

Selected Readings from American and British Press

英美报刊选读

· 大学英语学习系列教材 ·

Undergraduate English Series

□ 华中科技大学外国语学院英语系 编

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大学英语学习系列教材
Undergraduate English Series

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英美报刊选读

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总 序

21 世纪是一个国际化的知识经济时代, 社会主义市场经济的发展要求新世纪的人才除了具有扎实的专业知识、良好的创新能力、人文素养外, 还必须具有优秀的外语能力。英语作为一种国际性的语言, 已成为人们在国际交往中不可缺少的工具。新形势下, 社会的发展对中国大学生英语能力提出了全新的要求, 已从原来纯粹的语言技能的掌握, 发展到语言应用能力及跨文化交际能力的提高、英语文化认知水平的扩大及人文综合素养的完善。

在这种形势下, 许多高校进行了大学英语教学改革, 除了进行英语听说读写的基础课程训练, 还开设了一系列高级语言能力及文化、文学方面的专业课程供全校学生选修。此外, 本着培养复合型人才的理念, 许多高校英语专业面向非英语专业招收英语第二学位的学生, 开设了一系列英语专业课程。与英语本科专业的教学相比, 这一系列课程因教学对象、学生需求、教学学时等不同, 其目标内涵与层次定位、教材选编、教学方法及教学要求等方面还是存在着一定的差异。为此, 华中科技大学外国语学院英语系在长期开设英语公共选修课及开办英语第二学位、辅修学位的基础上, 组织一批有丰富教学经验的老师, 共同编写了《大学英语学习系列教材》。

本系列教材包括《高级英语阅读》、《英语写作教程》、《英汉互译——方法与与实践》、《英美报刊选读》、《英美文学佳作赏析》等, 具有以下特征。

1. 本系列教材的编写以国家教育部颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》和《英语专业教学大纲》为依据, 充分考虑非英语专业学生的实际情况和新世纪复合型人才对外语能力的要求, 既重视培养语言技能、提高语言交际能力, 又注重扩大学生的知识面, 提高人文素养。

2. 本系列教材的编写吸收了大学英语、专业英语、英语第二学位的教学及教材编写的丰富经验, 充分采纳国内外先进的教学理论和方法, 力求选材新颖实用、难度适中、具有鲜明的时代特征。

3. 本系列教材体系统一, 可全套使用, 也可针对学生实际需要有选择地使用。

本系列教材可供非英语专业本科生英语选修课使用, 也可供选修英语第二学位或辅修英语学位的学生使用, 还可供具有相当于大学英语四级水平的英语自学者使用。

本系列教材在编写的过程中得到了华中科技大学外国语学院领导的指导和各位同仁的支持, 华中科技大学出版社对本系列教材的编写和出版给予了鼎力支持, 在此我们全体编写人员表示衷心的感谢。由于经验不足, 水平有限, 错误在所难免, 恳请广大师生和读者提出批评和建议, 以便在今后的修订中不断得到改进和完善。

华中科技大学外国语学院英语系

2006 年 6 月

前 言

《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》要求英语专业的学生在二年级、三年级、四年级时分别“能读懂难度相当于美国 Newsweek 的国际新闻报道”、“能读懂难度相当于美国 Time 或 New York Times 的社论和政论文章”、“能读懂一般英美报纸杂志上的社论和书评”。《大学英语教学大纲》中对提高阶段的学生也要求“能顺利阅读语言难度较高的一般性题材的文章”。因此,很多大学都开设了“英美报刊选读”课程。

华中科技大学外国语学院本着培养复合型素质人才的理念,向本校及外校非英语专业学生开设英语第二学位,“英美报刊选读”则是其中一门令很多学生期待的必修课。本书就是为英语专业第二学位学生及其他英语爱好者掌握阅读英美报刊的基本能力并扩大知识面而编写的。

许多学英语的人在学习了几年英语,掌握了一定的词汇和基本语法之后,都会去尝试阅读一些英语原版读物,希望借此验证自己的英语水平是否已达到独立阅读的能力。而国际互联网的发展更给了广大英语爱好者一个方便快捷的平台去接触英美报刊文章。英语报刊文章的内容涉及政治、经济、文化、科技、体育以及娱乐等各个方面,文章的多样性、趣味性得到广大英语学习者的青睐。很多英语学习者认为报刊文章中的英语才是“真正的英语”。因此,在高校英语专业的课程中,“英美报刊选读”很受学生的欢迎。学生们觉得这门课给了他们一个机会去接触“原汁原味的英语”,而不再是有些教科书中连时间都已无法考证的文章。

本书内容包括英语报刊的发展简史、新闻英语的一些基本概念和主要特点、阅读英语报刊文章的技巧以及从互联网上精选的英美报刊文章,内容包括特写、社论、国际新闻、英美国内新闻、经济新闻、科技新闻以及体育新闻。每一类中都尽量选取能代表该类的、具有典型性的新闻英语特征的报刊文章。每篇文章后附有词汇表,除对难懂的和一般工具书不易查到的词语做必要的解释外,同时介绍新闻英语的主要特点,并对有关重要事件的背景和人物做出必要的介绍,借以帮助初学者掌握阅读报刊文章必须具备的有关知识。同时还有一些练习题,读者可借此检验自己的阅读效果和理解程度。

由于编者水平有限,时间仓促,书中一定会有不妥之处。在此恳请读者不吝赐教,以便能及时改进。

编 者

2006年夏于华中科技大学

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Unit One

Text A

Italy's Golden Moment

The Italian team didn't play the prettiest soccer in this World Cup. But no side had a better instinct for survival.

Web Exclusive

By Mark Starr

Newsweek

Updated: 8:10 p. m. ET July 9, 2006

July 9, 2006 — In the waning moments of overtime in its World Cup semi-final against Germany, Italy attacked with dramatic results. The strategy led to two goals and a last-minute victory over the tournament hosts. Afterwards, Italian coach Marcello Lippi attributed the team's



uncharacteristic offensive mindset to its dread of letting the game end in a shootout. Italy had never won a World Cup match on penalty kicks^①, exiting three of the last four tournaments (including its loss to Brazil in the 1994 final) via the excruciating one-on-one duel.

But the penalty shootout is ultimately — both its defenders and debunkers largely agree — a crapshoot. And if you shoot craps often enough, one day your number will come up. So it was Sunday night in Berlin, as Italy's number — a fourth World Cup championship — came up big. Italy converted all five of its shots to beat France, after a sometimes exhilarating, sometimes desultory and, occasionally, stunning, 1 : 1 tie.

① penalty kick: 罚点球

Much was made of the opposing goalkeepers in anticipation of this dramatic end, with everyone giving the advantage to the athletic, Gianluigi Buffon^② over the flamboyant Fabien Barthez^③. But neither even came close to making a save^④ in the shootout. The difference, as it so often is, was a single glitch and, in this case, a miniscule one. David Trezeguet^⑤, a gifted scorer lacking the trust of his coach, had languished on the bench for most of the tournament. He picked the worst possible moment to prove his coach right, clanging his penalty attempt off the bottom of the crossbar from where it fell harmlessly to the ground in front of the goal line. After three more Italians converted, the last fittingly made by Fabio Grosso who had saved the day for the Azzurri previously against both Australia and Germany, the trophy was headed home to Italy for the first time in 24 years.

Italy won this game and a few more in this championship not by being the best team on the field — France outplayed Italy for almost the entire second half — but by always finding a way, indeed several different ways. And there's no real argument with that. There will be countless bar discussions over which team played the prettiest soccer — my vote goes to Argentina at its best — but none over which team had the greatest instinct for survival.

This Italian team showed a little more offensive flair than some of its recent vintages. But in the end it triumphed, as so many great Italian teams have, on the back of its defense. Buffon was virtually impregnable, scored upon just twice in this tournament, once on a French penalty kick and the other an own goal in a tie against the United States. In the overtime, he made a brilliant one-handed save off a Zinedine Zidane header to maintain the tie and, ultimately, to force the shootout.

But the best player on the field today and throughout the tournament was the 32-year-old Italian captain Fabio Cannavaro, the smallish central defender who plays twice his size and with an unequalled combination of brains and heart. Though the key center of Il Muro (“the wall”), he seemed to be everywhere he needed to be, poking the ball away from the French attackers or muscling them

② Gianluigi Buffon: 布冯, 意大利足球队门将

③ Fabien Barthez: 巴特斯, 法国足球队门将

④ make a save: (足球) 救球

⑤ David Trezeguet: 特雷泽盖, 法国足球队前锋

off the ball. (Lilian Thuram, the French central defender who plays alongside Cannavaro at the Italian soccer club Juventus, was almost as good throughout the tournament.) It may be his final international game for Italy and, if so, should have merited a small share of all the attention that went to Zidane. Winning, however, should prove more than ample consolation.

Zidane^⑥, 34, the French captain coaxed out of retirement to invigorate a lackluster French side, had done just that through the last several critical games — dangerous on free kicks and deadly on penalty kicks. But when he produced the game's most stunning moment, it wasn't good news for France. Zizou had already scored the French goal and came close to a game-winner with an overtime header reminiscent of the two he scored in the 1998 final against Brazil. But with many rooting for one last brilliance to cap his career, Zidane instead flashed some ill-timed temper, head-butting an Italian defender away from the ball and exiting his last game for Les Bleus on a red card. (The cheap-shot was actually worthy of two red cards and should rate a long, meaningless suspension.) Many will deem it an incomprehensible blunder, but Zidane's temperament has, at times, been his weak suit. In France 1998, he took a stupid red card in the team's opener against South Africa and was lucky his teammates rallied to give him his shot at redemption. There will be no opportunity for redemption from this last one and the blemish will be an ugly, final note on a great career.

For Italy, it is quite the opposite. This hard-fought, well-deserved World Cup championship is an exquisite moment on the giant blemish that is the Italian national game. It will be days before the celebration begins to peter out back home. But when it does, there will remain a scandal of gambling, match-fixing and other venal sins for the country to confront. More than half the Italian team plays for four elite Italian clubs that have been implicated and that are likely, as part of the punishment, to be relegated to Italian soccer's minor leagues. Coupled with the great World Cup championship, Italian soccer this day is the perfect embodiment of beauty and the beast.

The same could be said for Germany 2006. The offensive showcase that delighted fans in the opening game, Germany 4 Costa Rica 2, did not prove to be

⑥ Zidane: 齐达内, 法国足球队中场队员

a portent of lovely things to come. (In the next 63 games, only Argentina 6, Serbia and Montenegro 0 matched the goal total.) One could only find what ensued beautiful if yellow and red happen to be your favorite colors, as referees upstaged the players in a vain attempt to discourage the dangerous and resurrect the game's majestic flow. It was an ill-conceived plan. But by the semis, the worst of the refs had gone home. And while the remaining matches were not exactly showcases, far more ferocious than beautiful, all were competitive and intensely dramatic. The World Cup, for all its flaws, remains a singularly thrilling competition. The only disappointment now is that we all have to wait four more years to live it again.

Vocabulary

1. blemish *n.* an imperfection that mars or impairs; a flaw or defect 瑕疵, 缺点或污点
2. clang *vt.* 使发铿锵、叮当声
3. crapshoot *n.* (美俚) a risky enterprise 冒险事业
4. crossbar *n.* 球门的横木
5. debunker *n.* (美俚) 暴露者; 揭穿真面目者
6. deem *vt.* to have as an opinion; judge 主张; 断定
7. desultory *adj.* occurring haphazardly; random 随意的, 任意的
8. embodiment *n.* 体现; 具体化
9. ensue *vi.* to take place subsequently 跟着发生
10. excruciating *adj.* intensely painful; agonizing 使苦恼的, 使人极痛苦的; 烦恼的
11. flair *n.* a natural talent or aptitude; a knack 天赋, 资质
12. flamboyant *adj.* 炫耀的; 神气活现的
13. free kick 任意球
14. glitch *n.* a minor malfunction, mishap, or technical problem; a snag 小故障, 小毛病, 次要的技术问题; 障碍
15. impregnable *adj.* difficult or impossible to attack, challenge, or refute with success 无懈可击的
16. languish *v.* to remain unattended or be neglected 被冷落, 未被注意, 被忽视

17. mind-set *n.* a fixed mental attitude or disposition that predetermines a person's responses to and interpretations of situations 精神状态,思想倾向;气质
18. miniscule *adj.* 极小的,细微的
19. Montenegro *n.* 门的内哥罗(南斯拉夫一地区,旧译黑山)
20. offensive *adj.* making an attack 进行进攻的
21. outplay *vt.* to surpass (an opponent) in skill or technique or in scoring points 比赛技巧胜于,击败
22. penalty kick 罚点球
23. peter *vi.* to diminish slowly and come to an end; dwindle 逐渐耗尽,逐渐枯竭
24. redemption *n.* 恢复,补救
25. ref *n.* a referee 裁判
26. relegate *vt.* to assign to an obscure place, position, or condition 把...降级
27. reminiscent *adj.* tending to recall or suggest something in the past 令人回想的,提示往事的
28. resurrect *vt.* to bring back to life; raise from the dead 使复生;使从死亡中复活 to bring back into practice, notice, or use 恢复实施、受注意或重新起用
29. shootout *n.* a means of resolving a tie after overtime in a soccer game, in which five players from each side alternately take individual shots on goal 罚点球决胜负,平局决胜赛
30. showcase *n.* (商店或博物馆的玻璃)陈列橱;(主美)显示优点的东西
31. stunning *adj.* impressive 令人印象深刻的
32. temperament *n.* the manner of thinking, behaving, or reacting characteristic of a specific person 性格
33. tie *n.* (比赛时的)同分,平局
34. trophy *n.* (体育竞赛的)奖品,奖杯,纪念品
35. upstage *adj.* haughty; aloof 傲慢的,冷漠超然的
36. venal *adj.* open to bribery; mercenary 公开受贿的;贪财的
37. vintage *n.* 制造的时期;开始存在的时期;年龄;寿命
38. waning *adj.* (月亮)渐亏的,逐渐减弱(或变小)的

Questions for Comprehension and Discussion

1. According to the author, how does the Italian team win the game?
2. According to the author, who is the best player in the game?
3. What does the author say about Zidane?
4. Why does the author say that “Italian soccer this day is the perfect embodiment of beauty and the beast”?
5. What’s the author’s attitude toward the World Cup?
6. Do you like the World Cup? Why?
7. What do you think of Zidane?
8. Who is your favorite football player? And which team is your favorite? Why?
9. Do you like the Italian team? Do you feel happy when the Italian team won the Germany 2006 World Cup?
10. When do you think China can host the World Cup?

Text B

Hail to the Kings

The teams: Perennial favorite Brazil may have its strongest squad ever. But changes in the game mean no future team may ever be as dominant.

By Mac Margolis

Newsweek International

June 12, 2006 issue — For the record, anyone can win the 2006 World Cup. Whether it's three-time champion Italy or the debuting Angolans, 10th-ranked England or No. 61 Togo, once the ball begins to roll in Germany on June 9, theoretically each of the 32 national teams vying for glory in the globe's most popular sport has a fighting chance. OK, now forget all the sportingly correct disclaimers. Sure, football's premier spectacle has seen its share of upsets over the decades. But since 1958, when a precocious South American team, debuting a 17-year-old named Pelé, blind sided Cup host Sweden 5 : 2 in the finals, the one iron rule in football is that Brazil is the team to beat. And to judge by the pre-game hoopla and headlines, by the evening of July 9, when the final whistle blows in Berlin, even hidebound European fans will be learning to samba yet again.

It's not just that the Brazilians are past masters, having racked up a record 60 wins in 87 matches for an unprecedented five World Cup titles. The squad suiting up for this year's quadrennial is easily the best in two decades, and just may be, the more breathless aficionados assert, the best ever. Devotees of legends like Pelé, Garrincha, Tostão and Rivellino will beg to differ, but there's no denying that the current green-and-yellow machine has been on a phenomenal roll. The Brazilians won the Copa America tournament in 2004, last year's Confederations Cup and finished first in the South American World Cup qualifying games, ahead of archrival Argentina. Between them, über-stars

Ronaldo and Ronaldinho, both apex predators in the ferocious Spanish league, have been elected world footballer of the year five times in the last eight years. They are just two of the reasons that Brazil has topped the International Federation of Football Associations' ranking since 2002. No wonder Australian fans, whose team faces Brazil in the opening round, are snapping up green-and-yellow-clad voodoo dolls. "Realistically," says the online sports bourse Gambling 911, where few are betting against Brazil, "it looks like a one-horse race."

Mixed metaphors apart, the lopsided odds tell only part of the story. Just what makes the Brazilian game so consistently great has kept hundreds of eggheads busy for generations. Some pundits, sounding like modern-day eugenicists, argue that it's the special mix of European, African and indigenous DNA that gave Brazilians the perfect biotype — short, strong, a low center of gravity — for a game of supreme footwork. Undoubtedly, past glories have helped, creating a powerful demonstration effect, as idols beget idols. (Ronaldinho grew up imitating Ronaldo, who admired Romário, while everyone worshiped Pelé.) The one consensus, though, is that what matters is not how regularly the Brazilians prevail but how sublimely they play. Ronaldo's sleight of foot, Ronaldinho's sprinting pirouettes, the way Robinho glissades along the pitch as though on a pillow of air: this is the game that turned an imported English pastime into ballet on grass. Brazilians call it *futebol arte* (art football), and the rest of the world, "the beautiful game". "I prefer to play beautifully and lose than to tie with a dull game," the late Telê Santana, a storied coach, once said famously. The world has come to expect no less.

Much of Brazil's prowess may well be rooted in a lack of opportunity that has sired creativity. While the national stadiums boast deep pile carpets of grass, most players cut their teeth on asphalt, at the beach or even knee-deep in a muddy cow pasture. "I didn't have to go to the stadium to see great football as a kid," says Roberto Rivellino, a midfielder who played alongside Pelé on the legendary 1970 Brazilian team. "I went to the flood plains." As a kid, Ronaldinho kicked anything that rolled, from a Coke can to a balled-up sock, using the wall in his backyard for a goal and his pet dog Bullet for a defender. The improvisations paid off; all the top Brazilians dribble with the ease of a Harlem Globetrotter — but with their feet. "There are talented players