



英语
短篇

快乐阅读

English Readings
for Leisure

黄卫锋 主编

金盾出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书精选 100 多篇短小精悍的英语短篇或精彩节选,追求思想性、知识性、趣味性和体裁多样化的特色,培养英语初学者的语言学习兴趣和跨文化交际意识,适合广大英语自学者和中学生学习使用。

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前言

本书由 100 多篇短小精悍的英语短篇或精彩节选组成,是为英语自学者和中学生提高自身英语能力的一本英语读物。为了给读者呈献原汁原味的英语,我们参考了大量的英语文献资料。

本书追求思想性、知识性、趣味性和体裁多样化的特色,培养英语初学者的语言学习兴趣和跨文化交际意识。我们注重选取了大量具有一定思想深度的英语文章或节选,希望读者在语言学习之余,能有多方面的收获和更多的独立思考。我们也注意到了科学技术的日新月异,因此也选用了相当数量的科普文章。英语学习是一个相对比较艰苦的过程,需要大量时间和注意力的付出。为此,我们特意选取了一部分英语幽默故事,希望能让读者在学习时变得轻松愉悦。本书的体裁多样,既以隽永的散文为主,又选用了一些小说片段。我们希望,读者通过阅读本书,能够在语言学习的较早阶段培养起对英语学习的浓厚兴趣和跨文化交际意识。

本书在编排上坚持统一的体例,即每一篇文章均由美文欣赏、参考译文、词汇积累和语法与句型学习四部分构成。美文欣赏是本书的重头戏,我们希望读者能够在使用本书时先把这部分通读一遍,看看能够理解多少。当然,阅读过程中肯定会遇到很多意想不到的困难,这时你不妨对照一下参考译文部分。词汇积累和语法与句型学习两部分是语言知识的拓展,读者可以自己的喜好决定取舍。阅读对于外语学习的重要性已经为中外语言大师反复证明,阅读要取得良好的学习效果,就需要坚持不懈,我们相信读者在一年之中的学习累进必能有更好的效果。

这本书是合作编著的结果:黄卫锋主编,金玉钗和薛堃参与编著。书稿最后由黄卫锋统稿、核对。在编写过程中,我们得到了许多师友的指点和帮助。在此,我们要特别感谢黄卫峰教授、金盾出版社编辑李红

女士给予的指导和鼓励,还有金盾出版社给予我们的宝贵机会。当然,限于学力所限,书中的疏漏与不足均由编著者自负,尚祈专家和读者指正。

黄卫锋



目 录

1	Knowing and Doing 知与行	(1)
2	Declaration of Independence 独立宣言	(2)
3	Friendship 友谊	(4)
4	The Present 现在	(6)
5	Gettysburg Address 葛底斯堡演说	(7)
6	Women 女性	(9)
7	The Great Peril of Society 社会的极大危险	(11)
8	Simplicity 简约	(13)
9	The Ivy League 常春藤联盟	(14)
10	Communications Satellite 通讯卫星	(16)
11	Globalization 全球化	(18)
12	Healthy Lifestyle 健康的生活方式	(19)
13	Social Custom 社会习俗	(21)
14	Place of Honor 上座	(23)
15	Reading Provides Necessary Survival Skills 阅读提供必要的生存技能	(24)
16	The Cambodian New Year 柬埔寨的新年	(26)
17	The Best Years of Your Life 生命中的最好时光	(28)
18	The Functions of Communication 交际的功能	(30)
19	A Blood Test 验血	(31)
20	Living Space 生活空间	(33)
21	Practice Makes Perfect 熟能生巧	(35)
22	The Great Fire and the Little Water 熊熊烈火与滴水之功	(37)
23	Egotism 骄	(39)
24	Loving with an Open Hand 用坦率爱	(41)

25	I Missed You Today 今天,我想念你	(43)
26	Learn to Live in the Present Moment 学会生活在现在	(45)
27	Common Sense 常识	(47)
28	Speech at the Signature Ceremony of the Joint Declaration on the Future of Hong Kong 香港联合声明签字仪式上的讲话	(49)
29	I Have a Dream 我有一个梦想	(51)
30	Nobel Prize Address for Literature 诺贝尔文学奖获奖演说	(53)
31	Companionship of Book 书友	(55)
32	True Nobility 真实的高贵	(57)
33	The Doer of Deeds 有作为的人	(59)
34	Diet and Health 饮食和健康	(61)
35	African Monkeys 非洲猴	(63)
36	Gossip 闲聊	(65)
37	Good for the Mice 对老鼠很有用	(67)
38	Food Likes and Dislikes 喜爱和不喜爱的食物	(68)
39	Learning Is Natural 学习是自然的	(70)
40	Choosing Occupation 选择职业	(72)
41	Bush's Speech 布什的激情演讲	(74)
42	Depending on Personal Efforts 依靠个人奋斗	(76)
43	I Have as Much Soul as You 我的心灵跟你一样丰富	(78)
44	The Pleasant Family 幸福的一家	(79)
45	The English Character 英国人的性格	(81)
46	The Americans 美国人	(83)
47	The Art of Living 生活的艺术	(85)
48	A Brief Introduction to the Revolutionary War in America 美国独立战争 简介	(87)
49	Golden Gate Bridge 旧金山金门大桥	(89)
50	New York 纽约	(91)
51	Establishing the University of Virginia 创建弗吉尼亚大学	(93)
52	Buckingham Palace 白金汉宫	(95)
53	Every Living Person Has Problems 每个人都会遇到难题	(97)
54	Risking 冒险	(99)
55	Teaching Children Money Habits for Life 教会孩子如何花钱	(101)

56	The Meaning of Life 生命的意义	(103)
57	April Fool's Day 愚人节	(105)
58	Mosquito 蚊子	(106)
59	Intelligence 智力	(108)
60	Good Modern Newspaper 现代好报纸	(110)
61	Sports and Games 运动和游戏	(112)
62	Illiteracy 文盲问题	(114)
63	Madame Curie 居里夫人	(116)
64	Wonderful Memories 奇妙的记性	(118)
65	It's a World Problem 人口剧增是世界问题	(120)
66	Love and Marriage 爱情与婚姻	(122)
67	Student Life at Stanford University 斯坦福大学的学生生活	(124)
68	English Has Become an International Language 英语已经成为国际语言	(126)
69	Literature 文学	(128)
70	The Most Valuable Thing a Man Can Spend 人最宝贵的是时间	(129)
71	Making Friends 交友	(131)
72	American Dream 美国梦	(133)
73	Frankness 真诚	(135)
74	The Use of History 历史的用处	(137)
75	The Lowest Animal 最低等的动物	(139)
76	The Young and the Old 青年人和老年人	(141)
77	Group Dates 群体约会	(143)
78	Population 人口	(145)
79	Punctuality 论准时	(146)
80	The Advantages of Watching TV 看电视的益处	(148)
81	Women 妇女	(150)
82	An Epoch-Making Toast 划时代的祝酒辞	(152)
83	Great Expectations 远大前程	(154)
84	Lincoln's Death 林肯之死	(155)
85	How Did You Lose Your Way There? 怎么会迷路?	(157)
86	Hard Work Is Good for Health 努力工作有利于健康	(159)
87	Music 音乐	(161)

88	The English and the Americans 英国人与美国人	(163)
89	Shakespeare 莎士比亚	(165)
90	A Tribute to the Dog 犬的礼赞	(166)
91	Youth 青春	(168)
92	"How Do You Feel?" "你觉得好吗?"	(170)
93	Why Work? 为何工作?	(172)
94	A Continent Unknown to Man 不为人知的一个洲	(174)
95	Paper 纸	(176)
96	Late for the Plane 没赶上飞机	(178)
97	Swimming Across the Channel 游过海峡	(180)
98	Cops and Bobbies "警察"的两个称呼	(182)
99	Psychological Time 心理时间	(184)
100	Forever Happiness 永远的幸福	(185)
101	Sleeping Through the Storm 风暴无扰我眠	(187)
102	Social Customs 社会习俗	(189)
103	Parents and Kids 父母与子女	(191)
104	Social Life and Time 社交与时间	(193)
105	Blood, Toil, Sweat and Tears 鲜血、辛劳、汗水和眼泪	(195)
106	Words and Life 词语与人生	(197)
107	Participation in the Classroom 课堂活动的参与	(199)
108	The Emancipation Proclamation 解放宣言	(201)
109	On the Fear of Death 论对死亡的恐惧	(203)
110	Three Days to See 假如给我三天光明	(205)
111	First Snow 初雪	(207)
112	On the Instability of Human Glory 论人间荣誉之飘渺	(209)
113	How Women Changed History 妇女如何改变历史	(211)
114	Punishment Never Cures Anything 惩罚于事无补	(213)
115	What I have Lived for 我为何而生	(215)
116	The Man and the Opportunity 人与机会	(217)
117	Great Events 人生大事	(219)
118	Reading Good Books 阅读好书	(221)
119	The Road Ahead 未来之路	(223)
120	Childhood 童年	(225)



121	Art and Artists 艺术和艺术家	(227)
122	On Shyness 论羞怯	(229)
123	Letter to Mrs. Bixby 致贝克斯比太太的信	(231)
124	Women and Fashions 女性与时尚	(232)
125	The Eagle and the Chicken 老鹰和小鸡	(234)
126	Filling a Sieve with Water 用水把漏筛填满	(236)
127	The Value of Education 教育的价值	(238)
128	White House 白宫	(240)
129	Rushmore National Monument 拉什莫尔国家纪念碑	(242)
130	Your Dreams Don't Lie 你的梦不会撒谎	(244)
131	Judging People by the Clothes 以“衣”取人	(246)
132	Bookshops 书店	(248)
133	The Four Freedom 论四大自由	(250)
134	Relish the Moment 品味现在	(252)
135	Going on a Journey 话说旅行	(254)
136	The Spirit of Man 人类的精神	(255)
137	Work and Happiness 工作与快乐	(257)
138	Man's Guide 人的指导者	(259)
139	Choice of Companions 择友	(261)
	主要参考书目	(264)



Knowing and Doing 知与行



美文欣赏

If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, chapels had been churches, and poor men's cottages princes' palaces. It is a good divine that follows his own instructions; I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow my own teaching. The brain may devise laws for the blood; but a hot temper leaps over a cold decree—such a hare is madness the youth, to skip o'er the meshes of good counsel the cripple.

倘使付诸于行和知道什么该付诸于行一样容易,那么小教堂便成了大礼拜堂,穷人茅舍便成了王侯宫殿。能够把布道内容付诸于行的才算虔诚的牧师。我能比较轻松地教训 20 个人什么可为,而要成为这 20 个人中的一个,遵循自己的教训,那就不容易了。头脑可以想出法律来约束激情,但火爆性情则会越过冷冰冰的法令;好似发疯的野兔那样,青年人会跳过行动不便的伤残人那智慧的罗网。



词汇积累

1. devise [dɪ'vaɪz] *v.* 发明,设计

A new system has been devised to control traffic in the city.
控制城市交通的新系统已经设计出来。

2. decree [dɪ'kri:] *n.* 法令

to issue/sign a decree 颁布/签署法令

3. mesh [meʃ] *n.* 网,网状物

wire mesh over the door of the cage 罩在笼子门上的铁丝网



4. counsel ['kaʊnsəl] *n.* (尤指年长者或专家的) 劝告, 忠告

Listen to the counsel of your elders. 要听从长辈的忠告。



语法与句型学习

1. 英语构词法中的“转化法”

“Divine”, 原意为“上帝的, 神的”, 作形容词用, 在文中转用为名词“牧师”。在适当条件下, 属于某一词类的词可以起另一词类的作用, 这种语言现象在英语中称为“转化法”。英语中词类转化的分类, 主要有名词转成动词, 形容词转成动词或名词, 动词转成名词等。如:

bicycle—to bicycle (骑自行车)

corner—to corner (逼入绝境)

worm—to worm (虫一般地爬)

better—to better the situation (改善情况)

empty—to empty a basket (倒篮子)

innocent—innocents (无辜者)

chemical—chemicals (化学药品)

daily (每天的)—daily (日报)

to answer—answer (回答, 答案)

to dive—dive (潜水, 跳水, 俯冲)

to drink—drink (饮料)

2. follow (one's) instructions 听从指示, 接受指示。如:

He has trouble following simple instructions. 简单的指示他都难以照办。



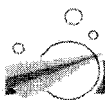
2 Declaration of Independence 独立宣言



美文欣赏

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, gov-





ernments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

我们认为这些真理是不言而喻的：人人生而平等，造物主赋予他们一些天生不可剥夺的权利，其中就有生活、自由和追求幸福的权利。为了保障这些权利，政府才在人们中得以建立，经过被管理者的一致统一而获得正当权力。凡是任何形式的政府渐渐破坏这些目的时，人们便有权改变或废除它；建立新政府，它的基础要在这样的原则上奠定，它的权力要以这样的形式组织：唯此人民才最有可能实现安全和幸福。



词汇积累

1. endow [ɪn'dau] *v.* 赋予, 给予

to endow sb with a responsibility 赋予某人以责任

2. institute [ɪn'stɪtju:t] *v.* 建立, 开始

The new management intends to institute a number of changes.

新管理部门打算实行一些改革。

3. abolish [ə'bolɪʃ] *v.* 废除, 废止

This tax should be abolished. 这种税应该取消。

4. effect [ɪ'fekt] *v.* 使发生, 实现

to effect a recovery 实现复苏



语法与句型学习

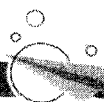
1. derive sth from sth “(从……中)得到……”, “(从……中)获得……”, 一般主语是动作的施行者。如:

He derived great pleasure from painting. 他从绘画中得到极大的乐趣。

2. 同位语从句

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that





they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

这句话中,三个 that 引导的从句是同位语从句,用以说明 these truths to be self-evident 的具体内容。这三个同位语从句从三个层次对“不言自明的真理”进行了说明。关于同位语的用法,还可以看以下例句:

I give my guarantee to you that he will be here tomorrow. 我向你保证他明天会来。

It's my considered opinion that he is a liar and a cheat.

我经过仔细考虑,认为他是个说谎的家伙,又是个骗子。



Friendship 友谊

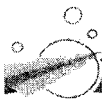


美文欣赏

There are persons who cannot make friends. Who are they? Those who cannot be friends. It is not the want of understanding or good nature, of entertaining or useful qualities, that you complain of; on the contrary, they have probably many points of attraction; but they have one that neutralizes all these—they care nothing about you, and are neither the better nor worse for what you think of them. They manifest no joy at your approach; and when you leave them, it is with a feeling that they can do just as well without you. This is not sullenness, nor indifference, nor absence of mind; but they are intent solely on their own thoughts, and you are merely one of the subjects they exercise them upon. They live in society as in a solitude.

有些人是无法成为朋友的。那些不可能成为朋友的人都是些什么人呢? 你所埋怨的并非是他们缺少悟性或温和的性情, 缺少有趣或有用的品质, 相反的是, 他们可能具有诸多引人瞩目的特点; 可是他们有一点却抵消了所有这些特点——





那就是他们对你毫不关心。你无论怎么看待他们,好歹都无所谓。你接近时,他们毫不高兴;你离开他们时,给你的感觉是他们有你没你并无两样。这不是落落寡合,或是无动于衷,或是心不在焉;而是他们一味专注于自己的思想,而你仅仅是他们费心去考虑的问题之一。他们生活在社会上如同独处一隅。



词汇积累

1. neutralize ['nju:trəlaɪz] *v.* 使无效

The latest figures should neutralize the fears of inflation.

最新的数据应该可以消除对通货膨胀的担忧。

2. manifest ['mænɪfɛst] *v.* 表明,清楚显示(情感、态度或品质等)

Social tensions were manifested in the recent political crisis.

最近的政治危机显示了社会关系的紧张。

3. sullenness ['sʌləns] *n.* 郁郁寡欢,闷闷不乐

Bob looked pale with sullenness. 鲍勃脸色苍白,闷闷不乐。

4. indifference [ɪn'dɪfrəns] *n.* 漠不关心,冷漠,无动于衷

Their father treated them with indifference. 他们的父亲对他们漠不关心。



语法与句型学习

1. neither... nor... 这是表示“既不……也不”意思的句型,跟在后面的应该是在语法上具有平行地位的表示否定含义的成分。如:

I neither knew nor cared what had happened to him.

我既不知道也不关心他出了什么事。

Neither the TV nor the video actually works.

电视机和录像机都坏了。

2. be intent on/upon (sth) 这是表示“专心于……”,“专注于……”的句型。
如:

I was so intent on my work that I didn't notice the time.

我专心工作,以致忘了时间。



The Present 现在



美文欣赏

We were wise indeed, could we discern truly the signs of our own time; and by knowledge of its wants and advantages, wisely adjust our own position in it. Let us, instead of gazing idly into the obscure distance, look calmly around us, for a little, on the perplexed scene where we stand. Perhaps, on a more serious inspection, something of its perplexity will disappear, some of its distinctive characters and deeper tendencies more clearly reveal themselves; whereby our own relations to it, our own true aims and endeavours in it, may also become clearer.

如果能够真切认清我们这个时代的征兆,我们才算聪明;了解时代的需要和优势,聪明调整自己在其中的位置。不要无聊地凝视朦胧的远方,我们都来平静地环视身边的一切,旁观我们所处的这个纷然杂呈的舞台。可能经过更加认真的审视,某种错综复杂之处将会消失,某些特殊的性质和更深层的趋势就会比较清楚地显露出来,从而,我们自己与时代的关系,我们自己真正的目标和努力方向也可能变得更加清楚。



词汇积累

1. discern [dɪ'sɜːn] *v.* 察觉出, 了解
He discerned a certain coldness in their welcome. 他察觉到他们的欢迎有点冷淡。
2. perplexed [pə'plekst] *adj.* 困惑的, 迷惑不解的
She looked perplexed. 她看来茫然若失。
3. distinctive [dɪs'tɪŋktɪv] *adj.* 独特的, 特别的
There are distinctive black and white markings on the male bird's head. 雄鸟





的头上有明显的黑白斑纹。

4. endeavour [ɪn'devə] n. 努力

The manager is expected to use his or her best endeavour to promote the artist's career. 经理人应以最大的努力来推动演艺人的事业发展。



语法与句型学习

虚拟语气

We were wise indeed, could we discern truly the signs of our own time; and by knowledge of its wants and advantages, wisely adjust our own position in it. 这句话使用的是虚拟语气。虚拟语气表示的是一种假想的情况或主观愿望,动词有时用特殊形式。但表示与现在相反的情况时,如果从句使用 be 动词,则需要改为 were 形式;如果主句使用其他谓语动词,则使用 would/could/might+动词原形的形式,条件从句的谓语使用一般过去时。如:

If she were here, she would agree with me.

如果她在这里,她会同意我的意见。(事实上她不在这里)

If you knew all the circumstances, you would forgive me.

如果你了解全部情况,你是会原谅我的。(实际上你不了解全部情况)



5 Gettysburg Address 葛底斯堡演说



美文欣赏

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did

