

床头灯英语学习读本 V

Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea 海底两万里

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航空工业出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

床头灯英语学习读本 V /毛荣贵等主编. -北京:航空工业出版社,2005.3(2006.5 重印)

ISBN 7-80183-583-2

I. 床... II. 毛... III. 英语—语言读物
IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2005)第 024365 号

床头灯英语学习读本 V

Chuangtoudeng Yingyu Xuexi Duben V

航空工业出版社出版发行

(北京市安定门外小关东里 14 号 100029)

发行电话:010-64978486 010-64919539

北京富生印刷厂印刷

全国各地新华书店经售

2005 年 9 月第 1 版

2006 年 5 月第 3 次印刷

开本:787×1092 1/32

印张:60 字数:1300 千字

印数:12001—15000

(全 10 册)定价:80.00 元

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写在前面的话

——中国人学英语现状分析

◆英语是语言的帝国

全球 60 亿人中,有 8 亿人的母语是英语;2.5 亿人的第二母语是英语。12.3 亿人学习英语,33.6 亿人和英语有关。全世界电视节目的 75%、E-mail 的 80%、网络的 85%、软件源代码的 100% 使用英语。40~50 年后,全球 50% 的人精通英语。全球约 6000 种语言,本世纪末其中的 90% 将消亡。届时英语作为主导语言的地位将进一步得到提升。

目前中国大约有 3 亿人在学英语,超过英国和美国的人口总和,这是中国努力与时代接轨、与国际接轨的一个重要标志。大量中国人熟练掌握国际通用语言是中华民族走向繁荣富强的必要保障。

◆英语学习的远期目标

在中国,英语已经远远超出一个学科的范畴,一个人英语水平的高低总是和事业、前途、地位,甚至命运联系在一起。对于个人来讲,英语在人生旅途中具有战略意义,不失时机地在英语上投入时间、投入精力、投入金钱符合与时俱进的潮流,是明智之举。

◆目前存在的问题

尽管在中国学习英语的人很多,但收效却令人担忧,学了这么多年英语,能够运用自如的人实在是凤毛麟角。由于运用能力差,无法品尝到英语学习成功的快乐,很多人不得不承认学英语的目的只是为了考试”。

◆考试的压力对英语学习的积极影响

在我国,与个人命运休戚相关的各类考试,如中考、高考、四六级、

硕士研究生入学考试、博士研究生入学考试、职称考试、出国考试,都考或只考英语。目前,很多人把中国人学不好英语的责任推到英语考试身上,好像中国人学不好英语就是因为有了英语考试,甚至有人还产生了将英语考试废除的想法。

大家可以冷静地反思一下:如果没有各种各样的英语考试,哪里有这么多人坚持学英语?国家正是利用了考试这个指挥棒引导很多人去学英语。说句实话,你不能指望每个中国人都怀着与国际接轨的远大抱负去学英语。中国曾经取消过考试,结果造成了10年的人才断层。所以,我的看法是在谈论考试的不足时,首先应该承认它在选拔人才、培养人才方面的不可替代的作用。英语考试对中国人学英语起到了很大的积极作用,功不可没。但必须承认:如果真想把英语学好,光会做几道考试题是远远不够的。

◆不可缺少的环节

没有几百万字的输入无法学好英语。语言的习得是一个长期的过程,需要大量的“输入”。一个由汉语武装起来的头脑,没有几百万字英文的输入,即使要达到一般水平也难。绝大多数的英语学习者正是由于缺少了这一环节,所以停留在一个无奈的水平上。

◆“圣人”学英语的做法

在学英语的长远目标和考试的压力共同作用下,自然会产生学好英语的强烈愿望,但这一愿望的实现需要有很强的“韧劲(自我约束力)”。春来不是读书天,夏日炎炎正好眠,秋有蚊虫冬又冷,收起书包待明年。随着物质文明的繁荣,总有一些理由使人不能安心学习。这样下去,我们的英语之树永远长不高。古人云:人静而后安,安而能后定,定而能后慧,慧而能后悟,悟而能后得。很有道理。在四川大足佛教石刻艺术中,有一组大型佛雕《牧牛图》,描绘了一个牧童和牛由斗争、对抗到逐渐协调、融合,最后合而为一的故事。佛祖说:“人的心魔难伏,就像牛一样,私心杂念太多太多;修行者就要像牧童训练他们,驯

服他们,以完美自己的人生。”那些具有很强心力的人,我们姑且称其为“圣人”,他们能够驯服那些影响我们学习的大牛、小牛,抵制各种诱惑,集中精力,专心学习,到达成功的彼岸。

◆凡人的困惑

在目前的教育体系中,学好英语是需要坚韧不拔的毅力的。但问题是我们大多数平凡的人无法和圣人相比,所以在学英语的征途上,失败者多,成功者少。客观地讲,即使采用不太高的标准来衡量在中国英语学习的失败率应该在 99% 以上,有的人说难道我们不能把大多数的人都变成圣人吗,这样大多数人就可以学好英语了。我们不得不承认大多数凡夫俗子是不能够成为圣人的。值得我们深思的是,目前的英语学习体系没有给大多数人提供一条平坦的道路。

◆兴趣——英语学习成功的真正源泉

我和大家一样都是凡人,我也曾经遇到过学英语的困惑,干巴巴的课文无论怎样都激不起我的兴趣。幸运的是我有一个在国外生活多年的姐姐,有一次她回国,给我带来很多浅显有趣的读物。我拿起一本一读,觉得很简单,一个星期就读完了。就英语学习而言,一部英文小说其实就是用英语建构的一个“虚拟世界”。那里有人,有人的心灵和人与人之间关系的揭示,有人与自然、与社会的冲突和调和。走进一部英文小说,你实际上就已经“生活”在一个“英语世界”里了,不愁没有东西可学。经典作品要读,写得好的当代通俗小说也要读。我一共读了 50 本,从此对英语产生了兴趣,英语水平有了很大的提高。还是爱因斯坦说得好:“兴趣是最好的老师。”

◆《新概念英语》的主编 L. G. Alexander 的启示

中国人读英语书有个特点,越读不懂越读,习惯于读满篇都是生词的文章。L. G. Alexander 先生是世界著名的英语教学专家,他的经典之作《新概念英语》对于中国的英语教学产生了深远的影响。针对这一现状 Alexander 先生说过:“记住,你的接受型词汇量(即你听或阅读英

语时能理解的部分)比你的积极词汇量(即你在说或写时能自如运用的部分)要大得多。如果要扩大词汇量,最好的办法是多听英语,多读英语,但不要超出自己的水平,即阅读那些比你目前水平稍低的书。”这才是提高英语运用能力的诀窍。

本套读物的特色:

●情节曲折:本书选材的时候非常注意作品的吸引力。比方说:

《查泰莱夫人的情人》(Lady Chatterley's Lover):我当年读大学的时候,班上每个同学都买一本看。有的同学甚至熄灯后,打着手电筒躲在被窝里看。

《吸血鬼》(Dracula):这个故事真吓人,我看完以后好几天没睡好觉。后来我的一个学生说他对英语从来不感兴趣,我就把这本小说推荐给他。后来他对我说:“这是我一口气读完的第一本英语书,就是太吓人了。老师,能不能再给我来一本?”

《呼啸山庄》(Wuthering Heights):讲述的是一个骇人听闻的复仇故事,当初没有想到这本书的作者竟然是一个生活在几乎与世隔绝环境中的女孩。

《飘》(Gone with the Wind):几乎所有的美国女孩都读过这本书,主人公斯佳丽是美国女孩的偶像,可以说我见过的每个美国女孩都是一个 Scarlett。

.....

本套丛书收入的都是你在一生中值得去读的作品,读这些作品不但可以提高你的英语水平,而且能够提高你的个人修养。

●语言地道:本套读物均由美国作家执笔,用流畅的现代英语写成。他们写作功底深厚,这是母语为非英语的作者很难达到的。

●通俗易懂:本书是用 3300 个最常用的英语单词写成,易读懂,对于难词均有注释,你躺在床上不用翻字典就能顺利地读下去。

●配有高质量的音带:这样大家可以在读懂的基础上进行听的训

练,请注意:阅读需要量,听力更需要量。大量的语音输入是用英语深入交谈的源泉。

这套读物供你在下课后或下班后闲暇时阅读,其优点是帮你实现英语学习的生活化,使英语成为你生活的一部分。这才是英语成功的真谛,更是任何有难度事情成功的真谛。

王若平 于北京

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故事梗概

18世纪中叶,在海中航行的船只接二连三地遭到海怪袭击,造成船毁人亡的悲剧。大海之中变得危机四伏,一时之间人心惶惶。各国政府均派出军舰寻找海怪,维护航道安全,但都一无所获。法国生物学家阿隆纳斯教授应美国政府之邀,同仆人康塞尔一道加入搜捕海怪的探险队。他们在船上结识了号称“捕鲸人之王”的加拿大人尼德·兰德。不料,一行人出师未捷,已陷囹圄。教授乘坐的军舰在同海怪较量后被打得落荒而逃。教授、仆人和尼德·兰德掉入海中后被人救起,此时才发现海怪原是一艘超级潜艇鹦鹉螺号,潜艇艇长自称尼摩艇长。

被人所俘,教授一行人不免惴惴不安,但尼摩艇长却因为钦佩教授的成就,将其待为上宾,后来甚至亲自带教授参观潜艇,将其构造、设计等机密和盘托出。虽然教授等人被软禁在潜艇上,却也凭借潜艇的先进装备大开眼界,加深了他们对海洋的认识。阿隆纳斯教授等人同尼摩艇长和他的乘员一道游历四海。他们去克利斯波岛海中森林狩猎,在太平洋最深处探奇览胜,到万尼科罗群岛附近寻找沉船。他们通过托雷斯海峡的时候风险迭起,事故甚至夺取了尼摩艇长手下一名艇员的性命,使艇长痛苦不已。后来,艇长邀请教授等人一道,在海底的珊瑚墓地为自己死去的艇员举行了葬礼。

尼德·兰德一心想要逃走,但逃跑计划屡受挫。他计划在托雷斯海峡附近的岛上打猎时逃离潜艇,不料在岛上遭到土著人攻击,被迫回到潜艇上,引来大批土著围攻潜艇。尼摩艇长镇定自若,凭借潜艇的先进装备,兵不血刃地击退了土著。

接下来的航行中,艇长同教授等人参观了珍珠海床,驾驶潜艇通过了苏伊士运河狭窄的水下通道,从红海直接来到加勒比海。这让教授等人对艇长的神通广大肃然起敬,也对海底煤矿的奇妙赞叹不已。随后,艇长又带教授水中访探,见识了消失的古城亚特兰蒂斯的神妙之

处。尼摩艇长不顾尼德·兰德的不满,坚持要去南极。潜艇去的时候一路顺风,不料在归途中被冰山碰撞,岌岌可危。在此生死瞬间,尼摩艇长急中生智,想出了用锅炉加热冰层的办法,终于逃离绝境。其后,艇长似乎雄心受挫,潜艇漫无目的地在海中潜航。其间尼德·兰德多次策划逃走,但均未成功。

眼睁睁地看着又一名艇员在跟章鱼搏斗的时候死在了自己面前,尼摩艇长的怒火终于失去了控制。他轻而易举地将来犯的军舰击沉,舰上的全体乘员都葬身鱼腹。但此时的尼摩艇长受到良心的极大谴责,痛苦之下将潜艇驶入风暴中心,从此生死不明。教授等人抓住最后的机会侥幸逃生。

海底深处到底有些什么样的秘密?纵横四海,叱咤风云的尼摩艇长究竟何许人也?鹦鹉螺号为何如此神奇?……法国科幻小说家儒勒·凡尔纳的传世名篇——《海底两万里》带你一览海底的旖旎风光。你,准备好了吗?



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PART ONE

CHAPTER ONE

A Moving Island

During the year 1866, the world was shocked to hear stories of a sea monster attacking several ships that passed through the oceans. The governments of many countries were quite interested in the matter. The monster was said to be much larger than a whale. Most agreed that the monster's shape was similar to that of a whale, however. Some declared the **mysterious** animal to be nearly two hundred feet long; others **swore** the monster was more than a mile long.

On the 20th of July 1866, a great ship was leaving India for Australia when it was hit by the mysterious animal, and sunk into the ocean, only five miles off the east coast of Australia. Just three days later, in the Pacific Ocean, the sea animal attacked another ship.

Immediately after these frightening events, people all over the world were talking about the sea animal. Newspapers continually had new stories related to the monster. Scientists, news reporters, and many others wrote

many pages about their views on the newly discovered sea monster. For six months, people talked of nothing but the mysterious animal.

During the first months of the year 1867, however, interest in the sea monster seemed to **decline** a great deal. People were no longer curious to read about the sea monster, until the 5th of March 1867, when another ship, Canadian, had been hit. Now, however, people began to believe this sea monster was not an animal, but rather a small island in the sea that floated to various places in the ocean. The ship, though, had not been hit terribly; it returned to its port for repairs. Had the ship hit a rock under water? No one knew, but after a close examination, it was found that part of the ship's bottom was broken. As this ship's accident was not serious, it should have been forgotten. But three weeks later, another ship was again hit **in the same manner**.

On the 13th of April 1867, the second ship, a great British ship, was damaged, after **speeding** through the ocean. The ship was then brought back to its port and examined. The engineers were astonished to find the same **triangular** hole as was in the damaged Canadian ship just three weeks before. The hole had been broken

through the iron bottom of each ship in the same manner. This mysterious island moving throughout the oceans had easily made a hole through iron, over $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches thick.

The excitement surrounding this mysterious danger had returned. People's interest in the events became stronger than ever. Now, the monster or island was now blamed for any unhappy event that happened on sea. The mysterious danger was now connected to over two thousand lost ships during that time. Communication between the countries of the world became more dangerous. People were now demanding that this mystery be discovered, so the seas would once again be safe.

注释:

mysterious [mɪ'stiəriəs] *adj.* 神秘的, 神奇的

swear [swɛə] *v.* 发誓; 诅咒

league [li:g] *n.* 里格(旧时长度单位, 约3英里或4.8公里)

decline [di'klaɪn] *v.* 下降; 减弱, 衰弱

in the same manner 同一条路, 同样地

speed [spi:d] *v.* 快速行进。speed through 快速通过

triangular [traɪ'æŋɡjələ] *adj.* 三角形的

CHAPTER TWO

Support and Resistance

While these events were taking place, I had just returned from doing scientific research in the disagreeable American state of **Nebraska**. I was, at that time, the **Assistant Professor** at the Museum of Natural History in Paris. After six months in Nebraska, I arrived in New York at the end of March with many precious things to take back to the museum in Paris. I was to return to France at the beginning of May. Until then, I continued my studies of plants and animals. I had been perfectly informed about the sea monster. I had read all the American and European newspapers still without being able to explain the terrible events. I sometimes believed there to be a sea monster, indeed, but at other times, I knew such things were impossible.

I arrived in New York shortly after the British ship was damaged. The idea of the sea monster being a **floating island** was soon forgotten, as the monster traveled great distances in quite a short amount of time. People now believed one of two things, that either it was a monster with great strength or a **submarine** with

a powerful motor.

Most, however, could not believe the mysterious danger to be a submarine. That one man could have such a powerful machine **available** was not possible. Where, when, and how was it built? And how could it have been kept a secret? Certainly the governments of the world would have discovered such plans. Some believed it to be a weapon of war, created by a government, but this was not likely either, as it would be quite difficult to keep such a mystery a secret from envious countries, always watching **neighboring** nations. This would certainly be impossible.

After I arrived in New York, several people asked my opinion on the mystery. In France, I had published a long book, called **The Mysteries of Great Submarine Grounds**. This book was quite popular among other scientists of the world, and I gained a great deal of fame through its success. My advice was asked. I did not wish to speak my opinion on the matter, as I was as **confused** as the rest of the world, but I was forced to. At last, I decided that this mystery must be a sea animal of great strength and speed. The great depths of the ocean are still unknown to us. We have not yet discovered the greatest depth of the oceans. What animals live in