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Reading Course in American & British News Publications

(普及本)

主编◎端木义万

文化顾问

James R. Jackson [美]

Elaine S. Jackson [美]

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Reading Course in American & British News Publications 新编美英报刊阅读教程

(普及本)

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前 言

我所编著的《美英报刊阅读教程》(南京大学出版社,1994),承蒙广大读者厚爱,迄今已连续印刷 15 次。自该书出版以来,就有不少读者来信建议我编一本阅读外报外刊方面较为易读的教材。而近几年来,外报外刊凭其语言文化方面的鲜明特点,已成为学习、掌握现代英语的重要工具,广大英语学习者也确实需要一本难度适宜的外刊教材。这些原因使我萌生了编著这本《新编美英报刊阅读教程》(普及本)的想法。

这本书的选材始于数年前,在大量资料基础上,我经过反复筛选,从多种国外报刊上精心挑出30篇体裁多样、内容典型、语言上乘、题材广泛、知识丰富、时效较长的文章,采用以专题为线的作法,组成10个单元,力求能基本覆盖英美报刊阅读过程中会碰到的各种语言现象,反映现代英语的主要特点,并借此来提高广大英语学习者的英语阅读能力。

然而,再好的工具不掌握使用技巧也无法取得良好效果。根据多年教学体会,笔者认为,要想步入外报外刊轻松自如的阅读境界,必须在熟悉外报外刊特色和规律的基础上,过好语言和文化两关:

- 报刊英语在标题、篇章结构、句式和用词等方面有其自身特色,不了解这些特色会构成一大障碍。
- 语言与文化密切相关:语言反映文化,文化影响语言。许多语言理解困难根源不在语言本身,而在文化方面。不熟悉美英文化会形成一大障碍。

为了帮助读者逾越这两大障碍,本书在每篇课文之后特设"文化介绍(Background Information)"和"语言简说(Language Features)"两个栏目。

- "文化介绍"栏目简要而系统地提供与文章相关的社会文化知识,旨在帮助读者加深对课文的理解,拓宽知识面,减少阅读时在背景方面所遇到的困难。
- "语言简说"栏目结合课文语言介绍新闻英语特色,融入了笔者多年来在报刊英语研究方面取得的成果,意在使读者熟悉外报外刊语言的规律和特点,提高英语阅读水平。

此外,为了帮助学生提高外刊阅读水平,每篇课文之后还设有以下四个项目:

- New Words(课文单词)
- Notes to the Text(难点注释)
- Analysis of the Content(阅读理解)
- Questions on the Article(问题思考)

特别要提出的是,在"单词注释"中,本书中每个单词都作了统一的难度注明:大学四级词汇标为※,六级词汇标为▲,六级以上的词汇标记为◆,以方便学生更好地熟知词汇的运用知识。



该书文化内容注释方面得到我在美国北卡罗莱纳大学访学期间所结识的 James R. Jackson 和 Elaine S. Jackson 两位好友的全力帮助。在资料收集方面得到端木栋林先生和郭荣娣女士的大力支持。沈虹同志承担打字编排工作。

在此,谨向他们致以诚挚谢意。

主编 端木义万 2004 年 12 月

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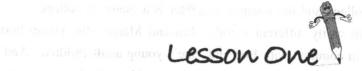
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第一单元 社会群体



Boomers¹ Can't Be Lumped into a Single Generation 要儿潮"时期业生者不能笼统归为一代

By Bernard Starr



Watch out, the boomers are coming. That's the warning sounded by demographers, economists, sociologists, psychologists and others alerting us to the huge generation of baby boomers—77 million strong—now approaching retirement².

Will society, they ask, be able to withstand the assault on fragile programs like Social Security and Medicare³?

But is it an army at all⁴? Here are the profiles of two boomer couples. What do they have in common?

At 34, Jim is still at the beginning of his career at a high-tech company. His 34-year-old wife, Marge, just gave birth to their first child. Marge plans to be mommy-at-home for two years before she gets her career in investment banking back on track⁵. They wonder how they'll handle the finances without Marge's income, and they worry about saving for



education.

Jane, 50, is a teacher and her husband, Bob, is 52. He's been at his job in advertising for 27 years and is thinking of retiring before he gets "downsized". Their oldest daughter, Susan, just graduated from college and the younger daughter is a junior in college.

These two couples live in vastly different worlds. Jim and Marge—the young boomer couple—probably have more in common with Bob and Jane's young adult children. And Jim and Marge's parents, in their mid-60s and recently retired, would surely have a lot to talk about with Bob and Jane.

Yet these two profiled couples⁶ are called baby boomers—part of one generation. Does that make any sense⁷?

True, they were products of a post-World War II birth-rate explosion—from 1946 to 1964—that peaked in 1957 with 3. 7 births per woman⁸. But the 34 ~ 52-year-old boomers span many religions, ethnic groups, educational backgrounds and socioeconomic levels, representing a wide range of needs, interests, planning, lifestyles and dreams⁹.

To talk about one entity of 77 million boomers for social and financial policy makes about as much sense as coming up with a single life plan for our two couples¹⁰. One size will not fit all. The boomers are no army. They surely don't march to a single drum beat¹¹.

As the boomers cross senior line¹², older Americans will begin to evolve into the largest group in society for the first time.

But each incoming wave will be different. The precise shape of those differences is the challenge for policy-makers. It's the pressing task that lies beyond the war cry¹³, "The boomers are coming".

(Starr is a psychologist-gerontologist at Marymount Manhattan College)

Scripps Howard News Service

可. New Words 课文单词

※lump [lʌmp] v. to consider different things as a single group 把……归为

一类

◆demographer [dr'mogrəfə] n. 人口统计学家

◆psychologist [sar'kplədʒist] n. 心理学家

※approach [ə'prəut∫] v. to come nearer to 接近,临近

▲assault [ə'sɔːlt] n. to attack in a violent way 攻击,袭击

▲ fragile ['frædʒaɪl] adj. easily damaged, spoilt, or destroyed 脆弱的

※profile ['prəufaɪl] n. a short description 要介绍



◆high-tech [ˌhaɪ'tek] adj. using high technology 高技术的

♦ downsize ['daunsaiz] v. to reduce the number of people it employs in order to

reduce costs 裁员,精简机构

※peak [pi:k] v. to reach the highest point or level 达到高峰

※span [spæn] v. to include 包括

♦ ethnic ['eθnik] adj. connected with a particular race, nation, or tribe and

their customs and traditions 种族的

◆socioeconomic [səusɪəuekə'nɒmɪk] adj. 社会经济的

 \triangle entity ['entiti] n. something that exists as a single and complete unit 实体,

独立存在体

※senior ['si:niə] adj. older 较年长的,年高的

※evolve [1'volv] v. to develop by gradually changing 逐步形成,发展成

◆incoming ['ɪnkʌmɪŋ] adj. (only before noun) arriving or coming in 正来临的

◆gerontologist [,dʒeron'tolədʒist] n. 老人学家

可. Notes to the Text 难点注释



- 1. Boomers: 又称 baby boomers。参见本文"文化介绍"。
- 2. That's the warning sounded by ... alerting us to the huge generation of baby boomers—77 million strong now approaching retirement. 这是人口统计学家、经济学家、心理学家和其他一些人发出的警告,使我们关注到婴儿潮代——一个拥有七千七百万巨大人口数目的一代即将退休。(① alert sb. to sth. to make someone notice something important or dangerous;②77 million strong The word strong is used to give the number of people in an organization or a crowd)
- 3. Will society be able to withstand the assault on fragile programs like Social Security and Medicare? 我们社会像社会保障与医疗照顾这类脆弱的福利计划能否经受得起冲击? (①Medicare system by which the US government helps to pay for the medical treatment of old people;②Social Security a system of insurance run by the American government into which workers make regular payments, and which provides money when they are unable to work, especially because they are old ③由于美国人口日趋老年化,社会福利开支负担不断加重。1965 年美国老年人的养老金与医疗项目所占国民生产总值(GNP)比例为4.4%,但到1990年已猛增到9.7%。据美国社会学家分析,到婴儿潮代全部进入退休时期,老年人将占全国人口的21%,美国将出现"失衡现象"(topheaviness)。到那时,老年人养老金和医疗项目将占国民生产总值的14.5%!显然,这种负担是美国经济难以承受的。)



- 4. But is it an army at all? 但是它到底是不是一个大的群体? (army a large number of people bearing similarity in some respects)
 - 5. get back on track:使……回到正常轨道上
- 6. these two profiled couples. 这两对简要介绍的夫妇(profile to write or give a short description of someone or something)
 - 7. make sense to have a good reason or explanation
- 8. ... that peaked in 1957 with 3.7 births per woman. 在 1957 年达到最高峰,平均每个妇女生育 3.7 个孩子。
- 9. But the 34~52-year-old boomers span many religions, ethnic groups, educational backgrounds and socioeconomic levels, representing a wide range of needs, interests, planning, lifestyles and dreams. 但是由34岁到52岁的人组成的婴儿潮代有着许多种不同宗教、种族群体、教育背景、社会经济水准,并且代表了广泛各异的需求、兴趣、计划、生活方式和梦想。
- 10. To talk about . . . for our two couples. 将七千七百万人看作一个整体来为他们制定社会、金融政策,就像为这两对夫妇制定同一个生活计划一样,不合情理。
- 11. They surely don't march to a single drum beat. 字面意义为:他们肯定不会按照一个鼓点前进,即:他们不会步调一致(亦即:不会乐于接受完全一样的政策)。
 - 12. to cross the senior line to become old
- 13. It's the pressing task that lies beyond the war cry, "The boomers are coming". 这是急需要办的事,仅仅吶喊"嬰儿潮代人来啦!"是无法奏效的。(pressing: needing to be dealt with very soon; urgent)

可可. Background Information 文化介绍



战后七代人

美国内战后出生的几代人分别是:传教士一代(Missionary Generation)、迷惘的一代(Lost Generation)、大兵一代(GI Generation)、沉默的一代(Silent Generation)、婴儿潮代(Boom Generation)、第十三代(Thirteenth Generation)、千年的一代(Millennial Generation)。他们身上深深地打上了美国内战后各个时期的烙印。

代	传教士一代	迷惘的一代	大兵一代	沉默的一代	婴儿潮代	第十三代	千年一代
类型	理想型	反叛型	公民型	适应型	理想型	反叛型	公民型
出生 时间	1860 ~ 1882	1883 ~ 1900	1901 ~ 1924	1925 ~ 1942	1943 ~ 1960	1961 ~ 1981	1982 ~ 2003

(续表)

代	传教士一代	迷惘的一代	大兵一代	沉默的一代	婴儿潮代	第十三代	千年一代
时间跨度	23 年	18 年	24 年	18年	18 年	21 年	22 年
总人数	4,500万	4,500万	6,300万	4,900万	7,700万	9,300万	7,600万
现有人数	0.3万	1,100万	2,900万	4,000 万	6,900万	7,900万	7,600 万
移民比例	23%	21%	9%	9%	10%	11%	12%
代表人物	爱因斯坦	海明威	肯尼迪 里根 迪斯尼	罗斯福 路徳・金 蒙代尔	克林顿 金・里奇	泰森	

20世纪30年代经济大萧条以及随后的二战期间,许多美国妇女没有结婚,或者成婚很晚。战后,随着数百万退伍士兵回国,美国的出生率猛增。1957年,美国的出生率 (birth rate)达到最高点,全年共出生了430万婴儿,比1945年多150万。

美国不同时期出生率对比表

年 代	大萧条时期	'47~'50年	'60 年	'64 年	'93 年
出生率	18%	25%	23.7%	21%	15.5%

美国的报刊杂志上,可以看到婴儿潮代人各种各样的别称:注重现在的一代(Now Generation)、以我为中心的一代(Me Generation)、动辄抗议的一代(Protest Generation)、追随斯波克大夫的一代(Spock Generation)(斯波克大夫著有《育婴常识》,反越战)、越战的一代(Vietnam Generation)、伍德斯托克一代(The Woodstock Generation)(摇滚史上的一次盛会)、摇滚的一代(Rock Generation)。

据报道,这代人中40%吸过大麻;27%曾效仿嬉皮士的装扮;16%参加过反战和民权运动;10%练瑜伽、静坐或迷信东方的宗教;5%尝试过群居生活。这代人开始进入美国的领导阶层。1992年,二战后出生的克林顿击败了大兵一代的布什,入主白宫。



报刊英语



刊是大众传媒(Mass Media),写作必须适合广大读者水平,语言必须通俗易懂。报业十分珍惜版面,读者看报珍惜时间,这就迫使新闻写作人员养成文字简洁的风格。

报刊面临电视、广播、网络传媒的巨大挑战,要稳住报业市场就得加强趣味性,因而新闻报道必须写得生动有趣。

新闻报道在提供最新消息的同时也传播了相关的新词。此外,不少新闻写作人员为 了增加文章的吸引力,在语言上刻意求新,因而新闻英语具有新颖活泼的特色。

客观性是纯新闻报道所遵循的准则,没有客观性报道就要丢掉可信性,也就会失去 读者。客观性要求新闻报道文字准确具体,避免使用情感词语和夸张手法。

初读美英报刊的人往往会遇到很多困难。之所以如此,主要是因为他们对报刊英语特点了解不够。譬如,新闻标题短小精悍,在句式和用词上都有相应的省略手段。又如,新闻报道为了节约篇幅,采用一系列手段浓缩、精炼句式。较常见的有前置定语、名词、身份同位语前置、词性转化、借代、缩略词等。再如,为使语言生动、活泼,报刊常常使用比喻和成语活用手段。新闻刊物不仅是报道新闻的媒介,而且是"使用新词的庞大机器和杜撰新词的巨大工厂"。这些特点会给读者带来理解上的困难。新闻报道结构有其自身特色,报刊中许多词语具有特定文化内涵。不了解这些情况,便会构成理解障碍。

(1). Analysis of the Content 阅读理解



1.	According	to	the	author,	
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- a. boomers can be seen as one entity
- b. boomers were born during the second World War
- c. boomers live in vastly different worlds
- d. boomers will all get retired soon
- 2. Which statement is Not true?
 - a. The differences between boomers will have an impact on policy-making.
 - b. The differences between boomers are reflected on many aspects.
 - c. The differences between boomers are often overlooked by some people.
 - d. The differences between boomers actually have little significance.

3.	The phrase "get downsized" in paragra	aph 5 means:	
	a. get unemployed	b. get smaller in size	
	c. become old	d. become lower in position	
4.	According to the article, the year of _	witnessed the highest birth	rate.
	a. 1946 b. 1957	c. 1964 d. 1960	



(1991. Questions on the Article 问题思考



- 1. Why are social scientists deeply worried about the approaching retirement of baby boomers?
- 2. Can baby boomers be regarded as one entity? Give the reasons for your answer.
- 3. What are the differences between the lifestyles of the two boomer couples described in the article?
- 4. What does the author mean by "they surely don't march to a single drum beat"?



Mingling Bloodlines Isn't Answer —Interracial Marriages Aren't Solution to Bridging Race Gap. 1 道婚不是消除种族隔阂之法

are a tree yearne verific and means confin By Eric Liu and



Sometimes, as my wife and I walk down the street, we'll notice a couple coming the other way. We won't do anything to indicate that we've seen them. We won't make eye contact². But immediately after they pass, Carroll and I will give each other a nudge.

"BRC," we'll whisper. As in "biracial couple." 3

Now, this may sound a little odd. Or unduly color-conscious. ⁴ Or maybe even prejudiced. But you see, it isn't with disapproval that we notice BRCs. After all, we are one. Carroll is Scotch-Irish and Jewish; I am Chinese. And we are conscious of other mixed couples—we practically tally them up⁵—because there's something undeniably satisfying about encountering fellow trespassers of the color line. ⁶

For one thing, there's a sense of solidarity, the feeling that this other couple might know, on some level, how we relate to the world. There's also, I have to say, a sense of confidence, perhaps even smugness—a feeling that we are the wave of the future, ahead of