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欧美

European American Culture Reading Selections

# 文化阅读文选

( 下 )

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American

Culture

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# 欧美文化阅读文选

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# 前 言

欧美文化丰富多彩，对我们的广大师生有很强的吸引力，也是大家都喜欢了解的。为了适应我国培养新型的高素质外语人才和国际化的人才需要，我们根据当前的实际教学情况编写了此书，以供广大高等院校的师生学习使用。愿它能在大家学习英语语言、提高英语水平与知识水平的同时，为大家更多地了解欧美文化方面的知识、服务于祖国人才培养和建设做出贡献。

这本《欧美文化阅读文选》是我们根据实际教学的需要而编写的一本高等院校英语选修课的教科书，它的编写旨在为学生提供一些欧美文化方面的信息和知识。它是学生们了解欧美文化的一本很好的教学用书，不但能帮助学习者学习和掌握欧美文化方面的基础知识，而且也能提高他们的语言能力和英语表达水平及综合水平。

语言的学习和文化的学习是密不可分的。语言学习不仅包括对语言本身的学习和语言知识的学习，也包括文化知识方面的学习。在学习英语的过程中我们会碰到许多文化方面的知识，例如：我们可能会碰到涉及文学作品、艺术创作、社会、科技、建筑、风土人情、人类成就以及政治等方面的重要人物和事件等。如果我们对这些知识不了解就会有碍我们英语学习的顺利进行，若我们对这些知识了解得越多就越能有助于我们语言的学习、掌握和提高。对欧美文化的学习也能在很大程度上提高人的素质和修养，有利于人的道德、性情和趣味的提高。

本书由25个单元构成，每单元4个Reading Passages，共计100篇短文。在每个Reading Passage的后面都设有词汇表、注释和句子翻译或阅读理解练习。这些文章的内容包括西方的精神追求、价值观念、议事方式、知识背景、科技和艺术等方面的情况和成就以及一些综合知识等等。我们的选材以欧美文化为主干，侧重美国文化，都是一些适合教学的质量高的文章，对培养学生的语言修养和文学素质、塑造完美人格、增强跨文化交际意识和文化鉴赏能力都有促进作用。

该书具有知识性、系统性、科学性、时代性、趣味性、新颖性和可读性等，方便教与学、思考和掌握。

在书的后面我们给出了每个阅读文章练习的答案，以供学习参考。

真诚希望各位读者读有所获，丰富自己的知识，提高个人的文化修养和素质，对我们所生活的世界有更多的了解，并为其多作贡献。

本书的出版要特别感谢吉林大学出版社的同志对我们的指导和支持，在此特致衷心的感谢。

书中如有不妥和错误之处，敬请广大读者提出批评和建议。

编 者

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# Unit One

## Part 1

### Reading Passage I

#### Americans and Their Cars

Ever since Henry Ford invented the Model T, America has been romanced by the automobile. Today America is very much a car culture and most people find that owning a car is essential to their lives. Modern housing developments usually spring up in the suburbs away from city transportation, but close to main boulevards and interstate highways which become a lifeline to support their active lifestyles.

To live in these developments without a car would make modern life almost impossible. One would become a virtual prisoner in his own home. For this reason no private home today is built without a driveway and garage. Many homes may even have as many as three or four cars; one owned by each member of the family. Japanese cars, although small in size, are very popular in America because they are very economical to maintain and fuel efficient. In general, American cars are neither economical to run nor efficient with fuel. Nevertheless, they are much larger with plenty of space in the trunk storage area and the back seat. However, in comparison to other developed nations, gas in America is still reasonably priced. Americans, therefore, tend to clock in more miles on their car every year because of the larger distances covered in getting from place to place.

If Japan is well-connected by its excellent railroad system, America prides herself on her vast network of parkways and superhighways which connect the smaller town with the bigger cities. Perhaps no country in the world has developed such an extensive highway system as the United States with so many toll-free roads. Her dependence on the automobile has made such highways both a convenience and a necessity. Along these highway can be found almost every modern convenience so that one can travel endlessly without ever making contact with cities. Along the highways are motels, restaurants, shopping malls and entertainment centers.

In America one is more likely to see cars in a rainbow of colors and a variety of shades with the possible exception of white. This is probably the least popular color for an American motorist. Americans feel that a white car is too conspicuous and much harder to keep clean than one which has a darker color. The color white shows up all the grit and grime of city pollution and road traffic.

This integration of the automobile into the lifestyle of most Americans is also reflected in the many drivers' education courses found in the curriculum of most high schools. Students can earn needed credits for graduation by taking these courses and gaining for themselves a driver's

license in the process. It is not odd to see high school seniors in the countryside going to school every day by car and parking on the school grounds.

This dependency on the auto is also seen in the way American's conduct their everyday lives. Drive-in banks and fast food places can be used without ever leaving one's own car. Even today, in spite of the warnings of ecologists, a popular leisure activity on a holiday is to just drive along an open highway with no specific purpose at all.

## Vocabulary

romance	/rə'mæns, rəu-/	v.	写传奇, 渲染, 虚构
automobile	/'ɔ:təməubi:l, ɔ:təmə'bi:l/	n.	汽车, 机动车辆
boulevard	/'bu:liva:d/	n.	林荫大道
lifeline	/'laɪflaɪn/	n.	救生索, 生命线, 重要的交通线 (或通信联络线)
virtual	/'vɜ:tʃuəl, -tʃuə/	a.	虚的, 实质的, 有效的, 事实上的
driveway	/'draɪvwei/	n.	车道
economical	/i:kə'nɒmɪkəl/	a.	节约的, 经济的
efficient	/i'fɪʃənt/	a.	(直接) 生效的, 有效率的, 能干的
storage	/'stɔ:ɹɪdʒ/	n.	贮藏 (量), 贮藏库, 存储
comparison	/kəm'pærɪsn/	n.	比较, 对照, 比喻, 比较关系
reasonably	/'ri:zənəbli/	ad.	适度地, 相当地
parkway	/'pɑ:kwei/	n.	公园道路, 驾车专用道路
superhighway	/,sju:pə'hai,wei/	n.	超级高速公路
toll	/toul/	n.	通行税 (费), 通过费, 代价
convenience	/kən'vi:njəns/	n.	便利, 方便, 有益
necessity	/ni'sesɪtɪ/	n.	必要性, 需要, 必需品, 必要
rainbow	/'reɪnbəu/	n.	彩虹, 五彩缤纷的排列, 虚无缥缈的东西
conspicuous	/kən'spɪkjʊəs/	a.	显著的
grit	/grɪt/	n.	粗砂
grime	/graɪm/	n.	尘垢, 污点, 煤尘
integration	/,ɪntɪ'greɪʃən/	n.	综合
reflect	/rɪ'flekt/	v.	反射, 反映, 表现, 反省, 细想
curriculum	/kə'ɹɪkjʊləm/	n.	课程 (表)
conduct	/'kɒndʌkt, -dəkt/	n.	行为, 操行
ecologist	/i'kɒlədʒɪst/	n.	生态学者
leisure	/'leɪʒə, 'li:ʒə/	n.	空闲, 闲暇, 悠闲, 安逸
specific	/spi'sɪfɪk/	a.	详细而精确的, 明确的, 特殊的, 特效的
purpose	/'pɜ:pəs/	n.	目的

## Notes

1. Henry Ford: 亨利·福特 (1863年7月30日—1947年4月7日), 美国汽车工程师与企业家, 福特汽车公司的建立者。他也是世界上第一位使用流水线大批量生产汽车的人。这种新的生产方式使汽车成为一种大众产品, 它不但革命了工业生产方式, 而且

对现代社会和文化也起了巨大的影响，因此有一些社会理论学家将这一段经济和社会历史称为“福特主义”。

2. the Model T: 1908 年福特公司推出了福特 T 型车。因为 T 型已经非常出名。1913 年福特将流水线引入他的工厂，从而极大地提高了生产量。1918 年半数在美国运行的汽车是 T 型。福特非常注意倡导和保护 T 型的设计。这个设计一直被保持到 1927 年。到 1927 年福特一共生产了 1500 万辆 T 型车。
3. interstate highway: 州际公路
4. tend to 后可接动词，意思是“易于”“倾向于”。  
例如：Woolens tend to shrink. 毛织品易于缩水。  
Europeans tend to love their cars. 欧洲人往往很喜欢汽车。  
也可接名词，例如：The sort of music he listens to varies, but tends to popular music. 他所听的音乐多种多样，不过倾向于流行音乐。
5. toll-free roads: 不收过路费的路
6. trunk storage area: 指汽车后备箱储物空间
7. show up: 揭露，露出，露面
8. Students can earn needed credits for graduation ...: credit 指的是“学分”。
9. It is not odd to see high school seniors in...: high school seniors 指的是高中高年级的学生

## Exercises

I. Complete each of the following sentences with words or expressions given, make changes where necessary (用所给的词或词组填空，如有必要作适当的改变):

efficient	in comparison with	reasonably	conspicuous	reflected
economical	virtual	tend to	prides...on	contact with

1. It is not the father, but the son that is the \_\_\_\_\_ president of the firm.
2. Although she has earned a lot, Susan is an \_\_\_\_\_ woman.
3. The way you work is far from \_\_\_\_\_; no wonder you have fallen behind your colleagues.
4. Living in the country is cheap \_\_\_\_\_ the big cities.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ get angry when people oppose to his plan.
6. His room was \_\_\_\_\_ tidy.
7. He \_\_\_\_\_ himself \_\_\_\_\_ his ability to speak French.
8. The invention of cell phones has made it easy for people to \_\_\_\_\_ each other.
9. The hotel is \_\_\_\_\_ along Rin Min Road for its high-rise building.
10. Americans' concern about the economy is \_\_\_\_\_ in the low value of the dollar.

II. Translate the following sentences into Chinese (把下列句子译成汉语):

1. Ever since Henry Ford invented the Model T, America has been romanced by the automobile.
2. In general, American cars are neither economical to run nor efficient with fuel.
3. Her dependence on the automobile has made such highways both a convenience and a necessity.
4. In America one is more likely to see cars in a rainbow of colors and a variety of shades with the possible exception of white.

5. This dependency on the auto is also seen in the way American's conduct their everyday lives.

## **Reading Passage II**

### **Sunday: A Day of Rest**

For many Americans, Sunday is a day of rest. After a busy week of business transactions and work routines, it is a day to pause and focus on faith and family. However, it is not a day to waste away by doing nothing. It is a day for many to attend church and to worship with their local community. This notion is based on the Biblical account of creation when God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. For this reason, one day is set aside during the week as a day of rest and worship. On Sunday most department stores and business are closed for the day and only places of entertainment and culture may be open to the public.

Sometimes when we read the newspapers and watch TV, we get the false impression that American society is an amoral society where people have no respect for family and religious values. This concept is often exploited by tabloid papers and the foreign press but nothing could be further from the truth. In spite of the apparent carefree attitude sometimes projected by the press, many Americans, especially those living in the rural areas and the deep south, are very traditional in their approach to life, family and religion. Sundays for them still become a time to attend their local church and to meet with their fellow parishioners. The church service becomes for them the center of their day's activities.

At the church service, a choir composed of members from the community sings hymns and songs and the preacher or minister delivers a sermon based on a passage from the Gospel. In some Christian churches there is also a communion service where a ritual remembrance of the Last Supper is reenacted in a fellowship which concludes the liturgy. After the service, which may last as long as an hour, the members of the congregation along with their pastor may meet in the parish hall to enjoy coffee and cake and to socialize together. This is also the time to exchange social greetings and ideas with one another, to become informed of the needs of the community, and to find out about the latest happenings in the parish.

Most churches may also distribute a small bulletin containing announcements of births, deaths and marriages within the community. There may also be additional short notices of special meetings to be held in the parish, such as choir rehearsals, senior citizen group activities and local scouting events. Upcoming parish events sponsored by the church also get ample notice. Such events may include a bake sale to collect money for shut-ins, a cook-out for the underprivileged in a local park, or a holiday trip to a local resort for members of the parish council.

Belonging to a church is important to many Americans because it helps to bring people together with others who share the same religious faith and family values. It also helps to create a sense of the extended family and solidifies the community spirit and a sense of personal belonging. On the remainder of this day of rest, families are merged into closely knit units by getting together for a dinner at which one's own extended family is invited.

If one is not a regular churchgoer the day is still a chance to rest. It is spent visiting other relatives or friends, going to parks or attending ball games, museums or concerts. It is a time to enrich one's life through leisure and to prepare one's mind for the workweek to follow.

## Vocabulary

transaction	/træn'zækʃən/	n.	交易, 事务
routine	/ru:'ti:n/	n.	例行公事, 常规, 日常事务
worship	/'wə:ʃɪp/	n.	崇拜, 礼拜, 尊敬
Biblical	/'biblikəl/	a.	圣经的
amoral	/ei'mɔ:rəl/	a.	与道德无关的, 非道德的
exploit	/iks'plɔɪt/	v.	开拓, 开发, 开采, 剥削, 使用
carefree	/'keəfri:/	a.	无忧无虑的, 轻松愉快的, 不负责任的
project	/'prɒdʒekt/	v.	投射, 放映, 射出
approach	/ə'prəʊtʃ/	n.	接近, 逼近, 走进, 方法, 步骤, 途径
parishioner	/pə'riʃənə/	n.	教区居民
choir	/'kwaɪə/	n.	唱诗班, 唱诗班的席位
hymn	/him/	n.	赞美诗, 圣歌
preacher	/'pri:tʃə(r)/	n.	传教士
sermon	/sə:mən/	n.	训诫, 说教, 布道
Christian	/'kristjən/	n.	基督徒
remembrance	/ri'membərəns/	n.	回想, 记忆, 记忆力
reenact	/,ri:'ɪnækt/	v.	再制定, 再扮演
liturgy	/'lɪtə(:)dʒi/	n.	圣餐仪式, 礼拜仪式
congregation	/,kɒŋgri'geɪʃən/	n.	集合, 集会
pastor	/'pɑ:stə/	n.	牧师
parish	/'pærɪʃ/	n.	教区
bulletin	/'bulɪtɪn/	n.	公告, 报告
rehearsal	/ri'hə:səl/	n.	排演, 演习, 预演, 试演
sponsor	/'spɒnsə/	n.	发起人, 资助者, 主办者, 主办人
underprivileged	/'ʌndə'prɪvɪlɪdʒd/	a.	被剥夺基本权力的, 穷困的, 下层社会的
resort	/ri'zɔ:t/	n.	常去之地, 胜地
scouting	/'skautɪŋ/	n.	守候活动, 童子军活动
solidify	/sə'lɪdɪfaɪ/	v.	(使)凝固, (使)团结, 巩固
remainder	/ri'meɪndə/	n.	残余, 剩余物, 其他的人, [数]余数
enrich	/ɪn'ritʃ/	v.	使富足, 使肥沃, 加料于, 浓缩

## Notes

1. Biblical account of creation: 指的是圣经上对上帝创造世界的描述。简单地说, 上帝在第一天创造了光, 第二天创造了空气, 第三天创造了花草树木, 第四天创造了日月星辰, 第五天创造了天上的飞鸟和水里的鱼, 第六天创造了人、动物、昆虫, 第七天, 上帝休息了。这就有了安息日之说。

2. the Gospel: 福音
3. communion service: (基督教)圣餐礼
4. the Last Supper: 据传说耶稣曾在耶路撒冷的神殿上, 猛烈抨击伪善的人, 说他们是毒蛇的子孙。因此遭到他的宗教敌人的反对, 而欲置之死地而后快。耶稣的门徒犹大在黑暗势力面前贪生怕死而叛变, 并接受了祭司长的 30 枚银币, 答应做内应帮宗教敌人逮捕耶稣。在逾越节(犹太民族的主要节日)的晚上, 耶稣已预知其死期快到, 和 12 个门徒共进晚餐, 故名“最后的晚餐”。在进餐中, 耶稣揭露了犹大的叛变行为, 接着犹大提前离席, 给敌人通风报信, 并带领敌人前来捉拿耶稣。这是文艺复兴一个世纪以来许多艺术家常画的一个传统题材, 只有达·芬奇的“最后的晚餐”达到了最高的成就, 而成为文艺复兴盛期最典范的作品之一。
5. Such events may include a bake sale to collect money for shut-ins, a cook-out for the underprivileged in a local park...: shut-ins 在这里指的是那些因病卧床或无法离家的人, a cook-out 指野外郊游时烹调的野餐, the underprivileged 指那些穷困的人、下层社会的人, 像公园里的流浪汉们。
6. extended family: 大家庭, 扩大的家庭(如数代同堂的家庭)等
7. families are merged into closely knit units by getting together for a dinner at which one's own extended family is invited. be merged into 意为“融合成”“合并成”。

## Exercises

- I. Complete each of the following sentences with words or expressions given, make changes where necessary (用所给的词或词组填空, 如有必要作适当的改变):**

set aside	is composed of	impression	approach	exchange
account	exploit	resort to	sponsor	inform

1. I don't believe his \_\_\_\_\_ of the incident.
2. You should \_\_\_\_\_ at least one hour to learn English everyday.
3. There is a limit to \_\_\_\_\_ natural resources.
4. The committee \_\_\_\_\_ ten members.
5. He is well \_\_\_\_\_ of what is happening around the world by listening to news broadcasting everyday.
6. Dalian's beauty has left a deep \_\_\_\_\_ on me.
7. Different people have different \_\_\_\_\_ to life.
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ five dollars for 40 Yuan.
9. In no case, we would \_\_\_\_\_ threats or wars.
10. General Motors has been involved with the U.S. Olympic Committee as a \_\_\_\_\_ since 1984.

**II. Translate the following sentences into Chinese (把下列句子译成汉语):**

1. This notion is based on the Biblical account of creation when God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.
2. This concept is often exploited by tabloid papers and the foreign press but nothing could be further from the truth.
3. This is also the time to exchange social greetings and ideas with one another, to become

informed of the needs of the community, and to find out about the latest happenings in the parish.

4. It also helps to create a sense of the extended family and solidifies the community spirit and a sense of personal belonging.
5. It is a time to enrich one's life through leisure and to prepare one's mind for the workweek to follow.

## Part 2

### Reading Passage I

#### A Green Thumb

Container gardening is especially adapted to contemporary living. Houseplants are as compatible with the bold, simple lines of contemporary architecture as with the intricate lines of many older homes. Plants display great variety of form and texture. They can be used to create instant indoor gardens; they can be moved from one home to another; and they can be moved outdoors in the summer and indoors during the cooler months.

Space is not a problem. Container gardening can be conducted in a single pot on a table or windowsill, in a more elaborate room divider, or in a built-in planter. Just as there are many kinds of plants, there are many kinds of containers. The choice ranges from the common clay pot to cans, jars, boxes, baskets, and tubs. Most people select containers for both their practical and aesthetic qualities. These include cost, availability, weight, strength, durability, attractiveness, and decorative and sentimental value.

Particularly important considerations for good plant growth are the volume and depth of the container, and some provision for drainage. Containers should have drainage holes in the bottom, and a layer of pebbles or broken crockery above this. Watertight containers allow excess water to accumulate around the roots, causing them to rot. Furthermore, drainage holes give roots access to oxygen. The container should be large enough to allow growth; when the roots come through the bottom, it is time to transplant.

Besides the right kind of container, some fundamental requirements for plant growth must be provided. Plants need light, water, nutrients, and a satisfactory temperature range. Although the evaporation of water through the container walls is not critical, plants in porous containers will require more frequent watering to maintain moisture levels than will those in nonporous containers. Light is the most critical requirement. The levels of all the other requirements are adjusted in relation to the amount of light that plants receive. When plants don't have enough light, they grow slowly and become tall and spindly; it becomes difficult to avoid overwatering them. It is also important not to give plants too much light; a florist will know the optimal amount of light to give a plant.

In order to begin a home container garden, consult a gardening book, florist, or local greenhouse owner. Choose a plant with a reputation for health and easy manageability for your



initial attempt at gardening.

You can get as involved as you wish with your plants. Some people keep terrariums because they require no care, while others play music for, or even talk to their plants. It's all up to the individual, and some plants are luckier than others!

## Vocabulary

container	/kən'teɪnə/	<i>n.</i>	容器 (箱, 盆, 罐, 壶, 桶, 坛子等), 集装箱
gardening	/'gɑ:dnɪŋ/	<i>n.</i>	园艺, 造园, 造园术, 园林工人的工作
contemporary	/kən'tempərəri/	<i>a.</i>	当代的, 同时代的
houseplant	/'haʊsplɑ:nt/	<i>n.</i>	室内植物, 家养植物
compatible	/kəm'pætəbl/	<i>a.</i>	协调的, 一致的, 兼容的
intricate	/'ɪntrɪkɪt/	<i>a.</i>	复杂的, 错综的, 难以理解的
texture	/'tekstʃə/	<i>n.</i>	(织品的)质地, (木材, 岩石等的)纹理, (皮肤)肌理
window sill	/'wɪndəʊsɪl/	<i>n.</i>	窗沿, 窗台
divider	/dɪ'vaɪdə/	<i>n.</i>	分割者, 间隔物, 分配器, 圆规
planter	/'plɑ:ntə/	<i>n.</i>	种植者, 耕作者, 种植园主
aesthetic	/ɪ:s'θetɪk/	<i>a.</i>	美学的, 审美的, 有审美感的
availability	/ə'veɪlə'bɪlɪti/	<i>n.</i>	可用性, 有效性, 实用性
decorative	/'dekərətɪv/	<i>a.</i>	装饰的
sentimental	/,senti'mentl/	<i>a.</i>	感伤的, 感情脆弱的
crockery	/'krɒkəri/	<i>n.</i>	陶器, 瓦器
watertight	/'wɔ:tətaɪt/	<i>a.</i>	不漏水的
transplant	/træns'plɑ:nt/	<i>v.</i>	移植, 移种, 移民, 迁移
porous	/'pɔ:res/	<i>a.</i>	多孔渗水的, 易渗水的
spindly	/'spɪndli/	<i>a.</i>	纺锤形的, 细长的
florist	/'flɒrɪst/	<i>n.</i>	种花人
optimal	/'ɒptɪmə/	<i>a.</i>	最佳的, 最理想的
terrarium	/te'rɛəriəm/	<i>n.</i>	玻璃容器

## Notes

1. compatible with the bold, simple lines of contemporary architecture: 与现代建筑的大胆、简单的线条相一致。lines: 外形, 轮廓
2. practical and aesthetic qualities: 实际上的和审美方面的品质特征
3. decorative and sentimental value: 装饰和情感价值
4. give roots access to oxygen: 使根接近氧气, 即植物的根可通过排水孔吸收氧气
5. Choose a plant with a reputation for health and easy manageability for your initial attempt at gardening. 当你刚开始尝试搞园艺的时候, 选择一种益于健康、好侍弄的植物。
6. It's all up to the individual. 这都取决于个人 (的喜好)。

## Understanding the Passage

1. This article is primarily about