

大学非英语专业英语系列教材

现代媒体英语

ENGLISH THROUGH THE WRITTEN MEDIA

主编 范凤祥 董耀传



大连海事大学出版社

现代媒体英语

ENGLISH THROUGH THE WRITTEN MEDIA

主编 范凤祥 董耀传
编委 范超英 王海华
马玉蕾

大连理工大学出版社

(辽)新登字 11 号

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

现代媒体英语/范凤祥,董耀传主编.-大连:大连海事
大学出版社,1996

ISBN 7-5632-1036-9

I. 现… II. ①范…②董… III. 英语-阅读教学-语言
读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(96)第 25074 号

大连海事大学出版社出版

(大连市凌水桥 邮政编码 116026)

大连海事大学印刷厂印刷 大连海事大学出版社发行

1997 年 1 月第 1 版

1997 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

开本:850×1168 1/32

印张:9.125

字数:229 千

印数:0001~4000

定价:11.80 元

内 容 提 要

本书为现代英美报刊选读,取材于 WASHINGTON POST, THE DAILY MIRROR, NEW YORK, SMITHSONIAN, NEWSWEEK, READER'S DIGEST, FORTUNE 等著名英美报刊杂志 1987 年至 1995 年的各种类型的文章。本书共分 17 个单元,阅读量和词汇量大,语言现象丰富,提供了阅读现代英文报刊需掌握的基本词汇,并可使读者了解许多与英语学习密切相关的政治人文等背景知识,全面地反映了现代英语的特点,具有很强的知识性和趣味性,对提高读者的英语水平有重要作用。本书适于具有相当非英语类大学英语水平的各类读者,也可以作为英语选修或辅修教材。

高校非英语专业
英语系列教材建设委员会

主 任 吕登有

副主任 范凤祥

委 员(以姓氏笔画为序)

井岩波 汪光照 范凤祥

夏廷德 董耀传 谭万成

前 言

本系列教材由 5 本书组成:《英语之声》,《当代英语口语》,《现代媒体英语》,《实用英语写作》和《英美文学》,它们涵盖了英语综合水平的 5 个方面,即听、说、读、写和文学,可全面提高读者的综合英语能力。

《英语之声》是听力教材。本书的编者从英国的 BBC, 美国的 VOA, MONITOR RADIO, KCBS, 加拿大的 RADIO CANADA 和澳大利亚的 RADIO AUSTRALIA 等世界著名英语电台选取了新闻、财经、科技、体育、书评、报刊摘播、艺术等节目,其内容涉及现代社会的各个方面,具有很强的知识性和趣味性,可以使读者了解不同英语地域变体的语音特点,对提高英语的听力和综合英语能力有重要作用。书中一些根据发音而拼写的人名、地名等加有星号,可能不准确,请勿在著述中引用。

《当代英语口语》覆盖了当代生活中的不同方面,提供了多种实用句型和练习,以培养学习者的英语交际能力。与一般口语教材不同的是,书中还有大量英语复述和汉英口语翻译练习,用来训练学习者的大段连贯表达和

即兴或同声口译能力。

《现代媒体英语》是英美报刊选读教材，取材于 WASHINGTON POST, THE DAILY MIRROR, NEW YORK, SMITHSONIAN, NEWSWEEK, READER'S DIGEST 等著名的英美报刊，阅读量和词汇量大，语言现象丰富，提供了阅读现代英文报刊需掌握的基本词汇，并可使读者了解许多与英语学习密切相关的政治人文等背景知识，全面反映了现代英语的特点。

《实用英语写作》系统地介绍了句子、段落、各类文章写法和标点符号的用法，并附有练习和范文，可使读者掌握英文写作的基本能力和技巧。

《英美文学》以精炼的笔触，把名家荟萃、鸿著连篇的英国文学和美国文学融为一书，向读者全面展现了两国文学绚丽的风采。除名家巨擘和他们的经典作品外，书中还介绍了上至 BEOWULF 下至当代文学概况以及几位著名的畅销书作者和他们的代表作。

本系列教材适用于高校非英语专业或具有相应水平的英语学习者，可作为英语选修或辅修教材，也可以作为自学教材。

吕登有

1996 年 10 月

CONTENTS

UNIT ONE	(1)
UNIT TWO	(19)
UNIT THREE	(38)
UNIT FOUR	(52)
UNIT FIVE	(67)
UNIT SIX	(89)
UNIT SEVEN	(107)
UNIT EIGHT	(123)
UNIT NINE	(145)
UNIT TEN	(160)
UNIT ELEVEN	(176)
UNIT TWELVE	(200)
UNIT THIRTEEN	(215)
UNIT FORTTEEN	(228)
UNIT FIFTEEN	(252)
UNIT SIXTEEN	(266)
UNIT SEVENTEEN	(284)

UNIT ONE

Introduction

本单元的第一篇文章 The Kingdom of Dust 刊载于 1990 年 6 月的 Reader's Digest, 作者是 Richard H. Schneider。作者用生动形象的笔法描述了灰尘的一些特点, 并总结说, 我们人类也是奇异灰尘王国的一部分。

本单元的第二、三篇文章均是关于第二次世界大战的, 其中 Reliving the Pain of the 'Good' War 刊载于 1994 年 6 月的 Newsweek, 作者是 David Gelman。它讲述的是二战中及后来的越南战争中许多士兵在战后患的一种心理紧张症(PTSD)。这种病表现为恶梦不断, 对往事的联想及对战斗的警觉性。这种病往往经过许多年后才能诊断出来。许多老兵倍受此病的折磨。

第三篇文章 World War II, Revised 刊载于 1994 年 8 月的 Washington Post, 作者是 Charles Krauthammer。此文讲述的是美国对广岛和长崎的原子弹轰炸到底出于什么目的, 是报复珍珠港之仇还是因为种族的关系? 原子弹本来是用来对付德国的, 为什么投向了日本?

TEXT

1. The Kingdom of Dust

Many years ago, in the still of a summer morning, I was alone in my grandmother's parlor, absorbed in a book. Suddenly I lifted my eyes and there, in a shaft of sunlight, was the most wonderful sight: sparkling dust motes swirling in slow motion, like stars in a

galaxy. As I passed my hand through the cloud, each finger dragged a glittering vortex behind it^①.

The never-ending chore of wiping gray grime from household crevices makes it easy for most of us to forget our first, entrancing glimpse of the kingdom of dust caught in a sunbeam. But our childhood view is the more accurate one. In God's scheme of things, dust is responsible for much beauty in the world.

Without it there would be no clouds, no delicate shades of green foliage or vari-hued shadows. We could not relish the lovely opalescent haze over mountains or savor breathtaking sunsets.

Thanks to the tiny particles of dust suspended in our atmosphere that, along with air molecules, intercept and scatter the sun's shorter (blue) light waves, we have our blue sky. As the sun sets, the dusty atmosphere reveals the longer orange and red rays that paint the sky. And the fine dust suspended in the upper atmosphere creates the after-glow of twilight, that entrancing luminescence that hangs in the west at day's end like the last chord of a haunting melody. Dust, in short, gives us the stuff poems are made of^②.

Beyond visual beauty, dust offers a host of practical benefits—among them, rain. To form clouds, water vapor must have nuclei around which to coalesce, just as pearls need grains of sand. Airborne particles serve that purpose.

Some 43 million tons of dust will settle on our nation this year. That's 360 pounds for every man, woman and child.

Where does dust come from? We make much of it ourselves. Particles of shoe leather and concrete are scraped free by every footstep on a sidewalk. As a penny changes hands, fragments of Lin-

coln^③ slough off. When a match flares, millions of carbon specks are released. And as you leaf through this magazine, microscopic bits of Georgia^④ clay from the glossy pages, flakes of printer's ink and skin from your fingers float into the atmosphere.

Depending on where you live, up to a third of the dust settled in your rugs may be manufactured by local industries. Among the dustiest are steel making, rock quarrying, cement making and flour milling. But the largest fraction of man-made dust—55 percent—is created in the burning of fuels. America's coal-fired power plants spew almost half a million tons of ash from their stacks every day. Residue from jet-airliner engines sifts down on all of us continually. Surprisingly, only 5.6 percent of the dust in the air comes from vehicles.

A typical house accumulates about 40 pounds of dust a year. Your living room harbors billions of particles, some so fine they sail through the vacuum bag and get fried in the motor, producing that "hot" smell. The TV screen collects dust so fast because an electron gun at the rear of the picture tube is shooting at it, giving it a negative charge^⑤. Because opposites attract, any positively charged dust floating nearby will make a beeline for the glass^⑥.

One of the most important sources of natural dust is soil, of course. But few people would guess another big contributor: the oceans. Each time a wave breaks, the wind carries countless particles of salt hundreds of miles inland. These sea-spawned crystals add up to 3000 million tons per year— $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the total salt mined by man. Salt from the Atlantic settles on tile and thatch roofs in England, and salt from the Pacific lands on the parking lots of Reno

casinos. Occasionally, so much salt is blown onto the New Jersey coast that rime accumulates on power-line insulators, triggering blackouts⁷.

Some dust is alive. Dust mites live in your bed and rugs, happily consuming the millions of skin scales your body sheds each day. (Their excreta have been found to be one of the most potent allergens around.)⁸ And yeast — produced by spores so tiny that 2800 could be strided on a one-inch thread — is the chemist of the kingdom of dust: yeast breaks sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide, turning grape juice to wine and barley to beer⁹. Without the million tons of pollen that sail over the United States every year, most flowers and trees could not reproduce.

If you sized a good sample of dust grains, you'd find the range comparable to the difference between pebbles and boulders. Smoke particles measure only a fraction of a micron in diameter. (A pinhole is about 400 microns across.) Bacteria are usually a micron or two, cloud droplets six to 18, and pollens more than 25. Dust mites are so small that at least 12 could congregate on the period ending this sentence¹⁰.

The speed at which dust particles fall varies widely. A three-micron dust grain might take half a minute to drop a foot, but a quarter-micron grain sinks 200 times more slowly. The very finest dust grains are actually kicked around by the vibrations of individual air molecules and may remain airborne for centuries.

As tiny as some dust particles are, they can cause damage. The silicon chips used in computers, telephones, video games and "smart" appliances are particularly vulnerable. Each chip, about the size of a baby's fingernail, is etched with thousands of microscopic

lines to make integrated circuits. "A single bacterium landing on a chip is like a tree trunk falling across a road," says Andrew S. Grove, president and chief executive of Intel Corporation. Thus, the rooms where chips are made have to be at least 1000 times cleaner than a hospital operating suite.

One of the most amazing things about dust is its capacity for travel. Nature has literally moved the surface of the earth around since time began. In the 1930s, dust storms flung huge amounts of Great Plains[®] soil eastward, blackening snow all across New England[®] and darkening ship decks 300 miles out in the Atlantic. The worst storm may have been on April 14, 1935, when a 200-mile-wide, 10000-foot-high wall of dust rolled across Kansas, eastern Colorado and into Oklahoma and Texas at 60 m. p. h. , suffocating flocks of ducks and geese.

Today, some of the dust falling on the United States arrives from foreign lands. In Miami, the deep beige grime that dominates in summer can be traced to Africa's Sahara desert, 4000 miles away. And when the El Chichon volcano in southern Mexico erupted in 1982, astronomers Aden and Marjorie Meinel found deposits of ash in their Tucson swimming pool.

Volcanic ash can circle the globe for years. The legendary explosion of the Pacific island of Krakatoa on August 27, 1883, rocketed ash and pumice 50 miles into the stratosphere. Three years later, world temperatures were still below normal because of the shading effect, and sunsets were among the most glorious ever seen. Beginning in 1963, a string of volcanic eruptions kept morning and evening skies painted vividly all over the world. The displays finally faded by 1986.

One other kind of dust is truly ubiquitous. Run your fingertip across your windowsill and you may pick up fragments from outer space. In the past billion years, some scientists speculate, enough of this "cosmic dust" (mainly from meteors burning up in the atmosphere) has rained on Earth to make a layer an inch thick.

A handful of ordinary dirt from your back yard may contain a few specks of Halley's comet. And some dust on our planet comes from the moon—deposited, most experts believe, after huge meteors struck the lunar surface. Strangest of all, Earth may have been showered with dust from Mars when an asteroid slammed into the red planet sometime in the past 1.3 billion years¹⁰.

Earth may even owe its current array of animals to dust. According to one theory, 65 million years ago a speeding asteroid the size of Manhattan smacked into Earth; throwing up a dust cloud that plunged the planet into decades of darkness and chill. Dinosaurs perished, allowing the flourishing of mammals. The rest, you might say, was prehistory.

Given the huge number of particles and the amount of mixing in the atmosphere, it is possible that smoke from the Battle of Gettysburg¹¹ is still floating in your household dust. Or infinitesimal specks from other planets, ash from primordial volcanoes, metal from the clash of medieval armor, even, perhaps, flecks of Adam.

One of the noblest passages of the book of Genesis says that "God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."¹² Indeed, dust has long been a metaphor for human origins and mortality. The phrase "dust to dust" is a profoundly succinct equation to describe a life-span.

As every sunset shows, the Creator has included dust in his formula for the world. And we, too, are part of the fascinating, all-encompassing kingdom of dust.

2. **Reliving the Pain of the 'Good' War**

Mind: The psychic suffering of many veterans of the second world war went unrecognized for years

Those who forget the past may be doomed to repeat it — but what about those who can't forget, who keep replaying the past in their minds? No one knows that cruel compulsion better than the thousands of military veterans who suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder, a condition marked by nightmares, flashbacks and unblinking, battle-ready vigilance. In recent years the bizarre and sometimes violent behavior of some Vietnam veterans helped raise public awareness of the disorder. Yet in all the solemn ceremonials marking the 50th anniversary of D-Day®, scarcely anyone has noted the continued, debilitating presence of PTSD among surviving veterans of World War II.

Joseph Gracy, at 19, was the only survivor of the engine-room crew aboard a destroyer after it was hit by kamikazes® off Okinawa®. Scooped out of shark-filled waters by a landing craft and returned to the deck of the still-floating ship, he found himself in a charnel house. "There were so many parts of bodies," he says. "I had to wash all this blood and guts and stuff off the deck. I knew these people." To this day Gracy awakes soaking wet, blankets scattered, from dreams of bloody, dismembered corpses.

In the mists of nostalgia, the second world war has become the "good" war. So it comes as a shock to find that there are an estimated 210,000 survivors of that earlier conflict who continue to suffer full-blown symptoms of traumatic stress. In their 70s and 80s now, these old soldiers have borne the crushing emotional weight of their experiences for half a century.

After World War II, VA[®] doctors treated veterans for depression or anxiety, but both they and their patients were often slow to relate their stress to the war. "It's amazing to encounter so many veterans who've lived 40, 50 years with stress symptoms, yet didn't see a strong connection with their combat experience," says Brian Engdahl, a psychologist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Minneapolis.

A 'shambles': Like their Vietnam counterparts, many of these older vets have seen their lives deformed by their memories. Just past 70 now, Gracy has little to say about his life since the war, other than that it was something of a "shambles" and that he did a lot of "self-medicating" over the years. Since 1980, the year PTSD first appeared in the diagnostic manual of psychiatry, he's been pulling himself together with the help of VA therapists.

Time diminishes the intensity of traumatic memories, but the wounds never quite seem to close up entirely. Sometimes the memories are guilt-driven. Nearly every combat veteran who saw other soldiers killed carries around the survivor's mantra: "Why him, why not me?" Veterans can be haunted by something they may have failed to do — some impulse, some quick reaction that, in tortured recollection, might have saved a buddy. Or by something they did; in a videotaped psychiatric session, a gruff voiced former

marine in his 70s describes the moment when he whirled on a captured Japanese soldier who unexpectedly came up behind him, and blew him away with his rifle — only to find that the man carried, not a gun, but a picture of a family very much like his own. His voice breaking, the exmarine says: “That’s the sonofabitch that keeps bothering me.”

Why do such unwelcome images cling so tenaciously? When Freud spoke of a “repetition-compulsion,” he had in mind the World War I “shell shock” victims who still felt the terrors of the battlefield. We keep going back to such recollections, Freud guessed, in an effort to “master” them — to make them turn out right. “I think this issue of mastery is terribly important,” says Dr. Theodore Nadelson, chief of psychiatry at the Boston VA Medical Center: “Being rendered into a helpless object — that is something that stays with you.”

Neurological change: The relentlessly looming threat of death underlies most combat trauma. Psychiatrist Lawrence Kolb, who has followed the syndrome beginning with his own service as a medical officer in World War II, believes the constant bombardment of such extreme stress causes neuronal changes much in the way prolonged exposure to high-intensity sound causes deafness. There was also a not-yet-replicated study at Yale University indicating that the hippocampus, a center of emotional activity in the brain, may be altered in veterans with PTSD.

Engdahl’s work focuses on former prisoners of war, who have the highest PTSD rates. A government-established POW register has given researchers a handle on the prevalence of the disorder. Currently in the United States there are about 61,000 surviving