

# NEW CENTURY ENGLISH

# 新世纪 英语 3

主 编 石云龙 李 寄



南京大学出版社

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*New Century English*  
**新世纪英语 3**

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**新世纪英语(3)**

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## 前 言

《新世纪英语》是依据《大学英语教学大纲（文理本科用）》、《大学英语教学大纲（理工本科用）》，针对中国学生学习英语的特殊困难编写而成的大学英语阅读教材。本教材重视英语语言基础训练，熔精读、泛读、快速阅读于一炉，保证了文、理、工科的通用性，适用于文、理、工科各类院校，也适用于具有中级英语水平的读者自学。

《新世纪英语》分为四册。第一册侧重语言基础训练，照应了中学至大学英语学习的衔接；第二册侧重各种技能和操练及综合阅读水平的提高；第三册则提供有一定深度和广度的阅读材料，侧重测试技巧的训练及应试水平的提高；第四册编选了部分英美名家的篇什，以便读者得窥纯正英语的堂奥。各册有所偏重，自成一体；又相互呼应，形成整体。读者可根据自己的实际情况，灵活选择使用。

本册为《新世纪英语》第三册，主要对象为大学非英语专业准备迎接六级考试的学生、为应付国内外各类相应水平考试的学员以及广大有志于提高英语水平的学习者。

本册根据提高阅读理解水平的基本规律，将我国英语教学意义上的“精读”、“泛读”与测试揉合在一起，在有限的空间为读者提供尽可能多的原始语言材料。全书共有各种题材和体裁的文章24篇，分为Text A和Text B，各12篇。Text A由三部分组成：课文、注释和练习；Text B则由课文和测试材料组成。Text A的主要成份是文学性较强的各种题材的原始文本，读者可以读得“精”一些，为提高阅读理解的能力打下坚实的基础；Text B的第一部分由各种题材未经删节的文章组成，旨在提高

读者阅读理解的速度。读者可在理解的基础之上，尽量学会使用跳读（scanning）和速读（skimming）等阅读技巧，在一定的时间内较快地读完文章并从中快速、正确地寻找到有关事实性信息；Text B的第二部分可被视作检验自己阅读水平的强化训练材料，读者在学习了前两部分的基础上加以训练，既有利于阅读理解能力的提高，又有利于提高自己的应试能力。

本册教材采用的课文全部来自国外近年来出版的文集或试题中的阅读部分，语言材料规范地道，课文后的注释与练习则根据中国学生学习英语的一般规律编撰，相信会比较有效地指导读者的阅读与理解。

本册教材将精读、泛读、测试结合在一起，既注意到了目前国内英语教学的现状，又考虑到国外阅读教学的一般规律，是一次尝试性努力。愿它能为英语学习爱好者提供有益的帮助。

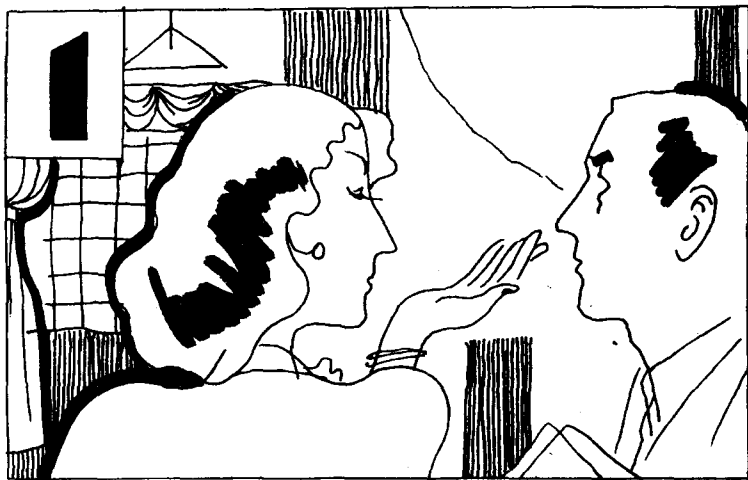
限于编者的水平，本教材一定还有许多不足之处，祈请广大读者与专家学者不吝赐教。

编 者

1995年9月

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Text A

## What a Lovely Generalization

*James Thurber*

I have collected, in my time, derringers, snowstorm paperweights, and china and porcelain dogs, and perhaps I should explain what happened to these old collections before I go on to my newest hobby, which is the true subject of this monograph. My derringer collection may be regarded as having been discontinued, since I collected only two, the second and last item as long ago as 1935. There were originally seventeen snowstorm paperweights, but only four or five are left. This kind of collection is known to the expert as a "diminished collection", and it is not considered cricket to list it in your *Who's Who* biography.

The snowstorm paperweight suffers from its easy appeal to the eye and the hand. House guests like to play with paperweights and to slip them into their luggage while packing up to leave. As for my china and porcelain dogs, I disposed of that collection some two years ago. I had decided that the collection of actual objects, of any kind, was too much of a strain, and I determined to devote myself, instead, to the impalpable and the intangible.

Nothing in my new collection can be broken or stolen or juggled or thrown at cats. What I collect now is a certain kind of Broad Generalization, or Sweeping Statement. You will see what I mean when I bring out some of my rare and cherished pieces. All you need to start a collection of generalizations like mine is an attentive ear. Listen in particular to women, whose average generalization is from three to five times as broad as a man's. Generalizations, male or female, may be true ("Women don't sleep very well"), untrue ("There are no pianos in Japan"), half true ("People would rather drink than go to the theater"), debatable ("Architects have the wrong idea"), libelous ("Doctors don't know what they're doing"), ridiculous ("You never see foreigners fishing"), fascinating but undemonstrable ("People who break into houses don't drink wine"), or idiosyncratic ("Peach ice cream is never as good as you think it's going to be").

"There are no pianos in Japan" was the first item in my collection. I picked it up at a reception while discussing an old movie called "The Battle," or "Thunder in the East," which starred Charles Boyer, Merle Oberon, and John Loder, some twenty years ago. In one scene, Boyer, as a Japanese naval captain, comes upon Miss Oberon, as his wife, Matsuko, playing an Old Japanese air on the piano for the entertainment of Loder, a British naval officer with a dimple, who has forgotten more about fire control, range finding, marksmanship, and lovemaking than the Japanese commander is ever going to know. "Matsuko," says the latter, "Why do you play that silly little song? It may be tedious



for our fran." Their fran, John Loder, says, "No, it is, as a matter of—" But I don't know why I have to go into the whole plot. The lady with whom I was discussing the movie, at the reception, said that the detail about matsuko and the piano was absurd, since "there are no pianos in Japan." It seems that this lady was an authority on the musical setup in Japan because her great-uncle has married a singsong girl in Tokyo in 1912.

Now, I might have accepted the declarations that there are no saxophones in Bessarabia, no banjo-mandolins in Mozambique, no double basses in Zanzibar, no jew's-harps in Rhodesia, no zithers in Madagascar, and no dulcimers in Milwaukee, but I could not believe that Japan, made out in the movie as a great imitator of Western culture, would not have any pianos. Some months after the reception, I picked up an old copy of the *Saturday Evening Post* and, in an article on Japan, read that there were, before the war, some fifteen thousand pianos in Japan. It just happened to say that, right there in the article.

You may wonder where I heard some of the other Sweeping Statements I have mentioned above. Well, the one about peach ice cream was contributed to my collection by a fifteen-year-old girl. I am a chocolate man myself, but the few times I have eaten peach ice cream it tasted exactly the way I figured it was going to taste, which is why I classify this statement as idiosyncratic, that is, peculiar to one individual. The item about foreigners never fishing, or, at any rate, never fishing where you can see them, was given to me last summer by a lady who had just returned from a motor trip through New England. The charming generalization about people who break into houses popped out of a conversation I overheard between two women, one of whom said it was not safe to leave rye, Scotch or bourbon in your summer house when you closed it for the winter, but it was perfectly all right to leave your wine, since intruders are notoriously men of insensitive palate, who cannot tell the difference between Nuits-St.-Georges and

saddle polish. I would not repose too much confidence in this theory if I were you, however. It is one of those Comfortable Conclusions that can cost you a whole case of Château Lafite.

I haven't got space here to go through my entire collection, but there is room to examine a few more items. I'm not sure where I got hold of "Gamblers hate women" — possibly at Bleeck's — but, like "Sopranos drive men crazy," it has an authentic ring. This is not true, I'm afraid, of "You can't trust an electrician" or "Cops off duty always shoot somebody." There may be something in "Dogs know when you're despondent" and "Sick people hear everything," but I sharply question the validity of "Nobody taps his fingers if he's all right" and "People who like birds are queer".

Some twenty years ago, a Pittsburgh city editor came out with the generalization that "Rewrite men go crazy when the moon is full", but this is perhaps a little too special for the layman, who probably doesn't know what a rewrite man is. Besides, it is the abusive type of Sweeping Statement and should not be dignified by analysis or classification.

In conclusion, let us briefly explore "Generals are afraid of their daughters," vouchsafed by a lady after I had told her my General Wavell anecdote. It happens, for the sake of our present record, that the late General Wavell, of His Britannic Majesty's forces, discussed his three daughters during an interview a few years ago. He said that whereas he had millions of men under his command who leaped at his every order, he couldn't get his daughters down to breakfast on time when he was home on leave, in spite of stern directives issued the night before. As I have imagined it, his ordeal went something like this. It would get to be 7 A.M. and then 7:05, and General Wavell would shout up the stairs demanding to know where everybody was, and why the girls were not at table. Presently, one of them would call back sharply, as a girl has to when her father gets out of hand, "For

heaven's sake, Daddy, will you be quiet! Do you want to wake the neighbors?" The General, his flanks rashly exposed, so to speak, would fall back in orderly retreat and eat his kippers by himself. Now, I submit that there is nothing in this to prove that the General was afraid of his daughters. The story merely establishes the fact that his daughters were not afraid of him.

If you are going to start collecting Statements on your own, I must warn you that certain drawbacks are involved. You will be inclined to miss the meaning of conversations while lying in wait for generalizations. Your mouth will hang open slightly, your posture will grow rigid, and your eyes will take on the rapt expression of a person listening for the faint sound of distant sleigh bells. People will avoid your company and whisper that you are probably an old rewrite man yourself or, at best, a finger tapper who is long way from being all right. But your collection will be a source of comfort in your declining years, when you can sit in the chimney corner cackling the evening away over some such gems, let us say, as my own two latest acquisitions: "Jewelers never go anywhere" and "Intellectual women dress funny."

Good hunting.

## Vocabulary

- in one's time    when one is young  
derringer    small antique pistol  
paperweight    heavy object placed on top of loose papers to keep them from being scattered  
monograph    scholarly piece of writing, limited in scope  
cricket    fair or honourable  
dispose of    get rid of  
impalpable    difficult to get a grip on  
intangible    impossible to perceive through the senses  
libelous    unfairly damaging the good opinion held about a person by others

idiosyncratic behavior characteristic of an individual  
 air a piece of music that is easily recognized or remembered  
 marksmanship skills in shooting  
 palate sense of taste  
 Nuits-St.-Georges a kind of wine made in Burgundy, France  
 saddle polish liquid to make the saddle surface shiny or to polish the surface  
 repose in to place trust or hope in  
 soprano a singing voice of a woman in the highest range  
 authentic credible  
 despondent feeling a loss of hope  
 validity value; correctness  
 rewrite man editor with the duty to write news turned in by a reporter in a form suitable for publication  
 vouchsafed granted or guaranteed in a lofty manner

## Notes

1. About the author: James Thurber (1894—1961) has long been admired for his humourously ironic essays, short stories, and cartoons, most of which were published in the *New Yorker*.
2. My derringer collection may be regarded as having being discontinued, since I collected only two, the second and last item as long ago as 1935. — My derringer collection seems to have been stopped, as I've collected only two, and the second one was obtained in 1935. After that my derringer collection has never increased.
3. diminished collection: the collection that is getting less and less. The author further explains it in the following sentence. The "diminish" is caused by "stealing".
4. The snow storm paperweight suffers from its easy appeal to the eyes and hands. — The paperweight looks attractive to visitors and it is small enough for visitors to take them away. So it gets lost easily.

5. ... who has forgotten more about fire control, range finding, marksmanship, and lovemaking than the Japanese commander is ever going to know. —What he has forgotten is more than what the Japanese commander is going to know. It implies the British naval officer was fascinated and deeply touched by the Japanese air.
6. I am a chocolate man myself, but the few times I have eaten peach ice cream it tasted exactly the way I figured it was going to taste. —I prefer chocolate, but when I took peach ice cream occasionally I always thought it tasted the way it is described to be tasted.
7. ...the rapt expression of a person listening for the faint sound of distant sleigh bells. —listening attentively in an attempt to catch the sound of sleigh bells in the distance. Here “sleigh” refers to the secret arrival of Santa Claus.

## Exercises

- I. Decide whether the following statements are true or false:
  - ( ) 1. Snowstorm paperweights are attractive in appearance to house guests, so they get lost easily.
  - ( ) 2. Compared with actual object collection, collection of something impalpable and intangible causes less tension according to the author.
  - ( ) 3. All you need for your collection of generalization is an attentive eye.
  - ( ) 4. The generalization about peach ice cream was contrary to the author's own idea or general ideas so it went into his collections.
  - ( ) 5. People generally agree that “Gamblers hate women” and “Sopranos drive men crazy”.
  - ( ) 6. “Generals are afraid of their daughters” indicates that daughters were not afraid of the general.
  - ( ) 7. As Sweeping Statements collection involves some short

comings or disadvantages, the author advised people not to take it up.

- ( ) 8. Sometimes you appear absent-minded while listening for words or sentences for your collections, so people will avoid your company.

II. Questions for discussion:

1. Explain what is "diminished collection" according to the context.
2. Do you agree with the author that women's average generalization is broader than men's?
3. Why does the author illustrate the background knowledge to the sentence "There are no pianos in Japan"? What is implied?
4. How far do you agree with the author that there may be something in "Dogs know when you're despondent" and "Sick people hear everything"?
5. What's your opinion about Broad Generalization? Give your reasons.

III. Fill in the blanks with the words of expression given below. Change the form if necessary.

dispose of	cherish	go into	out of hand
repose confidence/hope in	there is something in		
would rather	be dignified by	something like	
a long way from	listen for	happen	

1. We'd better not \_\_\_\_\_ our argument in front of the children.
2. The Government had agreed that they \_\_\_\_\_ the city's waste in the near sea.
3. The professor didn't think these types of stories deserved to \_\_\_\_\_ any comments.
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ the money of his dead wife and refused to let anyone lay hand on it.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ to turn to that direction and caught sight of him in

the act of fighting with another small boy.

6. There is really some truth in the old saying, "The nation's \_\_\_\_\_ the younger generation".
7. He worked by the TV set, eagerly \_\_\_\_\_ the announcement from the city authorities.
8. The car broke down half way on the journey. As he was \_\_\_\_\_ either the place he came from, or the place he was going to, he telephoned the police for help.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ what you said, I'll take your advice."
10. When a child gets \_\_\_\_\_, give him a cold response.
11. He is about to let the house for \_\_\_\_\_ 100 dollars a month.
12. Parents are continually doing what their children \_\_\_\_\_ much \_\_\_\_\_ not do.

IV. Use the verb in the brackets to form an appropriate phrasal verb and complete the sentence with it.

1. When I mentioned the sum we would offer for his lectures, he \_\_\_\_\_ my suggestion without hesitation. (leap)
2. I always think he is the last I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_, but I just can't avoid that. (come)
3. No sooner had the engineer seated himself than he \_\_\_\_\_ a long explanation of that scheme. (go)
4. They watched me \_\_\_\_\_ all the martial arts they had taught. (go)

5. He \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of first-hand information on his tour of investigation. (pick)
6. All the features of the landscape on this small island far from the mainland had been \_\_\_\_\_ true to reality. (make)

V. Replace the italicized parts in the following sentences with words or expressions from the text.

1. He only worked *about* an hour and rested in the rest of the day.
2. City life has no *attraction* for the New Zealanders as they

don't like to live crowded together in high buildings in city centres.

3. His reaction left no *space* for doubt.
4. If you are going to start stock exchanging career *alone*, I must warn you there is great risk.
5. You are, *as one might say*, a flower in need of sunshine.
6. He is *absent from work* for the term exam of teach-yourself course.
7. *When he was young*, he was regarded as the greatest champion of boxing.
8. If you won't do it *for the good of you*, than do it *for the good of your wife*.

### Text B

## A Young Boy's Ambition

*Mark Twain*

When I was a boy, there was only one permanent ambition among my comrades in our village on the west bank of the Mississippi River. That was to be a steamboatman. We had transient ambitions of other sorts, but they were only transient. When a circus came and went, it left us all burning to be clowns; now and then we had a hope that, if we lived and were good, God would permit us to be pirates. These ambitions faded, each in its turn, but the ambition to be a steamboatman always remained.

Once a day a cheap, gaudy steamboat arrived from St. Louis, Missouri and another from Keokuk, Iowa. Before these events, the day was glorious with expectation. After them, the day was a dead and empty thing. Not only the boys but the whole village felt



this. After all these years I can picture that old time to myself now, just as it was then: the white town drowsing in the sunshine of a summer morning, the streets empty or pretty nearly so. One or two clerks would be sitting in front of the stores, with their chairs tilted back against the walls, chins on breasts, hats pulled down over their faces, asleep. There was the great Mississippi, the majestic, the magnificent Mississippi, rolling its mile-wide way along, shining in the sun.

Presently a film of dark smoke appears above one of the remote points. Instantly, a Negro wagon driver, famous for his quick eye and powerful voice, lifts up the cry, "S-t-e-a-m-boat coming!" and the scene changes. The town drunkard stirs, the clerks wake up, a furious clatter of wagons follows. Every house and store pours out a human contribution, and in an instant the dead town is alive and moving. Wagons, carts, men, boys, all go hurrying from many quarters to a common center, the wharf. Assembled there, the people fasten their eyes on the coming boat as they would on a wonder they are seeing for the first time. The boat is rather a handsome sight, too. She is long, sharp, trim and pretty; she has two tall chimneys with a gilded device of some kind swung between them, and a fancy pilot-house. The paddle-boxes are gorgeous with a picture above the boat's name. The upper decks are black with passengers; the captain stands by the big bell, the envy of all. Great volumes of the blackest smoke are rolling and tumbling out of the chimneys, a grandeur created by adding a bit of pine-wood to the fire just before arriving at a town. An envied deck-hand stands picturesquely at the front with a coil of rope in his hand.

The captain lifts his hand, a bell rings, and the wheels stop. Then they turn back, churning the water to foam, and the steamer is at rest. Then there is a scramble to get aboard, and to get ashore, and to take on freight, and to discharge it, all at the same time, and what a yelling and cursing the mates facilitate it all