

全国高等院校英语阅读课程系列教材  
English Reading Course Textbooks for College Students

# 英语阅读2

## Extensive Reading

Book Two



主编 徐晓兵 章永兰



对外经济贸易大学出版社

University of International Business and Economics Press

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# 英语阅读2

## Extensive Reading

第二分册



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## 英语阅读 2

### Extensive Reading Book Two

徐晓兵 章永兰 主编

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# 编写说明

《英语阅读》是供高等院校英语专业基础阶段阅读课程使用的系列教材，也适用于非英语专业学生和中级英语学习者。本套教材共分四册，每学期使用一册。

## 一、编写目的

现行高校通用的阅读教材中主要存在的问题是：选材内容偏重西方主流文化，忽略了世界其他国家和地区的文明；知识点比较零散，无系统的知识体系建构；材料的时代性、经典性、哲理性、学术性、世界性不能有机结合；阅读量、知识面、练习设计等与精读教材雷同；文本深层含义诠释偏少，欣赏性、导读性不强；课堂教学与课外拓展性阅读脱节。鉴于上述问题从不同层面阻碍学生阅读水平以及人文素养的提高，本套教材有针对性地尝试创新与突破。

## 二、教材的特色与创新

1. 教材编写以《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》为依据，内容由浅入深，力求达到大纲所规定的阶段终点阅读要求，即学生能读懂一般英美报刊上的社论和书评、英语国家出版的有一定难度的历史传记和文学作品，能分析文章的思想观点、语篇结构、语言特点和修辞手法，掌握文章的主旨和大意，理解事实和细节。
2. 教材编写吸收了国内外外语教学和教材编写理念的精髓，以阅读教学理论、第二语言习得理论、自主学习理论和任务型教学法理论为指导，融入外语教学研究的最新成果。
3. 教材循序渐进地构建了系统的多元化人文知识体系，时代性、经典性、哲理性、学术性、世界性并重，涵盖社会、政治、经济、文化、历史、新闻、宗教、体育、医药、文学、风土人情、科普知识等各个领域，知识面广，阅读量大。选材思想内容健康，引人向上，既贴近大学生的生活，又能让学生熟谙世界文化精髓，提高阅读水平和人文素养。
4. 教材每单元围绕一个主题选材。文章的篇幅不等，每单元长度约为 3 500-5 000 字。每单元设有与主题相关的课前问题和人名名言等。课前问题能启发学生思考

主题，激发阅读兴趣；名人名言等有助陶冶学生人文素养。

5. 英英注释文章的词汇、句子、语法、修辞、文化等知识点，便于学生扩大词汇量，快速理解课文，提高英语思维能力。在阅读教材中，适量的生词注释是必要的。语言教学研究表明，学生 91.9% 的阅读问题是由词汇引起的。无法依据上下文猜出的词义影响学生的阅读速度和乐趣。
6. 练习题型多样，有正误判断、选择题、翻译、问答、拓展练习等，旨在培养学生的跨文化意识、比较意识、批判意识、视角意识以及逻辑思辨能力，提高他们的阅读理解能力与语言应用能力。书后附有练习难题的参考答案，供教师和学生参考。
7. 课堂教学与课外拓展阅读有机整合。教材不仅介绍了一些有效的阅读方法，每单元还配有与主题相关的英语同步阅读拓展资源：阅读书目、学习网站、电影等。教材还附有英语专业学生阅读书目表。阅读教学打破了“课堂”与“课本”的限制，朝着个性化学习、自主式学习方向发展，真正提高教学的实效性。

### 三、教材的使用建议

1. 任务式教学法。本册教材共有十个单元，每单元一个主题。建议总学时为 30-36 学时，其中教材内容教学 20-26 学时，约 10 学时进行课外读书报告讨论。使用本教材时，教师可首先组织学生自选十个单元中的一个主题，然后选同一主题的学生组成学习小组，制作课件，每单元利用一学时时间在班级做读书报告等。
2. 学生应预习课文，了解大意，找出难点。教学重点为检查学生对课文大意的理解，讨论教材中的难点，解析文本的深层含义等。课堂可组织学生小组活动，讨论难点、开放式思考题等。学生课后完成正误判断、问答、翻译等笔头练习，教师并进行批改，以确保教学质量。学生应自主研习每单元后的课外拓展阅读资源，定期写读书报告等。

在本册教材编写过程中，我们参考了各种书籍和英语网站的资源，从中选用相关资料作为课文文本，并在书后附录的参考资料部分进行了标注。我们特此向各书的编著者以及选文作者致以衷心的感谢。

本册教材是淮阴师范学院外国语学院集体智慧的结晶。美籍教师 Jose Angel Campos 审阅了全书；我院高雷、张娟、史红梅、赵富霞等老师对本书的编写提出了许多宝贵的意见和建议。

对外经济贸易大学出版社编辑在付梓前仔细编审，精心设计，编者在此一并表示衷心感谢。

本书一定存在许多不足和疏漏，恳请英语界同行和广大使用者批评指正。

编 者

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# Contents

<b>Unit One</b>	<b>Greek and Roman Mythology</b> .....	1
	1. Greek Creation Myth .....	1
	2. The Olympians.....	6
	3. The Golden Apple of Discord .....	12
	4. Oedipus.....	14
	5. Echo and Narcissus.....	17
	6. Cupid and Psyche .....	21
<b>Unit Two</b>	<b>Ancient Chinese Culture</b> .....	27
	1. The Pangu Legend .....	27
	2. Three Sovereigns and Five Emperors.....	29
	3. Six Arts of Ancient China .....	34
	4. Hundred Schools of Thought .....	35
	5. Qin Shihuang .....	40
	6. The Imperial Examination System .....	43
	7. Laying Plans .....	45
<b>Unit Three</b>	<b>Sophie's World</b> .....	49
	1. The Garden of Eden .....	50
	2. The Top Hat .....	60
<b>Unit Four</b>	<b>Sports</b> .....	75
	1. Age No Concern at World Masters Games .....	75
	2. Marathon .....	79
	3. The Benefits of Youth Sports .....	84
<b>Unit Five</b>	<b>Green Living</b> .....	95
	1. Yawns: Rich and Young, but Frugal .....	95
	2. In German Suburb, Life Goes On without Cars.....	101
	3. A Post-Car Society.....	108



	4. German Tots Learn to Answer Call of Nature .....	113
<b>Unit Six</b>	<b>Carnegie Classics</b> .....	119
	1. “If You Want to Gather Honey, Don’t Kick over the Beehive” .....	120
	2. The Big Secret of Dealing with People .....	126
	3. Live in “Day-tight Compartments” .....	132
<b>Unit Seven</b>	<b>Philosophy of Life</b> .....	141
	1. Selected Readings from Analects of Confucius .....	141
	2. The Rock in Life .....	146
	3. Man’s Guide .....	147
	4. The Strenuous Life .....	149
	5. True Nobility .....	156
	6. Love Your Life .....	158
<b>Unit Eight</b>	<b>Short Stories</b> .....	163
	1. Eveline .....	163
	2. A Dill Pickle .....	171
<b>Unit Nine</b>	<b>The Old Testament</b> .....	183
	1. Introduction .....	183
	2. Synopsis and Themes .....	185
	3. The Fall of Man (Genesis: 3) .....	190
	4. The Book of Job .....	193
	5. Proverbs .....	196
	6. Psalms .....	201
<b>Unit Ten</b>	<b>World History II</b> .....	207
	1. Ancient Rome .....	207
	2. The Middle Ages .....	216
	<b>Key to the Exercises</b> .....	227
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Old Testament Timeline</b> .....	241
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Timeline of Ancient Chinese History</b> .....	243
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>Proverbs</b> .....	245
<b>Appendix 4</b>	<b>Reading List for English Majors</b> .....	249

# Unit One

## Greek and Roman Mythology

### Pre-reading Questions

1. The Greek and Roman mythologies have fascinated human beings for centuries. Name some of your favorite myths and tell your classmates why you like them.
2. Are there any similarities or differences between Greek and Roman myths? If so, what are they?

### 1. Greek Creation Myth

*Daphne Elliott*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, Chaos, an amorphous<sup>①</sup>, gaping<sup>②</sup> void<sup>③</sup> encompassing the entire universe, and surrounded by an unending stream of water ruled by the god Oceanus, was the domain of a goddess named Eurynome, which means “far-ruling” or “wide-wandering”. She was the Goddess of *All Things*, and desired to make order out of the Chaos. By coupling with a huge and powerful snake, Ophion, or as some legends say, coupling with the North Wind, she gave birth to Eros, god of Love, also known as Protogonus, the “firstborn”.

<sup>2</sup>Eurynome separated the sky from the sea by dancing on the waves of Oceanus. In this manner, she created great lands upon which she might wander, a veritable<sup>④</sup> universe,

---

① amorphous [ə'mɔ:fəs]: shapeless

② gaping: deep and wide open

③ void: an empty space

④ veritable ['verɪtəbl]: real or genuine



populating it with exotic creatures such as Nymphs, Furies, and Charities as well as with countless beasts and monsters.

<sup>3</sup>Also born out of Chaos were Gaia, called Earth, or Mother Earth, and Uranus, the embodiment of the Sky and the Heavens, as well as Tartarus, god of the sunless and terrible region beneath Gaia, the Earth.

<sup>4</sup>Gaia and Uranus married and gave birth to the Titans, a race of formidable<sup>①</sup> giants, which included a particularly wily<sup>②</sup> giant named Cronus.

<sup>5</sup>Gaia and Uranus warned Cronus that a son of his would one day overpower him. Cronus therefore swallowed his numerous children by his wife Rhea, to keep that forecast from taking place.

<sup>6</sup>This angered Gaia greatly, so when the youngest son, Zeus, was born, Gaia took a stone, wrapped it in swaddling clothes<sup>③</sup> and offered it to Cronus to swallow. This satisfied Cronus, and Gaia was able to spirit the baby Zeus away to be raised in Crete, far from his grasping father.

<sup>7</sup>In due course, Zeus grew up, came homeward, and into immediate conflict with the tyrant Cronus. Zeus needed his brothers and sisters' help in slaying the tyrant. Metis, Zeus's first wife, found a way of administering an emetic<sup>④</sup> to Cronus, who then threw up his five previous children, who were Hestia, Demeter, Hera, Hades, and Poseidon. Together they went to battle against their father. The results were that all of his children, led by Zeus, vanquished Cronus forever into Tartarus' domain, the Dark World under the Earth.

<sup>8</sup>Thus, Zeus triumphed over not only his father, and his father's family of Giants, he triumphed over his brothers and sisters as well, bringing order out of Chaos. Zeus made himself Supreme God over all, creating a great and beautiful place for his favored gods to live, on Mount Olympus, in Thessaly. All the others were left to fend for themselves in lands below Mount Olympus.

<sup>9</sup>Zeus did bring order out of Chaos, but one of his failings was that he did not look kindly upon the people, those creatures that populated the lands over which he reigned. They complained about the lack of good food and the everlasting cold nights. Zeus ignored their

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① formidable ['fɔːmɪdəbl]: inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable 可怕的; 令人敬畏的; 难对付的

② wily ['waɪli]: cunning 诡计多端的; 狡猾的

③ swaddling clothes: strips of cloth wrapped around a newborn infant to hold its legs and arms still 襁褓

④ emetic [i'metɪk]: a medicine or other substance that causes vomiting 催吐剂



complaints, while he and the other gods feasted endlessly on steaming hot game from the surrounding forests, and had great crackling fires in every room of their palaces where they lived in the cold winter.

<sup>10</sup>It is said in many myths, that Prometheus, one of the Titans not vanquished in the war between Zeus and the giants, had molded a race of people from clay, or that he had combined specks of every living creature, molded them together, and produced a new race, The Common Man. At the very least he was their champion before Zeus.

<sup>11</sup>Fire for cooking and heating was reserved only for the gods to enjoy. Prometheus stole some of the sparks of a glowing fire from the Olympians, so that the people below Olympus could have fire for cooking and warmth in the winter, thus greatly improving their lot in life.

<sup>12</sup>Zeus was furious at this insult to his absolute power. He had Prometheus bound and chained to a rock on Mount Caucasus, and subjected to the attack of an eagle which, for ages, preyed upon his liver, yet succeeded not in consuming it.

<sup>13</sup>Adding insult to injury, Zeus had his son, Hephaestus, fashion a wicked but beautiful creature to torment Prometheus. It was a woman, whom they named Pandora, which means “all gifts”. When Prometheus stole fire from heaven, Zeus took vengeance<sup>①</sup> by presenting Pandora to Epimetheus, Prometheus’ brother. Pandora was given a precious and beautiful box, which she was told not to open under any circumstance. Impelled by her natural curiosity, Pandora opened the jar, and all the evils that plague men flew out and spread over the earth. She hastened to close the lid, but the whole contents of the jar had escaped, except for one thing which lay at the bottom, Hope.

<sup>14</sup>So, from “far-ruling” Eurynome to the creation of the Common Man, Greek creation myths are inextricably<sup>②</sup> filled with difficulties, though often ameliorated<sup>③</sup> by the gift of Hope.

## Notes

1. The text is retrieved from <http://www.pantheon.org>.

2. Chaos (para.1)—meaning “gaping void”. There are many explanations as to who or what

① vengeance ['vendʒəns]: punishment in return for a wrong 复仇

② inextricably [in'ekstri:kəbli]: inescapably; unavoidably 不可避免的

③ ameliorate [ə'mi:ljəreɪt]: make or become better; improve



Chaos is, but most theories state that it was the void from which all things developed into a distinctive entity, or in which they existed in a confused and amorphous shape before they were separated into genera. In other words, Chaos is or was “nothingness.” The Roman writer Ovid gave Chaos its modern meaning: that of an unordered and formless primordial mass.

3. Eros (para.1)—the Greek god of love and sexual desire. In later mythology Eros is the offspring of Aphrodite and Ares.
4. Nymphs (para.2)—referring to spirits of nature. They are minor female deities and the protectors of springs, mountains, and rivers. Nymphs are represented as young, pretty girls. The male counterpart of a nymph is the satyr.
5. Furies (para.2)—referring to the three goddesses of vengeance: Tisiphone (avenger of murder), Megaera (the jealous) and Alecto (constant anger). Without mercy, the Furies would punish all crime including the breaking of rules considering all aspects of society.
6. Charities (para.2)—Charities or Graces are the personifications of charm and beauty in nature and in human life. They love all things beautiful and bestow talent upon mortals. Together with the Muses they serve as sources of inspiration in poetry and the arts. They ordinarily numbered three, from youngest to oldest: Aglaea (Beauty), Euphrosyne (Mirth), and Thalia (God Cheer).
7. Titans (para.4)—referring to a race of godlike giants who were considered to be the personifications of the forces of nature. They are the twelve children (six sons and six daughters) of Gaia and Uranus. Each son married, or had children of, one of his sisters. They are: Cronus and Rhea, Iapetus and Themis, Oceanus and Tethys, Hyperion and Theia, Crius and Mnemosyne, and Coeus and Phoebe.
8. Rhea (para.5)—the mother of the gods, daughter of Uranus and Gaia. She is married to her brother Cronus and is the mother of Demeter, Hades, Hera, Hestia, Poseidon and Zeus.
9. Metis (para.7)—Metis was born of Oceanus and Tethys, of an earlier age than Zeus and his siblings.
10. Pandora (para.13)—the first woman on earth. The gods endowed her with many talents: Aphrodite gave her beauty, Apollo music, Hermes persuasion, and so forth. Hence her name *Pandora* means “all-gifted”.



## Exercises

### I. Judge whether the following statements are true or false.

1. In the beginning, there was no land but the sea and the sky.
2. Gaia and Uranus' marriage stands for the union between the sky and the earth.
3. All gods lived on Mount Olympus.
4. Prometheus was the guardian of human beings.
5. Pandora was sent to the world as a gift from Zeus.

### II. Choose the best explanation for the italicized part.

1. In the beginning, Chaos, an amorphous, gaping void *encompassing* the entire universe ... (para.1)  
a. controlling                      b. surrounding                      c. causing
2. Also born out of Chaos were Gaia, called Earth, or Mother Earth, and Uranus, the *embodiment* of the Sky and the Heavens ... (para.3)  
a. abstract concept                      b. personification                      c. concrete representation
3. This satisfied Cronus, and Gaia was able to *spirit* the baby Zeus away to be raised in Crete, far from his grasping father. (para.6)  
a. take away secretly                      b. inspirit                      c. blow
4. Zeus needed his brothers and sisters' help in *slaying* the tyrant ... (para.7)  
a. murdering                      b. defeating                      c. killing
5. Metis, Zeus's first wife, found a way of *administering* an emetic to Cronus ... (para.7)  
a. managing                      b. giving                      c. tendering
6. The results were that all of his children, led by Zeus, *vanquished* Cronus forever into Tartarus' domain ... (para.7)  
a. won                      b. defeated                      c. disappeared
7. All the others were left to *fend for* themselves in lands below Mount Olympus. (para.8)  
a. raise                      b. fight                      c. look after
8. ... feasted endlessly on steaming hot *game* from the surrounding forests ... (para.9)  
a. wild animals                      b. pastime                      c. meat of hunted animals
9. ... thus greatly improving their *lot* in life. (para.11)  
a. luck                      b. fate                      c. living
10. *Impelled* by her natural curiosity, Pandora opened the jar, and all the evils that plague



men flew out and spread over the earth. (para.13)

a. Driven

b. Stirred

c. Moved

### III. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. In this manner, she created great lands upon which she might wander, a veritable universe, populating it with exotic creatures such as Nymphs, Furies, and Charities as well as with countless beasts and monsters. (para.2)
2. Zeus ignored their complaints, while he and the other gods feasted endlessly on steaming hot game from the surrounding forests, and had great crackling fires in every room of their palaces where they lived in the cold winter. (para.9)
3. Zeus was furious at this insult to his absolute power, and had Prometheus bound and chained to a rock on Mount Caucasus, and subjected to the attack of an eagle which, for ages, preyed upon his liver, yet succeeded not in consuming it. (para.12)

### IV. Questions for consideration and discussion.

1. 'So, from "far-ruling" Eurynome to the creation of the Common Man, Greek creation myths are inextricably filled with difficulties, though often ameliorated by the gift of Hope.' What are the "difficulties" and what does "Hope" refer to?
2. Comment on the fight between Zeus and his father and the conflict between Zeus and Prometheus.
3. Surf the Internet, and get the implied meaning of Pandora's Box.

## 2. The Olympians

<sup>1</sup>The Twelve Olympians were the principal gods of the Greek pantheon<sup>①</sup>, residing atop Mount Olympus. The classical scheme of the Twelve Olympians (the Canonical Twelve of art and poetry) comprises the following gods: Zeus, Poseidon, Hera, Hestia, Demeter, Ares, Hephaestus, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Aphrodite, and Hermes. For their Roman counterparts<sup>②</sup>, they are named as (in corresponding order): Jupiter, Neptune, Juno, Vesta, Ceres, Mars, Vulcan,

---

① pantheon: all the gods of a nation or people

② counterpart: somebody or something corresponding to another 职位（或作用）相当的人；对应的事物



Minerva, Apollo, Diana, Venus and Mercury.

<sup>2</sup>After overthrowing his Father Cronus, Zeus drew lots with his brothers Poseidon and Hades. Zeus won the draw and became the supreme ruler of the gods. He was the god of the sky and rain. Being the supreme ruler he upheld law, justice and morals, and this made him the spiritual leader of both gods and men. His main attribute<sup>①</sup> was the thunderbolt. In Homer's epic poem *The Iliad* Zeus sent thunderstorms against his enemies. The name *Zeus* is related to the Greek word *dios*, meaning "bright". His other attributes as well as lightning were the scepter<sup>②</sup>, the eagle and his aegis. He was famous for his many affairs<sup>③</sup>. He was also known to punish those that lied or broke oaths. In art, Zeus was usually portrayed as bearded, middle aged but with a youthful figure. He would look very regal<sup>④</sup> and imposing.

<sup>3</sup>Poseidon was a god of many names. He was most famous as the god of the sea. After the division of the universe involved him and his brothers, Poseidon became ruler of the sea while Zeus ruled the sky, and Hades got the underworld. The other divinities attributed to Poseidon involved the god of earthquakes and the god of horses. The symbols associated with Poseidon included: dolphins, tridents<sup>⑤</sup>, and three-pronged fish spears. Poseidon was relied upon by sailors for a safe voyage on the sea. Many men drowned horses in sacrifice of his honor. However, Poseidon was a very moody divinity, and his temperament<sup>⑥</sup> could sometimes result in violence. Poseidon often used his powers of earthquakes, water, and horses to inflict fear and punishment on people as revenge. Though he could be difficult and assert his powers over the gods and mortals, Poseidon could be cooperative and it was he who helped the Greeks during the Trojan War. Poseidon is an essential character in the study of Greek mythology.

<sup>4</sup>Hera, the queen of the Olympian deities, was wife and sister of Zeus. She was the protector of marriage and took special care of married women. Hera's marriage was founded in strife<sup>⑦</sup> with Zeus and continued in strife. Zeus courted her unsuccessfully. He then turned to trickery, changing himself into a disheveled<sup>⑧</sup> cuckoo. Feeling sorry for the bird, Hera held it

① attribute ['ætrɪbjʊ:t]: an object associated with and serving to identify a character 象征, 标志

② scepter: a ceremonial staff, rod, or wand used as an emblem of a monarch's authority 节杖

③ affair: a romantic and sexual relationship between two who are not married to each other

④ regal ['ri:gəl]: typical of a king or queen, and therefore impressive 帝王的

⑤ trident ['traɪdɪnt]: the three-pronged spear 三叉戟

⑥ temperament: the manner of thinking, behaving, or reacting characteristic of a specific person 性情

⑦ strife [straɪf]: bitter conflict 冲突

⑧ disheveled [dɪ'ʃevəld]: (of a person's hair, clothes, or appearance) untidy





to her breast and warmed it. Zeus then resumed his normal form and raped her. She then married him to cover her shame. Most stories concerning Hera have to do with her jealous revenge for Zeus's infidelities<sup>①</sup>. Her sacred animals were the cow and the peacock.

<sup>5</sup>Hestia, the eldest sister of Zeus, was the goddess of the hearth<sup>②</sup> fire, hence presiding over domestic life. She was a virgin goddess, and when wooed by Poseidon and Apollo, swore by the head of Zeus to remain a virgin. She had no throne, but tended the sacred fire in the hall on the Olympus and every hearth on Earth was her altar. Every home had a hearth that was dedicated to her, and each day began and ended with a ritual requesting that she protect and nurture the family within. She was the gentlest of all the Olympians.

<sup>6</sup>Demeter was the earth goddess, who brought forth the fruits of the earth, particularly the various grains. She taught mankind the art of sowing and ploughing so they could end their nomadic<sup>③</sup> existence. As such, Demeter was also the goddess of planned society. As a fertility<sup>④</sup> goddess she is sometimes identified with Rhea and Gaia. Demeter was a sister of Zeus, by whom she became the mother of Persephone. When Persephone was abducted by Hades, Demeter wandered the earth in search of her lost child. During this time the earth brought forth no grain. Finally Zeus sent Hermes to the underworld, ordering Hades to restore Persephone to her mother. Only when her daughter was with her, Demeter let things grow (summer). The dying and blossoming of nature was thus connected with Demeter. Her usual symbolic attributes were the fruits of the earth and the torch, the latter presumably referring to her search for Persephone. Her sacred animals were the snake and the pig.

<sup>7</sup>Ares, a son of Zeus and Hera, was the god of war and battle and the instigator of violence. Because of his cruel and war-like nature he was despised by all the gods, even his own father disliked him. Ares could be bloody, merciless, fearful and cowardly and possessed no moral attributes. He was, however, unable to withstand the loveliness of Aphrodite, who subsequently became his consort. His bird was the vulture and his animal was the dog.

<sup>8</sup>Hephaestus, the only god to be physically ugly, was the son of Zeus and Hera. He was the god of fire, especially the blacksmith's fire. Being a great craftsman he manufactured wonderful articles from various materials, primarily from metal. He was the god of volcanoes.

① infidelity [ˌɪnfɪˈdelɪti]: unfaithfulness to a sexual partner 不贞

② hearth: fireplace 炉膛

③ nomadic [nəʊˈmædɪk]: wandering 游牧的

④ fertility [fəˈtɪlɪti]: the state of being fertile, productiveness 繁殖, 多产