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床头灯英语学习读本IV



THE TENANT OF WILDFELL HALL 维尔德费尔庄园的主人

美国作家改编 纯英文版

原著 Anne Bronte
[英] 安·勃朗特
改编 Richard Forster

航空工业出版社

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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

故事发生在 1827 年秋,英格兰的乡间。年轻的单身绅士劳伦斯先生家的一幢废弃了多年的老宅,被一位神秘的女士租下。女房客亨廷顿太太携其幼子阿瑟及女仆雷切尔搬至其中。她是位寡妇,年轻漂亮,深居简出。她待人接物态度冷淡,给人留下孤傲、冷漠的印象。亨廷顿太太对自己的身世一再缄口,引起了邻里的种种猜疑。她的出身、家世乃至教育孩子的方式都被蒙上了一层迷雾。窥探其隐私似乎已成为长舌妇们的消遣方式。最终,谣言四起、飞短流长。

亨廷顿太太的邻居,正直的农场主吉尔伯特·马卡姆先生原与牧师的女儿伊丽莎·米尔沃德相恋。但经过与亨廷顿太太几番交往之后,被她冷漠的外表掩盖下的高贵气质和善良的品质所彻底征服,在吉尔伯特的心中深深地埋下了爱的种子。而对初恋的情人伊丽莎,吉尔伯特倍感内疚。

赠书、郊游,经过一番努力,吉尔伯特与亨廷顿太太的关系开始发展。但亨廷顿太太对吉尔伯特火热的感情似乎无动于衷,并与其约定“只作朋友、姐弟”,吉尔伯特怅然若失。当人们发现亨廷顿太太秘密接待房东劳伦斯先生的来访后,便认定她是个轻浮女子。甚至谣言传出:小阿瑟是亨廷顿太太与劳伦斯先生的儿子。深爱着亨廷顿太太的吉尔伯特深信她的人格,相信她是无辜的。吉尔伯特频频对亨廷顿太太示爱,可她却总是回避,似有难言之隐,这更使吉尔伯特心头蒙上一层疑云。

然而,一次偶然的机会,事情发生了转机。一个夏天的月夜,吉尔伯特在暗处看到亨廷顿太太与劳伦斯先生携手挽腕,他们之间深情款款的谈话也听到只言片语。吉尔伯特便认定劳伦斯先生是自己的情敌。失意的吉尔伯特只能在劳作中排解自己苦闷的心情。

吉尔伯特在一个雨天去镇上的途中,与劳伦斯先生偶遇。劳伦斯

先生善意的劝告被当作挑衅，吉尔伯特遂对劳伦斯先生大打出手。但劳伦斯先生替吉尔伯特保密，只说是自己从马上坠下跌伤。亨廷顿太太眼看自己与吉尔伯特的关系受到威胁，被迫把自己的日记交给吉尔伯特。从而故事的谜底终被揭开。

日记自 1821 年记起，那时亨廷顿太太只是一个名叫海伦的 18 岁少女。那时的海伦美丽、活泼、善良、单纯。涉世未深的她，对自己的未来和婚姻充满了美好的憧憬。不幸的是，她刚刚步入社交界，便被风流多情的浪荡公子亨廷顿夺去了心魂。尽管他常当面与其他女人调情来刺激她，她还是爱上了他。并且，当他向她求婚时，她不顾姑妈的告诫，毅然嫁给了亨廷顿。开始，她的婚姻还算美满，孩子阿瑟的出生使她尝到初为人母的幸福。但好景不长，亨廷顿恶习难改，又恢复了放荡生活。他常常离家去伦敦，一呆就是好几个月，在给海伦的信中净是些敷衍、欺骗的言辞。他酗酒赌博、纵情声色，并与有夫之妇洛勃罗勋爵夫人安娜贝拉私通。更有甚者，趁朋友们前来拜访、寄宿之机，与安娜贝拉在自己家里偷情。他们的丑行终于败露。为了不使小阿瑟受他父亲的影响，海伦克制着自己，计划偷偷带他出逃。当亨廷顿变本加厉，竟与女保姆迈耶斯偷情，海伦终于决定出走。她求助于哥哥劳伦斯先生。劳伦斯先生为她准备好维尔德费尔府的老宅，她在那里靠作画为生。

真相终于大白，吉尔伯特与海伦的感情更加牢固了。不久，海伦出于责任回家照顾病重的丈夫，直到他去世。后来海伦的姑夫去世，又留给她一大笔财产。当吉尔伯特得知她非但不是穷人，还是一位极为富有的寡妇时，他犹豫了。他害怕自己的求婚会被海伦嘲笑，也怕流言蜚语。最后，在海伦的暗示下，他终于冲破樊笼，得以与海伦结合。

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CHAPTER ONE

A Discovery

Our story begins in the autumn of 1827, taking place in the countryside of England. The story is written as a letter from a young man, named Gilbert Markham, to his friend, Halford, explaining the story of a mysterious woman, Mrs. Graham, who has recently moved into the neighbourhood with her young son, Arthur, and her maid, Rachel. As the story continues, a secret of Mrs. Graham's is discovered, as Mr. Markham becomes a dear friend of the lady neighbour.

My father, as you know, was a wealthy farmer, and as he desired that I continue in his position, I soon took the job myself, but not willingly. I felt that my talents were for something better than farming. My mother had always told me I would do great things one day, but my father strongly advised me to continue in that quiet occupation, and one day I would give that precious land to my children to continue.

"Well! — An honest hard-working farmer is one of the most useful members of society, and if I *am attentive* to my occupation, I will benefit not only my family, but mankind, as well — therefore, my life's work will *contribute* to society."

These thoughts *reminded me of* my occupation's importance, but as I was working in the fields, I would look into the warm houses nearby, I wonder if my effort was truly important. However, I was young then, only twenty-four, and did not have the understanding of the world I now have.

As I returned home late one evening, I saw my sister, Rose, with her friendly brown eyes and pink cheeks. She is, I know, a beautiful, young girl; still as lovely as the first day you saw her. I did not know then that in a few years, she would be the wife of someone who would become a dear friend to me.

That evening, as usual, I came into the sitting room, where my mother was sitting.

"Well! Here they both are," cried my mother, looking around at my sister and I. "Now, shut the door and come to the fireplace while Rose gets the tea ready. I'm sure you're hungry — and tell me what you've been doing today. I like to know what my children have been doing."

"I've been working in the fields, no easy work today."

"That's my brave boy! And Fergus, what have you been doing?"

"Hunting for *badgers*."

And here he explained *in detail* his technique in

finding badgers. My mother pretended to listen with great attention.

"*It's time you should do something* else, Fergus," I said, after he finished his explanation.

"What can I do?" replied he, "my mother won't let me go to the sea or enter the army. So, I'll do nothing except annoy you all, and you will gladly let me leave this house soon."

"Now, take your tea," said Rose, "and I'll tell you what I've been doing. I've gone to visit the Wilsons; and it's a pity you didn't go with me, Gilbert, because Eliza Millward was there!"

"Well! How is she?"

"Oh, she's fine! I'm not going to tell you about her; I have an important piece of news I heard there. Someone has been living at Wildfell Hall for over a week!"

"Impossible!" cried my mother.

"It has, indeed! — And by a single lady!"

"The house is in terrible condition!"

"She has two or three rooms that she uses; and there she lives alone, *except for* an old woman as a servant!"

"Jane Wilson has seen her. She and her mother went to see the new neighbour when they discovered she had come. The woman is called Mrs. Graham, and she is *in mourning*, as her husband has recently died. She is quite young, perhaps only twenty-five, and so shy; she refused

to discuss her past! The woman was quite impolite, and *showed no interest in* talking to Miss Wilson or her mother. But, Eliza Millward says her father plans to visit the neighbour soon. He is quite worried, as she did not come to church on Sunday.”

The next day, my mother and Rose went to visit the new neighbour.

“She was quite pretty. You must see her, Gilbert. You will say she is a perfect beauty. She looks quite like Eliza Millward,” Rose told her brother.

“Well, I’m sure there are many others more beautiful than Eliza, but none as charming. If she were more perfect, she would be less interesting,” I said.

The following Sunday, I saw the mysterious Mrs. Graham for the first time, as she entered the church. She was tall, lady-like, dressed in black. Her hair was dark, and her face quite clear and pale. She was quite a beauty.

Now, Halford, before I finish this letter, I’ll tell you who Eliza Millward was. She was the minister’s younger daughter, and quite a charming young woman, indeed. I *was* quite *fond of* her, as she knew, although I never told her of my feelings, as my mother believed Eliza was not suitable for me.

Her sister, Mary, was several years older, taller, and was quite sensible, and plain. She patiently cared for her mother during her last terrible illness, taking care of