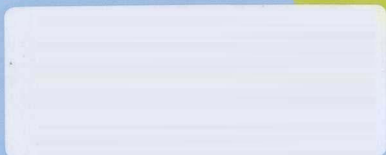


魅力英语

大学生英汉对照
人文知识读本

Charming English

吴汉平 © 主编



军事谊文出版社

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主 编 吴汉平
副主编 马海波 朱同生 赵天红
潘云燕
编 译 秦 岷 张 馨 桂祖英
李 茜 汪晓婧 赵 钢
朱 雷 董

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前言

《魅力英语——大学生英汉对照人文知识读本》(Charming English)共有四册，由《实现潜能》、《提高情商》、《享受文明》和《猜想未来》组成。每册包括40篇散文，从数千篇当代报纸、杂志、书籍和网络文章中选出。每册书围绕一个主题，册与册之间相互照应，互为补充，形成一体。每篇英文文章千字左右，均出自英美作家之手，文章妙趣横生、引人入胜；文字地道隽永、富有启迪；译文忠实原文、流畅优美，是一套编排独特，构思巧妙，融知识性、趣味性、思想性和实用性为一体的英汉对照阅读丛书。

在茫茫书海中，不乏英汉对照阅读书籍，但本书的主要特点在于：除了使读者通过广泛阅读不同题材和体裁的英文文章，培养良好语感及阅读习惯外，还旨在帮助读者系统地拓宽人文知识面，提高人文素质，在潜移默化中培养高尚情操、树立积极向上、乐观豁达的人生观、价值观和世界观。

很多读者经常为英语水平提高慢而苦恼，其中重要原因是读的材料太少、面太窄，难以培养语感。因此，在为本书选择范文时，我们在充分考虑其知识性和思想性的同时，十分注意文章题材的广泛性和体裁的多样性，选文覆盖了历史、地理、文学、哲学、艺术、音乐、美术、语言、科技、军事、网络空间等多个领域，既有叙述文、描写文，又有议论文和说明文；既有正式文体，又有非正式文体，可以说篇篇有特色。

本书第一册《实现潜能》(Realize the Potential Ability)。当你告别父母，远离故土，来到陌生城市，踏入大学大门，开始崭新人生之旅时，难免会遇到很多困难和挑战，首先需要学会适应和学习。本书将告诉你如何和谐地“与新室友共度大学生活”、“什么样的知识最有价值”、“为什么要学数学”、“哲学有何用处”，帮助你在浩瀚的知识海洋中学会选择知识、学习知识、锻炼技能、培养科学的思维方法，还教你如何从读书和学习中得到乐趣，如何做笔记、“怎样自学写作”、“怎样巧过谈话关”、“如何扩大词汇量”、“如何随时随地面对任何人说话的技巧”、“如何应付考试”、“如何发挥你的真实

潜能”等等。有了这些知识，你就能树立信心，“正确认识自我”，“把握人生的变化”，从而掌握“成功背后的秘诀”。

第二册《提高情商》(*Develop the Emotional Intelligence*)。大学的生活丰富多彩，青年人面对多彩人生，需要磨练、点拨、教诲，才能健康成长。本册主要介绍富有生活哲理的人生经验、经历，包括正确的价值观、恋爱观，告诉你“为什么品德最重要”，“通向成功的路不止一条”；教你如何面对成功、失败、顺境、逆境，学会“走自己的路”；教你“如何修复破损的友谊”，“如何与难处之人相处”，等等。此外，本册还告诉你在情感世界里，最“难忘初恋”，但是“莫把钟情当爱情”，了解“网恋的虚与实”，“如何找到真爱”，“娶理想的妻子”，做到“相爱到地老天荒”。读完本册书，肯定会大大丰富你的阅历、经验，使你洞悉“生活成功的秘密”和“幸福的真谛”，更从容融入社会，坦然面对人生。

第三册《享受文明》(*Enjoy the Benefits of Civilization*)。在人类历史的长河中，文明的发展是指引人类不断前进的明灯。在此进程中，有无数精彩的历史瞬间值得我们回忆，有着丰富的人文知识积淀值得我们去学习。本册着重介绍在历史长河中人类所创造出来的人文知识的精华，有文学、历史、地理、音乐、美术、艺术、语言、经济、信息技术等方面的散文，使你在增长人文知识的同时，大大扩充人文方面的英语词汇量。在这里，你可以观赏“荒诞派戏剧”和“喜剧大师卓别林”的表演；读一读“爵士乐史话”和“甲壳虫乐队诞生记”；聆听“流行天王迈克·杰克逊”的歌声；了解风雨人生的“英女王伊丽莎白二世”和“好莱坞传奇——伊丽莎白·泰勒”；浏览“脸谱网站创始人——马克扎克·伯格”的网络空间，在“全民联通的推特世界里”，了解不同肤色的不同语言和另类情感。你还能飞过千山万水，穿越时间隧道，视察“消失在丛林中的城市——吴哥窟”，攀登迪拜塔，看“神话诞生还是破灭”，游览“音乐之乡维也纳”，与“生活在爱尔兰”的人们笑谈“英法两个邻国，一对亲密仇人”。此外，本书还告诉你“学点历史好处多”，与你一起回顾“语言与歌曲的起源”、“美国人的创新简史”和“9·11恐怖袭击事件”，然后“重返伊甸园”，吃着“复活节的彩蛋”，用“短信传经典”，做“无忧无虑新一代”。

第四册《猜想未来》(*Guess the Wonders of Future*)。褪去少年的青涩，美好的青春徐徐展开了人生多彩的画卷。徜徉在人文的长河，领略了人类文明发展的历程，我们就禁不住地立足现在、畅想未来。本册重点介绍的是现代的文明和创造，如生物技术、



计算机技术、新媒体技术、智能手机、3D电视机的最新动态；了解信息技术如何改变人类生活，知道未来穿什么、用什么、吃什么，探询“火星存在生命的证据”和“向太空移民”的可能性；探索“核辐射为什么会带来伤害”，从而吸取日本福岛核危机的教训，远离“十大绿色生活误区”。本册还特别遴选了有关现代军事题材的数篇文章，使我们了解现代科技水平与武器装备、战争形态和战法的密切关系，了解海湾战争综合症的医学之谜，了解什么是电磁轨道炮、甲烷定时炸弹、微型仿真间谍飞机、隐形飞机和未来激光武器，研究如何与机器人作战，从而理性完成“未来28年猜想”，理性融入21世纪。

本书主要阅读对象为在校本、专科大学生，但是任何掌握了4000—6000英语单词的研究生、博士生或其他群体读者，都可以将其用作泛读教材或课外读物。相信它对拓宽人文知识面、提高英文水平、锻炼翻译技能、增长生活常识、丰富社会阅历等各方面均有裨益。

编译者

二〇一一年十二月于合肥



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1

Valentine's Day

每年二月，相爱的人们都会以圣·瓦伦丁的名义庆祝情人节。在中国，年轻一代中越来越多的人也过起了这个洋节。那么圣·瓦伦丁是谁，西方人为什么要庆祝这个节日呢？

[1] Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day—and its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

[2] While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial—which probably occurred around 270 A.D.—others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize'¹ celebrations of the pagan² Lupercalia³ festival.

[3] In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was

considered a time for purification⁴. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. Lupercalia, which began on February 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

[4] To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at the sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would then sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification.

[5] The boys then sliced the goat's hide⁵ into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood and took to the streets, gently slapping both women and fields of crops with the goathide strips. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed being touched with the hides because it was believed the strips would make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage. Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery'⁶ system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed.

[6] Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February—Valentine's Day—should be a day for romance.

[7] The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. The greeting, which was written in 1415, is part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England. Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

[8] In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens⁷ of affection or handwritten



notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings.

[9] Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began to sell the first mass-produced valentines in America.

[10] According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

[11] Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages (written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400), and the oldest known Valentine card is on display at the British Museum. The first commercial Valentine's Day greeting cards produced in the U.S. were created in the 1840s by Esther A. Howland. Howland, known as the Mother of the Valentine, made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap".

[12] One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men—his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

[13] Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

[14] According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting

himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl—who may have been his jailor's daughter—who visited him during his confinement⁸. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky⁹, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Notes

1. 把…基督教化 2. 异教徒, 异教徒的 3. (古罗马) 牧神节 (二月十五日) 4. 洁身, 净化
5. 兽皮, 皮革 6. 偶然的事, 不能预测的事 7. 象征 8. 限制, 被监禁 9. 可疑的, 说不清楚的



话说情人节

[1] 每年二月，全国各地相爱的人们都以圣·瓦伦丁的名义彼此互赠糖果、鲜花和礼物。这位神秘的圣徒是谁，我们为什么庆祝这个节日？虽然情人节的历史以及这位情人节的守护圣徒瓦伦丁其人其事已笼罩在神秘的帷幕之中，但是我们都知，二月是个浪漫之月。而今天的情人节，同时有着基督教传统和古罗马传统的影子。那么，圣·瓦伦丁是谁，他又是如何与这个古老的仪式联系在一起的呢？如今，罗马天主教认为至少有三个叫做瓦伦丁或者瓦伦丁诺斯的圣徒为教义献身。

[2] 一些人认为，在二月中旬过圣·瓦伦丁节，是为了纪念大约在公元270年发生的圣·瓦伦丁的去世或者入葬这件事情。也有人说基督教会决定在二月中旬过圣·瓦伦丁节是为了把异教徒罗马人的牧神节基督教化。

[3] 在古罗马，二月是春天的开始，被认为是洁身赎罪的时节。人们行仪式把屋舍打扫干净，再在里面洒上盐和斯佩耳特小麦。在二月十五日开始的古罗马牧神节，是为了纪念福纳斯——罗马农牧之神的节日，同时也是为了纪念罗马的建立者罗穆卢斯和瑞摩斯。

[4] 节日开始的时候，牧神团（古罗马牧师的一种位次排列）的成员就会聚集在圣洞前，人们相信罗马的建立者罗穆卢斯和瑞摩斯，在襁褓中时曾在此洞中受到一头母狼的哺育之恩。牧师们会献祭一头山羊，以求丰收、繁衍，另进献一只狗，以示净化。

[5] 然后，男孩们把山羊皮割成条，蘸上祭血，到街道上去，轻轻抽打女人们和地里的庄稼。古罗马的女人们根本不害怕，她们非常乐意挨打，因为据说山羊皮能增强她们来年的生育能力。据传，那天下午，全城所有的年轻女子都把自己的名字写好放在一个大瓮里，城里的单身汉们会从里面选择一个名字，再和选择的女子在这一年里结为伴侣。这种伴侣通常会结为夫妻。大约公元498年，教皇格拉修斯宣布二月十四日为圣·瓦伦丁节。罗马人这种抽签配对方式被认为不符合基督教教义，是不合法的。

[6] 到了中世纪，法国人和英国人普遍认为二月十四日是鸟儿交配季节的开始，从而

更坚信二月中旬的圣·瓦伦丁节应该是一个浪漫的日子。

[7] 在现存的资料中，“瓦伦丁”一词最早出现在一首诗里，是奥尔良公爵查尔斯写给其妻子的一首诗，他在阿金库尔战役后被俘，囚禁在伦敦塔里。这首诗写于1415年，现存于伦敦大英图书馆的手稿区。几年后，据说亨利五世雇了一位叫约翰·利德盖特的作家给这位瓦罗亚的凯瑟琳写了一首情诗。

[8] 在英国，情人节大约从17世纪开始流行。到了18世纪中叶，所有社会阶层的亲朋好友以及情人们之间彼此交换信物或者手写的便笺已经非常普遍了。18世纪末，由于印刷术的进步，印刷的卡片开始代替了手写的文字。在直抒心意不受鼓励的年代，现成的卡片便成了人们表达情感的便利方式。低廉的邮寄费用，也使互送情人卡愈加普遍。

[9] 美国人可能是在18世纪早期开始交换手工制作的情人节礼物的。19世纪40年代，伊丝·A·豪兰在美国开始销售首批大批量生产的情人节礼物。

[10] 根据贺卡协会的统计，每年大约有十亿张情人节卡片被送出去，使得情人节成为一年中第二大送贺卡的节日（仅次于圣诞节的大约26亿张）。大约85%的情人节贺卡的购买者是女性。除了美国，加拿大、墨西哥、英国、法国和澳大利亚都过情人节。

[11] 情人节礼物远在中世纪时期就已经很受欢迎了（手写的情人节礼物直到1400年之后才出现），已知的最古老的情人节贺卡在大英博物馆中展出。第一批商用的情人节贺卡是19世纪40年代在美国由被称为情人节之母的伊丝·A·豪兰制作出来的。她用真丝带、缎带和多种颜色的被称为“碎片”的图片做出了精美的贺卡。

[12] 有种说法认为瓦伦丁是个牧师，三世纪时在罗马供职。当时，罗马皇帝克劳迪阿斯二世认定单身男子比那些有家室的人更会成为好兵，于是他宣布年轻男子结婚为非法，因为他们是他未来的兵源。瓦伦丁认为这个命令是不公正的，便违抗皇命，继续秘密地为相爱的年轻人举行婚礼。克劳迪阿斯发现后，便下令处死瓦伦丁。

[13] 其他一些说法认为，瓦伦丁被杀可能是因为他帮在罗马监狱里遭受酷刑的基督徒越狱。

[14] 还有一种说法认为，瓦伦丁其实是第一个寄送“瓦伦丁”问候的人。他在狱中和一位探视他、也许是典狱长的年轻女儿坠入了爱河。据说被处死前，他给这位女子写过一封信，署名“你的瓦伦丁”（你的情人），该署名沿用至今。尽管瓦伦丁故事背后的真相无从得知，这些传说都将他塑造成一位具有同情心、英勇无畏的人物，更重要的是，他充满了浪漫情怀。所以，到了中世纪，瓦伦丁已经成为英法两国最受爱戴的圣徒。



2

Easter Eggs

复活节是基督徒的重要节日，在复活节互赠彩蛋也有几百年的历史。而今天这一风俗已发生变化，互赠彩蛋更主要是为了给家人和朋友带来惊喜。

[1] When the first spring flowers blossom, Easter comes. It is the oldest Christian feast, commemorating the resurrection¹ of Jesus Christ.

[2] Along with the traditional Easter walk or outing, the giving of Easter eggs and, more recently, of Easter presents is a main feature of the feast. Parents give their children "Easter eggs"—colored and boiled eggs, chocolate eggs, marzipan² eggs—Easter bunnies³, sweets, and other gifts. In some German regions, children virtually "collect" Easter eggs from their relatives, especially their godparents.

[3] Usually, the Easter eggs are carefully hidden in the garden or in the house and the children must search for them on the morning of Easter Sunday. They are told that the Easter bunny has brought them. This anonymous⁴, mysterious bunny is like Santa Claus at Christmas. But it is less of an "educational" figure than Santa Claus is, since the eggs are not given to children as rewards for being good.

[4] Some Easter egg games have been preserved at certain places in Germany or have even been newly developed. Children try to outdo each other in rolling colored eggs down grassy slopes, for instance, or they knock the eggs' pointed ends together and the