



ENGLISH

用英语说社会热点

Talking About the Hot Issues in English

主 编 李玉红

副主编 王丽江 韩晓燕



黄河出版传媒集团
宁夏人民教育出版社

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序 言

当今世界已进入了一个全新的时代，科学技术迅速发展，知识更新节奏飞快，所以新事物、新产品、新名词、新概念不断涌现。作为当代英语学习者，应与时俱进，抱以宽容的心态看待新生事物，了解社会的热点话题，积累并掌握新生热词的英语表达。在英语交流的场合，若能使用流利的语言和较为专业的热词与对方一同探讨时下社会中的热点话题，不仅可以促进沟通、传递知识，又能充分展示谈话者的个性魅力，为自己增强学习英语的信心。

李玉红、王丽江和韩晓燕三位老师是我院公共外语教学部的骨干教师，近年来致力于将新生时事英语与传统教材英语相结合的教学与研究工作。她们编写了这本新颖实用的《用英语说社会热点》，以帮助广大学习者更全面快捷地学习时事英语。此书热点议题丰富全面，所选材料均来自以“新”、“快”著称的英文报刊，其新颖性和时尚性是本书的一大特色。此外，本书给热点、难点、重点词汇进行了必要的释义，有效地帮助读者减少了阅读障碍。

李玉红、王丽江和韩晓燕三位老师用心良苦，努力编写的这本书将能帮助你在英语学习的道路上紧跟时代步伐，丰富你的新生热词词汇积累，拓展时事英语知识视野，提升英语表达水平与内涵，带领你进入一个新颖、时尚的热点话题英语学习世界。相信选择本书，你将收获颇丰。

周玉忠

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ONE

热点话题

Hot Topics

1. Should college go it alone?

A university which doesn't exist officially has become the most talked-about higher education institution in China in the last few weeks.

The Ministry of Education has yet to officially recognize South University of Science and Technology of China in Shenzhen. But many see the university as carrying the hopes of China's troubled education system.

Zhu Qingshi is a famous scientist, educator and former president of the University of Science and Technology of China. He has spearheaded the building of the new college and has started to enroll students.

However, because the school hasn't been granted the right to issue government-certified diplomas, it can only give graduates its own diplomas for the time being.

This would be a first in Chinese education.

So what is your opinion? Do you think South University of Science and Technology of China and President Zhu have done the right thing in starting to enroll students already?

◎汉译提示 | Chinese Interpretation

自主办学行得通吗？

最近几周，一所还未正式存在的大学成了人们谈论最多的中国高等学府。

教育部还未正式承认位于深圳的中国南方科技大学。但很多人认为这所大学给中国混乱的教育体系注入了希望。

朱清时是一位著名科学家、教育家和前任中国科技大学的校长。他首当其冲创建了这所新院校并已经开始招生。然而，由于学校还未获准颁发政府签发的文凭，目前它只能给毕业生颁发自己的文凭。这在中国教育界还是个先例。

你怎样看待此事？你觉得朱校长和中国南方科技大学在这样的局面下开始招生，此举正确吗？

◎观点阐述 | Points of View

YES: This university is crucial to Chinese educational reform. There is no time to waste.

1. The very concept of the reform put forward by Zhu is to reduce administrative interference in higher education. Universities' issuing their own diplomas without the State telling them what to do and what not to do puts the concept into practice.
2. Given the inefficiency of some Chinese education bureaucrats, full State approval may not be granted for a long time. There is no time to waste. If President Zhu wants to put forward crucial reforms which could benefit higher education in China, he must act now.
3. Many students are waiting anxiously to register at the university and start studying there. This shows that the time is ripe for the university to open its doors. After all, learning knowledge is more important than getting a diploma.

NO: This rash move could cost the university its future.

1. Education is for future generations. If waiting a few more years will mean the university has the right to issue government-approved diplomas, it will be worth the wait. Going ahead now is premature and irresponsible.
2. The city of Shenzhen has put lots of resources into the university, which has some world-famous professors. But future graduates could run into big problems if they don't have formal if they don't have formal diplomas. For example, their education may not be recognized by government employers.
3. Even if students from the university don't need government-certified diplomas, the school has to cooperate with education authorities if it wants to run smoothly. Recruiting

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students now without full recognition and support from the authorities could make things complicated for the university in the future.

◎学以致用 | Talk More

Mandatory maths?

The humanities vs science debate, over what the purpose of higher education is, and what college students should spend four years studying, has turned a new yet familiar page in China. An undergraduate journalism student at the Huazhong University of Science and Technology, in a recent letter to the university's president, has complained about the mandatory maths classes that he has to take.

The student, surnamed Zhu, writes that as a student of a social science, he should focus on reasoning and logic, instead of "all-round development".

Because a journalist has little use for maths, Zhu writes that he will soon forget all of his maths lessons soon after taking the required exams.

Zhu's complaint struck a note with many students of the humanities or social sciences, who complain that the mandatory classes they have to take in "hard sciences" such as maths are a waste of their brain power.

Those who disagree argue that science and the humanities aren't that different fundamentally, and that education in sciences helps develop the mind in ways that are helpful to people in all fields.

So, what is your opinion? Should college students be "segregated" in the courses they take in strict accordance with their future career plans, that is, science students study no humanities and vice versa?

名人名言 | Well-known quotation

Don't gain the world and lose your soul. Wisdom is better than silver or gold. (Bob Marley, Jamaican singer-songwriter, 1945-1981)

别为外物而迷失自我，智慧比金银贵重。（鲍勃·马力，牙买加创作歌手，1945-1981）

2. Did Yao make the wrong choice?

Members of the media and public love to gossip about Chinese celebrities who have passports from foreign countries.

From internationally renowned movie star Gong Li to TV royalty Zhang Tielin, stories of celebrities switching their allegiance to another country either fascinate or upset Chinese followers.

Most recently, the citizenship of basketball superhero Yao Ming's newborn daughter has been the talk of the town.

Yao, who has played for the NBA's Houston Rockets since 2002, was blessed with a daughter on May 22. Because she was born in the US, she automatically obtained US citizenship. Many believe Yao and his wife will let their daughter keep it. Despite their admiration for the talented player, many fans are criticizing him for being unpatriotic by letting his daughter become American.

So what is your opinion? Should Yao Ming be criticized for letting his daughter grow up an American?

◎汉译提示 | Chinese Interpretation

姚明的选择错了吗?

媒体和公众热衷谈论那些已取得了外国护照的中国名人。

从国际知名的电影明星巩俐到电视荧屏上的皇上张铁林，一个又一个名人投奔外国的故事令中国粉丝们惊叹或不安。

前不久，篮球巨星姚明的新生女儿的国籍成了大家的焦点话题。

自从 2002 年加入 NBA 休斯顿火箭队以来，姚明又在 2010 年 5 月喜获千金。由于出生在美国，她自然获得了美国国籍。很多人认为姚明和他的妻子会让他们的女儿保留美国国籍。尽管对这位天才球星心存敬仰，但是很多粉丝还是在批评他缺乏爱国主义精神，让他的女儿做了美国人。

你的观点如何？姚明让他的女儿成为美国人该不该受到批评？

◎观点阐述 | Points of View

YES: Yao let down his devoted Chinese fans.

Letting his daughter become an American shows Yao Ming's lack of confidence in China's

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future. It is a blatant betrayal of his country and his people. Yao's devoted fans all have reason to be upset with him.

1. Yao is an NBA star, but his success has a lot to do with his early training and life back home. This is to say nothing of the millions of Chinese fans who have helped Yao to become such an important asset to his team.
2. It was unwise for Yao to make his daughter American, both because of his career and his family. China is where their future lies. They are stars here, and could have all kinds of wonderful opportunities in the future.

NO: It's entirely up to Yao Ming and his family to decide his daughter's future.

1. It's natural that Yao should let his daughter assume American citizenship. He already spends most of his time playing in the US, and he has all but moved his family there. His daughter should grow up with him in the US.
2. Yao's or his daughter's nationality status has nothing to do with his skills as an athlete. People should focus on his professional ability — not on his personal life.
3. As the world's richest and strongest country, the US has a lot to offer Yao and his family. We should ask why Yao and his wife don't seem to see a bright future for their daughter in China than blame them for wanting to pursue a better life in the US.

◎学以致用 | Talk More

Should genius be rewarded?

The appointment of a 22-year-old to a full professorship has stunned Chinese academic circles.

Central South University recently announced the appointment of Liu Lu as a researcher.

He has the equivalent rank of a fully-fledged professor. The university lavished this unusual honor on the young man for his exceptional work.

Liu solved the so-called “Seetapun Enigma”, a mathematical puzzle proposed by English logician David Seetapun.

According to Chen Haibo, an official at the university's School of Mathematical Science and Computer Technology, Liu's appointment is well deserved and he will go on to greater things.

However, some scientists and commentators expressed skepticism as to whether Liu's one-time breakthrough warrants such a big promotion.

They question whether he is ready for the responsibilities of being a professor, instead

of further studies and training.

Some prominent scientists have proposed that Liu be admitted into the Chinese Academy of Sciences as a graduate student for advanced studies in mathematics.

Liu himself has also expressed interest in pursuing further studies abroad.

So, what is your opinion? Is it a wise move to promote this young scholar to full professorship so quickly?

名人名言 | Well-known quotation

Life is a rainbow which also includes black. (yevgeny Yevtushenko, Russian poet, b. 1933)

生活是一道彩虹，色彩斑斓中也有黑色。（叶普盖尼·叶图申科，俄罗斯诗人，1933）

3. Tax car owners for pollution?

A Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform official caused quite a stir recently when he let slip the fact that several government agencies are studying the possibility of levying a “pollution tax” on automobiles. The amount of tax auto-owners would have to pay would depend on the emissions levels, i.e. engine or vehicle size.

This has come at an interesting moment: Several months ago, the capital announced that it had a total of four million automobiles; Industry estimates put the total number of autos sold in China in 2009 at 13.5 million. So China has replaced the US as the world’s biggest car market.

Given the importance the automobile business to China and the difficulty that authorities have in controlling exhaust emissions, not to mention in dealing with traffic congestion, the policy could have a significant impact on the nation’s economy and the standard of living.

What do you think of this? Should China start making car owners pay for their pollution?

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◎汉译提示 | Chinese Interpretation

征收汽车污染税?

北京的一位城市发展和改革委员会的官员最近透露了一条信息,他说一些政府机构正在研究征收汽车“污染税”的可能性。这一消息激起了一阵轩然大波。车主们缴纳的税与汽车尾气的排放,即发动机或车辆大小成正比。

此事发生的时间耐人寻味。数月前,首都北京宣布其汽车总量为400万;汽车工业预计在2009年的汽车销售额为1350万辆。中国已经取代美国成为了世界上最大的汽车市场。

鉴于汽车业在中国的重要地位,和当局在控制汽车尾气排放以及应对交通堵塞方面所遇到的重重困难,这一新政很可能对国家的经济和人民生活水平产生巨大的影响。

你是怎样看待此事的?中国应该开始向车主们征收汽车污染税吗?

◎观点阐述 | Points of View

YES: It's an effective way to control cars and reduce pollution.

1. The government has had many tax policies aimed at encouraging small cars sales, such as a luxury auto tax and reduced sales tax for smaller cars. A pollution tax would be just another natural step in line with these policies.
2. Cars cause serious pollution that harms the air that we all breathe. So, auto owners should pay for the health damage they do. An auto pollution tax makes perfect sense as a means of social justice.
3. The policy wouldn't harm the economy by discouraging car sales. Instead of buying bigger cars, which they don't really need, people would turn to smaller, less polluting cars. The policy would help people make a reasonable choice.

NO: The proposed tax won't stop potential car sales nor will it cut pollution.

1. Cars are a major pillar of the nation's economy, and the industry can't afford any more taxes. It would add to costs, dampen demand, and reduce the industry's competitiveness.
2. There should be a better way to fight pollution than increased taxes. Demanding that

auto makers produce more fuel-efficient, low-emissions cars would be a more effective measure.

3. Many government policies have failed to control the growth in the number of cars. The government should encourage people to use public transportation instead of trying to control car sales in this way.

◎学以致用 | Talk More

Threshold for charity?

The Ministry of Civil Affairs, the national regulator of charities, has set a curious example of how a charitable spirit and social responsibility is appreciated.

A national awards competition is being held to honor China's most charitable people and companies. The ministry has said that only those who have donated more than 1 million yuan annually to charitable causes are eligible to enter.

News of the million-yuan threshold has rekindled controversy over the conduct of charity groups and related government regulation.

Many criticize the ministry for measuring charitable giving in monetary term, which they say is no good for cultivating a charitable spirit in Chinese society.

Instead of focusing on how much one donates, it is more important to stress that one does as much as one can to help those in need, they say.

Others say that since it is an award competition, there has to be some objective yardstick. The amount of money one donates is an important reflection of how generous one is.

So, what is your opinion? Should the Ministry of Civil Affairs count money as an eligibility threshold for the award competition?

名人名言 | Well-known quotation

To fight darkness you don't brandish a sword but you light a candle.

要想击败黑暗，你需要的不是刀枪剑戟，而是一支点亮的蜡烛。

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4. A classic case of change?

In recent months, online discussion about changes to Chinese high school textbooks has rapidly become a nationwide debate.

In particular, netizens and media reports have focused on the “removal” of famous short stories and essays by the late, treat writer Lu Xun (1881-1936) from elementary, middle and high school textbooks in some provinces in recent years.

Many people question why these classics, which they grew up reading, are being dropped and wonder whether this signifies that education authorities today have a lower opinion of Lu as a writer.

Others point out that some media reports about Lu's works and other classics of literature being removed from school books are not entirely accurate; some classic material has simply been moved from rereading lists. The Ministry of Education also said recently that except for Guangdong, few adjustments were made to textbooks nationwide.

Publishers also revise textbooks. Since provincial authorities are now free to choose which books are used in school, the effect of such changes is not nationwide. But such details of related information haven't stopped the debate. Many people agree that more contemporary literature is being included in new textbooks, while some “classic” content, including Lu's works, is seen as less important.

So what do you think of changes to textbooks on Chinese literature? Should “classic” content such as Lu's give way to new writing?

◎汉译提示 | Chinese Interpretation

经典名著的改变?

最近几个月,由网上发起的针对中国中学课本的变化展开的讨论已经迅速演变成了一场全国性的辩论。

在诸多改变中,公众和媒体尤其关注的是近几年来一些省的小学 and 初高中学校删除了近代作家鲁迅的著名的短篇小说和散文。

很多人质疑为什么要删掉这些伴随过他们成长的经典作品,难道说这意味着今天的教育权威们对鲁迅的作家地位不那么看重了吗?

另一些人指出媒体关于鲁迅作品和其他经典名著的删除的报道不够准确。教育