



UK?

DO YOU KNOW

休闲英语

王之光 ◆ 译编  
世界图书出版公司

# 了解 英国



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**Do You Know UK?**

**了解英国**

**王之光 译编**

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# 序

戴炜栋

随着我国改革开放的深入,英语在我们生活和工作中的作用也越来越明显。无论是从事对外贸易、科技研究,还是参与体育比赛、文化活动,甚至与国外的亲友联系,几乎都要用到英语。尽管语言学家已经发明了世界语,但是世界上实际应用最广的语言仍是英语。就此而言,英语是真正的“世界语”,至少目前如此,这也就是为什么学习英语能成为一种世界性热潮的原因。最近十多年来,我国也有越来越多的人投入到英语学习中,他们孜孜不倦地学习英语,刻苦勤奋地钻研英语。这固然是自身生活和工作的需要,但同样也是改革开放的需要,既符合自己的个人利益,也符合国家和民族的利益。

但是,对许多英语学习者来说,学习英语却很不容易,因为他们中大多数人都没有机会接受专业的英语训练,而只是利用业余时间学习英语。这样他们不仅缺少学习英语的语言环境,而且对学习英语的方法也不是很了解,常把精力花在反复背诵单词和机械操练英语句型上。这样做当然也有必要,但是光是背诵和进行机械的句式操练,毕竟过于单调和枯燥,久而久之不仅使学习者产生沉重感乃至厌倦感,而且也很难取得好的学习效果。其实,学习英语的方

式是多种多样的,背诵单词和进行句式操练是一种方法,但除此之外还有更多的途径,譬如广泛大量的阅读也是一种提高英语学习效果的有效手段。

上海世界图书出版公司即将出版的《休闲英语》丛书将给广大英语学习者提供一种新的学习样式。这种学习样式不是单纯地为学习而学习,而是将学习、娱乐、休息三者有机地结合起来,学习时不感枯燥,休息时不感负担,在欢快的气氛中不知不觉地将语言知识融汇贯通,寓学于休息之时,寓学于娱乐之中,达到事半功倍的效果。

计划中的《休闲英语》丛书有很多辑,有轻轻松松学英语系列,英汉对照的趣味幽默故事系列、名人演说系列、格言妙语系列,以及歌曲游戏系列等等。总之,《休闲英语》丛书的内容是丰富多彩的,它的面貌是活泼可爱的。我相信,它问世后一定会在不同年龄、不同层次、不同要求的英语学习者中找到知音,和大家成为好朋友。

于上海外国语大学

## 前 言

了解一个人、一个国家、一个民族，需要长期不懈的接触、研究，毕生奋斗也未必有结果。不过，利用休闲时间，阅读一些有关的短文名言，或者开卷有益，有幸收到窥一斑而见全豹之功效也未可知。了解英美等国的这一组丛书，就是想通过零星材料的介绍，开拓读者的眼界，使休闲、学习两不误。

丛书采用英汉对照的形式，译文尽量保留原文的遣词造句方式，以利对比学习。这原是古老的翻译式教学法的手段。

英语国家的人民是很幽默的，希望读者通过英语水平的提高，能直接领会个中“笑眼”，漾起会心的笑靥。

王之光

于杭大新村

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## I . England and the English

### 1. God Save the Queen<sup>①</sup>

#### 1

God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen;  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us:  
God save the Queen.

#### 2

O Lord our God arise,  
Scatter her enemies,  
And make them fall;  
Confound their politics,  
Frustrate their knavish tricks,  
On Thee our hopes we fix;  
God save us all.

#### 3

Thy choicest gifts in store,  
On her be pleased to pour,  
Long may she reign;  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause,  
To sing with heart and voice:  
God save the Queen.

---

① The British National Anthem.

## 一、英国与英国人民

### 1. 上帝保佑女王<sup>①</sup>

#### (一)

上帝保佑我们慈祥的女王，  
尊贵的女王万寿无疆，  
上帝保佑女王：  
让她战无不胜，  
欢乐而荣光，  
长久君临万民：  
上帝保佑女王。

#### (二)

我们的上帝快来呀，  
驱散她的仇敌，  
让其一败涂地：  
搅乱其军国大事，  
挫败其阴谋诡计，  
我们寄希望于主：  
上帝保佑众臣民。

#### (三)

请将主最精良的天赋，  
倾泻于她的头上，  
愿女王长治久安：  
愿她捍卫我们的法律，  
使我们永远有幸，  
纵情地放声歌唱：  
上帝保佑女王。

---

① 英国国歌。

## 2. Conservatism

English people tend to be rather conservative—a little more so, perhaps, than most others. In fact, the conservative attitude consists of an acceptance of things which are familiar, and an important aspect of it is an inclination to be suspicious of anything that is strange or foreign.

English conservatism does not imply a high degree of conformity in attitudes; rather it is a distaste, arising partly out of laziness, for any inquiry into the validity of familiar ideas or practices. English people tend to be hostile, or at least bored, when they hear any suggestion that some modification of their habits, or the introduction of something new and unknown into their lives, might be to their advantage. This conservatism, on a national scale, may be illustrated by reference to the public attitude to the monarchy, an institution which is held in affection and reverence by nearly all English people.

England is full of small-scale and local conservatisms, some of them of a highly individual or particular character. Regiments in the army, municipal corporation, schools and societies have their own private traditions which command strong loyalties. Such groups have customs of their own which they are very reluctant to change, and they like to think of their private customs as differentiating them, as groups, from the rest of the world. In time people may be ready to replace one habit with another which is more agreeable, but the change in attitude is rather slow, and it is often difficult to predict whether or not a particular innovation will be readily accepted.

One thing is certain. People do not accept change because they are told to. The constituted authorities in central and local government are objects of suspicion, faced by a critical public. The proportion of people who join protest groups is high; not just groups to protest against the nature of society, and to plan revolution, but groups which identify some definite plan or happening which they think is wrong and organise themselves to find a remedy. For ten years the Concorde aeroplane project was vigorously attacked as a scandalous waste of resources; far more so than in France.

$$250 + 300 + 100 + 100 + 70 + 500$$

$$870 + 500$$

720

## 2. 保守



英国人倾向于保守,也许比其他国家严重一些。实际上,保守态度是指接受熟悉的事物,其重要的表现是怀疑任何奇怪或外来之物。

英国的保守并不意味着高度的态度一律,而是指讨厌对熟悉的思想或作风的有效性进行探究,部分原因是出于懒惰。英国人听到别人建议,将他们的习惯作某些修改,或者生活中引进某些新的未知事物,这些可能对他们有利,他们一般反应出敌意,至少是不耐烦。这种全国范围的保守可以公众对君主制的态度来说明,几乎全体英国人都喜爱、尊重这一制度。



英国还充满了小规模的部分保守态度,其中一些非常有个性或特点。军队中的团、市政当局、学校、社团均有私下的传统,要求坚决效忠,其独特的习惯是不大愿意改变的,并且以此引为本集体与众不同的根据。人们迟早会用更适意的习惯取而代之,但态度变化很缓慢,往往很难预料某一革新是否会被接受。

有一点很明确,人们并不会奉命接受变化。面对苛求的公众,中央、地方政府当局是怀疑对象。参加抗议组织的人占很高比例:不仅是反对社会本质、策划革命的组织,而且有指明某个计划或事件不对路并组织起来寻找出路的。他们起劲地攻击“协和”式飞机开发计划达10年之久,说它浪费资源,遗臭万年,比法国人还厉害。

Meanwhile foreign travel, ever more widespread and beginning at a lower age, is changing tastes and preferences, irregularly and unpredictably.

Modern methods of cooking, by electricity or gas, were accepted long ago, and few people would now favour the old type of coal-fired grate; but the new cookers still produce the same roast beef and Yorkshire pudding on Sundays. For the business of heating houses many English people remain strongly attached to the open coal fire, although it causes a great deal of work and adds to the pollution of the air, and sometimes pours smoke into the room which it is heating. The owner of a large house, when she was converting some upstairs rooms to serve as living rooms for lodgers, spent a great deal of money and trouble in putting in dummy fireplaces, which would never be used; she thought that a living-room without a fireplace would be a room without the basic characteristic of cosiness which it was her human and hospitable duty to supply. Many rooms are in fact heated by gas or electric fires, but these are usually placed in front of old-style fireplaces, and many people choose electric fires designed so as to look like coal fires, with imitation pieces of coal which are lit when the current is turned on.

### 3. Status

Another English characteristic closely linked with conservatism, was what he called "deference". In his day English society was fairly rigidly stratified, and each man knew his place in it. The development of industry and trade was indeed making it possible for a man to rise in the world if he was hard-working, ambitious, enterprising and fortunate, but nevertheless every man was ready enough to be deferential towards those who were, at a given moment, superior to him in wealth, status and power. (The Scots, however, were always much more inclined to believe that every man was as good as every other.)

与此同时,出国旅游日益普及,年轻人也开始加入,这将不稳定地难以预料地改变趣味与喜好。

现代化的电炉或煤气炉烹调早已深入人心,很少有人会喜欢旧式煤炉,但星期天仍用新锅做相同的烤牛肉和约克郡布丁。取暖时许多英国人仍热衷开放式煤炉,尽管工作量大,且增加空气污染,有时还给取暖的房间灌烟。大房屋的房东给房客改造楼房作起居室时,花大钱大力气装一个假壁炉,尽管根本用不上。她却认为起居室缺了壁炉,就没有基本的温暖感。出于自己的本性与地主之谊,她承担了装壁炉的职责。许多房间实际上用煤气或电取暖,但一般装在老式壁炉的前面,不少人选用设计成煤炉款式的电炉,通电后将仿造的煤块点燃。

### 3. 等级

英国人另一个与保守密切相关的特点是所谓的“恭敬”。当初的英国社会等级分明,人人知道自己的地位。工商业的发展使一个人得以通过艰苦奋斗,奋发向上,抓住机会提高自己的社会地位,但大家都愿意对某一时刻在财富、地位、权力上胜过自己的人毕恭毕敬。(但苏格兰人更喜欢认为人人都可敬。)

The old deference of the inferior towards the superior has by now been largely replaced by an assumption that there should be politeness and decent human respect between man and man, irrespective of status. But the change has not been altogether smoothly accomplished, and there have been resentments and bitterness where people have felt that they have not been getting the recognition that is their due. On the one hand there are complaints from the already-established classes that the welfare state is making the country rotten, by providing too much security and other benefits, so that nobody bothers to work on his own account. At its worst this attitude reflects resentment that security is no longer a privilege distinguishing a few and that the road to success is more widely accessible than it used to be. On the other hand there is resentment that any authority except that of the mass, any social or economic privilege, survive at all.

It is easy to trace a British group of 200 families at the very centre of power and influence. Their members still hold many of the leading positions in the world of finance, banking and insurance. Yet many people who begin as complete outsiders make their way right into the middle of the Establishment and are quickly assimilated by it.

Much of the talk about the Establishment was critical of the supposed injustice of a social order in which personal ability and merit did not have as much importance as the "right" family connections in assigning positions of influence. The supposed social injustice could seem to damage the whole working of the society and the economy by creating feelings of resentment; at the same time it produced inefficiency by not making the best possible use of the talent spread out among the people. The criticism had great effect. Another notion arose, given expression in Michael Young's book, *The Rise of the Meritocracy*. Merit, or intelligence together with effort, hard work and dedication to tasks, came to be seen as the valid qualification for positions of



目前，下等人对上等人的恭敬基本上已不复存在，大家都认为人与人之间应有礼貌、和气互敬，而不管地位高低。不过这种变化并非稳固彻底，人们感到没有得到应有的认可时就怨气发恨。一方面地位稳固的阶级在抱怨，福利国家制度正使国家腐败，社会保险福利提供过多，没有人会去自力更生了。这种态度的消极面在于，它反映了一种怨气，安全感已不再是少数人突出的特权，成功之路比先前更加广泛开放。另一方面也有人抱怨，除了群众性权威，还存在着别的权威或社会经济特权。

在英国的权力势力中心很容易找到 200 个大家族，其成员仍占据着财政金融保险界的许多要职。但也有不少以局外人起家的，杀入了权力层的核心，并很快被同化了。

关于权力层的舆论大多谴责社会秩序之不公，个人能力功绩在分配重要职位时比不上“合适的”家族关系。人们心目中的社会不公似乎会产生怨恨愤懑，破坏社会经济的总体运作，同时不充分利用人民中间散落的才智，也降低了效率。这种批评很有影响。随之出现了另一个概念，表达于迈克尔·杨所著的《精英管理层的兴起》。精英的功绩就是智力加努力、苦干和敬业，它被认可为重要职位的有益资格。旧