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英语漫谈

*Meander through the World's
Cultural Treasure Troves*

世界文化

龙 江 主 编

- 风土人情 • 文学奇葩
- 观光胜景 • 表演艺术
- 魅力都市 • 体育运动
- 传统节日 • 宗教信仰
- 美食文化 • 风云人物

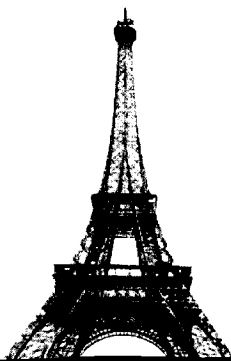
话题段落

起步

提速



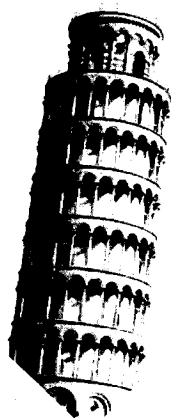
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前言

21 世纪是文化融合的世纪，东西方文明的相互碰撞和渗透已经深入到社会生活的各个领域。语言作为文化的载体，在文化的传播与沟通上发挥着不可替代的关键作用。要纯熟地掌握一门语言就必须了解该语言所承载的文化，而要真正了解一种文化也必须掌握该文化所使用的语言。外语学习不单是一种技能训练，它还包含了文化适应（acculturation）的过程。有的人说出来或写出来的英语从语言形式上看没有毛病，却不是地道的英语，因为他们忽略了英语背后的文化习俗和思维习惯，表面上是英语，实则是中式的表达方式，从而影响了交际的效果甚至引起误解。要从根本上扭转这一现象，我们在外语教学与学习过程中必须跳出单一的语言技能训练模式，代之以注重文化信息传递、基于内容（content-based）的跨文化交流模式。由大连理工大学出版社策划推出的“英语漫谈”丛书正是从这一理念出发，顺应外语学习的文化导向，弥补传统学习模式之不足的一套英语学习图书。

该丛书共 3 本：《英语漫谈中国文化》、《英语漫谈世界文化》和《英语漫谈时事热点》。丛书的英语选材地道纯正，内容丰富，不仅包含大量规范实用的语言范例，还提供了学习用英语表达中外文化与时事话题的阅读素材。为方便自学，每本书均配有中文译文和相关词汇与短语。每本书的结构大致相同，由 10 至 15 个话题单元

组成，每个单元又细分为若干个子话题，每个子话题包含句子表达和阅读两个部分。句子表达部分为起步、提速和冲刺3个阶段，所选例句在结构和词汇运用上从简单逐步过渡到复杂，便于读者循序渐进地提高英语表达的能力。这些句子既可作为练习口语的素材，也可从中学到英语写作的参考句式。如果能熟练掌握这些表达方式和相关词汇，则相当于掌握了谈论某一话题所常用的语言工具。阅读部分包括一篇与子话题有关的文章，既可用于训练语篇阅读能力，又可以让读者从中获得丰富多样的文化信息和语言表达方式。

《英语漫谈中国文化》选取了13个具有代表性的话题，从传统文化到当代风貌，从人文思想到自然景观，虽不能穷尽中国文化的方方面面，却也能管窥其博大精深之一斑。

《英语漫谈世界文化》以世界文化的10个主题为线索，将不同地域的文化特色置于同一个主题之下，既彰显各国文化的缤纷个性，又方便读者查找所需信息。在每个主题之下，我们尽量选取最具特色或代表性的文化坐标，东西兼顾，涵盖古今，力求展现世界文化的多元色彩。

《英语漫谈时事热点》收录了近年来为世人关注的15大类58个中外时事热点话题，从国际关系到环境保护，从最新科技到时装发布会，从极限运动到诺贝尔奖，取材广泛，权威性强，充满时代感。从中读者不仅可以广览天下事，了解中外媒体的观点与视角，还可学到最新的时事用语，充实和更新自己的英语语汇库。

我们希望这套丛书能够在引导读者向以内容为基础、以文化为导向的外语学习模式的转变上发挥积极的作用，在培养学习者跨文化意识的同时，使他们花较少的时间，掌握更多的实用词汇和表达方式，从而真正提高其语言交际能力（Communicative Competence），做到言之地道、言之有物。

最后，感谢大连理工大学出版社的编辑们，正是他们耐心细致的工作和富有建设性的意见，使这套丛书在经过数次修改后得以顺利付梓。

龙 江

武汉大学外语学院

2010年10月

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Social Customs

风土人情

The British Sense of Humour

Start-off:

- The use of humour in social interactions is a very important convention in England.
- Humour is a rubber sword—it allows you to make a point without drawing blood.
- Nonsense seems to be especially appealing to the English.
- This perhaps has to do with their emotional makeup.
- They like to be touched by humour and amused by it as well.
- Humour is widespread in the British society, as well as in their culture.

Speed-up:

- ▶ Since so much English humour is characterized by inventiveness rather than the formal joke, word-play is of paramount importance.
- ▶ Irony and parody are of signal importance in English humour, in everything from radio comedy to literature.
- ▶ The humour lies in the construction that the listeners' and readers' overactive imagination can put on such innocuous verbal nonsense.
- ▶ The refusal to take the prospect of one's own death seriously has gained the English a reputation for black humour in the rest of the world.
- ▶ Along with tea and gardening, humour is one of Britons' greatest comforters, acting as grease to the wheel of social interaction and insulating them from hard times.

Final lap:

- ★ Of all the characteristics, good and bad, for which the English are known in the outside world, their sense of humour is one of the best-known and most positively regarded.
- ★ Because the Britons have such an appetite for the comic and amusing, they have developed and expanded various distinctive types of humour, much of it employing linguistic creativity and centring around social norms.
- ★ The Britons love an eccentric dreamer. This at one time was one of the dominant conventions of English humour, so one of the main differences between English and Continental humour was precisely this gentleness and convention of identifying with a humorous character, in contrast to what was supposed to be a Continental tradition of vicious satire and scorn towards figures of fun.

英国式幽默

起步:

- 幽默在英国社交礼仪中是一项十分重要的习俗。
- 幽默是一把橡胶做的剑——你可以用它得分却不见血。
- 对于英国民众来说“无厘头”有着特殊的吸引力。
- 这也许与他们的情感结构有关。
- 他们喜欢被幽默感动和逗乐。
- 幽默在英国社会中随处可见,并贯穿于文化的方方面面。

提速:

- ▶ 由于英国式幽默以创意而非通俗笑话著称,文字游戏便显得尤为重要。
- ▶ 从广播喜剧到文学等各个领域中,反语和模仿在英国式幽默中占据着举足轻重的地位。
- ▶ 这种无厘头式的幽默必须是于人无害的,也就是说其立足点必须在听众和读者想象力的承受范围之内。
- ▶ 以调侃的方式对待死亡使英国人获得了“黑色幽默”的世界声誉。
- ▶ 同下午茶和园艺一样,幽默已成为英国人三大精神抚慰剂之一,不仅润滑着社会交往的巨轮,也使英国民众免受罹难之苦。

冲刺:

- ★ 无论好坏,英国人所获得的世界声誉中,最为著名和备受赞誉的当数他们的幽默感。
- ★ 由于英国人对喜剧和娱乐节目情有独钟,他们开创出形式各异、与众不同的幽默,其中大多涉及语言方面的创意并以社会规范为中心。
- ★ 英国人钟情于不拘世俗的梦想家。这曾经是英国式幽默的主导传统之一。因此英国式幽默和大陆式幽默的主要区别之一就在于这种怜悯丑角的温情。传统的大陆式幽默对小丑的恶意挖苦和嘲讽与此形成了鲜明的对比。



The English Sense of Humour

The English have an island culture—quirky and self-contained. Much of their humour is highly sophisticated and elusively subtle.

The English rarely say what they mean and tend towards reticence and understatement. So, while in conversation they avoid truths which might lead to confrontation, in their humour they mock that avoidance. For instance:

At dinner in a great country house, one of the guests drinks too much wine, and slumps across the table. The host rings for the butler and says, "Smithers, could you please prepare a room? This gentleman has kindly consented to stay the night."

The English often happily poke fun at themselves. Complain about some aspects of English life that are quite awful and they will gleefully tell stories of trains that never arrive, of bureaucratic bungling that has driven honest citizens to suicide, or of food so disgusting even a dog wouldn't eat it.

The English love irony and expect others to appreciate it too. For example, one hill walker says to another, "It's only six miles by the map, yet your navigation made it ten." "Yes, but doing it in ten gives one a much greater feeling of accomplishment."



英国人的幽默感

英国人拥有一种古怪而持重的岛国文化。他们的幽默大都深奥微妙,且隐晦得令人难以捉摸。

英国人很少想什么说什么,而倾向于轻描淡写、留有余地。于是,交谈中的他们会回避事情真相,以免引起冲突,而他们的幽默又嘲笑这种回避。比如:

一位客人在一座大庄园里用餐时喝多了酒,趴在了桌子上。主人按铃唤来管家说:“史密瑟斯,你去备个房间。这位先生愿意留宿一晚。”

英国人常常乐于自嘲。只要你抱怨英国生活相当糟糕的某些方面,他们便会兴高采烈地讲述火车永不准点到达的故事,大谈由于官僚主义者的失误而导致诚实的公民自杀,或者讽刺食物如此令人作呕以至于狗都不吃。

英国人酷爱嘲讽,同时期望别人也能够欣赏它。例如:一位登山者对他的同伴说:“地图上说只有6英里,而你领着我们走了10英里。”“是啊,可是走10英里会给人一种更大的成就感嘛。”

Words and Phrases



emotional makeup 情感结构
innocuous (行为,言论等)无害的
verbal nonsense 无厘头式幽默
comforter 抚慰剂
vicious satire and scorn 恶意挖苦
与嘲讽
quirky 离奇的,古怪的

self-contained 矜持的,稳重的
highly sophisticated 深奥世故的
elusively subtle 隐晦微妙的,令人难以捉摸的
reticence 缄默
bureaucratic bungling 官僚主义
草包

French Perfume Traceability

Start-off:

- Perfume derived initially from countries with an ancient civilization such as Egypt, India, Rome, Greece and Persia.
- The French perfume handicraft fell behind very much until the 16th century.
- French refused to take a bath at that time; even average homes did not have bath equipment at all.
- The next king, Henry IV was not interested in perfume and people all sneered at him as a smelly king.
- Louis XIV was called “the incense emperor” in the later ages.

Speed-up:

- ▶ Eastward Expedition of the Crusades had brought splendid oriental culture for Europe in the 11th century, and perfume, the delighting article of luxury, was increasingly accepted and been fond of by European.
- ▶ In 1533, when Pope's niece Catherine married to the king of France, Henry II, she brought rich magnificent Italian culture and life-style, and became the creator of France perfume culture.
- ▶ Her perfumer ran the first perfume company in Paris, which can be found in Paris now, leaving only ruins.
- ▶ In Louis XI, overwhelming power was used to hire proficient from Italian perfume and soap industry, which established the foundation of France perfume industry.

Final lap:

- ★ The Louis XIII was also a smelly king, and his queen could not stand his smell. However, she did not tell her maids until death, so her maids promised to her with an oath that it was absolutely done to prepare clean linen, perfume and 340 pairs of the fragrant gloves she collected as burying stuff.
- ★ Unlike his ancestors, Louis XIV was a smell shaper. He ordered that perfumers in the palace must modulate one kind of perfume he liked each day, or they were threatened to be cut the head.
- ★ With a pedigree of 300 years of making fine French perfumes, France has remained home to many of the world's best selling perfumes, whether it be the classic perfumes made by Chanel, Yves Saint Laurent and Lagerfeld or the younger more avant-garde perfumes of Jean Paul Gaultier and French connection.

法国香水溯源

起步：

- 香水最早起源于埃及、印度、罗马、希腊和波斯等文明古国。
- 十六世纪以前,法国的香水工艺还非常落后。
- 那时候的法国人拒绝洗澡,平民百姓家里根本没有浴室设备。
- 下一位国王亨利四世却对香水不以为然,百姓都讥笑他是“臭王”。
- 路易十四被后世称为“香皇”。

提速：

- ▶ 十一世纪的十字军东征为欧洲带来了灿烂的东方文化,而香水这种悦人悦己的奢侈品被越来越多的欧洲人所接受和喜爱。
- ▶ 1533 年,教皇的侄女凯瑟琳下嫁法王亨利二世,她带来了丰富瑰丽的意大利文化和生活方式,也成为了法国香水文化的开创者。
- ▶ 她的专职香水师还在巴黎开了第一家香水公司,此店的遗址现在还能在巴黎找到。
- ▶ 路易十六更是动用倾国之力将意大利香水及香皂工业的高手挖掘过来,从此奠定了法国香水工业的基础。

冲刺：

- ★ 路易十三也是个“臭王”,他的王后对他的臭味忍无可忍,但直到临死前才告诉她的侍女,于是侍女们信誓旦旦向她保证,在她死后,一定用干净的亚麻布、香水和她收集的 340 副有香味的手套给她陪葬。
- ★ 路易十四一点儿都不像他的祖先,他对于臭味极其敏感,他命令宫廷香水师必须每天调制出一种他所喜欢的香水,否则就有砍头的危险。
- ★ 凭借近 300 年制造优质法国香水的传统,法国一直是世界上最畅销香水的故乡,无论是经典的香奈儿、伊夫·圣罗兰和拉格菲尔德,还是时尚前卫的让·保罗·高缇耶和法式连结。



What's So Great About French Perfume?

You've heard that French perfume is the best in the world, including makers like Chanel, Cartier, and Dior. But why is it so great?

Part of it is the long history of French perfume. French perfume was first made in the medieval town of Grasse in the south of France, often called the perfume capital of the world. Today, Grasse boasts all four leading French perfumeries—Molinard, Mane, Galimard, and Fragonard. Because so many of the best perfumeries are here, the best of all the perfume developers are also here. Another reason is that quality is a matter of pride to the French perfume makers. Traditional methods for making perfume are still used alongside modern methods. Flowers used in French perfume fragrances are often grown on local farms, guaranteeing the freshest materials to be used in the manufacturing. For instance, French perfume manufacturer Chanel uses fifty tons of roses du mai and twenty tons of jasmine annually from just one farm in the region; the jasmine is hand-picked and the roses arrive at the plant within thirty minutes after being picked.

There is no denying that part of the reputation of French perfume is due to the mystique—French perfume has been known as a luxury item for hundreds of years. But part of it is that French perfume is really better. It is made from premium ingredients, by people who have been making and testing fragrances for many years. Methods for producing both perfumes and perfume ingredients have been passed down in local families for centuries. And because people are willing to pay premium prices for French perfume, there is no pressure to cut costs by skimping on ingredients, manpower, or methods. In short, if you want to spoil yourself or the woman you love, French perfume is a wonderful way to do it. (And guys, if you really want to impress her, memorize some of this information to show her that you really thought about the gift!)