

阅读与思辨

ollege English:

Critical Reading and Thinking

3

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语阅读与思辨. 3 /丁燕蓉编著. 一厦门:厦门大学出版社,2015.12 ISBN 978-7-5615-5863-8

I. ①大··· Ⅱ. ①丁··· Ⅲ. ①英语-高等学校-教材 Ⅳ. ①H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2015)第 304256 号

出版人 蒋东明

责任编辑 王扬帆

装帧设计 李嘉彬

责任印制 许克华

出版发行 唐门大了出版社

杜 址 厦门市软件园二期望海路 39 号

邮政编码 361008

总编办 0592-2182177 0592-2181253(传真)

营销中心 0592-2184458 0592-2181365

M 址 http://www.xmupress.com

邮 箱 xmupress@126.com

印 刷 厦门市明亮彩印有限公司印刷

开本 787mm×1092mm 1/16

印张 8.5

字数 220 千字

印数 1~3 000 册

版次 2015年12月第1版

印次 2015年12月第1次印刷

定价 15.00 元

本书如有印装质量问题请直接寄承印厂调换







夏门大学出版社 **微博**二维码



前言

大学英语教学对于大学英语教师而言一直都是一种挑战,特别是在选用教材方面,现有的教材要么不理想,太脱离实际应用,要么缺乏系统性,导致教学效果不理想。许多大学生学习英语的方式还停留在背一背四、六级词汇,以应对四、六级考试,背一背大学英语教程的词汇,以应对课程期末考试的水平上。而学生在大学学了两年后,常常感觉英语水平没有进步反而退步了,特别是被要求围绕某个话题——即便是与自己的学习、生活息息相关的话题说点什么或者写点什么时,往往会遇到如下情况:(1)不知如何把比较宽泛或者大的话题缩小,只是围绕这个话题泛泛而谈,说不到点子上;(2)不知如何表达,只会采用传统的三段式表达法[别人的观点是什么一自己的观点是什么(为什么)一结论,这种正反两面观点都要兼顾的表达法,在有限的时间内往往达不到分析深入、到位的效果];(3)想要表达某种想法,却发现词汇储备不够;(4)有了想法,却拿不出有力的证据和数据(同样,到国外学习时,课堂上老师穿插讲解一些社会、历史、文化现象等,中国学生往往听得似懂非懂,更不用说在表达时引用国外相关的例证,或者在参加一些国外考试,面对外国主考官时,在利用论据方面往往处于劣势,拿不到高分)。

针对以上困境,编者力图从学生本身的学习、生活和相关的话题入手,以引导学生自主学习和自我表达,这样的教学设计和教学方法是本教材的主要特点。它的主要目标是:提供的讨论话题跟学生密切相关,并且提供原汁原味的,能够增加知识面、激发思考的,由有相关经历或研究的学者或者资深人士撰写的英语原文,培养学生对东、西方文化差异的认识;同时,从增强学生对于语法结构的认识和扩大与主题相关的词汇量入手,提高学生的英语阅读理解能力与技巧;加强对英语言语和例证的运用,从而提高学生的口头和书面表达能力。它的主要学习对象是:在掌握基本语法结构的同时,词汇量达到5500个单词和1200个词组,其中2200个单词为积极词汇,想进一步提高英语水平,尤其是口头和书面表达能力的学生。

整个教材的内容编排如下:

- 1. 话题和导入:话题的选择跟学生目前的学习、生活、社交以及将来毕业后要面临的就业和生活等有关,另外一些话题属于热点话题,例如全球化对街头着装的影响以及成为名人、政客撒谎、书店的存活、人是否越来越笨、人类的创造力是否濒临丧失等问题,这样可以激发学生的思考和探索。每一个单元都有一个话题和导入,相当于告诉学生在什么样的背景下产生了该话题,也可以把导入看作是对一个较为宽泛的话题的展开。
- 2. 篇章:每一个话题包括 5 个篇章,这些篇章都由对该话题有亲身体验或对此有研究的学者、资深人士所写。每个篇章都有自己的题目,即代表作者的观点,并且围绕本观点,作者会在篇章中论述和证明该观点,并且给出相应的数据和例证。这些篇章围绕同一个主题从不同的角度来论述不同的观点,这是非常值得学习的。
- 3. 生词、短语和表达法: 所有生词、短语和表达法都经过精心挑选, 并提供中文解释。 有的词汇看似熟悉, 但它的意思在本篇章中有较大的变化, 例如 dumb, 在一般情况下是个形



容词,意为"哑的"或者"愚蠢的";但在本教材中出现的 dumb down their curricula 里,却是个 动词,与 down 构成动词词组,意为"简化",类似这样的词汇本书都仔细地进行了标注。又 如 advantages and disadvantages 这样常见的,甚至在写作中被过于频繁使用的词汇,对于它 的近义词 blessings and curses("优缺点")也特别进行了标注,以便学生进行比较学习和 运用。

4. 注释:大部分篇章讲述的内容都与国外的社会文化生活现象有关,作者在阐述论证 自己的观点时都会引用一些相关的例证,而这些例证又往往涉及国外的一些历史、文化、社 会改革、名人、社会生活等等。本教材对这些现象一一作了中文注释,一则帮助学生节省查 找资料的时间;二则让学生了解国外的社会历史、文化生活现象,并且跟中国的情况进行对 比;三则帮助学生了解这些资深人士在表述自己的观点时都引用了哪些例证来加强说服力; 四则将来学生参加一些考试面对国外的考官时,可以考虑采纳相关的例证。

同样,本教材所配套的练习大部分都是为了拓展学生的思维,培养他们的口头和书面表 达能力,所以其答案是开放式的,主要是学生对于篇章学习和运用的产物与结果。

- 5. 语言点的掌握:词汇、语言点是任何一种语言的基础,要学好一种语言,对它的词汇 和语言点的掌握和运用是至关重要的。本教材有别于其他教材,侧重于表达,侧重于理解、 积累和产出。(1)头脑风暴:每一单元都有一个主题,因而就有相关的主题词。练习部分要 求学生写出或者说出本单元的所有篇章(包括话题和导入部分)中与本主题词相关的表达 法——同义的、反义的,或者相关的。这样的练习要求学生深入细致地阅读文本,同时进行 归纳总结,最后还要能够说得出来甚至写得出来。这有助于学生在学习英语的过程中,注重 心理词典的积累以利于对某主题的相关词汇的提取和运用。对于同一个意思,可以即时地 变换各种说法和表达法,或者换个角度来阐明。(2)句子的记忆:这部分练习是基于模因理 论而设计的。许多学生的口语和写作水平无法提高,原因是头脑中没有存储一定的句子,不 知如何正确使用某个词汇,因此就无法表达正确的思想。而实践表明,任何创造性的语言使 用都是在模仿的基础上进行的,先模仿而后创新,没有模仿和继承,就谈不上创造和创新。 重要的是,"模因"复制的前提是要有可复制的"模因",而本教材的篇章文本都是地道的表 达法,是非常好的"模因"。学生可以根据自己的实际情况,挑选一些"模因"句子,其原因可 能是某个句子的表达法较为复杂,可以对它进行理解记忆;或者某个句子简单,表达的意思 令人回味,自己怎么都写不出这样言简意赅的句子来;或者某个句子看似"中式英语",没有 读过这个篇章之前,因为担心不地道,自己不敢使用,现在看了别人的使用,自己以后也敢大 胆表达了。(3)编故事:有了地道的"模因",就可以进行复制或者拓展。这部分练习精心挑 选了部分生词、词组,特别是比较新颖的表达法,例如 on the pro side...on the con side (比较 on the one side... on the other side),要求学生发挥一定的想象力,运用这部分词汇编一个故 事,注意语法、连贯性、逻辑等。这样有助于学生现学现用,同时也可以教会学生结合不同的 语境,在同一语言形式中嵌入不同的内容,组成新的模因复合体,从而提高他们的言语产出 能力。
- 6. 翻译:学习英语的同时,不能忘了母语。而实际上,母语水平也会影响英语学习。除 了一些谚语和习语以外,这部分练习所采用的句子不局限于句子的长短,而是精心挑选了一 些句子,这些句子含有学生翻译时不知如何处理的细节,例如破折号、插入语等。这种练习 不仅重在提高学生的翻译技巧,而且翻译时对两种语言的表达法、结构等进行分析、比较,可





以提高学生的英语表达能力。

- 7. 讨论:这部分的练习是为了让学生讨论每个单元的主题思想,可以锻炼学生的思辨能力。同时,也为学生提供了一个练习从篇章里学到的词汇和词法的好机会。(1) Yes or No:这部分练习给出了每个单元 5 个篇章的主要观点,要求学生判断是否同意其观点,重要的是给出相应的理由。(2) Refutation(驳论):这部分练习既要结合篇章的内容,又要联系相关的背景知识和例证。即学生要自己找出篇章中的某个论述,并想出相关的例证来反驳其观点。这样的练习有利于训练学生的思辨能力。
- 8. 写作:学习了从不同的角度来论述同一个主题的 5 个篇章,了解了不同作者的观点和所给的数据、例证,并且掌握了与主题相关的表达法,包括词汇和句子之后,就该是把言语加以应用的时候了。教材里很多观点是从外国,特别是从美国的具体情况说起,中国学生可以结合中国的实际情况加以论述,从东、西方的差异入手,努力搜寻相关的例证,真正达到把自己的观点表述清楚,文章有据可循而不是泛泛而谈的目的。

总之,本教材从选材到练习的编写都是为了能够提高学生的言语产出能力。在结合阅读的基础上,重在突出口头表达和书面写作能力,目的在于努力改善大学英语教与学中存在的问题。



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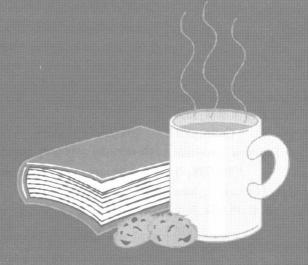
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Theme 1

Proximity & Privacy



he Whole Family Under One Roof?

Introduction

If you're like many Americans, you have just spent a few days in close quarters with your parents, grandchildren, siblings, etc. You're ready to go home, or ready for them to go home. But for a growing number of families in which adult children can't afford to live on their own, this is the new normal.

These "boomerang" children have been the butt of jokes on late-night television and even in commercials, but what's so bad about moving back in with your parents? Could extended families under one roof — a common arrangement in years past — be the way of the future?

Reading 1

Depends on the Country and the Culture

By Katherine Newman

Having studied **multigenerational families** in six different countries, I can safely say that there is no uniform answer to the question of whether extended families under one roof is good or bad for the economy. The same **demographic pattern** that is defined as a national **catastrophe** by the Japanese **elicits** something closer to a shrug in Italy. Spanish families are **furious** with the government over **deregulated** labor markets and high housing prices that push them into "accordion families". One rarely hears about the responsibilities of government for creating boomerang kids in the United States.

In the **Nordic** countries, where the state provides benefits for young adults in the form of free higher education, generous housing allowances and unemployment insurance even for those who have never worked, the multigenerational family is almost unknown. The social democracies have **intervened** to support independence from the **natal home** in ways that are unimaginable in the U.S. or Japan.

sibling: [ˈsɪblɪŋ] n. 兄弟姊妹 boomerang: ['buːməræŋ] n. [俚语](离家后)回归的 儿童;飞镖 "boomerang" children: 啃老 族(同义词:boomerang kids) the butt of jokes: 笑柄; 嘲笑 的对象 extended family:扩大式家庭 比较: nuclear family 核心家 multigenerational families: 多代(同堂)大家庭 demographic pattern:人口模 式 catastrophe: [kəˈtæstrəfɪ] n. 大灾难;大祸;惨败 elicit:[ɪ'lɪsɪt] vt. 抽出,引 出:引起 furious:[ˈfjʊərɪəs] adj. 狂 怒的;热烈兴奋的;喧闹的 deregulate: [diz'regjulett] vt. 解除对……的管制 Nordic: ['noːdik] adj. 北欧 人的;斯堪的纳维亚的;日 耳曼民族的 intervene:[ɪntəˈviɪn] vi. 干 涉;调停;插入 natal: ['neɪt(ə)1] adj. 出 生的;诞生的;分娩的;出生 地的 natal home:出生的家;娘家

quarters: [kwstə (r) z] n.



The economic consequences of these demographic trends are quite serious. When young people stay with their parents for a long period, family formation is delayed, **fertility** falls, populations age and productivity declines. Boomers may find it harder to retire if their savings are absorbed in the support of their adult kids.

The emotional consequences are more **variable**. Many parents enjoy the presence of their adult children. They do not suffer much of a generation gap because they share tastes in popular culture and have more relaxed views of sexual relations, which means their children can continue a **semblance** of a private life under their roof. But this tends to last only as long as signs of progress toward independence are visible. If Johnny is playing video games in the basement, the situation can become **fraught** in a hurry.

Reading 2

The Only Faithful Human Institution

By John L. Graham

I live on a **cul-de-sac** in Irvine, Calif., that includes eight 2, 500-plus-square-foot homes. When we moved into the neighborhood 27 years ago, six of those homes included two baby-boom parents with children and two couples with **empty nests**. Now there are no longer children on our street, although adult kids are still living in two of the homes. In my house we now have three spare bedrooms — we keep the doors and the **heating vent** shut to **conserve** energy.

Houses like mine are a root of the current world financial crisis. In 2006, housing prices in the United States began to crash. That's about when our last daughter left for college. Our house, along with millions of others across the country, literally became worth less when the last kid moved out. The demand for big houses declined even while the new home builders were madly adding more square feet. Circa 2012 housing in the U.S. has lost about a third of its value, down from \$25 trillion to \$16 trillion by some estimates. This sharp decline in value of the American housing stock has catalyzed a worldwide restructuring of our economic systems. And just wait until 2020 when the full burden of baby-boomer retirement and decrepitude is recognized.

The cure for this demographic disaster is the pooling of

fertility:[fə'tɪlɪtɪ] n. 生育能力

variable: ['veərɪəb(ə)1] adj. 可变的; 易变的, 多变的

semblance: ['sembləns] n. 外貌;假装;类似

fraught: [froːt] adj. 担心的,忧虑的;充满……的

cul-de-sac: ['kuldə'sæk] n. (法)巷子;死路;困境[复数 culs-de-sac]

empty nest:"空巢"家庭,老两口家庭

heating vent;暖气口 conserve:[kənˈsɜːv] vt. 保 存;将……做成蜜饯;使守 恒

circa: ['səːkə] prep., adv. [拉丁语]大约在,接近(尤用于年代、数字等前面) housing stock:住宅;现有公屋单位数目;住宅存量 catalyze: ['kætəlaɪz] vt. 催化;刺激,促进 decrepitude: [dɪˈkrepɪtʃuːd] n. 衰老,老朽



resources across generations that we are already seeing in America. The idea of the nuclear family is now obviously obsolete. We are all reverting to the old reliance on the extended family that anthropologist Margaret Mead correctly described as the only faithful human institution. The government won't be there to help on this one. Boomerang kids are actually a blessing in disguise. They're allowing us to relearn how to live in multigenerational arrangements as humans almost always have. Yes, the lessons for balancing proximity and privacy are tough, but such learning is essential for all of us in the 21st century.

revert to:回归到;归还 anthropologist: [ˌænθrə'pɒlədʒɪst] n. 人类 学家;人类学者 Margaret Mead:玛格丽特·米 德,美国人类历史学家 a blessing in disguise:塞翁 失马;因祸得福 proximity: [prɒk'sɪmɪtɪ] n. 接近;亲近



One of the stories we parents like to tell ourselves is that our young adult children want to move back in with us. <u>Our 20-somethings</u> are referred to as the **Boomerang Generation**, noted for their failure to launch. There is just one problem with the story of the Boomerang Generation: It is not true.

Census data show that what is really new about young adulthood is the percentage of young adults who live on their own. From 1880 to 1970 the percentage of U. S.-born women in their twenties who lived on their own (not with parents and not with a husband) was always less than 15 percent. By 1980, the percentage of young adult women who lived on their own had risen to 27 percent, and to 33 percent in 1990, to 39 percent in 2000, and to 42 percent today. The delay of marriage and the extension of singleness can make it appear as if young people are more likely to return to the parental nest. If one examines single people in their twenties, who are the people who have the option of living with their parents, the percentage who live with their parents is now about 45 percent. That may seem high but it isn't: in the past single people in their 20s nearly always lived with their parents.

The Great Recession has actually had no effect whatsoever on the percentage of young adults living with their parents in the United States. This is not so surprising; the (even greater) Great Depression did not affect family structure much, and neither did the **Industrial** Boomerang Generation:回 巢族;啃老族

census data: n. 户口普查资料

the Great Recession:经济大衰退



Revolution. Family structure changes slowly over time. Economic **ups and downs** have little effect on who lives with whom.



Solidarity and Support

By Susan Newman

Not since **the Great Depression** have so many young adults turned to their immediate relatives as an **economic lifeline**. In the 1960s, for example, independence was the strived-for virtue; returning home, "unthinkable". If children didn't grow up, find jobs and live independently, parents were seen as enablers, the children as failures. That **stigmatized** view has faded fast during the recession.

Family of origin has become a lifeboat for roughly one in five 25-to 34-year-olds who move in with parents to wait out the economic storm. Sure, there are potential complications and emotional minefields left over from the parenting years, but once the kinks are sorted out, the benefits for young and old are clear.

Some argue that living with parents stunts development and prolongs adolescence. I see the camaraderie as an opportunity to get to know each other in ways not possible when living together as parent and child. Delayed maturity in young adults happens only if parents continue to cater to their adult children's needs as if they were still 10-year-olds. Living with parents as young adults provides the chance to know parents as people and similarly for parents to see their adult children as grownups with ideas, skills and talents to admire.

Bunking in with parents allows struggling young adults to save for an apartment or house, to **hold out** until they find a meaningful job, or to start to **pay down** student loans — the average being \$24,000, but soaring over \$100,000 for some. In return, most adult children assist parents **in-kind**.

Rather than having a negative effect, the recession has renewed values with the emphasis on family solidarity and support. The advantages of the multigenerational family, a model immigrant families have always practiced, will keep more parents and young adults together. Even when young adults can afford a place of their

Industrial Revolution: (18 世纪 60 年代开始于英国 的)工业革命,产业革命 ups and downs: n. 沉浮; 盛 衰; 高低 solidarity: [isplr'dæriti] n. 团结,团结一致

the Great Depression; 经济 大萧条 economic lifeline;经济命脉

stigmatized: ['stigmətaizd] adj. 受非难的;被污名化的 family of origin:原生家庭,指自己出生和成长的家庭 wait out:等到……结束 complication:

[ˌkɑmpləˈkeʃən] n. 并发症 minefield: [ˈmaɪnfiːld] n. 布雷区;充满隐伏危险的事 物

kink: [kɪŋk] n. 缺陷;障碍;扭结;奇想 stunt:[stʌnt] vt. 阻碍······ 的正常生长或发展

prolong: [prəˈlɒŋ] vt. 延长;拖延

adolescence:

[ædəˈles(ə)ns] n. 青春期 camaraderie:

[ikæməˈrɑːd(ə) rɪ] n. 友情;同志之爱 ft;同志之爱 cater to:迎合;为······服务 bunk in:占一个铺位睡觉 hold out:坚持;维持 pay down:支付 in-kind:adj. 以货贷款;以实 物(援助);非现金的



own, many say, "I'm still here." Money will be saved on housing but will be spent on consumer goods, aiding the economy. However, living under the same roof for the long or short haul will remain a configuration that defines American families in the foreseeable future.

the long or short haul:长、短 configuration: [kənˌfɪgəˈreɪʃ(ə)n] n. 配

置;外形

Reading

Sensible Use of Spare Rooms

By Sharon Graham Niederhaus

The direct consequence of the turn of the century residential building boom is that now, in 2012, there are a lot of spare rooms in all those houses. Indeed, the chances are the greatest in the last 50 years that an adult family member is now living in your spare bedroom.

Multigenerational living is ahead for all of us. Baby boomers will be living with their kids as they begin to experience the infirmities of old age. By 2020 they'll need help with their disabilities, and the most sensible helpers will be members of the extended family living close by. The practice now of living together as adults across generations will be a big help.

Boomerang kids and baby boomers are learning about the balancing act between proximity and privacy that will be required in the modern families of the remainder of this century. Both physical structures and financial arrangements are being developed to accommodate such changes. For example, approximately one-third of American homes can be remodeled to include an accessory apartment with a separate kitchen and entrance. The major home builders have finally begun to experiment with such designs as well. Cross-generational financial agreements are burgeoning including shared real estate investments and adult children moving back home while saving money to repay college loans (which are exempt from bankruptcy proceedings).

Extended family members are already creatively designing a new future in these tough times. Indeed, now is the time to get ready for the coming changes in the American family.

residential building: 住宅建 筑物

ahead: [əˈhed] adj. 向前; 在前的:领先 infirmity:[ɪnˈfɜːmətɪ] n. 衰 弱;疾病;缺点

accommodate: [əˈkɒmədeɪt] vt. 适应:容纳:调解 accessory apartment: (私人 住宅中供出租的)附属房 burgeon: ['b3:d3(ə)n] vi. 迅速成长,迅速发展,扩展 exempt: [Ig'zem(p)t] adj. 被免除的;被豁免的



Notes:

- 1. boomerang children/kids:啃老族。源自 20 世纪 90 年代末的英国,社会学家称之为"新失 业群体"。啃老族也叫"吃老族",或"傍老族",或"归巢族",或"回归家庭的子女"。现在 通常指那些年龄在23~30岁,有谋生能力,却仍未"断奶",得靠父母供养的年轻人。
- 2. extended family:扩大式家庭(与叔、婶和堂兄弟姐妹等近亲共居的家庭);大家庭(与祖父 母、已婚子女等共居的三代或数代同堂的家庭)。

比较: nuclear family 核心家庭; 基本家庭(指两代人组成的家庭, 核心家庭的成员是 夫妻两人及其未婚孩子)。

注意:在中国,"核心家庭"(nuclear family),更常用"标准家庭"或"基本家庭"来表 示。这样的家庭由一对夫妇组成,通常是父母及未婚子女为一个单位。目前,中国的核 心家庭还可能包括上一辈人,所谓"三代同堂"被认为是最完满的核心家庭。

- 3. the Nordic countries: 北欧国家。北欧是政治地理名词,特指北欧理事会的五个主权国家: 丹麦、瑞典、挪威、芬兰、冰岛。 北欧国家的人口密度在欧洲相对较低, 经济水平则最高, 丹麦、瑞典等国的人均国民生产总值均遥居世界前列。北欧国家向来以优厚的社会福利 著称,排名较高的国家的居民能够更好地平衡工作和家庭生活。
- 4. Margaret Mead: 玛格丽特·米德(1901年12月16日—1978年11月15日)。美国人类 学家,是美国现代人类学成形过程中最重要的学者之一。1978年逝世后获授"总统自由 勋章"(Presidential Medal of Freedom)。主要代表作有:《社会变革与文化指令》、《自觉问 题的人类学论据》、《萨摩亚人的成年》和《三个原始部落的性别与气质》等。
- 5. the Great Recession: 经济大衰退。是一场在 2007 年 8 月 9 日开始浮现的由金融危机引发 的经济衰退。源于美国次贷危机的这场金融灾难席卷全球,重创欧洲经济。同时,近年 来居高不下的原油价格急转直下,缩水近半。曾经以傲人的经济增长速度带动全球经 济,被誉为明日之星的巴西、俄罗斯、印度、中国等新兴经济体的股市前所未有地同时全 面暴跌。世界经济进入全面衰退。格林斯潘将这场风暴称为"百年一遇的危机"。
- 6. Industrial Revolution: 工业革命(又称产业革命)。开始于 18 世纪 60 年代,发源于英格兰 中部地区,是指资本主义工业化的早期历程,即资本主义生产完成了从工场手工业向机 器大工业过渡的阶段。机器的发明及运用成为了这个时代的标志,因此也被称为"机器 时代"(the Age of Machines)。而蒸汽机、煤、铁和钢是促成其加速发展的四项主要因素。 英国是最早开始也是最早结束工业革命的国家。
- 7. the Great Depression: 经济大萧条。是指 1929—1933 年之间源于美国的经济危机。1929 年 10 月 29 日,纽约股市暴跌到极点,美国经济出现可怕的连锁反应:疯狂挤兑、银行倒 闭、工厂关门、工人失业、贫困来临等,经济萧条随之而来,而且萧条的强烈程度和延续时 间的长久都是空前的,当时纽约流行一首儿歌:"梅隆拉响汽笛,胡佛敲起钟。华尔街发 出信号,美国往地狱里冲!"(Mellon pulled the whistle, Hoover rang the bell, Wall Street gave the signal and the country went to hell.) 这次经济危机很快从美国蔓延到其他工业国 家。1933 年年初,富兰克林·罗斯福(Franklin Roosevelt)取代了胡佛(Hoover),当选为 美国第32届总统,他实施了一系列旨在克服危机的政策措施,即被称为以"三 R"为主的



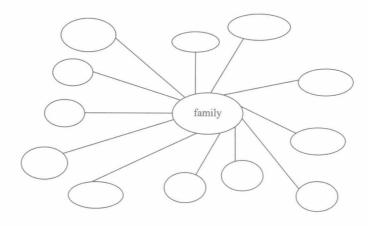
- "罗斯福新政",即 Recover(复兴)、Relief(救济)和 Reform(改革)。
- 8. baby boomer: 婴儿潮时代出生的人。根据美国人口普查局的说法,是指在二战后 1946~1964 年期间出生的人。这次的婴儿潮(baby boom)经常被称为美国第二次世界大战后的"4664"现象:从 1946 年至 1964 年,这 18 年间婴儿潮人口高达 7800 万人。

Practices:		
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I. Language Points

Part A

Brainstorming: Please speak out or write down as many as possible words or expressions mentioned in these readings concerning "family".



Part B

Learning by heart: Write down at least one sentence from each reading. Analyze these sentences, try to find out something different in structure or expressions, and then learn them by heart.

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