

英语时文选读

COMPREHENSION
PIECES ON
CURRENT
TOPICS

葆青编注

2

人民教育出版社

英语时文选读

第二辑

葆青编注

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编者的话

这份材料已通过北京广播电台的广播节目向听众同志们作了介绍，现在以书面形式印刷出来，作为这一套选读材料的第二辑和大家见面。

这里所选编的材料，除了第一篇是自编的外，都选自79年前后国外出版物或教材中的文章。为了适合我们所用，作了一定的整理和编排。本辑的文字比第一辑的略深，但仍保持口语化和习惯语化的特点。所选的题材和内容力求新颖活泼，多种多样，其中大部分是人们日常谈论的、或报章上常见到的话题，如电视、流行音乐、城市噪音、小学教育，以及名人介绍、科普小品等。我们考虑到，兴趣对学习语言是非常重要的，如果对所学的内容感兴趣，而且还能从中得到一定的教益，那么，反过来一定会对语言的学习有所促进。在选材中，我们注意到了这个因素。

为了便于自学，在每篇课文后面作了详细的注解，对某些篇章还作了一定的背景说明。

编 者

一九八〇年十一月于北京

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1

Home^①

Pagoda Street^② is a street like many others — not very clean, not very wide, only wide enough for two buses to pass. But it is a busy street all the same^③, especially during the rush hour^④. People come and go, hurrying to work. When a bus comes, the crowd at the bus-stop starts to rush and push to get on. There are a lot of cars, buses, trucks, bicycles and even tractors. The place is noisy and dusty, and the noise of the tractors is deafening^⑤. But it is not so bad when the rush hour is over. Old people come out to sit on the door-steps and have a smoke and chat. Housewives go shopping with bags or baskets on their arms. When friends meet, they stop to exchange a few words of greetings^⑥. There are also children playing ball games. They don't mind the dust or the passing cars. It certainly is not a good place for ball games. But then where else can they play^⑦?

I used to play football in the street when I was a boy. I live in this neighbourhood^⑧. Behind the post

office there is a small old one-storeyed house^⑧. My family live there. Actually I was born there. We have three rooms — two bedrooms and a kitchen-parlour. I call it a kitchen-parlour because it is more than a kitchen to us^⑨. It is where all the family gather when the day's work is done. I want to tell you about it because I like this room best. We spend most of our time, or rather, Mom spends most of her time there^⑩. We eat our meals there, we do our homework there, we play games there, Dad has his cup of tea there after meals and Mom even has her friends there. It is the hub of activity^⑪.

The kitchen is neat and cosy. At least I think it is. But Mom complains that we children often throw peels^⑫ and other things on the floor and that we often make a mess of it^⑬. She has to do all the cleaning and washing and cooking and shopping and a hundred and one other things^⑭. I'm sorry to say we children are not very helpful around the house.

Mother wants to live in an apartment house^⑮. She thinks a flat is much more convenient and we'll pay less rent on a flat than on a house. But Dad doesn't agree. He thinks it is more convenient to live in a one-storeyed house. "You don't have to climb the stairs, to begin with^⑯," he often says, "and you

can grow flowers and vegetables in the garden in front of the house." Dad has green fingers^⑱. He loves flowers. He grows roses, lilies, daisies and pansies^⑲ and other countless plants. His windows are choked with pots of flowers^⑳. He certainly doesn't want to move into a flat.

Is it more convenient to live in a flat or in a house? Or is a house more comfortable than a flat? I don't know, and I don't care^㉑. It is true our house is a little too old^㉒. It is damp and the roof leaks^㉓ and there are quite a few mouse holes. But the place is good enough for me. I feel quite happy here. I feel happy and cosy wherever Mother^㉔ is. It is my home, and I love it. There is no place like home. And as the saying goes, "East or west, home is best."

说明

本文描写的是一个城市中一个普通人的家，所在的街道也是一条普通的街道。街道上的景象，例如上下班时挤公共汽车、老人坐在台阶上抽烟聊天、主妇们挎着篮子买菜等等，都是我们日常生活中可以见到的。在家里，妈妈天天忙于家务事，孩子们不帮忙，倒把果皮纸屑乱扔，把厨房弄得乱七八糟，也是我们日常生活中常见的琐事。但是你知道怎么用英语来表达吗？这篇文章就是告诉我们怎样用合乎习惯用法的英语来表达这方面的思想。

注释

1. home, family, house 三个词在汉语里有时都能说成“家”。例如:

My family live there. 我家就住在那儿。

There is no place like home. 天下没有比家再好的了。

Will you come to my house tomorrow? 你明天到我家来好吗?

但 family 往往是指家人,这个词可看作复数,指家中一个个成员;如果把家人看作一个整体,这个词就可用作单数,例如, My family lives there. house 是指住的地方,目前我们住的地方如果不能称作 house, 可以用 place 一字,如, Will you come to my place tomorrow? home 包括了住处和家人两者,是一个可以称之为家的环境,有时带有一些感情色彩,例如: Home, Sweet Home, 可爱的家。当然不能说 House, Sweet House,

2. Pagoda Street 宝塔街。

街名、广场名前一般不用 the。例如:

Changan Avenue 长安大街

Nanjing Road 南京路

Tian An Men Square 天安门广场

但英国伦敦的 High Street 常用定冠词 the, the High Street。以序数词编号的街名常用 the, 如: the Thirty-Fourth Street, the Fifth Avenue。

pagoda[pə'gəudə] *n.* 宝塔。不要将此词和 dagoba['dɑ:gəbə] 混淆,后者为佛教中的舍利子塔,如北京白塔寺和北海公园的白塔。

3. But it is a busy street all the same, ... (尽管并不宽)这条街还是很热闹的,……

all the same 有“(尽管……)还是……”的意思。例如:

A: Will you come to dinner tomorrow?

明天请来吃饭好吗?

B: I'm sorry I have another engagement tomorrow, but thank you all the same. 对不起,明天我另有约会,谢谢了。

又如:

It is their day off, but they are busy all the same.

今天他们休假,但是他们也有事忙。

all the same 也可以用 just the same.

4. rush hour 高峰时间,即为一日中上下班时最挤的时间。rush[rʌʃ] 是“赶忙”的意思,动词和名词都是 rush。例如:

I don't want to be rushed. 我不愿意人家催促我。

Why are you in such a rush? 你为什么这样急急忙忙呀?

本课中的 rush and push 是“又急急忙忙,又推推搡搡”的意思。

5. ... the noise ... is deafening. ……噪音震耳欲聋。

deafen 是从形容词 deaf 加后缀 -en 构成的动词。其它这类例子还有:

sharpen 使……尖锐

harden 使……变硬

6. ...they stop to exchange a few words of greetings. ……他们停下来来互相问候。

7. But then where else can they play? 但是,再说,他们又能到哪里去玩呢?

but then 在这里有“再说”,“话又说回来了”的意思,不能解释为它的原意“但是然后”。例如:

A: I hope it will be a fine day tomorrow.

我希望明天是个好天。

B: I hope so, too. But then there is nothing you can do about the weather.

我也希望如此,但是,话又说回来了,对于天气你是拿它没有办法的。

8. I live in this neighbourhood. 我就住在这儿附近。

neighbourhood 是指所住的地方，一个包括了左邻右舍的环境。指人时用 neighbour ['neibə]，邻居。

9. one-storeyed house 平房。

storey ['stɔ:ri] 层。这个词有两种拼法：storey 或 story，一幢两层的房子可以说 a two-storeyed house, 或 a two-storied house.

10. I call it a kitchen-parlour because it is more than a kitchen to us. 我称之为厨房起坐间，因为它对我们来说，不止是厨房而已。

对 more than 的这种用法，再举一例：

He is more than a teacher to us.

他对我们来说，不止是个老师而已。

这里 kitchen-parlour 的这种说法是杜撰的，指这间厨房兼做起坐间。

11. We spend most of our time, or rather, Mom spends most of her time there. 我们的大部分时间，更确切地说，妈妈的大部分时间是在厨房里度过的。

1) or rather 有“更确切地说”，“要这么说，还不如那么说”的意思，例如：

We came back late at night, or rather, early in the morning.

我们晚上很晚，更确切地说，一清早回的家。

He doesn't like me, or rather, his wife doesn't like me.

他不喜欢我，更确切地说，他的爱人不喜欢我。

2) rather 在大多数情况下用来作副词，和 very, quite, pretty 同义，常常用于不太理想的情况，如：rather cold, rather short, rather difficult, 而不太说 rather good.

3) Mom [məm] 妈妈，这是美国用法，英国用法为 Mum[mʌm]，或 Mummy.

4) spend 一词是“花费”的意思，可以指花费时间在某件事情上。例如：

He spends a lot of his time looking for ^{资料}reference material. 他把好多时间花在找参考资料上。

注意, 花时间在某件事上, 要在 spend 后面用动词的 -ing 形式, 也可以说 in looking for ... 但介词 in 往往省略。如果说在某方面花钱, 可以用 on。例如:

He spends most of his money on books.

他把大部分钱都花在购买书上。

12. the hub of activity 活动的中心。

hub *n.* 原意是车轮的轴心, 常用于比喻, 作“中心”解。

13. peel *n.* 果皮。这是个不可数名词, 这里加 -s, 是指各种果皮杂屑。

14. make a mess of it 把厨房弄得乱七八糟。

make a mess of ... 把某物(事)弄糟, 例如:

Everything was all right until you came and made a mess of it. 一切都顺利, 你来后就把事情弄糟了。

15. She has to do all the cleaning and washing and cooking and shopping and a hundred and one other things. 她又要洗, 又要涮, 又要做饭, 又要买菜, 还有没完没了的其它事情要做。

通常在数一连串的事物时, 只在最后一件事物的前面用一个连接词 and 就可以了。例如:

She has to do the cleaning, the washing and the cooking. (在 and 之前如果没有停顿, 可不用逗点。) 但本句中的 and 重复多次, 表达了一种腻味、不耐烦的心情, 说明一个又一个, 没有完的时候。这里用重复 and 来作为一种修辞手段。另外, one hundred and one 是一个成语, 表示“多”。有时也可以用 a thousand and one。例如:

A thousand and one thanks. 多谢, 多谢。

16. apartment house 公寓房子, 我们也称单元楼。公寓房子中的套间, 美国用法中称为 apartment [ə'pɑ:tmənt], 英国用法为 flat [flæt]。

17. You don't have to climb the stairs, to begin with. 起码,

你不用爬楼梯。

to begin with 是个不定式插入语,意思是“起码”,“首先”,含义是“还有别的好条件呢”。其它不定式的插入语还有 to tell the truth 老实说;to make a long story short 简单地说。

18. green fingers 善于种植花、蔬菜等。

对一个善于种东西的人,可以说:

He has green fingers.

或: He has a green thumb.

19. lily ['lili] *n.* 马蹄莲(白色)。

daisy ['deizi] *n.* 雏菊花(白色)。

pansy ['pænsi] *n.* 三色紫罗兰(黄、紫等色)。

20. His windows are choked with pots of flowers. 他的窗台上塞满了一盆盆的花。

choke [tʃəuk] *v. t.* 原意为“噎住”,这里指窗台为一盆盆的花所堵塞,这样描述比较形象生动。

21. I don't care. 我不在乎;我无所谓。

22. It is true our house is a little too old. 的确,我们的房子是旧了一点儿。

It is true ... 可以译成“的确”,有退一步讲的意思,后面常常用一个以 but 开头的句子。例如:

It is true the house is a bit too old, but it is good enough for us. 的确,房子是旧了一点儿,但我们住住也可以了。

It is true he is only half-educated, but he has a heart of gold. 的确,他没有念过多少书,但他的心眼极好。

23. ... the roof leaks. ... 屋顶是漏的。

24. Mother 在指自己的母亲时,可以不用定冠词 the 或物主代词 my,书写时第一个字母要大写。

2

Colour

What is your favourite colour? Do you like yellow, orange, red? If you do, you must be an optimist, a leader, an active person who enjoys life, people and excitement. Do you prefer greys and blues? Then you are probably quiet, shy, and you would rather follow than lead^①. You tend to be a pessimist^②. At least, this is what psychologists^③ tell us, and they should know, because they have been seriously studying the meaning of colour preference, as well as the effect that colours have on human beings^④. They tell us, among other facts, that we don't choose our favourite colour as we grow up — we are born with our preference^⑤. If you happen to love brown^⑥, you did so as soon as you opened your eyes, or at least as soon as you could see clearly.

Colours do influence^⑦ our moods^⑧, there is no doubt about it. A yellow room makes most people feel more cheerful and more relaxed than a dark green one; and a red dress brings warmth and cheer

to the saddest winter day. On the other hand, black is depressing^⑨. A black bridge over the Thames River^⑩, near London, used to be the scene of more suicides^⑪ than any **other** bridge in the area — until it was repainted green. The number of suicide attempts immediately fell sharply; perhaps it would have fallen even more if the bridge had been done in pink or baby blue^⑫.

Light and bright colours make people not only happier but more active. It is an established fact that factory workers work better, harder, and have fewer accidents when their machines are painted orange rather than black or dark grey^⑬.

We often associate^⑭ a particular colour with a piece of music, a book, a play, a person, a number, or a letter. Doesn't 3 look red and 4 yellow? At the beginning of this century a French poet^⑮ wrote that for him the letter A was always black; E was white, I red, O blue, and U green. For someone else, U might be deep purple or lemon yellow. A tragic story makes you think of black, red, and gold, while love stories vary from red to pink — or may be light blue^⑯? And why did the black American composers of sad jazz music call the songs "blues^⑰"?

Remember, then, that if you feel low, you can

always brighten your day — or your life — with a new shirt or a few cans of paint^⑧. Remember also that you will know your friends and your enemies better when you find out what colours they like and dislike. And don't forget that anyone can guess a lot about your personality^⑨ when you choose a pair of socks or a lamp-shade.

说明

颜色是我们生活中每天都见到的，但它的作用和重要性也许比我们所知道的还要大。本文告诉我们颜色能影响人的情绪，以及从喜爱什么颜色可以观察人的性格。这些说法是否真有道理，还有待于进一步研究和证明。但如果我们能在生活中更好地利用颜色对人所产生的好影响，并用和谐的色彩来美化我们的生活和环境，这无疑将是十分有益的。例如：有人作了研究，认为房间的颜色对病人有影响，淡蓝色对发高烧的病人有好的作用，而红色会增进病人的食欲。当然，好看的颜色会促进食欲，这对没有病的人也是一样。另外，用颜色要注意协调，例如，桔红、黄、草绿、咖啡色等配在一起比较协调，给人一种欢乐、温暖、舒适的感觉。蓝色、粉红、紫色等配在一起也很协调，给人一种幽静、雅致、凉爽的感觉。

颜色不但对人的情绪有影响，也对语言有所影响。英语中有很多成语是用颜色来表达的，这类成语生动、形象，在成语中占有一定的比重。这方面的例子请见本文注释 20。

注释

1. ... you would rather follow than lead. ……你宁愿被别人领导而不愿去领导别人。

would rather ... than ... 是“宁愿……而不愿……”的意思。

例如:

A: **Would you rather** come with us to the show?

你愿意和我们一起去看电影吗?(show 作电影解是美国用法,也指其它演出。)

B: No, thank you. I **would rather** stay home **than** go to the show. 不,谢谢你。我宁愿待在家里,不想去看电影。

A: You had better come with us. You'll be sorry if you miss it. 你还是跟我们去吧,如果你错过这场电影,你要懊悔的。

would rather (是宁愿做某事) 和下文中的 had better (是劝人家做某事)一样,都是处于助动词的地位,因为他们给动词增加一些意义,和 can, may, must 等情态动词的作用一样,所以叫做情态动词。在它们的后面用不带 to 的动词不定式,因此不能说 You had better to go. 而应说 You had better go. 在这里, would rather, had better 并不是过去时态。

2. You tend to be a pessimist. 你很可能是个悲观主义者。

tend to ... 是指一种趋向,可以译成“很可能……”,“往往……”。例如:

Some young people tend to think too much of themselves. 有些青年人往往认为自己了不起。

pessimist ['pesimist] *n.* 悲观主义者。它的反面是 optimist ['optimist] *n.* 乐观主义者。

3. psychologist [saɪ'kɒlədʒɪst] *n.* 心理学家。

心理学是 psychology, 这个字开头的 p 不发音。