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Unit 1

文化背景阅读

1 Russell Baker (拉塞尔·贝克)

Russell Baker, American newspaper columnist, author, was born in Loudoun County, Virginia on August 14, 1925. He joined the *New York Times* in 1954 and began to write *The Observer* column for the *New York Times* from 1962 to 1998. Baker received his first Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary in 1979. He also won a Pulitzer Prize in 1982 for his brilliant, bittersweet autobiography *Growing Up*, about his childhood during the Great Depression. This text is taken from the book.



拉塞尔·贝克，美国作家，《纽约时报》专栏作家，1925年生于弗吉尼亚。1954年，他进入《纽约时报》工作，并从1962年开始为其撰写“观察家”专栏，一直到1998年退休。1979年，因其杰出的评论文章获得普利策奖。1982年，其自传《成长》使他再次获得该奖项。该书追忆了大萧条时期作者和母亲在弗吉尼亚度过的艰苦岁月，语言中充满了幽默和心酸。本文便是节选自该书。

2 Grade schools in the US (美国的中小学教育)

(1) Primary school

American children start school at the age of five years. The first year at school is called kindergarten. It is required of all American children enrolled in the American education system. The second year at school is considered the first year of primary school and is referred to as first grade. Primary school most commonly consists of five years of education, referred to as first through fifth grades.

(2) Secondary school

Upon completion of fifth grade (the last year of primary school), American children advance to secondary school. Secondary school most commonly consists of a total of seven years, referred to as sixth through twelfth grades. The ninth through twelfth grades are most commonly referred to as high school. Upon completion of twelfth grade, American students are awarded a certificate called the high school diploma.



在美国,儿童5岁入学,第1年是幼儿园阶段,从第2年开始进入小学阶段,称为1年级。这一阶段通常为5年,即从1年级到5年级。从6年级开始进入中学阶段,一直到12年级。其中9年级至12年级就是通常所说的高中阶段。因此,本文中提到的11年级和高中3年级指的是同一年级。

文章精读

Part I

Pre-reading Task

1. 词汇学习

monster ['mɒnstə(r)] *n.* 怪物,妖怪

prayer [preə] *n.* 祈祷

sail [seil] *v.* 航行(于),起航,开船 *n.* 帆,篷,航行

lullaby ['lʌləbaɪ] *n.* 催眠曲,摇篮曲,轻柔的声音 *v.* 唱催眠曲使入睡

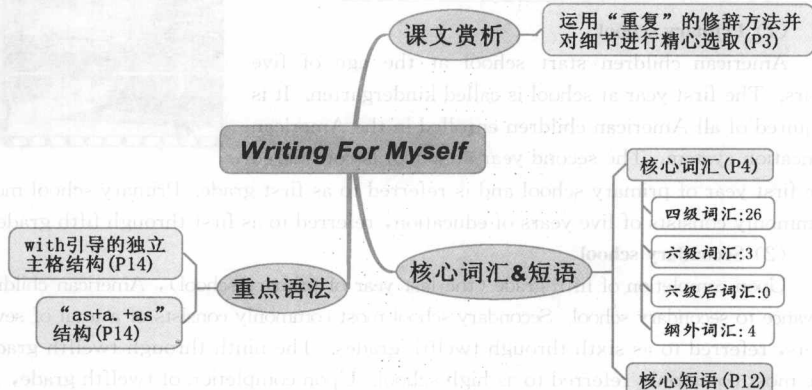
2. 练习答案

- (1) John Lennon was a singer and guitarist in the Beatles, a British rock group, writing many of their most successful hits.
- (2) Yes, I have. / No, I haven't.
- (3) He thought the growing up could be difficult, but it was also full of surprises and adventures.
- (4) This unit is going to be about growing up.

Part II

Text A

重点知识网





一 课文赏析

写作风格赏析

本文作者拉塞尔·贝克利用“重复(repetition)”的修辞手法和对细节的选取栩栩如生地刻画出人物的特点,清晰地表明自己的观点。例如,在第二段中,他通过描写 Fleagle 先生的眼镜(eyeglasses)、发型(hairstyle)、衣服(clothes)、下巴(jaw)、鼻子(nose)和说话方式(manner of speaking)等各个方面,把一个一本正经、拘谨而且不可救药地落后于时代的形象呈现在读者面前。当然,第二段中 prim, primly 的重复使用对 Fleagle 先生形象的刻画也起到了非常重要的作用,这不仅使句子易于理解,又给读者留下了深刻印象。

另外,第五段中 I wanted 被重复使用 5 次,突出了作者本人为自己写作的强烈欲望。

为使语言更加丰富,避免一味重复造成的单调,作者使用了大量近义词和近义短语等,例如:

- ① dull, lifeless, cheerless, tedious
- ② write, compose, put down
- ③ anticipate, prepare for
- ④ formal, rigid, severe, prim
- ⑤ vivid memories of sth., come flooding back to sb., sth. reawakes in one's mind, sb. recalls sth.
- ⑥ recapture, relive
- ⑦ pleasure, delight, happiness, enjoyment
- ⑧ contempt, ridicule
- ⑨ topic, title

语篇结构分析

Parts	Paragraphs	Main Ideas
Part 1	Paras. 1~2	Baker was bored by everything associated with English courses, including essay writing.
Part 2	Paras. 3~5	Absorbed in the vivid memories the title brought back, Baker began to write for his own joy.
Part 3	Paras. 6~9	The success of the essay helped Baker discover a calling for writing in life, and realize his power in words.

课文内容概要

I wanted to be a writer ever since my childhood and the possibility took hold when I was a third-year student. At that time, Mr. Fleagle was assigned to teach us English. He had a reputation among students for dullness and inability to inspire. Once he gave a list of topics to the students and I was attracted by one, *The Art of Eating Spaghetti*. The warmth and good feeling of eating spaghetti in Belleville made me want to write it down for my own pleasure, not for Mr. Fleagle. To my great surprise, Mr. Fleagle read my essay aloud to the whole class. The students, as well as Mr. Fleagle, were really enjoying my essay. This experience became the happiest moment of my entire school career and from then on I began my writing career.



二 核心词汇与短语

New Words

possibility [ˌpɒsəˈbɪlɪti] *n.* ① 可能

(性) ② 可能的事

(助记) ▶ [熟] possible *a.* 可能的 →

[生] possibility *n.* 可能性

(语境) ▶ His retirement is a possibility.
他有可能退休。

(搭配) ▶ by any possibility 有可能, 万一

bore ① [bɔː] *vt.* 使厌烦, 使厌倦

n. 令人乏味、讨厌的人(或事)

(语境) ▶ Children grew bored with swimming. 孩子们渐渐厌倦了游泳。

The movie was a bore. 这部电影很乏味。

bore ② [bɔː] *v.* 钻孔

(语境) ▶ bore through a rock 钻透岩石

(辨异) ▶

{ bore (原形动词) 使厌烦; 钻孔

{ bore (bear 的过去式) 生育; 忍受

boring [ˈbɔːrɪŋ] *a.* 令人厌烦的,

乏味的

(语境) ▶ I found the lecture boring. 我

觉得这堂课很乏味。

associate

{ [əˈsəʊʃieɪt] *v.*
[əˈsəʊʃieɪt] *n.* / *a.* *vi.*

(with) 结交, 交往 → *vt.* ① 使联合, 使
联系起来 ② (在思想上) 把... 联系在
一起, 使联想 *n.* 伙伴, 合伙人, 同事
a. 副的 [vice *a.* 副的 (用于官衔):
vice-president 副总统]

(助记) ▶ [熟] society (社会) → [根]
soci (社会, 社交) → [生] social *a.* 社会
的, 社交的; associate *v.* 交往, 使联系

associate 副的	assistant 助理的
associate professor 副教授	assistant teacher 助教

(搭配) ▶

{ associate (*vt.*) ... with { (思想上) 联系
(业务上) 合伙
associate (*vi.*) with 与... 交往

They prefer to associate with friends
of their own age. 他们更喜欢与同龄
人交往。

We naturally associated the name of Darwin with the theory of evolution. 我们很自然地把达尔文的名字和进化论联系在一起。

Instead, Risky, the company's research and development head, would hope they **associate** the brand with the new world global communications and business. 相反, 公司的重新研制和发展总裁 Risky 希望他们的标识能够与新世界的全球交往和商务起来。

【CET-4, 2005. 12, 阅读】

【辨异】> **associate, connect, join, combine**

(1) **associate** (... with) 指心里边通过联想而“联系”。

(2) **connect** (... to/with) 指“认为有联系或有关系”, 或指使用工具把一物与另一物“连接”起来: I always considered your brother to be connected with the crime. 我一直认为你的兄弟和这个犯罪活动有关。

(3) **join** (... to) 指直接连接(两个以上的东西): A long suspension bridge joined the two islands. 一条长长的吊桥连接了两个岛。

(4) **combine** (... with) 指为某一目的而把两个以上的东西混合在一起: They combined the two companies. 他们把两个公司合并了起来。

agony ▲ ['æɡəni] *n.* 痛苦, 苦恼

△ An **agony** is a great physical or mental **pain**.

【语境】> He was in agony with his broken legs. 他因为断腿而痛苦不堪。

assign [ə'sain] [原义: 指示...到某处或给某人→] *vt.* ①分配, 分派 ②指定(时间、地点等) ③指派

【助记】> [熟] sign

①标记, 标示→[生] { signal 信号
assign
②签(名)→[生] { signature 签名
signatory 署名的

as- + sign
= to 指示

【语境】> They assigned me a small room. 他们分给我一个小房间。

The company commander assigned me to stand guard. 连长派我去站岗。

assignment [ə'sainmənt] [assign 的名词] *n.* ①(分配的)工作, 任务, (布置的)作业 ②分配, 指派

【语境】> What is today's assignment in history? 今天的历史作业是什么?

anticipate [æn'tisipeit] *vt.* ①预期, 期望 ②先于...行动, 提前使用

【助记】> 记忆网络:

[熟] ancient 古老的

(1) anc(e)(古, 先前)→[生] ancestor 祖先

(2) ant(i)(古, 先前, 前)→[生] antique 古物, 古董; anticipate 预料, 期望

anti- + cip = take + -ate
先, 预 动词后缀

【语境】> Incomes rose faster than anticipated. 收入提高得比预期的要快。

We anticipated their complaint by writing a full report. 我们没等他们投诉就先写好了一份详细的报告。

【搭配】> anticipate (期望) 后接动名词: We anticipate spending two weeks here. 我们预备在这儿呆两个星期。

【辨异】> **anticipate, expect**

(1) **Anticipate** means to expect that sth. will happen and be ready for it.

(2) **Expect** means to believe that sb.

or sth. is going to arrive.

❖ Realistically, they do not **anticipate** a return to the peak years, but **expect** ongoing recovery. 实际上, 他们并不指望能重拾旧日辉煌, 但却希望能逐渐地改善。

tedious ['tidjəs] *a.* ①乏味的, 令人生厌的 ②冗长的

(助记) 同根: **tedium** *n.* 厌倦, 乏味

(语境) The arguments were tedious and complicated. 那些论据冗长而复杂。

reputation [ˌrepju'teɪʃən] *n.* 名声, 名誉

(语境) They have both built (up) worldwide reputations in geology. 他们两人在地质学方面都建立起了全球性的声誉。

The senator made a national reputation out of his questioning of the president. 这位参议员因诘问总统而举国闻名。

(搭配) have a reputation for 以...而闻名

Apparently the boy **had a long-standing reputation for** bad behaviour and his mum for even worse behaviour if he was challenged. 很显然, 那个男孩行为恶劣不是一时了, 而在他遇到反对时, 他母亲做得更差。【CET-4, 2008. 12, 阅读】

(辨异) reputation, fame

(1) reputation 可指好名声, 亦可指坏名声, 强调人们心目中的印象。

(2) fame 仅指好名声, 强调较高的知名度。如: The reformer's fame spread all over the country. 这位改革者名震全国。

inspire [ɪn'spaɪə] *vt.* ①[注入精神力量]鼓舞, 激励 ②[注入灵气

→]给...以灵感

(助记) [熟] spirit 精神, 灵气 → [根] spire (= spirit) → [生] inspire (= inspire)

in- 入 + spire 精神, 灵气

(语境) The Muse does not inspire all poets equally. 诗神缪斯并非一视同仁地赐给所有诗人灵感。

Inspired by the superstars on television, the young athletes trained hard and played intensely. 由于受电视上超级明星的鼓舞, 这些年轻的运动员们刻苦训练、认真比赛。

【CET-4, 2006. 6, 词汇】

(搭配) inspire { sb. with sth. } 激起/鼓舞了某人的...
{ sth. in/into sb. }

The news inspired us with courage. ⇔ The news inspired courage in us. 那消息给了我们勇气。

formal ['fɔ:məl] *a.* ①形式上的, 表面的 ②正式的, 正规的, 合乎礼仪的 ③刻板的, 拘谨的

(语境) There is only a formal resemblance between the two systems; they are in fact radically different. 这两种体系只是在表面上有某种相似之处, 其实根本不同。

She has a very formal manner. 她举止文雅。

She was very formal with him. 她和他在一起时非常拘谨。

(辨异) 形近词: formal 与 normal

form 形式 → formal 正式的, 正规的 ⇔ informal 非正式的, 不拘礼的

norm 标准 → normal 正常的, 标准的 ⇔ abnormal 反常的, 变态的

rigid ['rɪdʒɪd] *a.* ① 严格的, 一成不变的 ② 刚性的, 刚硬的

(助记) >> [根] rig (= hard 硬, 严厉)

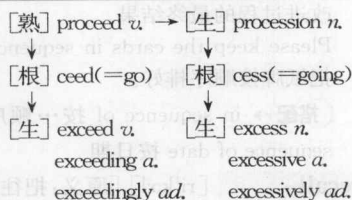
→ [生] rigid; rigorous *a.* 严密的, 严厉的

(语境) >> I just wish he were a little less rigid about things. 我只希望他对各种事情的态度别再那么刻板。

a rigid bar of metal 刚性金属横杆

excessively [ɪk'sesɪvli] *ad.* 过分地, 过度地

(助记) >> 记忆网络:



STEP 1

(1) **proceed** [prə'si:d] *v.*

- ① 前进, 行进 (= go forward)
- ② (继续) 进行 (= go on)

(2) **procession** [prə'seʃən] [proceed 的名词] *n.* 行列, 队伍

STEP 2 proceed = go forward
 pro = forward } →
 ceed (= go)

(3) **exceed** [ɪk'si:d] [ex- (= out) + ceed (= go); go out of →] *vt.* ① 超出(限度), 超过 ② 越出

(4) **excess** [ɪk'ses] [exceed 的名词] *n.* ① 超越, 超过 ② 过量, 过度 *a.* 过量的, 额外的

(a) His expenditure exceeds his income. 他人不敷出。

(b) an excess of income over expenditure 收入大于支出

(5) **excessive** [ɪk'sesɪv] [exceed 的形

容词之一] *a.* [贬义] 过度的, 过分的

(6) **exceeding** [ɪk'si:diŋ] [exceed 的形容词之二] *a.* 极度的, 非常的

(7) **excessively** [ɪk'sesɪvli] *ad.* 过分地, 过度地

(8) **exceedingly** [ɪk'si:diŋli] *ad.* 极端地, 非常

(辨异) >> **excess, excessive**

excess *a.* 过量的, 额外的 (additional, more than is usual, allowed): an excess fare 补票费; excessive *a.* 过度的, 过分的 (too much, too great): an excessive demand 过分的要求

(辨异) >> **exceedingly, excessively**

exceedingly = very much (极); excessively = too much (太)。

They were exceedingly hospitable.
他们极为好客。

They were excessively hospitable.
他们过于殷勤。

tackle ['tækl] *v.* ① (开始) 处理, 应付 ② (足球等比赛中) 阻截 ③ 与...交涉 *n.* 用具, 钓具

(助记) >> [熟] attack 进攻 → [生] tackle 对付, 处理

(语境) >> He was tackled before he had a chance to shoot. 没等有机会起脚射门, 他已被对方阻截。



We had to tackle them on/over the swimming pool. 我们不得不就游泳池问题与他们交涉。

Although many experts agree that more children are overweight, there is debate over the best ways to **tackle** the problem. 尽管许多专家都认为有越来越多的儿童超重,

但关于解决这一问题的最好方法却一直存在争议。

【CET-4, 2006. 6, 词汇】

distribute [dis'tribju:t] *vt.* ①分发, 分送, 分配 ②分布, 散布

(助记) >> [根] tribute (= give) →
[生] contribute 贡献; distribute 分配

dis- + tribute
分开 = give

(语境) >> The firm distributed its profits among its workers. 公司将利润分给了工人。
They distributed themselves about the house. 他们分散在房子的各个地方。

scan [skæn] *vt.* ①细看 ②扫描 ③浏览, 粗略地看

(语境) >> scan the battlefield with binoculars 用双筒望远镜仔细观望战场

Someday a stranger will read your e-mail without your permission or scan the websites you've visited. 总有一天, 会有陌生人在没有征得你同意的情况下就阅读你的电子邮件, 或者浏览你所浏览过的网页。

【CET-4, 2008. 6, 阅读】

(辨异) >> scan, skim

scan 为“扫描”以得出总体印象;
skim 原义“撇(去)”, 引申为“略读”以找出所需的信息点。

sequence ['si:kwəns] *n.* ①一系列, 一连串相关的事物 ②次序, 顺序

(助记) >> 已知: follow *v.* 跟随;
following *a.* 其次的 (the following day 第二天)

又知: second *num.* 第二, 其次
你是否由此而猜知: sec = follow 跟随?
知 second 原义是“跟随”, 则易记其同根词: [根] sec → [生]

{ consecutive 连续的
(= following one after another)
execute 执行 (= follow out)

又知: cheque = check; technique = technic
不难记: sequ = sec(u)

[根] sequ → [生]
{ consequence 随后发生的结果, 后果
sequence 一系列, 一连串
subsequent 后来的 (= following)

(语境) >> An invention is usually the end result of a long sequence of ideas, experiments and improvements. 一项发明通常是一系列长期酝酿、试验及改进过程的最终结果。
Please keep the cards in sequence. 请把纸牌按顺序排好。

(搭配) >> in sequence of 按...顺序; in sequence of date 按日期

recall [ri'kɔ:l] [原义: 把往事等叫回、唤回] >> *vt.* ①回忆起, 回想起 ②召回, 收回

(助记) >> re- + call
= back 唤回

(语境) >> Can you recall your schooldays? 你能想起你学生时代的情景吗?

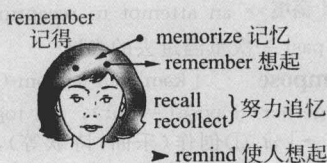
The car was recalled for possible safety defects. 汽车因可能存在安全缺陷而被厂家收回。

(搭配) >> recall (回忆) 后接动名词: I failed to recall ever meeting her. 我想不起来曾见过她。

(辨异) >> remember, recall, remind

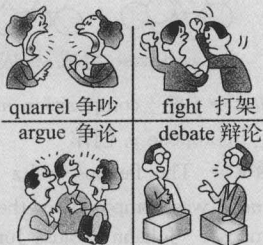
remember 表示“自然而然地想起”;
recall 表示“经过努力后才想起”、“追忆”, 因为 recall 原义为“唤(call)回(re-)”某种记忆。如: I remember her face, but I can't recall where I met her. 我记得她的面孔, 但是想不起在哪儿见过她。remind “使回忆起, 使想起”,

常用 remind sb. of sth./that... 结构。



argue ['ɑ:ɡju:] *vi.* ① 辩论, 争论

② 为反对(或赞成)…而辩论 *vt.* ① 论证, (坚决)主张 ② 劝说, 说服



❖ People generally **quarrel** because they cannot **argue**. 人们通常因为不能辩论而争吵。

(搭配) argue sb. $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{into} \\ \text{out of} \end{array} \right\}$ (doing) sth. 说服某人 $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{做...} \\ \text{不做...} \end{array} \right\}$

They argued me into joining the club. 他们说服我加入了俱乐部。

argument ['ɑ:ɡjumənt] *n.* ① 争论, 争辩 ② 理由, 论据, 论点

(助记) 已知: true 一去 e → truth
易拼: argue 一去 e → argument

(规则) 以 -ue 结尾的词加后缀时, 须去掉 e。

(语境) The professor can hardly find sufficient grounds on which he can base his argument in favour of the new theory. 这位教授几乎找不到足够的论据来作为他赞成这个新理论的依据。

What is the argument of this article?
这篇文章的论点是什么?

Sometimes, when I was pushed into an **argument** on left brain *versus* (相对于) right brain, or nature *versus* nurture (培育), I would instantly fight fiercely on my behalf and all womankind. 有时候, 当我被迫卷入关于左脑对右脑、天性对培育之类的争论时, 我会立即猛烈回应, 为我自己及所有的女同胞辩护。 【CET-4, 2007. 6, 阅读】

(搭配) have an argument with sb. about/on sth. = argue with sb. about/on sth. 与某人就…争论

respectable [ris'pektəbl] *a.* ① 可敬的, 值得尊敬的 ② 体面的, 文雅的

(辨析) respectable, respectful, respective, respected

STEP 1 将 respective 与其他三者区分开来:

respect $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} v. / n. \text{ 尊敬} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{respectable} \\ \text{respected} \\ \text{respectful} \end{array} \right. \\ n. \text{ 着眼点, 方面} \rightarrow \text{respective(?)}$

(1) **respective** [ri'spektiv] [各着眼点 →] *a.* 各自的, 各个的

(a) My husband and I are each going to visit our respective teachers. 我和丈夫各自去看自己的老师。

STEP 2 将 respectful 与剩余二者区分开来:

respect $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} n. \text{ 尊敬} \rightarrow \text{respectful} \\ v. \text{ 尊敬} \rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{respectable} \\ \text{respected} \end{array} \right.$

(2) **respectful** [ri'spektful] [full of respect; 充满敬意或尊敬的 →] *a.* 恭敬的, 尊重的 (= showing respect, 积极主动性的“尊敬他人”的意思)