

# 大学英语阅读 训练与解析 上



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## 前 言

很多英语学习者有一种误解,认为学习一门外语只要熟练掌握外语的结构规则和使用规则,加上大量短语、习语和词汇,就能应付各种考试,自如地进行思想交流,表达情感了。然而,他们并不知道,文化的各种因素在外语学习中起着举足轻重的作用,因为语言是与文化相辅相成的,任何语言都是某种文化的反映,都有其深刻的内涵。要学好英语,用英语进行有效地交际,就必须对西方的人民、社会习惯、风土人情等诸方面文化背景有所了解,并且运用到英语学习中,只有这样才能使英语水平上一个新的台阶。

鉴于上述情况,我们编写了《大学英语阅读训练与解析》一书,其目的是帮助英语学习者通过阅读介绍西方文化的各类文章,获得大量的西方文化知识,同时帮助读者扩大词汇量,掌握短语、习语、习惯用法,培养其提高分析、推理、判断和综合概括的能力。因而本书与一般的阅读书籍不同,在编排上我们按照西方文化的不同方面对文章进行了分类,每个单元的文章都是同一个主题,只是侧重点不同,尽可能全面地、从不同的角度进行概括。

本书从不同的侧面介绍西方的生活习俗、人物、节日、宗教、经济、教育、艺术、科学技术、伦理道德等方面的情况。文章全部选自近期的英、美报刊杂志和书籍。文章题材广泛,内容新颖,语言地道。

本书分上、下册,每册有6个单元,每个单元有6篇文章,每篇文章后面配有较为详尽的注释,并配有练习。

本书可作为大学非英语专业一、二年级学生的课外读物,也可供中等英语水平的英语学习爱好者使用。

编 者

1999年6月

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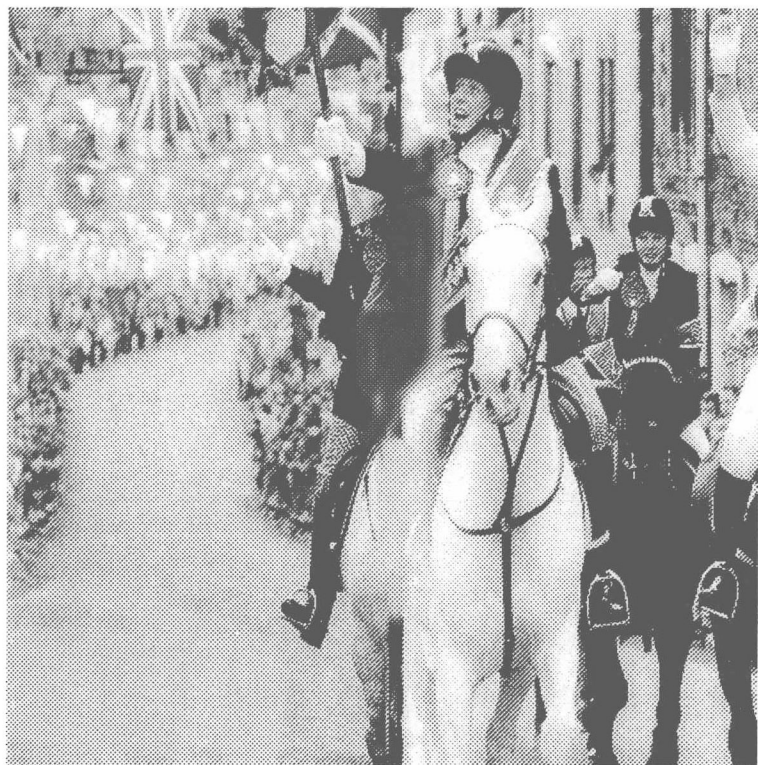
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## ***Unit One    People : Their Life and Customs***







## *Life in Ireland*



爱尔兰以其古朴典雅的城市、丰富多彩的生活、浪漫迷人的音乐艺术和热情好客的人民使无数的外国游客流连忘返。

The Irish have their own word for having a good time, they call it “the craic” (pronounced “crack”), and it means going out drinking, making friends and having fun. For the Irish, the craic is an essential part of life, and it does not take long before visitors to Ireland are asking that question: “Where’s the craic?”

The best places to find the kind of nightlife, community spirit and sense of fun, which make up “the craic”, are in Ireland’s varied and lively cities. Ireland is a small country and none of its cities are very big, which helps to give them their friendly atmosphere. Even in the capital, Dublin<sup>①</sup>, the local people are welcoming towards visitors and it is easy to find your way around and see the sights.

Ireland’s cities are also the best places to experience the

country's thriving music and entertainment scene. Twenty years ago Ireland's music was very traditional, but today, thanks to a younger generation who are more confident and independent, Ireland is now producing exciting rock and pop music as well as traditional folk<sup>②</sup>. And in other areas of the arts, too, there is a new found dynamism<sup>③</sup> as Irish films and theatre enjoy international acclaim.

Dublin claims to be Ireland's cultural capital. It has been home to some of the greatest writers in the English language, like George Bernard Shaw<sup>④</sup>, W. B. Yeats<sup>⑤</sup>, Samuel Beckett<sup>⑥</sup>, James Joyce<sup>⑦</sup> and Oscar Wilde<sup>⑧</sup>. These writers were inspired by Dublin and the community in which they lived. Today, you can visit many of the places they wrote about and meet people who could easily have appeared in their writing.

One of the best ways to see the city is by foot and for fans of literature there are special guided tours to places associated with famous writers. Dublin also has a 17th century castle, two cathedrals and many fine museums and galleries to visit. The National Museum has a fascinating collection of early Celtic<sup>⑨</sup> artefacts and jewellery.

Dublin owes a lot of its charm to its architecture<sup>⑩</sup>. Many of the buildings in the city centre date back over 150 years to the Georgian period, and the streets are lined with terraces of tall, elegant houses<sup>⑪</sup>. The interiors of some of these houses have been restored and it is possible to go inside and see how they looked when they were lived in by wealthy Dublin families. The area around Dublin's university is a good place to find restored houses.

Walking around the city, visiting sights, or just shopping is also a good way to meet Dubliners, but you will be guaranteed a conversation<sup>⑫</sup> when you stop for a drink or something to eat in one of the city's many pubs. These range from cosy one-room bars to

grand and ornate hostelryes<sup>13</sup>. All serve Guinness, the dark beer brewed in Dublin, which is famous worldwide. Pubs are also good places to hear music.

Cork<sup>14</sup> is Ireland's second city and although it is smaller than Dublin it is also a lively and exciting centre. The city is an important port and, because of its location — on the south coast — it enjoys warmer weather than the rest of the country. Much of the city is built on steep hills which lead down to the old trading centre.

This area is where most of Cork's pubs, restaurants and clubs are to be found. The city is also known as Ireland's jazz music capital. In October Cork is the venue<sup>15</sup> for the Guinness Jazz Festival which attracts performers from around the world. As well as a Jazz parade, fans can hear all styles of Jazz at different pubs and clubs in the city.

Cork is also well-known for its seafood and restaurants always have a wide choice of fish dishes. Alternatively, visitors can take a short trip to one of the seaside villages nearby, like Kinsale, which have numerous eating places.

Gateway is the main city on Ireland's beautiful and wild west coast. In July it stages one of Ireland's leading arts festivals. Visitors fill the city and they are entertained by concerts, theatre and street musicians. The other big Gateway festival is in celebration of oysters, which are a local delicacy<sup>16</sup>. This takes place at the end of September when oyster season starts and the whole city takes part in a feast of oysters.

One city that has fewer visitors is Belfast<sup>17</sup>, in the north. The long years of political violence, known as the "the troubles", have kept many people away, but now that the city is more peaceful, the visitors are starting to return.

Belfast is an important centre for the arts, and this year an excit-

ing new concert hall and arts centre was opened in the city. This means that, in between visits to Belfast's pubs to find the craic and drink some Guinness, visitors can enjoy music and theatre in one of the country's most impressive arts centres.

(822 words)

## Notes

- ① **Dublin**: 都柏林, 爱尔兰共和国首都。
- ② **traditional folk**: 民族音乐。
- ③ **dynamism**: 推动力。
- ④ **George Bernard Shaw**: 萧伯纳(1856—1950), 英国现代杰出的现实主义戏剧家, 出生在爱尔兰都柏林。主要作品有《巴巴娜少校》、《伤心之家》、《卖花女》等, 1925 年获诺贝尔文学奖。
- ⑤ **W. B. Yeats**: 威廉·勃特勒·叶芝(1865—1939), 爱尔兰现代著名抒情诗人和作家, 20 世纪初爱尔兰文艺复兴运动的领导人之一。
- ⑥ **Samuel Beckett**: 萨缪埃尔·贝凯特(1906—), 爱尔兰血统的法国籍剧作家和小说家。
- ⑦ **James Joyce**: 詹姆斯·乔伊斯(1882—1941), 现代英国著名小说家。主要作品有《都柏林人》、《青年艺术家画像》、《尤里西斯》等。
- ⑧ **Oscar Wilde**: 奥斯卡·王尔德(1854—1900), 英国 19 世纪末唯美主义戏剧家。主要作品有《一个无足轻重的女人》、《理想的丈夫》、《名叫欧纳斯特的重要性》等。
- ⑨ **Celtic**: 凯尔特人的。Celt 族人一千多年前居住在中欧西欧, 其后裔散居在爱尔兰、威尔士等地。
- ⑩ **Dublin owes a lot of its charm to its architecture**: 都柏林之美是其建筑所赋予的。owe...to: 将……归功于……。
- ⑪ **the streets are lined with terraces of tall, elegant houses**: 街道两旁耸立着成排的高大华丽的房子。
- ⑫ **but you will guaranteed a conversation**: 但肯定有人与你交谈。
- ⑬ **These range from cosy one-room bars to grand and ornate hostels**: 这些酒店有些是舒适的单间酒吧, 也有的是富丽堂皇的大酒家。These 指代上句中的 pubs。range from: (在一定范围内)变化, 变动。
- ⑭ **Cork**: 科克, 爱尔兰西部的一郡, 亦是该郡的首府。

- ⑮ **venue**: 聚会地点。
- ⑯ **which are a local delicacy**: 牡蛎是当地的精品菜肴。
- ⑰ **Belfast**: 是北爱尔兰的首都,北爱尔兰多年来争取独立,与亲英的两派在此斗争不断。这里的 **political violence** 指的就是这场斗争。

## Exercises

### I. Multiple Choice

- Dublin is charming because of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) its many famous writers      B) its architecture  
C) its seafood      D) its lovely people
- Today, Ireland should owe its exciting rock and pop music to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) old generation      B) people all over the world  
C) younger generation      D) visitors
- Dublin is very famous in the world for \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) restoring castles      B) cultivating writers  
C) brewing dark beer      D) producing traditional music
- Cork is the second \_\_\_\_\_ city.  
A) biggest      B) smallest  
C) warmest      D) most important
- In addition to rock and pop music, Ireland is famous for Jazz music.  
\_\_\_\_\_ is the center for Guinness Jazz Festival.  
A) Dublin      B) Gateway  
C) Cork      D) Belfast
- The major art festival is held \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) in September in Cork      B) in July in Belfast  
C) in July in Gateway      D) in September in Gateway
- According to the passage, the life of Irish is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) dull and uninteresting  
B) rich and attractive  
C) popular  
D) quite different from that of other countries

## II. Complete the Following Sentences

1. It's because \_\_\_\_\_ that Dublin is regarded as it's cultural capital.
2. The people who could easily have appeared in their writing refer to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. From the passage, we can guess whom Guinness refer to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. According to the passage, \_\_\_\_\_ are the best places to find the craic.
5. In Dublin, the buildings can tell visitors \_\_\_\_\_.
6. In Ireland, the pubs not only offer beer but also \_\_\_\_\_.

## Homeless Gypsies<sup>①</sup>



坚强不屈、热情奔放的吉普赛人依然过着流浪的生活。茫茫世界,哪里是自己的家园?

Thousands of gypsies have been trying to emigrate to Canada and Britain. They say they are fleeing persecution, but most have found they are not welcome in these countries either. Gypsies have never had a home.

Europe has experienced enormous upheavals<sup>②</sup> this century. Wars, revolutions, separations and elections have changed the political map of the continent countless times. And with each change, power has shifted<sup>③</sup>, creating new winners and new losers.

But for one group — the gypsies — change has always meant losing. With each upheaval, the gypsies have been left worse off than they were before<sup>④</sup>. Yet they have survived to become Europe's largest minority<sup>⑤</sup>. Moreover, they have succeeded in preserving their culture and their way of life in the face of geno-

cide<sup>⑥</sup>, political persecution and poverty.

In other cases where minorities have survived similar persecutions — like Jews during World War II, or blacks in South Africa — their cause has received international support. By contrast, the gypsies' success at preserving their culture is not regarded as an achievement at all. Instead, it's viewed as proof they are both unwilling and unable to change, and therefore irredeemable<sup>⑦</sup>. Indeed, in 1993, the President of the Slovak Republic, Vladimir Meciar, attacked their way of life and said steps should be taken "to curtail the extended reproduction<sup>⑧</sup> of this socially unacceptable and mentally backward population".

If such a thing had been said about any other minority, the political outcry would have been enormous. But, because the Slovak President was referring to gypsies, there were few complaints, except from a few small organizations that try to protect gypsies' rights.

The history of the gypsies — or, more correctly, the Roma — begins with their migration from India to Persia. Because there is no documented history of the Roma, exactly when and why they left India can only be guessed at. It seems likely they were a low-caste tribe<sup>⑨</sup> who set out to find a new land where they could improve their lives.

It's known they had arrived in Europe by the 14th-century, via North Africa. (Indeed, "gypsy" is believed to be a corruption of "Egyptian"<sup>⑩</sup>, since they were incorrectly thought to have come from Egypt.) They settled first in the Balkans<sup>⑪</sup>, and then rapidly spread through western Europe, reaching England in the 15th-century.

Then, as now, most Roma were concentrated in what became Romania and the Slovak Republic<sup>⑫</sup>. Until the mid 19th century, most were slaves in two of the three principalities<sup>⑬</sup> (Wallachia and



Moldavia) that later became Romania. It is around this time that common perceptions about the Roma, which persist to this day, began to spread. With no fixed abode<sup>⑩</sup>, and making their living as musicians, fortunetellers and supposedly unscrupulous traders, the Roma soon gained a reputation for laziness, theft and general intransigence<sup>⑪</sup>.

Nevertheless, before World War I, the Roma were able to live more or less as where they wished. But, after the war, once the empires of Europe had collapsed, the map of the continent was completely redrawn along ethnic lines<sup>⑫</sup>. Inevitably, the new borders defined the identities of the people living within them. Minorities were left with little choice but to assimilate or leave.<sup>⑬</sup> For the Roma, trapped within borders that had never restrained them before, the adjustment was profound. Not only did it place enormous restrictions on their nomadic lifestyle<sup>⑭</sup>, it made it harder to flee from their persecutors.

This persecution turned into genocide in World War II, when the Roma and Europe's other stateless group, the Jews, were targeted for extermination<sup>⑮</sup> by the Nazis. By the end of the war, an estimated 500,000 Roma had been murdered in Hitler's death camps. The survivors refer to this period as the "devouring"<sup>⑯</sup>. After the war, most Roma found themselves living under the Communist regimes that ruled Romania and Czechoslovakia. During the 1950s, attempts were made to integrate them into society, through a combination of forced resettlement and compulsory employment<sup>⑰</sup>. The strategy had limited success — some Roma did settle in cities, and some even attained high-ranking positions in the Communist party. But most just avoided the authorities by moving around and supporting themselves through theft, begging and illegal trading.

Since the collapse of Communism, the degree of hatred and per-