



英文经典系列丛书



英文经典

西方人文掠影

杨自伍 · 编注

English Classics
for Students

高中版



上海交通大学出版社
SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY PRESS

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内容提要

“英文经典”丛书分为小学版、初中版、高中版和大学版4卷。丛书选材为英美古今名篇,短小精悍,便于朗朗上口,从语音、语调和语感三方面着眼,同时从小培养用法意识,各类常用搭配,予以提示。书中每篇由正文、常用语词、典型例句和用法提示四部分内容构成,旨在培养学生语感与语用的英语实用能力。高中及大学版突出语言与文化相得益彰的理念,一则注重语言的典雅优美,一则重视古典文化的熏陶修养。本书为高中版。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英文经典:高中版/杨自伍编注. —上海:上海交通大学出版社,2015

ISBN 978-7-313-12658-0

I. 英... II. 杨... III. 英语课—高中—教学参考资料 IV. G634.413

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2015)第029774号

英文经典

(高中版)

编 注:杨自伍

出版发行:上海交通大学出版社

地 址:上海市番禺路951号

邮政编码:200030

电 话:021-64071208

出 版 人:韩建民

印 制:常熟市文化印刷有限公司

经 销:全国新华书店

开 本:880mm×1230mm 1/32

印 张:14

字 数:401千字

版 次:2015年9月第1版

印 次:2015年9月第1次印刷

书 号:ISBN 978-7-313-12658-0/G

定 价:42.00元

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寄语读者

杨自伍

义无反顾回归经典,尤其是历代的文化典籍,就编者本人而论,即是伴随数十年生命历程的理想和信念,也是多年以来力求实现理想的生命践行。至于何谓文化,虽然芸芸众生各有所好,仁智之见不足为怪。编者服膺的文化,乃是阿诺德或爱默生主张的文化,纲举目张,旗帜标明,简单说明宗旨之后,读者也许能够理解本书的选编标准。至于认同问题,编者不敢有所期待。当今之世,我们处于海量信息无孔不入的时代,重温经典恐怕已经成为一种奢望,因为凡夫俗子,难免心随境变。现在每天打开电脑,首先接触的是中外时政要闻,继而便是各取所需,不知不觉深陷其中。天长日久,我们或许距离经典越来越远。科技理应服务人文,然则如今科技已经呈现战胜人文的趋势。应对问题,或许从事文科的学人都无从回避。埋首古典,优悠浸润,岁时不居,而获益自然良多,诚非言语所能表达。一己绵力,何其微薄!但是编者选择逆势而动,“知其不可而为之”,几经踌躇,最后决定以古典作为本书的起点和终点,本书的选编过程大致如此。编者首先给自己提出的一个挑战,力所能及范围之内,付出十分努力而比较顺利得以完成,可谓幸事。知我罪我,编者已经置之度外。

近二三十年,由于英语在国内畅行无阻,已经成为一个基本工具。换个视角来看,民族语言居然让位于一门外语,岂非咄咄怪事?千千万万的家长,包括咿呀学语的童子父母,徜徉书店时都在选择英语图书。在编者看来,此情此景已经不是忧喜参半,而是忧大于喜的问题。普及的结果是英语本身的水准正在下降,从事英语工作的人士,或多或少都会产生这样的感觉。何以至此?我想一个主要原因是大家如今接触的基本是今日英语,也就是信息语言。语言的教化和审美功能渐渐退化式微,取而代之的是传播信息。历史文化渐渐为人淡忘或者忽视,至少在英语教学的范围之内,编者看到的情形大致如此。语言与文化的关

系,原本浑然一体,一旦在这个天平上偏向前者,或许就本末倒置了。本人始终主张二者不可偏废,语言乃文化载体,从这个角度去对待语言,至少在较高层次上理应如此。客观而论,当今的英语教师已经将主要视线置于语言本身,如此一来,英语似乎成为单纯工具,这是多么令人遗憾的现象!

具体谈到本书的构想,需要略加说明。第一,首先应该论及篇目范围。本书选文的时间跨度将近四个世纪,举凡百余篇目,或多或少可以折射英美两国的历史文化以及英语本身的变迁。所有篇目全部为经典的节选,篇幅短者不过一页,长者限于两页。如此处理,主要希望读者尽可能钻研不同时代古典作者思想和语言精华,习得语言,同时汲取精神养分,这是编者的宗旨所在。

第二,语词与搭配。对待选文中出现的主要语词有所取舍,并非罗列所有生词,大致范围为学堂授课以外的语词。为了有所拓宽,一般基础阶段正规英语教学的大纲词语不在此列。希望读者能够培养自学经典的良好习惯,故而有些语词需要自行查阅词典,或结合语境自有心得。大体说来,每篇列举语词不过一二十个。搭配包括两层含义,一则反映约定俗成,一则体现作家特色。语词的生命在于用法,因此脱离不了搭配和语境,出于这样的考虑,编者将语词与搭配一并处理,例举的搭配基于选文,同时略有增补。

第三,例句举要。针对选文中的的习惯用法或搭配用法,通过比较浅显的例句予以再现,以便间接阐释选文的语言用法,这样便于读者进一步体会语词的灵活运用和前后照应,同时可以加深印象,举一反三。有些例句是转义用法,如此处理是为了使读者渐渐熟悉语词的本义与转义用法,区别字面意思与比喻含义。每个语词的精确释义往往取决于具体语境,因此例句与选文的语句可以互为补充,也形成互动,希望通过例句,读者能够比较深入体会选文语句的用法。例句的来源主要出自《英国国家语料库》、《朗文当代英语词典》、各类牛津词典和韦氏词典、互联网词典。建议读者有所选择仿写例句,研读之余,倘若能够仿写句式或句型,这样对于提高英语写作能力,想必有所助益,

第四,惯用法。长期以来,英语教学偏重语法而相对忽略惯用法,

或者二者互补方面有所欠缺,这一栏目的考虑便是弥补英语基础教学阶段惯用法的不足。《简明牛津词典》和《朗文当代英语词典》的一大特色在于标明惯用法,前者的对象为英语国家读者,后者的对象则为非英语国家读者,二者各有侧重。根据编者本人的阅历,长期以来,英语教学恐怕没有充分重视惯用法。就语言学习而论,惯用法的重要性远在语法之上,因为对于运用而论,语法相对简单得多,而惯用法则不然,每个语词涉及其他语词,比如名词涉及动词、形容词、介词等等。地道英语从何而来,应该说更多来自惯用法,这个问题倘若从基础阶段便予以重视,英语习得就相对比较容易。

第五,注文。编者认为,研读经典,首先应该注重英美两国历代作家的思想内涵和精神面貌。本书的注文内容力求兼顾文化与语言两个方面。由于近代英语经历几个世纪的历史变迁,从语词释义到习惯用法,都发生了一定变化。为了便于今日读者有所了解,一定的说明自然不可或缺。以今释古是可能出现的现象,因此在涉及历史语义或历史用法时,编者在有所选择的前提下予以提示或说明。以内容为主,同时提示经典语言的奥秘之处以及容易忽略之处。和前几项栏目的内容相同的是,注文内容有所选择。比如大部分作家应该是高中阶段学生学识范围之内比较熟悉的,或者有所接触,因此除少数作家之外,一般仅说明选文出处,作者介绍从略。如此处理的一个原因在于减少篇幅,在互联网时代,读者倘若有兴趣进一步了解作者,可以各自根据需要上网查阅。或许这是今日编写与往日有所不同的地方。

以上所述,大概交代了本书的编写思路。经过数十年的英语学习和研读经典,如今能够和莘莘学子共同学习,不亦乐乎!

2015年春夏之交

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Ignorance

by William Penn

1. It is admirable to consider how many millions of people come into, and go out of the world, ignorant of themselves, and of the world they have lived in.

2. If one went to see Windsor-Castle, or Hampton-Court, it would be strange not to observe and remember the situation, the building, the gardens, fountains, &c. that make up the beauty and pleasure of such a seat? And yet few people know themselves; No, not their own bodies, the houses of their minds, the most curious structure of the world; a living walking tabernacle; Nor the world of which it was made, and out of which it is fed; which would be so much our benefit, as well as our pleasure, to know. We cannot doubt of this when we are told that the Invisible Things of God are brought to light by the Things that are seen; and consequently we read our duty in them as often as we look upon them, to him that is the Great and Wise Author of them, if we look as we should do.

3. The world is certainly a great and stately volume of natural things; and may be not improperly styled the hieroglyphicks of a better: But, alas! how very few leaves of it do we seriously turn over! This ought to be the subject of the education of our youth, who, at twenty, when they should be fit for business, know little or nothing of it.

【words & collocations】

tabernacle 帐篷	invisible 隐形	improperly 不当地
hieroglyphics 象形文字	alas 哎呀	
come into the world	go out of the world	ignorant of
make up the beauty of	know oneself	bring sth to light

【examples】

1. But political historians **are often rather ignorant of** economics.
2. In captivity, he would have caused no pain, would have **remained ignorant of his lot**.
3. The restoration work has **brought to light tricks of** the Gibbons trade.
4. Cornelius **brought to light** an ancient photograph.
5. I will **bring to light** the truth.
6. **Consequently**, we may lack confidence and feel less able to risk rejection.
7. **Consequently**, there needs to be a massive overhaul.
8. Endill returned **as often as he could** to talk and play with the Bookman.
9. **More often than not** the train is late.
10. In this way **a great volume of information** has been accumulated.
11. **The volume of traffic on the roads** has increased dramatically in recent years.
12. The computer must **be fit for** the purpose you specify. You're not fit for work.
13. Turn over and look at the next page.

【usages】

millions of be ignorant of, about curious about curious to know

know little of know nothing of

Notes:

①威廉·佩恩(1644—1718),英国牧师、哲学家。创建宾夕法尼亚州,后人编有《威廉·佩恩文集》(五卷)。选文出自 *Fruits of Solitude*《独居的收获》。②ignorant of... ,指浑浑噩噩,经其一生。注意后面 of 承接前面的形容词。③admirable 意为 surprising,古义。④注意第一节结尾形容词短语作状语的句式。⑤Hampton-Court 汉普顿宫,通称 Hampton-Court Palace,亨利八世宫廷,伦敦著名景点。⑥situation 指建筑物的位置,现在用 site。⑦seat, 指 situation, position, 古义。⑧walking tabernacle,活动帐篷,《圣经》里指住处。⑨out of which it is fed,注意这里 feed 的比喻用法,指从中汲取养分。⑩doubt of 为旧式用法,现在仅作及物动词。⑪Things of God,可以理解为天道,经义。⑫consequently 作为修饰全句状语多置于句首,常用逗号断开。⑬read our duty in,从中领悟我们的本分。⑭styled,文中指 called,旧式用法。⑮leaf,纸张的正反两面。⑯fit for business,指 diligence, industry,古义。

Return to the Old House

by W. S. Maugham

Philip went downstairs slowly and found the door open. Mr. Carey had left the room. Philip walked slowly round. They had been in the house so short a time that there was little in it that had a particular interest to him. It was a stranger's room, and Philip saw nothing that struck his fancy. But he knew which were his mother's things and which belonged to the landlord, and presently fixed on a little clock that he had once heard his mother say she liked. With this he walked again rather disconsolately upstairs. Outside the door of his mother's bedroom he stopped and listened. Though no one had told him not to go in, he had a feeling that it would be wrong to do so; he was a little frightened, and his heart beat uncomfortably; but at the same time something impelled him to turn the handle. He turned it very gently, as if to prevent anyone within from hearing, and then slowly pushed the door open. He stood on the threshold for a moment before he had the courage to enter. He was not frightened now, but it seemed strange. He closed the door behind him. The blinds were drawn, and the room, in the cold light of a January afternoon, was dark. On the dressing-table were Mrs. Carey's brushes and the hand mirror. In a little tray were hairpins. There was a photograph of himself on the chimney-piece and one of his father. He had often been in the room when his mother was not in it, but now it seemed different. There was something curious in the look of the chairs. The bed was made as though someone were going to sleep in it that night, and in a case on the pillow was a night-dress.

【words & collocations】

bondage 束缚	strike 触动	disconsolately 愁眉苦脸
impel 驱使	threshold 门槛	blinds 窗帘
dressing-table 梳妆台	hand mirror 手镜	hairpin 发夹
chimney-piece 壁炉架	case 盒子	
had a particular interest to sb	strike one's fancy	
fix on	one's heart beat uncomfortably	
turn the handle	have the courage to do	
close the door behind sb	the look of sb or sth	

【examples】

1. Certainly it is a **sad form of bondage**.
2. She threw **the remnants of her bondage** away.
3. That afternoon, **between summer showers**, we walked **disconsolately** through the streets.
4. He felt his Christian faith **impelled him to it**.
5. I don't like **the look of the room**. ... **by the look of her** she hasn't seen six yet.
6. "**Dead drunk by the look of him**," muttered Nellie.
7. She had shown him she couldn't be **swayed by his good looks** or his fancy words...
8. ... he always **replied that** there was plenty of time and to date no one had **taken his fancy**.
9. Since then Holmes has slept **wherever his fancy takes him!**
10. ... but the lack of money to invest had **prevented improvement**.
11. The damage is done, and in most cases, the damage **could be prevented**.
12. She **was prevented from entering** by people surfacing from the cellar bar.

13. In the cold light of dawn, of course, it was easy to analyse the evening.
14. ... made him see things in the cold light of reality.

【usages】

have or get a feeling that be in bondage impel sb to do be on the threshold of the look of sth tell sb not to do push the door open

Notes:

①威廉·萨默塞特·毛姆(1874—1965),英国小说家、剧作家。本文选自 *Of Human Bondage*《人性的枷锁》。②so short a time that, 拆用 so that 句式, 特别用于词组的情况。③an interest to sb, have an interest in, 有些习惯表达用不定冠词, 如 express an interest in sth, take an interest in, 但在 be of interest to sb 中则不用冠词。④there is little in it, 中文习惯说具体, 如屋里没有多少东西, 而英文偏于抽象, 仅用 little, 可以指称物品或记忆。⑤strike/catch/tickle one's fancy, 意为让人喜欢。这里 fancy 用单数。⑥he knew which were... things, 注意词序, which 后面动词单复数取决于连用名词是否可数, 不说 which things were his mother's。同时留意下一句, which belonged..., 前文已有交代, things 便自然省略。⑦fixed on..., 指注视或视线盯住, 有时指选定, 如 They've finally fixed on a spot to have the picnic。⑧注意 within 的副词用法。⑨和 curtains 一样, blinds 也用复数, 注意动词用 draw, pull 或 open。⑩the room, ..., was dark, 主句仅四字, 而插入语则有八字, 置于主谓之间, 烘托的黯然氛围令人动容。⑪He had often been... not in it, 注意时态用法。⑫a photograph of himself and one of his father, 注意 one 的指代用法, 复数为 ones。⑬the look of the chairs, 注意 look 的意思和用法。个别拼写的连字符已经合为一词, 如 night-dress 等。好的语句有时十分简洁, 比如形容物是人非: but now it seemed different。⑭全段几乎无一难词, 句句可学, 适合仿写, 建议换作第一人称。

Early Discipline

by Jeremy Taylor

When we see a child strike a servant rudely, or jeer a silly person, or wittily cheat his play-fellow, or talk words light as the skirt of a summer garment, we laugh and are delighted with the wit and confidence of the boy; and encourage such hopeful beginnings; and in the mean time we consider not that from these beginnings he shall grow up till he become a tyrant, an oppressor, a goat and a traitor... No man is discerned to be vicious so soon as he is so, and vices have their infancy and their childhood, and it cannot be expected that in a child's age should be the vice of a man; that were monstrous as if he wore a beard in his cradle; and we do not believe that a serpent's sting does just then grow when he strikes us in a vital part; the venom and the little spear was there, when it first began to creep from his little shell; And little boldnesses and looser words and wranglings for nuts, and lyings for trifles, are of the same proportion to the malice of a child, as impudence and duels and injurious law-suits, and false witness in judgement and perjuries are in men.

【words & collocations】

jeer 嘲笑	skirt 下摆	garment 衣服	tyrant 暴徒
goat 色鬼	traitor 叛徒	venom 毒液	wrangle 口角
malice 恶意	impudence 造次	duel 决斗	injurious 造次伤害
law-suit 诉讼	perjury 伪证		