



新世纪高职高专  
公共英语类课程规划教材

# 趣味英语 阅读与背诵

QUWEI YINGYU  
YUEDU YU BEISONG

■主编 刘东方



大连理工大学出版社  
DALIAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY PRESS



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藏书章

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

趣味英语阅读与背诵 / 刘东方主编. — 大连 : 大连理工大学出版社, 2010.8  
新世纪高职高专公共英语类课程规划教材  
ISBN 978-7-5611-5762-6

I. ①趣… II. ①刘… III. ①商务—英语—听说教学—高等学校 : 技术学校—教材 IV. ①H31

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2010)第165837号

大连理工大学出版社出版

地址:大连市软件园路80号 邮政编码:116023

发行:0411-84708842 邮购:0411-84703636 传真:0411-84701466

E-mail:dutp@dutp.cn

URL:<http://www.dutp.cn>

大连日升印刷有限公司印刷

大连理工大学出版社发行

---

幅面尺寸:147mm×210mm

印张:5.5

字数:137千字

印数:1~5100

2010年8月第1版

2010年8月第1次印刷

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责任编辑:张剑宇

责任校对:马丽丽

封面设计:张莹

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ISBN 978-7-5611-5762-6

定价:18.00元

## 前言

《趣味英语阅读与背诵》是一本别具一格的英语读物,为读者展现了一个多姿多彩的英语天地。全书选材新颖,题材多样,内容涵盖广泛,简明易懂,知识性、趣味性、实用性、启迪性和可读性极强。实践证明,阅读在学生英语应用综合能力培养的过程中是极其关键的一环,所谓“精深”还需“博大”做基础。大量阅读难度适当的各种英文材料,丰富不同的文化背景知识,不仅可以使学生迅速增加词汇量,提高阅读速度和理解力,增强语感并提高语言应用能力,还能促使学生发展兴趣,开拓视野,改进方法,提高信心,最终提高学生英语应用综合能力。

全书由十二个部分组成,主题涵盖衣、食、住、行、教育、体育、医疗、健康、爱与生活、动植物、环境、经济、商业、节日以及社会习俗等方面内容。每个单元包括短文(5篇)和文化点击(culture click)两个部分,每篇短文的内容都围绕着单元主题展开,兼有词汇注释,以便阅读理解;文化点击(culture click)部分涉及谚语、谜语、笑话、科普知识、景点知识、小常识、小测验、绕口令、明星简介等。在最后的附录部分,编者收集了一些富含哲理、寓意深刻的中外小故事并提供了相对应的参考译文,以供读者赏析。全书在整体设计及编写过程中参考了一些网络文章,力求融知识性与趣味性于一体。本书适合具有高中英语基础以上的英语爱好者和学习者阅读。

尽管本书在编写过程中得到了外籍专家的指点,但不足之处在所难免,欢迎广大读者批评指正。

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# Clothing

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Culture Click—  
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Culture Click—  
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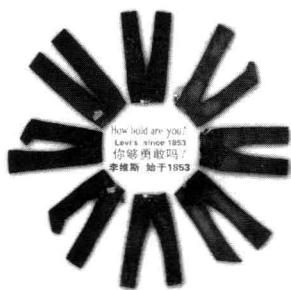
Part

1

# Passage 1

## Pants

People wear pants to cover the lower part of their bodies. We sometimes say that people who are restless or nervous have ants in their pants. They might also fly by the seat of their pants, that is, they use their natural sense to do something instead of their learned knowledge. Sometimes, people may get caught with their pants down. And, in a



family, if a wife always takes control of other members of the family, then we say she wears the pants in the family. Pants usually have pockets to hold things. Money that is likely to be spent quickly can burn a hole in your pocket. If you have less money than usual, you may have to tighten your belt. You may have to live on less money and spend your money carefully.

I always praise the people who can save their money and never spend too much. I really take my hat off to them. Yet, when it comes to my own money, I spend it at the drop of a hat—immediately, without waiting. And sadly, you cannot pull money out of a hat—you cannot get money by inventing or imagining it.

# Notes

pants [pænts] *n.* 裤子

have ants in their pants 犹如热锅上的蚂蚁;魂不守舍

fly by the seat of their pants 凭直觉做事

get caught with their pants down 被牵着鼻子走;狼狈不堪

wear the pants 掌权当家(尤指妇女)

tighten your belt 系紧、勒紧腰带

take one's hat off 敬佩,赞赏,向……致敬

at the drop of a hat 立即,马上,迫不及待地

pull money out of a hat 凭空弄出钱来

## Culture click

### Proverbs

1. Well begun is half done. 好的开始是成功的一半。
2. Time and tide wait for no man. 岁月不待人。
3. While there is life, there is hope.  
有生命就有希望。/留得青山在,不怕没柴烧。
4. Wisdom in the mind is better than money in the hand.  
脑中有知识,胜过手中有金钱。
5. Two heads are better than one. 三个臭皮匠,顶个诸葛亮。



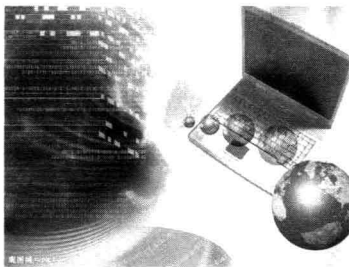
# Passage 2

## ***Shopping Online***

This is the era of network. More and more people are enjoying shopping online largely because it is very convenient and the price can even be much lower. In fact, you need not worry about the quality of the goods. When you buy these commodities, you do not pay money for the sellers directly; instead, you only pay for the third party. When you receive the goods and are satisfied with them, you just agree that the third party pay for the sellers.

Moreover, there are many secondhand stores online. So you can even sell your own stuff this way, too. The only problem is that it takes some time for the stuff you buy online to arrive. But certainly, this problem will be solved soon.

Undoubtedly, shopping by the computer is accepted by more and more people, especially for those who don't live near large cities. For one thing, you can buy the same item at home as you can in a store at any time; for another, prices for items bought via a computer can be lower than store prices because of lower overhead cost.



## Notes

era ['iərə] *n.* 时代

convenient [kən'vi:njənt] *adj.* 便捷的, 方便的

commodity [kə'mɒditi] *n.* 商品, 日用品

stuff [stʌf] *n.* 东西

via ['vaɪə, 'vi:ə] *prep.* 经由, 通过

overhead cost 间接费用, 管理费用

## Culture click

### Riddles

My first is in paint and also in draw,  
my second is in peace but never in war,  
my third is in up but not in down,  
my fourth is in village but not in town,  
my fifth is in dress but not in suit,  
what am I?

Answer: apple

Passage  
3**Boots**

Boots are a heavy or strong kind of shoes. People who are too big for their boots think they are more important than they really are. I really dislike such people. You can bet your boots on that. Yet, truly important people are hard to replace. Rarely can you fill their shoes or replace them with someone equally effective.

My father is an important person. He runs a big company. He wears a suit and tie and a shirt with sleeves that cover his arms. Some people who do not know him well think he is too firm and severe. They think he is a real stuffed shirt. But I know that my father wears his heart on his sleeve—he shows his feelings openly. And, he knows how to keep his shirt on—he stays calm and never gets angry or too excited.



Also, my father is too smart to lose all or most of his money in a business deal. This is because my father rolls up his sleeves and prepares to work hard. He often has a special plan or solution to a problem. He is like a person who does magic tricks. We say he has a card up his sleeve.

## Notes

be too big for one's boots [口语]目中无人,自高自大

bet one's boots on 对……深信不疑

fill one's shoes 令人满意地替代、就位

sleeve [sli:v] 衣袖

firm and severe 坚定而严厉的

real stuffed shirt 妄自尊大的人

wears his heart on his sleeve 情绪外露;心情挂在脸上

keep his shirt on 保持冷静,不发火

roll up 卷起

solution [sə'lu:ʃən] 解决办法,解决方案

magic tricks ['mædʒɪk] 魔术

to have a card up one's sleeve 胸有成竹

## Culture click

### Tongue Twisters

1. She sells seashells on the seashore.  
The shells she sells are seashells,  
I am sure.  
For if she sells seashells on the seashore,  
then I am sure she sells seashore shells.
2. There is a kitten in the kitchen.  
In the kitchen I fry the chicken.  
A fly flies into the kitchen,  
while I fry the chicken.
3. A big black bug bit the back of a big black bear.  
The big black bear bit back the big black bug.

# Passage 4

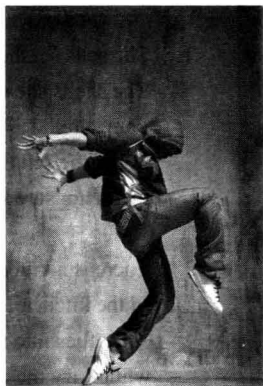
## ***Fashion***

For most people, the word “fashion” means “clothes”. But people may ask the question, “What clothes are in fashion?” And they use the adjective “fashionable” in the same way, “She was wearing a fashionable coat.”

But of course there are fashions, in many things, not only in clothes. There are fashions in holidays, in restaurants, in films and in books. There are even fashions in school subjects, jobs and languages.

Fashions change as time goes. If you look at the pictures of people or things from the past, you will see that fashions have always changed. An Englishman in 1750 looked different from his grandson in 1860.

Today, fashions change very quickly. Some of this is natural. We hear about things much more quickly than in the past. Newspapers, magazines, computers, radios, telephones and televisions send information from one country to another in a few hours.



## Notes

fashion ['fæʃən] 时尚

fashionable ['fæʃənəbl] 时尚的

### Culture click

#### One Thing at a Time

Work while you work,  
play while you play,  
this is the way  
to be cheerful and gay.  
Whatever you do,  
do with your might;  
things done by halves,  
are never done right.  
One thing at a time,  
and that done well,  
is a very good rule.  
So work while you work,  
and play while you play.

## Levi Strauss

In 1850, during the Gold Rush, a man named Levi Strauss stepped off the boat in San Francisco. He had with him a special cloth called Serge de Nimes which was later called denim in America. He hoped to sell the denim as the material to make tents and covers for wagons, to the men who were going to the goldfields to look for gold.

“You should have brought pants that doesn’t wear out”, one young miner advised Strauss. So he took some of his denim to the nearest tailor



and had him make the miner a pair of pants. The miner was so pleased with his pants that he told other miners about the wonderful new Levi's pants, and soon Strauss had to open a shop, manufacturing enough trousers with big useful pockets for the miners. One miner complained that the gold in his pockets kept tearing them, so Levi put metal corners in the pockets to make

them stronger. Very soon, miners and cowboys from all over came to get fitted up with Levi's pants.

Today, more than a hundred years later, Levi's pants are known as Levi's blue jeans.

# Notes

Levi Strauss 李维·斯特劳斯, 牛仔裤的创始人; Levi's 的创始人  
 gold rush 淘金热  
 San Francisco [sænfrən'siskəʊ] *n.* 旧金山  
 denim ['denim] *n.* 粗斜纹布  
 tent [tent] *n.* 帐篷  
 covers for wagons 车棚  
 miner ['mainə] *n.* 矿工  
 manufacture [mænju'fæktʃə] *v.* 生产  
 complain [kəm'plein] *v.* 抱怨  
 jeans [dʒi:nz] *n.* 牛仔裤

## Culture click

### Idioms

Business is business. 公事公办  
 Fish in troubled waters. 浑水摸鱼  
 Facts speak louder than words. 事实胜于雄辩  
 Like father, like son. 有其父必有其子  
 Great minds think alike. 英雄所见略同



