

《英语学习》读物丛书



# 新空港 AIRPORT

ARTHUR HAILEY



外语教学与研究出版社

《英语学习》读物丛书

AIRPORT

航 空 港

Arthur Hailey 原著

Rosalie Kerr 节略

杨 一 注释

外语教学与研究出版社

# 航 空 港

Arthur Hailey 原著

Rosalie Kerr 节略

杨 一 注释

---

外语教学与研究出版社出版

(北京外国语学院23号信箱)

北京广播学院印刷厂排版

联华印刷厂印刷

新华书店北京发行所发行

全国各地新华书店经售

开本787×1092 1/32 6.75印张 140千字

1982年4月第1版 1967年5月北京第三次印刷

印数 24,301—44 300册

---

ISBN 7-5600-0215-3 /K·64

书号: 9215·153 定价: 1.10元

## 《英语学习》读物丛书

### 出版说明

英语是世界上广泛使用的语言，在联合国和其他重要国际场合它是主要工作语言之一。我们在社会主义新长征中，需要学习外国的先进经验，以便加速实现四个现代化。在这方面，英语能起相当大的作用。目前，随着我国对外关系、科技交流、旅行游览活动蓬勃发展，对英语的需要越来越紧迫。通过广播英语和电视英语的教学，英语学习已经普及到了祖国各地，学习人数空前增多。这种形势要求我们出版更多更好的英语读物。

学习外语，在有一定的语音、语法和词汇知识的基础上，尽可能多读一些书会大有助于迅速提高外语水平。对于自学者来说，阅读尤为重要。坚持阅读可以逐渐学会通过外语这个工具来学知识、学专业，为四化建设多作贡献。

为了帮助广大读者学习和提高英语水平，同时也为了弥补《英语学习》杂志目前篇幅之不足，我们特编辑出版《英语学习》读物丛书。这套丛书以初级和中级水平的读者为对象，可供自学或课堂教学使用。读物体裁多样，包括小说（中篇和短篇）、传记、历史、地理、戏剧、童话、游记、回忆录、电影脚本、民间故事、科普作品、幽默小品和描写英美等国风土人情的作品。

为了便利读者，丛书各册均配有汉语注释，解释语

言难点，提供背景知识；对作家和作品本身也作了简要介绍。对于人名、地名和较难读的词语，一律用国际音标注明读音。

由于我们水平有限，又缺少经验，错误不当之处，欢迎读者批评指正，使这套丛书能更好地为读者服务。

编 者

一九八〇年元月

## 内 容 提 要

《航空港》是加拿大当代著名作家阿瑟·黑利所著。这是他继《最后的诊断》(*The Final Diagnosis*)、《在高地上》(*In High Place*)和《旅馆》(*Hotel*)的第四部畅销小说，是一部写美国航空业方面的作品。

小说描述了美国中西部林肯国际航空港遭受了一场多年罕见的暴风雪的袭击。在暴风雪袭击中，航空港发生了一系列错综复杂的事件。通过这些事件，作者对美国形形色色的社会现象作了客观而生动的描述，揭露了资本主义社会唯利是图，尔虞我诈的丑恶本质。小说中个别段落对西方世界的生活方式和男女关系作了自然主义的描述。作者对所揭露的各种问题也缺乏分析与批判。这些方面读者应当进行正确的分析。

这是英国 Longman 公司出版的节略本，文笔简练流畅，情节饶有趣味，并加有注释，可供初、中级英语水平读者阅读。

## Main Characters

### 主要人物表

**Mel Bakersfeld** 梅尔·贝克斯菲尔德，林肯国际航空港总经理。

**Danny Farrow** 丹尼·法罗，雪控办公室值班人员。

**Keith Bakersfeld** 基思·贝克斯菲尔德，地面指挥站雷达操纵员。

**Tanya Livingston** 塔尼亚·利文斯顿，环美航空公司工作人员。

**Vernon Demerest** 弗农·迪梅雷斯特，航班2飞机机长，梅尔的妹夫。

**Sarah** 萨拉，弗农的妻子。

**Cindy** 辛蒂，梅尔的妻子。

**Patsy Smith** 帕齐·史密斯，航空港售票员。

**Joe Patroni** 乔·佩特伦尼，环球航空公司维修队队长。

**Gwen Meighen** 格温·梅恩，飞机上女服务员（又称：空中小姐）。

**Anson Harris** 安森·哈里斯，机长。

**Floyd Zanetta** 弗洛伊德·赞纳特，某印刷公司经理。

**Elliot Freemantle** 埃利奥特·弗里曼特尔，律师。

**D. O. Guerrero** 地·奥·格雷罗，用炸药炸飞机的亡命徒。

**Inez Guerrero** 伊内兹·格雷罗，地·奥·格雷罗的妻子。

Ada Quonsett 艾达·匡塞特，揩油乘客。

Peter Coakley 彼得·科克利，年轻服务员。

Ned Ordway 内德·奥德韦，警长。

Bunnie Vorobioff 邦尼·沃洛拜夫，保险单出售员。

Harry Standish 哈里·斯坦迪什，海关检查员。

Bert Weatherby 伯特·韦瑟比，客运经理。

Tomlinson 汤姆林森，记者。

Milton Compagno 米尔顿·康帕诺，搭乘航班2飞机  
的大夫。



# CONTENTS

## 目 录

Main Characters	(主要人物表)	( I )
Chapter 1		( 1 )
Chapter 2		( 6 )
Chapter 3		( 10 )
Chapter 4		( 16 )
Chapter 5		( 19 )
Chapter 6		( 21 )
Chapter 7		( 24 )
Chapter 8		( 26 )
Chapter 9		( 32 )
Chapter 10		( 37 )
Chapter 11		( 42 )
Chapter 12		( 46 )
Chapter 13		( 48 )
Chapter 14		( 53 )
Chapter 15		( 60 )
Chapter 16		( 66 )
Chapter 17		( 73 )
Chapter 18		( 76 )
Chapter 19		( 82 )
Chapter 20		( 84 )
Chapter 21		( 86 )

Chapter 22.....	( 91 )
Chapter 23.....	( 98 )
Chapter 24.....	( 103 )
Chapter 25.....	( 110 )
Chapter 26.....	( 114 )
Chapter 27.....	( 119 )
Chapter 28.....	( 123 )
Chapter 29.....	( 127 )
Chapter 30.....	( 130 )
Chapter 31.....	( 132 )
Chapter 32.....	( 138 )
Chapter 33.....	( 147 )
Chapter 34.....	( 151 )
Chapter 35.....	( 156 )
Chapter 36.....	( 161 )
Chapter 37.....	( 165 )
Chapter 38.....	( 168 )
Chapter 39.....	( 170 )
Chapter 40.....	( 173 )
Chapter 41.....	( 174 )

注释.....	( 177 )
---------	---------

Appendix I (附录一) .....	( 201 )
------------------------	---------

Appendix II (附录二) .....	( 202 )
-------------------------	---------

## Chapter 1

At half past six on a Friday evening in January, Lincoln International Airport was open, but it was in difficulties.

The airport, together with the entire Midwestern United States, had been hit by the worst storm in years.<sup>1</sup> It had already lasted for three days. Now troubles, like spots on a sick, weakened body, were beginning to break out everywhere.<sup>2</sup>

A truck carrying two hundred dinners was lost in the snow somewhere on an airport service road, and so far the search for it had been unsuccessful.

At least a hundred flights were delayed, some by many hours.

Out on the airfield runway three zero was out of use.<sup>3</sup> It was blocked by an Aereo-Mexican jet which lay sideways across it. The front wheels of the plane were stuck in the deep mud which lay under the snow near the edge of the runway. Aereo-Mexican had tried hard for two hours to move it, but without any success. Now they were asking TWA to help them.

The loss of runway three zero made the work of

Air Traffic Control even more difficult than usual. With twenty planes waiting to land, they were delaying take-offs.<sup>4</sup> The airfield seemed to be full of waiting aircraft. Inside the main passenger terminal too, there were crowds of impatient people waiting beside their piles of baggage.

Even the large notice on the roof of the terminal —LINCOLN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—was hidden by the snow.

Mel Bakersfeld was surprised that the airport was still open. Mel was the airport general manager. He was a tall, powerful man. At the moment, he was standing by the Snow Control Desk, high in the control tower. Usually you could see the entire airport from here. Only Air Traffic Control had a better view.

Tonight you could see only a few lights. This was an unusually hard winter.<sup>5</sup> The storm had started five days ago in the Colorado Mountains,<sup>6</sup> and then swept across a large part of the United States. It brought with it strong winds, freezing cold and heavy snow.<sup>7</sup>

Maintenance men with snowploughs cleared the snow as it fell,<sup>8</sup> but by now many of them were terribly tired. The storm seemed to be winning.

Danny Farrow was at the Snow Control Desk, talking to the Maintenance Snow Centre by radio phone.

'We're losing ground,' I need six more snow-ploughs out there.'

'Oh sure, sure,' an angry voice replied. 'Six more snowploughs! We'll get them from Father Christmas!<sup>10</sup> Any more stupid ideas?'

'We sent four ploughs out to find that truck,' Danny said. 'If they haven't found it yet, they'll just have to try harder.'

An explosion of anger came over the radio phone in reply.<sup>11</sup>

Mel knew how easily tempers were lost under these conditions. These men were highly trained, and they were working as hard as they could.

The maintenance man's voice came on the phone again.

'We're worried about that truck too, Danny. The driver could freeze to death. He won't die of hunger, if he has any sense!'

'This search will block the service roads,' Danny told Mel. 'You'll get plenty of complaints about that.'

'I know,' Mel said. Airport managers were used to complaints. The most important thing was to save the life of the driver. For a moment, he wished that he could sit down and help Danny. Mel needed action. The cold weather was making his bad foot—an old war wound from Korea — ache. Then he realised

that Danny could work better on his own.<sup>13</sup>

He telephoned Air Traffic Control.

'Any progress on the Aereo-Mexican jet?'<sup>13</sup>

'Not yet, Mr Bakersfeld.'

'Is the runway still blocked?'

'Yes.'

This airport needs more runways, Mel thought. This proves it.<sup>14</sup> The trouble was, there were plenty of people who disagreed with him, and they were more powerful than he was.

'And another thing,' he was told. 'As runway three zero is blocked, planes are taking off over Meadowood.'<sup>15</sup> The complaints have started coming in already.'

'Oh no!' Mel said. He was tired of hearing complaints from the people who lived in Meadowood. The airport had been built long before their houses, but they never seemed to stop complaining about the noise. As a result, the runway nearest to Meadowood was used only under special conditions. On the occasions when it had to be used,<sup>16</sup> pilots were told to reduce the noise made by the engines on take-off. It was possible to do this, but most pilots considered it to be foolish and dangerous and hated being told to do it. In any case, it had not stopped the complaints from Meadowood.

'How many complaints have there been?' Mel asked.

'At least fifty.'

'Don't they know there's a storm and we have a runway out of use?'

'We try to tell them, but they don't want to listen. I hear they're holding a meeting tonight to decide what to do next.'

More trouble! Mel thought,

He asked: 'Is my brother on duty tonight?'

'Yes.'

Mel's brother Keith worked in Air Traffic Control.

'Is he all right? Does he seem nervous?'

The other man hesitated before he replied: 'Yes, he is. More than usual. I wish I could tell him to rest, but we're short of men already.'<sup>12</sup>

'I know, I know.' Recently Mel had been very worried about Keith.

He put the phone down, and thought again about a note he had received fifteen minutes before. It was from Tanya Livingston. She worked for Trans America, and was a special friend of Mel's.

The note warned him that the Airlines Snow Committee, led by Captain Vernon Demerest, was going to blame Mel for the many flight delays. They were going to accuse him of inefficient management.<sup>18</sup>

Captain Vernon Demerest was one of Trans America's most experienced pilots. He was married to Mel's sister Sarah. The Bakersfelds were a real 'aviation family'.<sup>19</sup> In spite of the family connection,

however, Mel and Vernon were not friendly with one another. Recently they had exchanged angry words at an important meeting,<sup>20</sup> and Mel felt that the critical report was a direct result of this.

He was not really worried, because he knew that he was doing everything he could to run the airport efficiently. It was unpleasant to be criticised, but his conscience was clear.<sup>21</sup>

Tanya ended her note by inviting him to have a cup of coffee with her. when he had time. Mel decided he had time now. He always enjoyed talking to Tanya.

## Chapter 2

Mel used a private elevator<sup>1</sup> to go down from the control tower to his office. The office was silent and empty. He took a heavy coat and fur-lined boots<sup>2</sup> out of a cupboard near his big desk.

He was not really on duty at the airport tonight, but because of the storm he had stayed on to help. Otherwise he would have been at home with Cindy and the children.

Or would he?

It's hard to know the truth about yourself,<sup>3</sup> he



thought. If there had been no storm he would probably have found some other excuse for not going home.<sup>4</sup> He didn't seem to go home immediately after work very often these days. Of course, the airport kept him very busy, but — to be honest — it also offered an escape from his endless quarrels with Cindy.<sup>5</sup>

Oh God! He had just noticed a note that his secretary had left on his desk, reminding him that he had promised to go to a party with Cindy that evening. Cindy hated to miss a party if she knew that any important people were going to be there.

He still had two hours. He could finish what he had to do here in time to get to the party — but he would be late.

He phoned his home number.

Roberta, his elder daughter, answered.

'Hi,' he said, 'this is Mel.'

'Yes, I know,' she said coolly.

'How was school today?'

'We had more than one class, Father. Which one are you asking me about?'

Mel sighed. There were days when he felt that his home life had become unbearable. Did all thirteen-year-old girls talk to their fathers like this? He loved both his daughters very much. There were times when he thought that his marriage had only lasted as long as it had because of them.<sup>7</sup> It hurt him to hear