, black is *depressing*¹². A black bridge over the *Thames River*¹³, near London, used to be the scene of more *suicides*¹⁴ than any other bridges in the area—until it was repainted green. The number of suicide attempts immediately fell *sharply*¹⁵; perhaps it would have fallen even more if the bridge had been done in pink or baby blue.

Light and bright colours make people not only happier but more active. It is an established fact that factory workers work better, and harder, and have fewer accidents when their machines are painted orange rather than black or dark grey.

We often *associate*¹⁶ a particular colour with a piece of music, a book, a play, a person, a number, or a letter. Doesn't 3 look red and 4 yellow? At the beginning of this century a French poet wrote that for him the letter A was always black; E was white, I red, O blue, and U green. For someone else, U might be deep *purple*¹⁷ or *lemon*¹⁸ yellow. A *tragic*¹⁹ story makes you think of black, red, and gold, while love stories vary from red to pink—or may be light blue. And why did the black American *composers*²⁰ of sad *Jazz*²¹ music call the songs “blue”?

Remember, then that if you feel low, you can always *brighten*²² your day or your life with a new shirt or a few *cans*²³ of paint. Remember also that you will know your friends and your enemies better when you find out what colours they like and dislike. And don't forget that anyone can guess a lot about your *personality*²⁴ when you choose a pair of socks or a *lampshade*²⁵.



理解词汇

1. optimist [ˈɒptimist] a. 乐观主义者

He's such an optimist that he's sure he'll soon find a job.
她很乐观,认为自己一定很快就能找到工作。

2. shy[ʃai] *adj.* 胆小的, 羞怯的
The child was shy and hid behind his mother.
这个小孩很怕羞, 躲在他妈妈后面。
3. would rather...than 宁愿, 宁可, 较喜欢
I'd rather walk than take a bus.
我愿意走路而不愿坐公共汽车。
4. pessimist[ˈpesimist] *n.* 悲观主义者
It's easy to sell insurance to a pessimist.
向悲观的人推销保险很容易。
5. at least 至少, 起码
He waited at least an hour.
他至少等了一小时。
6. psychologist[saiˈkɒlədʒist] *n.* 心理学家
We invited a psychologist to give a speech in our college.
我们邀请了一位心理学家到我们学院讲座。
7. preference[ˈprefərəns] *n.* 偏爱
A teacher should not show preference for any one of his pupils.
老师不应偏爱任何一个学生。
8. be born with 天生的
He was born with a lot diligence.
他天生勤奋。
9. mood[mu:d] *n.* (一时的)心情, 情绪
He's in a good mood today.
他今天心情很好。
10. cheerful[ˈtʃiəfʊl] *adj.* 快活的, 使人愉快地
The news isn't very cheerful, I'm afraid.
我看这个消息, 不太乐观。
11. relaxed[riˈlækst] *adj.* 心情舒畅的, 使人心里轻松的
He teaches in a relaxed style.
他采取轻松的教学方式。
12. depressing[diˈpresɪŋ] *adj.* 压抑的, 郁闷的
This is a depressing film.
这是一部令人沮丧的电影。

13. the Thames River (英国)泰晤士河

14. suicide['sju:saɪd] *n.* 自杀(者), 自焚(者)

It is professional suicide to involve oneself in illegal practices.

从事非法活动即是专门的自毁行为。

15. sharply['ʃɑ:pli] *adj. adv.* 急剧地, 尖锐的
暴跌的价格

16. associate[ə'səʊʃieɪt] *v.* 由……联想到, 把……同……联系在一起

17. purple['pɜ:pl] *n.* 紫色

I have received a purple dress as a birthday present.

我收到了一件紫色的连衣裙作为生日礼物。

18. lemon['lemən] *n.* 柠檬, 柠檬色, 柠檬黄

19. tragic['trædʒɪk] *n.* 悲惨的, 悲剧性的

Hers is a tragic story.

她的经历十分悲惨。

20. composer[kəm'pəʊzə] *adj.* 作曲家

The composer of this song has won the highest prize.

这首歌的创作者获得了最高奖项。

21. Jazz[dʒæz] *n.* 爵士音乐, 爵士舞曲

He likes modern Jazz very much.

他非常喜欢现代爵士乐。

22. brighten['braɪtn] *v.* 使快活, 使活跃

She brightened (up) my life.

她使我的生活有了希望。

23. can[kæn] *n.* (装液体的)铁罐

He drank four cans of beer.

他喝了四罐啤酒。

24. personality[,pɜ:sə'nælɪti] *n.* 个性, 性格

He has a strong personality.

她个性很强。

25. lampshade['læmpʃeɪd] *n.* 灯罩

I have bought a table lamp with lampshade.

我买了一个带灯罩的台灯。



读故事,记单词

1. 关于颜色

你最喜欢哪种颜色? 你喜欢黄色, 橙色, 红色吗? 如果你喜欢这几种颜色, 那么你一定是一位 *optimist*, 领导家, 积极向上的人。你热爱生活, 热爱其他人, 喜欢刺激。你喜欢灰色和蓝色吗? 那么你可能是一位安静, *shy* 的人, 你 *would rather* 跟随别人 *than* 引导别人, 你往往是一位 *pessimist*。At least, 这是 *psychologist* 告诉我们的, 他们应该是对的, 因为他们一直都在认真的研究颜色 *preference* 的含义, 以及颜色对人的影响。他们告诉我们, 事实上, 我们不会随着成长而去选择自己最喜欢的颜色——我们 *were born with* 就有自己的偏爱。如果你碰巧喜欢棕色, 那说明在你一睁开眼时, 就已经喜欢它了。或者, 至少在刚一能看清东西时。

颜色的确能影响我们的 *moods*, 这是毫无疑问的。大多数人会觉得在一间黄色的房子里比在一间深绿色的房子里, 更加 *cheerful*, 更加 *relaxed*。在凄冷的冬天, 穿一件红色的衣服会使人觉得温暖和愉快。相反, 穿一件黑色的衣服则使人觉得压抑。靠近伦敦的 *the Thames River* 上的那架黑色桥比这一地区其它桥上有更多自杀事件发生。最终他被漆成了绿色。企图自杀者的数量 *sharply* 下降。如果桥被漆成粉色或浅绿色, 可能这一数字还会继续下降。

明亮淡雅的颜色不仅会使人们更加愉快, 而且更加活跃。经证明在工厂里存在着这样一个事实, 当机器被漆成橙色而不是黑色或深灰色时, 工人们工作得更好, 更努力了, 而且有更少事故的发生。

我们通常会把一种特定的颜色与一曲音乐, 一本书, 一个剧, 一个人, 一个数字或一个字母 *associate* 在一起, 3 看上去像红色, 4 看上去像黄色, 不是吗? 在这个世纪之初, 一位法国诗人写道, 对于他来说 A 总是黑色的, E 是白色, I 是红色, O 是蓝色, U 是绿色。对于其他人来说, U 可能是深 *purple* 或者是柠檬黄。一个 *tragic* 故事会使你想到黑色, 红色

和金色,而爱情故事的颜色则会由红变为粉——或者淡绿色。为什么美国写悲情 Jazz 的黑人 composer 把那些歌曲称为“蓝调”?

请记住,如果你感到情绪低落时,你通常可以用一件新的衬衫或几 cans 油漆使自己的日子或生活 brighten。还要记住,当你发现你的朋友或敌人喜欢什么颜色或不喜欢什么颜色时,你可以更好的了解他们。

同时也不要忘记,在你选择一双袜子或一个 lampshade 时,别人会猜到你的 personality。



2. News of the Engagement¹ (|)



预习词汇

1. engagement [in'geɪdʒmənt] *n.* 婚约, 订婚
2. notion ['nəʊʃən] *n.* 看法, 想法
3. propose [prə'pəʊz] *vt.* 求(婚)
4. suspicion [səs'pɪʃən] *n.* 怀疑, 一点儿
5. brooch [brəʊtʃ] *n.* 胸针, 领针
6. delicate ['delɪkɪt] *a.* 伤脑筋的, 微妙的,
7. doubtless ['daʊtlɪs] *ad.* 必定, 显然, 无疑
8. remarkably [rɪ'mɑ:kəbli] *ad.* 异常地, 出众地, 非常地
9. widowhood ['wɪdəʊhʊd] *n.* 寡妇的身份, 守寡
10. porter ['pɔ:tə] *n.* 搬运工, 脚夫



阅读故事

Arnold Bennett²

My mother never came to meet me at Bursley³ station when I arrived in the Five Towns from London. She always had other things to do; she was “preparing” for me. So I had the little journey from Knype⁴ to Bursley, and then I walked up Trafalgar Road⁵, all by myself. And there was enough time to consider how I should break to my mother the tremendous news I had for her. I had been considering that question since I got into the train at Euston⁶,

where I had said good-bye to *Agnes*⁷; but in the atmosphere of the Five Towns it seemed more difficult; though, of course, it wasn't difficult, really.

You see, I wrote to my mother regularly every week, telling her most of my doings. She knew all my friends by name, I am sure she formed in her mind *notions*⁸ of what sort of people they were. Thus I had often mentioned Agnes and her family in my letters. But you can't write even to your mother and say: "I think I am beginning to fall in love with Agnes," "I think Agnes likes me," "I love her," "I feel certain she loves me too," "I shall *propose*⁹ to her some day." You can't do that. At least I couldn't. Therefore it had happened that on the 20th of December I had proposed to Agnes and she agreed to marry me, and my mother had no *suspicion*¹⁰ that my happiness was so near. And on the 22nd of December I came to spend Christmas with my mother.

I was the only son of a widow; I was all that my mother had. And I had gone and *engaged*¹¹ myself to a girl she had never seen, and I had not told her anything about it. She would certainly be very much surprised, and she might be a little hurt—just at first. Anyhow, the situation was very *delicate*¹².

I walked up the white front steps of my mother's little house, just opposite where the electric cars stop, but before I could put my hand on the bell, my little mother, in her black silk and her gold