根据国家教育部最新《大学英语课程教学要求》编写 大学英语选修课系列教材(非英语专业本科用)

最新英美报刊选读

Mass Media Reading

主 编 陈仲利 副主编 张林冬 宋宏亮



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前言

教育部最新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》对高等学校非英语专业本科毕业生的阅读能力提出了三个层次的要求。其中较高要求和更高要求都指出:学生在阅读理解能力上要能基本读懂英语国家大众性报纸杂志的一般性题材的文章,阅读速度为每分钟70个词。为满足学生阅读的实际需求,及时提供更多的全新报刊资料,我们从近一年的英美各主要报刊及网络资源中精心挑选出部分精彩文章,编撰成此书,以飨广大学生和英语爱好者。

本教材按文章内容分为 12 个单元, 共计 48 篇。各单元内容分别为: 焦点透视、社会人生、文教医疗、财政经济、政治体制、科技军事、世界报道、观念信仰、家庭生活、艺术青春、环境保护、体育运动。每篇文章包括导读、正文、生词表、难点注释、背景知识、新闻知识、阅读理解及热点思考八部分。导读部分言简意赅, 易于引起读者的兴趣和共鸣; 生词表列出了文中四级后的词汇(即《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》中较高要求和更高要求的词汇), 同时注有词性和音标,并有双语解释,便于学生自学; 难点注释内容详实丰富,既能提高语言能力,又能拓宽阅读视野; 背景知识用汉语介绍了文章相关历史事件和社会热点问题,便于理解和掌握文章的内容; 新闻知识介绍了英美报刊的语言特点和新闻常识; 阅读理解题和热点讨论题有利于帮助读者提高理解能力和思辨能力。

本书选材精细,文章字数大都在600~900字以内,难度适中,语言真实准确、地道优美。同时,所有文章都是近一年内有关社会热点问题的报道,并且大都是广大学生所关心和感兴趣的话题,趣味性、实效性、新闻性较强。另外,文章内容涉及生活的方方面面,集知识性、科普性、娱乐性于一体,能够满足学生汲取原汁原味英语的需求,是一本实用性较强的好书。

本书是大学本科三、四年级学生"英美报刊"选修课教材,亦可作为英语四级后,报考六级或研究生的同学的复习参考用书,同时,也可作为英语专业学生或广大英语爱好者提高阅读水平的参考书籍。

由于编写时间仓促、作者才智有限,书中若有疏漏谬误之处,尚祈各位同仁及广大读者不吝指正。

编 者 2005 年 4 月于清华园

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Passage I Living with Our Divisions 与分歧共存

导 读

美国总统大选一直以来都是备受关注的新闻热点。不仅如此,选举结果更引发了尖锐的焦点话题和潜在危机。实则是共和党和自由党、自由派和保守派以及各自的支持者之间的实力较量甚于候选人之间的竞争。对此,本文进行了更为深入的探讨和阐述,发人深省。

The good news is that it wasn't a disputed election¹. The bad news is that it's a deeply divided country.

For many liberals², this is not just a loss but a time of **mourning**. They no longer have the **consolation** of regarding Bush³ as a **usurper** (though **conspiracy** theories about **rigged** voting machines are already making the rounds⁴). He is the first presidential election winner since 1988 to get a majority of the popular vote⁵. This time, there's no disputing his **mandate**.

Why did Bush win despite a number of strikes against him—above all, the incompetent waging of a controversial war⁶? One likely reason is that John Kerry⁷ was not a particularly appealing candidate. According to the CNN⁸ exit poll⁹ of more than 13,000 voters, close to two-thirds of those who voted for Kerry said that they were voting primarily not for him but against Bush. The attacks on Kerry's character and his record undoubtedly played a part; but there were attacks on both sides, even if, ultimately, the ones against Kerry proved more effective.

Some of the reaction to the election results, both abroad and among American liberals, brings to mind an **acerbic** comment by the German **playwright** Bertolt Brecht¹⁰: "The government has decided to dissolve the people, and to appoint another one." Many **pundits** and **activists** obviously feel that we ought to elect another **populace**, the current one being too stupid or too **bigoted**. "Reach out to these voters? Yeah. Then boil your hand till it's **sterilized**," a

Kerry volunteer jeered in Salon. com. 11

The ugliness in this campaign has been not just between the candidates but between their supporters as well. To listen to some conservatives, Kerry voters are a bunch of latte-sipping, America-bashing, amoral elitists. ¹² Meanwhile, all too many supposedly tolerant liberals fear and despise Bush voters as a mob of dumb, racist, Bible-thumping rednecks¹³.

As a **libertarian** conservative¹⁴, I'm not particularly happy about the fact that people who want to use the law and public policy to promote their moral and religious values currently have so much power in the Republican Party¹⁵. (Of course, liberals tend to be **oblivious** to the ways in which they are willing to use the law and public policy to **foist** their own version of morality on others.)¹⁶ But the **caricature** of Bush voters as ignorant religious **fanatics** is just that, a caricature. The CNN exit poll found that only about 8 percent of the voters regard religious faith as the most important quality in a presidential candidate. (Not surprisingly, these voters went **overwhelmingly** for Bush.) While Bush voters are more likely to attend church regularly, 47 percent of occasional churchgoers and 36 percent of those who never attend religious services backed¹⁷ the President as well. As for educational levels, 52 percent of Americans with a college diploma voted for Bush. Even among those with at least some postgraduate education, Bush captured 44 percent of the vote.

President Bush has been accused of pursuing divisive policies. ¹⁸ But let's face it, promoting crude stereotypes of slightly more than half the **electorate** is not exactly the way to promote understanding. ¹⁹

In addition to the presidential vote, the big news from this election has been the vote by **referendum** in 11 states to ban same-sex marriage²⁰. The measure was approved even in Oregon, where its passage was uncertain and where gay rights activists²¹ invested a great deal of money and energy into defeating it.

It would be, I think, a grave mistake to conclude from this vote that most Americans hate gays. In recent polls, upward of 80 percent believe gays and lesbians²² should be protected from discrimination in the workplace. No less important, about half of those who oppose same-sex marriage support civil unions²³ for gays. Altogether, more than 60 percent of Americans support some legal recognition of gay and lesbian partnerships²⁴—either marriage or civil unions.

Yet in eight states, the newly approved marriage **amendments outlaw** even civil unions. These bans were **hitched** to the prohibitions on same-sex marriage—even in states whose constitutions specify that **ballot** initiatives can only deal with a single issue—and are worded so

vaguely that it would take a crystal ball to figure out exactly what legal protections they would prohibit. ²⁵ They deserve to be tossed out by the courts. ²⁶

A final thought on the election results. Democracy is great; but in a divided culture democracy means that roughly half the people will live under a government they did not elect. That's one good reason to limit the federal government's **intervention** in our lives and to give more of the decision-making power to local governments, private institutions, and individuals.

—Cathy Young, Boston Globe, The (MA), November 8, 2004 (779 words)

I. New Words

mourning ['mɔːnin] n. great sadness because someone has died 悲恸

consolation [ikonsə'leiʃn] n. sth. that makes one feel better when one is sad or disappointed 安慰, 慰藉

usurper ['juzə:pə] n. a person who takes other's power, position, job, etc. when he does not have the right to 篡夺者, 篡位者

conspiracy [kən'spirəsi] n. a secret plan made by two or more people to do something that is harmful or illegal 共谋,阴谋

rigged [rigd] adj. the result of an election or competition being dishonestly arranged before it happens 作弊的,非法操纵的

mandate ['mændeit] n. the period of time for which a government is given power 任期 wage [weid3] v. to be involved in a war against sb., or a fight against sth. 发起,发动 acerbic [ə'sə;bik] adj. criticizing someone or something in a clever but cruel way 尖刻的 playwright ['pleirait] n. someone who writes plays 剧作家

pundit ['pʌndit] n. someone who is often asked to give their opinion publicly of a situation or subject 行家,权威,专家

activist ['æktivist] n. someone who works hard doing practical things to achieve social or political change 积极分子,活跃分子

populace ['popjulas] n. the people who live in a country 平民

bigoted ['bigotid] adj. having such strong opinions about a group of people that one is unwilling to listen to anyone else's opinions 固执的, 顽固的

sterilized ['sterilaizd] adj. to make something completely clean by killing any bacteria in it

已灭菌的

- jeer [dʒiə] v. to laugh at someone or shout unkind things at them in a way that shows you do not respect them 嘲弄,戏弄
- latte ['latei] n. milk 法文词,奶
- bash [bæf] n. very strong criticism of a person or a group (尤用于报章) 猛烈抨击
- amoral [ei'mərəl] adj. having no moral standards at all 不遵守道德准则的, 不分是非的
- elitist [ei'litist] n. a small group of people who have more power and advantages than other people 优秀人才,精英
- tolerant ['tɔlərənt] adj. allowing people to do, say, or believe what they want without criticizing or punishing them 容忍的, 宽容的
- despise [di spaiz] vt. to dislike and have no respect for sb. /sth. 轻视, 蔑视
- mob [mob] n. a large noisy crowd, especially one that is angry and violent 乌合之众,暴民 dumb [dʌm] adj. (informal, esp. Am. E) stupid 愚笨的
- racist ['reisist] adj. of the belief that racial difference between people are the main influence on their characters and abilities 种族主义的
- thump [θ_Λmp] n, the act of giving one's opinion about sth. in a loud and aggressive way 大肆 吹嘘的官扬,慷慨激昂的演讲
- redneck ['rednek] n. a person who lives in a country area of the U.S., is uneducated, and has strong unreasonable opinions-used in order to show disapproval 乡下人, 农人
- libertarian [ˌlibəˈtɛəriən] n. 自由意志主义者, 行动自由论者
- oblivious [ə'bliviəs] adj. not knowing about or not noticing something that is happening around 遗忘的, 健忘的
- foist [foist] v. to force sb. to accept or have to deal with something that they do not want 私 自添加,把……强加 (于)
- caricature ['kærikətjuə] n. a description of sb. or sth. that is only partly true and makes them seem silly 漫画, 讽刺, 歪曲
- fanatic [fə'nætik] n. sb. who has extreme political or religious ideas and is often dangerous 狂热信徒,极端分子
- overwhelmingly [jouvo] welminli] adv. very great or very strong, so powerful that one cannot resist it or decide how to react 压倒性地,不可抵抗地
- electorate [i'lektərət] n. all the people in a country who have the right to vote 全体选民
- referendum [refə'rendəm] n. an occasion when all the people of a country can vote on an important issue 全民投票

lesbian ['lezbiən, -bjən] n. a woman who is sexually attracted to other women 女同性恋者 discrimination [diˌskrimi'neiʃn] n. the practice of treating one person or group differently from another in an unfair way 歧视

amendment [ə'mendmənt] n. a small change, improvement, or addition that is made to a law or document, or the process of doing this 修正案,修订

outlaw ['autlo:] v. to completely stop something by making it illegal 宣布······为非法 hitch [hitf] v. to fasten something to something else 被套住

ballot ['bælət] n. the system of voting in writing and usually in secret (无记名) 投票选举 intervention [ˌintə'venʃn] n. the act of becoming involved in an argument, fight, or other difficult situation in order to change what happens 干涉

II. Notes to the Text

- 1. 充满争议的竞选。
- 2. 自由派。美国的自由派和保守派主要是根据个人在经济与社会问题两个层次上的立场来划分的。自由派主张政府是多干预、多为小市民谋福利的"大政府",保守派则主张自由放任、绝少干预的市场经济,主张管得越少越好的"小政府"做法。
- 3. 美国总统布什。1968 年毕业于耶鲁大学并获学士学位。1975 年获哈佛商学院工商管理硕士学位。1994 年 11 月布什当选为得克萨斯州州长,1995 年 1 月 1 日就职。1998 年 11 月,布什再次当选得州州长,成为该州历史上第一位连任州长的人。1999 年 6 月 12 日,布什正式宣布参加 2000 年总统选举,2000 年 8 月 2 日在费城召开的共和党全国代表大会上被提名为总统候选人。从 2000 年至 2008 年连任两届美国总统。
- 4. 视布什为篡位者对他们来说不再是慰藉(尽管与非法操作的投票记录机有关的阴谋论已经迅速流传)。(making the rounds: 迅速传开 The joke was making the rounds two days ago.)
- 5. 直接投票, 普选。
- 6. wage war: 发动战争 The police are waging war on drug pushers in the city.
- 7. 民主党总统候选人约翰·克里。1984 年代表马萨诸塞州当选联邦参议员,曾任参议院小企业和企业家委员会主席,现为该委员会首席议员,商务、科学和交通委员会以及外交关系委员会和财政委员会委员。其雄厚的个人资产对布什构成强大挑战,是民主党初选最具竞争力的候选人。因娶美国番茄酱大王的遗孀而成为美国最富有的参议员。
- 8. 美国有线电视新闻网,为美国一广播公司,向全世界播送节目,以提供即时电视新闻报道而闻名。

- 9. 民意调查: 当选民离开投票地时采取的抽样调查,通常用来预测选举的结果和确定候选人支持者的观点和特点。
- 10. 德国剧作家布莱希特(1898—1956年),现代戏剧的改革者、剧作家及导演,被视为当代"教育戏剧"的启蒙人物。与斯坦尼斯拉夫斯基、梅耶荷德、阿尔托并称为 20 世纪的四位大师。重要作品包括:《三毛钱歌剧》、《高加索灰栏记》、《沙胆大娘》、《伽利略》、《默哈哥尼》、《四川善人》等。
- 11. "愿意为这些选民提供援助吗? 是的。那么把你的手烫洗到消了毒为止吧。" 克里的支持者在沙龙网上做了这般嘲讽。该句讽刺意味很强,意在说明其不可操作性。
- 12. 按照一些保守派人士的说法,克里的支持者是一群乳臭未干的、猛烈抨击美国的、不分是非原则的所谓精英。conservatives 保守派。主张恢复传统道德观与价值标准,强化法律与秩序,主张恢复死刑,反对色情、堕胎和同性恋,较少关心少数民族的处境和贫苦民众。
- 13. 一群愚笨的、带有种族偏见的、抨击圣经的乡巴佬。此处 rednecks 为贬义词,原意是指没有受过教育的农场白种工人,现指在美国所受教育不多且政治观点保守的乡巴佬,农民,红脖人。
- 14. 持自由论的保守派。
- 15. 共和党,别称"老大党"。1861 年林肯就任美国总统,共和党首次执政。其最高权力机构是全国代表大会。全国委员会是常设最高机关。党徽为"象",由德裔美国漫画家汤姆斯·纳斯特于1874 年创作而成。
 - 民主党的最高权力机构是全国代表大会和全国委员会。它们的主要职能是每四年召开一次大会,推出总统候选人。党徽是"驴",汤姆斯·纳斯特于 1870 年首次把驴画为民主党的象征并刊登在《哈泼斯周刊》上。
- 16. 当然,自由派愿意利用法律和舆论政策强迫他人接受其自身对道德做出的解释,但是对于这种做法他们往往是健忘的。(foist sth. on/upon sb.:强迫接受,把……强加于 I keep getting work foisted on me at the last minute.)
- 17. 此处为动词, 意为"支持"。使用简单词和短词是新闻报道的一大特色。其他名词用作动词的短词常见的有 aim:旨在,力求达到;bid:出价,建议;head:行进,主管;top:超过,胜过;wed:结婚,等等。
- 18. 布什总统被指控为执行歧异性政策。
- 19. 但还是让我们来面对它吧,推进刚过半数的投票这一纯粹的程式化观念终究不是增进理解的可取方式。
- 20. 同性恋婚姻。
- 21. 支持同性恋者权力的人。

- 22. 男性同性恋者和女性同性恋者。
- 23. 公民联合。佛蒙特州(Vermont)众院以 76 票对 69 票通过了允许同性恋者结婚的议案。 该议案中使用的表述方式并不是婚姻而是"公民联合",因此激起了支持和反对同性恋婚 姻两大阵营的同时反对。支持者们认为,civil union 这样的名称会使他们成为二等公民, 永远游离于主流社会之外;而反对者则认为,civil union 是个幌子,其实质就是婚姻。 现在,civil union 虽然在佛蒙特州通过,但是在美国的其他地方仍然不被承认。
- 24. 对男女同性恋者的伴侣关系在法律上的认同。
- 25. 这些禁令被套用于禁止同性婚姻——甚至用于其宪法规定无记名投票表决新方案只能处理一个问题的那些州——而且措辞模糊到得用水晶球来切实弄清楚他们会禁止怎样的法律保护。
- 26. 他们应该被法庭驱逐出去。be tossed out:被驱逐,被赶出

II. Background Information

美国总统选举

根据美国宪法的规定,美国实行总统制,行政权属于总统。总统由每四年举行一次的大选选出,任期四年,并可连任一次。美国总统选举主要包括预选、总统候选人提名、竞选运动、全国选举、选举团投票表决以及当选总统就职仪式。

预选阶段通常为大选年 2 月到 6 月。目前,美国大多数州实行直接预选方式,通过选民 投票方式直接选出参加该党全国代表大会的代表,选民可以直接对总统竞选人表态。由于全 国代表大会的代表明确表示支持哪位总统竞选人,所以投票结果能清楚地知道各位总统竞选 人的支持率。此后,美国民主、共和两大政党将分别在全国大多数州选出参加本党全国代表 大会的代表。

美国两大政党的全国代表大会通常在7月和8月分别举行。大会往往长达数天,投票上百次。由参加代表大会的各州代表投票选出本党总统候选人,然后通过由总统候选人提名的副总统候选人,正式提出竞选纲领。

代表大会结束后,选出的总统候选人即开始在全国展开历时数月的争取选票的竞选运动,其中包括到各州作竞选旅行、广泛会见选民、发表电视演说、进行电视辩论等。总统候选人为竞选而耗费巨资,使尽各种招数。美国总统大选实际上是总统及总统候选人自觉利用媒体扩大影响、营造形象的过程。在参选双方势均力敌的情况下,候选人在辩论中的表现往往能够对选举的结果起决定性的作用。候选人除了在辩论中向未做决定的选民阐明自己的政治观点之外,更重要的是要在镜头前向"以貌取人"的选民们展示自己的"总统相",显示

自己在领导气质、人格魅力、个人形象等各方面的优势。

美国法律规定:在全国选举时,选民要在大选年的11月第二个星期二到指定地点投票,在两个总统候选人之间做出选择。全国选举还要通过选举团的投票表决。由于在一个州中获得选票最多的总统候选人便赢得该州全部选举人票,因此一般情况下选举只是例行公事。

决定选举结果有四大因素:金钱、个人声望、竞选纲领的吸引力、说服力和组织竞选的能力。竞选的目的是为了击败对手取得胜利,因此必须制定正确的竞选策略,首先要确定主要方式,进行正面竞选,正面宣传,树立自己,还是负面竞选,攻击对手,丑化其形象;其次是选择重要地区;再就是明确重点对象,计划经费使用和最后的安排竞选活动。本次大选中布什和克里的竞选班子各自都派出了由党内重量级人士组成的"梦之队",使得主持历届总统竞选辩论的两党委员会不得不承认,本次辩论谈判团队阵容之强是美国政治史上前所未有的。

V. Language Features

名词定语

英美报刊中很多文章常用名词定语来浓缩和精练句式,避免拖沓冗长,从而能够节省篇幅。然而这种名词定语以及名词定语精练句式的大量使用使得读者难以理解深层结构内涵,感觉语义含糊,阅读理解难度加大。作者必须根据上下文来理清名词定语与其所修饰的名词之间的语义关系来理解其确切含义,进一步提高对报刊文章的理解能力。本文中使用了大量的名词定语,例如:

conspiracy theories (theory based on conspiracy) 阴谋论 voting machine (machine used for voting) 投票记录机 exit poll (poll after exiting from the election) (投票后) 民意调查 election result (the result of the election) 选举结果 libertarian conservative (conservative of libertarian) 自由论保守派 public policy (policy for the public) 公共政策 college diploma (diploma from college) 大学文凭 postgraduate education (education for the postgraduate) 研究生教育 same-sex marriage (marriage of the same-sex) 同性恋者婚姻 gay rights activists (activists for the rights of gay) 积极支持同性恋权力者 gay and lesbian partnerships (partnerships of gay and lesbian) 男女同性恋者的伴侣关系 ballot initiatives (initiatives based on ballot) 无记名投票表决新方案