

Selected Readings of English Speeches

# 英语演讲选读

· 大学英语学习系列教材 ·

*Undergraduate English Series*

□ 耿妍 主编

华中科技出版社

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华中科技大学出版社  
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## 内 容 提 要

本书主要汇集了美国等国家总统中的杰出代表和政治、文学、体育、教育等方面的名人所发表过的演讲,从美国总统大选中的竞选演讲到总统的正式就职和离职演讲,从国家元首关于社会、政治、战争、灾难和教育等发表的重要演讲到世界名人关于经济、文艺和体育等发表的经典演讲。这些演讲语言优美、意味深长,为英语学习者提供了一个回顾历史、了解文化、欣赏语言、学习英语语言和演讲技巧的良好平台。

每篇演讲稿均配有重点词汇和专有名词的详细注释、演讲者的背景介绍、难句和经典语句的翻译、阅读理解,并提供符合演讲题目和相关主题的名人名言(英汉对照),这些注释和补充可帮助读者从多角度详细地了解西方的历史地理、文化传统、风土人情、思维方式和语言表达等知识,对于英语学习者来说是一本提高英语素养的较好的选读教材。

本书适合大学本科生和专科生、研究生、英语爱好者和英语教师使用。

# 前 言

英语演讲语篇是一种非常有价值的学习英语语言用法、历史文化知识和演讲技巧的语言材料。

本书主要汇集了各国元首中的杰出代表和政治、文学、体育、教育等方面的名人所发表过的演讲。全书 40 多篇演讲稿，分为三部分：总统的竞选、就职和告别演讲、国家领导人的重要演讲和名人的著名演讲。

本书的每篇演讲稿均配有：①重点词汇的解释 (WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS)，可以巩固和扩大读者的词汇量；②演讲者的背景介绍 (INTRODUCTION TO THE SPEAKER)，帮助读者了解演讲者的生平和背景；③专有名词的详细注释 (PROPER NAMES)，使读者能比较容易地理解演讲语篇的内容，同时掌握一些地理、历史和文化常识；④难句和经典语句的翻译 (TRANSLATION OF DIFFICULT SENTENCES)，有助于读者理解演讲内容并提高翻译能力和驾驭语言的技巧；⑤阅读理解问题 (CONTENT QUESTIONS)，读者可以通过该项练习检测自己对于篇章内容的理解程度；⑥符合演讲题目和相关主题的名人名言 (英汉对照)，可以提高读者写作和演讲的水平。总之，本书对于英语学习者来说是提高英语素养的一本绝好的选读教材。

本书适合大学本科生和专科生、研究生、英语爱好者和英语教师使用。

欢迎使用这本选读教材的师生提出宝贵的意见和建议，以便我们不断改进。

编 者

2009 年 3 月

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# Presidential Campaign Speeches, Inaugural and Farewell Addresses

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## America's Future Will Be in Your Hands

Ronald Reagan  
(Nov. 3, 1984)

In 3 days this election campaign will be over, and America's future will be in your hands. As you discuss the election with family and friends in your home and neighborhoods, I think there's one thing we can all agree on: We all want to vote for something, not against something. We want to vote for a better America, for a stronger country with our people pulling together; a future of peace, filled with hope and new opportunity, a future where our progress is limited only by our own dreams and determination and where Americans are working because America is working.<sup>(1)</sup>



So, it seems to me the question to be asked is a straightforward one: Which team's record and proposals stand a better chance to enable you and your families to enjoy a strong and successful future? Well, our opponents don't spend much time speaking about their record. And that's understandable. Their record speaks for itself.

After 4 years of controlling the White House and both Houses of Congress, they left America weaker, both at home and abroad. They would have us forget their legacy of an America second-best, double-digit inflation, record taxes and interest rates at home; growing instability and threats to peace abroad. I'd be willing to forget that record, too, if they weren't so bound and determined to give us more of that medicine that made us sick.

As for their new proposals, they differ from their old ones in only one respect: they've promised more. They will spend more, and they will raise your taxes much higher,



the equivalent of \$1 890 per household, more than \$150 per month.

Now, my opponent wants very badly to make you believe his enormous tax increase proposal won't hurt your families. That's what his commercials say. And those commercials are very bit as believable as the ones he ran portraying himself as a person committed to a strong national defense, standing on the deck of a carrier, even though he voted against them, with F-14 fighters, which he also voted against, and beside American enlisted men, whose salary increase he opposed.<sup>(2)</sup>

Our opponents are determined to bring back even more big taxing and spending than before. And if they regain control of this government, Americans may look back on our term as one brief oasis of prosperity in an endless desert of worsening inflation and recession.<sup>(3)</sup>

Yes, their intentions are good. But good intentions aren't good enough. Their policies made America weak before. They would make us weak again today, and even weaker still in the future.

America can do better, much better. And the fact is, America is doing better. The principal difference is, our vision for America will let the eagle soar. Theirs will return us to the days of the sore eagle.<sup>(4)</sup>

We still face great problems, but today our economy is stronger than 4 years ago because we've cut your tax rates, brought inflation and interest rates down, and created 6 million new jobs. And America is more secure, because we're rebuilding our defenses and our alliances to ensure peace through strength.

Today the United States, expansion is leading the world into recovery, and that contributes to a safer, more prosperous world. Respect for America and confidence in America are rising again. And unlike 4 years ago, the United States is deterring, the Soviets aren't advancing, and all this, too, contributes to a safer world and a better future.

We've made a good start, but it's only a start. We want to lower your tax rates further to create more jobs and opportunities for every American with nobody left behind. And nobody left behind means we must continue our efforts to modernize our older industries and to rebuild our inner cities and distressed areas of America, so every American who wants a job can find a job.<sup>(5)</sup>

We've sponsored enterprise zone legislation, to encourage business development and creation of jobs in distressed areas. But from day one, our enterprise zone proposal has been held hostage by the House leadership, the very people who act as if they expect black and Hispanic Americans to march in lockstep with the Democratic Party.<sup>(6)</sup>

I can assure all of you who want the opportunity to begin climbing the economic ladder, to build a better life: if you give us your support, we will never take your votes for

granted.

I believe Americans are coming together with new strength, confidence, spirit, and unity. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for allowing me the honor of serving you these past 4 years. I urge you to vote on Tuesday, and I hope you'll cast your votes for our team, our entire team, so we can make even greater progress in building a strong, secure future of opportunity for all of you.

Until next week, thanks for listening. God bless you.

## **WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS**

- campaign [kæm'peɪn] *n.* 竞选活动  
opportunity [ɒpə'tju:nɪti] *n.* 机会, 时机  
determination [dɪ'tɜ:mɪ'neɪʃn] *n.* 决心, 决意, 坚决  
straightforward [ˌstreɪt'fɔ:wəd] *a.* 坦率的, 简单的, 易懂的  
opponent [ə'pəʊnənt] *n.* 对手, 反对者  
legacy ['legəsi] *n.* 遗赠(物), 遗产  
second-best ['sekənd'best] *a.* 第二好的  
double-digit ['dʌbl'dɪdʒɪt] *a.* 两位数的  
inflation [ɪn'fleɪʃn] *n.* 通货膨胀, (物价)暴涨  
instability [ˌɪnstə'bɪləti] *n.* 不稳定性  
equivalent [i'kwɪvələnt] *n.* 等价物, 相等物  
commercial [kə'mɜ:ʃl] *n.* (广播、电视的)广告  
portray [pɔ:'treɪ] *v.* 画, 描绘, 描写  
carrier ['kæriə(r)] *n.* 运载工具, 航空母舰  
enlist [ɪn'list] *v.* 征募, 征召, 参军  
oasis [əu'eɪsɪs] *n.* (沙漠中的)绿洲, 舒适的地方, 避难地  
prosperity [prɒ'sperəti] *n.* 繁荣  
recession [rɪ'seʃn] *n.* 不景气, 工商业衰退期  
alliance [ə'laɪəns] *n.* 联盟, 联合  
confidence ['kɒnfɪdəns] *n.* 信任, 信赖, 信心  
deter [dɪ'tɜ:] *v.* 阻止, 阻碍, 威慑  
sponsor ['spɒnsə] *v.* 发起, 主办, 赞助  
enterprise ['entəpraɪz] *n.* 企业, 事业, 计划  
legislation [ˌledʒɪs'leɪʃn] *n.* 立法, 法律的制定(或通过)  
hostage ['hɒstɪdʒ] *n.* 抵押品, 被控物, 制约物  
leadership ['li:dəʃɪp] *n.* 领导能力, 领导阶层

lockstep ['lɒkstep] *n.* 前后紧接, 步伐一致

assure [ə'ʃʊə] *v.* 保证, 确信, 使放心

pull together 齐心协力

speak for itself 不言而喻

at home and abroad 在国内外

look back 回忆

distressed area 贫困地区, 失业率高的地区

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SPEAKER

罗纳德·威尔逊·里根(1911—2004年)是美国第40任总统(1981—1989年), 第33任加利福尼亚州州长(1967—1975年)。里根生于美国伊利诺伊州, 20世纪30年代移居加利福尼亚洛杉矶, 开始影视演员的生涯, 曾担任美国影视演员协会的领导以及电视节目主持人。

里根早年参加民主党。1962年, 他改投共和党。1968年和1976年两次争取共和党总统候选人的提名, 但均未成功。1980年再次争取, 被提名, 并在竞选中获胜。

执政期间, 里根提出政治改革计划及新经济政策, 主张缩减政府规模和权力, 提倡经济自由主义哲学体系, 但此项政策收效如何颇受争议。

1984年, 里根竞选连任成功。其第二次任职期间迎来了冷战的结束, 同时也遭遇了包括伊朗军售事件在内的一系列政治丑闻。

1989年里根辞职。1994年, 里根向公众宣布, 他患了老年痴呆症。2004年, 里根病逝, 享年93岁。里根在美国前总统公众认可度排名中高居前列。

## PROPER NAMES

**White House** 白宫, 美国总统官邸, 位于美国首都华盛顿。1792年始建, 从1800年以后成为历届总统的官邸。1902年, 美国总统罗斯福首先使用“白宫”一词, 后来它成为美国政府的代名词。

**Houses of Congress** 美国国会两院(参议院和众议院)。国会是最高立法机构, 由参、众两院组成。两院议员由各州选民直接选举产生。参议员每州2名, 共100名, 任期6年, 每两年改选1/3。众议员按各州的人口比例分配名额选出, 共435名, 任期2年, 期满全部改选。两院议员均可连任, 任期不限。参、众议员均系专职, 不得兼任政府职务。

**Democratic Party** 民主党, 美国两大政党之一, 成立于1791年, 当时称共和党, 1794年改称民主共和党, 又称反联邦党, 后该党分裂。杰克逊派于1828年建立民主党。值得一提的是, 美国民主党没有固定党员, 党籍自由。党员总数按本党总统

候选人投票的结果计算。美国民主党以驴的形象作为标志，因此该党与以大象为标志的共和党的竞争被称为“驴象之争”。美国民主党每 4 年召开一次全国代表大会，确定本党总统和副总统候选人，制定竞选纲领。1831 年，该党第一次全国代表大会召开，选出总统和副总统候选人。这也是美国历史上党派的第一个全国性代表大会。1840 年，该党召开全国第三次代表大会，正式定名为民主党。

**F-14 fighter** F-14 战斗机。F-14 是根据美国海军 20 世纪 70 年代至 80 年代舰队防空和护航的要求，由格鲁曼公司研制的双座超音速多用途舰载战斗机，用来替换海军的 F-4 战斗机。昵称为 Tomcat (汤姆猫) 的 F-14 雄猫式战斗机是美国海军战斗机群中最受军机迷喜爱的机种，此型战斗机除了超酷绝美的造型外，更有强大的战斗力。F-14 雄猫式战斗机所挂载的不死鸟导弹，是让“决胜于千里之外”的战略名句彻底实现的代表性武器。

**Hispanic American** 拉丁美裔人(亦称为西班牙裔或西语裔)，指虽然居住在美国，但却是在西班牙出生，或在讲西班牙语的或其文化渊源于西班牙的拉美国家出生的人。

## TRANSLATION OF DIFFICULT SENTENCES

1. 我们投票是为了一个更美好的美国、一个众志成城的更强盛的国家、一个充满希望和机遇的和平的未来、一个按照我们自己的梦想和意志发展的未来、一个因为美国行美国人民也行的未来。
2. 这些宣传广告的可信度，同他把自己描绘成一个支持强大国防的人的宣传广告的可信度一样：他站在航空母舰的甲板上，却投票反对建造；他站在 F-14 战斗机旁，却也投票反对建造；他站在美国士兵身边，却反对增加其军饷。
3. 如果他们重新掌控政府，那么美国人民在回顾这段任期时，就会把它看作是恶化的通货膨胀和经济衰退的漫漫沙漠中的短暂的繁荣绿洲。
4. 最主要的不同之处就是：我们的梦想会让美国之鹰翱翔，而他们的梦想将把我们带回到美国之鹰饱受伤痛的年代。
5. 不能落下任何一个人就意味着我们必须继续尽力实现老工业的现代化，重建我们的内陆城市 and 美国的贫困地区，这样，每一个想要工作的美国人才能找到工作。
6. 但是从第一天起，我们的企业特区提议就成为国会的领导层制约我们的法宝，也正是这些人，似乎还期望美国黑人和西班牙裔美国人能与民主党步伐一致呢。

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

1. What's the legacy of Ronald Reagan team's opponents?

2. Why America is more secure according Ronald Reagan's speech?
3. What has been held hostage by the House leadership?
4. What can Ronald Reagan assure at the end of his speech?

*People who live the best are not those who live the longest but those who can experience the life most.*

活得最好的人不是那些最长寿的人，而是那些最能感受生活的人。

## **Republican National Convention Acceptance Address (excerpted)**

George H. Bush  
(Aug. 18, 1988)

I accept your nomination for President. I mean to run hard, to fight hard, to stand on the issues—and I mean to win.

There are a lot of great stories in politics about the underdog winning—and this is going to be one of them.

Many of you have asked, “When will this campaign really begin?” I have come to this hall to tell you, and tell America: tonight is the night.



But now you must see me for what I am: the Republican candidate for President of the United States. And now I turn to the American people to share my hopes and intentions, and why—and where—I wish to lead.

...

After all, the facts are on our side.

I seek the presidency for a single purpose, a purpose that has motivated millions of Americans across the years and the ocean voyages. I seek the presidency to build a better America. It is that simple—and that big.

I am a man who sees life in terms of missions—missions defined and missions completed. When I was a torpedo bomber pilot they defined the mission for us. Before we took off we all understood that no matter what, you try to reach the target. There have been other missions for me—Congress, China, the CIA. But I am here tonight—and I am your candidate—because the most important work of my life is to complete the mission we started in 1980. How do we complete it?

...

Eight years ago I stood here with Ronald Reagan and promised, together, to break with the past and return America to her greatness. Eight years later look at what the American people have produced: the highest level of economic growth in our entire history—and the lowest level of world tensions in more than fifty years.

Someday this isn't an election about ideology; it's an election about competence. Well, it's nice of them to want to play on our field. But this election isn't only about

competence, for competence is a narrow ideal. Competence makes the trains run on time but doesn't know where they're going. Competence is the creed of the technocrat who makes sure the gears mesh but doesn't for a second understand the magic of the machine.<sup>(1)</sup>

The truth is, this election is about the beliefs we share, the values we honor, the principles we hold dear.

Consider the size of our triumph: a record high percentage of Americans with jobs, a record high rate of new business, a record high rate of real personal income.

Inflation was 12 percent when we came in. We got it down to four. Interest rates were more than 21. We cut them in half. Unemployment was up and climbing, now it's the lowest in 14 years.

We've created seventeen million new jobs in the past five years—more than twice as many as Europe and Japan combined. And they're good jobs. The majority of them created in the past six years paid an average of more than \$22 000 a year. Someone best take "A Message to Michael": tell him we've been creating good jobs at good wages. The fact is, they talk—we deliver, they promise—we perform.<sup>(2)</sup>

There're millions of young Americans in their 20's who barely remember the days of gas lines and unemployment lines. Now they're marrying and starting careers. To those young people I say: "You have the opportunity you deserve—and I'm not going to let them take it away from you."

There are millions of older Americans who were brutalized by inflation. We arrested it—and we're not going to let it out on furlough. We're going to keep the social security trust fund sound, and out of reach of the big spenders.<sup>(3)</sup> To America's elderly I say, "Once again you have the security that is your right—and I'm not going to let them take it away from you."

...

But let's be frank. Things aren't perfect in this country. There are people who haven't tasted the fruit of the expansion. I've talked to farmers about the bills they can't pay. I've been to the factories that feel the strain of change. I've seen the urban children who play amidst the shattered glass and shattered lives. And there are the homeless. And you know, it doesn't do any good to debate endlessly which policy mistake of the 70's is responsible. They're there. We have to help them.

But what we must remember if we are to be responsible—and compassionate—is that economic growth is the key to our endeavors.

...

Can we do it? Of course we can. We know how. We've done it. If we continue to

grow at our current rate, we will be able to produce 30 million jobs in the next eight years. We will do it—by maintaining our commitment to free and fair trade, by keeping government spending down, and by keeping taxes down.

Our economic life is not the only test of our success. One issue overwhelms all the others, and that is the issue of peace.<sup>(4)</sup>

Look at the world on this bright August night. The spirit of Democracy is sweeping the Pacific Rim. China feels the winds of change. New democracies assert themselves in South America. One by one the unfree places fall, not to the force of arms but to the force of an idea: freedom works.

We have a new relationship with the Soviet Union. The INF Treaty—the beginning of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan—the beginning of the end of the Soviet proxy war in Angola, and with it the independence of Namibia. Iran and Iraq move toward peace.

It is a watershed.

It is no accident.

It happened when we acted on the ancient knowledge that strength and clarity lead to peace, weakness and ambivalence lead to war. Weakness tempts aggressors. Strength stops them. I will not allow this country to be made weak again.

The tremors in the Soviet world continue. The hard earth there has not yet settled. Perhaps what is happening will change our world forever. Perhaps not. A prudent skepticism is in order. And so is hope. Either way, we're in an unprecedented position to change the nature of our relationship. Not by preemptive concession—but by keeping our strength. Not by yielding up defense systems with nothing won in return—but by hard cool engagement in the tug and pull of diplomacy.<sup>(5)</sup>

My life has been lived in the shadow of war—I almost lost my life in one.

I hate war. I love peace. We have peace.

And I am not going to let anyone take it away from us.

Our economy is strong but not invulnerable, and the peace is broad but can be broken. And now we must decide. We will surely have change this year, but will it be change that moves us forward? Or change that risks retreat?

In 1940, when I was barely more than a boy, Franklin Roosevelt said we shouldn't change horses in midstream.

My friends, these days the world moves even more quickly, and now, after two great terms, a switch will be made. But when you have to change horses in midstream, doesn't it make sense to switch to the one who's going the same way?

...

I want a drug-free America—and this will not be easy to achieve. But I want to enlist



the help of some people who are rarely included. Tonight I challenge the young people of our country to shut down the drug dealers around the world. Unite with us, work with us. Tell them what you think of people who underwrite the dealers who put poison in our society. And while you're doing that, my administration will be telling the dealers: whatever we have to do we'll do, but your day is over, you're history.

I am going to do whatever it takes to make sure the disabled are included in the mainstream. For too long they've been left out. But they're not going to be left out anymore.

I am going to stop ocean dumping. Our beaches should not be garbage dumps and our harbor should not be cesspools. I am going to have the FBI trace the medical wastes and we are going to punish the people who dump those infected needles into our oceans, lakes and rivers. And we must clean the air. We must reduce the harm done by acid rain.

I will put incentives back into the domestic energy industry, for I know from personal experience there is no security for the United States in further dependence on foreign oil.<sup>(6)</sup>

In foreign affairs I will continue our policy of peace through strength. I will move toward further cuts in the strategic and conventional arsenals of both the United States and the Soviet Union. I will modernize and preserve our technological edge. I will ban chemical and biological weapons from the face of the earth. And I intend to speak for freedom, stand for freedom, and be a patient friend to anyone, east or west, who will fight for freedom.

...

A president must be many things.

He must be a shrewd protector of America's interests; and he must be an idealist who leads those who move for a freer and more democratic planet.

He must see to it that government intrudes as little as possible in the lives of the people; and yet remember that it is the nation's character.

And he must be able to define—and lead—a mission.<sup>(7)</sup>

...

I will keep America moving forward, always forward—for a better America, for an endless enduring dream and a thousand points of light.<sup>(8)</sup>

That is my mission. And I will complete it.

Thank you. God bless you.