

x p e r i e n c i n g

NEW

新大学英语

文化对比阅读 上

Experiencing English

Reading for Cross-cultural Understanding

总主编 王俊菊 胡志军

主 编 卢 敏 甲鲁海

高等教育出版社

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责任编辑：王春玲

封面设计：姜 磊

版式设计：孙 伟

责任校对：甘红娜

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# 前言

本教材以实现大学英语的培养目标为宗旨，从教学实际出发，兼顾英语的工具性和人文性，旨在帮助大学生在培养英语阅读能力的同时，拓展中西文化知识，分析中西文化现象，对比中西文化异同，从而达到丰富思想、训练思维、开拓视野的目的，提高学生的综合素养及跨文化交际能力。

## 一、教材特点

1. 文化取向。立足学生现有的文化知识基础和未来发展需求，从不同的文化领域中提炼出单元文化主题，在此基础上精选原汁原味的英语阅读文章，并配以形式新颖的练习设计。通过阅读，学生可以涉猎不同的文化层面及相关领域，丰富文化知识，陶冶人文情怀，提高综合素养。

2. 比较视角。基于主题编写，各单元分别聚焦某一主题的中西文化现象，形成了独特的对比视角。引导学生探讨中西文化的异同、分析中西文化的特征、比较中西文化的优势，把知识学习和思维训练有机结合起来，加深学生对多元文化的理解，提高学生的跨文化交际能力。

3. 点面结合。每个单元从相对宽泛的话题切入主题，依托阅读文章和单元练习聚焦中西文化的特有现象，并由此延伸到更为宏观的文化层面。整体设计由浅入深、由点及面，形成点面互动的良性循环，有利于学生开阔思路、拓展视野，多视角、多层面地了解中外文化现象。

4. 读写联动。根据最新的学习理论和研究成果，把语言和知识的输入与语言输出结合起来，实现阅读与写作能力的互动式训练和联动式提高。学生在阅读的基础上完成不同难度的写作任务，从而达到温习知识、锤炼语言、提高能力的目的。

5. 技能锤炼。立足阅读活动的本质，系统梳理了日常阅读的种类、常用的阅读技巧、常见的不良阅读习惯和矫正方法等，在此基础上结合单元阅读活动设计了巩固练习，使学生能够把阅读知识和阅读方法有效地融入到阅读过程当中，达到锤炼阅读技能、提高阅读水平的目的。

6. 兴趣培养。注重学习兴趣的培养，结合热门话题确定单元主题，尽量贴近学生的关注层面和日常生活，选用富有趣味性和思想性的文章素材，从而激发学生的阅读兴趣和学习动机，鼓励学生就相关话题进行深度思考，积极开展课外拓展阅读。

## 二、单元构成

本教材分为上、下两册，每册各有12个单元。每个单元围绕一个主题展开，由五个板块组成，分别是“单元导入”、“篇章阅读”、“阅读技巧”、“文化意识”和“读写联动”。不同板块的有机组合可以满足不同层次的教学需求。

1. 单元导入 (Lead-in) 着眼学生的日常生活情境，导入单元主题和文章内容，行文轻松活泼，激发阅读兴趣；另外，还设置了一些目标问题 (Objective Questions)，帮助学生明确单元目标，了解所涉及的文化知识要点，把握学习重点。

2. 篇章阅读 (Text Reading) 包括两篇阅读材料, 选文充分考虑学生的知识结构和阅读水平, 尽量贴近生活, 兼顾思想性和趣味性。考虑到阅读教材的特点, 阅读练习重点关注了篇章的整体理解 (Global Understanding) 和语言知识 (Language Focus) 的训练, 培养学生通过阅读进行分析、归纳、综合、批判等层面的思维能力。

3. 阅读技巧 (Reading Skills) 系统地介绍了英语阅读的基础知识、常用策略与技巧, 并配以阅读练习, 梳理了常见的阅读误区和不良阅读习惯, 并结合各单元的阅读材料和练习题有针对性地提出了校正的思路和方法。

4. 文化意识 (Cultural Awareness) 针对各单元主题, 结合具体的文化现象和文化知识, 比较中西文化的异同, 便于学生透过相关文化现象, 拓宽文化视野, 优化知识结构, 有利于培养学生的跨文化意识和跨文化交际能力。

5. 读写联动 (Reading-writing Connection) 结合各单元阅读篇章的主题和特点, 由不同难度的写作任务组成, 强调阅读与写作之间的联动关系, 实现从输入到输出的转换, 提高学生的语言意识和产出能力。

另外, 为了满足学有余力的同学的阅读需求, 我们还针对各单元主题配备了拓展阅读材料, 读者可登录中国外语网 ([www.cflo.com.cn](http://www.cflo.com.cn)) 免费下载使用。

### 三、教学建议

本教材适合用作大学英语阅读课程教材。建议使用两个学期, 每学期完成一册。教师可以选择性地使用教材内容, 也可根据情况适当补充相关文化知识和文化对比研究等内容。

本教材也适合用作英语专业低年级学生的泛读教材或课外读物。进度和课时可做灵活安排。

因时间和水平所限, 疏漏之处在所难免, 敬请使用者批评、指正。

编者

2015年8月

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反盗版举报电话 (010) 58581897 58582371 58581879

反盗版举报传真 (010) 82086060

反盗版举报邮箱 dd@hep.com.cn

通信地址 北京市西城区德外大街4号 高等教育出版社法务部

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<b>2</b> <b>Festival Celebration</b> (pp 016–028)	Can traditional festivals be celebrated in new ways?	<b>Text A</b> The Online Spring Festival Gala Evening <b>Text B</b> Brave New Christmas
<b>3</b> <b>Fast Food</b> (pp 029–044)	Has fast food become an icon of modernity?	<b>Text A</b> American Junk Food: Why So Popular in China? <b>Text B</b> How McDonald's Changed the Way We Eat in Britain?
<b>4</b> <b>Learning Modes</b> (pp 045–059)	Which is better, online courses or traditional lectures?	<b>Text A</b> "Chalk and Talk" Teaching Might Be the Best Way After All <b>Text B</b> Are College Campuses Obsolete?
<b>5</b> <b>Leisure Time</b> (pp 060–071)	Can Chinese teahouses be compared to British pubs?	<b>Text A</b> How China's Long-standing Teahouses Foster Urban Stability? <b>Text B</b> The Great British Pub
<b>6</b> <b>Film Stars</b> (pp 072–086)	Who has more charms, Bruce Lee or Audrey Hepburn?	<b>Text A</b> Bruce Lee <b>Text B</b> Audrey Hepburn: Why the Fuss?

	Reading Skills	Cultural Awareness	Reading-writing Connection
	Reading for Knowledge	Parenting styles in child development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe your parents' style of childrearing.</li> <li>Comment on your favorite parenting style.</li> </ul>
	Reading for Pleasure	The celebration of Christmas and the Spring Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe your plan to direct an online Spring Festival Gala.</li> <li>Express your opinion on the commercialization of the traditional festivals.</li> </ul>
	Reading for Exams	Fast food restaurant chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write a letter to a Chinese restaurant manager and give some suggestions.</li> <li>Draft a speech on "Chinese food or Western food".</li> </ul>
	Selective Reading	Approaches to teaching and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the teaching style of your most unforgettable teacher.</li> <li>Argue for your choice in the controversy over "bricks or clicks".</li> </ul>
	Critical Reading	Tea and teahouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write an email to introduce Chinese teahouses.</li> <li>Comment on the change of British pubs in today's "open-plan" society.</li> </ul>
	Avoiding Vocalization	Film industries in the United States and China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write a CV for Bruce Lee.</li> <li>Describe the charm of Audrey Hepburn.</li> </ul>

Unit	Lead-in	Text Reading	
<b>7</b> <b>National Dreams</b> (pp 087–101)	Should a nation have its grand dream?	<b>Text A</b> The Chinese Dream in Western Eyes <b>Text B</b> Chasing the American Dream	
<b>8</b> <b>Special Numbers</b> (pp 102–114)	Why are some numbers lucky or unlucky?	<b>Text A</b> The Lucky Number Eight <b>Text B</b> The Origin of Friday the 13th as An Unlucky Day	
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<b>10</b> <b>New Generations</b> (pp 130–144)	Do you have the unique traits of the Millennials?	<b>Text A</b> Balinghou, China's Millennials Come of Age <b>Text B</b> Are Millennials Really the "Me" Generation?	
<b>11</b> <b>Life Styles</b> (pp 145–158)	Which life style to choose, the luxurious or the minimalist?	<b>Text A</b> It's Not All About the Sights: Luxury Tourism in China <b>Text B</b> Minimalism Movement Takes Hold in Consumer-driven U.S.	
<b>12</b> <b>IT People</b> (pp 159–172)	What leads to a successful career?	<b>Text A</b> What Makes Alibaba's Jack Ma A Great Innovator? <b>Text B</b> The Story of Steve Jobs: An Inspiration or A Cautionary Tale?	

Reading Skills	Cultural Awareness	Reading-writing Connection
Avoiding Inner Speech	Chinese Dream and American Dream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Summarize the evolution of the American Dream.</li> <li>♦ Draft a speech on “What I can do for the Chinese Dream”.</li> </ul>
Avoiding Too Many Eye Fixations	Lucky and unlucky numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Describe the evolution of Friday 13th as an evil day.</li> <li>♦ Comment on the phenomenon of spending a lot of money on lucky numbers.</li> </ul>
Avoiding Habitual Regression	Beauty pageants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Nominate the most beautiful woman in China and explain why.</li> <li>♦ Express your views on the cosmetic surgery.</li> </ul>
Avoiding Mental Translation	The personality of millennials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Compare Chinese balinghou and American millennials.</li> <li>♦ Discuss how to deal with generation gap.</li> </ul>
Tolerating Unfamiliar Words	The psychology of consumerism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Describe a typical day of a minimalist.</li> <li>♦ Express your views on the luxurious or the minimalist life style.</li> </ul>
Varying Reading Speed	The traits and styles of leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Describe how the experience of teaching English contributes to Jack Ma’s success.</li> <li>♦ Compare the qualities of Jack Ma and Steve Jobs.</li> </ul>



## UNIT 1

# Parenting Styles

*If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.*

— Pauline E. Friedman

(1918-2013, American columnist and radio show host)

## Lead-in



Looking back at your teenage life, do you still remember some moments when you and your parents had different opinions? How would your parents respond to you? Would they give you enough freedom to air your views, or force you to follow them? How do you describe your relationship with your parents: are they your friends or bosses?

Answers to those questions have a lot to do with your parents' style of parenting, which may vary across culture, personality, family size, socioeconomic background, educational level, and religion. For example, some Chinese parents believe that parents' strict guidance can help their children avoid meanders; to some American parents, however, too much control and interference are detrimental to children's creativity.

In this unit, you are going to read articles about the Chinese and American parenting styles. Comparing different parenting styles across different cultures may help you better understand cultural differences and think about a balanced way to show love and wield authority.

### Objective Questions

- ◆ Why are some Chinese mothers stereotyped as "tiger moms"?
- ◆ What are the main parenting styles in American society?
- ◆ What are the factors that may exert influences on parenting styles?

# Text Reading



## Practice Makes Perfect! Meet the Demanding Chinese Tiger Mothers

*Frances Hubbard*

- Para. 1** Every week day after school, Nathan grabs a quick supper and then completes two hours of demanding piano and violin practice, followed by at least another two hours of homework. Television and play dates are both outlawed during term-time; it is simply too difficult to fit them in.
- Para. 2** Nathan is ten years old. He is polite, articulate, accomplished and — by the time he goes to bed — very, very tired.
- Para. 3** His sister Natalie, aged seven, spends nearly two hours on her own piano and violin practice before her own homework begins. The children also attend a Chinese school on Sundays, to improve their Mandarin.
- Para. 4** Yes, admits their mother Vivian Tang, sometimes they complain or even cry — although she believes this is mostly out of frustration, when they can't get something right.
- Para. 5** Vivian, 42, is a former beauty queen with an MBA from London Business School and the determined air of someone who knows that success takes effort. After a career in the City and as a business advisor, she now writes children's books, when she is not looking after Nathan, Natalie and 20-month-old Aiden.
- Para. 6** "I'm like everyone else, I want my kids to be happy and fulfilled and I do worry that they are under too much pressure. But it's a highly competitive world... When children are encouraged to achieve, it gives them enormous confidence and pleasure that stays with them for their entire lives."
- Para. 7** Nathan, it should be noted, is already tackling Grade 7 piano and Grade 5 violin, while Natalie is on Grades 3 and 2. Neither of them has ever said they want to stop music lessons, despite their occasional gripes about their no-

slacking regime. They also consistently score excellent marks for academic subjects.

**Para. 8** Vivian belongs to that impressive and slightly fearsome breed, the “tiger mother”. Born to Taiwanese parents in Canada, she may live in north London, but her focus on making her children successful typifies a hard-headed Asian approach to education.

**Para. 9** “If life is a race, tiger cubs are already in running spikes when the rest of the field is barely out of nappies.” The term was coined by Chinese-American law professor Amy Chua in her best-selling memoir, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*. Safe to say, however, Professor Chua emerged shaken but triumphant<sup>1</sup>. Her oldest daughter has a place at Harvard University and has performed piano recitals in New York’s prestigious Carnegie Hall; her youngest may have slacked a tiny bit at music, but is now a champion tennis player.

**Para. 10** Vivian covers her face and laughs when she describes her reaction to reading the book. “I thought, ‘Oh my God, I’m very much like her!’ I recognised so much of that drive to make your children the best. It comes from the heart, but people can find it quite intimidating if they don’t realise that’s the motivation.”

**Para. 11** “It honestly wouldn’t occur to me that my children can’t do something,” says Vivian. “I assume that if they practise and practise and practise — which is why an adult needs to be there, enforcing it — then they will achieve. When people say to me, ‘Why can’t you just let them be happy?’ I don’t understand what that means. ‘Happy’ is doing well and having a sense of pride in yourself.”

**Para. 12** She believes that Western parents who favour a liberal, leave-those-kids-alone route may have something to learn from tiger mother principles. Vivian’s American-Korean husband Alex grew up, like her, under strict rules to work hard and prove himself academically — so he shares her attitude towards parenting.

**Para. 13** Some couples, however, don’t have identical opinions on how hard to push

<sup>1</sup> To give a flavour of her parenting style, here are a few of the conditions from Amy Chua’s list of rules: no grade lower than an A; nothing less than top of the class for any subject except gym and drama; no television; no computer games; no sleepovers; no play dates; no parts in school plays; no complaints about not being in school plays; no musical instrument except piano or violin; no choice of extracurricular activities.

their children.

- Para. 14** Sally Chen is the mother of seven-year-old Matthew, and she endured a childhood that — even by Chinese standards — was extremely demanding. Her parents, both teachers, used to beat her if she disobeyed them or failed to gain top marks. As a girl in China, she was required to do an hour of English before starting school just after 7 am in the morning, and three more hours at night — plus the obligatory music practice.
- Para. 15** Matthew's timetable is almost lax by comparison. Pinned to the wall above the small table where he does his homework in their London home, it looks daunting but includes breaks for table football, television, shopping, playing in the park, basketball and watching his beloved Arsenal<sup>2</sup> play once a week on satellite TV.
- Para. 16** From 7 until 9 on weekday evenings, he studies Kumon<sup>3</sup> maths and English, Chinese reading and writing, English spelling and story reading. At the weekends, there is a further half hour of Kumon and piano lessons.
- Para. 17** Part of his routine is keeping a diary. "My mother does not have good manner (sic). She always shouts at me," reads one entry. Sally has carefully corrected the spelling to "manners".
- Para. 18** "Matthew can be quite cheeky," she says. "But I wasn't allowed to argue with my parents at all, so in a way it shows he is confident enough with us to answer back."
- Para. 19** "I had to say yes, yes to everything they said. Sometimes, if I wasn't number one in class, I'd be scared to come home."
- Para. 20** "I worked so hard that I was two years ahead and got into a good university in Canton at 16, but the work was never something I enjoyed. I hated it. My parents never asked me what I wanted to do or gave me the chance to play."

<sup>2</sup> A Premier League football club in London. One of the most successful clubs in English football.

<sup>3</sup> Kumon Education and Research Association of Japan is a corporation and education brand created by Toru Kumon. Kumon's unique maths and English study programmes support children by building and developing a solid foundation in their literacy and/or numeracy skills.