



Our Own Journeys

英语背后的文化



一向老实听话的学生忽然变得调皮起来，居然朝老师身上泼水；亲生母亲想给孩子买一双鞋，却要让别人来帮她付钱；电信局要改动区号，可竟然招来许多顾客的抱怨。这些故事乍一听起来似乎有些滑稽，甚至荒诞，但都是生活中真实的事例。想要了解其中的缘由，就请翻开这本《英语背后的文化》。



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Our Own Journeys 英语背后的文化



《我们的旅程》是作者多年从事英语教学和研究的结晶，也是作者对英语背后文化的深入探索。本书以英语为切入点，通过对比分析中西文化差异，帮助读者更好地理解英语背后的文化内涵。本书适合英语专业学生、教师以及对跨文化研究感兴趣的读者阅读。

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英语背后的文化

OUR OWN JOURNEYS

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如有印刷、装订质量问题捷进可一公司负责调换。

一向老实听话的学生忽然变得调皮起来,居然朝老师身上泼水;亲生母亲想给孩子买一双鞋,却要让别人来帮她付钱;电信局要改动区号,可竟然招来许多顾客的抱怨。这些故事乍一听起来似乎有些滑稽,甚至荒诞,但都是生活中真实的事例。想要了解其中的缘由,就请翻开这本《英语背后的文化 — *OUR OWN JOURNEYS*》吧。

本书精选了 20 篇短小精悍的趣味故事。这些故事的主人公都曾因为不同文化之间的隔阂而闹出一些误会,甚至令人啼笑皆非的尴尬场面。不要以为这些事与你无关,只要我们生活在地球村这个既大又小的环境里,说不定哪天类似的事就会发生在你我身上。

与 *OUR OWN STORIES* 一样,练习部分也是本书最大的特色。形式不拘泥传统,趣味性强,更多采用主观性题目,引发学生积极思考。

RETELL THE STORY 让学生在领会大意的基础上自己重新组织语言,锻炼口语表达;

DICTIONARY DISCOVERY 独创先例,可以有效地解决中国学生长期以来不会使用词典的老大难问题;

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;

OUR OWN STORIES 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

前言

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《英语背后的故事》恰好形成进阶式梯度,但就其所涉及的文化背景知识来说,却可以适应各种层次的英语学习者和使用者的需求,即便是从事英语教学的老师和专门研究跨文化交际的人士也可以从中获取大量有用的素材,为自己今后的授课和研究做信息材料的积累,可谓众口皆调,开卷有益。

捷进可一编委会

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UNIT 1

The New Year

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- ▶ When do you celebrate the new year?
- ▶ Do some people celebrate the new year on a different date? Who? When?





Throwing Water

Read the story.

My name is Mrs. Buranen. I teach seventh grade in the United States. Usually my students behave very well—they almost never make trouble. But one April day some of my students were very excited and noisy. In the hall and on the playground, these students threw cups of water at each other. They even threw water at my teacher's aide and me!

I told the students to stop, but they continued their game. My teacher's aide didn't help me. She watched the students and smiled. Finally I got angry. I began to scold the noisy students, but my teacher's aide said, "Wait!?"

Can you guess?

Work in a small group. Answer these questions.

- ▶ The students threw water. Their teacher told them to stop, but they didn't. Why not?
- ▶ Didn't they like their teacher?
- ▶ Can you think of any other explanation?

Let's find out.

Read the explanation.

The date was April 13. The teacher's aide told Mrs. Buranen that it was the Cambodian New Year. The aide knew this because she was from Cambodia. The students who threw the water were Cambodian, too. It is a Cambodian custom to throw water at others on New Year's Day. Cambodians believe that it brings good luck and happiness all year. Sometimes they color the water red, pink, or yellow to show their hopes for a happy future. The students threw water at Mrs. Buranen to wish her good luck for the new year.

Did the explanation surprise you? Why or why not?



COMPREHENSION

A. Read the story and the explanation again. Write T (true) or F (false).

- ☒ 1. Mrs. Buranen taught in the United States.
- ☐ 2. Cambodians begin the new year on January 1.
- ☐ 3. The Cambodian New Year is a serious and quiet time.
- ☐ 4. The students wanted to make trouble.
- ☐ 5. The teacher's aide was Cambodian.
- ☐ 6. The students wished to give Mrs. Buranen good luck.

B. Answer these questions in a small group.

- 1. Who did the students throw water at?
- 2. Why was Mrs. Buranen angry?
- 3. Why wasn't the teacher's aide angry?
- 4. Who understood the students?



VOCABULARY

What do these words mean? Circle a or b. Look back at the story and the explanation if you need to.

- 1. behave well =
 - a. be noisy and throw water
 - ☒ b. be quiet and listen to the teacher
- 2. make trouble =
 - a. behave well
 - b. behave badly
- 3. a teacher's aide =
 - a. a person who helps a teacher
 - b. a teacher's book
- 4. finally =
 - a. after everything
 - b. before everything

5. scold =
 - a. be angry at
 - b. speak at in an angry way
6. good luck =
 - a. when good things happen
 - b. a lot of colored water
7. a custom =
 - a. something you do any way you want
 - b. something you do the special way your culture does it



RETELL THE STORY

- A. Work with a partner. Student A, retell Mrs. Buranen's story.
Student B, retell the explanation.
- B. What do you think? Share your opinion with your partner.

1. Mrs. Buranen scolded the students. How did the students feel?
2. Mrs. Buranen's aide explained the custom to Mrs. Buranen.
How did Mrs. Buranen feel?
3. The students threw water at their teacher. Were the students sorry?
4. In the future, will the students throw water at their teachers?



DICTIONARY DISCOVERIES

A dictionary is a book about words. You can find the meaning of a word, how to spell the word, and how to say it. The words in a dictionary are in ABC order. This is *called alphabetical order*.

The English Alphabet

Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Ff	Gg	Hh	Ii	Jj
Kk	Ll	Mm	Nn	Oo	Pp	Qq	Rr	Ss	Tt
Uu	Vv	Ww	Xx	Yy	Zz				

A. Put these words in alphabetical order.

behave aide scold celebrate trouble finally luck

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. <u>aide</u> | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. <u>frouble</u> |
| 4. _____ | |

Put these words in alphabetical order.

seventh student stop scold show

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 8. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 10. _____ | |

B. Choose three words from "Throwing Water." Find them in your dictionary. Write the word that comes before and after each of your words.

Example:

the word before	<u>scissors</u>
your word	<u>scold</u>
the word after	<u>scoop</u>

- | | |
|--------------------|-------|
| 1. the word before | _____ |
| your word | _____ |
| the word after | _____ |
| 2. the word before | _____ |
| your word | _____ |
| the word after | _____ |
| 3. the word before | _____ |
| your word | _____ |
| the word after | _____ |

A. Read about New Year's Eve in the United States.

The year begins on January 1, but most Americans go to parties on New Year's Eve, December 31. At midnight, the new year begins. People make a lot of noise and kiss each other. It is a happy time. Many Americans also like to make New Year's resolutions. New Year's resolutions are promises people make to themselves to do something in the new year.

B. List three American customs you know about. Do you know other things Americans do on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

A. Ask and answer these questions with a partner.

1. Can you say "Happy New Year" in another language?
2. When does your family celebrate the new year?
3. How does your family celebrate? Do you eat special foods? Do you wear special clothing? What other New Year's customs do you have?
4. What do you do to bring good luck in the new year?

B. What do you know about other holidays around the world? Work in a group. Share what you know to complete the chart on page 7.

Holiday	Country	Date	Reason or Purpose	Activities
Girl's Day	Japan	March 3	Girls will think about being good and healthy.	Grandparents give their granddaughters special, traditional dolls.



EXPANSION

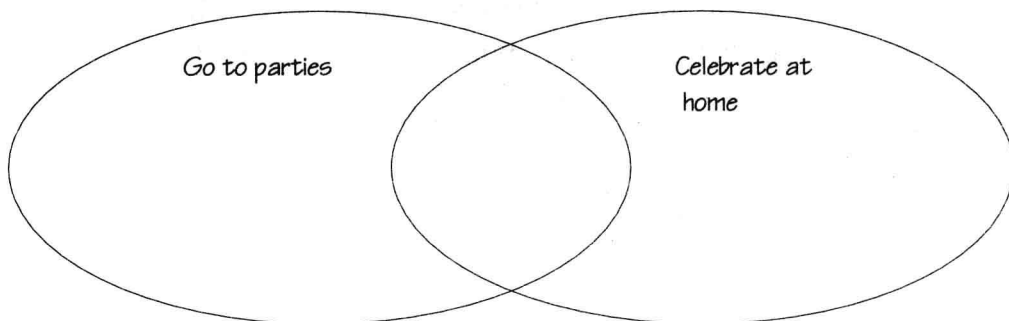
A. How do most Americans celebrate the new year? How do you celebrate it? Do you do any of the same things?

Fill in the diagram. Then discuss it with a partner.

**How Americans
celebrate**

**How both Americans
and I celebrate**

**How I
celebrate**



B. In the United States, many people make New Year's resolutions. Sometimes people promise themselves to lose weight, be kinder to others, study harder, or look for a better job.

Write three resolutions for yourself. Discuss them with a partner.

My New Year's Resolutions

Resolution	Reason
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.



OUR OWN STORIES

Holidays are often the same every year. We see the same people and do the same things. Do you remember a holiday that was different one year? Tell your classmates about it. What was the holiday? Why was it different? How did you feel about it?



UNIT 2

Luck

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Do you have good luck?
- Can a person keep bad luck away? How?

