

林为慧 著

# 超英速 高级 阅读

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# Read for Real

高级

超英速阅读

作者 ■ 林为慧

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11年前，我可以听和说中文。我认为自己也可以读懂中文，直到我读了中文报纸才发现完全不能理解。每个单词我都认得但不明白它们组成的整句的意思。甚至在理解每句话之后仍不能领会通篇文章。因此我能理解英语学习者在试图解译一篇文章时遭遇的挫折感。

我曾帮一位朋友准备一篇英文演讲稿，她选择了一篇关于工作性骚扰的文章。她费力地在每个陌生的单词上打转，一字不漏地查字典。然而从整体上看，字典并不能帮她了解并领会文章的微妙之处。她的艰苦努力只是使她更为混乱，甚至更糟的是，令她曲解作者的原意。这真是让人啼笑皆非。

我在很多场合被问到如何提高阅读理解能力。很显然，知道每个单词的含义并不等同于理解通篇文章。作为一个酷爱读书的人，我的建议是阅读、阅读、阅读。文学、科技、经济、政治或医学，我们大多有自己偏好的阅读领域，而放弃那些不熟悉的话题。但我认为只有广泛阅读，你才能学到不同的写作技巧与风格。

我更要强调的是，要享受阅读的乐趣。不要害怕看不懂，就让自己贪婪地读各种书报杂志吧。刚开始时会有点儿难，但随着越读越多，你就会发现阅读理解是很容易的，甚至在文章里有一些你并不认识的单词时。另外，我认为文字都是生动鲜活的。中文里有一个成语“一针见血”，我常感叹于汉语成语的简洁明了却直指人心。你在使用英语时也可以做到，因为英语中同样有大量的生动有趣的习惯用语。它们被广泛地应用在书面语与口语中，熟悉它们很有助于你的阅读理解。

总之，阅读、阅读、阅读，这会使你在提高阅读理解能力的同时，丰富知识面并扩大观察问题的视角。

## Preface

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*I*t was eleven years ago. I could speak and understand spoken Chinese. I thought I could also read Chinese until I tried reading the newspaper and discovered that I was somewhat illiterate. I understood individual words but could not grasp the meaning of the sentence. Even when I could comprehend the idea in each sentence, I could not capture the entire article.

Therefore I can empathize with the frustrations of English learners when they are confronted with trying to decipher a passage. Once, I was helping a friend prepare for an English presentation and she had chosen an article on workplace harassment. This friend had painstakingly circled every word she did not know and dutifully looked them up in the dictionary. Alas, the whole is greater than the parts and the dictionary could not help her untangle the nuances and literary quirks. In spite of her industrious efforts, her attempt at comprehension dissolved into confusion and worse still, misinterpretation of the writer's view. It was hilarious but sobering.

On numerous occasions, I have been asked how one should improve in one's comprehension. Apparently, simply understanding each word does not equate with understanding of the passage. Being a book hound with an unquenchable appetite for reading, my opinion is simply read, read and read. May it be literature, technology, economics, politics or medicine, most of us find it a breeze to read our pet subjects. However, when it comes to unfamiliar topics, we balk and struggle. Therefore I believe in wide exposure to a variety of topics to get a hang of different technique, style and tone of

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writing.

*More importantly, I believe in the joy of reading. Do not be afraid, but devour magazines and books. At first, comprehension might be difficult but once you become an avid reader, you will find it easy to grasp concepts even when you may not understand some individual words.*

*Moreover, I also believe that words are alive. Chinese has a proverb that says 一针见血, and I am often impressed by how succinct yet apt a Chinese idiom can be in describing a situation. You can too, with English, for there are also plenty of colorful and vivid phrases in English. These are often used in both written and spoken English, and acquainting yourself with them can be helpful in comprehension.*

*All in all, read, read and read, and enrich yourself with knowledge and other perspectives while improving on your comprehension ability.*

*A special thanks to Robert Pierce from the National Changhua University of Education, Department of English, for his valuable input and comments.*

**Lydia Pierce**

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*for a bright future would turn into fear for all , anguish for others  
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*proven guilty beyond doubt?*

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# Part 1 奥运会的另一面

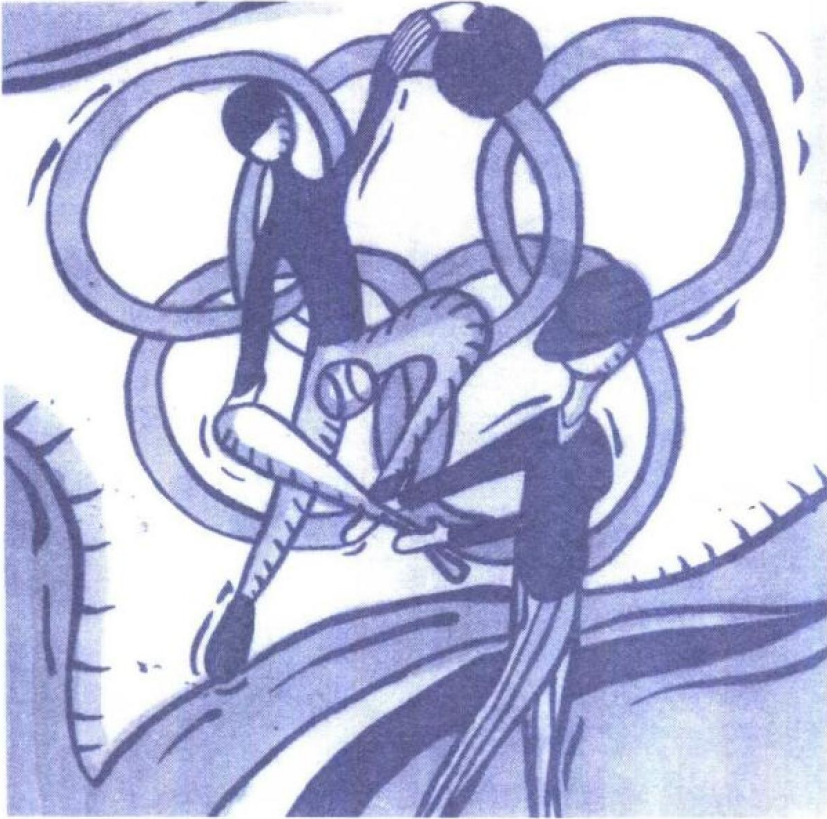
## The Other Side of the Olympics

*However, all that glitters is not gold. For some residents of Beijing, the site of Olympic 2008, the impact of winning the bid cuts deep and far into their personal lives.*





## The Other Side of the Olympics



The Olympics represents the noble ideal of sports overcoming the barriers of politics with champion athletes of all nations gathering in the spirit of sportsmanship. However, the stakes go beyond who wins the gold medal. Shortly after

each competition, nations begin to vie afresh for the bid to host the next game. Winning the vote to host is not merely an honor, it is a political conquest in global recognition. It also spins revenue from the influx of tourists, participants and Olympic related paraphernalia.

However, all that glitters is not gold. For some residents of Beijing, the site of Olympic 2008, the impact of winning the bid cuts deep and far into their personal lives. The capital is expecting to pour billions of dollars into sports facilities and related upgrades such as roads, public transport, landscaping and sanitation. For the bustling city of bicycles and traffic jams tucked among imperial relics, the Olympics is an opportunity for urban renewal. Yet for those within the areas, something must give way to make room for the model Olympic Village.

Decades of family homes will be uprooted and dispersed among apartments on the outskirts of the city. Although modern plumbing and sanitation will replace chamber pots, the move is an

upheaval of a community and its way of life and social dynamics. It will be interesting to follow up on these and study the effects of the transplant.

The Olympics upgrades are not disposable stage props that can be easily discarded after the show. Experts are afraid that without the heart-beat of ordinary people dwelling in the ancient city, the high tech Olympic City would become culturally dry. Careful urban planning and stringent regulations such as building restrictions can preserve the impression of an intact neighborhood. Nevertheless, without the residents, aesthetic is lost and only the facade remains, waiting to be filled by tourists and businesses.

Nonetheless who can begrudge anyone a more comfortable living environment? Even without the Olympics, can the drumbeat of modernization be stopped? And whether the changes are for better or worse, who should presume to judge such things other than those whose lives bear the brunt of the impact?

Read &

Understand

阅读新干线

**1. What is the purpose of the Olympics?**

- (a) To resolve political issues.
- (b) To peacefully prove which nation is the strongest through sports.
- (c) To display sportsmanship in spite of political issues.
- (d) To gain political strength and influence.

**2. In what way do the Olympics fail in their ideal?**

- (a) Nations compete for the gold medal.
- (b) Nations compete to host the next game.
- (c) The Olympics results in cash flow.
- (d) The Olympics has not failed in its ideal.

**3. How does winning the bid to host the 2008 Olympics affect some of the people living in Beijing?**

- (a) The poor will get rich from the tourism.
- (b) The people will have to give money toward building the Olympic Village.
- (c) The people will have to repair their old houses to make them look newer for the Olympics.
- (d) The people will have to move out of their homes to make room for the Olympic village.



- 4. What are some advantages that will be brought about by the Olympics?**
- (a) A more comfortable and cleaner living environment.
  - (b) Tidier looking apartments.
  - (c) The city will look newer and less old fashioned.
  - (d) It is a great opportunity to study the effects of urban renewal.
- 5. Some are worried that the Olympic Village might**
- (a) create a huge pile of garbage that is hard to remove.
  - (b) look ugly and artificial.
  - (c) result in the loss of a culture.
  - (d) not attract enough tourists and businesses.
- 6. How are careful urban planning and strict regulations helpful?**
- (a) The people who had to move would be less heartbroken.
  - (b) The aesthetic of the city can be saved.
  - (c) The original culture of the city can remain unchanged.
  - (d) The appearance of the original neighborhood can be saved.
- 7. Which of the following statements is true about the changes brought about by the Olympics?**
- (a) If it were not for the Olympics, the people would have remained more comfortable.
  - (b) If it were not for the Olympics, modernization would not have been necessary.
  - (c) The changes brought about by the Olympics could be