

READING OF THE WEST

欧美风

英语阅读丛书

班荣学 赵荣 编

微软风波

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西北大学出版社

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内容简介

本书是《欧美风·英语阅读丛书》之二，所选 27 篇文章全部源自英美畅销报刊，如 *TIME*, *PEOPLE*, *NEWS WEEK* 等，内容有微软公司与美国联邦法院旷日持久的官司，又有震惊全美的溺婴案，有反映好莱坞女星既从事演艺事业又哺育孩子尽显伟大母爱享受天伦之乐的《明星妈妈》，还有探索宇宙科学的《河外星系相撞时》……以及其他涉及英美人社会生活、价值取向、风土人情的文章。

所选文章兼具知识性、趣味性、可读性强的特点，并采用文前加导读、文后加注释的方法，可为读者流利阅读提供帮助。

编辑的话

改革开放 20 年来，英语学习一直是一个在青年学生中经久不衰的热门话题。世界上恐怕没有一个国家像中国这样有那么多人投入那么大精力和那么多时间去学习英语，那么效果如何呢？如果你要问在校大学生他们最怵的功课是什么？90% 的人会毫不犹豫、异口同声地回答：英语。英语困扰过或正在困扰着多少中国人，天知道！

在不断升级的英语学习浪潮中，教育界、出版界的朋友们也在不遗余力地推波助澜。20 年来，我国的英语教学取得了很大成绩，但也存在着应试教学的误区。我们的学生很容易接受教科书，却难以读懂当代的英语原文报纸杂志。出版界亦出版了以天文数字计算的英语教材、辅导读物及其它英语类图书，在各种图书展销会、订货会、各届书市上，若以类别来排行畅销书，英语类图书总是榜上有名。这是不是说广大

英语学习者就能找到适合自己的英语书呢？回答是“**No**”——不能尽如人意。

基于此，我们决定编辑一套英语阅读丛书。我们决定将反映西方的社会文化生活作为丛书的切入点，并以阅读英语原版文章的形式来体现。丛书精选了英语国家（主要是英美）多种畅销报纸杂志上的若干篇文章，文章多角度多方位地反映了欧美国家人民的精神追求、社会发展、文化生活和价值观念，具有鲜明的时代与社会特征。在选材上重点反映西方社会文化生活，选材范围涉及社会生活的各个方面，选择有代表性的社会事件、人物、普通人的平常事，多数人关注的话题。如现代科技方面涉及的内容有环保问题、太空探险、网络文化、微软风波等；社会生活方面关注青少年犯罪、单亲家庭、刑事案件、枪械泛滥等；西方文化方面则主要反映人们对理想的追求、与东方传统文化完全不同的价值观、道德观和人生观，亦包括个人自强不息、努力奋斗的内容，其中有人熟悉的电影明星、牛仔歌手、体坛精英，更有人不甚熟悉的普通人物，他们用自己的行动谱写了一曲曲感人的不屈不挠、力求上进的个人奋斗史。文章选材上注重通俗性和大众化，而摒弃猎奇似的奇闻轶事之类。文章难易程度适合大学生的英语水平，要求读者能读懂文章大意，即能理解 80% 的内容即可。

为便于读者阅读，我们在每篇文章前用数百字汉

语概括出文章大意，在文后注释生词、短语、不易理解的句子，以帮助读者理解文章内容。这种方法解决了潜在的阅读困难，消除了读者对原作品的怯生感，从而缩短了读者与原作者之间的距离，排除了读者跨文化交流的心理障碍。这种作法在选材时不受语言水平的限制，又丝毫不损伤或改变原作品语言所具有的“原汁原味”的风格。完整地再现了本族语使用者所惯用的词汇、句式、结构和言语风格。同时也解决了读者在欣赏原文时所面临的阅读能力低和知识志趣高两者不相匹配的矛盾。让读者在接触、感受地道英语的表达、交流中去轻轻松松地领略英美国家的风土人情、风俗习惯，了解他们的生活方式，思维方式和处世方法。窥视他们的人生观、道德观和价值观。通过语言了解文化，通过对文化的认识，加深对语言的理解。

这套丛书的起名还颇费了一番周折。最初入选的有四五个名字，经过再三斟酌推敲，考虑到这套丛书是从社会生活面切入，目的在于给读者营造一个流利阅读英语原文的语言氛围。那么作为展示和传统中国文化截然不同的西方文明的读物，应以能体现欧美主流社会的生活风貌为命名原则，我们总编认为，以《欧美风》作为丛书名来概括为宜，意欲使读者感受到纯正的欧美气息。

我们编辑该丛书的目的在于通过阅读英语原版

报刊文章，提高读者的英语阅读能力。试图通过英语阅读这扇窗口，展示给读者英语阅读的乐趣，使读者从阅读英文中去了解欧美社会，了解西方文化，在阅读中获取信息，提高英语水平。同时在愉快的没有任何心理负担的心境下学习英语。就像许多人习惯在临睡前看几页书、翻几张报纸那样，每天翻阅一会儿《欧美风》丛书，读两三篇英语文章，坚持一年半，你必有收获。你不必担心文章后有若干道阅读理解题需要你来回答，你也不必担心文章后有若干道选择题需要你去画勾，你只要能读懂文章大意即可，你只要通过阅读获取了知识即可——这便是阅读的目的，亦是我们编辑此书的初衷。

虽然从事编辑工作已十年有余，但我们很少用“编辑的话”这种方式直接与读者进行交流，编辑工作“为人做嫁”的特性使我们习惯于将一本本书默默奉献给读者。今天所说的“编辑的话”既有我们作为编辑的体会，亦有我们同是英语学习者的心得。但愿这不是多余的话。希望这套丛书对每一位读者都有所帮助。

责任编辑

1998. 8. 25

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校园禁酒风

Breaking Windows

微软风波

计算机技术日新月异,计算机软件五花八门。信息革命所带来的新问题已大大超过了成文法典的规范,市场经济早已打破了传统的观念。比尔·盖茨,这位世界巨富之一的软件大亨试图以强硬的手段和低廉的价格在软件市场独占鳌头。在窗口系列软件大量涌入市场的时候,一场反托拉斯的官司也在紧锣密鼓地进行。以珍妮特·雷诺斯为代理人的美国联邦政府把比尔·盖茨推上了被告席,指控微软公司违犯了公平竞争法……

Breaking Windows

Steven Levy

The government charges that Microsoft isn't fighting fairly in the browser wars. Is Janet Reno's ultimate goal to bust up the mighty software giant?

Bill Gates wasn't acting like a man who had just been given the news that the government was going on television to call him an illegal monopolist[®]. But on Monday, a little after 10 a. m. Phoenix time, his attorney took him aside to say that the Department of Justice was pulling the antitrust trigger on his company, Microsoft — and then the 42-year-old software wunderkind calmly began a scheduled interview on an unrelated matter with, as it happened, *NEWSWEEK*.

Gates cogently[®] answered questions and idly picked at a bowl of nuts, while in Washington, Attorney General Janet Reno and the head of her antitrust division, Joel Klein, were charging Microsoft with playing a game of anticompetitive blackmail to force computer manufacturers to favor its Internet browsing program. Only once, when asked his impression of the recent anti-Microsoft campaign of consumerist Ralph Nader, did Gates comment on what must have been simmering

somewhere in his multibillion-dollar brain. "It's kind of funny that it's the computer industry, where the prices come down and products get better and nobody has a guaranteed position, that's the one that somebody would look into," he said.

Though ostensibly referring to Nader, his *why us?* complaint may well have been directed at the latest villain® in Bill Gates's ever-expanding collection of threats to Microsoft's phenomenal rise to power and riches: balding®, soft-spoken 51-year-old Assistant Attorney General Klein, who, like His Billness, is regarded as brilliant, if a bit geeky. After eight months as acting head of antitrust, Klein was confirmed in July, and everybody has been pondering® his willingness to take on a company regarded by some as a monopolistic thug® and by others as the paragon of American business. The answer came Monday, and nowhere in his statement did Klein use the word "paragon™".

Does this portend® doom, ruination or even a bad quarter for Microsoft, the 22-year-old Redmond, Wash., firm whose stock-market valuation is roughly the same as those of GM, Ford and Chrysler combined? Not necessarily. Klein's charges deal with only one aspect of the firm's far-ranging software empire, the way the company, encourages PC makers to include Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser on the computers they sell. But Klein made it clear that his office is investigating other areas where Microsoft may be competing illegally, including last summer's eyebrow-raising alliance with Apple,

which benefited Microsoft at the expense of its browser rival Netscape.

Can a savvy jab artist really knock Microsoft off course, that course being a methodical increase of power radiating[®] from the most valuable monopoly in computing — the operating system that controls the vast majority of personal computers on our pale blue dot? Microsoft's success has plenty to do with world-class management, technical wizardry and just plain hard work. But it has never been shy about leveraging its Windows OS to extend its power. Consumers like the low prices, but competitors complain. "Microsoft is a great white shark that knows no boundaries," says Mitchell Kertzman, ECO of Sybase, whose software competes with Microsoft. "All it knows is its appetite. When it gets hungry, it eats."

Klein's predecessor[®], Anne Bingaman, tried to bring Microsoft to ground, but it was she who hit the dirt. In 1995 she found herself in the embarrassing position of actually being on Microsoft's side when federal Judge Stanley Sporkin rejected a Bingaman consent decree as being too weak. Sporkin's ruling was later overturned, binding Microsoft to follow an agreement that many considered toothless. Despite Bingaman's later victory, when her objections held up Gates's planned purchase of financial-software leader Intuit (maker of Quicken), Microsoft seemed headed into the millennium[®] with a sense of invulnerability.

For a brief period, Microsoft seemed threatened by the

Internet's rapid growth and particularly the fact that in seemingly no time, upstart Netscape had grabbed the crucial browser market. At first this failure seemed to vindicate^⑩ Gates's longtime assertion^⑪ that in the white-water rapids of high tech, no vessel is swamp-proof. But Gates was able to upgrade Microsoft into an Internet company. Meanwhile, the company kept extending its domain^⑫ in the areas ranging from travel transactions to cable television.

Competitors insisted that the success came not solely from merit but also from unfair use of its dominance^⑬ in Windows. This is an important distinction. There is nothing illegal about simply being big and powerful, but it is *verboden*^⑭ to use a dominant power in one area to force people to accept products in a second area. With that in mind, Microsoft's foes began to pin their hopes on the government. With lawyer Gary Reback as point man, they set out on a dual campaign — to publicly spread their view that Microsoft competed unfairly and to provide evidence of the same to the Justice Department.

Now it's Gates v. Klein. Whom do you like? Gates is a Harvard dropout^⑮; Klein got through Columbia and Harvard Law. Gates is the world's richest private citizen^⑯, newly moved into a \$60 million lakeside palace. Klein is a civil servant residing in a modest colonial on the outskirts of the District of Columbia. Gates is a swashbuckler^⑰. Klein is known as a cautious strategist who likes to maintain a winning record — “My style is, I am careful,” he affirms. The two have never