

Modern Essays to Memorize

英语现代文 背诵篇章



附赠MP3光盘一张

◎ 俞敏洪 ◎ 包凡一 | 编译 |



西安交通大学出版社
XI'AN JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY PRESS

Modern Essays to Memorize

英语现代文 背诵篇章

◎ 俞敏洪 ◎ 包凡一 | 编译 |



西安交通大学出版社
XI'AN JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY PRESS

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语现代文背诵篇章 = Modern Essays to Memorize / 俞敏洪, 包凡一编译. — 西安: 西安交通大学出版社, 2009. 1

ISBN 978-7-5605-3019-2

I. 英… II. ①俞…②包… III. 英语—语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2008) 第 203149 号

书 名	英语现代文背诵篇章
编 译	俞敏洪 包凡一
责任编辑	黄科丰 孟月兰
封面设计	路丽佳
出版发行	西安交通大学出版社
地 址	西安市兴庆南路 10 号(邮编: 710049)
电 话	(029)82668357 82667874(发行部) (029)82668315 82669096(总编办)
印 刷	北京朝阳新艺印刷有限公司
字 数	215 千字
开 本	880×1230 1/32
印 张	8.5
版 次	2009 年 1 月第 1 版 2009 年 1 月第 1 次印刷
书 号	ISBN 978-7-5605-3019-2/H·860
定 价	25.00 元

版权所有 侵权必究

如有缺页、倒页、脱页等印装质量问题, 请拨打服务热线: 010-62605166。

新东方
NEW ORIENTAL 图书策划委员会

主任 俞敏洪

委员 (按姓氏笔划为序)

王 强 王文山

包凡一 仲晓红

李 杜 邱政政

沙云龙 汪海涛

陈向东 周成刚

徐小平 窦中川



前言

众所周知，在没有英语语言环境的情况下学习英语是困难的。许多人经过多年苦读，研究了许多范文和语法书，记忆了大量的词汇，却不能有效地提高英语水平。他们阅读文章时不能迅速地理解，稍一动笔则错误连篇。在口语方面也是除了简单的问候外，不能准确地表达自己的思想，不能完整地叙述一件事情。许多人学习英语的过程实际上正如开了中药铺子，单词、句型结构都被分别放置在柜上的小匣子里，不能形成一个有机的整体。而语言是有生命的，把无生命的部件拼凑起来模仿生命，效果自然可以想像。许多同学靠加倍努力来摆脱困境，但结果只是在药柜上开了更多的匣子。

解决这个问题的办法就是把英语当作有生命的语言来学。在没有语言环境的情况下背熟几十篇文章，让这几十篇文章形成一个有效的、生动的语言小环境。单词和词组只有在句子中才有生命力，才能显示其内涵、色彩、格调；而句子结构只有在上下连贯的意义中才能显示出内在的理由、作用和功能。背熟了几十篇课文，学过的单词和句型才能活起来。我们在阅读的时候才能读了上半句就能在大脑中预知下半句，读了前一句就能预知下一句，根本无须暗暗译成中文之后再思量意思，这样就提高了阅读速度。背熟了几十篇文章，我们要动口的时候，各种各样的表达就能更快地来到我们的嘴边而无须去搜肠刮肚。即使我们在做改错题时，也能凭直觉而非语法搜索到正确的目标。

其实在汉语的文字革命出现前，中国人的写作和阅读也是

没有天然的语言环境的。书面语使用的文言文与口语是完全分离的，因此要阅读、写文言文就必须大量地背诵已有的范文，而不是靠学语法、背生字。虽然古汉语的语法是隐式的，只能去体会，而西洋语言的语法要明确得多，但西洋语言的语法也是为研究语言服务，而不是为学会听、说、读、写服务的。我们要学好英语，必须像古人学文言文一样，背诵一定数量的范文。

国内目前出版的英文背诵文选，大多数的目的与此书大不相同。那些背诵文选主要是为了文学的欣赏和陶冶情操，因而选编了许多古典文学的篇章。这些作品的语言与我们所需要掌握的语言有很大的距离。我们要欣赏甚至要去背诵，应该是在完成了目前的任务以后。本书所选文章，语言是完全现代式的，在风格上简练、明快，是应用最为广泛的文体。这些文章内容也相当丰富，涉及社会生活、人文科学和自然科学等众多题材。背熟这 80 篇文章，对阅读报纸、杂志、教科书和学术论文及英文写作有巨大的帮助。

我们也大可不必担忧背熟了这些文章之后还会忘掉。我们可以把句子结构当作人体的骨骼，单词与词组为肌肉，句子间的关联词为关节。经过一段时间，我们首先会关节僵硬。但这没有关系，因为原文中的关联词是服务于原文中的事理和情景的，忘掉它们的位置丝毫不影响我们自己的使用。有一些肌肉在长久不运动之后的确会功能退化。但好在大部分的表达法我们会在别处遇到，因而得到充分的运用。即使是萎缩的肌肉，一旦运动起来，也会很快恢复。骨骼部分则最持久，我们学过的句型会深深印在我们的脑海里。

为了便于记忆，我们请发音纯正的外籍专家朗诵了这 80 篇文章，录制成 MP3，作为学习此书的辅助。

编者

目 录

1	•	The Language of Music / 音乐的语言
4	•	Schooling and Education / 上学与受教育
7	•	The Definition of "Price" / “价格”的定义
10	•	Electricity / 电
13	•	The Beginning of Drama / 戏剧的起源
17	•	Television / 电视
20	•	Andrew Carnegie / 安德鲁·卡内基
23	•	American Revolution / 美国革命
26	•	Suburbanization / 郊区的发展
30	•	Types of Speech / 语言的类型
33	•	Archaeology / 考古学
36	•	Museums / 博物馆
39	•	Skyscrapers and Environment / 摩天大楼与环境
42	•	A Rare Fossil Record / 罕见的化石记录
46	•	The Nobel Academy / 诺贝尔委员会
49	•	The War Between Britain and France / 英法战争
52	•	Evolution of Sleep / 睡眠的进化
55	•	Modern American Universities / 现代美国大学
59	•	Children's Numerical Skills / 儿童的数学能力

The Historical Significance of the American	
Revolution / 美国革命的历史意义	• 62
The Origin of Sports / 体育的起源	• 64
Collectibles / 收藏品	• 67
Henry Ford / 亨利·福特	• 70
Piano / 钢琴	• 73
Movie Music / 电影插曲	• 76
International Business and Cross-cultural	
Communication / 国际商业和跨文化交流	• 80
Scientific Theories / 科学理论	• 83
Changing Roles of Public Education /	
公共教育的角色变化	• 86
Telecommuting / 电子交通	• 90
The Origin of Refrigerators / 冰箱的由来	• 93
British Columbia / 英属哥伦比亚	• 96
Botany / 植物学	• 99
Plankton / 浮游生物	• 102
Raising Oysters / 饲养牡蛎	• 105
Oil Refining / 炼油	• 109
Plate Tectonics and Sea-floor Spreading /	
板块结构与海床扩展	• 112
Icebergs / 冰山	• 116
Topaz / 黄水晶	• 120
The Salinity of Ocean Waters / 海水盐度	• 123

- 126 • Cohesion-tension Theory / 内聚压力理论
- 129 • American Black Bears / 美国黑熊
- 132 • Coal-fired Power Plants / 火力发电厂
- 135 • Statistics / 统计学
- 139 • Obtaining Fresh Water from Icebergs /
从冰山获取淡水
- 142 • The Source of Energy / 能量的来源
- 145 • Vision / 视觉
- 148 • Folk Cultures / 民间文化
- 152 • Bacteria / 细菌
- 155 • Sleep / 睡眠
- 158 • Cells and Temperature / 细胞与温度
- 161 • Marine Mammals / 海洋哺乳动物
- 164 • Chimpanzee / 黑猩猩
- 167 • Nitinol / 镍钛合金
- 171 • Treasure in Sunken Ship / 沉船中的宝藏
- 174 • Creating Colors / 创造颜色
- 177 • The Organic Foods / 绿色食品
- 180 • Lighthouses / 灯塔
- 184 • Animals' Compasses / 动物的罗盘
- 187 • Muscles and Human Body / 肌肉和人体
- 190 • Colds and Age / 感冒与年龄
- 193 • Pottery / 陶器

Mimicry in Plants / 植物拟态	•	196
Oil and Water / 油和水	•	199
Salt and Metabolism / 盐与新陈代谢	•	202
The Early Settlers in North America /		
北美早期殖民者	•	205
Plants in the Deserts / 沙漠中的植物	•	208
The American Civil War / 美国内战	•	211
Women in Colonial North America /		
殖民时期的北美妇女	•	215
The Revolution in American Higher Education /		
美国高等教育的革命	•	218
Garza's Art Works / 加扎尔的艺术作品	•	221
The Alaska Pipeline / 阿拉斯加输油管道	•	225
The Satiric Literature / 讽刺文学	•	229
The Microscopic Technique / 显微技术	•	233
The History of Chemistry / 化学的历史	•	237
Hydrogen and Industries / 氢与工业	•	240
Mars / 火星	•	243
Food and Health / 食品与健康	•	247
Police and Communities / 警察与社区	•	250
Population Growth / 人口增长	•	253
Evolution and Wheels / 进化与轮子	•	256

The Language of Music

A painter hangs his or her finished picture on a wall, and everyone can see it. A composer writes a work, but no one can hear it until it is performed. Professional singers and players have great responsibilities, for the composer is utterly dependent on them. A student of music needs as long and as *arduous* a training to become a performer as a medical student needs to become a doctor. Most training is concerned with technique, for musicians have to have the *muscular proficiency* of an athlete or a *ballet* dancer. Singers practice breathing every day, as their *vocal chords* would be inadequate without controlled muscular support. *String* players practice moving the fingers of the left hand up and down, while *drawing* the *bow to and fro* with the right arm—two entirely different movements.

Singers and instrumentalists have to be able to get every note perfectly *in tune*. Pianists are *spared* this particular anxiety, for the *notes* are already there, waiting for them, and it is the piano *tuner's* responsibility to tune the instrument for them. But they have their own difficulties: the hammers that hit the strings have to be *coaxed* not to sound like percussion, and each *overlapping*

tone has to sound clear.

This problem of getting clear *texture* is one that confronts student conductors: they have to learn to know every note of the music and how it should sound, and they have to aim at controlling these sounds with *fanatical* but selfless authority.

Technique is of no use unless it is combined with musical knowledge and understanding. Great artists are those who are so thoroughly *at home* in the language of music that they can enjoy performing works written in any century.

【词汇与词组的解释】

arduous [ˈɑːdʒuəs] *adj.* 艰难的 (needing more efforts, difficult)

muscular [ˈmʌskjʊlə] *adj.* 肌肉的

proficiency [prəˈfɪʃənsi] *n.* 熟练 (command of skills)

ballet [bæˈleɪ] *n.* 芭蕾舞

vocal chord [ˈvəʊkəl-kɔːd] *n.* 声带

string [striŋ] *n.* 弦乐器

draw [drɔː] *v.* 拉动 (to pull)

bow [bau] *n.* 琴弓

to and fro 前后, 来回

in tune 入调 (at the correct musical level)

spare [speə] *v.* 用不着 (to exempt from sth.)

note [nəʊt] *n.* 乐音, 律音 (a musical sound)

tuner [ˈtjuːnə] *n.* (钢琴) 调音师

coax [kəʊks] *v.* 哄诱 (to persuade someone by gentle kindness or patience)

overlap [ˌəʊvəˈlæp] *v.* 部分重叠 (to cover sth. partly and go beyond it)

texture [ˈtekstʃə] *n.* 质地, 纹理 (the degree of roughness or smoothness, coarseness or fitness)

fanatical [fə'nætɪkl] *adj.* 狂热的 (showing very great and often unreasoning keenness)

technique [tek'nɪk] *n.* 技巧 (skill in art or some specialist activity)

at home 熟悉, 精湛

音乐的语言

画家将已完成的作品挂在墙上, 每个人都可以观赏到。作曲家写完了一部作品, 得由演奏者将其演奏出来, 其他人才能得以欣赏。因为作曲家是如此完全地依赖于职业歌手和职业演奏者, 所以职业歌手和职业演奏者肩上的担子可谓不轻。一名学音乐的学生要想成为一名演奏者, 需要经受长期的、严格的训练, 就像一名医科的学生要成为一名医生一样。绝大多数的训练是技巧性的。音乐家们控制肌肉的熟练程度, 必须达到与运动员或芭蕾舞演员相当的水平。歌手们每天都练习吊嗓子, 因为如果不能有效地控制肌肉的话, 他们的声带将不能满足演唱的要求。弦乐器的演奏者练习的则是在左手的手指上下滑动的同时, 用右手前后拉动琴弓——两个截然不同的动作。

歌手和乐器演奏者必须使所有的音符完全协调。钢琴家们则不用操这份心, 因为每个音符都已在那里等待着他们了。给钢琴调音是调音师的职责。但调音师们也有他们的难处: 他们必须耐心地调理敲击琴弦的音锤, 不能让音锤发出的声音像是打击乐器, 而且每个交叠的音都必须清晰。

如何得到乐章清晰的纹理是学生指挥们所面临的难题: 他们必须学会了解音乐中的每一个音及其发音之道。他们还必须致力于以热忱而又客观的权威去控制这些音符。

除非是和音乐方面的知识和悟性结合起来, 单纯的技巧没有任何用处。艺术家之所以伟大在于他们对音乐语言驾轻就熟, 以至于可以满怀喜悦地演奏出写于任何时代的作品。

Schooling and Education

It is commonly believed in the United States that school is where people go to get an education. Nevertheless, it has been said that today children interrupt their education to go to school. The distinction between schooling and education implied by this remark is important.

Education is much more *open-ended* and *all-inclusive* than schooling. Education knows no *bounds*. It can take place anywhere, whether in the shower or in the job, whether in a kitchen or on a tractor. It includes both the formal learning that takes place in schools and the whole universe of informal learning. The agents of education can *range from a revered grandparent to the people debating politics on the radio, from a child to a distinguished scientist*. Whereas schooling has a certain *predictability*, education quite often produces surprises. A *chance* conversation with a stranger may lead a person to discover how little is known of other religions. People are engaged in education *from infancy on*. Education, then, is a very broad, inclusive term. It is a lifelong process, a process that starts long before the start of school, and one that should be an *integral* part of one's entire life.

Schooling, on the other hand, is a specific, *formalized* process, whose general pattern varies little from one setting to the next. Throughout a country, children arrive at school at approximately the same time, take assigned seats, are taught by an adult, use similar textbooks, do homework, take exams, and so on. The *slices* of reality that are to be learned, whether they are the alphabet or an understanding of the workings of government, have usually been limited by the boundaries of the subject being taught. For example, high school students know that they are not likely to find out in their classes the truth about political problems in their communities or what the newest filmmakers are experimenting with. There are definite conditions surrounding the formalized process of schooling.

词汇与词组的解释

open-ended [ˌəʊpənˈendɪd] *adj.* 无限制；不封闭的 (without any clear end, aim or time limit set in advance)

all-inclusive [ˈɔːlɪnˈkluːsɪv] *adj.* 包括一切的 (containing or including everything)

bounds [baʊndz] *n.* 界限，范围 (the furthest limits or edges of sth.)

range (from... to) [reɪndʒ] *v.* 包括 (to reach from one limit to another)

revere [riˈviə] *v.* 敬重 (to give great respect and admiration to)

predictability [prɪˈdɪktəˈbɪlɪti] *n.* 可预测性

chance [tʃɑːns] *adj.* 偶然的 (accidental; unplanned)

from... on 从...开始

infancy [ˈɪnfənsi] *n.* 幼儿期 (early childhood; the period of being an infant)

integral [ˈɪntəɡrəl] *adj.* 必需的 (necessary)

formalize [ˈfɔ:məlaɪz] *v.* 形式化(to put into clear form)

slice [slaɪs] *n.* (一)片

上学与受教育

在美国,人们通常认为上学是为了受教育。而现在却有人认为孩子们上学打断了他们受教育的过程。这种观念中的上学与受教育之间的区别非常重要。

与上学相比,教育更具开放性,内容更广泛。教育不受任何限制。它可以在任何场合下进行,在淋浴时,在工作时,在厨房里或拖拉机上。它既包括在学校所受的正规教育,也包括一切非正规教育。传授知识的人可以是德高望重的老者,可以是收音机里进行政治辩论的人们,可以是小孩子,也可以是知名的科学家。上学读书多少有点可预见性,而教育往往能带来意外的发现。与陌生人的一次随意谈话可能会使人认识到自己对其他宗教其实所知甚少。人们从幼时起就开始受教育。因此,教育是一个内涵很丰富的词,它自始至终伴随人的一生,早在人们上学之前就开始了。教育应成为人生命中不可缺少的一部分。

然而,上学却是一个特定的形式化了的过程。在不同场合下,它的基本形式大同小异。在全国各地,孩子们几乎在同一时刻到达学校,坐在指定的座位上,由一位成年人传授知识,使用大致相同的教材,做作业,考试等等。他们所学的现实生活中的一些片断,如字母表或政府的运作,往往受到科目范围的限制。例如,高中生们知道,在课堂上他们没法弄清楚他们社区里政治问题的真情,也不会了解到最新潮的电影制片人在做哪些尝试。学校教育这一形式化的过程是有特定的限制的。

The Definition of “Price”

Prices determine how resources are to be used. They are also the means by which products and services that are in limited supply are *rationed* among buyers. The price system of the United States *is* a complex network *composed of* the prices of all the products bought and sold in the economy as well as those of a *myriad* of services, including labor, professional, transportation, and *public-utility* services. The interrelationships of all these prices make up the “system” of prices. The price of any particular product or service is linked to a broad, complicated system of prices in which everything seems to depend more or less upon everything else.

If one were to ask a group of randomly selected individuals to define “price”, many would reply that price is an amount of money paid by the buyer to the seller of a product or service or, in other words, that price is the money value of a product or service as agreed upon in a market *transaction*. This definition is, of course, *valid* as far as it goes. For a complete understanding of a price in any particular transaction, much more than the amount of money involved must be known. Both the buyer and the seller should be familiar with not only the money amount,