

跨世纪大学英语阅读文选

Selected Readings of English
for University Students

BOOK TWO

主编

黄运亭

世界图书出版公司



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跨世纪大学英语阅读文选

Book Two

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前 言

《跨世纪大学英语阅读文选》是为大学专科生至博士生各级英语学习者编写的一套自学读本（共四册），旨在全面培养和提高大学生的英语阅读能力和综合运用英语的能力。其主要特色如下：

1. 各册选材均具有时代感，尽量从本世纪 90 年代的语料中选材，以体现其跨世纪的基调。第一册可供专科生使用；第二册供具有大学英语四级水平的学生阅读；第三册是为具有大学英语六级水平的学生编写的；而第四册则适合非英语专业的硕士生和博士生学习使用。

2. 内容涵盖面广，涉及社会科学、自学科学、当代技术和西方社会文化习俗等多种领域。每篇字数控制在 2000—3000 字之内（逐册递增）；文选的内容健康，语言规范，生动活泼，难易程序循序渐进，具有较强的可读性。

3. 各册文选均逐篇配备注释和练习。为了使学习者能较系统地掌握英语常用词语，各册均设有 Word Study 一项；为了使学习者能掌握必要的阅读和写作技巧，各册也配备了相关的练习。配套练习形式多样，有的放矢，份量适中，讲求实效，书后还配有答案。

总之，《跨世纪大学英语阅读文选》是大学英语课堂教学的补充和扩展。它比较系统地为大学生提供了第二课堂的学习内容，不仅有助于大学生的英语水平的提高，而且能扩大学生的知识面，有利于大学生综合素质的培养。

《跨世纪大学英语阅读文选》是华南理工大学大学英语教学改革产物。校教务处及外语系领导对这套丛书的编写工作给予了大力的支持，并专门成立了编写委员会，由秦秀白教授任编委会主任并担任主审；张本慎、赵伟礼、黄运亭、韩江等同志任编委，并分别担任各册的主编。广东世界图书出版公司为丛书的出版做了大量而细致的工作。在此，我们谨向他们表示衷心的感谢。

由于时间仓促，兼以经验不足，丛书中的问题在所难免。希望广大读者批评指正。

《跨世纪大学英语阅读文选》编委会

1998 年 7 月 18 日

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Unit One

Text

THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING SINGLE

Most of us, when we reached our teens, started looking forward to the day when we would occupy places of our own, far from the confines of our families. We saw this moving away as a chance to strike out on our own, to grow, to spread out wings and experience freedom.¹ At the same time, we regarded this independence as temporary — the thing to do until we found the perfect mate and married. Over the years, many millions of people have made this passage from one family to another, with just a brief, often nervous interval of independence in between. But recently, more and more people have begun to challenge the concept that living together is better than living alone. Being single is now accepted as an alternative lifestyle — one that is natural, rewarding, and complete. In fact, being single has become almost fashionable. It is certainly desirable.

By being single, you are endowed with a most significant kind of freedom — the freedom to manage your life in any way you choose. The implications are fantastic. You are blessed with the freedom to explore yourself and the life you are living; freedom to explore the world you inhabit; and freedom to make your own decisions — to be able to choose what to do with your days, your nights, your weekends, and ultimately your life.

You can come and go as you please without having to account for the time spent. You are free to accommodate the peculiarities of your own tastes,² to do anything or nothing, to try new things, new places, and new ways of life. You eat out when you choose, go where you want, come home when you feel like it, save your money or spend it. You are a true free spirit.

Being single offers you an opportunity for a solid personal identity. Indeed, in no other lifestyle are you as likely to discover your own individuality. Solitary living gives you a chance to know yourself intimately, draw upon untouched personal capacities,³ and find out who you are and what your strengths are.

I am single by choice — always have been. I'll admit, when my car doesn't start or when the faucet leaks, I sometimes think it might be nice to have a man around the house — a handyman. However, I would hate to hear him howling that it's his turn to use the tub. Still, a husband's sympathy would be sweet when I'm feeling ill or depressed. But then I wonder when a wife and mother can be sick, what with a home and a husband and a kid to care for.⁴ A married woman has to be giving birth or at least enduring an appendectomy to earn a day in bed. A single woman, on the other hand, settles in with magazines and a jug of orange juice to thoroughly enjoy her freedom of being single.⁵

Obviously, all the assets aren't on the single side, but most are.⁶ Some of the advantages are quite important ones. A single person, for instance, can change jobs at will, moving across the country or even across the sea. But it's the little things that add up to happy or unhappy life,

and the bachelor — male or female — can indulge in lots of little pleasures and some pleasant little vices. Not making the bed is one depravity I delight in. Just think, you can change the sheets once a month — or not at all, if that's what you prefer. And when you do the laundry, the only dirty underwear you have to clean is your own. You can go to the bathroom without closing the door, and you are free to hold outrageous opinions without getting into a fight with a more conservative spouse. Of course, you still have companionship — when, where, and with whom you want it. In fact, you probably have a lot more companionship than most married folks. And when the romance dies in a relationship, you can rekindle the fire with a new partner.⁷

Being single means you don't have to share the car, the toothpaste, or the ice-cream sandwiches. And you don't have to cook for a blessed soul. If you choose to cook at all, it's when and what you wish, and you can stack the dishes until you are good and ready to dispose of them. Often, I stoop to using paper plates. Being single means you can be grouchy or giddy whenever you feel like it: your moods don't have to conform to a partner's. And when you don't feel like talking, you have exclusive control of the television set: watch any show you want and shut it off when you're bored. Or you can go wild and decorate the apartment in purple plaid, if that's your passion.

The single woman can flit around her empty apartment, barefoot and fancy free, or she can sit and phone her friends for hours, her face mass of cream, rich emollients, her hair curled tight in pincurls, and her tongue uncensored by the presence of a male or a minor child. Likewise, the single guy can lie around his jockey shorts if he wishes, reading John Updike or cheering on the New York jets.⁸ Or, heck, the guy can wear curlers and the woman can talk back to the referee on the tube. As long as you are on your own, it really doesn't matter.

The single life gives you a chance to take charge of your time, explore your options, live virtually unfettered. Single people don't have to feel awkward anymore. They can celebrate. They are free.

(Heidi Becker)

Notes

1. **We saw this moving away as a chance to strike out on our own, to grow, to spread out wings and experience freedom.**: 当我们凭着自己的力量成长、展开翅膀飞翔并且去体验自由的机会到来时, 我们却眼睁睁地看着它溜掉了。strike out on one's own 是美国口语, 意思是: “自谋生计”。
2. **You are free to accommodate the peculiarities of your own tastes, ...**: 你可以去自由地发展适合你自己情趣的特性, …… accommodate 在此意为: “使适应”, 又如: We should try to accommodate ourselves to new conditions.
3. **Solitary living gives you a chance to know yourself intimately, draw upon untouched personal capacities, ...**: 独身生活为你提供了深入了解自己、充分利用尚未触及的个人才能, ……的机会。

4. **But then I wonder when a wife and mother can be sick, what with a home and a husband and a kid to care for.:** 但是, 接着我想知道: 一方面由于有个家, 一方面由于还得照料丈夫和孩子, 一位贤妻良母究竟什么时候才会(肯)病倒呢? **what with** 意思是: 一方面由于……, 一方面由于…… 又如: **What with overwork and what with hunger, John fell ill.**
5. **A single woman, on the other hand, settles in with magazines and a jug of orange juice to thoroughly enjoy her freedom of being single. :** 另一方面, 一个独身女人则可以安下心来, 一边看杂志, 一边喝橙汁, 尽情享受她独身的自由。
6. **Obviously, all the assets aren't on the single side, but most are.:** 很显然, 独身并非拥有所有的好处, 但拥有了大部分。
7. **..., you can rekindle the fire with a new partner. :** 你可以找一个新的伴侣再重新燃起你那浪漫的火焰。
8. **Likewise, the single guy can lie around in his jockey shorts if he wishes, reading John Updike or cheering on the New York jets...:** 同样, 如果他愿意, 一个独身男子可以穿着赛马短裤, 躺着看厄普代克的小说或坐在纽约的喷气式飞机上取乐。(John Updike, 1932 - , 美国小说家, 成名作 *Rabbit, Run*, 写的是一个逃避现实的人)。

Word Study

add v.t. & v.i.

1. 加; 加上(put together; combine)
If you add 5 to 10, you get 15.
We have added to the committee two women workers.
2. add to 增加(increase)
The music added to our enjoyment.
The multimedia classware has added much variety to our teaching.
3. add up 加起来(give as a result, when joined)
These figures don't add up right.
Every time I add up these figures I get a different answer.
4. add up to (总起来看)说明……, 意味着(amount to; mean; indicate)
He wouldn't admit that the facts didn't add up to anything.
He admitted that the facts had added up to nothing.

care v.t. & v.i.

1. 关心, 担心, 介意(feel interest, anxiety or sorrow)
He failed in the examination but I don't think he cares very much.
She doesn't care what they say about her.
The professor said that he was interested only in research; he didn't care about how much money he could get.
2. 喜欢, 愿意(like [to have]; have a taste for)

I don't care about money or position.

I don't suppose you care to hear my opinion of him.

Would you care for a cup of coffee?

3. 照料, 照顾 (和 for 连用)(look after)

Who will care for the children if their mother dies?

The state must care for the families of the soldiers killed in the war.

care *n.*

1. 小心、谨慎注意(serious attention and effort)

Handle with care!

2. 关怀、爱护(the process of looking after someone who needs it)

Children have the best care in new China.

3. 照管、管理(the responsibility for protecting or looking after someone or something)

That will be your care.

4. 忧虑、烦恼; [常用复]心事([something that causes] worry, sorrow or anxiety)

You are supposed to get rid of all cares and build up a strong will.

for all I care (我不在乎)

You may quit your job for all I care.

leave in sb's care 把……交由某人照管

You can leave your house in Mr. Blake's care when you are out.

take care of 照料、照顾; 满足需要; 处理、清除

Take care of your health.

Rafts take care of transportation on that river.

They have devices that take care of the waste water from the factory.

choose *v.t. & v.i.*

1. 选择, 挑选(pick out; select)

It took her a long time to choose herself a new hat.

He was chosen because he was a fully qualified engineer.

Between two evils, it is not worth choosing.

2. 愿意, 偏要, 宁愿, 决定(decided; be pleased or determined)

It's not my concern how she chooses to live.

He chose to remain an onlooker during his family's quarrels.

Mr. Smith chose to teach in a high school though he knew he would not be well paid.

cannot choose but 只得

choose up side (将参加球赛的人分为两队, 由两个队长轮流)选择队员。

regard *v.t.*

3. 认为(consider; think of)

We regard our support to them as our duty.

They are regarded as the most promising basketball players.

2. 注重, 注意, 考虑(主要用于否定句和疑问句) (pay attention to[chiefly used in the negative and interrogative sentences])

He did not regard my advice at all.

Why do you so seldom regard my wishes?

3. 注视, 审视(look fixedly at; watch closely)

She regarded his behavior with suspicion.

The director regarded him sternly.

4. 尊重, 尊敬(have great esteem or admiration for)

Everybody in the village regarded Mr. Wang highly.

regard *n.* 问候, 敬意 (greetings)

Please give my best regards to your family.

as regards 关于、至于

As regards this point, he is right.

in regard to = with regard to 关于

I have something to say in [with] regard to his conduct.

regardless of 不管, 不顾, 不注意

without regard to 不考虑、不顾及

settle *v.t. & v.i.*

1. 安置, 安放(place securely)

Settling the child into its crib, she began to prepare for dinner.

He settled himself comfortably in an armchair.

2. 定居 (make one's home in)

He finally settled down in London.

The first colonists settled themselves along the east coast of America.

3. 解决(bring a decision)

Its own people should settle the internal affairs of each country.

It is high time that they settled their dispute.

settle down 1) 定居; 过安定生活; 2) (使) 平静下来; 3) 专心致志于(to)

settle for 对……感到满足; 满足于

settle in 1) 迁入(新居); 2) 适应(新环境)

settle on (upon) 1) 选择; 决定, 选定; 2) 停留于; 暂时栖息于

settle up 1) 还清(欠款); 付清(帐目)

settle with 和……取得谅解; 与……商谈生意; 与……成交;

Study & Practice

Reading Comprehension

I. Choose the best answer for each of the following.

1. The following are all advantages of being single except _____.

- A. a single person can discover his/her own individuality
 - B. a single person is a true free spirit
 - C. a single person can change jobs at will
 - D. a single person can cook for a blessed soul
2. What does the phrase “be endowed with” mean?
 - A. To be made rich in ability from birth.
 - B. To be given money to.
 - C. To be granted the right of.
 - D. To be entitled to.
 3. When the author’s car doesn’t start, she _____.
 - A. wants to dispose of it
 - B. wants to have a husband
 - C. feels very sad
 - D. feels a handyman is in need
 4. Why does the author choose to be single?
 - A. She hates to hear a person howling at her.
 - B. She wants to remain free.
 - C. She wants to live unfettered.
 - D. All of the above.
 5. “What with” in Paragraph 5 means _____.
 - A. thanks to
 - B. because of (especially something bad)
 - C. since
 - D. now that
 6. The word “spouse” in Paragraph 6 probably means _____.
 - A. husband
 - B. wife
 - C. lover
 - D. either A or B
 7. The phrase “stoop to (doing) something” (Paragraph 7) means _____.
 - A. bend the head and shoulders forward and down
 - B. fall to a low standard of behavior by doing something
 - C. live in a porch or unroofed house
 - D. both B and C
 8. In this passage, the author expresses her opinion about being single by way of _____.
 - A. explanation and evaluation
 - B. comparison and argument
 - C. evaluation and argument
 - D. explanation and description

Vocabulary

II. Replace the italicized parts in the following sentences with words or expressions given below.

accommodate at will interval rewarding
significant the implication ultimately matters

1. There was a long *period of time* before he replied.
2. We had a long wait, but it was *worthwhile* because we got the tickets.
3. The official said he would investigate the matter, but *what was implied* was that he thought it unimportant.
4. Statistically, *noticeable* correlation exists between vitamin deficiency and disease.
5. *Finally*, the president made all decisions.
6. This auditorium can *hold* more than 3,000 people.
7. With an air conditioner, you can enjoy comfortable temperatures *as you wish*.
8. I don’t think anybody *is important* to her apart from herself.

III. Complete the following sentences with appropriate phrasal verbs formed from the verbs given below.

strike endow account settle indulge bless conform dispose

1. I'm afraid you'll have to ____ to the committee ____ the money you've spent.
2. As a reader, you must ____ the rules of the library.
3. John quit his job and ____ on his own as a traveling salesman.
4. Few people are ____ both beauty and intelligence.
5. If you don't like this car, you can ____ it and buy a new one.
6. In New China, people are ____ sufficient democracy and freedom.
7. He no longer ____ fancies and has become more down-to-earth.
8. I still find my new job rather strange for I haven't ____ it yet.

IV. Error correction:

1. She was really quite lonely in the world except for an invalid aunt in New York.
A B C D
2. There was a time of ten minutes between the two parts of the concert.
A B C D
3. He draws his childhood memories for the material of his stories.
A B C D
4. The Nazi madmen were indulged in the torture of their victims before they kill them.
A B C D
5. If you want to join in the match, you must conform in the rules of it.
A B C D
6. What he did would have earned, he hoped, the fellowship of the club.
A B C D
7. Though doing badly at the moment, the firm has most valuable asset.
A B C D
8. I was so angry with him that I felt like to throw something at him.
A B C D

Structure

V. Combine the sentences in each of the following groups with *and*, *but*, *for*, *or*, *however*, *either...or*, *neither...nor*, *not only...but (also)*.

1. Solitary living gives you a chance to know yourself intimately. Solitary living gives you a chance to draw upon untouched personal capacities. Solitary living gives you a chance to find out who you are. Solitary living gives you a chance to find out what your strengths are.
2. The single woman can flit around her empty apartment, barefooted and fancy free. She can sit and phone her friends for hours.
3. Mercury is in the liquid state. Mercury is a metal.
4. Steel is widely used in engineering. Its properties are most suitable for construction purposes.

5. No matter how you measure it, education is the largest “industry” in the nation. You can measure it in terms of dollars spent. You can measure it in terms of people involved.
6. There is conscience in these lines. There is elegance in them, too.
7. Theory could not do without practice. Practice could not do without theory, either.
8. John went through all this. He was different from others.

VI. Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with *as we know*, *in a word*, *in fact*, *in general*, *in other words*, *that is to say*, *to be sure*, *to start with*.

1. _____, he is quite a satisfactory student.
2. _____, the atomic theory helps us in understanding all matter.
3. A compound, _____, results from the chemical union of two or more elements.
4. China, _____, has caught up with and surpassed the world advanced levels in many respects.
5. _____, we must solve the problem in the following way.
6. She went abroad last week, _____, she is not at home now.
7. John is smart, polite, and well-behaved. _____, he is admirable.
8. _____, he must give up smoking once and for all.

Translation

VII. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. Being single is now accepted as an alternative lifestyle — one that is natural, rewarding, and complete. In fact, being single has become almost fashionable. It is certainly desirable.
2. You eat out when you choose, go where you want, come home when you feel like it, save your money or spend it. You are a true free spirit.
3. Being single offers you an opportunity for a solid personal identity. Indeed, in no other lifestyle are you as likely to discover your own individuality.
4. Being single means you don't have to share the car, the toothpaste, or the ice-cream sandwiches. And you don't have to cook for a blessed soul.
5. The single life gives you a chance to take charge of your time, explore your options, live virtually unfettered. Single people don't have to feel awkward anymore. They can celebrate. They are free.

VIII. Translate the following sentences into English.

1. 在动物身上做的所有实验都丝毫没有加深我们对这种疾病的了解。(add to)
2. 我不知道这是不是解决问题的最好办法,不过我们选择了它。(settle on)
3. 她一生都致力于照顾贫病交迫的人。(care for)
4. 她找了许多借口,总之她是不想受麻烦。(add up to)
5. 汤姆和乔是队长,他俩轮流选择各自需要的队员。(choose up)
6. 你若是偏要误解我的话,就让我很难给你说话了。(choose to)
7. 人们普遍把他看成是这一学科第一流的权威。(regard)
8. 不管付出多大代价,我们都要按时完成任务。(regardless of)

Writing

IX. Combine each of the following groups of sentences into two more effective sentences with whatever constructions that work best.

1. 1) A single person can change jobs at will. 2) A single person can move across the country or even across the sea. 3) The little things add up to a happy or unhappy life.
- 4) A bachelor may be a male or a female. 5) The bachelor can indulge in lots of little pleasures and some pleasant little vices.
2. 1) You have to do the laundry. 2) You have to clean the dirty underwear. 3) The only dirty underwear is your own. 4) You can go to the bathroom. 5) You won't have to close the door of the bathroom. 6) You are free to hold outrageous opinions. 7) You won't have to get into a fight with a more conservative spouse.

X. Combine the following sentences of each set into a single clear sentence with at least one adjective or adverb (or both). Then arrange your new sentences into a paragraph.

Martha's Departure

1. Martha waited on her front porch. She waited patiently.
2. She wore a bonnet and a calico dress. The bonnet was plain.
The bonnet was white. The dress was long.
3. She watched the sun sink beyond the fields. The fields were empty.
4. Then she watched the light in the sky. The light was thin.
The light was white. The sky was distant.
5. She listened for the sound. She listened carefully.
The sound was soft. The sound was familiar.
6. A ship descended through the evening air. The ship was long.
The ship was silver. The ship descended suddenly. The evening air was warm.
7. Martha picked up her purse. The purse was small.
The purse was black. She picked it up calmly.
8. The spaceship landed in the field. The spaceship was shiny.
It landed smoothly. The field was empty.
9. Martha walked toward the ship. She walked slowly. She walked gracefully.
10. Minutes later, the field was silent again. The field was dark again.
The field was empty again.

Unit Two

Text

AUNT CHARLOTTE'S REWARD

My wife's Aunt Charlotte lives in Brooklin. A tiny, soft-spoken woman of 74, she could easily pass for 60 with her relatively unlined faces and undyed brown hair that is just beginning to break out in gray flecks.¹ Only her diminished hearing gives her age away, and the cautious steps she takes in her orthopedic shoes. Her mind and her vision are sharper than those of many 40-year-olds. A shy woman, Charlotte never married. When she telephoned she says, "It's only me."

In 1923, when she was 17, Charlotte went to work for the telephone company, eventually attaining the position of customer-service representative, a role she performed with pride, skill and dedication for near a half century. She responded with patience and courtesy to every customer, even to those whose complaints were voiced in somewhat questionable language. Charlotte, who would commit hari-kiri² before permitting an unladylike word to slip through her lips, never displayed a hint of anger or disapproval, although she confided to us that some of her clients should have their mouths washed out with soap. The day she was out sick could be counted on her fingers; it took a transit strike to make Charlotte late.³

As a reward for her dedication, the U.S. Government forced Charlotte to retire. She was given a luncheon, a subscription to a retirement magazine, free-home telephone service and a pension and sent home. Two women in their 20s replaced her. Since the government made it difficult for them to be fired no matter what their attitude or degree of competence, neither felt compelled to duplicate Charlotte's conscientiousness.⁴ Or productivity, as we say today.

Distress Call: Several months afterward the telephone company sent out a distress call for retired workers. Temporary help was needed in the Upper West Side of Manhattan to handle the surge of problems⁵ arising from the minority groups in the area, many of whom either did not know English or were baffled by the complexities of maintaining telephone service — problems the new employees displaying no interest in solving. Giving up her social-security checks, Charlotte set off each day to a part of a city considered dangerous for the young and fit, let alone a woman of Charlotte's age. Before long she had added an extensive Spanish vocabulary to her store of black English and was being presented with gifts by her clients. Unable to change old habits, she arrived early, stayed late and quickly worked herself out of a job.

The government was not finished with Charlotte. Now it was the city's turn to take a whack at her.⁶ It moved welfare families by the score⁷ into her neighborhood, many into her building, which was like moving the fox into the hen yard.⁸ For many of these families consist of a mother and unsupervised children — children who often stand 6 feet tall and carry knives or worse. Soon mailboxes were found ripped open, social-security checks stolen. The once

neat hallways are now filled with beer cans, soft-drink and liquor bottles and the smell of marijuana. Groups of youths, radios blaring, congregate on the front steps late into the night, making obscene remarks and giggling as people pass. There are purse snatchings and muggings in the once quiet neighborhood. An elderly couple were found tied to their bed, beaten and robbed. Charlotte has stopped going out at night. When she ventured out during the day she conceals cash in various places on her person, leaving a carefully calculated amount in her purse to placate an attacker. Visiting Charlotte requires driving past miles of burnt-out apartment buildings; fires are set either by landlords for the insurance or by welfare tenants for the hardship money. (Everyone has been given an equal opportunity to profit by the system.) Although Charlotte remains outwardly cheerful, she knows she will have to do something soon. But What?

The neighbors who drive her to the market (the nearby one has been boarded up since the blackout riot) are moving to New Jersey. Others have fled to upstate New York and Florida. It is easier for couples to move to new areas. The widowed have moved in with their children. We have suggested that Charlotte move near us, but that would mean tripling her rent and being a stranger in a new community, as well as being dependent on us. Charlotte is not comfortable imposing on people.

Mistake: She found something that would have answered her needs beautifully. In a group of buildings clustered around a senior center, there were apartments with safety features designed for seniors, including buzzers to summon aid; meals were available in the center. Unfortunately, the government limited it to people with little or no money, and Charlotte had made the mistake of saving hers. There are such places to which she might be admitted if she moved away from the city, leaving her entire life behind. But if welfare people don't have to move, she wonders, why should she?

When she decided to call on different government agencies for guidance, she learned that not one of the myriad programs for the aging she had heard about over the years, and which her taxes helped support, was for her. They were reserved for the penniless.

The other day she visited a sick woman in her building, a woman on welfare for whom the city proved a homemaker, a nurse and a cab to and from free medical attention. If Charlotte were ill, she would have to fend for herself. No government department would rush to her rescue.

Perhaps the time has come to reconsider which of our citizens are entitled to first claim on our resources. In our haste to better the lives of the lowest economic level of our society we have betrayed another, far larger and more deserving group. People who have worked hard, paid their taxes, contributed to the country. Shouldn't their needs be met first? Their housing, their neighborhoods, their security?

If a choice must be made, shouldn't first choice be given Aunt Charlotte? She has earned it.

Or doesn't that count anymore?

(Bernard Sloan)

Notes

1. ..., she could easily pass for 60 with her relatively unlined face and undyed brown hair that is just beginning to break out in gray flecks.: 说她只有 60 岁, 没人会怀疑, 因为她脸上没有那么多皱纹, 她那没有染过的棕色头发也只是刚刚开始斑白。pass for: be mistakenly accepted as (被认为, 被误当作)。
2. commit hari-kiri: 切腹自杀。这个单词来自日语中借用的汉字“腹切”。
3. ..., it took a transit strike to make Charlotte late.: 除非公共交通系统罢工了, 夏洛蒂才会迟到。(要让夏洛蒂迟到需要公共交通系统罢工。) transit 指公共交通系统。
4. Since the government made it difficult for them to be fired no matter what their attitude or degree of competence, neither felt compelled to duplicate Charlotte's conscientiousness.: 既然无论她们的工作态度与能力如何政府都不能解雇她们, 因此(政府)也就没有理由要求她们象夏洛蒂那样认真地工作。
5. the surge of problems: 许许多多的问题(的出现)
6. take a whack at her: 使用她
7. by the score: 大批地
8. moving the fox into the hen yard: 引狼入室

Word Study

depend vi.

1. 依靠(与 on 或 upon 连用) (need, rely on)

The business success partly depends on information.

Children depend upon their parents for the answers to all their puzzles.

Only the psychiatrist can be depended upon to help her walk out of her nightmare experience.

2. 信赖, 指靠 (与 on 或 upon 连用) (trust)

You can depend on the police here who always help the people in trouble out with their high responsibility and efficiency.

You may depend upon his coming if you invite him.

3. 靠……决定, 得看 (与 on 或 upon 连用) (be decided by)

Whether we can go to the picnic or not will depend on the weather tomorrow.

Much depends on what attitude he takes towards his future profession.

4. 用于成语

depend upon it 请相信, 没问题, 请放心 (多用在句首或句尾)

Depend upon it, we shall win the football match.

It all depends [That depends] 这很难说, 得看情况

dependent adj. 依靠, 靠……决定 (多和 on 或 upon 连用)

dependant n. 亦作 dependent 靠……养活的人

dependable adj. 可靠的