

英语时文选读

COMPREHENSION
PIECES ON
CURRENT
TOPICS

葆青编注

2

人民教育出版社

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第二辑

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编者的话

这份材料已通过北京广播电台的广播节目向听众同志们作了介绍,现在以书面形式印刷出来,作为这一套选读材料的第二辑和大家见面。

这里所选编的材料,除了第一篇是自编的外,其余的都选自79年前后国外出版物或教材中的文章。为了适合我们所用,作了一定的整理和编排,并在每篇正文之后安排一篇与题材有关的对话。对话是自编的,读者从中可以看到如何根据课文的主题来进行会话。对话中的内容尽量适应我国学英语读者的思路 and 需要。

本辑的文字比第一辑的略深,但仍保持口语化和习惯语化的特点。所选的题材和内容力求新颖活泼,多种多样,其中大部分是人们日常谈论的、或报章上常见到的话题,如电视、流行音乐、城市噪音、小学教育,以及名人介绍、科普小品等。

我们考虑到,兴趣对学习语言是非常重要的。如果对所学的内容感兴趣,而且还能从中得到一定的教益,那么,反过来一定会对语言的学习有所促进。在选材中,我们注意到了这个因素。

为了便于自学,在每篇课文后面附有参考译文,并作了注解,对某些篇章还作了一定的背景说明。文中的拼法都采用美国通用的形式,如 colour 为 color, grey 为 gray 等。

葆青

一九八四年十二月于北京

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1

Home^①

Pagoda Street^② is a street like many others — not very clean, not very wide, only wide enough for two buses to pass. But it is a busy street all the same^③, especially during the rush hour. People come and go, hurrying to work. When a bus comes, the crowd at the bus-stop starts to rush and push to get on. There are a lot of cars, buses, trucks, bicycles and even tractors. The place is noisy and dusty, and the noise of the tractors is deafening. But it is not so bad when the rush hour is over. Old people come out to sit on the door-steps and have a smoke and chat. Housewives go shopping with bags or baskets on their arms. When friends meet, they stop to exchange a few words of greetings. There are also children playing ball games. They don't mind the dust or the passing cars. It certainly is not a good place for ball games. But then^④ where else can they play?

I used to play football in the street when I was a boy. I live in this neighbourhood. Behind the post

office there is a small old one-storeyed house. My family live there. Actually I was born there. We have three rooms — two bedrooms and a kitchen-parlour. I call it a kitchen-parlour because it is more than a kitchen to us.^⑥ It is where all the family gather when the day's work is done. I want to tell you about it because I like this room best. We spend most of our time, or rather, Mom spends most of her time there.^⑦ We eat our meals there, we do our homework there, we play games there, Dad has his cup of tea there after meals and Mom even has her friends there. It is the hub of activity.

The kitchen is neat and cosy. At least I think it is. But Mom complains that we children often throw peels and other things on the floor and that we often make a mess of it. She has to do all the cleaning and washing and cooking and shopping and a hundred and one other things.^⑧ I'm sorry to say we children are not very helpful around the house.

Mother wants to live in an apartment house. She thinks a flat is much more convenient and we'll pay less rent on a flat than on a house. But Dad doesn't agree. He thinks it is more convenient to live in a one-storeyed house. "You don't have to climb the stairs, to begin with^⑨," he often says, "and you

can grow flowers and vegetables in the garden in front of the house.” Dad has green fingers^⑩. He loves flowers. He grows roses, lilies, daisies and pansies and other countless plants. His windows are choked with pots of flowers. He certainly doesn't want to move into a flat.

Is it more convenient to live in a flat or in a house? Or is a house more comfortable than a flat? I don't know, and I don't care. It is true our house is a little too old.^⑪ It is damp and the roof leaks and there are quite a few mouse holes. But the place is good enough for me. I feel quite happy here. I feel happy and cosy wherever Mother^⑫ is. It is my home, and I love it. There is no place like home. And as the saying goes, “East or west, home is best.”

说明

本文描写的是一个城市中一个普通人的家，所在的街道也是一条普通的街道。街道上的景象，例如上下班时挤公共汽车、老人坐在台阶上抽烟聊天、主妇们挎着篮子买菜等等，都是我们日常生活中可以见到的。在家里，妈妈天天忙于家务事，孩子们不帮忙，倒把果皮纸屑乱扔，把厨房弄得乱七八糟，也是我们日常生活中常见的琐事。但是你知道怎么用英语来表达吗？这篇文章就是告诉我们怎样用合乎习惯用法的英语来表达这方面的思想。

参考译文

家

宝塔街象很多别的街道一样——不太干净，不太宽，只能同时通过两辆公共汽车。但它倒也是一条繁忙的街道，特别是在高峰时间，人们来来往往，急急忙忙去上班。当一辆公共汽车开过来时，等在车站的一群人开始向前冲，往上挤。街上有很多汽车、公共汽车、卡车、自行车、甚至拖拉机。这地方又闹，尘土又大，而拖拉机的响声震耳欲聋。但是当高峰过去后，这条街倒也还清静。老年人出来坐在台阶上抽烟、聊天，主妇们手臂上挎着提兜或篮子出来买菜。熟人看见了互相打招呼。还有孩子们在街上玩球。孩子们不在乎尘土或是来往的车辆。街上当然不是玩球的地方，不过，话又说回来了，他们能到什么地方去玩球呢？

我小时候也在街上踢足球。我就住在这附近。在邮局的后面有一所旧的小平房，我家就住在那里。事实上我是生在那里的。我们有三间屋子——包括两间卧室和一间“厨房起坐间”。称它为“厨房起坐间”，因为对我们来说，它不仅仅是厨房，而且是我们一家人在工作和学习之余聚会的地方。我要对你说说这个厨房，因为我最喜欢这间屋子。我们在家时的大部分时间都在这里度过。我们在这里吃饭，做作业，玩游戏，饭后爸爸在这里喝杯茶，甚至，妈妈的朋友来时也在厨房里说话。这是我们活动的中心。

厨房很整洁、舒适，至少我是这么认为的。但是妈妈总抱怨说我们孩子们把果皮纸屑扔得一地，把屋子弄得乱七八糟。

她得扫呀，洗呀，刷呀，做饭呀，买菜呀，事情没完没了。很遗憾我们这些孩子没有帮着做什么家务事。

妈妈想住单元房子。她觉得单元房要方便得多，而房租还比平房便宜。但是爸爸不同意。爸爸认为住平房更方便。“起码你不用爬楼梯，”他常常这么说，“而且还可以在屋子前面的地里种种花和蔬菜。”爸爸会种东西。他爱花，他种了玫瑰花，百合花，雏菊花，兰色紫罗兰，还有数不清的别的花草。他的窗口垛满了一盆盆的花草，他当然不愿搬到单元楼去住。

是住单元房更方便呢还是平房更方便？是住平房舒服呢还是单元房舒服？我不知道，也无所谓。的确，我们的房子是旧了一点，也很潮湿，屋顶漏雨，还有好几个耗子洞。但是对我来说就够好的了。在这里住着我觉得很痛快。只要哪儿有妈妈在，我就觉得很痛快很舒服。这是我的家，我爱它。天下没有比家更好的地方了。常言说，“金窝，银窝，不如家里的草窝。”

注释

1. home, family, house 三个词在汉语里有时都能说成“家”。例如：

My family live there. 我家就住在那儿。

There is no place like home. 天下没有比家再好的了。

Will you come to my house tomorrow? 你明天到我家来好吗？

但 family 往往是指家人，这个词可看作复数，指家中一个个成员；如果把家人看作一个整体，这个词就可用作单数，例如，My family lives there. house 是指住的地方，目前我们住的地方如果不能称作 house，可以用 place 一字，如，Will you come to

my place tomorrow? home 包括了住处和家人两者, 是一个可以称之为家的环境, 有时带有一些感情色彩。例如: Home, Sweet Home. 可爱的家。当然不能说 House, Sweet House.

2. Pagoda Street 宝塔街

街名、广场名前一般不用 the。例如:

Changan Avenue 长安大街

Nanjing Road 南京路

Tian An Men Square 天安门广场

但英国伦敦的 High Street 常用定冠词 the, the High Street。以序数词编号的街名常用 the。如: the Thirty Fourth Street, the Fifth Avenue。

pagoda[pe'gəudə]n. 宝塔, 不要将此词和 dagoba['dɑ:gəbə] 混淆, 后者为佛教中的舍利子塔, 如北京白塔寺和北海公园的白塔。

3. But it is a busy street all the same, ... (尽管并不宽)这条街还是很热闹的, ……

all the same 有“(尽管……)还是……”的意思。例如:

A: Will you come to dinner tomorrow?

明天请来吃饭好吗?

B: I'm sorry I have another engagement tomorrow, but thank you all the same. 对不起, 明天我另有约会, 谢谢了。

又如:

It is their day off, but they are busy all the same.

今天他们休假, 但是他们照样还是忙。

all the same 也可以用 just the same。

4. but then 在这里有“再说”, “话又说回来了”的意思, 不能解释为它的原意“但是然后”。例如:

A: I hope it will be a fine day tomorrow.

我希望明天是个好天。

B: I hope so, too. But then there is nothing you can do about the weather.

我也希望如此。但是,话又说回来了,对于天气你是拿它没有办法的。

5. one-storeyed house 平房。

storey ['stɔ:ri] 层。这个词有两种拼法: storey 或 story。一幢两层的房子可以说 a two-storeyed house, 或 a two-storied house。

6. I call it a kitchen-parlour because it is more than a kitchen to us.

对 more than 的这种用法,再举一例:

He is more than a teacher to us.

他对我们来说,不仅仅是个老师。

这里 kitchen-parlour 的这种说法是杜撰的,指这间厨房兼做起坐间。

7. We spend most of our time, or rather, Mom spends most of her time there.

1) or rather 有“更确切地说”,“要这么说,还不如那么说”的意思。例如:

We came back late at night, or rather, early in the morning.

我们晚上很晚,更确切地说,一清早回家的。

He doesn't like me, or rather, his wife doesn't like me.

他不喜欢我,更确切地说,他的爱人不喜欢我。

2) rather 在大多数情况下用来作副词,和 very, quite, pretty 同义,常常用于不太理想的情况,如: rather cold, rather short, rather difficult, 而不大说 rather good。

3) Mom [mɒm] 妈妈,这是美国用法,英国用法为 Mum [mʌm], 或 Mummy。

4) spend 一词是“花费”的意思,可以指花费时间在某件事情上。例如:

He spends a lot of his time looking for reference ma-

terial. 他把好多时间花在找参考资料上。

注意, 花时间在某件事上, 要在 spend 后面用动词的-ing 形式, 也可以说 in looking for ... 但介词 in 往往省略。如果说在某方面花钱, 可以用 on。例如:

He spends most of his money on books.

他把大部分钱都花在买书上。

8. She has to do all the cleaning and washing and cooking and shopping and a hundred and one other things.

通常在数一连串的事物时, 只在最后一件事物的前面用一个连接词 and 就可以了。例如:

She has to do the cleaning, the washing and the cooking. (在 and 之前如果没有停顿, 可不用逗号。) 但本句中的 and 重复多次, 表达了一种腻味、不耐烦的心情, 说明一个又一个, 没有完的时候。这里用重复 and 来作为一种修辞手段。另外, one hundred and one 是一个成语, 表示“多”。有时也可以用 a thousand and one。例如:

A thousand and one thanks. 多谢, 多谢。

9. to begin with 是个不定式插入语, 意思是“起码”, “首先”, 含义是“还有别的好条件呢”。其它不定式的插入语还有 to tell the truth 老实说; to make a long story short 简单地说。
10. green fingers 善于种植花、蔬菜等。

对一个善于种东西的人, 可以说:

He has green fingers.

或: He has a green thumb.

11. It is true our house is a little too old.

It is true ... 可以译成“的确”, 有退一步讲的意思, 后面常常用一个以 but 开头的句子。例如:

It is true the house is a bit too old, but it is good enough for us. 的确, 房子是旧了一点儿, 但我们住住也可以了。

It is true he is only half-educated, but he has a heart

of gold. 的确, 他没有念过多少书, 但他的心眼极好。

12. Mother 在指自己的母亲时, 可以不用定冠词 the 或物主代词 my, 书写时第一个字母要大写。

Dialogue

Home

A: Where do you live?

B: I live in this neighborhood. See that one-storeyed house over there? That's my home. Would you like to come over and have a look?

A: Certainly I would. What street is this?

B: Pagoda Street.

A: Pagoda Street? Is there a pagoda somewhere around here?

B: Not that I know of. There must have been a pagoda here in the past, but now it's an ordinary street, just like any other street in this neighborhood.

A: The street is not very clean, is it?

B: No, it's not. And it's not very wide, either, only wide enough for two buses to pass.

A: Is the place always so crowded and noisy like this?

B: Not always, but this is the rush hour. It's not so

bad when the rush hour is over. Here we are.
This is our house. My family live here.

A: How many are there in your family?

B: There're four of us — Father, Mother, my brother and I. Will you please step in to our kitchen-parlor?

A: I beg your pardon? Did you say kitchen-parlor?

B: Yes, we call this room kitchen-parlor.

A: I'm afraid I still don't quite understand what you mean.

B: Well, this room serves both as a kitchen and a parlor. It's more than a kitchen to us: we eat our meals here, we do our homework and play games here and Mom even has her friends here. This is where we spend most of our time.

A: I see. The room is neat and cosy.

B: I'm glad you think so. But Mom complains that we children often make a mess of it.

A: Who does all the household chores?

B: Our mother. She has to do all the cleaning, washing, cooking, shopping and many other things. I'm sorry to say my brother and I are not very helpful around the house.

A: I suppose you've lived here a long time.

B: Yes, it's been a long long time since my parents

moved here. My brother and I were born here. This is an old house. The roof leaks and there're quite a few mouse holes. That's why my mother wants to move into one of those new apartment houses in town.

A: What about your father? Does he prefer to live in a house or in an apartment?

B: Dad prefers to live in a one-storeyed house. He doesn't want to climb the stairs and he wants to grow flowers and vegetables in the garden in front of the house. He certainly doesn't want to move into an apartment.

A: What do you think? Would you like to live in an apartment house?

B: I don't know. I've no preference. Any place will do for me. I feel happy and cosy wherever Mother is. Oh, talk of the angel^①... Here comes Mother. Let's go over and meet her.

注释

1. 英语里有一个成语“Talk of the devil, the devil comes.” devil原意为“魔鬼”，这句话和中文里的“说到曹操，曹操就到”很相似。有时说的人是你所爱的或尊敬的人，就往往将 devil 改成 angel 一字。

参考译文

家

A: 你住在哪儿?

B: 我就住在这附近, 看见那边那平房吗? 那就是我的家, 你愿意过来看看吗?

A: 当然愿意, 这是什么街?

B: 宝塔街。

A: 宝塔街? 这里有宝塔吗?

B: 倒没听说过。以前这里一定有过宝塔, 但现在只是一条普通的街, 和这一带别的街道一模一样。

A: 这条街不太干净。

B: 是的, 不干净, 也不宽, 只能同时通过两辆公共汽车。

A: 这里总是这样拥挤、吵闹吗?

B: 不总这样, 但现在的高峰时间。高峰时间过去后, 这地方还是不错的。我们到了。这是我们住的地方。我家就住在这儿。

A: 你家里有多少人?

B: 一共四口人, 爸爸、妈妈、弟弟和我。请到我们的厨房起坐间来吧。

A: 对不起, 你说什么? 厨房…起坐间?

B: 是的, 我们把这间屋子叫厨房起坐间。

A: 抱歉, 我还不太懂你的意思。

B: 嗯, 这间屋子又当厨房又当起坐间。它对我们来说, 不仅仅是厨房。我们在这里吃饭, 做作业, 玩游戏。甚至妈妈的