

804 H319.4  
L76d

大学英语文库

总主编 秦傲松



# *Social Issues in Focus*

## 社会聚焦集

高●级

主 编 刘 毅  
副主编 郭晶晶 阙紫江  
编 者 曹火群 吴 燕 刘细珍

华中科技大学出版社

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语文库 社会聚焦集(高级)/刘毅 主编  
武汉:华中科技大学出版社, 2002年6月  
ISBN 7-5609-2693-2

I. 大…

II. ①刘… ②郭… ③阙… ④曹… ⑤吴… ⑥刘…

III. 英语-语言读物

IV. H319.4

大学英语文库

社会聚焦集(高级)

刘毅 主编

责任编辑:梅欣君(mxj8@xinhuanet.com)

封面设计:秦茹

责任校对:吴晗

责任监印:张正林

出版发行:华中科技大学出版社

武昌喻家山 邮编:430074 电话:(027)87545012

录排:华中科技大学惠友科技文印中心

印刷:华中科技大学印刷厂

开本:850×1168 1/32 印张:6.25

字数:137 000

版次:2002年6月第1版 印次:2002年6月第1次印刷

印数:1—6 000

ISBN 7-5609-2693-2/H·432

定价:8.50元

(本书若有印装质量问题,请向出版社发行部调换)

# 前 言

1999 年 12 月颁布的《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》（以下简称新大纲）指出：“从语言学习的规律来看，英语应用能力的提高是建立在大量的语言输入、尤其是大量的阅读的基础之上的。”新大纲还提出：“大学英语教学还应有助于学生开阔视野，扩大知识面，加深对世界的了解，借鉴和吸收外国文化精华，提高文化素养。”

为了贯彻新大纲的精神，全国高等学校大学外语教学指导委员会英语组于 2000 年 7 月在大连召开工作会议，重点讨论了大学英语文库建设。会议确定了大学英语文库的编写原则和编写方案，会议提出，要“加紧大学英语文库建设”。

这套大学英语文库正是在上述思想指导下组织编写的，旨在使学生——读者通过大量阅读，巩固和加深所学语言知识，扩大词汇量，增强英语语感，达到双“提高”的目的，即：既提高英语语言应用能力，又提高文化素养。

这套文库内容十分丰富。从异彩纷呈的现代社会到五光十色的现代生活，从多姿多彩的各国文化到日新月异的科技世界，这套文库都有涵盖。这些内容分属五个系列，它们是：《社会聚焦集》、《文化广角镜》、《名人故事篇》、《科技新视野》和《生活万花筒》。每个系列均按语言难易程度分为初、中、高三个级别。原则上，初级适用于大学非英语专业一年级学生，中级适用于二、三年级学生，高级适用于四年级学生和研究生。

这套文库在选材、译注、体例和编排上均独具特色，不落窠臼。其主要特点有：

1. 各系列各级选文大都摘自国外报刊和互联网，仅个别选文有少量删改。文字规范，语言鲜活，有时代特征，并充分考虑了知识性和趣味性的统一。故这套文库不仅是学习英语、

提高语言应用能力的读物，而且是涉猎世界文化、社会、生活和科技知识的园地。每篇选文长度一般控制在 700—2 000 词之内（仅数篇确因内容不忍割舍的短文不足 700 词）。为方便读者做阅读速度的自我检测，文尾标出了该文的词数。

2. 每篇选文后均附有“Sentence Translations for Reference 参考译句”，以帮助读者加深对文中的长难句及全文的理解。这种在文中择句翻译的形式与全国大学英语四、六级考试中的“英译汉”题型是一致的，因此，它还有助于提高读者的英译汉能力，有助于他们备考英译汉测试。

3. 每篇选文以《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》的词汇表为参照标准，直接在文中注出了超纲生词的词义，并且在不同文章中重复出现的生词重复注出词义。这样有利于读者打乱顺序任选文章阅读，也有利于读者加深对生词的记忆。此外，每篇选文还用脚注的形式针对有关语言难点和人物、典故进行注释，每条注释力求明快清晰、言简意赅。有的词语用了双语注释，目的是为了从各个方面来提高读者的英语应用能力。

4. 每篇选文均编撰了简明扼要的导读。读者在看到中英文对照的标题后，即可结合导读了解文章的主旨，有助于读者从语篇水平上加深对文章的理解；同时，导读还可以激发读者的兴趣，增强阅读的动力。

这套文库是华中科技大学、武汉理工大学和中国地质大学等三校联袂合作的成果。参加编写工作的有三校的老、中、青年英语教师和华中科技大学外国语言学及应用语言学专业部分硕士研究生，共计 30 多人。编写分工如下：华中科技大学负责《社会聚焦集》、《文化广角镜》和《生活万花筒》三个系列；武汉理工大学负责《名人故事篇》系列；中国地质大学负责《科技新视野》系列。

华中科技大学出版社对本文库的编写和出版给予了鼎力支持，投入了很大力量。本文库在编写过程中得到了华中科技大学

学外语系、武汉理工大学外语学院和中国地质大学外语系领导的关心、支持以及许多大学生的帮助。我们全体编写人员在此谨表示衷心的感谢。

这套文库大部分选材来源于最新的有关原版书刊和互联网，编委会谨向原文作者一并致谢。

由于校际间合作编写这样的大型文库是我们的第一次尝试，经验不足；加上水平有限，时间匆促，疏漏与错误在所难免，敬希各方读者和同行不吝赐教。

大学英语文库编委会

2002 年 5 月

# CONTENTS

- 1 No Wedding? No Ring? No Problem  
现代美国人的婚姻观..... (1)
- 2 The Need for Child Care  
需要人照料孩子..... (6)
- 3 Life without Father  
没有父亲的生活..... (12)
- 4 Making Divorce Family Friendly  
让离婚家庭和睦相处..... (19)
- 5 Baby-Saving Made Easy  
挽救婴儿容易了..... (23)
- 6 A Matter of Gender  
性别问题..... (27)
- 7 Disability Rights  
残疾人的权利..... (31)
- 8 Fighting the Child Sex Trade  
维护儿童权益..... (37)
- 9 For Richer or Poorer  
是更富些好, 还是更穷些好..... (41)
- 10 Giving Billions Isn't Easy  
给出几十亿元并不容易..... (45)
- 11 Life in the Fast Lane  
生活在快车道..... (50)
- 12 Success through Reinvention  
通过再创造取得成功..... (54)

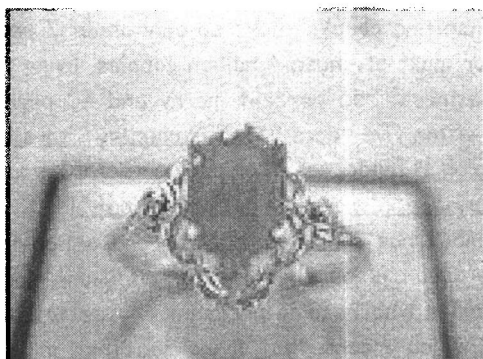
13	Engineering the Harvest 设计收成 .....	(59)
14	At Least They Have High Self-esteem 他们至少有很强的自尊心.....	(65)
15	Breaking the Olympic Habit 打破奥林匹克传统.....	(69)
16	The Weird World of Tobacco 怪异的烟草世界.....	(73)
17	Exile on Main Street 流浪大街头 .....	(77)
18	Our Plague of Pessimism 悲观主义困扰.....	(81)
19	The Faces of Racism 新西兰种族主义面面观.....	(86)
20	What Will Racial Discrimination Be Like 种族歧视未来透视.....	(91)
21	The Fast Track to the Death House 一条通往死亡的捷径.....	(95)
22	Oregon's Death with Dignity Act 俄勒冈的安乐死法.....	(101)
23	That's Outrageous! 真是太气人了! .....	(106)
24	Who Needs Lawyers 谁需要律师 .....	(111)
25	By Dubious Means 用含糊的手段.....	(115)
26	The Web's Bad Week 网络的黑色星期.....	(120)

27	The Problem with E-Signatures 电子签名存在的问题.....	(127)
28	The Future of the Problem of Drugs 吸毒问题的未来趋势.....	(131)
29	The Prevention of Juvenile Crimes 防范青少年犯罪.....	(135)
30	Failure of Climate Talks, Multilateralism in Crisis 有关气候问题会谈的失败与危机中的多边主义.....	(139)
31	Raising Hopes by Razing High-rises 铲平高楼提升希望.....	(143)
32	Why Writers Attack Writers 作家之间为何互相攻击.....	(147)
33	The Milosevic Indictment 起诉米洛舍维奇.....	(151)
34	Population Control 人口控制 .....	(156)
35	Inside College Admission 大学录取透视.....	(160)
36	Diet Traps 饮食误区 .....	(168)
37	The Serenity Prayer for Smokers 为吸烟者默默祈祷.....	(174)
38	On US National Missile Defense (1) 论美国国家导弹防御(1).....	(178)
38	On US National Missile Defense (2) 论美国国家导弹防御(2).....	(182)



# No Wedding? No Ring? No Problem

## 现代美国人的婚姻观



*What is a marriage? Is it necessary to have a wedding and rings?  
More and more Americans opt (选择) for cohabitation (同居).*

Before 1970, it was called "living in sin" or "shacking up<sup>①</sup>," and it was illegal in every state of the union. Why then, many social scientists are beginning to ask, has America's 30-year rise in unmarried cohabitation remained a shadow issue in the family-values debate?<sup>[1]</sup> "Unlike divorce or unwed childbearing<sup>②</sup>, the trend toward cohabitation has inspired virtually no public comment or criticism," note David Popenoe and Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, co-directors of Rutgers University's National Marriage Project. University of Michigan sociologist Pamela J. Smock, whose survey of recent

① shack up: [俚] 与……同居 (with)

② unwed childbearing: 非婚生育

research will appear in the Annual Review of Sociology to be published this summer, finds that most Americans are still unaware of the extent or significance of cohabitation, even though more than half of today's newlyweds live together before tying the knot<sup>①</sup>, compared with about 10 percent in 1965.

Scholars are quick to point out that the United States is still a long way from Sweden, where unmarried couples — who have all the rights, benefits, and obligations of married partners — make up about 30 percent of couples sharing households.<sup>[2]</sup> In America, by contrast, cohabiting couples make up only about 7 percent of the total. And for most of those 4 million couples, living together is a transitory business<sup>②</sup>: 55 percent marry and 40 percent end the relationship within five years. "In this country," says University of Chicago sociologist Linda, coauthor of the forthcoming (即将出版的) "Case for Marriage", "it's still mostly up or out."<sup>[3]</sup>

What Smock has found is that the proportion for whom it's "out" of the union is on the rise. In addition, more and more unmarried women who become pregnant choose to cohabit rather than marry, which means that living together is increasingly a substitute for marriage, particularly, notes Smock, among African-Americans.

One of the biggest *revelations* (新发现) of the new research is how many cohabiting arrangements involve children. "About one half of previously married cohabitators and 35 percent of never-married cohabitators have children in the household," Smock reports. She adds that almost 40 percent of all *supposedly* (据推测) single-parent families are really two-parent cohabiting families. Unfortunately, that doesn't mean that kids in these households fare as kids with two married parents. "The nonparent partner...has no explicit legal, financial, supervisory, or custodial rights or responsibilities regarding the child of his partner," notes Linda Waite in the winter issue of "The Responsive Community". Studies cited by Popenoe and

① tying the knot: 打结, 此处指“结婚”

② a transitory business: 暂时的事

Whitehead suggest there is also a greater risk of physical or sexual abuse in those situations.

Few romantic notions about cohabitational bliss withstand close scrutiny (调查).<sup>[4]</sup> While there is a little more sex between unmarried cohabitators than between married couples (one more act per month), there's also more cheating by both partners. Then, too, there's more domestic violence and a higher incidence of depression.

But since living together is still mainly a stage in courtship for the majority of marriage-bound Americans, the critical question is how the experience affects the subsequent union.<sup>[5]</sup> Here the evidence is slightly mixed. According to most research, couples who live together — with the possible exception of those who move in already planning to wed — tend to have *rockier* (更加不稳定的) marriages and a greater risk of divorce. Why this is so is hard to say. It could be that people who cohabit are less traditional in their ideas and less reluctant to divorce. But it's also possible that the experience itself has an effect. "We need to do more *qualitative* (定性的) research," says Smock, "and talk to people in their 20s... to find out why they are doing what they are doing."

**Old rules.** Some of the scholars who are studying the phenomenon — including Popenoe and Whitehead — are also taking sides, urging young adults to reject the argument that cohabitation is good preparation for marriage. Other researchers are taking aim at the economic disincentives to marriage<sup>①</sup>, including the marriage penalty in the tax code<sup>②</sup> and restrictions on Medicaid<sup>③</sup>, both of which often discourage less affluent cohabitators from tying the knot.<sup>[6]</sup> There is even a movement to bring back an older form of courtship. Leon and Amy Kass co-teach a course at the University of Chicago described by the former as "a higher kind of sex education". Using their own recently published *anthology* (文集), "*Wing to Wing* ,

① economic disincentives to marriage: 经济对结婚的抑制作用

② tax code: 税法, 税法规

③ restrictions on Medicaid: 医疗补助上的种种限制

*Oar to Oar*<sup>①</sup>: *Readings on Courting and Marrying*", they attempt "to train the hearts and minds by means of noble examples for romance leading to loving marriage".

Can such a quaint (离奇的) notion win over minds hardened by the "divorce revolution" of their parents' generation?<sup>[7]</sup> Steven L. Nock, a University of Virginia researcher, is guardedly optimistic that durable marriages will make a comeback<sup>②</sup> (and in fact, since 1990, have been doing so), whether or not old courtship styles are restored. "My generation," says the 49-year-old sociologist, "was the first to confront equality of the sexes. As a result, many reacted to the changed rules by fleeing from marriage. I suspect that our children, who've grown up with gender equality as a given, will be less likely to flee marriage." That might not be the "horse and carriage" argument, but it makes some sense. (864 words)

## Sentence Translations for Reference

### 参 考 译 句

- [1] 许多社会科学家开始探询, 为什么美国 30 年来一直在上升的非婚同居现象在家庭价值辩论中仍然是一个模糊不清的问题?
- [2] 学者们很快就指出: 在瑞典, 未婚伴侣占有所有家庭伴侣的大约 30%, 这些未婚伴侣享有已婚伴侣的一切权利、福利及义务, 在这方面美国与瑞典仍然相差甚远。
- [3] 芝加哥大学社会学家、即将出版的《婚姻的理据》的合著者琳达说: "在这个国家同居者还是很容易分手的"。
- [4] 关于同居是极其幸福的浪漫意念很少经得起仔细的调查。
- [5] 对大多数受婚姻约束的美国人来说, 同居仍然主要是在求爱阶段, 因此关键的问题是同居的经历如何影响随后的结合。
- [6] 其他研究者的研究则针对经济对婚姻的阻碍作用: 包括婚后所需支付的赋税和医疗补助上的种种限制, 这两方面的问题常使不富裕的

① wing to wing, oar to oar: 龙配龙, 凤配凤

② make a comeback: 使 (风尚等) 又流行起来

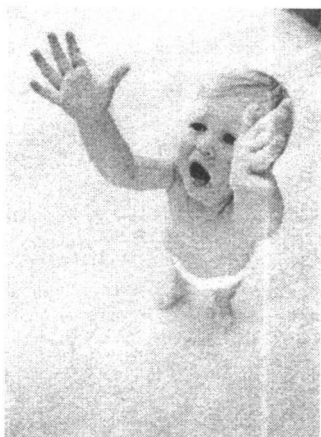
同居者失去信心而不敢结婚。

- [7] 这样一种古怪的念头能战胜被他们父母一代的离婚革命所坚定了的思想吗？

## 2

### *The Need for Child Care*

#### 需要人照料孩子



*Is it desirable to expose young children to the socializing influence of day care? Should the costs of day care programs be paid by government, by the private sector, or entirely by parents?*

The rise in single-parent families, increased job opportunities for women, and the need for additional family income have all propelled (推动) an increasing number of mothers of young children into the paid labor force<sup>①</sup> of the United States.

In 1993, 57 percent of all mothers with children under the age of 6 were found in the paid labor force, and the number either working or looking for a job is expected to reach 70 percent by the year 2000. Who, then, will take care of the children of these women during work hours? For two-thirds of all 3-to-5-year-olds for whom

---

① the paid labor force: 受雇劳动力

national data are now available, the solution has become group child care programs. Day care centers have become the functional equivalent of the nuclear family, performing some of the nurturing and socialization functions previously handled only by family members.<sup>[1]</sup>

Studies indicate that children placed in high-quality child care centers are not *adversely* (不利地) affected by such experiences; in fact, good day care benefits children. The value of preschool programs was documented in a comparison of full-time Milwaukee preschoolers with a "non-nursery" group.<sup>[2]</sup> Those children attending the preschool program from ages 3 to 6 years showed significantly greater language development and greater gains on achievement tests<sup>①</sup> than children in the non-nursery control group<sup>②</sup> did. In addition, research conducted in the last few years indicates that children in day care or preschool programs are more *self-sufficient* (过于自信的). They react well to separation from their parents and tend to have more stimulating interactions when together.<sup>[3]</sup> Finally, it appears from recent studies that children may be better off<sup>③</sup> in centers with well-trained caregivers than cared for full time by those mothers who are depressed and frustrated because they wish to work outside the home.

Even if policymakers decide that publicly funded child care is desirable, they must determine the degree to which taxpayers should subsidize (给……补助金) it.<sup>[4]</sup> A number of European nations, including the Netherlands and Sweden, provide preschool care at minimal or no cost. In 1991, about half of all Danish children under the age of 3 and 70 percent of children ages 3 to 6 attended public child care programs. Parents pay a maximum of 30 percent of day care costs. In France, virtually all children ages 3 to 5 attend free schooling, and free after-school care is widely available. However, providing *first-rate* (一流的) child care in the United States is

① achievement test: 成绩测试

② the non-nursery control group: 未上幼儿园的控制组

③ be better off: 境况好些

anything but<sup>①</sup> cheap, with a cost of \$ 4,000 per year not unusual in urban areas. Thus, a nationally financed system of child care could lead to *staggering* (令人惊愕的) costs.

High-quality child care receives little governmental support because it is regarded as "merely a way to let women work". Nearly all child care workers (94 percent) are women; many find themselves in low-status, minimum wage jobs. The average salary of child care workers in the United States in 1992 was only \$15,488, and there are few fringe benefits<sup>②</sup>. A child care teacher with a college degree earns only 45 percent as much as a similarly educated woman working in other occupations and only 27 percent as much as a similarly educated man. Although parents may complain of child care costs, the staff<sup>③</sup> are, in effect, subsidizing children's care by working for low wages. Not surprisingly, there is high *turnover* (流动) among child care teachers. In 1992 alone, 25 percent of all day care teachers (and more than 40 percent in metropolitan areas) left their jobs.

Thus far, few local communities have passed *ordinances* (法令) to encourage child care. What about the private sector? Companies are increasingly recognizing that child care can be good for business, since many employees view it as an important fringe benefit. Between 1984 and 1987, there was an increase of 50 percent in the number of companies that offered subsidized child care. Still, even with this increase, as of<sup>④</sup> 1990, only 13 percent of major corporations sponsored child care centers at or near their job site. Even fewer companies offered discounts or *vouchers* (担保人) for child care.

Many policymakers believe that parents — rather than government or the private sector — should be solely responsible for the costs of day care programs. Yet parents often rely on child care

---

① anything but: not at all 根本不……

② fringe benefits: 附加津贴

③ the staff: the childcare workers (teachers) 照看小孩的工作人员

④ as of: 到……时止



because they are attempting to increase family income. Unless fees are kept to a minimum, the expenses of day care will wipe out the additional wages earned.<sup>[5]</sup>

As limited as child care is across the United States, it is not equally available to all families. Parents in wealthy neighborhoods have an easier time finding day care than those in poor or working-class communities. In a study covering 36 states, Harvard researchers Bruce Fuller and Xiaoyan Liang (1993) found wide *disparities* (不同) in the availability of child care. In the richest communities, there is one preschool teacher for every 45 children ages 3 to 5; in the poorest communities, there is one teacher for every 77 children.

Viewed from a conflict perspective, child care costs are an especially serious burden for lower-class families, who already find it hard to take advantage of<sup>①</sup> limited job opportunities. Moreover, the difficulty of finding affordable child care has particularly serious implications for mothers who work (or wish to work) outside the home. Even if they enter the paid labor force, mothers may find their work performance and opportunities for advancement *hindered* (阻碍) by child care difficulties. Since child care is commonly viewed as a woman's responsibility (given the persistence of traditional gender roles), working mothers rather than working fathers are especially likely to bear the burden of these problems.

Public support for child care has risen *markedly* (显著地) in the last two decades. In 1987, national surveys showed that 80 percent of adults favored the establishment of more day care services for children (compared with only 56 percent in 1970). In a 1989 survey, two-thirds of parents with children under 14 years of age agreed that government has an obligation to provide child care assistance, and 57 percent of these parents stated that employers have a similar responsibility. But, to date<sup>②</sup>, most government officials and

---

① take advantage of: 趁机利用

② to date: 到此为止