

English Through

Movie



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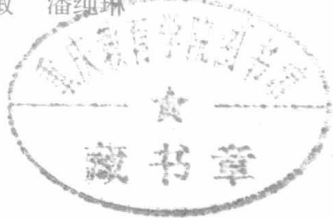


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前 言

English Through Movies 是一种新型的视听说综合教程，旨在通过原版电影，以全新的方式，综合和全面地提高学生的英语技能。学生可在影视教材的内容和情节的丰富刺激中，提高其听、说、读、写等方面的语言技能，领略异域风情和文化，增长知识并开阔视野。

本教材的编写基于以下认识：

第一，在当今世界，除了文本之外，意义还借助于视觉来传播。图像同样传达着文化信息。在文化转向的社会科学潮流中，视觉文化研究更因时而动，成为最具时代精神的科目。当视觉文化渗透到日常生活中无所不在时，人们也开始重新审视我们传统的教育理念，尤其是外语教学的方法和手段。该教材便是一种全新的尝试。

第二，掌握一门语言，听说不仅是关键而且是难点。目前，针对培养学生听说能力的需要所设计的教材及所使用的方法都存在一定局限，该教材将弥补其不足。

第三，学生经过一段时间的基础训练之后，如果要进一步提高听说能力，必须有活跃的思想和丰富的知识。学生将掌握语言与文化学习结合起来，才能提高欣赏水平，培养出独立思考、分析和研究的能力。

第四，语言学习本身其实是个令人愉快、充满新鲜感的过程，而那种仅仅为考试而进行的英语学习往往会使人忘掉这种乐趣。只有兴趣才是学习最大的动力。

本书共分 12 个单元，介绍在西方有影响的 12 部电影。这些影片均有较高的艺术价值，其内容广泛、深刻，语言活泼、

生动。每个单元包括4部份：影片简介、文化背景及思考题、影片梗概和相关评论及网站信息。

课时安排可视使用者具体情况而定。一般来说，为了更好地掌握每部电影的内容，进行充分的听说训练，建议每部电影（每个单元）用四课时学习：前两课时用于观看电影资料内容和语言处理；后两课时用于口语训练。后者可以分组进行。教学资料光盘和本书一起配合使用可使学生得到最大的收获。

本书编写的分工情况如下：肖庆华申请课题、负责选材、统稿、校对及本书的前言撰写。编写的分工如下：*Forrest Gump*, *Braveheart*, *The Legend of 1900* 肖庆华；*The Merchant of Venice*, *The Godfather*, *The Age Innocence* 张光敏；*King Arthur*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Far and Away* 程莉娜；*The Fifth Element*, *Contact*, *I, Robot* 潘纯琳。本教材的申报得到了西南财经大学语言文化学院院长商富才教授及西南财经大学规划处的支持，特此致谢。四川大学出版社外语编辑室黄新路主任，编辑吴昀在繁忙之中，赶编此书及光盘，一并在在此致谢。

由于时间紧迫，编者虽然进行了大量的工作，但书中肯定仍存在错误，诚挚地欢迎读者与同行不吝指正。希望本书能给读者们带来学习英语的乐趣。

编 者

2005年12月于光华园

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BRAVEHEART

Released by: Paramount Pictures (1995)

Director: Mel Gibson

Music: James Horner

Producer: Mel Gibson, Alan Ladd Jr. and
Bruce Davey



Cast: Mel Gibson ----- William Wallace
Katherine McCormack --- Murro
Sophie Marceau ----- Princess Isabelle
Patrick McGoohan ----- English King Edward
Angus MacFadyen ----- Robert the Bruce
David O'Hare ----- Stephen, Irish Fighter

Awards: Five Academy Awards out of 10 nominations in 1996, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Effects, Sound Effects Editing, Best cinematography. Mel Gibson won a Golden Globe Award for Best director.

More details see from <http://www.imdb.com>.



Section I Cultural Background

SCOTTISH BAGPIPE

One of the most famous and awe-inspiring sounds to have come out of Scotland is the sound of the Great Highland Bagpipe. For centuries throughout the world as Scottish troops have gone into battle, the way has been led by the pipers, inspiring deeds of heroism and striking fear into the hearts of the enemy.

The haunting bagpipes, a shiver of strings behind them...you can almost feel the cool fog rolling in from the sea, and across a Scottish field. A battlefield, in this case, in the year 1314, it was then that a band of half-starved, hopelessly outnumbered Scottish patriots fought for freedom at a place called Bannockburn. John Horner's soundtrack to *Braveheart*, the Mel Gibson's film about that epic struggle, is a lustrous, many-faceted, at times stirring piece of work. Even without the images from the film dancing through your head, Horner's themes have staying power and emotional substance.

He maintains the feel of place throughout, but never relies too heavily on obvious instrumental cliches (the pipes, for instance, are used sparingly). No doubt, tracks like *The Battle of Stirling* will resonate a bit more if you've seen *Braveheart*. That said, Horner's score has a rare quality: It is cinematic, but also enjoyable on its own as orchestral music.

Traditional music played on the pipes, piano, violin and flute: from the original soundtrack of the award winning series "Instrument of War". The powerful story of the Great Highland Bagpipe, from the early brave heart days of William Wallace to Davie Crockett at the Alamo, from World War I to the present day, Celtic music has stirred the soul.



One of the oldest instruments still in use, the bagpipe dates back to thousands of years. Pipes are used in many cultures, and while the Scottish Highland pipes are best known, they are only one of many varieties. In fact, one might expect to hear Irish or Uilleann pipes at Irish festivals like St. Patrick's Day, but they are much more difficult to play, so performers are scarce. The Bakers noted that the sound track from the movie *Braveheart* uses Uilleann pipes.

In Scottish history, bagpipes played an important part in clan culture. Each clan's chieftain kept a piper, just as European royalty often had a court musician. This musician was an important part of community rituals, and "gathering tunes" and "lament tunes" became a standard part of the piper's repertoire.

With the financial support of the chieftain, the art of bagpipe developed and grew, the skill often passed down through families of pipers. Later, pipes were used in the military, where their penetrating volume was put to good use in rallying the troops. The Scottish Highland regiments were well known in both World War I and World War II.

In recent years, like other Celtic music, bagpipe music like other Celtic music—has enjoyed a surge in popularity. Interest has been piqued by movies like *Braveheart* and *Rob Roy*, and recorded bagpipe music is now available.

New technology has also made the pipes easier to play. However, bagpipes still require discipline, lung power and willingness to spend the necessary time and money. A bagpipe can cost anywhere from \$800 to \$5,000, and of course one has to have the outfit, too.

For the most part, however, bagpipers will continue to play only with other pipers, since the bagpipe scale is different from that of most instruments. Pipers are accustomed to that lonesome role. As McGregor said with



characteristic piper humor, "Usually no one wants to play with us, anyway!"

A Timeline of the Lives of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce

- 1239 Edward I born.
- 1272 William Wallace is born at Elderslie, his father's lairdship, in Paisley Parish. The Wallaces were vassals of the High Stewards of Scotland, the Lords of Renfrew.
- 1274 Robert the Bruce is born at Turnberry Castle (July 11).
- 1284 Edward II born in Wales.
- 1292 Isabella of France born.
- 1296 John Balliol revolts.
- 1296—1313
The English occupy Edinburgh Castle.
- 1297 The Battle of Stirling (June 17th).
- 1298 The Battle of Falkirk (July). The Bruce burns Ayr Castle (August).
- 1302—1305
The Bruce resubmits to Edward I due to quarrels among the Scottish nobles.
- 1303 The Bruce is made Sheriff of Lanark and keeper of Ayr Castle.
- 1304 The Bruce enters a secret bond against the English with Bishop Lamberton of St. Andrew's.
- 1300 The Bruce resigns as joint Guardian of Scotland.
- 1305 William Wallace is executed; The Bruce ends his submission to Edward I .
- 1306 The Bruce kills John Comyn on the altar at Dumfries; he seizes the Scottish throne; he is crowned on the Stone of Scone; he is defeated



at Methven; he flees to Rathlin Island to escape the occupying army of Edward I .

- 1307 Edward I dies on his way to invade Scotland; the Bruce fights throughout Scotland to drive out the English; he defeats the English sympathizers and establishes control north of the Forth; he wins the loyalty of the commoners.
- 1308 Marriage of Edward II and Isabella of France.
- 1309 The Bruce begins making steady progress toward uniting Scotland.
- 1310 The Bruce captures the town and castle of Lanark.
- 1312 Edward III born.
- 1313 The English no longer occupy Edinburgh Castle.
- 1314 The Bruce besieges Stirling Castle; the Scots, under The Bruce, defeat the English sent to aide Stirling's occupants at the Battle of Bannockburn.
- 1315 Edward Bruce, brother of Robert, accepts the Irish crown from Ireland's nobles.
- 1320 Declaration of Arboath is executed by all but a few of the lords and bishops of Scotland and is sent to the Pope.
- 1323 Truce between The Bruce and Edward II does not stop war between the countries; the Pope recognizes Robert the Bruce as king of Scotland
- 1326 Truce with France.
- 1327 Edward II is deposed and is succeeded by Edward III; the Bruce launches an invasion of England, seeking recognition of Scotland's independence; Edward II is murdered.
- 1328 The Treaty of Edinburgh grants Scotland freedom from England; the English ratify that treaty in the Treaty of Northampton. The Bruce is



formally recognized as King of Scotland

- 1329 Death of Robert the Bruce
- 1358 Death of Isabella of France

Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you think are the fundamental causes to William's defeat?
2. Do you think William die a worthy and noble death? Give your reasons.
3. Why does the king want to reinstate the old custom?
4. Why does William insist on going to meet Robert knowing he might betray him?
5. *Braveheart* has nothing to do with today's Scotland, so why spend so much time talking about it?

Section II Synopsis

In the late 14th century, Scotland's king has died, and left no heir. Ruthless English king Edward I seized the throne, thus demanding the allegiance of the unwilling Scots. William Wallace, whose wife Murrin is murdered in retaliation for his opposition to the king, vows to avenge her death—and his fathers when William was a boy—by leading his ragged army of fellow Scots against overwhelming odds and a powerful English army.

His courageous group of volunteers is outnumbered and poorly equipped, but their devotion to their cause attracts the attention of nobleman, Robert the Bruce. Robert and other Scottish nobles are wary of fighting against Longshanks, since they have been allowed to keep their land; it takes the continued determination of Wallace and his growing number of men to slowly gain their support.



Longshank's French-born daughter-in-law, Princess Isabelle, is duped into delivering a message to William for a peaceful surrender; meanwhile, he has already ordered troops to trap the unsuspecting Scots. Horrified that she has been tricked, the Princess sends her servant to alarm Wallace. Unsatisfied in her marriage and attracted to Wallace's noble cause, she becomes his lover and ally.

Wallace is eventually captured and mercilessly quartered, leaving his men without a leader. The army gathers to surrender to the English. Guilt-stricken and tormented, Robert, the Bruce vows not to let Wallace die in vain, and leads the heroic Scots into the final battle that wins their freedom.

Section III Further Information

Some reviews on this movie:

1. Love, conflict, oppression, betrayal... and risking everything to fight for your beliefs—*Braveheart* has it all.

The battle scenes are brutal, but director Mel Gibson didn't stop at just making an action thriller, which this could have solely been. The story follows 13th century Scotsman, William Wallace and his transition from peace-loving farmer to brutal leader of an aspiring nation's push for freedom. It's a story of what life is worth living for, and dying for. It's a story of men fighting for what they love and believe in and their willingness to sacrifice everything for that which is truly important to them.

—by Nuclearcow (www.imdb.com)

2. BRAVEHEART is a great film! It would have been better if more of the facts had been left in, and the fiction left out. The massacre of the nobles at



the Barn did take place, but it happened in 1290, not 1280. Those who escaped the sword of Edward I had intentionally not gone to the Barn, where 360 nobles, including men, women, and children were slaughtered. According to history, William Wallace did want to lead a peaceable life as a farmer, but after his education for the priesthood, and Edward I's brutality, William took the words of one the priests to heart. "My son, I tell thee sooth fastlie, no gift is like to libertie; never live in slaverie." It was as a result of the murder of his father and older brother Andrew by the sheriff of Lanark because they refused to swear fealty to Edward I of England, the persecution of his mother, and murder of his wife that caused William to go from a peace loving man to a warrior like unto David of Israel. It would have been better to leave out the adultery with princess Isabel, since the only way William could have know her or of her was during the seven years between the defeat at Falkirk and his capture on August 3, 1305. William during that seven years acted as a messenger for the Pope, King Phillip IV and several others. Also it would have been a much better film if the event of William's capture, imprisonment, starvation, semi comatosed state, and on the day of his trial believed to be dead, and thrown out on the garbage dump. Then a woman who was a nurse when he was a child, begged for his body from the English, to give him a Christian burial. This old woman found as she was cleaning up the body, as was the Scottish custom for burial that a spark of life flickered in William. The woman and her daughter nursed William back to health. The film paints Robert the Bruce as being double minded. According to history, this is true, until the capture, mock trial, and execution of Sir William Wallace. It was never Robert the Bruce who betrayed William Wallace, but by Rhalph Rea and several other Scotsmen at Robroyston. Edward I promised the "nobles" that if Scotland



wanted to live in peace, that Edward's army would take and destroy Stirling, and that they had to give up William Wallace to them. The difference between William and the landed nobles was that, the nobles were enslaved to Edward I of England by their land and title. William was not enslaved to Edward I, since he never pledged his fealty to him. William was also landless, and was fighting to avenge the British slaughter etc. and for Scotland's freedom. Edward I murdered anyone who was Scottish, including men and women of the cloth, and infants. The GREATEST Hero of Scotland, William Wallace on the other hand, trained an army of peasants, who would go on to route England's greatest armies. He would prove that heavy horsemen were not impenetrable. William's army is reminiscent of Joshua's army of a few, winning over thousands. The Scots' greatest asset was their lightening, guerrilla warfare; much like Judah Maccabees. However, William had standing orders that women, children, and priests, etc. were never to be killed, but liberated. Up to the hours and minutes of William's life he carried his book of the Psalms next to his heart. His last requests were for a priest and to have book of the Psalms, immediately before he was grossly murdered on Edward I's orders.

—E.Stohlquist. (www.imdb.com)

Some websites relate to the movie:

About Mel Gibson:

<http://www.imdb.com>

Reviews on this movie:

<http://www.imdb.com>

<http://www.rottentomatoes.com>

[http:// www.scotlandthemovie.com](http://www.scotlandthemovie.com)



<http://www.spiritualityhealth.com>

[http:// movie-reviews.colossus.net](http://movie-reviews.colossus.net)

[http:// www.hollywood.com](http://www.hollywood.com)

<http://www.epinions.com>



CONTACT

Released by: South Side Amusement Company
and Warner Bros(1997)

Director: Robert Zemeckis

Music: Alan Silvestri

Producers: Steve Starkey and Robert Zemeckis



Cast:

Jodie Foster	-----	Ellie Arroway
Matthew McConaughey	----	Palmer Joss
David Morse	-----	Ted Arroway
Angela Bassett	-----	Rachel Constantine
Jams Woods	-----	Michael Kitz
John Hurt	-----	S. R. Hadden
Tom Skerritt	-----	David Drumlin
William Fichtner	-----	Kent Clark
Rob Lowe	-----	Richard Rank

Awards: Nominated for Oscar 1998. Another 8 wins & 14 nominations won for ASCAP Award 1998; Nominated for Annie Award (Best Individual Achievement: Effects Animation, 1997).

More details see from <http://us.imdb.com>.