

A WORLD OF CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH

英语阅读

前线

● 谢东海 钟书能 主编



广东高等教育出版社

H319.4
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英语阅读前线

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广东高等教育出版社

2002·广州

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英语阅读前线/谢东海, 钟书能主编. —广州: 广东高等教育出版社,
2003. 3

ISBN 7-5361-2703-0

I. 英… II. ①谢… ②钟… III. 英语-语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2002) 第 057129 号

广东高等教育出版社出版发行

地址: 广州市天河区林和西横路

邮编: 510076 电话: (020) 87553335

广东邮电南方彩色印务有限公司印刷

开本: 787 毫米×960 毫米 1/16 13.25 印张 240 千字

2002 年 10 月第 1 版 2003 年 3 月第 2 次印刷

印数: 6 001 ~ 11 000 册

定价: 18.00 元

前 言

进入 21 世纪, 打造这个时期最为明显的时代特征是什么呢? 毫无疑问是“与时俱进”。我们组织几位高校骨干教师编写的《英语阅读前线》便是对“与时俱进”最积极的呼应了。

《英语阅读前线》的材料均选自国外的书刊杂志和国际互联网, 基本保持原貌。这里选用的 52 篇文章可以说是短小精悍、题材广泛、逸趣横生, 最为广泛和及时地反映了人类进入 21 世纪以来在生活、工作、教育、心理、健康保健、运动娱乐、科技等方面的发展。很多文章的内容对许多读者来说恐怕不会陌生, 有些甚至还耳熟能详。带着“似曾相识”的感觉读英语原文有利于读者树立阅读信心和提高阅读兴趣, 最终掌握英语阅读的技巧。考虑到不同读者群之间的英语水平差异, 编者在每篇文章前编写了很精致的中文导读, 简明扼要地介绍了文章的精华所在; 在文章中出现的一些可能会影响阅读的词汇和句子结构均作了注释; 每篇文章后附有阅读理解练习题, 以检验阅读技巧的掌握程度。

编者在这里要特别说明的是, 本书不仅适合中学生、大学生, 而且同样适合广大英语爱好者, 甚至大学教授, 因为本书是一本百科全书式的英语读本。例如, 我们可能都大致记得阿富汗的塔里班政府毁灭巴米杨千年立佛像这一事件, 但要细说还可能真有困难呢! 有了这本小百科全书式的英语读本, 你会很方便地查到这一历史事件。另外, 本书还可以当作英语写作和英语口语练习的重要参考资料。只要熟悉了本书的各种题材, 写作时你就可以做到下笔如有神了。同样, 熟读这 50 来篇文章后, 你也不愁开口没料了。

本书由留美学者谢东海先生和英语博士研究生钟书能副教授负责主编。参与本书编写的还有英语副教授陈一丹、惠幼莲、张苑红和林玮生以及英语讲师郭静妆和杨振兴等。林红和简小屏两位老师热心地为我们提供了一些非常优美的材料; 广东外师的李曲生校长对我们的编写工作自始至终都给予大力的支持; 前来广州任教的外籍教师 Welch Kant 和 Elizabeth Daisy 热情地审阅了部分书稿。我们对这些大力支持编写工作的老师表示诚挚的感谢。

由于编者水平有限, 书中缺点和疏漏在所难免, 敬请读者指正为盼。

编 者
2002 年 8 月

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教育与学习

Education & Learning

American Classroom Customs

美国课堂“习俗”知多少

【导读】小小的美国课堂规范,映射着整个美国的习俗文化。本文告诉你在美国上课如何提问、怎样请假、怎样称呼老师等行为规范,为你提供了一幅异域他乡校园课堂习俗的风景画。

If the teacher asks a question, you are expected to give an answer. If you do not understand the question, you should raise your hand and ask the teacher to repeat the question. If you do not know the answer, it is all right to tell the teacher that you do not know. Then he or she knows what you need to learn.

There is no excuse for not doing your homework. If you are absent, you should call your teacher or someone who is in your class and ask for the assignment. It is your responsibility to find out what assignments you have missed. It is not the teacher's responsibility to remind you of missed assignments.

You must not be absent on a test day. If you are seriously ill, call and let the teacher know you will not be there for the test. If your teacher allows make-up tests^①, you should take the test within one or two days after returning to class. Serious illness is the only reason for missing a test.

Be on time! It is considered rude to be late. Also, it bothers other students. If you must come in late, be sure to do it quietly. Have your books and papers out of your bag before you come into the room. Then go to your seat and sit quietly. In the U.S., it is not necessary to knock before you enter the classroom. Most of the teachers will give you a low grade if you are often late.

① make-up tests: 补考

Have your book out and be ready to begin when the class starts. Your teacher should not have to ask you every day to take out your book. Be sure you have a paper and a sharp pencil ready.

In America, you should call your teacher by his or her last name, not “teacher”. Also you should use Mr., Miss, Ms or Mrs. before the last name (such as Mrs. Smith or Mr. Jones). This is considered polite. The teacher will tell you his or her preferred title^①.

Be courteous to^② other students. If another student is answering a question, giving a report or an explanation, you should listen quietly and give them your attention. Everyone must be treated with the same respect you would like them to give to you. Also, the questions they are asking may be something you need to know.

It is considered impolite in the U.S. to eat, drink or chew gum^③ during the class. This is reserved for the break^④. Also, removing one's shoes^⑤ in the classroom is not polite.

If you must leave during class, do so quietly. There is no need to ask the teacher's permission. However, leaving the class for something other than an emergency is not acceptable^⑥ (Getting a drink or sharpening your pencil is not considered an emergency).

Copying another student's test or paper is never acceptable. It is called cheating^⑦. At most schools in the U.S., students who cheat are expelled (kicked out)^⑧.

Posters^⑨, bulletin boards^⑩, or any other thing hanging on the wall is considered property of the school and shouldn't be written on or removed without permission (A sign-up sheet^⑪ may be written on, but only put your name on it). It is not acceptable to put up any sign, announcement or advertisement without first getting permission from the school office.

① preferred title: 喜爱的头衔

② be courteous to: 对……谦逊有礼

③ chew gum: 嚼口香糖

④ ...reserved for the break: 留到课间休息时间

⑤ removing one's shoes: 脱鞋

⑥ ...leaving...acceptable: 非紧急事擅离课堂是不能接受的

⑦ cheating: n. 作弊

⑧ are expelled (kicked out): 开除, 除名

⑨ posters: n. 广告, 招贴

⑩ bulletin boards: 布告栏

⑪ sign-up sheet: 签名报到册

Books, backpacks^①, lunches—anything that belongs to other people is considered private and should not be moved or tampered with^②.

It is not considered polite to yell at people to get their attention. When talking in a group, you should not speak so loudly as to disrupt others^③ who are close by.

Wearing a hat in class is considered impolite by many teachers. Some teachers / programs may ignore it, but you should ask permission first.

READING COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

(阅读理解)

1. If you miss a class, you should _____ in order to find out what assignment has been given.

- A. call the teacher or a classmate
- B. give an excuse
- C. remind the teacher that you were absent
- D. ask the teacher to make it up

2. When are you allowed to take a make-up test?

- A. When you are absent on a test day.
- B. When you are really sick and call the teacher justify your absence.
- C. When there's a test two days after the previous one.
- D. When you are out of town.

3. Teachers in the USA should be called _____.

- A. by their preferred title plus their last name
- B. "teacher" and his or her last name
- C. by their first name
- D. gentleman or gentlewoman

4. A student is considered impolite when he / she _____.

- A. eats and drinks during the break
- B. takes off his / her shoes in class
- C. treats everyone without respect

① backpacks: n. 背包

② tampered with: 损坏

③ disrupt others: 打断别人的话

D. addresses the teacher with Ms or Mr.

5. In most schools in the USA, cheating is considered _____.

A. acceptable in some cases

B. a minor fault

C. serious fault

D. a criminal conduct

Why Study in the USA? 为何到大洋彼岸求学?

【导读】到美国求学,是不少人梦寐以求的理想。本文介绍了美国多元的社会价值观,美国教育模式中的特色,以及学校学位制度的设置等,它将是窥视美国教育的一个小窗口。

Maybe you have been dreaming of studying in the U.S.A. for a long time, or maybe you have discovered that you need to improve your English in order to continue your studies or career. You may also have discovered that you can best gain expertise^① in your field at a particular U.S. university. Whatever the reasons, you now hope to come to the U.S.A. to accomplish your goals^②.

You have read about the U.S.A., seen American films and videos and talked to Americans. But only the experience of actually living in the U.S.A. will give you the mastery of the language^③ and sympathy with^④ the culture that is necessary for understanding this large and influential country.

Many foreign students arrive in the U.S.A. with misconceptions^⑤ about American life. They are pleasantly surprised to find that not all Americans are blond^⑥, wealthy or intolerant of others^⑦.

-
- ① gain expertise: 获得专门知识,技能
 - ② accomplish your goals: 实现你的目标/计划
 - ③ the mastery of the language: 掌握这门语言
 - ④ sympathy with: 认同
 - ⑤ misconceptions: 错误想法
 - ⑥ blond: a. 金发的
 - ⑦ intolerant of others: 不容忍别人

Diversity

The land and people of the U.S.A. are incredibly^① varied. Wherever you choose to study, you will encounter^② a regional culture rich in history, local traditions and customs. The U.S.A. is a multi-racial society^③ that is still absorbing new immigrants^④. While students must exercise caution^⑤ in a few locations, in much of the U.S.A., streets and university campuses are clean and safe.

Differences

U.S. universities may differ from those in your own country in several ways. For one thing, classes are generally small. There may be as few as ten to twenty students in a class. While in class, students are encouraged and expected to contribute to the discussion. Professors meet with students in their offices or even share coffee or meals with them. The close relationship between students and faculty^⑥ serves to motivate students^⑦ and fosters a personal approach to the curriculum^⑧.

Most U.S. university students live on or near the school campus. When you are studying in the U.S.A., you will have many opportunities to take part in planned and informal activities^⑨, spending your leisure^⑩ and study hours with other students. This will enhance your language skills^⑪. From your fellow students you will learn about U.S. culture and about all the other diverse cultures^⑫ represented on any U.S. campus.

-
- ① incredibly: *adv.* 难以置信地
 - ② encounter: *v.* 碰到
 - ③ multi-racial society: 多民族社会
 - ④ absorbing new immigrants: 吸收新移民
 - ⑤ exercise caution: 审慎行事
 - ⑥ faculty: *n.* 全体教员
 - ⑦ motivate students: 激发学生积极性, 培养学生学习积极性
 - ⑧ ... fosters ... curriculum: 鼓励(学生)对学校课程发表个人意见
 - ⑨ ... planned ... activities: 事先计划好的及非正式的活动
 - ⑩ leisure: *n.* 课余时间
 - ⑪ ... enhance ... skills: 提高语言能力
 - ⑫ diverse cultures: 多种文化