

# 高职通识教育 英语阅读 教程

English Reading Course for Vocational General Education

李 凯 主编



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# PREFACE

## 前 言

通识教育是关注人的生活、道德、情感和理智的和谐发展的教育。其目标是在多元化的社会中，为受教育者提供不同的知识和价值观。语言教学具有两大功能：工具功能和整体培养功能。英语不仅仅是一门国际化的语言，更是交流的工具和文化的载体。高职英语课程教学的目的是：在加强英语语言基础知识学习和基本技能训练的同时，培养学生实际使用英语进行交际的能力。在通识教育视域观下构建语言基础知识学习与文化信息浸润相结合的英语课程体系，通过语言学习，了解多种全新文化，了解语言及其内涵，培养多元化文化观念，提升跨文化交际能力。高职英语教学应融入通识教育理念：在教学中以英语语言为媒介，帮助学生获取语言文化的通识性知识，培养学生跨文化交际意识和交流能力。

本教材是陕西省教育厅 2017 年度高等教育教学改革研究重点项目“高职通识教课程知识体系构建研究与实践”（项目编号：17GZ002）、杨凌职业技术学院教学质量工程项目“高职应用英语课程建设与改革”等课题的阶段性研究成果之一。

### 一、编写理念

《高职通识教育英语阅读教程》是一本阅读教材，引导学生以语言为切入点，通过大量阅读和语言实践，接触不同的文化现象，了解不同的学科知识，激发学生对不同领域的求知欲，实现通识教育的目的。

本教材在内容的选取上包含了人文知识、自然科学及社会问题等三大部分，共 16 个单元。每个单元包括阅读、写作及实践活动三个模块，并附有视频：

#### Part One Reading Comprehension（阅读模块）

每个单元设计 2 篇阅读文章，帮助学生提高阅读理解能力，获取语言文化信息，培养跨文化交际意识与能力，实现通识教育的目标。

## Part Two Writing (写作模块)

每个单元设计一个写作训练，紧扣本单元主题，在给出有用句型和文章结构基础上，引导学生完成相关主题写作，进一步加深对主题内容的理解，培养学生的写作能力。

## Part Three Follow-up Activity (活动模块)

每个单元结合主题设计 1--2 个语言实践活动，提升学生口语表达能力。

每个单元还配有与主题相关的视频，对单元内容学习进行补充和拓展。

## Video watching 视频拓展

每个单元都配有与该单元主题相关的英文小视频，学生可以通过扫码进行视听拓展学习。

## 二、教材特色

《高职通识教育英语阅读教程》是一本基于信息化教学的阅读教材。从教学内容上体现通识教育特色。大量阅读材料可以帮助学生构建人文知识体系，培养跨文化交际意识，提升人文综合素养能力。通过听、说、读、写、译的训练，引导学生在实践活动中学以致用，实现对学生通识能力的培养。

## 三、编写团队

本教材由杨凌职业技术学院英语教学团队编写完成。所有编写人员均富有丰富的教学经验。本教材由李凯担任主编，负责教材的设计、统稿工作，并参与了第四、五、六、九、十、十一、十一等 6 个单元内容的编写；付瑞阳编写了第二、十二、十三、十五等 4 个单元；何憬编写了第一、三、十四、十六等 4 个单元；雷静编写了第七、八、等 2 个单元；任秋会负责教材的审稿工作，周继慧、李鑫、黄娜、朱祥、张银笑、黄美蓉、闫娟、王丽、黎会会等参与了教材内容的选取、教学资源的搜集整理工作。

## 四、衷心致谢

本教材在编写过程中参考和借鉴了国内外多种资料、书籍和网络资料，在此表示诚挚的感谢！

在编写过程中，本教材得到了杨凌职业技术学院文理分院领导和教务处的大力支持和指导，还得到了西北大学出版社的鼎力相助，在此表示衷心的感谢！

教材编写团队为教材的编写加班加点、付出了辛勤的劳动。在此也向他们表示衷心的感谢！

由于编者水平有限、编写时间仓促，教材中难免会有不足之处。恳请使用教材的广大师生对本教材提出宝贵意见，以便下次修订再版。

《高职通识教育英语阅读教程》编写组

2019 年 1 月

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# Profile of Western Countries

## Part One Reading

### Leading-in

**Task I** Which country is marked by the following sites, Britain or America?



**Task II** Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. You will need a reasonable level of English to be able to communicate and you should not count on British people to be able to speak your language.
2. If you are renting a car, remember that the UK drives on the left hand side of the road. Also roundabouts are very commonplace in the UK.
3. In America, the president is elected every four years, but Congress is elected more often.
4. The United States is full of many different kinds of people with different experiences, education, and beliefs.
5. If Americans don't have the right to bear arms, there wouldn't be any lethal shootings.



## Before You Read

1. What's the full name of the UK?
2. What is the UK made up of?
3. Who are the ancestors of the English, the Scots, Welsh and Irish?
4. How do you know the meaning of American national flag?
5. There are many things that symbolize American culture, could you say some of them? (No less than 10 items)

## Reading 1

### Profile of the UK

#### I. Brief Introduction of the UK

1. **Geographical** names: the British Isles <sup>[1]</sup>, Great Britain and England.
2. **Official** name: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <sup>[2]</sup>.
3. The British Isles are made up of two large islands—Great Britain (the larger one) and Ireland, and hundreds of small ones.
4. Three **divisions** on the island of Great Britain: England, Scotland and Wales.
  - (1) England is in the southern part of Great Britain. It is the largest, most **populous** section.
  - (2) Scotland is in the north of Great Britain. It has three natural **zones** (the highlands in the north; the central lowlands; the south uplands). Capital: Edinburgh.
  - (3) Wales is in the west of Great Britain. Capital: Cardiff.
  - (4) Northern Ireland is the fourth region of the UK. Capital: Belfast.
5. The **Commonwealth** <sup>[3]</sup> (of nations) is a free **association** of independent countries that were once **colonies** of Britain. It was founded in 1931, and has 50 member countries until 1991.

#### II. Geographical Position of Britain

Britain is an island country **surrounded** by the sea. It lies in the North Atlantic Ocean off the north coast of Europe. It is separated from the rest

#### geographical

[dʒɪə'græfɪk(ə)l]

adj. 地理的

**official** [ə'fɪʃ(ə)l]

adj. 官方的;正式的

**division** [dɪ'vɪʒ(ə)n]

n. 部门;分配;分割

**populous** ['pɒpjʊləs]

adj. 人口稠密的;人口多的

**zone** [zəʊn]

n. 地带;地区

**commonwealth**

['kɒmənwelθ]

n. 联邦

**association** [ə,səʊfɪ'eɪʃn]

n. 协会;联盟

**colony** ['kɒləni]

n. 殖民地

**surround** [sə'raʊnd]

v. 围绕;包围

**separate** [ 'sepəreɪt]

v. 分离;分开

of Europe by the English **Channel** <sup>[4]</sup> in the south and the North Sea in the east.

### III. The People

#### 1. Population distribution

Britain has a population of about 57 million and it is very unevenly **distributed**. 90% of the population is **urban** and only 10% is **rural**. The population of Britain is made up mainly of the English (81.5%), the Scottish (9.6%), the Welsh (1.9%), the Irish (2.4%), the Northern Irish (1.8%) and other peoples (2.8%).

2. The difference between the **ancestors** of the English and Scots, Welsh and Irish. The ancestors of the English are Anglo-Saxons <sup>[5]</sup>, the Scots, Welsh and Irish are Celts <sup>[6]</sup>.

#### 3. Immigrants

About three million people have come to Britain to live and find work since World War II.

**channel** ['tʃæn(ə)l]

*n.* 通道; 频道; 海峡

**distribution**

[dɪstrɪ'bju:ʃ(ə)n]

*n.* 分布; 分配; 供应

**unevenly** [ʌn'ivənlɪ]

*adv.* 不均衡地

**urban** ['ɜ:b(ə)n]

*adj.* 城市的; 住在都市的

**rural** ['ruərəl]

*adj.* 农村的

**ancestor** ['ænsəstə]

*n.* 祖先

**immigrant** ['ɪmɪgr(ə)nt]

*n.* 移民; 侨民

## Notes

[1] the British Isles 不列颠群岛

[2] the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国

[3] the Commonwealth 英联邦

[4] English Channel 英吉利海峡

[5] Anglo-Saxon 盎格鲁-撒克逊 (人)

[6] Celts 凯尔特人

## Language Focus

1. be made up of: 由……组成

*e.g.*: A table could be made up of cylinders for legs and a box for the top.

桌子是由圆柱体的腿和长方体的顶组成的。

Water is made up of oxygen and hydrogen.

水是由氢和氧构成的。

2. in the west of: 在……的西边

*e.g.*: Industrial development is being concentrated in the west of the country.

工业开发正集中于国家的西部进行。

Provence is in the south of France.

普罗旺斯位于法国南部。

3. The Commonwealth (of nations) is a free association of independent countries that were once colonies of Britain.

\* 这是一个 that 引导的定语从句，由于 that 在从句中作主语，故不能省略；但如果关系代词在定语从句中作宾语成分，则可以省略。

*e.g.*: I don't like the people that lose their temper easily.

我不喜欢那些容易发脾气的人。(that 作主语，不能省略)

I don't like the people (that) he is talking with.

我不喜欢和他交谈的人。(that 作宾语，可以省略)

4. Britain is an island country surrounded by the sea.

\* surrounded 是过去分词作后置定语，饰名词 country。过去分词作定语时，相当于一个被动语态的定语从句。所以这个句子可以改写成：Britain is an island country which is surrounded by the sea.

5. separate... from...: 分离；把……和……分开

*e.g.*: Advertising should be separated from the receipt information.

广告应该与数据信息分离开来。

My studio is on the lowest level of the building, separating from the flat, quiet and right off the garden.

我的工作室和公寓是分开的，在这栋楼的底楼，很安静，离花园很近。

6. the difference between A and B: A 与 B 的区别

*e.g.*: What is the difference between Chinese and American culture?

中美文化差异是什么？

There is no difference between a wise man and a fool when they fall in love.

当聪明的人和愚昧的人恋爱时，他们会变得没有区别。

## Related Background Information

### Brief History of Britain (英国简史)

公元前，地中海伊比利亚人、比克人、凯尔特人、先后来到了不列颠。公元 1~5 世纪，大不列颠岛东南部为罗马帝国统治。罗马人撤走后，欧洲北部的盎格鲁人、萨克逊人、朱特人相继入侵并定居。7 世纪开始形成封建制度，七个王国争雄达 200 年之久，史称“盎格鲁—撒克逊时代”。1338 年至 1453 年英法“百年战争”，英国先胜后败。1588 年击败西班牙“无敌舰队”，树立海上霸权。1640 年英国全球第一个爆发资产阶级革命，成为资产阶级革命的先驱。18 世纪后半叶至 19 世纪上半叶，

成为世界上第一个完成工业革命的国家。19 世纪是大英帝国的全盛时期，是第一殖民大国，自称“日不落帝国”，一战后开始衰败。英国于 1920 年设立北爱尔兰郡，并于 1921 年至 1922 年允许爱尔兰南部脱离其统治，成立独立国家。二战中经济实力大为削弱，政治地位下降。随着 1947 年印度和巴基斯坦的相继独立，到 60 年代，英帝国殖民体系瓦解。1973 年 1 月英国加入欧共体，2019 年 3 月 29 日正式退出欧盟。

### The Relationship of Britain and China (中英关系)

1950 年 1 月，英国政府宣布承认中华人民共和国。1954 年 6 月 17 日，中英达成互派代办的协议。1972 年 3 月 13 日，两国签订了升格为大使级外交关系的联合公报。1982 年 9 月，英国首相撒切尔夫人作为英国第一位在职首相访华。1984 年 12 月，撒切尔夫人再访中国，两国共同签署了《关于香港问题的联合声明》。1997 年 7 月 1 日，中英顺利完成香港回归的政权交接。1998 年，两国政府首脑成功互访，并建立了全面伙伴关系。2015 年 10 月，国家主席习近平携夫人彭丽媛对英国进行访问，并在 5 天的访问期间，成功向英方展示了中华文化的软实力，在不列颠掀起一股强劲的“中国风”。

## Reading Comprehension

Decide whether the following statements are true or false. Write “T” for True and “F” for False.

1. The Official name of the UK is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. ( )
2. Ireland is the largest island of The British Isles. ( )
3. England, Scotland and Wales are three political divisions on the island of Great Britain. ( )
4. England is in the north of Great Britain. ( )
5. Scotland is in the south of Great Britain. ( )
6. Wales is in the west of Great Britain. ( )
7. The Commonwealth (of nations) is a free association of independent countries that were once colonies of Britain. ( )
8. 81.5% of the British population is urban and only 28.5% is rural. ( )
9. The ancestors of the Scots, Welsh and Irish are Anglo-Saxons. ( )
10. About three million people have come to Britain to live and find work since World War II. ( )



## Reading

### About the U. S. A

The United States of America, also known as the United States, the US, the U. S. A., and America, is a country in North America that shares land borders with Canada and Mexico, and a sea border with Russia. Extending from the Atlantic Ocean <sup>[1]</sup> to the Pacific Ocean <sup>[2]</sup>, the United States is a **federal republic**, with its capital in Washington, D. C. <sup>[3]</sup>, which is in memory of a founding father of the country—George Washington.

National flag: The Stars and **Stripes**. The strips **symbolize** the 13 colonies that originally **constituted** the United States of America. The stars represent the 50 states of the Union. White signifies **Purity** and **Innocence**; Red, Hardiness and **Valor**; and Blue, **Vigilance**, **Perseverance** and **Justice**.

National Anthem: the Star-Spangled Banner <sup>[4]</sup>.

**Nickname** of American people: Uncle Sam

National Day: 4 July

Of all states of America, Alaska <sup>[5]</sup> is the largest in area and Rhode Island <sup>[6]</sup> is the smallest. But on the mainland Texas <sup>[7]</sup> is the largest state of the country.

Many things can be the **symbols** of American culture. The list runs as follows:

1. **Statue** of **Liberty** <sup>[8]</sup>
2. White House <sup>[9]</sup>
3. The Bald **Eagle** (An American Emblem) <sup>[10]</sup>
4. Pentagon <sup>[11]</sup>
5. **Empire** State Building <sup>[12]</sup>
6. Times Square <sup>[13]</sup>
7. Broadway <sup>[14]</sup>
8. Hollywood <sup>[15]</sup>
9. Disneyland <sup>[16]</sup>

**federal** ['fed(ə)r(ə)l]

*adj.* 联邦的;同盟的

**republic** [rɪ'pʌblɪk]

*n.* 共和国;共和政体

**stripe** [straɪp] *n.* 条纹

**symbolize** ['sɪmbəlaɪz]

*v.* 象征;用符号表现

**constitute** ['kɒnstɪtju:t]

*v.* 组成;构成

**purity** ['pjʊərɪti]

*n.* 纯洁

**innocence** ['ɪnəsəns]

*n.* 无罪;天真无邪

**valor** ['vælə]

*n.* 英勇;勇猛

**vigilance** ['vɪdʒɪl(ə)ns]

*n.* 警戒,警觉

**perseverance**

[pə:'sɪ'vɪər(ə)ns]

*n.* 坚持不懈;毅力

**justice** ['dʒʌstɪs]

*n.* 正义;正直

**nickname** ['nɪkneɪm]

*n.* 绰号;昵称

**symbol** ['sɪmbəl]

*n.* 象征;符号

**statue** ['stætʃu]

*n.* 雕像,塑像

**liberty** ['lɪbətɪ]

*n.* 自由

10. Golden Gate Bridge <sup>[17]</sup>
11. Yellow Stone National Park <sup>[18]</sup>
12. The Niagara Fall <sup>[19]</sup>
13. Grand **Canyon** <sup>[20]</sup>
14. Barbie Doll <sup>[21]</sup>
15. NBA <sup>[22]</sup>

**eagle** ['r:g(ə)l]

*n.* 鹰

**empire** ['empraɪə]

*n.* 帝国

**canyon** ['kænjən]

*n.* 峡谷

## Notes

- [1] Atlantic Ocean 大西洋
- [2] Pacific Ocean 太平洋
- [3] Washington, D. C. 华盛顿特区
- [4] the Star-Spangled Banner 星条旗永不落（美国国歌）
- [5] Alaska 阿拉斯加州
- [6] Rhode Island 罗德岛洲
- [7] Texas 得克萨斯州
- [8] Statue of Liberty 自由女神像
- [9] White House 白宫
- [10] The Bald Eagle 白头海雕
- [11] Pentagon 五角大楼
- [12] Empire State Building 帝国大厦
- [13] Times Square 时代广场
- [14] Broadway 百老汇
- [15] Hollywood 好莱坞
- [16] Disneyland 迪士尼乐园
- [17] Golden Gate Bridge 金门大桥
- [18] Yellow Stone National Park 黄石国家公园
- [19] The Niagara Fall 尼加拉瓜大瀑布
- [20] Grand Canyon 科罗拉多大峡谷
- [21] Barbie Doll 芭比娃娃
- [22] NBA 美国职业篮球联赛

## Language Focus

1. known as: 被认为是, 被称为; 以……而著称

**e.g.:** Jia Pingwa is known as a famous Chinese writer.

贾平凹是中国著名作家。

Compounds derived from plants and animals became known as organic.

来源于动植物的化合物称为有机化合物。

2. extend from: 延伸; 伸展

**e.g.:** The spectacular Alps extend from east to west, which qualifies Switzerland as one of the best skiing resorts in the world.

壮观的阿尔卑斯山脉自东向西横贯该国, 使得瑞士成为世界上最好的滑雪胜地之一。

3. Extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, ..., which is in memory of...

\* **extending** 是现在分词作状语。现在分词用作状语, 可以表示动作发生的时间、原因、结果、条件、方式或表示主要动作发生的伴随情况。一般说来, 这种结构的逻辑主语就是句子的主语。

**e.g.:** Walking slowly across the grass, he pointed the gun at the lion and fired.

他慢慢地走过草地, 把枪对准狮子就射击了。

Seeing a large cake flying through the air, the driver pulled up quickly.

司机看见一只大蛋糕在空中掠过, 赶紧刹车。

\* **which is in memory of...** 是非限定性定语从句。非限定性定语从句对先行词起补充说明作用, 缺少也不会影响对全句的理解, 它与主句往往用逗号隔开。

**e.g.:** These apple trees, which I planted three years ago, have not borne any fruit.

这些苹果树是我三年前栽的, 还没有结过果实。

Water, which is a clear liquid, has many uses.

水是一种清澈的液体, 有许多用途。

4. in memory of: 纪念

**e.g.:** She set up an educational fund in memory of her mother.

她为了纪念她母亲而设立了一个教育基金会。

Many university buildings are dedicated in memory of honorable graduates.

许多大学的建筑物是纪念杰出校友的。

## Related Background Information

### Brief Introduction of the U. S. A (美国简史)

原为印第安人聚居地。15世纪末, 西班牙、荷兰、法国、英国等开始向北美移民。1775年爆发



- C. China. D. China and Mexico.
3. Which continent does the United States locate in ?
- A. North America. B. South America.  
C. Oceania. D. Latin America.
4. What is the capital of America?
- A. New York. B. Washington D. C..  
C. Los Angeles. D. Chicago.
5. Who is the founding father of America?
- A. Abraham Lincoln. B. John Fitzgerald Kennedy.  
C. Franklin Delano Roosevelt. D. George Washington.
6. What do strips of American national flag symbolize?
- A. 50 states of the Union. B. 13 colonies that originally constituted the U. S. A..  
C. American people. D. 13 states of the Union.
7. What do stars of American national flag symbolize?
- A. 13 states of the Union. B. 13 colonies.  
C. 50 states of the Union. D. 50 colonies.
8. What day is American Foundation Day?
- A. 25 December. B. 1 October. C. 14 July. D. 4 July.
9. What is the largest state of American mainland?
- A. Alaska. B. Rhode Island.  
C. Texas. D. Washington, D. C..
10. Which of the following is Not the symbol of American culture?
- A. River Thames. B. Barbie Doll.  
C. Statue of Liberty. D. Disneyland.



## Part Two Writing

After learning the profile of western countries, please write a paragraph that introduces the UK/US to your Chinese friends. One topic has an outline that you can follow.

**Topic:**

About Britain

**Topic sentence:**

Britain is a terrific nation that has...

**Four things to do:**

- \* the profile of the country
- \* the history of the country
- \* the population/ construction of the country
- \* the reason you like the country

**Concluding sentence:**

If you go to this country, you will be attracted by his natural landscape, shocked by his rich cultural heritage, touched by his local customs, and impressed by the temperament of the nation.

**Other topics:**

1. The Profile of China
2. The Profile of Canada
3. The Profile of Japan
4. About My Hometown
5. About My College

**Useful expressions:**

...is made up of ...

...is in the west / east of ...

It was founded / set up by...in...with its capital in...

...is an island country surrounded by the sea.

It is separated from ...by...

...has a population of about...and it is unevenly distributed.

The population of ...is made up mainly of...

About ...people have come to ...to live and work since...