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Cultural Backgrounds for English Learning

英美文化背景知识



东北林业大学出版社

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前 言

教育部颁发的《大学英语课程教学要求（试行）》指出：大学英语的教学目标是培养学生的英语综合应用能力，特别是听说能力，使他们在今后工作和社会交往中能用英语有效地进行口头和书面的信息交流，同时增强其自主学习能力，提高综合文化素养，以适应我国社会发展和国际交流的需要。这就要求我们把提高学生用英语进行交际的能力作为英语教学的最终目的。

众所周知，正确的交际除了需要语言基础，还需要文化保障。也就是说，我们同英、美等国社会文化上的差异会对我们同他们之间的交流产生一定的影响。如果我们的学生不够了解英、美社会文化背景，在将来就很可能犯一些由文化差异引起的交际错误，从而影响彼此的正常交流。鉴于此，我们非常有必要给学生讲授一些关于英语国家，尤其是英、美两国的文化背景知识，从而增强他们对英语语言的理解，在面对外国人时能准确从容地交流，避免由文化差异引起的尴尬状况的发生。为此，我们在认真研究各种大学英语教材和《大学英语教学大纲》的基础上，充分考虑了中西方文化的对比和我国大学生的接受能力和特点，组织编写了此书。主要目的就是帮助学生掌握英美文化的基础知识，拓宽视野、扫除因缺乏文化背景知识所引起的理解和交际障碍。

全书分英国文化和美国文化两大部分，收集了最近几年英、美两国原版出版物中频繁出现的415个能代表英、美两国典型文化的词条，而且所有词条均按照英文字母顺序排列，方便查找。本书着重介绍两国的社会、政治、经济、军事、科技、教育、宗教、文学艺术、人文风俗、历史景观、新闻媒体、体育娱乐等方面的文化背景。其特点是：语言全部采用英文，准确地道，有助于提高学生英语思维能力；内容丰富，覆盖面广，注重时代感，资料新颖，实用性强。该书使用范围广泛，不仅适用于从专科、本科，到硕士、博士的各个不同年级不同专业的学生，而且适用于出国人员及英语爱好者，更是英语教师的必备之书。

我们在编写本书的过程中认真、谨慎，力求资料准确、全面，然而错误总是难免的。因此，如有错误或遗漏之处，恳请读者不吝指正，我们将会万分感谢。

编者

2009年3月

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