

英語365天

ENGLISH 365 DAYS • ENGLI



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前 言

学习外语贵在持久以恒，就象俗话所说的“曲不离口、拳不离手”。而两天打鱼三天晒网，必然成效甚微。特别对于已入门的英语学习者成功的希望在于大量的阅读。编写本书的宗旨就是为广大英语爱好者提供一份深浅适宜，集知识性和趣味性为一体的泛读材料，以达到扩大阅读量，提高阅读水平的目的。

本书的内容上至天文，下至地理，涉及到科学、宗教、习俗、体育、人物、娱乐、衣食住行、笑话等。另外还有英语学习经验之谈、交际口语等短文。每天利用零星时间阅读一篇，既不费时间，又得益匪浅。

本书 365 篇短文绝大部分取材于英美原版书刊，语言准确、朴实、行文生动，堪称范文。为了便于阅读，每篇短文占一页，并对部分英语单词作了解释，注了国际音标。

一九八八年十二月

January 1

New Year's Day

"Happy new year" "The same to you, and many more". These are the familiar *greetings* throughout the western world. The words may be different, but new year greetings are the same. Down through history, a new year began for the Egyptians when the *life-giving* waters of the Nile River overflowed their banks. The early Britons took the first day of spring as a new year. As civilization advanced, a calendar based on the seasons was no longer practical, and in 45 B. C. the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar ordered the adoption of a new calendar. The Romans chose Janu 1 as the first day of the year and so it has remained in all parts of the Western world, even though the *Gregorian* calendar was in general use since 1582. The name of January *derives from* Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, endings, openings and closings.

greeting *n.*

问候, 致敬, 祝贺

life-giving *a.*

给予生命的

B. C. Before Christ

公元前

Gregorian [grə'gɔ:riən] *n.*

格里历(阳历)

derive [di'raiv] *vt.*

得到, 派生出

New Year's Gifts

New year's Day was a time for exchanging gifts long before the custom became associated with Christmas. Among the Romans such gifts were called *Strenae*, a word said to be derived from the goddess of luck, *Strenia*. At first the gifts were branches from *sacred* trees meant to wish recipients an *auspicious* new year. Eggs, the ancient symbol, were exchanged at the Persian new year. In Rome the custom developed of presenting gifts to the emperor. Giving gifts at New year was also common practice among the ordinary English people. Gloves were a usual gift, when money was presented in place of gloves, the money was referred to as "glove money". *Pins* were *desirable* gifts, too. The English continued to exchanged presents at new year after they had settled in America.

sacred ['seikrid] *a.*

〔宗〕神的，神圣的

auspicious [ɔ:s'piʃəs] *a.*

吉利的，吉祥的

pins

小东西

desirable [di'zaiərəbl] *a.*

称心的，合意的

New Year's Gatherings

The practice of visiting friends continued until the first years of this century. It was a *gala* time when everyone held open house and laid out enormous *feasts* for anyone who should drop in, whether friend or stranger. To neglect this annual visit was a terrible slight. In time the custom was *abused*; the distinction between privacy and *sociability* was ignored and troops of unwanted guests dropped in the open houses, using them as eating and drinking station. So people changed the custom and send invitation to special guests for their own protection.

- gala** [g'a:lə] *n.* 盛会
- feast** *n.* 筵席
- abuse** [ə'bju:z] *vt.* 滥用, [妄用]
- sociability** [,souʃə'biliti] *n.* 社交会, 联欢会

九
三
一
九

乙
未

January 4

American Presidential Activities on the New Year

George Washington, on his first New year's as president, initiated the custom of holding a *public reception*. Washington's successor, John Adams, held the first New year's reception in the White House in 1800, Thomas Jefferson, the first Democratic President, kept the practice alive. The receptions continued until the Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt because of his health.

President Lincoln chose January 1 of 1863 as the date to issue the *Emancipation* proclamation. The day subsequently was celebrated by Black people as Emancipation Day.

public reception 公众接待日，美国历史上称open hours

Emancipation [i,mænsi'peiʃən] proclamation 解放黑奴宣言

HUMOUR

Patient: Doctor, when I'm better, will I be able to play the guitar?

Doctor: Of course you will.

Patient: That's great ! I've never been able to play it before.

January 5

Mickey Mouse

People in general hate mice, but one mouse has won the hearts of the people all over the world—the famous *Mickey Mouse*.

Fifty years ago most movies were silent. A man named Walt Disney made a *cartoon* mouse that could talk in his movies. He named his mouse Mickey Mouse. People were very excited at the talking mouse. Soon Mickey became a great success with both young and old people. Children loved to see their lovely friend, because he brought joy and laughter to them.

Mickey was a clean mouse right from the beginning. Perhaps this is one reason why people who hate real mice love Mickey Mouse. In his early life Mickey made some mistakes. People were very angry. They wrote to Disney and said that they did not want Mickey to do silly things. As there were certain things that Mickey could not do, Disney made a new animal named *Donald Duck*. He also made a dog called Pluto. This dog does stupid things and makes mistakes wherever he goes. Now our Mickey Mouse is not only clean, but more important, he appears as a star of beauty and wisdom. He has his friends in almost every country.

Mickey Mouse ['mikimaʊs] *n.* 米老鼠

cartoon [ka:'tu:n] *n.*

卡通, 动画片

Donald Duck

唐老鸭

January 6

Riddle

1. What kind of ball moves, but is never thrown or caught?
2. What is the smallest bridge in the world?
3. What never runs, but can be caught?
4. It is cold and white,
It falls from the sky,
The more you dry it in the sun,
The wetter it becomes.
What is it?
5. Two little brothers
Live near each other,
One lives on one side,
The other on the other side,
They hear what you say,
But they don't see each other.

riddle [ˈvɪdl] *n.* 谜语

ANSWER:

1. an eyeball
2. the bridge of a nose
3. a cold
4. snow
5. ears

A Strange "Letter"

My neighbour's children love playing *hide-and-seek* as all children do, but no one expected that a game they played last week would be reported in the local newspaper.

One afternoon, they were playing in the street just outside the post-office. Young Lan, who is only five years old, found the perfect place to hide. His sister, Janet, had shut her eyes and was counting up to ten when Lan noticed that the small metal door of the letter-box had been left open. The postman had just taken all the letters out and had gone into the post-office to see if there were any parcels. Lan climbed into the letter-box and pulled the door from the inside so hard that it locked. Soon realizing what he had done, he became very frightened and started crying. Meanwhile, Janet was looking for him everywhere but couldn't find him. It was lucky she happened to stop outside the letter-box and hear her brother's cries. She immediately ran to tell the postman who hurried out to unlock the metal door. Lan was now free, but he had such a bad fright that he could not stop crying. The postman, however, soon found a way of making him laugh again. He told him that next time he wanted to hide in a letter-box, he should remember to stick a stamp on himself!

hide-and-seek *n.* 捉迷藏

January 8

Electricity

Almost everyone today uses electricity in one way or another, and it is hard to imagine what life in our large towns would be like without it. Electricity lights the streets and buildings, warms and houses, heats food in cookers or cools it in refrigerators, works trains and trolley buses, traffic lights and lifts, and drives the machines in factories making all kinds of goods. And the everyday wonders of radio and television use electricity to bring entertainment and news to millions of families.

In villages and farms electrical machines milk the cows and chop their food, cool the milk, and churn the butter. Indeed, electricity finds as much work to do in the country as it does in the town.

~~~~~

最崇高的荣誉不在于永不摔倒，而在于每一次摔倒都能立起。

——〔英〕戈德史密斯

Our greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

——Goldsmith

January 9

## Hercules

*Hercules* lived in Greece a long time ago. When he was only a baby, he was very strong.

One night, when he was asleep, two huge snakes came into his room. He sat up and seized both snakes, and killed them.

When *Hercules* grew up he was strong and brave. He was never afraid.

The king was jealous because *Hercules* was strong and tall. One day *Hercules* did something wrong, and the king said, 'I shall punish you. You will be my slave, and do twelve hard tasks for me.'

These tasks are called the twelve labours of *Hercules*.

*Hercules* (海格力斯)是希腊神话中的大力神。他自幼强壮,曾用双手扼死巨蟒;成人后力大无穷,勇猛无比。

*Hercules* 的神力引起了国王的忌妒。于是,国王借口海格力斯做错了事,命他完成十二件有生命危险的任务,而且一项比一项艰巨。如果海格力斯完不成这些任务,国王就把他贬为奴隶,永远失去自由。

故事《*Hercules*》主要叙述了海格力斯如何以他的勇猛,机智完成了国王命令的十二件任务。最后,国王不得不给他自由,海格力斯成为了世界上最勇敢的人。这就是希腊神话中著名的《海格力斯的十二件任务》。多少年来,它一直脍炙人口,久传不绝。

我们将分数次介绍海格力斯的故事。每个月的10号将介绍海格力斯的一件任务。

January 10

## The First Labour

### HERCULES KILLS THE LION

In a beautiful valley there was a very fierce lion. The lion lived in a *den* near a temple. The people who lived in the valley were afraid of the lion because it killed all the animals in the valley. Sometimes it killed people.

The king said to Hercules, 'You must go and kill the lion.' The next day Hercules picked up his bow and arrows and *set off*. He walked for a long time and, at last, he saw the valley. Hercules could not see any people in the valley. They were all inside their houses. They were afraid of the terrible lion.

Near the valley there was a tree. 'I will make a club with that tree,' thought Hercules.

He *took hold of* the tree and pulled it up by the roots. Then he cut off the branches with his knife and made a club.

Now he was ready to go into the valley. Hercules went into the valley and saw the beautiful temple. The lion's den was near the temple.

(to be continued)

set off            出发

den [den] n.    洞

take hold of    抓着

January 11

## HERCULES KILLS THE LION

(continued)

Hercules hid in some bushes and waited. At night the lion came back to its den near the temple. It looked very fierce and terrible, and it was covered with blood. 'The lion has just killed somebody,' thought Hercules.

Hercules fixed an arrow in his bow and waited. Suddenly the lion came nearer, and Hercules shot the arrow. The arrow hit the lion, but did not hurt it. 'The lion's skin is very *tough*,' thought Hercules, but he was not afraid.

The lion looked all round, and then showed its teeth. Hercules shot another arrow. Again the arrow hit the lion, but did not hurt it. The lion's skin was very tough.

Hercules was ready to shoot another arrow when the lion saw him. It *lashed its tail* and sprang at him.

Hercules lifted his club and struck the lion on its head. The club broke in two. The lion fell to the ground, but it was not dead. Hercules seized the lion's neck with both hands and killed it. Hercules cut the skin off the lion and put it over his shoulders. Then he went back to the king. 'I have done the first task,' said he. After that Hercules always wore the lion's skin, and he made another club.

|                |      |
|----------------|------|
| tough [tʌf] a. | 坚硬   |
| lash its tail  | 甩动尾巴 |
| spring at      | 扑向   |

## 速读技巧之一——猜词义

一篇文章是一个有机的整体，段与段之间，句与句之间都有紧密的联系。因此，有些生词可以通过上下文猜出它们的含义。猜词义的方法主要有以下三种。

一、通过上下文的意思猜出该词的含义。例如：The air hostess was in the small kitchen at the back of the aeroplane preparing the trays for lunch. 通过 kitchen 和 lunch 这两个词不难猜出 trays 的意思是“子”或“盘子”。

二、通过同义词的出现猜出该词的含义。例如：He felt narked at Tom's unfair criticism. When Tom noticed his annoyance, he stopped immediately. 可以判断 narked 与 annoyance 意义相近，都是“厌烦”的意思。

三、通过文章的进一步的释猜出该词的含义。例如：They wondered at the fortitude of these people who continued their work under such bad conditions. 可以猜出 fortitude 的意思是“毅力”“不怕困难”。

## The Invention of Gunpowder

China invented gunpowder made from nitre, sulphur and charcoal between 220 and 280 A. D. By about the 10th century, the use of gunpowder was common in the Huanghe River valley. Emperor Zhenzong of the Song dynasty (998—1022) set up a factory for the manufacture of gunpowder of three distinct types at Kaifeng. This was the earliest sophisticated use of gunpowder in the world. In about the 12th or 13th century, gunpowder was introduced to Greece and Europe via the Middle East.

At first gunpowder was not used as a weapon but to power rockets and firecrackers for the pleasure of spectators. It was later developed not only for military use, but for blasting mountains, civil engineering and mining. Now, gunpowder plays an important role in industry and agriculture.

高雅的风度得靠经常的、细微的奉献去养成。

——〔美〕爱默生

Good manners are made up of petty sacrifices.

——Emerson



## Wind Power

Man first used the power of the wind when he *hoisted* sails on boats and travelled over the seas. Later on, he used *sails* on land. He built windmills, which caught the wind in their sails. The sails drove a system of wooden shafts and *gears* to pump water from the ground or grind corn. Many of the later *windmills* had a revolving turret and a tail *vane*, which was like a rudder on a boat. Many of the older kinds of windmills can still be seen, particularly in the netherlands. Few, however, are actually used now.

The modern windmill is made of steel and is often found on farms. At the top of a tower is a wheel with many *blades*, or a propeller, and a tail vane. Today, windmills are used for pumping water and for generating electricity.

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| <b>hoist</b> [hoist] <i>vt.</i> | 扬帆, 张帆   |
| <b>sail</b> [seil] <i>n.</i>    | 风车       |
| <b>gear</b> [giə] <i>n.</i>     | 齿轮, 传动装置 |
| <b>windmill</b> <i>n.</i>       | 风车       |
| <b>vane</b> <i>n.</i>           | 轮叶, 翼    |
| <b>blade</b> [bleid] <i>n.</i>  | 叶片, 桨片   |