

英语时文选读

COMPREHENSION PIECES ON CURRENT TOPICS

葆青编注

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人民教育出版社

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第三辑

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编者的话

“时文选读”第三辑的英语教学节目在北京人民广播电台播送期间受到听众同志们的欢迎，纷纷要求早日出版书面材料，以利学习。但“时文选读”这一广播节目是本人在有限的业余时间中编排出来的，由于各种原因，对制作节目和教材的出版不免顾此失彼。这份书面材料迟迟到现在才能和大家见面，深表歉意。

这一辑的材料选自1980年前后国外的出版物或教材，为了适合我们所用，作了一定的改动和编排。并在每一正文之后附一自编的对话，作为如何使用本教材进行英语交谈的示范。本辑共有文章十篇，选材原则和第一辑、第二辑基本上一样：在文字上力求保持口语化、习惯语化的特点；在内容上除了力求新颖活泼以外，还注意了知识性和趣味性，并尽量包括读者所关心的问题，如人口问题、就业问题、出国留学问题、工业管理问题、对待时间的态度问题、男女儿童智力发展有无区别的问题、城市中空气污染的问题等等。希望这份材料能使读者得到既学语言又学内容的一箭双雕之利。

为了便于自学，在每篇文章之后附有参考译文和注解。但英译汉时，译文往往因各人的理解、用词习惯和风格的不同而各异，所以这里的译文仅仅起一参考作用。

葆青

一九八四年十二月于北京

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1

What's Your Name?^①

"Hey! You! Third boy from the top of the left side — you dropped your glove!"

"Guess what! I'm invited to a birthday party that the girl with the blonde hair and brown eyes who wears a red winter coat is giving!"

Whew^②! Aren't you glad that mothers and fathers give names to their children? It's so much easier and quicker — and friendlier — to say, "John, you dropped your glove!" or, "I'm invited to Betty's birthday party."

Names are the quickest and easiest — and friendliest — way to say who's who. Another nice thing about names is that they do not change as people do.

Yesterday Mary's hair was long. Today her hair is short. But her name is still Mary.

On his birthday Uncle George^③ did not have a beard. At Christmastime he did, But his name is still George.

People are always changing, a little or a lot. But

people's first names stay the same.

Another good thing about a name is that it sometimes says something nice about someone.

Girls' names often come from words meaning "pretty", "happy", "loving", ...

Lily comes from the name of this flower. Her name means that she is pretty and sweet like the lily.

Catherine comes from a word meaning "truthful". It says that she is an honest lady and loved by all.

Dorothy comes from a word meaning "gift". You know how happy you are when a gift comes your way④!

Boys' names are often borrowed from words meaning "strong", "brave", "lucky", ...

Richard comes from a word meaning "brave".

Victor comes from a word meaning "winner".

Charles comes from a word meaning "man of the common people" — a man who works on the land.

There are so many people named Richard or Lily. Without a last name to go with your first name,⑤ how could people tell which Richard or which Lily you were?

A very long time ago that's the way it was everywhere. People had only one name. As there got to be more and more people in the world, it became

harder and harder to tell them apart.^⑥ So people began making up last names for themselves^⑦ — now called family names or surnames.

Sometimes in choosing a last name a man would think about the kind of work he did. If he was a cook he might say, "I am Tom, the cook." Or just plain Tom Cook. If he was a cook for a king, he might become known as Tom Kingcook.

A man who was a carpenter, a tailor, a miller, a baker, a farmer, or a weaver might choose to call himself by one of these names.

One of the most common names in the English language is Smith, which is short for blacksmith. There used to be a blacksmith in every village. Instead of iron, some smiths worked with gold or silver. That put such names in the phone book as Tom Goldsmith or Tom Silversmith. Sometimes the names became shortened to Tom Gold or Tom Silver.

Sometimes a man took his last name from his father's first name. Tom was the son of John. So he began calling himself Tom Johnson. A man who was the son of Jack might call himself Jackson.

Often a man got his last name from the place where he lived. James lived on a hill. So people began to call him James Hill. Another James lived by a

lake. He became James Lake.

A man was sometimes called by a nickname. A tall man might be called Long Tom or Tom Long, or Tom Longfellow. A short man might become Little John, and his son was probably called Tom Littlejohn. William who was always thirsty might be called William Drinkwater.

Sometimes colors became last names. A man with red hair might be called Tom Red. But sometimes down through the years, the name was changed. So Tom Read or Reade^⑧ is still probably a descendant of Tom Red. A man who lived near the village green^⑨ might have called himself Tom Green.

If Tom had a strong arm, what name might he have? What if he had a big foot?^⑩

The last names of people all over the world had similar beginnings. Can you guess how you might have gotten^⑪ your last name?

参考译文

你叫什么名字?

“嗨! 叫你呢, 左边头上的第三个小伙子——你的手套丢了!”

“你猜怎么着! 那个金头发、棕色眼睛、穿红色冬季大衣

的姑娘请我去参加她的生日宴会呢！”

真罗嗦！父母亲给孩子们起名字可真是一件好事情。要是说“约翰，你的手套丢了！”或者，“蓓蒂请我去参加她的生日宴会。”就要省事多了，快多了，而且更亲切。

名字是表明谁是谁的一个最快、最省事、最友好的办法。名字还有一个优点，就是，人会起变化，但名字不变。

昨天玛丽留长发，今天她是短发。但她的名字仍旧叫玛丽。

乔治叔叔生日那天没有胡子，圣诞节时他有了胡子。但他的名字还是乔治。

人总是在变，有时变得少，有时变得多。但人的名字不变。

名字的另外一个优点是有时它是赞美某个人的。

姑娘的名字常常来源于表示“美丽”、“幸福”、“亲爱”等等字眼。

莉莉(Lily)这个名字来源于叫作 Lily 的百合花。这个名字的意思是象百合花一样的美丽，温柔。

凯塞琳(Catherine)来源于一个意思是“真诚”的词。它的意思是说她是个诚实的女子，为大家所爱。

陶乐赛(Dorothy)来源于一个意思是“礼物”的词。一个人收到礼物时会多么高兴啊！

男孩子的名字常常借助于意思是“强壮”、“勇敢”、“幸运”……这样的词。

里查(德)(Richard)来源于一个意思是“勇敢”的词。

维克特(Victor)来源于意思是“胜利者”的一个词。

查尔斯(Charles)来源于意思是“普通老百姓”的一个词，也即是“在地里干活的人”。

叫里查或叫莉莉的人多得很。只有名，没有姓，别人怎么分得出是哪个里查或哪个莉莉呢？

很久很久以前，到处都是这样，人们只有一个名字。世界上的人越来越多的时候，就越来越难于分清谁是谁了。所以人们开始给自己造一个姓(last name)，在英语里姓也叫family name 或 surname。

有时候，一个人在挑选姓的时候会考虑到自己做的工作。如果他是个炊事员，他可能会说，“我是炊事员汤姆。”或者干脆就叫汤姆·炊事员(Cook)。如果他是给国王做饭的，他可能叫做汤姆·国王的厨师(Kingcook)。

当木匠、裁缝、磨坊主、面包师、农夫、纺织工的，就把这种名称作为自己的姓。

英语中最常见的姓之一是史密斯(Smith)，史密斯是铁匠(Blacksmith)的简略形式。以前每个村子都有一个铁匠。有些匠人不做铁活，做金子或银子活。因此可以看见电话簿里有汤姆·金匠(Goldsmith)或汤姆·银匠(Silversmith)这样的名字。有时这些名字缩短成汤姆·金(Gold)或汤姆·银(Silver)。

有时人们的姓采用父亲的名字。例如汤姆是约翰的儿子，他就叫自己约翰逊(Johnson，意为约翰之子)。某人是杰克的儿子，就可能叫自己杰克逊

常常一个人的姓来源于他所住的地方。詹姆士住在一座小山上，所以人们就叫他詹姆士·山(Hill)。另外一个詹姆

士住在湖边,他就成了詹姆士·湖(Lake)。

有时人们也用外号来称呼一个人。某个高个子可能被人叫作高个儿汤姆或汤姆·高(Long),或汤姆·高个子。一个矮个子可能被人叫作小约翰,他的儿子就很可能叫汤姆·小约翰(Littlejohn)。威廉老是觉得渴,他可能被人叫作威廉·喝水(Drinkwater)。

有时候颜色也成为人们的姓。一个有红头发的人可能被人们叫作汤姆·红(Red)。但是有时期长期流传下来的名字会变样,汤姆·Read或Reade可能就是汤姆·Red的后代。住在村子草地附近的人可能被人叫作汤姆·绿(Green)。

那么,如果汤姆的胳膊很壮,他该叫什么名字呢?如果他的一只脚很大,又该叫什么呢?

全世界人们的姓都有同样的起源。你能猜得出你自己的姓是怎么得来的吗?

注释:

1. 关于英文名字:

- 1) 英文名字有男女之别,如 Alice, Betty, Dora, Edith, Helen, Irene, Margaret, Clara 等,是常见的女子名字; Frank, George, Henry, Robert, Larry, Michael, Nelson, Paul 等,是常见的男人名字。
- 2) 在英语中,名字放在姓之前,所以名字叫 first name,姓叫 last name。名字也叫 given name,有时叫 Christian name; 姓也叫 surname,有时叫 family name。名字和姓在一起,如 William Taylor, 是 full name (全名)。有时为了纪念某人,在 first name 和 last name 之间还可以有一个名字,叫做 middle name, 如 William Paul Taylor 中的 Paul。中间的

字往往简写成第一个字母,如 William P. Taylor。

- 3) 在称呼某人时,男人用 Mr., 已婚女子用 Mrs. (后面加丈夫的姓), 未婚女子用 Miss。有教授学衔或博士学位的人,可用 Professor 或 Doctor 来称呼。在用以上这些称谓时,后面都用姓,或名字加姓,但不单用名字。

在我国对教师常称呼“某某老师”,在英语里不用“Teacher 某某”的称呼,主要因为 teacher 不是一种头衔而是一个职业。在英语中称呼老师时仍用 Mr., Mrs., Miss, Prof., Dr. 等称谓,有时也可以呼老师的名字 (first name)。尤其美国人,互相间熟悉以后往往直呼名字,以示亲切。

- 4) 在用英语的国家(以及其它资本主义国家),女子结婚后用丈夫的姓,如 Mary Johnson 和 Charles Ford 结婚后就叫 Mary Ford, 称呼时用 Mrs. Mary Ford, 或 Mrs. Charles Ford, 或只称 Mrs. Ford。女子原来的姓名叫 maiden name。

自从 60 年代美国的妇女解放运动兴起以来,有不少女子不愿用反映自己婚姻情况的 Mrs. 或 Miss, 而创造了一个新的称呼 Ms. (读作 [miz]), 和汉语中的“女士”很相象。用于已婚妇女时,根据本人的选择,Ms. 后可以用女子自己的姓,也可以用丈夫的姓。

在写 Mr., Mrs., Ms. 等称谓时,可以有一点“·”,也可以省略,如 Mr, Mrs, Ms。

2. whew [hwi:] 惊叹词,在这里表示(上文罗嗦了一阵后)到此松了一口气。又如:

Whew! I am glad it's all over. 嗨(或“好家伙”)! 事情总算过去了。

3. Uncle George 乔治叔叔。

在英语中用 Mr., Mrs. 等称谓时要用姓(或名字加姓),不能单用名字。但在用 Uncle, Aunt 等有亲属关系的称谓时,后面用名字而不用姓,如 Aunt Sally, Sister Carrie。在家庭中称少主人

时也用名字,如 Miss Lily, Master Henry (亨利少爷)。在称呼国王、皇后、公主、王子时也用名字,如 King George, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Mary, Prince Charles 等。

4. when a gift comes your way 当你收到一件礼物的时候。

your way 是状语,在这里有“(礼物)来到自己手边”的意思,又如:

Everything is going *my way*. 一切都顺我的心意。

5. without a last name to go with your first name 只有名,没有和名连在一起的姓。to go with ... 有“连在一起”,“配在一起”的意思,又如:

Green color goes well with yellow. 绿色和黄色很配。

6. As there got to be more and more people in the world, it became harder and harder to tell them apart. 世界上的人越来越多的时候,就越来越难于分清谁是谁了。

- 1) 本句中的 get to 和 used to, have to 等情态动词的用法相似,起一个助动词的作用,后面跟不定式(动词的原形),有“逐渐”的含意,如:

When did you *get to* know him? 你什么时候开始认识他的?

(有“开始认识,和他交上了朋友”的含意。)

比较下列两个句子,它们在含意上有一点不同:

As there *were* more and more people in the world,

...

As there *got to be* more and more people in the world, ...

- 2) to tell them apart 是“将它们分清”,“将它们区分开来”的意思。另外有一个表达法是 tell something from something,也是“分清”,“辨别”的意思,如:

He cannot *tell* green from blue. He is color blind.

他分不清绿和蓝。他是色盲。

7. **So people began making up last names for themselves.** 因此人们开始为自己造一些姓。

这里 **make up** 有“造”，“杜撰”的意思，如：

The story is made up. 这个故事是杜撰的。

(或：这件事是臆造出来的。)

make up 这个短语动词还有不少其他的意思，另外一个常见的用法是“补上”，“和好”，如：

When are you going to make up the lesson you have missed? 你什么时候补缺的课？

They quarreled, and made up. 他们吵了架，又言归于好了。

8. **Reade** 读作 [ri:d]。

9. **village green** 村子里的一片公用草地，往往在那里举行一些活动。

10. **What if he had a big foot?** 如果他的一只脚很大(又该叫什么名字)呢？

这是一句常见的省略句，略去上文中已知的部分，完全的句子为：**What name might he have if he had a big foot?**

11. **gotten (= got) get** 的过去分词，美国用法。

Dialogue

Names

A: 'Hey! You!' is not a proper way to call a person, is it?

B: I shouldn't think so. I still remember what Professor Yu said to his students on the first day of

class: "My name is Yu. You may call me Doctor Yu, Professor Yu or Mr. Yu. But not 'Hey! Yu!'"
Everybody laughed.

A: But can you call him "Teacher Yu"?

B: In American universities students don't call their teachers or instructors Teacher So-and-So. They use the title Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Professor, if he is a professor, or Doctor, if he has a Ph. D. degree. Sometimes students just call their instructors by their first names.

A: That's interesting. People in the United States or Britain have two names, don't they?

B: Yes, the first name and the last name, but most people have three names, the first and the middle names, which are given names; and the last name, which is the family name, or surname.

A: Well, this is something like Chinese names. We also have two or three names.

B: But Chinese family names come first. They cannot be called 'last names.' And the English middle name is optional with the person. If a person's name is John Thomas Green, he may write John T. Green or just John Green without the T.

A: Are people's given names usually chosen by their parents?

B: They usually are. They can be the first or middle names of one of the parents or grand parents, the names of relatives or friends.

A: I think world events, political movements or a popular political leader may influence the choice of names. During Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration many children were named Franklin or Roosevelt.

B: Sometimes movie stars or sports figures may influence people's choice of names, too. I shouldn't be surprised if parents now want to choose Lang-ping, Wei-min for their babies' names.

A: The family name, or last name, is usually the family name of the father, isn't it?

B: Yes. In western countries the mother's last name is not used as the child's last name unless it is done through legal procedure. However, it can be used as a child's given name.

A: In many other countries outside of China, a woman uses her husband's last name, instead of her own, after marriage. Is this still true today?

B: Well, yes, in most cases women change their names after marriage. For example, if Betty Weaver marries John Porter, she becomes Mrs. Betty Porter or Mrs. John Porter.