

Collins

柯林斯名人故事集

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了不起的慈善家

Amazing Philanthropists

〔英〕Jane Rollason 编

3级

英语注释



商务印书馆
The Commercial Press

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第3级

了不起的慈善家(英语注释)

[英]Jane Rollason 编

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出版前言

商务印书馆自创立以来，始终以“昌明教育，开启民智”为己任，致力于翻译西学、沟通中外，坚持以高质量的出版物促进文化交流，以传播先进思想推动社会进步。近年来更是加大了外语学习读物的出版，如推出“莎翁戏剧经典”丛书、“阿加莎·克里斯蒂经典侦探作品集”系列等，此次引进“柯林斯名人故事集”系列是我馆开发英语学习读物的又一成果。

本系列丛书的英文原书由英国柯林斯出版社按照柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准，邀请英国语言和文学专家改编而成，每一级均对照欧洲语言教学大纲（CEF）相应级别，是适合初级至中级水平英语学习者的英语读物。

本系列丛书分为四级，每级 5 册，共 20 册，每册集中介绍一个领域的 5—6 个著名人物。正文部分用简明清晰的英文以第一人称讲述人物生平故事，并以脚注形式提供重点词汇的词性和释义；文后附英汉对照的人物生平大事记；书后附英文词汇表，供读者了解本书重点词汇详细的英文释义。

此外，每本书均提供点读笔和二维码音频下载功能。

希望这套“柯林斯名人故事集”丛书能够帮助读者在学习英语的同时了解人类历史上各个领域最杰出、最有影响力的人物，在提高英语能力的同时，走出一条成功的人生之路。

商务印书馆编辑部

2016年9月

Introduction

引言

“柯林斯名人故事集”包含一系列简短的故事，每册介绍五至六个著名人物的生平，这些人的一生及他们的成就深刻地影响了今天的世界。所有故事都精心分级，以确保读者既可以享受阅读，又能从中受益。

你可以从头至尾阅读本书，也可以直接翻看自己喜欢的人物故事，每一个故事都是完全独立的。

每个故事后面都附有一个简短的年表，集中介绍该人物一生中最重要的事件，年表可以有效地帮助你复习刚才看过的内容。

超过本册阅读水平的单词第一次在每个故事中出现时都标有下画线，该书末尾的词汇表列出了所有画线单词的释义。第1级和第2级的释义来自 *Collins COBUILD Essential English Dictionary*，第3级和第4级的释义来自 *Collins COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary*。

为了给老师和学习者提供支持，以下网站提供了更多资料：www.collinselt.com/readers。

The Amazing People Worldwide

“柯林斯名人故事集”根据 The Amazing People Worldwide 出版的原始文本改编而成。The Amazing People Worldwide 是一个教育出版机构，于 2006 年由教育心理学家、管理学家查尔斯·马杰里森博士成立，出版纸质书、电子书、音频书、iBook 图书和视频内容，让读者可以“面对面”接触全世界各领域，如艺术、科学、音乐、政治、医学和商业等领域最鼓舞人心、最有影响力的人。

The Grading Scheme

分 级 标 准

柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准是根据当下最新语言使用信息设置而成，每一级都有全新的语法和词汇综合框架，确保本系列完全符合读者的英文水平。

		欧洲语言教学大纲 (CEF) 级别	页数	词汇量
第 1 级	初级	A2	64	约 700
第 2 级	中级初阶	A2-B1	80	约 900
第 3 级	中级	B1	96	约 1,100
第 4 级	中级进阶	B2	112	约 1,700

欲知柯林斯 COBUILD 分级标准（包括每一级的完整语法结构）的更多信息，请参见：www.collinselt.com/readers/gradingscheme。

在线资料还包括：通过在线测试英语水平，了解自己的分级，测试网站：www.collinselt.com/readers/levelcheck。

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Alfred Nobel

阿尔弗雷德·诺贝尔

1833—1896

the man who created the Nobel Prize
诺贝尔奖的创立者



本节朗读音频



I was a chemist and a businessman. My greatest invention was dynamite, and I made a large fortune from selling it around the world. Then, one day in Paris, five words changed my life forever.

Although I was Swedish and was born in Stockholm, I grew up in St. Petersburg in Russia. I arrived in the world in 1833, at a bad time for my family. My father had problems with his business and in the year that I was born, he lost all his money. He had a wife and three sons and he decided to start again in a new country. First he started a business in Finland, and then, when I was five, he moved to St. Petersburg, leaving us behind in Stockholm.

My father was a great inventor, as well as a businessman. In

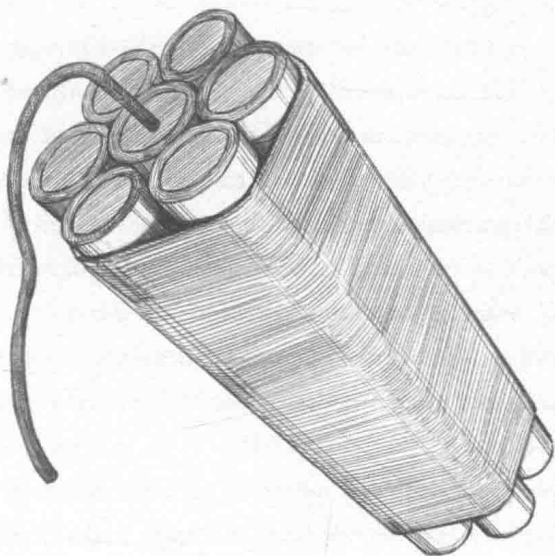
northern Europe in those days, a lot of things were made out of wood. He invented clever new tools^① for making things out of wood, and created a successful business in his new Russian home. When I was nine years old, we were able to join him. My mother was very pleased that the family was back together, especially as she was going to have another baby. My brother, Emil, was born that year.

My father's company was called Nobel & Sons. It grew into a large engineering company, making all kinds of machines, from steam engines^② to early central heating. The Industrial Revolution^③ was happening in Europe at this time. Machines could now make most things that humans had made by hand for centuries.

We lived in a comfortable wooden house in St. Petersburg, but we were not rich. My brothers and I were educated at home by private teachers. We studied history, science and literature^④. As well as Swedish, which we spoke at home, we learnt to speak Russian, French, German and English. This helped me a lot later on when I set up^⑤ companies around the world.

One of my favourite subjects was literature. I especially admired the English poet Shelley, with his love of humanity^⑥ and peace, and his exciting political ideas. I wrote poems myself, but I was never satisfied with them and I always burned them. I shared my father's love of chemistry, and together we tried out new ideas. He also taught me how to be a good businessman.

① tool *n.* 工具 ② steam engine 蒸汽机 ③ Industrial Revolution 工业革命 ④ literature *n.* 文学 ⑤ set up 设立, 创建 ⑥ humanity *n.* 人类



When I was 17, in 1850, I left home to see some of the world. I spent a year in Paris, working with a famous French chemist. Then I went to the USA, where I studied the latest technology. Although I didn't go to university, I received an excellent education watching some of the world's best scientists. The long journey home to Europe across the Atlantic gave me time to think about my future. What kind of business should I try? Over the last year I had become interested in explosives^①, which were very basic at that time.

My family was back in Sweden by now, and I joined them there. In 1863, I successfully created a new kind of explosive, using the chemical nitroglycerin, a kind of explosive liquid. Nobel & Sons was now based in Heleneborg in Sweden, where they tested new

① explosive *n.* 炸药

chemical recipes.

But one terrible day, an experiment went wrong. A huge explosion at the factory killed my younger brother Emil, and several of the company workers. It was a very sad day for the family, and we had a big decision to make. Should we sell the business and stop making explosives?

We decided to continue, but I moved away from Heleneborg. I set up my own factory near Hamburg in Germany, calling it Alfred Nobel & Company. There was more bad luck, however. An enormous explosion destroyed the factory, and many of my workers were injured.

The explosives were not stable^①. I had to change the recipe. Nitroglycerin is very difficult to work with, and this had caused the explosions. In one experiment I added a new ingredient. The new mixture was still dangerous, but it was more stable than before. I called it 'dynamite'.

In the next few years I started new companies in the USA and Britain, making dynamite. I first showed my new product to the world in England. I set fire to sticks of dynamite and threw packets of dynamite off a cliff^②. The English decision-makers did not believe my new product was safe, however. Unfortunately, there was a big explosion near Liverpool in July 1869 caused by containers of nitroglycerin. After that, companies could not use or sell nitroglycerin, or move it from one place to another in England.

I could not get permission to open a dynamite factory in England. So I went to Scotland, where some businessmen helped

① stable *adj.* 稳定的 ② cliff *n.* 悬崖

me to set up The British Dynamite Company in April 1871, on the west coast. The factory was at Ardeer, about 30 kilometres south of Glasgow.

Although I now had many businesses to run, I continued to make new explosives. I created a more powerful explosive called 'gelignite', beginning to sell it in 1876. Gelignite had lots of uses and it quickly became very popular. It was perfect for industries needing small explosions. You could use it to break up rock. Governments realized that it would be very useful during a war.

Business was good. We had more and more orders for dynamite, and it was difficult to make enough. I was making a lot of money, and in 1873, I bought a large house with big gardens in Paris. I employed a secretary there called Bertha Kinsky. I fell in love with Bertha, who was ten years younger than me. Unfortunately for me, she was already engaged to be married to a man called Baron Arthur von Suttner. After they married, I only met her again twice, but we often wrote to each other. She worked hard for world peace and she gave me a lot of advice in later years.

I was now making a fortune^① from sales of dynamite and gelignite around the world. I spent most of my time managing my many businesses, and life was good.

Then, one day in Paris in 1888, I had the biggest shock of my life. I picked up a newspaper and saw a headline: 'The man who sells death is dead.' I read the rest of the announcement. 'Dr Alfred Nobel,' it said, 'has died. He became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before.'

Of course, I was not dead. In fact, my older brother Ludvig had

① fortune *n.* 财富