读名著学英语

READ & LEARN

第2辑







第2辑

LETTERS OF EMINENT PEOPLE

名人书信



总序

要认识一个国家及其文化,最好先学好该国的语言;要学好一种语言,就最好多阅读该种语言的经典作品。孔子曾说过:"不学诗,无以言",这是因为经典作品不但语言运用精炼,而且还生动反映人类的历史、文化和智慧。

学校老师和家长常常对学生谈到提高英语水平的重要性,但 学生却往往未能刻意培养良好的阅读习惯,也未必懂得接触优良的 英语读物。针对这种情况,《读名著学英语》系列挑选了一些英语名 著,配以中文翻译,介绍给年青读者。透过轻松有趣的阅读,读者 可以初步接触世界名著,开始欣赏英语文学作品,从中学习实用的 英语,增强对英语的鉴赏能力,进而能较好地运用英语。

本系列书精选英语名著作品,加上一些生词解释,使读者无需处处翻查词典,影响阅读兴致。同时每篇配上中文译文,帮助读者对原文正确理解。此外,还附有题解说明,介绍作品主旨、背景、寓意以及修辞特色等。英语学习部分,选出原文中较实用的词汇和句式,介绍其现代用法。我们的目的,是希望达到"阅读名著,学好英语"的效果。

商务印书馆(香港)有限公司

体例说明

本系列书的每一篇包括五个部分:正文、生词、中译、题解("原来如此")和英语学习("增值英语");有些还介绍英语修辞,或加插谚语或名句,后者适合熟读后应用。

正文:正文是英文原著选段,除极少数古英文字外,尽量保留原著特色。文中的号码(如 ①、②、③)代表"增值英语"栏内的项目编码。

生词:为了减少读者阅读正文时查字典的时间,每篇都设少量生词释义,而这些释义都是该词语在文中的正确含义,可能与字典的一般解释有别。

中译:每篇设有中文翻译,帮助读者正确理解文意及提供优 秀的译文供欣赏。

"原来如此":主要介绍文章主旨、背景、寓意、修辞特色或有关语言知识,协助读者欣赏原文。

"增值英语":从原文中选出实用的词句,介绍其语法结构和现代用法,并列出例句作应用示范。

本系列书采用的一般英语语法术语,缩写如下:

n = noun (名词)

pron = pronoun (代词)

v = verb (动词)

to-v = "to" infinitive
 (带 to 不定式)

v-ing = gerund / present
participle (动词的 -ing
形式)

adj = adjective (形容词) adv = adverb (副词) prep = preposition (介词)
conj = conjunction (连词)
int = interjection (感叹词)
subj = subject (主语)
obj = object (宾语)
phr = phrase (短语)
that-clause (由 that 引出的
从句)
sb = somebody (某人)

sth = something (某事 / 物)

阅读与学习

要学好一种语言,最好的方法是常听、常讲、常读和常写。 这里谈谈如何"读"英文。

阅读的方法主要有两种:一是泛读,一是精读,二者相辅相成。

泛读

泛读指阅读大量适合自己程度(可稍浅,但不能过深),同时 又感兴趣的读物(如课外书、报章、杂志等);最好是包括不同内 容、风格、体裁的读物(如故事、报道、评论等)。

泛读时只需快速浏览,但求明白文字的大意,满足好奇心、 求知欲,所以不用查字典,不用花费很多时间、气力,而是要把阅 读看成一种乐趣。

泛读的主要作用是多接触英语,减轻对它的陌生感及抗拒, 并巩固以前所见过、学过的英语。不过,每星期只泛读几篇文章, 每学期只泛读几本课外书是不够的,每星期要能够泛读十多篇,每 学期读十多本才有效。

精读

精读首先是指仔细阅读一些内容精彩(指内容健康、言之有物)、组织有条理(指铺排有序,段落和段落、句子和句子互相呼应)、遭词造句又正确(指句法和词汇准确传意)的文章(本系列的精选篇章都能达到这些要求),较深入去理解该文章的内容意义,欣赏其动人的地方。

其次就是刻意学习有用的英语词汇及语法。可把生词的基本意义用字典查出来(像本书每篇都有的生词注释),或将一些有趣实用的词汇、句子结构用笔记簿记下来(像本书"增值英语"一栏的做法),又或者将自己的感想写下来(像本书"原来如此"一栏的做法,最好能够用英文写出)。

精读所需的时间较多,但值得做,每星期能够精读一篇文章,相信已经不错。精读后,可再花十分钟朗读其中一小段有趣的文字,边念边再进一步领会文字的结构、意思。这是学习英语的一个有效方法。

阅读是语文教育和知识教育的一个重要部分,因为知识主要是透过语言传播的。有人会说没有时间看课外书,其实时间是要分配恰当才能充分利用的。把阅读看成娱乐,变成习惯,就是一种轻松自然,不觉费时的学习。要把英语学好,持之以恒地泛读和精读英文是最有效的方法。

前言

关于书信对人生的意义,法国启蒙运动思想家伏尔泰(Voltaire)说得最贴切、最简洁。他说:"书信是生命的安慰"。 热恋中的情侣们,收到自己心上人的情书时,会感到如饮琼浆,甜美无比;朋友间的书信——有的在学习中互相切磋琢磨,有的在困厄中互相帮助支持,有的探索人生奥秘,有的倾诉心头烦恼——无不给人以莫大乐趣和快慰。这种经验每个人在生命过程中或多或少都经历过吧。虽说如今时兴以电子邮件(e-mail)沟通,但不少人总觉得跟用心用手一笔一划写出来的不一样,好像欠了一点诚意、一点心思。

本书中这些信的作者都是历史上颇有代表性的人物。他们或对文学,或对艺术,或对宗教,或对政治……各有其伟大的贡献。 然而,我们对他们的内心世界,对他们一生中伟大贡献以外的方面,又有多少了解呢?

例如人所共知的意大利艺术家达芬奇 (Leonardo da Vinci),许多人衷心赞美他笔下不朽的画作,却不知道他在微时要依靠自荐书"推销"自己的才华:他自我介绍称可以造出新式大炮与战车等等。后世的研究证明,他并非在"放空炮",他确实是多方位的天才!再如富兰克林 (Benjamin Franklin),身为美国政治家,在私人信件中大谈婚姻之道以至婚外情之道,时时语出反讽,意在规劝青年,可谓用心良苦。还有一些信,直接反映出伟人最为人熟知的性格,如美国第一任总统华盛顿 (George Washington) 的忠诚,英国诗人济慈 (John Keats) 的浪漫。

本书收入的11封信,写作年份跨越了许多个世纪。读者在阅

读时,固然可以吸收其中有趣的英语语文知识,同时,也可以对不同的历史时期、不同的社会和不同的历史人物增进认识,还可以了解信的写法与结构。当然,一定更可以享受到伟人们生花妙笔带来的趣味。

李美瑜

目 录

总月	予 	III
体包	列说明	IV
阅读与学习		. V
前言VII		
1	Agrippina's Appeal to Nero	1
2	Saint Jerome to a Friend	7
3	Leonardo da Vinci to the Duke of Milan	15
4	Benjamin Franklin to a Young Friend	22
5	Ludwig van Beethoven to His Brothers	31
6	John Keats to Fanny Brawne	40
7	Abraham Lincoln to John D. Johnston	48
8	Sarah Bernhardt to Victorien Sardou	55
9	Henri Poincaré and Marie Curie's Recommendation Letter	
	for Albert Einstein	59
10	Captain Robert Falcon Scott to the British Public	63
11	H. L. Mencken to Will Durant	71

1 Agrippina's Appeal to Nero

Don't you know, my son, the affection all mothers naturally bear their children? Our love is unbounded, incessantly fed by • that tenderness unknown to all but ourselves. Nothing should be more dear to us than what we have bought with the risk of our lives; nothing more precious than what we have endured such grief and pain to procure. These are so acute and unbearable that if it were not for the vision of a successful birth, which makes us forget our agonies, generation would soon cease.

Do you forget that nine full months I carried you in my womb and nourished you with • my blood? How likely is it, then, that I would destroy the dear child who cost me so much anguish to bring into the world? It may be that the just gods were angry at my excessive love of you, and used this way to punish me.

Unhappy Agrippina! You are suspected of ② a crime of which nobody could really think you guilty.... What does the title of empress mean to me, if I am accused of a crime that even the basest of women would abhor? Unhappy are those who breathe the air of the court. The wisest of people are not secure from storms in that harbor. There even a calm is dangerous. But why blame

the court? Can that be the cause of my being suspected of parricide?...

Tell me, why should I plot against your life? To plunge myself into 3 a worse fate? That's not likely. What hopes could induce me to build upon your downfall? I know that the lust for empire often corrupts the laws of nature; that justice has no sword to punish those who offend in this way; and that ambition disregards wrong so long as it succeeds in its aim.... Nay, to what deity could I turn for absolution after I had committed so black a deed? ...

What difficulties have I not surmounted to crown your brow with laurels? But I insult your gratitude by reminding you of my services. My innocence ought not to defend itself but to rely wholly on your justice.

Farewell.



incessantly adv 不断地 endure v 忍受 procure v 取得 agony n 痛苦 anguish n 煎熬 abhor v 痛恨 parricide n 弑 (君、长辈) induce v 促使
lust n 欲望
nay = no
deity n 神祇
absolution n 赦罪
surmount v 克服
laurels n 桂冠;荣誉

儿啊,难道你不知道:每个母亲对自己的儿女都有一种天性的爱吗?母爱是无边无际的,不断得到只有我们自己才能理解的那种柔情的滋养。对做母亲的来说,人世间没有什么比我们冒着生命危险换取来的孩子更亲的了;没有什么比我们担惊受苦而后得到的东西更宝贵的了。我们的忧虑和痛苦剧烈得难以忍受,如果不是抱着顺利生产的希望(它使我们忘却痛楚),传宗接代的事就会立即终止。

难道你不记得,我怀你在身足足九个月之久,用我的血液滋养着你吗?因此,说我会害死自己受尽磨难才生出来的儿子,有这样的可能吗?也许是公正的神明因我对你溺爱过甚而震怒,才用这种办法来惩罚我吧。

苦命的亚格利琵娜呀!你被怀疑犯下了一宗没有谁真正相信你会犯的罪……。如果我被控犯下这宗连最下贱的女人都痛恨的罪,那末,太后的名位对我还有什么意义呢?生活在宫廷里的人多么不幸啊。即使是大智大慧的人也躲不过这海港中的风暴。在那里,连风平浪静的时刻也不安全。然而,为什么要埋怨宫廷呢?宫廷会是我被怀疑犯下了弑君之罪的根由吗?

告诉我,我为什么要谋害你呢?为了使自己陷入厄运吗?那不大可能吧。要是你覆灭,我有什么好处呢?我知道篡位的野心往往会使人伤天害理,而法律又无权惩办这类罪犯。我也知道,野心家为了达到目的,是不择手段的……。然而,如若我犯下了这种恶毒的罪,我还能到哪个神祇面前去乞求宽赦呢?……

为了使你登上王位,我什么苦难没有经历过?但我对你这样表功,岂非玷辱了你的感恩之心?我不该为自己的清白申辩,应该完全信赖你的公正。

再见



原来如此!

尼禄 (Nero, 37-68) 凭母亲亚格利琵娜 (Agrippina, 15-59) 之助,于公元54年继位为罗马帝国皇帝。后来,尼禄的情妇诬告亚格利琵娜意欲谋害尼禄,这是亚格利琵娜被拘后的自辩书。尼禄终不为所动,于 59 年下令将母亲处死。

作者指出做母亲的种种滋味,由怀胎至养育儿子所承受的忧虑和痛楚,更怀疑是否因溺爱尼禄而引致上天以儿子对付她为惩罚。描述过做母亲患得患失的感受后,作者说明自己完全不可能,也没有任何野心去谋害君王,强调自己不会伤天害理,言词十分激动。



妙笔生花

★ I - You (你我) 直接对话式,表现亲切,诚恳:

Don't you know, my son...?

Do *you* forget that nine full months *I* carried *you* in *my* womb and nourished *you* with *my* blood?

※ 设问 (rhetorical questions): 一连串的问题,像在法庭辩护律师的反问,目的在促使尼禄三思而回心转意:

But why blame the court? / Can that be the cause of...parricide? / Why should I plot against your life? / What hopes could induce me to build upon your downfall? / to what deity could I turn...? What difficulties have I not surmounted...?

- ★ 用第三者来称呼自己以增强戏剧化效果: Unhappy Agrippina! you are suspected of a crime ...
- 常 用形容词的最高级 (superlative) 作强调: the basest of women / the wisest of people
- 用不同的词语来表达不同程度的痛苦:
 grief(悲伤); pain(痛楚); agony(极大痛苦 肉体及心灵的); anguish(心灵的痛苦、煎熬)
 描述这些痛苦,用了so acute and unbearable that...



增值英语

- Our love is...fed by that tenderness | I ...nourished you with my blood...
 - is fed by... 解"由···供给(滋养、资源)": is nourished with 解"由···培育、滋养",都是被动式。可以说 sth is fed by love, fed by greed, fed by hatred: sth is nourished with love, with care 等。

Children *nourished with* love usually grow up to be positive and optimistic. 以爱心培育的儿童长大后通常是积极的、乐观的。

Fed by greed, he began to receive bribes. 受贪念驱使·他开始收取贿款。

fed up (with sb / sth) 则解"(对某人 / 事物) 受够了,不耐烦了":
I am **fed up** with exam drills. 我对考试练习受够了。
The people are **fed up** with lying politicians. 人们对说谎的政客烦

透了。

- 2 You are suspected of a crime...
 - **5式** suspect sb of sth 解"怀疑某人做了某事":

The police $\it suspected$ him $\it of$ shoplifting. 警方怀疑他犯了店铺盗窃罪。

fix suspect sth 则解"怀疑某事物":

I suspect his honesty. 我怀疑他的诚信。

suspect that-clause 有正负两面用法,可解"怀疑是…",也可解 "感到是…":

She *suspects* (*that*) he is a hacker. 她怀疑他是个电脑"黑客"。
I *suspect* (*that*) you are right. 我觉得你是对的。

suspect 可作名词,重音第一音节,解"嫌疑人物":

The police found their suspect for the murder. 警方找到了谋杀案的疑犯。

- To plunge myself into a worse fate?
 - plunge into / to 解 "急坠、直落某地方 / 情况"。注意用 into 一般偏重 "进入某地方" 或 "急速陷入某境界" 的意味,而 to 则偏重 "境况急转" 的意味,二者不能掉换使用:

The car *plunged* into a ravine. 汽车直堕深谷里。

The man $\it plunged$ to his death by jumping from the top of the building. 那男子由屋顶跳下,堕楼身亡。

The city was **plunged** into total darkness owing to a power failure. 由于电力故障·全城陷入漆黑一片。

The stock market **plunged** to an all-time low in the wake of the economic crisis. 股市随着经济危机急跌至历年新低点。

2 Saint Jerome to a Friend

I shudder when I think of the calamities of our time. For twenty years the blood of Romans has been shed daily between Constantinople and the Alps. Scythia, Thrace, Macedon, Thessaly, Dacia, Achaea, Epirus — all these regions have been sacked and pillaged by Goths and Alans, Huns and Vandals. How many noble and virtuous women have been made the sport ① of these beasts! Churches have been overthrown, horses stalled in the holy places, the bones of the saints dug up and scattered.

Indeed, the Roman world is falling; yet we still hold up our heads instead of bowing them. The East, indeed, seemed to be free from these perils; but now, in the year just past, the wolves of the North have been let loose from their remotest fastnesses, and have overrun great provinces. They have laid siege to Antioch, and invested cities that were once the capitals of no mean 2 states.

Non mihi si linguae centum sint oraque centum, Ferrea vox, omnes scelerum comprendere formas, Omnia poenarum percurrere nomine possim.*

Well may we be unhappy, for it is our sins that have made the barbarians strong; as in the days of Hezekiah, so today is God using the fury of the barbarians to execute His fierce anger. Rome's army, once the lord of the world, trembles today at sight of the foe. Who will hereafter believe that Rome has to fight now within her own borders, not for glory but for life? and, as the poet Lucan says, "If Rome be weak, where shall strength be found?"

And now a dreadful rumor has come to hand.
Rome has been besieged, and its citizens have been forced to buy off their lives with gold. My voice cleaves to my throat; sobs choke my utterance. The city which had taken the whole world captive is itself taken. Famine too has done its awful work.

The world sinks into ruin; all things are perishing save our sins; these alone flourish. The great city is

shudder v 不寒而栗 calamities n 灾难 Constantinople 古代土耳其首都, 今名伊斯坦布尔(Istanbul) Scythia...Epirus 古罗马帝国的各个 部分,相当于现代意大利南部、希腊、 巴尔干半岛、土耳其等地部分地区 sack v 掠夺 pillage v 蹂躏 Goths 日耳曼人的一支 Alans 古代高加索以东地区民族 Huns 匈奴人 Vandals 东日耳曼族 stall v 放置 peril n 危险 fastness n 据点 overrun v 侵占

siege n 围困 Antioch 小亚细亚古城,在今土耳其境内 invest [旧] v 包围,封锁 mean adj 细小的;卑微的 *这里的拉丁文原文出自罗马诗人弗吉尔 (Virgil, 70-19 BC) 所作的史诗《埃涅伊德》 (Aeneid) 第四卷625至627行。 Hezekiah 犹太国王 (715?-687? BC) hereafter adv 此后 Lucan 罗马诗人 (39-65 AD) besiege v 围困 cleave v 黏着 utterance n 话语 captive n 被俘者 famine n 饥馑 perish v 灭亡