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Reading Course

助你掌握现代实用英语 步入报刊新闻自如境界

主 编 ⊙ 端木义万 赵 虹



美英报刊 阅读教程

Reading Course in American &
British News Publications

(普及本) (修订本)



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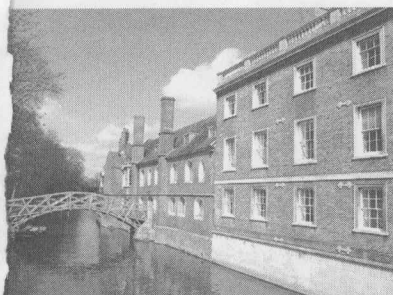
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前 言

我所编著的《美英报刊阅读教程》，承蒙广大读者厚爱，自 1994 年出版以来，到 2002 年已连续印刷 20 次。近些年来，我又根据不同类别和不同层次大学生的需求编著了《美英报刊阅读教程》高级本、中级本和普及本，《大学英语外报外刊阅读教程》以及《21 世纪报大学英语报刊阅读教程》。（详情请见封底“主编主要著作介绍”）

笔者从事高校英语报刊教学已有 48 年，多年的教学实践证明，英语报刊是十分理想的教学资料。

报刊具有贴近时代、贴近大众、贴近现实、贴近生活的特点。作为教学资料，英语报刊具有以下四点显著优势：内容新颖，语言现代，资料丰富，词语实用。

伴随我国国际交流的迅猛增加，英语报刊课程的重要性日趋突出，越来越多的高校为英语专业和非英语专业学生开设了这门课程。

教育部对英语报刊教学给予高度重视。高校英语专业教学大纲的四、六、八级阅读项目都明确地将阅读英美报刊的水平作为评定阅读能力的标准。

教育部高等教育司印发的《大学英语课程教学要求》也对英语报刊阅读能力明确地提出了三个层次的要求。其中较高要求和更高要求都是针对外报外刊阅读能力提出的。

《美英报刊阅读教程（普及本）》是特别为大学英语中高级水平和英语专业初级水平的学生选编的教材。它是一本英语报刊阅读入门教材。新版《普及本》除保留了原教材中少量精华文章之外，大部分采用的是近几年刊登的文章。

这是一本“能力型”的教材。选材坚持的标准是：题材覆盖面广，文章内容典型，语言质量上乘，知识含量丰富，使用时效较长。

为了突出能力培养的特点，本书每篇课文之后共设七个栏目：

1. 课文生词(New Words)
2. 知识介绍(Background Information)
3. 难点注释(Notes to the Text)
4. 语言简说(Language Features)
5. 内容分析(Analysis of the Content)
6. 问题思考(Questions on the Article)
7. 话题讨论(Topics for Discussion)

本教材除保留一般英语报刊教材所设的“课文生词”、“难点注释”和“问题思考”栏目外，还增设了“知识介绍”、“语言简说”、“内容分析”和“话题讨论”四个栏目。

“知识介绍”栏目根据课文内容，简明系统地提供文章相关专题的内容，旨在拓宽读者

的社会文化和科技等方面的知识。“语言简说”栏目结合课文,简单扼要地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报外刊语言的规律和特点。这两个栏目有助学生构建和丰富外报外刊语言与文化的认知结构,引导他们步入轻松自如阅读英语报刊的理想境界。

这是一本体现媒介素养教育理念的教材。为了帮助学生提高媒介素养,教材在“语言简说”栏目中系统介绍西方常见报刊特色、报刊语言的一般规律以及外报外刊中的意识形态和表现。“内容分析”栏目提供针对课文内容和语言的多项选择练习,旨在帮助学生培养深入理解、分析推断和综合归纳的能力。“话题讨论”栏目提供与课文内容相关的、有一定深度的宏观讨论题,意在培养学生的思辨能力和表述能力,增加学生的口头交际实践机会。

为了减轻授课老师的备课负担,本书配有多媒体教学课件,提供背景介绍、版面图片、难点解释、习题答案和文章提纲。

本书凝结着许多人的深情厚谊和汗水心血。高校英语报刊教学界的许多同仁和我的博士生、硕士生们为此书献计献策。我的夫人郭荣娣同志为我创造理想的工作环境,全力保障我的教学和科研。在此,谨向为此书作出贡献的所有人士致以诚挚、深切的谢意。

还有一点需要说明:教材中有的文章个别地方值得商榷。笔者不揣鄙陋,提出修改拙见。为表示对原文作者的尊重,我保留原文用词,而在认为有问题的用词之后的括号内用黑体字标出修改建议,以供老师和读者们鉴别选择。

由于功力不深、锤炼不足,书中定有不少疏漏和错误,竭诚欢迎并殷切期望高校英语教师和广大读者提供宝贵意见。

端木义万

2013年9月28日

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Generation Y's Great Expectations¹

By Kimberly Palmer

In many ways, PETE MELE, a 28-year-old father of two in Queens, N. Y., represents his generation. After he graduated from college with a small amount of debt and got married, he says, he hit a brick wall.² Mele and his wife would like to buy a house eventually, but even if they manage to come up with a \$20,000 down payment³, he says the mortgage would be at least double the rent of their three-bedroom apartment: "At this rate, we'll never have a house—it's just fiscally impossible. So I don't know what to do."

These days, 20-somethings are not just struggling to pay off student loan debt and coping with rising health insurance costs. They're also fighting to hang on to their jobs. A recent survey by the nonprofit Qvisory⁴ found that roughly 1 in 5 young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 is unemployed, compared with a 7 percent unemployment rate for those over age 30. Twenty-somethings are also graduating from college with more debt than their predecessors did and taking jobs that don't always come with health insurance. Half of those surveyed by Qvisory said they've lost health insurance coverage during the past five years, and 2 in 5 said they have skipped meals to save money. "America's younger generation is in jeopardy of not just doing worse than their parents but of spending decades digging themselves out of debt," says Gina Glantz, treasurer at Qvisory.

Living well. But are today's 20- and 30-somethings much worse off than their parents and grandparents? Although the challenges facing young people are certainly real, part of the problem is their overblown expectations. In a recent story published in the online magazine *Slate*⁵, Jennifer, 29, owner of a two-bedroom condo with her husband, worried that she won't be able to have children for at least a decade because she and her husband can't afford to buy a house. Yet in some countries, a two-bedroom condo is considered the height of luxury.⁶ The overall rise in homeownership rates, from 55 percent of American households in 1950 to 68 percent today, has probably contributed to the idea that owning a house is an essential part of becoming an adult (and perhaps having children).

Beth Kobliner, author of *Get a Financial Life: Personal Finance in Your Twenties and Thirties*, says she thinks this group is slowly adjusting its expectations, but today's 20-somethings grew up in a time when wealth across the board appeared to be

expanding and “People had inflated expectations of what living well means⁷,” she says. It’s likely that their parents’ home values rose along with their investments.

Johanna Miller, 31, of College Park, Md⁸, recently commented on the Alpha Consumer blog⁹ (www.usnews.com/alpha) that she feels lucky because a scholarship allowed her to avoid student debt and she has a relatively secure job as an editor for an academic publication. Still, she can’t help but think about the fact that her parents—a teacher and a civil engineer¹⁰—could afford much more early in life. By her age, they already owned a three-bedroom house on 7 acres. Plus, her mom was able to take time off from work to care for her and her brother. “Those things seem far off for many people my age,” Miller says.¹¹

Jae Jimenez, a 20-something commenter from Brooklyn, N.Y.¹², sees things differently. He wrote that he and his wife are enjoying their frugal lifestyle and that they live with their daughter in a two-bedroom apartment. “We get so tired of hearing people say they have to live in a house once they get married or have a kid. Yes, it would be nice, but it’s a luxury ... That’s ridiculous to have such crazy expectations, especially right now,” he wrote.

Gen X-ers are often quick to point out that their younger counterparts are partly to blame for the financial straits they find themselves in.¹³ “I see too many young people choosing to live above their means and on credit¹⁴,” says Nancy Thomas McInnes, 46, a teacher in Gainesville, Fla., who is also a volunteer facilitator for a financial education class. McInnes, an older member of Generation X, learned how to manage her money the hard way: Although the only debt she and her husband now carry is their mortgage, they once had roughly \$18,000 in credit card debt. “We cringed every time we walked to our mailbox. The fear of what bill might be inside was always present,” she says. “Now we use just debit cards and live within our means.”¹⁵ A huge burden has been lifted from our shoulders.”

Others describe inventive ways of making ends meet.¹⁶ Judith Copeland, 42, a Web programming student in Nashville¹⁷, shares a house with her in-laws because she and her husband—who works two jobs—couldn’t afford to live on their own with their two children. That kind of creativity might not be ideal, but sometimes it’s necessary, as today’s 20-somethings are painfully discovering.

From *U. S. News & World Report*, July 2009



I. New Words

blog

[blog] *n.* 网络日志, 博客

condo

['kɒndəʊ] = condominium *n.* [美口] 分套购置的公寓

cringe	[krɪndʒ] v. to move back, especially with fear
downpayment	['daʊnpeɪmənt] n. 定金
facilitator	[fə'sɪlɪteɪtə] n. a person who helps an activity to go forward by giving advice
fiscally	['fɪskəli] adv. 财务方面, 金钱方面
frugal	['fru:ɡəl] n. careful in the use of money
homeownership	['həʊmɔʊnəʃɪp] n. 自己拥有住房
jeopardy	['dʒepədi] n. in ~ in a dangerous position
mortgage	['mɔ:ɡɪdʒ] n. 抵押贷款, 按揭
non-profit	['nɒn'prɒfɪt] adj. 非营利的
overall	['əʊvərɔ:l] adj. general
overblown	['əʊvə'bləʊn] adj. that is made to seem larger than it really is
predecessor	['pri:disəsə] n. 前辈
skip	[skɪp] v. to not do sth. that you usually do or should do
strait	[streɪt] n. ~s a very different situation especially because of lack of money
twenty-something	n. a person between 20 and 30 years old
X-er	['eksə] n. 无名代人



II. Background Information

内战后的几代人

美国内战后的几代人分别是: 传教士一代 (Missionary Generation)、迷惘的一代 (Lost Generation)、大兵的一代 (G. I. Generation)、沉默的一代 (Silent Generation)、婴儿潮代 (Baby-boom Generation)、第十三代 (Thirteenth Generation) 和千禧代 (Millennial Generation)。他们身上深深地打上了各个时期的烙印, 了解他们有助于认清内战后美国社会的演变轨迹和现代美国社会纷繁交错的景象。

1. 传教士一代 (1860—1882 年出生)

美国内战摧毁了阻碍社会经济发展的南方奴隶制度, 促进了北方大资产阶级和大工业阶级的发展。生活水平的提高使这代人受到了良好的教育。这代人有着强烈的使命感。他们在国内展开禁酒、戒毒和女权运动, 在国外积极传播基督教。

2. 迷惘的一代 (1883—1900 年出生)

这代人出生、成长于世纪之交, 正逢美国各种价值观念交织的时代。在他们的成长过程中, 出现了一些无法解释的灾难 (如旧金山大地震、“泰坦尼克号”客轮沉没、美国大流感)。在他们成年不久后, 第一次世界大战爆发。战争冷酷无情, 彻底打破了他们心中的理想, 使他们对现实深感失望和迷惘。

3. 大兵的一代 (1901—1924 年出生)

1900 年是美国代际分水岭。在这之后出生的孩子明显受到更多的关爱和照顾。第

二次世界大战锻炼了他们的意志,战争的胜利又使他们深感自豪。这一代人对自己信心十足,有较强的责任感,他们中共产生了7位美国总统,从肯尼迪到布什,控制白宫长达30年。

4. 沉默的一代(1925—1944年出生)

这一代人生活在历史的夹缝中。“要想成为二战英雄,出生得太晚,而要想成为越战时期学生激进分子,又出生得太早。”这代人从小就被培养得循规蹈矩、唯命是从。他们中大多数人不愿意从政,对时事不太关心。

5. 婴儿潮代(1945—1964年出生)

二战后美国出现生育高峰,这一代人共有7600万。他们被称作“婴儿潮代”,还常常被称为“以自我为中心的一代”、“动辄抗议的一代”或“摇滚的一代”。这一代人普遍藐视父辈们的社会、宗教、道德和政治价值观。20世纪60年代有许多人参加反越战运动,还有很多人愤世嫉俗,听摇滚乐,吸大麻,成为嬉皮士。20世纪80年代,这代人中又有一批人成为雅皮士。他们注重自我,追求享受。

6. 第十三代(1965—1981年出生)

1964—1974年是美国生育低谷期,出生人口总共只有4600万。因此,第十三代人又常被称作“低谷代”(Babybust Generation)。此外,还有人称这代人为“后代人”(Posters,意指“婴儿潮”后出生的一代),“逃避责任的人”(Slackers)。小说家道格拉斯·库普兰(Douglas Coupland)称这一代人为“无名代”(Generation X)。这个称呼多少带点贬义,因此也引起了这代人的不满。

有的社会学家把第十三代时间划得宽,把其定位为1961—1981年出生的人。若按这一事件域计算,第十三代人多达7900万。这一代人是在毒品泛滥、离婚频频、经济吃紧的情形中长大的,他们更善于理财,珍惜金钱。

7. 千禧代(1982—2000年出生)

由于这一代人一般都是X代人的子女,按字母顺序他们被称作“Y代”(Generation Y)。这代人擅长使用网络,故常被称为“网络代”(Net Generation)。此外,由于这代人按更宽泛的时间段的统计,数量为7600万,与婴儿潮代相同,并且20世纪80年代美国出生率出现高潮,所以他们还被称作“回声潮代人”(Echo Boomers)。



III. Notes to the Text

1. Generation Y's Great Expectations: Y代人的高期望(Generation Y—also known as the Millennial Generation and the Net Generation, the demographic group following Generation X, approximately 76 million in the US)

2. ...he hit a brick wall. 他遇到无法逾越的障碍。(hit a brick wall—to be unable to make any progress because there is a difficulty that stops you)

3. ...come up with a \$20,000 down payment: 提供2万美元定金(come up with a sum of money—to manage to produce a sum of money)

4. Qvisory: a free nonprofit online advisory organization founded by the Rockefeller Foundation to develop and distribute health, savings, and debt products to support the economic needs of young Americans ages 18 and 34

5. Slate: an English language online current affairs and culture magazine created in 1996, now owned by the Washington Post Company

6. ...a two-bedroom condo is considered the height of luxury. 有两居室公寓套房被认为奢侈透顶。

7. People had inflated expectations of what living well means. 人们对好日子的期望过高。(inflated—increased to a level that is falsely high)

8. College Park, Md: 马里兰州大学公园市

9. the Alpha Consumer blog: (《美国新闻与世界报道》杂志网站)阿尔法消费博客 (Alpha consumer—someone that plays a key role in connecting with the concept behind a product, then adopting that product and validating it for the rest of society)

10. civil engineer: 土木工程师

11. “Those things seem far off for many people my age,” Miller says. 米勒说：“这些东西对我这个年龄的许多人来说似乎遥不可及。”

12. Brooklyn, N.Y.: 纽约市布鲁克林区(纽约人口最多的区)

13. Gen X-ers are often quick to point out that their younger counterparts are partly to blame for the financial straits they find themselves in. 无名代人常常迫不及待地指出比他们年轻的一代人对其自身的财务困境要负部分责任。(straits—a very difficult situation)

14. live above their means and on credit: 入不敷出, 靠赊账生活

15. Now we use just debit cards and live within our means. 现在我们只用借记卡, 量入为出。(debit card—a small plastic card which is used instead of money or a cheque to pay goods and services from shops, the cost is taken directly from the user's bank account)

16. Others describe inventive ways of making ends meet. 其他人介绍了维持生计的富有创意的方法。

17. a web programming student in Nashville: 纳什维尔市网络编程专业学生 (Nashville—田纳西州首府, 美国乡村摇滚乐发源地)



IV. Language Features

报刊英语总体特色

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(Mass Media), 写作必须适合广大读者的水平, 语言必须通俗易懂。报业十

分珍惜版面,读者看报珍惜时间,这就迫使新闻写作人员养成文字简洁的风格。

报刊面临电视、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。

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,避免使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的特点了解不够。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、精炼句式。较常见的有前置定语、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。新闻刊物不仅是报道新闻的媒介,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。新闻报道结构有其自身特色,报刊中的许多词语具有特定文化内涵。外报外刊的语言蕴含着西方价值观念和意识形态。不了解这些情况,便会产生理解障碍或被误导。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,结合每篇课文的具体情况,逐一进行介绍。



V. Analysis of the Content

1. The meaning of the word “means” in the sentence “I see too many young people choosing to live above their means and on credit.” (Para. 7) is _____.
 - A. an action
 - B. a way of doing things
 - C. the money a person has
 - D. a quality a person possesses
2. The author's list of challenges for Generation Y does NOT include _____.
 - A. keeping up with fast development of technology
 - B. coping with rising health insurance costs
 - C. struggling to pay off student loans
 - D. fighting to hang on to their jobs
3. According to the article, which of the following is X-ers' trait?
 - A. living within their means
 - B. knowing how to make money through investments
 - C. taking good care of their families
 - D. active participation in community activities
4. Which of the following statements is FALSE about America's 20-somethings?
 - A. Many of them have overblown expectations.

- B. Many of them consider homeownership an essential part of becoming an adult or having a kid.
- C. Many of them live beyond their means.
- D. Their unemployment rate is about 10 percent.
5. The author's overall attitude to Generation Y is _____.
A. sympathetic B. critical C. objective D. unknown



VI. Questions on the Article

1. What was the problem facing Pete Mele and his wife?
2. How is the job situation for young adults?
3. What does the survey show about the hard life of those young adults?
4. What is the problem with Jennifer?
5. According to the article, what has probably contributed to the idea that owning a house is an essential part of an adult?
6. What difference exists between Jae Jimenez and his peers?
7. To the mind of Gen X-ers, who are partly to blame for Generation Y's financial straits? Why?
8. What is Judith Copeland's way of making ends meet?



VII. Topics for Discussion

1. Are Generation Y's expectations overblown?
2. Is owning a house or an apartment an essential part of getting married or becoming parents?

2

A Population's Assimilation

Will the next generation of Hispanics¹ be part of the American melting pot²?

By Will Sullivan

Good Friday is meant to be a reflection on death, but new life was the order of the day at St. Anthony of Padua's Way of the Cross procession.³ More than a thousand predominantly Latino onlookers lined the streets for the Spanish-language ceremony, whose cast of over a hundred wound through several blocks of Falls Church, Va.⁴ But even in the large crowd, the number of baby strollers⁵ weaving through the throng stood out.

President Bush was back on the US-Mexico border last week, pushing for immigration reform and renewing the debate about the booming Hispanic influx. But researchers are increasingly turning their attention to second-generation Hispanics, whose US birth automatically makes them citizens. As many in the second generation approach adulthood, they will be the ones who begin to assuage or aggravate concerns about how schools, the economy, and the culture will fare in an increasingly Latino America. The data so far reveal a population that is moving forward but one with significant ground to cover as well.⁶

The demographics are changing rapidly. While Hispanics made up less than 15 percent of the population in 2005, the Census Bureau⁷ predicts they will be a quarter of the country by 2050. The Hispanic population is expected to jump from 42 million to over 100 million, making up nearly half of the nation's total projected growth during that time.

Births. Immigration, both legal and illegal, is an important component of that growth. But native births—spurred by a high, though declining, Hispanic birthrate—have now topped immigration as the largest driver of the population surge. The median second-generation Latino is still in his or her early teens, and children are rapidly supplanting adults as the face of the Hispanic boom.⁸ “We do about 70 percent of our baptisms in Spanish, even though only about 35 percent of our parish is Hispanic,” says the Rev. Kevin Walsh, the pastor at St. Philip Roman Catholic parish in Falls Church.

The trend has caused plenty of teeth-gnashing.⁹ In his 2004 book *Who Are We?*