



UNDERSTANDING AND TRANSLATING  
FINE ENGLISH PROSES

# 英语散文佳作赏析与翻译

· 乔龙宝 编著 ·



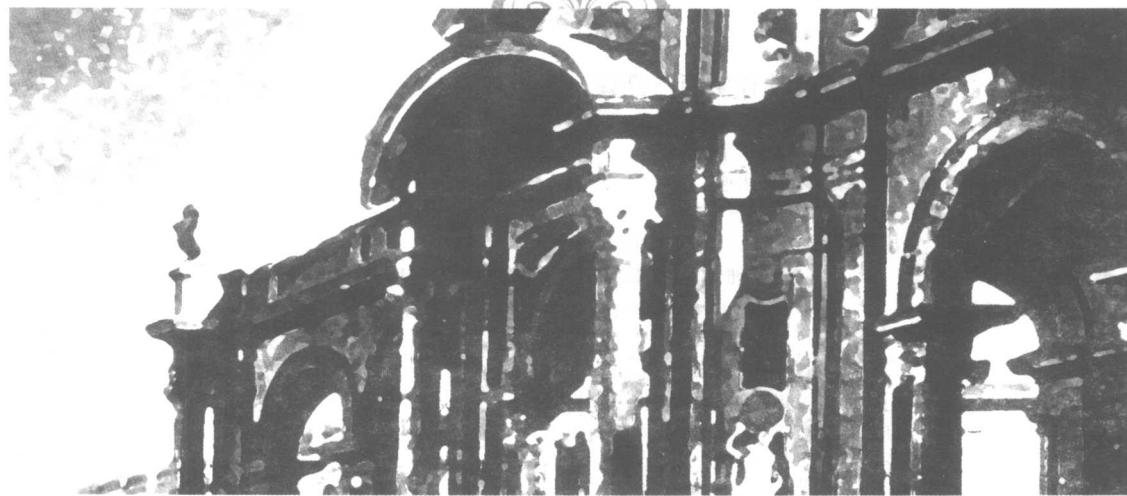
上海社会科学院出版社



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## 前言

英语散文是英语国家所拥有的一种独具民族特色的文学体裁,在其发展史上,优秀作家和优秀散文层出不穷。不朽的英语散文作品也是世界文学史上的瑰宝,具有极高的文学审美价值,为各国读者所钟爱。英语散文同时又是英语学习者学习英语的重要素材。然而,许多英语学习者觉得欣赏英语散文相当困难,特别是一些学英语已有相当时间的学习者,对于一些散文名作的理解往往有隔靴搔痒之感,似乎有些理解,又似乎隔着一层薄纱,难以透彻理解。

作为从教多年的高校英语专业教师,我深切地体会到英语学员在学习过程遇到的种种困难和困惑。各类散文是英语学习者最为常见的英语学习素材,然而,学员们由于缺少老师的指导和正确的方法,对于英语散文往往不能很好地学习、把握和欣赏。本书希望能较好地满足这方面的需要,使阅读本书的英语散文爱好者和学习者在欣赏理解英语散文以及学习英语过程中能获得启迪和提高。

本书上篇所选均为英语散文名家的作品,书中对语言进行了详尽的中英文对照解析,使读者能得到精确的理解,还对某些重要的词汇进行了同义词的比较辨析,有助于读者充分地理解和把握作者的用词艺术。我注意到,许多英语散文读者不能很好理解欣赏英语散文,主要原因除了词汇的理解之外,就是对一些句子困惑不解,大大影响了其学习欣赏英语散文的乐趣,因此,本书还对一些难句进行了重点解析。此外,多数中国读者在阅读英语散文时往往有意无意间做着一件事——翻译,由于读者本身中英两种语言水平的巨大差距,这种翻译活动往往变得非常痛苦而又徒劳无功,书中考虑到中国读者这一学习和欣赏的特点,对译文进行了尽可能对等的翻译,以帮助其获得尽可能好的阅读欣赏体验。

中篇从另一个视角帮助读者学习欣赏英语散文,所选也均出自名家之手。根据我多年的教学经验,中国英语散文读者对学习欣赏英语文章的目的甚为模糊,因此效果也不甚显著。学习和欣赏英语散文,除了要整体把握之外,对于英语词汇和词语表达法的理解尤其重要,因为这一块往往充分体现出作品的特点和风格,而对于英语学习者而言就更为重要了,因为这一块





是需要学习吸收并提高自身表达能力的重要方面。正是基于此点,本书对所选散文的词汇及词语表达法提供了详尽的解析。同时,也提供了名家的译文,以帮助读者获得更好的理解和欣赏效果。本书下篇列举了一些精品英语散文及高质量的译文,供学习欣赏之用。

书中选用了一些前辈和同仁的作品和译文,在此表示衷心的感谢。

本书适用于英语散文的欣赏爱好者、普通英语爱好者、中高级英语学习者以及英美散文研究人员,也可作为英语教师的教学参考用书。

# 目 录

C O N T E N T S

## 前 言 / 001

### 上 篇：英语散文详析及其翻译

1. Of Studies 论读书 / 弗兰西斯·培根 / 003
2. Of Marriage and Single Life 论婚姻和单身生活 / 弗兰西斯·培根 / 012
3. The Borrower 借钱者 / 查尔斯·兰姆 / 022
4. How to Grow Old 当我们年老时 / 罗素 / 030
5. Why Marriages Fail 婚姻为什么会失败 / 安妮·洛菲 / 045
6. The Last Hill 最后的山 / 弗兰西斯·拉赛尔 / 072

### 中 篇：英语散文词汇及词语表达法赏析与翻译

1. Once More to the Lake 再到湖上 / E·B·怀特 / 091
2. A Bachelor's Complaint of the Behavior of Married People 一个单身汉对于已婚男女言行无状之哀诉 / 查尔斯·兰姆 / 123
3. Keynesism in the United States 凯恩斯主义在美国 / 约·肯·加尔布雷思 / 154
4. Morocco 摩洛哥 / 阿娜依斯·尼恩 / 177
5. The Wife 妻 子 / 华盛顿·欧文 / 211
6. Three Days to See 给我三天视力 / 海伦·凯勒 / 246

### 下 篇：英语散文佳作及其译文欣赏举隅

1. Beauty 论美 / 拉尔夫·爱默生 / 287





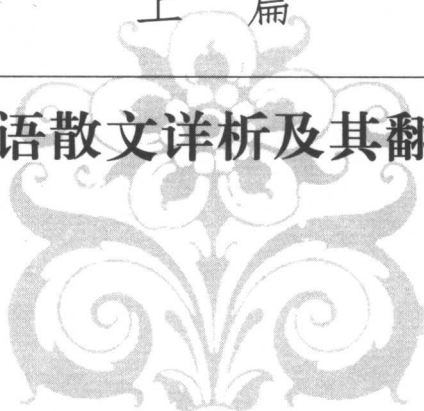
2. **When Bright Girls Decide That Math Is "A Waste of Time"** 女孩学数学  
是浪费时间吗 / 苏珊·贾库比 / 296
3. **Tulips** 郁金香 / 约瑟夫·艾迪生 / 302
4. **National Prejudices** 民族偏见 / 奥利弗·哥德斯密 / 307
5. **China — Our Matchmaker** 中国——我们的大媒 / 潘维廉 / 312
6. **Albert Einstein** 爱因斯坦 / 弗雷德里·戈尔登 / 320

**附 录** 英语学习与英语人生 / 岑天佑 / 331

上 篇

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英语散文详析及其翻译







## 1. Of Studies

F. Bacon

Studies serve for delight, for ornament and for ability. Their chief use for delight, is in privateness and retiring; for ornament is in discourse; and for ability, is in the judgement and disposition of business. For expert men can execute, and perhaps judge of particulars, one by one; but the general counsels, and the plots and marshalling of affairs, come best from those that are learned. To spend too much time in studies, is sloth; to use them too much for ornament, is affectation; to make judgement only by their rules, is the humour of a scholar. They perfect nature, and are perfected by experience; for natural abilities are like natural plants, that need pruning by study; and studies themselves do give forth directions too much at large, except they be bounded in by experience. Crafty men contemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them; for they teach not their own use; but that is a wisdom without them, and above them, won by observation. Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider. Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Some books also may be read by deputy, and extracts made of them by others; but that would be only in the less important arguments, and the meaner sort of books; else distilled books are like common distilled waters, flashy things. Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man. And therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer little, he had need have a present wit; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not. Histories make men wise; poets, witty; the mathematics, subtle; natural philosophy, deep; moral, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend: Abeunt studia in mores. Nay, there is no stound nor impediment in the wit, but may be wrought out by fit studies: like as diseases of the body may have appropriate exercises. Bowling is good for the stone and reins; shooting for the lungs and breast; gentle walking for the stomach; riding for the head; and the like. So if a man's wit be wandering, let him study the mathematics; for in demonstrations, if his wit be called away never so little, he must begin again. If his wit be not apt to distinguish or find differences, let him study the schoolmen; for they are cymini sectores. If he be not apt to beat over matters, and to call up one thing to prove and illustrate another, let him study the lawyers' cases. So every defect of the mind may have a special re-





ceipt.

## 文章赏析与翻译

### Of Studies

#### 论读书

F. Bacon

弗兰西斯·培根(1561—1626),曾任英国下院议员、掌玺大臣、大法官,是著名的哲学家和散文家。他的《随笔》(1625)是英国散文史上的经典之作,篇幅虽短,但字字珠玑,睿智而富有哲理,对社会及人生的各个方面,如读书、友谊、娱乐、婚姻和家庭等提出了自己独到的见解。

Studies serve for delight, for ornament and for ability. Their chief use for delight, is in privateness and retiring; for ornament is in discourse; and for ability, is in the judgement and disposition of business. For expert men can execute, and perhaps judge of particulars, one by one; but the general counsels, and the plots and marshalling of affairs, come best from those that are learned.

### 文章赏析

serve for: to serve the purpose of, to be of service or use, function as 充当,用作。

privateness: secluded from the sight, presence, or intrusion of others 隐居,独处。retiring: shy and reserved 离群索居的,孑身独处的。discourse: verbal expression in speech or writing 论述,谈话,谈论。disposition: arrangement 安排。

**同义词辨析:**disposition 作为“性格”理解时常见同义词有 temperament character personality nature

**disposition** 表示一贯的性情和脾性,如 a sweet disposition 和柔的性情, a patronizing disposition 喜好施恩于人的性格。**temperament** 指一个人身体、情感和智力特征总和,如 a nervous temperament 易紧张的性格, her highly strung temperament 她极易激动的个性, the sanguine [phlegmatic, choleric, melancholic] temperament 多血[粘液,胆汁,忧郁]质, an artistic temperament 艺术家的气质。**character** 含有对道德和伦理上品质的强调,如 the formation of character 性格的形成, a man of character 有骨气的人。**personality** 指某

人明显特点的总和(如品质、行为、脾气、情绪和精神等)使之表现出独特个性,如 **a strong personality** 坚强的个性, **double [dual] personality** 双重人格。**nature** 指自然或天生的品质,如 **good nature** 好心肠,温和的性格,好脾气, **ill nature** 粗暴的性情,坏脾气, **human nature** 人性。

**同义词辨析:** **business** 的同义词有 **industry commerce trade traffic**

**business** 指广义的商业、金融及工业活动,如 **go into the oil business** 涉足石油贸易。**industry** 特别指大规模物品或商品的生产和制造,如 **the computer industry** 电脑行业。**commerce and trade** 指货物或商品的交换和分配,如 **foreign trade (or commerce)** 对外贸易, **the international wheat trade** 国际皮毛交易, **interstate commerce laws** 州际贸易法。**traffic** 较多应用于货物或旅客运输的商务活动,但也广泛适用于商业事务,也可用于非法交易活动,如 **to improve railway traffic** 改善铁路运输业务, **traffic in drugs** 毒品交易。

**expert men; men with much experience** 经验丰富的人。**execute; put into effect, carry out** 处理,实施。**judge of particulars; form opinions of specific matters** 就具体事物形成观点。**counsel; consultation, giving advice, planning of action** 筹策,筹划,运筹,[古]审慎,深思熟虑;**the general counsels**: 总体筹划。**plot: plan, scheme** 计划,谋划;**marshal; to arrange, to set in methodical order** 安排,使有条理;**the plots and marshalling of affairs**: 对事物进行筹划使之有条不紊。

## ..... 本段译文 .....

读书可以获得乐趣,为人添彩,增长才干。其乐趣主要体现在离群独处之时;其添彩主要表现于高谈阔论之中;而才干的生长则表现在事务的裁处之上。行家里手能对具体事务一一予以处置,或许还能判明是非,然而运筹全局、妥善谋划则饱学英才之士为最善。

To spend too much time in studies, is sloth; to use them too much for ornament, is affectation; to make judgement only by their rules, is the humour of a scholar. They perfect nature, and are perfected by experience: for natural abilities are like natural plants, that need pruning by study; and studies themselves do give forth directions too much at large, except they be bounded in by experience.

## ..... 文章赏析 .....

**sloth**: aversion to work or exertion, laziness, indolence 懒散,怠惰。**affectation**: artificiality 做作,矫揉造作,虚饰,矫情。

**同义词辨析:** **affectation** 同义词有 **pose air mannerism**

**affectation** 有言语、行为及衣着等不自然模仿的含义,如 **strip away the affectations**





and exaggerations when playing Chopin 演奏肖邦曲目时去除做作与夸张, without affectation 平实地, 直率地。pose 表示采取某种态度博得别人的良好注意或印象, 如 His modesty is only a pose. 他的谦逊只不过是一种姿态罢了。air 意味着一种鲜明但无形的品质, 如 an air of authority 一副有权威的样子, 复数时表示做作, 如 put on airs 摆架子。mannerism 指个人特有的、有时在他人看来是鲁莽的、混乱的或做作的性格, 风度或怪癖, 如 his mannerism of closing eyes when talking 说话时闭着眼睛习惯, Her weird accent is just a mannerism picked up on her visit to her friends in the countryside. 她那怪怪的口音是她拜访乡下朋友时学会的。[Antwerp mannerism 安特卫普风景画派(1510—1530), professional mannerism 专业风格。]

humour: a person's characteristic disposition or temperament 性情, 气质; the humour of a scholar: the mental peculiarity of a scholar 学究气, 书呆子气。

They perfect nature, and are perfected by experience; They (studies) improve natural abilities of people and themselves get improved by experience. 读书可以完善人们(天生的)能力, 而经验可以弥补读书的不足。

pruning; cutting off or removing the dead or living parts which are superfluous and unnecessary to improve shape, trimming 修剪。

too much at large; too general or impractical, too much at liberty 太广泛。

bounded in by experience; restricted by experience, set a limit by experience 由经验加以约束。

## ..... 本段译文 .....

读书花时过多就会懈怠; 添彩过于泛滥就显矫作; 处事只按条规是谓学究。读书弥补天生的缺陷, 经验弥补读书的不足: 人天生之才华犹如自然之花木, 需要读书学习加以修剪完善; 知识自身无边无际, 需要经验予以约束。

Crafty men condemn studies, simple men admire them, and wise men use them; for they teach not their own use; but that is a wisdom without them, and above them, won by observation. Read not to contradict and confute; nor to believe and take for granted; nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider.

## ..... 文章赏析 .....

crafty: skillful, ingenious, dexterous 熟练的, 聪明的, 巧妙的。condemn: to view with contempt, despise 侮辱, 藐视, 蔑视。

同义词比较: condemn 的常见同义词有 despise disdain scorn

**despise** incompetence 蔑视懦弱无能;

**contemned** the actions of the dictator 蔑视独裁者的法令;

**disdain** flatterers 鄙视谄媚者;

**scorn** sentimentality 嘲讽多愁善感

**难句解析:**

for they teach not their own use; but that is a wisdom without them, and above them, won by observation.

they: studies 读书, 学识; their own use: the use of studies 所读知识的运用; 因此, for they teach not their own use 可理解为: 因为读书本身并没有教所读知识的运用。that: to make good use of studies 所读知识的运用; a wisdom without them; a wisdom that lies beyond the realm of studies 在读书之外的智慧; won by observation: attainable through a keen observation 通过细心观察才能获得。后半句可理解为: 运用所读知识的智慧在于读书之外, 又高于读书本身, 要凭观察才能获得。

contradict: to assert or express the opposite of 反对, 驳斥。confute: to prove to be wrong or in error 诘难, 驳倒。weigh: ponder and evaluate 思考掂量。

## ..... 本段译文 .....

取巧者轻视读书, 无知者羡慕读书, 明智者利用读书; 因为读书本身并没有教人如何运用; 运用的智慧在于读书之外, 又高于读书本身, 要凭观察才能获得。读书时不要驳难作者, 不要轻信照搬; 也不要当作谈资加以炫耀; 而应该着意掂量, 仔细斟酌。

Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention. Some books also may be read by deputy, and extracts made of them by others; but that would be only in the less important arguments, and the meaner sort of books; else distilled books are like common distilled waters, flashy things.

## ..... 文章赏析 .....

swallow: to cause (food or drink, for example) to pass through the mouth and throat into the stomach 吞咽。chew: to bite and grind with the teeth; masticate 咀嚼, to meditate on, ponder 深思, 考虑, 如 chew a problem over 仔细思考问题。

curiously: seriously, with thoroughness and care 认真, 仔细。





deputy: a person appointed or empowered to act for another 代理; read by deputy: read with the assistance of others 请人代读。extracts: excerpts, passages taken from books 摘录。

**同义词辨析:** extract 的主要同义词有 educe elicit evoke extort

**extract** 有用力取出或抽取精华的含义, 如 extract oil from olive 从橄榄中榨油。**educe** 含有通过推理从已知的事实中引出、演绎出、推断出的意思, 如 educe an argument against a new plan 提出反对新计划的理由。**elicit** 表示通过巧妙办法或努力得出回答或真理等, 如 try in vain to elicit no smiles 试图使人发笑但没成功。**evoke** 表示通过感情上的刺激引起想像以唤起, 如 evoke great indignation 引起强烈愤慨。**extort** 有强取的意思, 即通过暴力或威胁等手段来获得, 如 extort money from an old man 向一个老人勒索钱财。

**argument:** the content or subject of books 书的内容或主题。the meaner sort of books: books of little or less value 品质较差的书。

**同义词辨析:** argument 的主要同义词有 dispute, controversy

**argument** 强调各方提出事实依据支持其论点以说服对方, 如 He is seldom swayed by others' arguments 他很少受到其他人意见的左右。**dispute** 侧重因观点矛盾而导致意见分歧, 有时暗含敌意, 如 the dispute among students about the terms of the living conditions 学生们在居住条件条款方面的争执。**controversy** 往往指非个人而是大批人在观点上存在的分歧, 如 widespread controversy over the use of nuclear power 对使用核武力的广泛争议。

**难句解析:**

but that would be only in the less important argument, and the meaner sort of books; but only books with less important subject-matter and of little value should be read by deputy and to have extracts made of them by other persons. 该句可理解为: 但这只有内容主题不甚重要和价值次等的书籍才可请人代读并取其摘要。

**distill:** to subject (a substance) to distillation 蒸馏; distilled books: books from which the better parts have been extracted 经摘录的书。flashy things: flat and tasteless things 淡而无味的东西。

## ..... 本段译文 .....

有的书可以玩味品尝, 其他书只能囫囵吞枣, 少数书则可细嚼慢咽, 消化吸收; 也就是说, 有些书只需读其部分; 有的书可以读, 但不必太认真; 但小部分书则要读得完整, 读得专心和勤奋。有些书还可以请人代劳, 取其摘要; 但这仅限于内容不甚重要以及价值次等的书籍; 如若不然, 摘录过的书犹如蒸馏过的水, 淡而无味。

Reading maketh a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man. And therefore, if a man write little, he had need have a great memory; if he confer little, he had need have a present wit; and if he read little, he had need have much cunning, to seem to know that he doth not.

## 文章赏析

full; containing all that is normal or possible, complete 充满的, 完整的; a full man; a man with a wide knowledge and complete life 具有丰富知识及完整生活的人。conference; consultation, conversation, an exchange of views 交谈, 交流。ready; prompt in apprehending or reacting, 理解或反应迅捷; a ready man; a man who can answer things readily and freely 能及时做出反应的人。an exact man; a man who speaks and writes with accuracy 表达精确的人。

write; take notes 做笔记。had need have; would need to have 需要有。confer; converse, speak, talk 交谈。present; readily available, immediate 马上可用的, 即刻的; wit; ingenuity, keenness and quickness of perception or discernment 机敏; present wit; 急智, 随机应变, 足智多谋。cunning: ① skill in deception, guile 狡诈, 诡计; ② skill or adeptness in execution or performance; dexterity 技巧熟练, 灵巧。to seem to know that he doth not; to seem to know what he does not know 显得他知道其实他不知道的东西。

**同义词比较:** confer 的同义词主要有 advise consult parley

a doctor **conferring** with a patient 医生与病人交流意见;

a headmaster **advising** with the teachers 校长同教师们商议;

has to **consult** with a doctor 不得不向医生咨询;

**parleyed** with worker representatives during the strike 罢工期间与工人代表谈判

**同义词辨析:** wit 的同义词主要有 humor repartee sarcasm irony

**wit** 暗示智力上的敏锐及洞察力, 如 living by one's wits 靠机智生活或靠耍小聪明过日子, have quick [slow] wits 机敏[迟钝], woman's wit 女人凭直觉的洞察力或机智。**humour** 暗示能认知好笑、喜剧、不和谐以及荒谬并将其表达的能力, 如 have no sense of humour 缺乏幽默感, a man of humour 富有幽默感的人。**repartee** [ˌrepaˈti:] 暗指迅速机敏巧妙应答的能力, 如 comments leaving no opening for repartee 没有反驳巧辩余地的评论。**sarcasm** 是一种以伤害或取笑另一个人为目的的挖苦式风趣: 如 squelch others with biting sarcasm 用尖刻的挖苦话语令其他人无言以对。**irony** 指以相反的字面意义表达实际意义, 如 he is uttering irony 他在说反话。

## 本段译文

读书使人完整; 交谈使人机智; 写作使人精确。因此, 如果一个人读书时不做笔记, 他需要有超凡的记忆力; 如果他少与人交流, 则需要有急智快谋; 如果他很少读书, 则需要善于灵巧应对, 以显得他见识广博。

Histories make men wise; poets, witty; the mathematics, subtle; natural philosophy, deep; moral, grave; logic and rhetoric, able to contend:







Abeunt studia in mores. Nay, there is no stond nor impediment in the wit, but may be wrought out by fit studies; like as diseases of the body may have appropriate exercises. Bowling is good for the stone and reins; shooting for the lungs and breast; gentle walking for the stomach; riding for the head; and the like. So if a man's wit be wandering, let him study the mathematics; for in demonstrations, if his wit be called away never so little, he must begin again. If his wit be not apt to distinguish or find differences, let him study the schoolmen; for they are cymini sectores. If he be not apt to beat over matters, and to call up one thing to prove and illustrate another, let him study the lawyers' cases. So every defect of the mind may have a special receipt.

### ..... 文章赏析 .....

witty: very clever and humorous, brilliant in conversation 机智风趣的, 善于言词的。subtile: old spelling for "subtle", able to see fine differences between matters 能看出事物的细微差异, 思维缜密。deep: profound, able to understand and see into the depth of matters 理解深刻。grave: dignified and somber in conduct or character 品行严肃, 正经。contend: debate, dispute 辩论。

#### 难句解析:

Histories make men wise; poets witty; the mathematics subtile; natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to contend;

Studying history makes men wise; Studying poetry makes men very bright and humorous in conversation; Studying mathematics makes men able to discern fine differences; Studying natural philosophy enables men to understand and see into the depth of matters; Studying moral philosophy makes men serious and dignified; Studying logic and rhetoric enables men to debate well.

Abeunt studia in mores; (Latin) Studies help shape one's character (拉丁文)读书陶冶人的性情。

nay: and, moreover 进一步说。stond: hindrance, drawback 阻碍, 缺陷。impediment: hindrance or obstruction 阻碍。in the wit; in the mind or intellect 在心智上。wrought out: work out 的过去分词, 产生; but may be wrought out by fit studies: but fit studies may give rise to wit 读书得当会增加智慧。like as: (archaic) as 就像; like as diseases of the body may have appropriate exercises: just as diseases of the body can be treated through appropriate exercises 就像人的疾病能通过适当的锻炼得到治疗一样。

同义词辨析: impediment 的同义词主要有 obstacle obstruction bar barrier block hindrance

obstacle 指阻碍前进因而必须清除、绕开或越过的东西或状况, 如 Her father's opposition remained only their obstacle. 她父亲的反对是他们唯一的障碍。obstruction 指使通过或前进变得困难的阻碍, 如 This sandbar turns out to be an obstruction to navigation. 这个沙洲显然是航行的阻碍物。bar and barrier 有限制或阻止进出的阻碍物的含义, 如