

韩洁 编写

中级美国英语读物系列

世纪之交的美国风

A n
THE AMERICAN
I n t e r m e d i a t e
A m e r i c a n
n g l i s h
THE TURN OF
THE CENTURY
S e r i e s

上海交通大学出版社

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**The American
Breeze at the Turn of the Century**
世 纪 之 交 的 美 国 风

韩 洁 编 写

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前言

当代应用语言学理论认为外语学习进入中级水平阶段时(如大学英语四级),学习者应加强阅读练习;此刻他的主要目标不是外语本身,如语法规则、单词学习等,而是以外语为桥梁,吸取知识及其他信息。这样,外语就在阅读过程中“润物细无声”地滋润着学习者,其结果自然是提高了英语能力。

这一认识已被许多外语教师和广大学生的实践所证明。笔者在几十年教学生涯中所见许多优秀学生无不遵循这一规律,这就是专家们所谓的“习得”(acquisition)。此方法虽与片面追求应试效果的方法背道而驰,但结果往往是学生在考试中不仅有上佳表现,而且以后还会有进一步提高的后劲。这些都是应试教育望尘莫及的。

用“习得英语”提高英语素质,首先要有适当的读物,能引起阅读兴趣。笔者认为英语读物是否适当,除了文字难度以外,必须考虑读物的题材,看它是否适合广大读者的需要。

笔者从1998年美国报刊杂志中精选出一些题材有趣且可读性强的文章,如美国当代社会的文化观念、人际关系、处世态度、经济变革以及科技动态等,汇编成《中级美国英语读物系列》,希望读者在趣味盎然的阅读中潜移默化地吸取知识并提高英语水平。

书中凡超过大学英语四级的词汇均加以注释,并为每篇文章设计了多项选择型阅读理解题(Multiple Choice Questions),供读者在自测中深入思考,加深理解。对于较难的句子或段落,提供了参考译文(Fragment of Translation for Reference)。另外,所有阅读理解题均附有答案(The Answer Key)。

编者

1998年11月

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1

Marriage 101: High School

Texts 'Flunk Out

By Marilyn Gardner

fall short: if sth falls short, it doesn't reach a desired amount

1 By the time the ²strains of the wedding march fill the air, it's a little late for any bride and groom to begin thinking about the long-term implications of those four little words "for better or worse." Yet well-meaning efforts in schools to give teenagers a head start in preparing for marriage still fall short. ~~fail~~, ~~defeated~~.

2 Alarming short in some cases, it turns out. According to a report being released today by the ³nonpartisan Institute for American Values in New York, some of the most widely used high school health textbooks place greater emphasis on ⁴self-esteem than on marriage, ⁵sexuality, and family life. One book gives marriage only seven pages, while ⁶allotting 31 pages to self-esteem. ~~allot~~ = give for purpose.

3 The good news in the report, "The Course of True Love: Marriage ~~comparable~~ in High School Textbooks," is that these books are more accurate and ~~similar~~ balanced than comparable college texts the Institute studied last year.

All treat marriage respectfully, describing it as a serious lifelong commitment. They also emphasize the value of teenage sexual ⁷abstinence. ~~the act of not doing sth, esp sth pleasurable~~.

4 But then there's the bad news. Researchers call the textbooks ~~vacuous~~ "intellectually, emotionally, and morally ⁸vacuous." Authors, ~~they~~ ~~not showing~~ ~~charge~~, draw only on perspectives from the fields of popular ~~intelligence~~ psychology and medicine. Religion is virtually absent. As the report ~~empty~~ notes, "In a world in which marriage is widely understood as containing a spiritual dimension, and in a nation in which about 80 percent of all

dimension = a part or quality of a thing

dimension = a measurement of sth

prospect: possibility, or likelihood that sth will happen.

marriages take place in houses of worship, a reader of these books is never given any reason to suspect that a significant relationship might exist between marriage and religion." prospects: chances for success

5 In addition, the textbooks ignore growing evidence suggesting that couples who live together before marriage face a greater likelihood of divorce. Perhaps most alarmingly, the authors fail to emphasize the importance of fathers in the family.

6 ¹⁰Lamenting the ¹¹"bleak" and "depressing" world view these texts convey to teenagers, the report observes that "it's as if ¹²Cupid were confused or sleeping ... Most of the big, interesting words—mystery, romance, love, ¹³flirtation, jealousy, ¹⁴courtship, ¹⁵passion—are simply left unexamined, as if they were not relevant, replaced by smaller and ultimately sadder words such as ¹⁶dysfunction, self-esteem, responsibility, stress, coping, disease, and most of all, health." reassurance

7 If ever any generation needed guidance, reassurance, and honest discussions about marriage before walking down the ¹⁷aisle, it's today's teenagers, many of whom, as children of the divorce revolution, wonder about their own prospects for a loving, lasting marriage. Yet learning about marriage and family by the book will always have its limits, no matter how expansive and well-written a book—or textbook—might be. perspective: view. a particular way of viewing things that

depends on one's experience and personality 8 For that reason, researchers at the Institute make a modest proposal: Perhaps, they suggest, a better solution would be to abandon these marriage textbooks, focusing instead on great literature and art, turning to novelists, poets, painters, philosophers, and great thinkers who examine themes of love and marriage.

9 Since that idea may be too ¹⁸radical for now, they also recommend rewriting current health textbooks to improve the intellectual content and include religious perspectives.

— 2 — flirt: to behave as if sexually attracted to sb. often in a way that is not meant seriously. flirt with an idea

10 Whether schools should even teach marriage education remains a controversial subject. Yet a good class, well-taught by a caring, informed teacher, can certainly add to students' understanding of long-term commitment, ¹⁹fidelity, and stable, loving families. At the very least such classes can, with or without textbooks, focus on questions that lie at the heart of teenagers' concerns and interests, such as: What makes a good marriage? What are the characteristics of a loving wife or husband? Is lasting love possible? How do I know when I'm in love? And how do I know whether to trust a guy?

11 Cupid—and students—would surely approve.

primary: n. election. They have been courting.

Notes black voters who are considered pivotal in the

1 flunk—(inf.) to fail an examination, course, etc. ^{southern primitives}

2 strains—a musical passage or tune ^{pivotal: important}

3 partisan—a strong supporter of a party, cause, faction, person, or idea

4 self-esteem—satisfaction with oneself

5 sexuality—the condition of being characterized and distinguished by sex recreation: sth done for pleasure

6 allot—to give or assign

7 abstinence—a usu. voluntary refraining, esp. from alcoholic beverages or from specified foods

8 vacuous—showing a lack of intelligence; stupid ^{vacuous: not showing purpose}

9 psychology—心理学

10 lament—to express sorrow or deep regret (over)

11 bleak—cold and cutting; harsh

12 Cupid—a representation of the Roman god of love, portrayed as a winged boy with a bow and arrow ^{bow & arrow}

13 flirt—to play lightly or mockingly at courtship

Cupid: a statue or painting representing the Roman-god of love, a naked baby with two wings.

partisan:

characterized

big loyal support

allot: give

for a particular

purpose

denounce

to criticize

strongly and

publicly

out of court. court: please.

- 14 court—to attempt to gain the love of
15 passion—ardent love; boundless enthusiasm
16 dys—(pref.) diseased, difficult, faulty, or bad
17 aisle—a passageway between rows of seats, as in a church or auditorium advocate: v. & n. speak in support of
18 radical—advocating extreme or revolutionary changes
19 fidelity—faithfulness; loyalty

court: try to please someone

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1 Usually, it is considered a pity that _____.
A young couples are afraid of hearing wedding march
B young couples begin thinking about long-term benefit from marriage
C schools give children a lesson on marriage
D young couples are mentally not so well prepared for marriage
- 2 According to a study, high-school textbooks on marriage _____.
A are not available for a long time
B have been improved
C are being published
D are now widely used
- 3 High-school textbooks on marriage are being criticized _____.
A for a lack of religious connections
B for having drawn on psychology
C for a lack of medical analyses
D for containing a spiritual dimension
- 4 In family relationship, the author seems to pay more attention to _____.
A true love
B compatible family
C the father's morality
D the mother's virtue

- 5 Today's teenagers need more guidance on marriage because _____.
- ☒ A they have rarely experienced true family love
 - ☐ B they are confused by their textbooks
 - ☐ C they learn everything from TV
 - ☐ D they are often neglected by society
- 6 The Institute for American Values suggests, instead of marriage textbooks, _____.
- ☐ A teenagers can see more films
 - ☐ B great works of literature and art can play a better role
 - ☐ C more marriage TV plays can guide teenagers
 - ☐ D sports and music should attract teenagers' attention
- 7 In the author's opinion, marriage education should _____.
- ☐ A depend on a well-written textbook
 - ☐ B be given in every school
 - ☐ C clearly explain what sexual love is
 - ☒ D be directed at the teenagers' greatest concerns
- 8 In the title of the passage, "101" may mean _____.
- ☐ A the only one
 - ☒ B the one against the other
 - ☐ C the most important principle
 - ☐ D one more point

Fragments of Translation for Reference

- 1 (Para. 1) By the time ...

当婚礼进行曲的旋律已经奏响,才想起“荣辱与共”这四个字的长远蕴涵来,这对于任何一对新郎新娘来说都为时过晚了。

- 2 (Para. 4) As the report notes ...

该报告称“在这个世界上,婚姻被广泛地理解为是包含精神因素的;

在这个国家里,80%左右的婚姻是在礼拜堂里举行的,因此,这些书的读者决不应得到任何理由来怀疑在婚姻与宗教之间可能存在的重要关系”。(译文中“因此”一词是按上下文需要增加的。)

3 (Para. 6) Lamenting the “bleak” and “depressing” ...

该报告感到深为惋惜的是,这些教科书向少年们传达的是“冷漠”而“压抑”的世界观。该报告说:“好像丘比特糊涂了,或是睡着了似的……大多数中听的有趣的字眼,如神秘、浪漫、爱情、调情、羡慕、求爱、情欲等,都不加审查地被排除在外,似乎这些词都是不相干的,而代之以微不足道的,总之是更悲哀的字眼,如恶性功能、自尊、责任、压力、应付、疾病等,而最多的词是健康。”

2

Family Caregivers— 'Everyday Heroes' Need Help

By Marilyn Gardner

1 Until nine years ago, Carol Levine identified herself by three roles: wife, mother, medical ¹ ethicist. Then her husband was severely injured in an automobile accident. Ever since, she has been caring for him at home, adding a fourth role—family caregiver. *caregiver, caretaker.*

frail: physically weak or easily damaged
2 As one of the 25 million Americans who ² minister to the needs of ³ frail, ill, or disabled relatives, Ms. Levine quickly discovered that this essential work is ⁴ fraught with isolation, inadequate training, and insufficient help from social workers and health-care professionals. Too often, she says, caregivers are simply encouraged to focus on "coping—learning how to live with an intolerable situation by changing one's own attitude and expectations."

fraught full with (complexed)
3 Last Thursday, Levine shared her perspectives with an important audience—members of the US ⁵ Senate Select Committee on Aging.

Testify: speak seriously about st.
⁶ Testifying in an all-day ⁷ hearing on family caregiving—the first full hearing on the subject—she and other specialists in the field made urgent appeals for more visibility, more support, and more respect for this unpaid role. *evoked*

4 "Most people just feel they have to tough it out," Levine explains. "Nobody really comes along and says, 'Let's talk about what would make it easier for you.' It's so difficult to get that kind of concern, or even permission to think about yourself."

5 Levine, now director of the families and health care project at the United Hospital Fund in New York, a research and ⁸ philanthropic *tough out: to be strong during a difficult situation*

organization, calls family caregivers “everyday heroes.” Yet heroism or
⁹ martyrdom, she insists, “is not an ethical or practical standard for
public policy or healthcare practice.”

6 In ¹⁰focus groups and conversations with caregivers, she hears
¹¹recurring ¹²themes. One challenge is economic. Some middle-class
families who thought they had comprehensive health insurance are being
¹³impoverished by caregiving, in part because much of what they need
at home falls under the ¹⁴unreimbursable category of “¹⁵custodial
care.”

7 At the same time, cost-cutting efforts within health-care systems
continue to shift responsibilities to families in what Levine calls
¹⁶“unprecedented ways.”

8 Another challenge involves the impact of caregiving on other
family members. Often, Levine notes, children are the ones neglected—
“not ¹⁷willfully, but because the demands of caregiving become so
¹⁸overwhelming.”

9 Caregiving specialists emphasize that no single solution exists,
since every family’s situation is different. They see a need for an ¹⁹array
of services. More ²⁰respite care, for instance, would give caregivers
well-deserved time off. More ²¹counseling and referral services would
also help. So would the ability to hold ²²insurers to a high standard of
performance and ²³accountability. *responsibility*

10 Levine also wants caregiving to be part of training and continuing
education for those studying medicine, nursing, social work, and even
²⁴theology.

11 “There is a kind of vacuum in the response of the faith
communities to caregiving,” she says, nothing that in her conversations
with caregivers, “no one mentioned organized religious institutions or
²⁵clergy as a source of ²⁶solace or assistance.”

12 Again and again, when Levine asks caregivers what they want, they tell her their modest requests: "Someone to talk to who understands what I'm going through." "Someone to call when I have questions." "A day off."

13 As these private wish lists affect more and more families, they can no longer be avoided as a public-policy issue. The Senate hearing last week represents an encouraging first step in giving voice to the unseen "everyday heroes" who, out of necessity, love, and ²⁷compassion, are performing the most selfless tasks for others and who, in return, deserve a measure of compassion themselves.

Notes *compassion: a strong feeling of sympathy and sadness*

- 1 ethicist—伦理学者 *compassionate*
- 2 minister—to attend to the wants and needs of others
- 3 frail—delicate
- 4 fraught—accompanied
- 5 Senate Select Committee on Aging—参议院年龄问题特别委员会
- 6 testify—to declare publicly
- 7 hearing—听证会 *martyr*
- 8 philanthropic—博爱的, 仁慈的 *martyrdom*
- 9 martyr—牺牲者; 烈士
- 10 focus—a center of interest or activity
- 11 recur—to happen, come up, or show up again or repeatedly
- 12 theme—a topic of discourse or discussion
- 13 impoverish—to reduce to poverty
- 14 reimburse—to pay back
- 15 custody—the act or right of caring for or guarding
- 16 unprecedented—without precedent; novel
- 17 willful—being in accordance with one's will

- 18 overwhelm—to overcome, overpower
19 array—an orderly arrangement
20 respite—a short interval of rest
21 counsel—to give advice
22 insurer—保险人(此处指承担医疗保险的机构)
23 accountable—responsible
24 theology—神学
25 clergy—the body of people ordained to religious service
26 solace—something that furnishes comfort or consolation
27 compassion—the deep feeling of sharing the suffering of another

Multiple Choice Questions

- 1 Levine had to look after her husband who _____.
A got wounded in the last war
☒ B was injured in a car accident
C hurt himself climbing a mountain
D had been disabled in an earthquake
- 2 “To tough it out” in para. 4 may mean _____.
A to make better of it
B to find out a better way
☒ C to endure the hardship
D to mind less of it
- 3 The family caregiver, once involved in the task, _____.
A will be worried all the time
B will seek any help from the community
C will try to take a rest when possible
☒ D will never be able to think about her/himself
- 4 A frequently heard complaint of the family caregiver is that _____.