

中级本

# 新编 美英报刊阅读教程 READING COURSE IN AMERICAN & BRITISH NEWS PUBLICATIONS

主编 端木义万

文化顾问: James R. Jackson [美]  
Elaine S. Jackson [美]



中国社会科学出版社

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**In American & British News Publications**  
**(新编) 美英报刊阅读教程**

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# 前 言

《美英报刊阅读教程》自1994年出版以来承蒙广大读者厚爱，迄今已连续印刷7次。该书投入使用后的几年来，高校同行和广大学生们给了我许多鼓励。这些鼓励既让我内心充溢感激之情，同时又是对我的鞭策，驱使我在外刊教学与研究领域不停步地探索 and 追求。

近几年来，不少读者在给我的信件中或是在我应邀讲学直接交谈中建议我编一本难度中等的外刊教材。这便使我萌发了编著一本《美英报刊阅读教程》（中级本）的想法。

这本书是供大学英语专业中级水平或理工科大学公共英语高级水平同学使用的教材，也可作为具有相应程度从事外事、外贸、外经或翻译工作者的自修教材。

该书的选材工作起始于1997年初，经过两年多时间的大量搜集、反复筛选，从多种外刊上共精心挑出50篇文章用作课文。选材所坚持的标准是：文章内容典型，语言质量上乘，题材面域广泛，知识含量丰富，思想内容合适。

本书保留原“教程”的风格，仍以专题为线，共设十大专题，新增了两大专题：“企业经济”和“科学技术”。这十个专题内容基本覆盖了美英报刊新闻报道的常见内容。

本书编著的指导思想是突出能力培养，为此每篇课文之后设有五个项目：

1. Background Information (知识介绍)
2. Notes to the Text (难点注释)
3. Language Features (语言简说)
4. Analysis of the Content (内容分析)
5. Questions on the Article (问题思考)

“知识介绍”项目根据课文内容简明系统地提供相关专题内容，旨在拓宽读者社会、文化、科技等方面的知识面域。

“语言简说”项目结合课文语言简要介绍报刊英语和现代英语的常见语言现象，意在帮助读者熟悉外刊语言的规律和特点。

上述两个项目融入我多年来在报刊英语和美英社会文化方面的研究成果。根据编者30余年外刊教学的体会，这两个方面的知识是通向轻松自如阅读外刊境界必不可缺的两座桥梁。

本书选材搜集资料方面得到了郭荣娣同志的大力支持。在课文文化点注释方面得到过我在美国北卡罗来纳（查波希尔）州立大学访学期间结识的James R. Jackson和Elaine S. Jackson两位好友的大力帮助。他们通过电子邮件及时地传来了大量的文化背景知识。

在此，谨向为此书编纂提供支持和帮助的所有人士表示诚挚的谢意。

主编 端木义万  
1999年7月18日

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# LESSON ONE

## Good News about Racial Progress

**The remaining divisions in American society should not blind us  
to a half-century of dramatic change**

By Abigail and Stephan Thernstrom

In the Perrywood community of Upper Marlboro, Md.,<sup>1</sup> near Washington, D.C., homes cost between \$160,000 and \$400,000. The lawns are green and the amenities<sup>2</sup> appealing—including a basketball court.

Low-income teen-agers from Washington started coming there. The teens were black, and they were not welcomed. The homeowners' association hired off-duty police<sup>3</sup> as security, and they would ask the ballplayers whether they "belonged" in the area. The association's newsletter<sup>4</sup> noted the "eyesore" at the basketball court.

But the story has a surprising twist: many of the homeowners were black too.<sup>5</sup> "We started having problems with the young men, and unfortunately they are our people," one resident told a reporter from *The Washington Post*. "But what can you do?"

The homeowners didn't care about the race of the basketball players. They were outsiders—intruders. As another resident remarked, "People who don't live here might not care about things the way we do. Seeing all the new houses going up, someone might be tempted."

It's a telling<sup>6</sup> story. Lots of Americans think that almost all blacks live in inner cities. Not true. Today many blacks own homes in suburban neighborhoods—not just around Washington, but outside Atlanta, Denver and other cities as well.

That's not the only common misconception Americans have about race. For some of the misinformation, the media are to blame. A reporter in *The Wall Street Journal*, for instance, writes that the economic gap between whites and blacks has widened. He offers no evidence. The picture drawn of racial relations is even bleaker. In one poll, for instance, 85 percent of blacks, but only 34 percent of whites, agreed with the verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder trial.<sup>7</sup> That racially divided response made headline news.<sup>8</sup> Blacks and whites, media accounts<sup>9</sup> would have us believe, are still separate and hostile. Division is a constant theme, racism another.

To be sure, racism has not disappeared, and race relations could—and probably will—improve. But the serious inequality that remains is less a function of racism than of the racial gap in levels of educational attainment, single parenthood and crime.<sup>10</sup> The bad news has been exaggerated, and the good news neglected. Consider these three trends:

**A black middle class has arrived.** Andrew Young recalls the day he was mistaken for a valet at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel<sup>11</sup> in New York City. It was an infuriating case of mistaken identity for a man who was then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

But it wasn't so long ago that most blacks *were* servants—or their equivalent. On the eve of World War II, a trivial five percent of black men were engaged in white-collar work of any kind, and six out of ten African-American women were employed as domestics.

In 1940 there were only 1,000 practicing African-American lawyers<sup>12</sup>; by 1995 there were over 32,000, about four percent of all attorneys.

Today almost three-quarters of African-American families have incomes above the government poverty line. Many are in the middle class, according to one useful index—earning double the government's poverty level;<sup>13</sup> in 1995 this was \$30,910 for a two-parent family with two children and \$40,728 for a two-parent family with four children. Only one black family in 100 enjoyed a middle-class income in 1940; by 1995 it was 49 in 100. And more than 40 percent of black households also own their homes. That's a huge change.

The typical white family still earns a lot more than the black family because it is more likely to collect two paychecks. But if we look only at married couples—much of the middle class—the white-black income gap shrinks to 13 percent. Much of that gap can be explained by the smaller percentage of blacks with college degrees, which boost wages, and the greater concentration of blacks in the South, where wages tend to be lower.

**Blacks are moving to the suburbs.** Following the urban riots of the mid-1960s, the presidential Kerner Commission<sup>14</sup> concluded that the nation's future was menaced by “accelerating segregation”—black central cities and whites outside the core. That segregation might well blow the country apart, it said.

It's true that whites have continued to leave inner cities for the suburbs, but so, too, have blacks. The number of black suburban dwellers in the last generation has almost tripled to 10.6 million. In 1970 metropolitan Atlanta, for example, 27 percent of blacks lived in the suburbs with 85 percent of whites. By 1990, 64 percent of blacks and 94 percent of whites resided there.

This is not phony integration, with blacks moving from one all-black neighborhood into another. Most of the movement has brought African-Americans into neighborhoods much less black<sup>15</sup> than those they left behind, thus increasing integration. By 1994 six in ten whites reported that they lived in neighborhoods with blacks.

Residential patterns do remain closely connected to race. However, neighborhoods have become more racially mixed, and residential segregation has been decreasing.

**Bigotry has declined.** Before World War II, Gunnar Myrdal<sup>16</sup> roamed the South researching *An American Dilemma*, the now-classic book that documented<sup>17</sup> the chasm between the nation's ideals and its racial practices. In one small Southern city, he kept asking whites how he could find “Mr. Jim Smith,” an African-American who was principal of a black high school. No one seemed to know who he was. After he finally found Smith, Myrdal was told that he should have just asked for “Jim.” That's how great was white aversion to dignifying African-Americans with “Mr.” Or “Mrs.”

Bigotry was not just a Southern problem. A national survey in the 1940s asked whether “Negroes should have as good a chance as white people to get any kind of job.” A majority of whites said that “white people should have the first chance at any kind of job.”

Such a question would not even be asked today. Except for a lunatic fringe,<sup>18</sup> no whites would sign on to such a notion.<sup>19</sup>

In 1964 less than one in five whites reported having a black friend. By 1989 more than two out of three did. And more than eight of ten African-Americans had a white friend.

What about the last taboo?<sup>20</sup> In 1963 ten percent of whites approved of black-white dating; by 1994 it was 65 percent. Interracial marriages? Four percent of whites said it was okay in 1958; by 1994 the figure had climbed more than elevenfold, to 45 percent. These surveys measure opinion, but behavior has also changed. In 1963 less than one percent of marriages by African-Americans were racially mixed. By 1993, 12 percent were.

Today black Americans can climb the ladder to the top.<sup>21</sup> Ann M. Fudge is already there; she's in charge of manufacturing, promotion and sales at the \$2.7-billion Maxwell House Coffee and Post Cereals divisions of Kraft Foods.<sup>22</sup> So are Kenneth Chenault, president and chief operating officer at American Express,<sup>23</sup> and Richard d. Parsons, president of Time Warner, Inc.<sup>24</sup> After the 1988 Democratic Convention,<sup>25</sup> the Rev. Jesse Jackson<sup>26</sup> talked about his chances of making it to the White House. "I may not get there," he said "But it is possible for our children to get there now."

Even that seems too pessimistic. Consider how things have improved since Colin and Alma Powell<sup>27</sup> packed their belongings into a Volkswagen<sup>28</sup> and left Fort Devens, Mass., for Fort Bragg, N. C. "I remember passing Woodbridge, Va.," General Powell wrote in his autobiography, "and not finding even a gas station bathroom that we were allowed to use." That was in 1962. In 1996 reliable polls suggest he could have been elected President.

Progress over the last half-century has been dramatic. As Coretta Scott King wrote not long ago, the ideals for which her husband, Martin Luther King, Jr., died have become "deeply embedded in the very fabric of America."<sup>29</sup>

*Reader's Digest*, March, 1998

## I. Background Information

### 种族成分

美国是个多民族国家 (multiracial country), 种族成分极为复杂。美国的多种族现象是由白人殖民、征服土著、输入黑奴和自愿移民综合形成的。印第安人是美国大陆原来的主人。白人殖民者反宾为主, 用武力和欺骗的方式从他们手中夺取大片土地, 把他们逼入不毛之地。1846 年到 1848 年, 美国对墨西哥发动侵略战争, 兼并 (annexed) 其一半以上领土。原先住有的 8 万墨西哥人大多成为美国公民。17、18 世纪为了缓解南方农业劳动力的严重短缺, 从非洲购入黑奴, 到 1780 年美国奴隶劳动力增至 53 万。随着国内工商业发展, 东部、西部引进了大量外来移民充当劳工。1965 年美国取消了根据种族歧视实行了多年的移民限制, 增加了非欧洲白人的名额, 亚洲、拉美移民人数急剧增加。上述因素造成了现今美国的多血裔种族现象。

犹太移民伊斯雷尔·赞格威尔 (Israel Zangwill) 曾于 20 世纪早期在书中称美国是 "上帝所创造的大熔炉" (God's crucible, the great melting pot)。自此之后, 这一比喻就成了脍炙人口的描述美国社会的术语。它指的是移民来到美国与本地美国人 (native Americans) 融为一体, 失去自身

的特性 (lose their own identity), 被同化 (be assimilated), 也就是被美国化 (be Americanized), 使用的是同一种语言 (英语), 接受了主流文化的价值观念。许多社会学家认为把美国比作“大熔炉”不够恰当, 称作“意大利馅饼” (Pizza) 更为贴切。形容这种多民族文化的词语还有“杂烩锅” (a pot of stew)、马赛克 (mosaic)、色拉拼盘 (salad bowl)、交响乐 (symphony)、彩虹 (rainbow) 和万花筒 (kaleidoscope)。这些不同的说法强调不同的特色。

今日的美国, 许多种族的后裔人数众多。美国爱尔兰人的后裔比爱尔兰共和国的人口还要多; 犹太人的数量大于以色列国的人口数量; 黑人的数量超过大多数非洲国家的人口; 底特律市的波兰人后裔多于波兰多数大城市的人口; 纽约市的意大利人后裔是威尼斯人口的两倍多。

美国主要种族所占比例情况如下:

白人	黑人	西语裔	亚裔	印第安人
72.7%	12.6%	10.3%	3.5%	0.9%

## II. Notes to the Text

1. Md.—Maryland
2. the amenities appealing: 生活设施舒适
3. off-duty police: 不当班的警察
4. The association's newsletter noted the “eyesore” at the basketball court. 协会通讯提到(社区)篮球场上的“丑物”。(①newsletter—a small sheet of printed news sent regularly to a particular group of people. ②eyesore—here referring to those black teen-ager basketball players from other areas.)
5. But the story has a surprising twist—many of the homeowners were blacks too. 但此事让人奇怪的是, 社区的很多住户本身也是黑人。(twist—an unexpected change or development)
6. a telling story—a very convincing example
7. the verdict in the O.J. Simpson murder trial: 辛普森杀妻案的判决(辛普森为美国前著名黑人橄榄球运动员, 因 1994 年其妻及一朋友之死被控涉嫌谋杀, 1995 年被无罪释放, 但 1997 年民事诉讼中陪审团认为其对谋杀负有法律责任并判罚损害赔偿金数百万元。)
8. made headline news—to hit the headlines 成为显要新闻
9. media accounts—media reports
10. But the serious inequality that remains is less a function of racism than of the racial gap in levels of educational attainment, single parenthood and crime. 这种遗留下来的严重的不平等, 与其说是来自种族主义的影响, 不如说是教育程度、单亲和犯罪等层次上种族差距的影响。[a function (of)—a quality of fact which depends on and varies with another.]
11. the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel: 沃尔多夫旅馆
12. practicing lawyers: 挂牌律师
13. the poverty level—referring to the poverty line 贫困线 1996 年美国政府规定的贫困线: 四口之家年收入为 15,600 美元, 据统计, 全国低于此贫困线的家庭共有 3930 万, 占人口总数的 15.1%。
14. presidential Kerner Commission—a commission headed by Kerner and established by the Congress for researching and reporting on the issue of urban violence resulting from segregation especially after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King in 1968.

15. neighborhoods much less black...—neighborhoods in which there live more non-black people...
16. Gunnar Myrdal: 贡纳·默达尔 (1898-, 瑞典经济学家, 社会学家, 下文的 *An American Dilemma* 即为其所著的《美国难题: 黑人问题与现代民主》)
17. document—v. to prove or record with documents.
18. lunatic fringe—the people with the strongest or most unreasonable ideas or beliefs in a political or social group.
19. no whites would sign on to such a notion—No whites would accept such an idea.
20. What about the last taboo? —The last taboo refers to interracial marriages that was once forbidden.
21. Today black Americans can climb the ladder to the top—It means now black Americans can climb the social ladder to the top of the society.
22. Maxwell House Coffee and Post Cereals divisions of Kraft Foods: (伊利诺州北田市) 卡夫食品有限公司的麦斯威尔咖啡和波斯特谷类食品公司
23. American Express: 美国运通信用卡
24. Time Warner, Inc.: 时代-华纳公司
25. Democratic Convention: 民主党代表大会
26. the Rev. Jesse Jackson: 杰西·杰克逊牧师大人 [the Rev. 即 the Reverend: (对教士的尊称) 大人]
27. Colin and Alma Powell: 科林·鲍威尔, 美国前参谋长联席会议主席及总统国家安全顾问, Alma Powell 是其夫人。
28. Volkswagen: 大众轿车
29. deeply embedded in the very fabric of America: 已经深深地植根于美国社会结构之中 (embed—to fix firmly and deeply in a solid object)

### III. Language Features

#### 新闻英语特色

英语新闻刊物多种多样: 有新闻报纸 (newspaper), 也有新闻杂志 (news magazine), 还有电子报纸 (electronic newspaper, 简称 e-paper) 和电子杂志 (electronic magazine, 简称 e-zine)。报纸可细分为日报 (day newspaper), 晨报 (morning newspaper), 晚报 (evening newspaper), 半周报 (semiweekly), 周报 (weekly) 和双周报 (biweekly); 城市报 (metropolitan newspaper), 郊区报 (suburban newspaper) 和乡村报 (rural newspaper); 严肃高级报 (quality newspaper) 和通俗小报 (tabloid)。

翻开报纸我们便会发现, 就是同一种报纸所载文章体裁也是纷繁复杂的: 有纯新闻报道 (straight news report), 解释性报道 (interpretative report), 调查性报道 (investigative report), 精确性报道 (precision report), 还有特写 (feature), 社论 (editorial), 读者来信 (letters to the editor) 和广告 (advertisement)。

不同新闻刊物有不同办刊风格, 不同类型文章也有不同语言特色。因此, 不容易对新闻刊物的语言特色作出全面概述。这里所谈的新闻语体是指新闻刊物最为常见的和最有代表性的体裁——新闻报道, 而且主要是指纯新闻报道。

新闻英语主要受以下五个因素制约: 大众性, 节俭性, 趣味性, 时新性和客观性。

报刊是大众传媒, 写作必须适合广大读者水平, 语言必须通俗易懂。

报业十分珍惜版面，要求新闻写作人员在有限的篇幅内提供尽可能多的信息，读者看报珍惜时间，希望在很短的时间得到所要的信息，这就迫使新闻写作人员养成文字简洁的风格。

西方新闻界一向注重趣味性，报刊又面临电视、广播、网络传媒的巨大挑战，要稳住报业市场就得加强趣味性，因而新闻报道必须写得生动有趣。

时新性是新闻价值之一。新闻报道在提供最新消息的同时也传播了相关的新词。此外，不少新闻写作人员为了增加文章的吸引力，在语言上刻意求新，因而新闻英语具有新颖活泼的特色。

客观性是纯新闻报道所遵循的准则，没有客观性，报道就要丢掉可信性，也就会失去读者。客观性要求新闻报道文字准确具体，避用情感词语和夸张手法。

初读美英报刊的人往往会遇到很多困难。之所以如此，主要是因为他们对报刊英语特点了解不够。譬如，新闻标题短小精悍，在句式和用词上都有相应的省略手段。又如，新闻报道为了节约篇幅，采用一系列手段浓缩、精练句式。较常见的有前置定语、名词定语、身份同位语前置、词性转化、借代、缩略词等。再如，为使语言生动、活泼，报刊常常使用比喻和成语活用手段。新闻刊物不仅是报导新闻的媒介，而且是“使用新词的庞大机器和杜撰新词的巨大工厂”。这些特点会给读者带来理解上的困难。为了帮助读者克服这些困难，本书把新闻英语特色分成若干细目，结合每篇课文，逐一进行介绍。

#### IV. Analysis of the Content

1. According to the author, \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - A. racism has disappeared in America
  - B. little progress has been made in race relations
  - C. media reports have exaggerated the racial gap
  - D. media accounts have made people believe that the gap between blacks and whites has become narrower
2. What the Kerner Commission meant by “accelerating segregation” was that \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - A. more and more whites and blacks were forced to live and work separately
  - B. more and more blacks lived in the central cities, and whites outside the core
  - C. more and more whites lived in the central cities, and blacks outside the core
  - D. nowadays more and more blacks begin to live in the suburbs
3. The last taboo in the article is about \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - A. political status of America's minority people
  - B. economic status of America's minority people
  - C. racial integration
  - D. interracial marriages
4. Gunnar Myrdal kept asking whites how he could find “Mr. Jim Smith,” but no one seemed to know who he was, because \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - A. there was not such a person called Jim Smith
  - B. Jim Smith was not famous
  - C. the whites didn't know Jim Smith
  - D. the white people thought that a black man did not deserve the title of “Mr.”
5. In the author's opinion, \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. few black Americans can climb the ladder to the top
- B. Jesse Jackson's words in this article had been too pessimistic
- C. Colin and Alma Powell could have been elected President in 1996
- D. blacks can climb to the high class only if they work hard

#### V. Questions on the Article

1. Why were those low-income teen-agers who came to the Perrywood community considered to be "the eyesore"?
2. What's the surprising twist of the story?
3. According to this article, what has caused much of the white-black income gap?
4. Why did the presidential Kerner Commission conclude that the nation's future was menaced by "accelerating segregation"?
5. Why wouldn't questions as "Should negroes have as good a chance as white people to get any kind of job?" be asked today?
6. Can you tell briefly the dramatic progress in the status of America's minority people over the last half-century?



## LESSON TWO

### Mingling Bloodlines<sup>1</sup> Isn't Answer

**Interracial marriages aren't solution to bridging race gap.<sup>2</sup>**

By Eric Liu

Sometimes, as my wife and I walk down the street, we'll notice a couple coming the other way. We won't do anything to indicate that we've seen them. We won't make eye contact<sup>3</sup>. But immediately after they pass, Carroll and I will give each other a nudge.

"BRC," we'll whisper. As in "biracial couple."<sup>4</sup>

Now, this may sound a little odd. Or unduly color-conscious.<sup>5</sup> Or maybe even prejudiced. But you see, it isn't with disapproval that we notice BRCs. After all, we are one. Carroll is Scotch-Irish and Jewish; I am Chinese. And we are conscious of other mixed couples—we practically tally them up<sup>6</sup>—because there's something undeniably satisfying about encountering fellow trespassers of the color line.<sup>7</sup>

For one thing, there's a sense of solidarity, the feeling that this other couple might know, on some level, how we relate to the world. There's also, I have to say, a sense of confidence, perhaps even smugness<sup>8</sup>—a feeling that we are the wave of the future, ahead of the demographic curve.<sup>9</sup>

There was a time, of course, when racial intermarriage was strictly prohibited, whether by law or by custom. And to be sure, most marriages today are still unmixed. But Americans are intermarrying more today than ever before. The number of mixed-race unions has increased from 150,000 in 1960 to over 1.5 million today; the number of multiracial kids<sup>10</sup> has boomed to more than 2 million.

And so it's not surprising that one of the central points of Warren Beatty's farcical film *Bulworth*<sup>11</sup> is that mixing up our genes (Sen. Bulworth puts it more colorfully) is the way to move the country beyond color. As Beatty said in a recent interview, there's a simple solution to the race problem: "It's called love."

This "love" line is an old riff.<sup>12</sup> Throughout our history, people from Alexis De Tocqueville to Frederik Douglass to Norman Podhoretz<sup>13</sup> have proclaimed that miscegenation<sup>14</sup> is the only true path to interracial healing.<sup>15</sup>

It's certainly a nice thought. As one who has jumped into the integrated gene pool, I'd like to think I'm doing my part to advance good race relations. But it's misguided, in the end, to say that the difference I make is the difference that matters.<sup>16</sup>

We can start by asking a simple question: What is the problem that intermarriage is supposed to solve? If the problem is strife between races, well sure, BRCs are powerful symbols of life beyond pure hostility. But generally, BRCs aren't trying to save the world; they just happened to fall in love. And their mere existence doesn't do much to alter the social circumstances—from residential segregation to media stereotypes to campaign rhetoric<sup>17</sup>—that can generate racial hostility.

If the problem is something else—say, that people of color are vulnerable to discrimination—it's not clear that BRCs solve the problem at all. It's true, of course, that mixed marriages produce mixed kids and