

英语夜读
English
for
Night
Reading

15 分钟

To Keep Updating

时文

主编 朱振武
编著 张柯 陈慧莲



上海译文出版社

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朱振武 主编

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英语是用会的,不是学会的

(序 言)

一般的本科毕业生至少都有十年左右的英语学习经历,其投入的人力、物力可想而知。但大多数本科生乃至研究生,他们的英语并没有形成起码的应用能力,因此,毕业之后,他们很自然地就把英语抛到了九霄云外,到了需要的时候才发现自己根本没有这个能力,最后连自己的孩子都辅导不了。许多人学了多年英语,啃了不少教科书,最后是越学越不会,越学越没信心。这是什么原因呢?

其实,粗通一门外语,根本用不了十多年的时光,这里关键是我们教与学的路子出了问题。大家不是学以致用,所以当然也就不能立竿见影;只重短期效应,疲于应试,当然也就人无远虑,必有近忧了。自以为每天都在学习生词、短语、句型,没完没了地做题,其实,他们忘了,语言不同于数、理、化等学科,语言重在培养感觉和灵性,简单的量的积累并不能实现质的飞跃。其实,若是想一想,学了小半辈子的英语,最后连句像样的话都难以出口,连简单的英文报纸都读不下来,你就会觉得我们的教与学有多么滑稽。我经常对我的学生讲:“英语是用会的,不是学会的。因此,要在用中学,要通过使用来学英语。”语言是人类交流和传递知识的工具,不是光用来考试的。换句话说,以考试为目的的英语学习很难学好英语。事实证明,一个善于使用英语的人,应付各种考试的能力也自然要强得多。在我们这样一个汉语绝对占主导地位的语言环境里,怎样才能在使用中学习英语呢?一个最简便易行而又经济实用的好办法就是阅读。英国著名作家毛姆曾说:“阅读应当是一种享受。”因此,我们应当尽情地去享受阅读。阅读可以提高多方面的素养,提高听、说、读、写、译等多方面的能力,可以学习多方面的知识,可以非常有效地复习、巩固所学语言知识点。阅读在给人们带来快感的同时,从根本上提高了读者的语言感受力。

我小的时候酷爱读书,喜欢读各种各样的中文书,好在我当时还算不上“家贫,无从致书以观”。后来这种兴趣扩大到了英语阅读上,发现同样有无穷的乐趣,特别是读了大文豪马克·吐温的姊妹篇《汤姆·索耶历险记》和《哈克·贝利费恩历险记》之后,我的英语阅读便一发不可收拾。不光是乐在无穷,现在想起来也的确是受益无穷。从我在文科上的学习经历来看,谁的阅读量大,谁的水平就高,谁的综合能力和整体素质就强。我从一名中学生成为本科生,再从一名硕士研究生成为博士研究生,最后成为博士后和教授,成为一名“翻译家”,这些都与我积极、主动、广泛的英语阅读密不可分。是阅读改变了我的人生。

钱钟书先生把自己那高深的英语水平和文学造诣归功于在图书馆的博览群书,包括阅

读各种报刊杂志和文史哲方面的书籍。美国著名作家、诺贝尔文学奖获得者威廉·福克纳连中学都没能毕业,他把自己的文学成就归因于:什么书都要读,天文、地理、文学、艺术、法律、经济,尽管去读。我国诗圣杜甫也有“读书破万卷,下笔如有神”的著名诗句。英国大文豪培根在《谈读书》中也大谈特谈读书给人们身心带来的各种益处:“读书可以怡情,可以博彩,可以长才。”美国当红作家丹·布朗以《达·芬奇密码》、《天使与魔鬼》、《数字城堡》和《圈套》等著名小说称道于世,我在研究他、翻译他的作品时一个很深的印象就是他认为自己的成功秘诀建立在大量的阅读基础之上。

学英语最主要的就是培养语感,然而语感从何而来?回答再简单不过了,主要来自于阅读。目前市场上四级、六级阅读材料和专业英语四级、八级等各类用于应试的阅读理解书很多,这些书籍基本上都是从纯粹应试的角度出发,从真正提高读者的英语水平上来说,实用性不够。有些英语读物附有译文、注释和实力测试,但大都走纯经典的老路,与当前读者的需求有些脱钩。虽然临阵磨枪,不亮也光,但这样学习的人最后发现自己总是面临着考场失意和成绩低迷的尴尬。真正适合广泛阅读的书在市场上并不多,这也是本套丛书的编写初衷。

这套四卷本的英语精华文章分类阅读丛书在知识性、趣味性、前卫性、应试性、渐进性和综合性等方面作了许多探索和平衡。本丛书不走传统的经典编写老路,也不着眼于零散的知识点或语言点,而力争通过轻松广泛的阅读,培养读者英语思维能力,提高相关的文化素质,从而提高读者的英语整体水平,包括应试能力。每册书由50个短篇构成,每篇设有“阅读导释”、“参考译文”、“阅读导评”、“阅读自测”和“参考答案”。“阅读导释”和“阅读导评”之所以称之为“导”,是因为我们在注释和评论中有意识地在相关语言知识和文化背景等方面为读者做些引导,像梳辫子似的为读者理清头绪,从而既避免了学习词法和句法知识时常见的“描述语法”所带来的模棱两可现象和“规定语法”所带来的生硬刻板现象,也避免了读罢一篇文章似懂非懂,或囫圇吞枣,或只见树木不见森林的现象。“阅读自测”也是本着这样一种构想设计的。

本书向读者推荐风格、体裁各异的英语文章,有的严谨周密,有的粗犷随意。它们都是实际应用中的英语,包括文化、科普、地理、历史、经典等方面,形式有议论、记叙、散文、传记、演讲、寓言等。特别是它们能使读者迅速掌握由于英语课本的相对滞后性和单一性所难以看到和接触到的时下话题和各种鲜活的表达手法。选文短小精悍,适合一日一篇。每晚如果能花上15分钟或半小时阅读这些文章,定能受益匪浅。

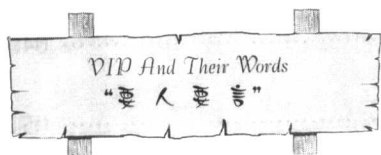
本书主要对象为具有普通英语水平的大学生及英语水平较高的中学生,亦可供大学教师及中学教师教学参考之用。

朱振武

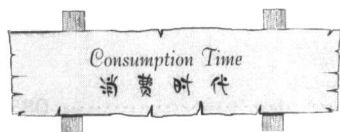
2005年秋日

于上海心远斋

(本书已被列入“上海市英语人才高地建设规划”)



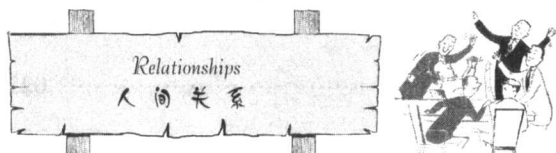
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VIP And Their Words

要人要言

1. Speech By Prime Minister Of India At Peking University

No objective analysis can deny the combined strength and complementarity of an India-China partnership:

We have the problems of continent-sized¹ countries — unequal development, a wide spread of income disparities, and a potential digital divide. Exchange of developmental experiences can be valuable.

We are both at the forefront of developing and applying the technologies, which drive the Knowledge Economy.

We have a harmonious balance of strengths. India's strengths in Information Technology, software engineering, management and financial services are well matched by the Chinese expertise in hardware, construction and industry.

Both India and China were present at the broader dialogue of developing countries with the G-8 countries² in Evian. I was struck by the congruence in our positions. If we acted in concert, it would be very difficult for the world to ignore us.

India and China have frequently reiterated their commitment to the development of a cooperative multi-polar world order³. In the complex international situation of today, we have a role to play in helping to restore the authority of the international organisations, which have been undermined in recent months.

One cannot wish away the fact that before good neighbours can truly fraternize with each other, they must first mend their fences. After a hiatus⁴ of a few decades, India and China embarked on this important venture a few years ago. We have made good progress. I am convinced that, with steadfast adherence to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, with mutual sensitivity to the concerns of each other, and with respect for equality, our two countries can further accelerate this process so that we can put this difference firm-

ly behind us. I am encouraged after my discussions with Premier Wen Jiabao that both our countries see an opportunity to proceed along this path.

It is a tryst⁵ with destiny, which beckons to us. When we redeem it, we can truly fulfil the ideal of close cooperation, described so colourfully by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore⁶: “When daylight breaks, we are free from the enclosure and the exclusiveness of our individual life. It is then that we see the light, which is for all men and for all times. It is then that we come to know one another, and come to cooperate in the field of life.”

阅读导释

1. continent-sized *adj.* 像大陆一样的, 幅员辽阔的。(反义词) small-sized, pocket-sized, portable. 印度别称 Indian Subcontinent (印度次大陆)。
2. 八国集团。原来的“西方七国集团”包括: 美洲的美、加, 欧洲的德、法、英、意, 亚洲的日本。1997 年俄罗斯正式加入。该组织主要讨论经济问题, 协调各国的宏观经济政策。近年来政治问题也逐渐成为会议的重要议题。最近有呼声要求邀请中国加入, 成为“九国集团”。
3. 多极化世界秩序。在前苏联解体后, 原有的两极化格局被打破, 世界进入由美国(唯一超级大国)和多极(欧洲、中国、俄罗斯等)构成的世界新秩序。
4. hiatus *n.* 裂缝。中国和印度曾因边界上英国殖民遗留的“麦克马洪线”问题动过武, 印度至今仍然实际占领我国西藏地区的大片土地。
5. tryst *n.* (古英语)约会。(同义词) appointment, date, rendez-vous.
6. 罗宾德拉纳德·泰戈尔(1861—1941)是印度著名诗人、小说家、艺术家、社会活动家。1913 年 11 月, 泰戈尔的《吉檀迦利》获得了诺贝尔文学奖。他曾访问中国, 和我国文学名家徐志摩、冰心等有交往。

参考译文

印度总理在北京大学的演讲

没有任何客观研究能够否认印中合作伙伴关系的优势和互补性:

我们都有大国面临的问题——发展的不平衡, 普遍存在的收入差距, 以及潜在的数据鸿沟。相互交流发展经验是很有价值的。

我们都处在推动知识经济发展的技术开发及应用的前沿。

我们双方的优势可以和谐互补。印度在信息技术、软件工程、管理和财务服务方面的强项, 可以与中国在硬件、建设和工业方面的专长相互取长补短。

印度和中国都在埃维昂参加了发展中国家与八国集团的非正式对话。我对我们两国在立场上的一致性感到惊讶。如果我们一致行动,世界将很难忽视我们。

印度和中国都多次重申对于发展互利合作的多极世界新秩序的承诺。当今国际局势复杂多变,我们都有义务帮助恢复国际组织的权威性,这种权威性在最近几个月受到了破坏。

人们不能忽视这个事实:好邻居必须首先修补自己的篱笆,然后他们才能真正善待彼此。虽然裂痕存在了几十年,但两国几年前就开始了这项重要的补救事业,并且已经取得了长足的进步。我相信,只要我们坚持和平共处五项原则,对彼此关心的问题保持一种共有的敏感,尊重彼此的平等权利,我们两个国家就能够进一步促进两国之间的发展,坚定地要把分歧放在一边。在同温家宝总理会谈后,我们都看到了沿着这条道路继续发展两国关系的机遇,对此我深受鼓舞。

这个会谈是历史的必然,它在不断地召唤着我们。只要我们恢复两国之间的关系,我们就能够真正地实现密切合作的愿望,就像我国诗人泰戈尔所描述的那样绚丽多彩:“当日光破晓,我们从自我封闭和孤独中解脱出来。正是此时我们得见赐予全人类的永恒的光明。正是此时我们开始互相了解,开始在生活原野上合作。”

阅读导评

印度对于很多中国人来说意味着:《西游记》里的天竺、泰戈尔、泰姬陵,还有现在美国硅谷软件的初加工基地。亚洲在很长一段时间遭受欧洲列强的欺凌,经济发展滞后固然是根本原因,但是更重要的是亚洲各国都各自为政不团结:日本提出“脱离亚洲论”、朝韩对立、印巴核竞赛、两伊战争,中国则长期为台湾问题烦恼。反观欧洲:当初的死敌——政治巨人法国和经济巨人德国联手驱动欧盟的统一和发展,这其中需要亚洲反思的何止万千。

阅读自测

I. Fill in each blank according to Chinese meaning in bracket:

1. The _____ (互补性) of Sino-US economic relationship determines that we can truly _____ (完成,实现) the ideal of close cooperation.
2. EU _____ (多次重申承诺) keep the Euro within an acceptable exchange rate with American dollar.
3. The Coalition waging Iraq War seriously _____ (破坏) the authority of United Nations.
4. Before good neighbours can truly _____ (亲如兄弟), they must first mend their fences.

II. Question:

In which fields does India have advantages?

参考答案

I . 1. complementarity / fulfil

2. have frequently reiterated their commitment to

3. undermined

4. fraternize with each other

II . Information Technology, software engineering, management and financial services.

2. Statement Of Don Carty¹

It is a sad day. Nothing grieves me more than² to have to report to you that this morning, an American Airlines flight was lost in New York. I will be leaving for New York immediately to lead the American Airlines Care Team that is responding to today's accident. Our primary concern will be to provide support to the families of our passengers and employees lost today, to all of our employees and to the people on the ground in NY.

At this time, we have no indication of what caused the accident. We have moved quickly to help organize the response and to support the investigation. Toward that end³, I have already been in touch with Andrew Card at the White House and with Mayor Guiliani and Governor⁴ Pataki in New York, as well as with officials in Santo Domingo.

Let me just provide some basic facts about the flight today. It was American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300⁵ aircraft en route⁶ from New York Kennedy to Santo Domingo. The airplane was lost today shortly after take off from Kennedy Airport. The preliminary passenger list indicated the aircraft carried 246 passengers and a crew of nine.

Family members wishing to receive information about passengers may contact American Airlines at our toll-free⁷ number at 800 245 0999.

As you would imagine, today's news comes at a difficult time for the nation, for the airline industry and for American Airlines. Given the changed world we live in today, it will be as important as it has ever been to quickly and accurately determine the cause of this accident. First and foremost⁸, however, our thoughts and prayers are with the families of our passengers and employees of those lost today.

I will be leaving immediately for New York.

阅读导释

1. 唐纳德·卡蒂为美洲航空公司主席兼首席执行官。
2. 没什么比……更让我难过的了,等同于 I feel the deepest sadness about...。类似的表达方式如: No one's comment is more important than the President's. (总统的评论最为重要。)
3. end *n.* 目的,目标。常见用法: with this end in view (抱着这一目的); to that end (因为这个缘故,为要达到那个目的所以); a means to an end (达到目的的手段); have an end in view (有所企图); for this end (因这目的,因此); end and aim (目的); be on the receiving

end (① 接收别人的礼物。② 成为攻击目标。③ 处于接球的一方)。

4. governor *n.* (美) 州长。殖民地的总督。这个词的阴性名词 *governess* 不是女州长而是“家庭女教师”。
5. 空中客车 A300 型客机,由英、法、西等欧洲国家联合组建的飞机公司生产,是目前唯一能够和美国波音公司的 747 等客机竞争的产品。
6. en route (法语) = on route 在途中。
7. 受话人付费电话,打电话的人无需付费。以 800 开头的电话号码即属此类电话,但是有些号码拒付长途话费。
8. foremost *adv.* 居于首位,如:She ranks foremost among the country's leading conductors. (他在国内第一流指挥家中名列榜首。)它亦可做形容词,表示“最著名的,最重要的”,如:the foremost painter of his time (在他那个时代首屈一指的画家)。

参考译文

唐纳德·卡蒂的声明

这是不幸的一天。我怀着万分悲痛的心情向各位宣布,今天上午美洲航空公司的一架飞机在纽约失事。针对今天的事件,“美洲航空公司救援组”已经组成,我将立即赶往纽约主持救援工作。我们的重点是向航班上遇难乘客和机组人员的家属,向美洲航空公司的全体员工和飞机坠毁所殃及的纽约市民尽可能地提供帮助。

目前飞机失事的原因还不清楚。但是我们已经对此次事故做出迅速的反应,并且尽一切力量配合事故原因的调查工作。为此,我已经与布什政府参谋长安德鲁·卡德、纽约市长朱利安尼、纽约州州长帕塔基以及多米尼加共和国首都圣多明各的官员取得了联系。

让我来告诉大家一些关于此次飞行的基本情况。失事飞机是美洲航空公司 587 次航班,一架正从纽约肯尼迪机场飞往多米尼加共和国首都圣多明各的空中客车 A300 型客机。此次航班从肯尼迪机场起飞后不久便坠毁,乘客名单显示航班上共有 246 名乘客,9 名机组人员。

乘客家属可以拨打美洲航空公司的免费电话 800-245-0999,查询机上乘客的有关具体情况。

大家可以想象,在这个多事之秋,今天的这起机毁人亡的事件对我们的国家、对航空业以及美洲航空公司无疑是雪上加霜。鉴于目前的国际形势的变化,尽快地、准确地找到飞机失事的原因是我们目前的重要任务。但首先还是让我们向在此次事故中遇难的乘客和机组人员的家属表示慰问。

我将立即动身前往纽约。

阅读导评

美洲航空公司是全球最大的航空企业之一,航空安全又一直是各国媒体关注的目标。

(这是本·拉登选择飞机撞大楼的原因。)作为美航的第一负责人,卡蒂不希望航班有任何问题,但是失事之后的一系列问题还是需要向媒体交代,航空公司已经采取的措施也要一一汇报,以争取舆论的正面报道。看来卡蒂很清楚这一点,要想不出现谣言,必须在第一时间发布官方消息。但很可惜,不是所有的人都明白这点。

阅读自测

I. Fill in each blank with a proper word, the first letter is given:

1. Depression g _____ him much for he would have no money to support his family.
2. Our p _____ concern is the safety of the pupils in their vacations.
3. There is no i _____ of who is behind this terrorist attack.
4. We endeavor to carry a complete i _____ to find the technical problem of this a _____.

II. Questions:

1. Who is the head of New York State?
2. Who is the mayor of New York City?

参考答案

- I. 1. grieves 2. primary 3. indication 4. investigation / accident
II. 1. Pataki 2. Guiliani

3. Tony Blair In Qinghua University

QUESTION:

Seven days ago during your visit to the USA, newspaper cuttings commented that the UK had become the 51st state¹ of the United States. I want your views about that comment.

PRIME MINISTER:

On the 51st state, well that is what is often said by people who oppose Britain's strong alliance with the United States of America. And actually it is not true to say that we don't have our disagreements with the United States, sometimes we do. The Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change² was an example of that. But I am proud of our relationship with the United States and I am proud of the partnership that we have. But I don't think that we should see a strong relationship with the United States as the only strong relationship we can have. The problems that we face are problems to do with global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction in the hands of irresponsible people, I think they are climate change, I think it is economic globalisation, I think it is to do with how we extend development to the poorest parts of the world. But I think those challenges are best dealt with by nations working together. So we have a close relationship with the United States, but we are also part of the European Union. I would like a closer relationship between the UK and China, because I think how China develops in this international framework is going to be vitally important. I think 21st century politics is about nations coming together on a common agenda. Now that means in my view, not that we come together simply on an agenda that America sets, but that we come together on an agenda that we set together. I think that the path for Britain is not to be worried about our alliance with the United States, I think it is good that we have got an alliance with the United States, but I think we should be using that influence to try and bring the United States and other countries together on a common agenda that we are all happy with, that your leadership here in China is happy with, the European Union, the Russians, countries like India that are developing too. We have all got to get in the same place on the same agenda, and that is what we are working towards, because I think that is the best thing for people ... I really do.