

Vol.2

★【第2册】

普通高等教育“十二五”应用型本科规划教材

AN ENGLISH PRESS ANTHOLOGY
FOR THE NEW CENTURY

新世纪媒体英语阅读

· 总主编 何肖朗 林 芳



厦门大学出版社
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前 言

在当前经济全球化的浪潮中,同学们都希望很快地获得所需要的信息。当今时代信息爆炸,时新的重要信息往往最先见于英语媒体。为培养并提高应用型本科高校学生以及从事外事工作、国际问题研究、报刊翻译等方面的读者快速阅读与理解媒体英语,并从中高效率地获取信息的能力,经全体编者的努力,《新世纪媒体英语阅读》(第2册)与广大读者见面了。《新世纪媒体英语阅读》(第2册)的结构如下:

课文:尽量按照由浅入深的难度顺序编排。每单元的 Part A 选编 2015—2018 年间英文报刊中的世界政治、经济、文化、教育、卫生、科技等方面的热点新闻,体现当今世界和平、发展、合作、共赢的主题。选编各方面新闻的目的是帮助读者提高阅读媒体英语的能力,并不意味着编者和出版者完全赞同文中的观点或认为其描述属实。为方便阅读,每页课文下附有注释,主要引用百科全书,历史、文学等著作的论述以及计算机、信息产业发展等领域的专业词汇解释。文后有针对课文内容的**语言与文化(II. Language and Culture)**和**阅读解析(IV. Reading Parse)**。Part B 主要介绍英语报刊方面的基础知识。

练习:教育部颁布的《高校英语专业教学大纲》中的四、八级阅读项目中,明确将学生阅读美英报刊水平作为评定阅读能力的标准。根据四、八级阅读项目的要求,在读者阅读课文的基础上趁热打铁,围绕课文设置练习(III. Exercises)[1. 词义辨析(Comprehension Work); 2. 词汇练习(Vocabulary Work); 3. 阅读理解(Examination Tasks); 4. 主题讨论(Topics for Discussion)],并提供参考答案。同时,本书也可供准备参加大学英语级别、研究生入学、托福、雅思、BEC 商务英语等考试的学生以及英语爱好者自学选读。

阅读方法：

1. 坚持批判式地阅读媒体英语。要对新闻的客观性和真实性做出判断。一般情况下，主流英语媒体恪守新闻客观性和真实性的原则。但有的时候出于种种目的，也会进行虚假报道。例如：中国运动员叶诗文在2012年伦敦奥运会200米个人混合泳比赛中以破奥运会纪录的好成绩夺得金牌，西方一主流媒体对此进行了不客观的报道。所以，要学会判断新闻的客观性和真实性，注意媒体英语中常出现的表示新闻来源的词或词组，如“...said”或者“said...”，还有“according to...”，以及“source/sources”[包括reliable sources(消息可靠人士)，police sources(警方)，official source(官方人士)]。在来不及证实的情况下，为了抢新闻又要“客观”，“新闻发言人”(spokesman/spokeswoman/spokesperson)常用“据说”、“据称”(alleged/allegedly)，或者干脆说“according to unconfirmed reports”(据未证实的报道)等。

2. 先在报纸的报头(masthead, 包含报纸名称和发行日期及地点)或刊物的封面(cover)，然后在其他页面找到最重要的新闻标题(headline)、撰稿人署名(byline)和新闻来源(dateline)。由于报刊实行版面文字节俭的原则，初读新闻标题往往很难读懂。读者除了要了解西方的宗教、文化和言语表达思路外，还要有背景知识。例如，要理解《利物浦每日邮报》(*Liverpool Daily Post*)一则标题“Communist Fear Split Germany Blame”(共产党人担心他们被指控分裂德国)就必须熟悉当时历史背景。如果将标题写成“The communist fear that they may be blamed for splitting Germany”，这样就很容易看懂，但占版面较多，不够精练。其次，要熟悉英语专业词汇。例如，2012年10月4日的美国《华尔街日报》(*The Wall Street Journal*)的一条新闻标题是“Stronger Yuan May Not Mean More U.S. Jobs”。熟悉金融英语专业术语的同学知道，“strong”形容货币时一般译为“坚挺的”或者“强势的”。根据具体情况，“Stronger Yuan”在这里译为“人民币升值”比较恰当。再次，为节约篇幅，只要不产生歧义，媒体英语标题往往省略虚词(包括冠词、物主代词、系动词和助动词)。最后，为了使人感受到新闻的时效性，有时即使报道的事件已经发生，标题仍使用现在时态。

3. 快速地读懂媒体英语的标题(headline)和新闻开头第一段说明事件梗概、言简意赅的导语(lead)。有时候导语有助于对标题的理解。完成对标题和导语阅读理解后就可以更快决定该新闻是否值得一读。

4. 阅读新闻正文时除了要掌握英语快速阅读技巧外,还应该了解媒体英语的特殊结构和其独特的语言特色。英美报纸比我国报纸版面多,广告、专题特刊或副刊等花样繁多。

内容广泛的英语媒体中有占篇幅较多的新闻(news)、社论(editorial)、专栏(column)和评论(criticism)等等。当决定要读某篇报道后,可先寻找位于首页下半页以字母顺序排列的内容索引(index)。新闻报道中常伴有插图(cut)和插图说明(cutline)。为了使较多的文章出现在首页,人们常常将文章分页刊载,称作跳页(jump line, 或 continued line)。根据跳页,读者可以找到文章剩余部分所在的页数。

我们自2002年开始编写高等院校英语报刊阅读教材,先后有8册高校英语报刊阅读教材问世。参加本教材编写的单位有:福建师范大学外国语学院、福建师范大学闽南科技学院、福州外语外贸学院、安徽师范大学外国语学院、福建师范大学协和学院、福建船政交通职业学院和福州译国译民翻译服务有限公司。

在编写《新世纪媒体英语阅读》(第2册)的过程中,全国十大翻译公司之一、福建省最大的翻译公司福州译国译民翻译服务有限公司为编者提供了良好的媒体英语编译素材。福建师范大学图书馆、福建师范大学闽南科技学院图书馆等单位为我们提供了很多资料。我们全体编者对为我们提供资助、帮助和指导的老师和同行们表示衷心的感谢。

本教材定有错误与不妥之处,恳请使用本书的师生和读者多提出宝贵意见和建议,使今后时事英语教材的编写质量得到不断的提高。

何肖朗

2018年1月于福建

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Unit 1

Part A Silk Road

I. Pre-reading Tasks

1. What do you know about the Belt and Road Initiative?
2. Choose the best answer to complete the following sentences.
 - (1) The “Silk Road” on land in Chinese history is a famous commercial road leading China to _____.
A. Western Asia and Europe B. Africa
C. Southeast Asia D. Mediterranean Coast
 - (2) In ancient China, the famous navigator, Zheng He, was ordered to sail west as far as _____.
A. the Indian Ocean coast and the Red Sea coast
B. the Indian Ocean coast and the east coast of Africa
C. the Red Sea coast and the east coast of Africa
D. Persia and the Red Sea Coast
 - (3) The Silk Road, in fact, was put forward by Ferdinand von Richthofen, a(n) _____ geologist in the 19th century.
A. American B. Japanese
C. German D. Italian
 - (4) The main means of transport on the ancient land Silk Road was _____.
A. yak B. camel and horse
C. ox cart D. deer
 - (5) _____ was sent to the Western regions by the emperor in Han Dynasty?
A. Zhang Qian B. Jian Zhen
C. Ban Gu D. Liu Bang
 - (6) On September 7th, 2013, President Xi Jinping proposed to build the Silk Road Economic Belt in _____.
A. Pakistan B. Tajikistan
C. Kyrgyzstan D. Kazakhstan

> Reading Skill

Focus on the newspaper: guessing the meaning from context

When confronted with English newspapers or magazines, we may be stuck by our shortage of vocabulary and thus cannot understand what these materials are about. The first thing we do to understand a difficult word is to look it up in a dictionary. Nevertheless, there are actually many other techniques we can use to get the meaning of a word. One of the practical techniques is guessing the meaning from context. No matter what level we are in, we may often come across difficult words in materials that we are exposed to. Inferring and guessing meanings of unfamiliar words is an effective strategy.

Guessing from the context refers to the ability to infer the meaning of a word using contextual clues. These clues may be purely linguistic or situational:

Linguistic context: the linguistic environment in which a word is used within a text.

Situational context: extra linguistic elements that contribute to the construction of meaning. This may involve the background knowledge of the subject.

Thus we can infer the meaning of an unknown word according to: the meaning of the words before or after it, the way the word is formed, background knowledge of the subject and the situation, etc.

Techniques for guessing

Texts are often full of redundancy, so we can use the relation between different items within a text to get the meaning. Our prior knowledge of the world may also contribute to understanding what an expression means.

1. Synonyms and definitions:

- a. New houses, large schools, modern factories, more horses and sheep—everything we saw signs of *prosperity*.
- b. Mary's *bubbly* personality—her enthusiasm, her lively actions, her excitement at new ideas always attracted people.
- c. *Anthropology* is the scientific study of people, society and culture.

2. Antonym and contrast:

- a. He loved her so much for being so kind to him, by contrast, he *abhorred* her mother.
- b. Andrew is one of the most *supercilious* men I know, his brother, in contrast, is quite humble and modest.

3. Example:

- a. The consequences of *epochal* events such as wars and great scientific discoveries are not confined to a small geographical area as they were in the past.
- b. Doctors suggest that everybody should exercise everyday, especially those do *sedentary* work like reading, typing and sewing.

4. Cause and effect:

- a. Tom is considered an *autocratic* administrator, because he makes decisions without seeking the opinions of others.
- b. He was disrespectful towards other members, that's why he was sent off and *penalized*.

5. General knowledge:

- a. The door was so low that I hit my head on the *lintel*.
- b. Mark got on the motorbike, I sat behind on the *pillion*, and we roared off into the night.

These techniques help us get the meaning of words or at least narrow down the possible meanings.

Silk Road

By Charlie Campbell^①

On China's remote western frontier with Kazakhstan^②, yurts and camels are silhouetted^③ against a piercing blue sky. Yet the most striking image rising

① Charlie Campbell: 查理·坎贝尔,《时代周刊》杂志专事东亚事务的撰稿人。

② Kazakhstan: 哈萨克斯坦共和国,位于中亚的内陆国家,也是世界上最大的内陆国。

③ silhouette: *v.* to project on a background, such as a screen, like a silhouette 使呈现影子,使呈现轮廓

from the desert is an entirely new city. Founded four years ago, Khorgos^① is poised to become the world's busiest inland port, a vital link in China's epochal plan to re-create the Silk Road.

There's a free-trade zone that welcomes 30 000 traders daily and an industrial complex of factories where manufacturers enjoy perks^② like two years of free rent courtesy of the Chinese government. At the customs gate, trucks line up stacked with agricultural equipment and huge cross sections of blue industrial piping as blurry-eyed drivers chain-smoke^③ out of the cab windows. "Today, the ground of Khorgos is mud," says Guo Jianbin, deputy director of the Khorgos Economic Development Zone administration committee, accenting his words with a booted stamp. "But soon it will be paved with gold."

Khorgos is a linchpin in Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature Belt and Road Initiative. Formerly known as One Belt One Road, it's a rekindling of the ancient Silk Road through a staggeringly^④ ambitious plan to build a network of highways, railways, ports and pipelines linking Asia via the Middle East to Europe and south to Africa. The land "belt" takes cargo, in large part via Khorgos, through Eurasia. A maritime "road" links coastal Chinese cities via a series of ports to Africa and the Mediterranean. In all, 900 projects have been earmarked^⑤ at a cost of \$900 billion, according to the China Development Bank. There's the \$480 million Lamu deep-sea port in Kenya, which will eventually be connected via road, railway and pipeline to landlocked South Sudan and Ethiopia and right across Africa to Cameroon's port of Douala. A new \$7.3 billion pipeline from Turkmenistan^⑥ will bring China an extra 15

① Khorgos: 霍尔果斯口岸, 是位于中国新疆伊犁哈萨克自治州霍尔果斯市的一个陆路口岸, 与哈萨克斯坦隔霍尔果斯河相望。

② perk: *n.* an incidental benefit awarded for certain types of employment (especially if it is regarded as a right) 额外津贴(待遇), 外快

③ chain-smoke: *v.* to smoke one cigarette after another 连续不断地抽香烟

④ staggeringly: *adv.* extremely 难以置信地; 令人震惊地

⑤ earmark: *v.* to give or assign a resource to a particular person or cause 指定用途; 标记

⑥ Turkmenistan: 土库曼斯坦, 中亚国家, 是苏联加盟共和国之一, 苏联时期的名称为“土库曼苏维埃社会主义共和国”, 1991年独立。土库曼斯坦位于伊朗以北, 东南面和阿富汗接壤, 东北面与乌兹别克斯坦为邻, 西北面是哈萨克斯坦, 西邻里海, 是一个内陆国家。

billion cubic meters of gas annually.

Not since the hordes of Genghis Khan galloped west in the 13th century has China harbored such sweeping transnational ambitions—although this time, instead of ashes and sun-bleached bones, it plans to leave harbors, pipelines and high-speed rail in its wake^①. “Exchange will replace estrangement, mutual learning will replace clashes, and coexistence will replace a sense of superiority,” Xi told the opening of the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing in May.

It’s a vision of inclusive globalization that bolsters Chinese leadership credentials^② at a time when the U.S. is wavering on its international commitments. Belt and Road aims to reach 65 countries, covering 70% of the planet’s population, three-quarters of its energy resources, a quarter of goods and services and 28% of global GDP—some \$21 trillion. Beijing’s rationale is clear: there are large, resource-rich nations within its reach, with a severe infrastructure^③ deficit, and China has the resources bind them to it. By boosting connectivity, China can spur growth, gain access to^④ valuable natural resources and create new markets for its goods. In March, China’s Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said Chinese firms had already contributed 180 000 jobs and nearly \$1.1 billion in tax revenue along the Belt and Road. Increasing numbers of Chinese engineers, crane operators and steel smelters stand to reap the benefits of maturing projects. “You’ll have a China that really sits at the beating heart strategically and economically of this most important part of the world,” says professor Nick Bisley, an Asia expert at Australia’s La Trobe University.

For Xi, that’s the rightful position of the world’s most populous nation and its second-biggest economy after the U. S. China’s recent history has lurched^⑤ from colonization to devastating war and then collectivized economic turmoil, poverty and political strife. No longer. Today, Chinese companies

① in one’s wake: 尾随……; 在……后留下

② credential: *n.* a document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts [通常用复数] 信任状; 证书; (大使等递交的) 国书

③ infrastructure: *n.* the basic structure or features of a system or organization 基础设施; 基础建设

④ gain access to: 接近; 取得使用……机会; 有接近……的权利

⑤ lurch: *v.* to walk with an unsteady uneven gait 蹒跚而行, 颠簸着行进; 摇晃

own storied^① European soccer teams, a major Hollywood film studio and New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel. China has the most solar panels, wind turbines, and high-speed rail in the world. When, in January, Xi became the first Chinese leader to address the World Economic Forum in Davos, he presented an image of a confident, globalist, responsible power, helping to set international rules of trade and environmental standards. Opening the 19th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party on Oct. 18, Xi announced, "It is time for us to take center stage^② in the world."

This vision contrasts starkly^③ with U.S. President Donald Trump, who can't pass his own \$1 trillion plan to rebuild the nation's crumbling roads, bridges and electricity grid, despite the fact that the vast majority of Americans recognize the need. Trump's nixing^④ of American involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement has weakened the U.S. as a Pacific power, and his announcement of America's withdrawal from the Paris climate accord left the world looking to China for leadership.

Restoring the lost grandeur of the Silk Road has myriad^⑤ challenges, of course, chiefly the questionable economics of pouring millions of dollars into some of the world's poorest and least stable nations. Falling commodity prices have undermined some projects, while others are vulnerable to shifting political winds in host countries. The scale of the challenge is evident in Khorgos, through which trains now chug^⑥ on a 7 000-mile journey from 27 Chinese manufacturing hubs^⑦ to 11 cities in Europe. It's the world's longest international freight line, broadly following the path of the old Silk Road caravans that lugged pistachios, ivory and dates to eager markets in the West.

① storied: *adj.* having an illustrious past; having stories as indicated 传说中有名的;……层楼的

② take center stage: to attract attention onto oneself 占据中央舞台;担任主角,瞩目的焦点

③ starkly: *adv.* in a stark manner or in sharp outline or contrast 严酷地,分明地

④ nix: *v.* to refuse, inhibit, forbid 禁止;拒绝

⑤ myriad: *adj.* too numerous to be counted 无数的;种种的

⑥ chug: *v.* to make a dull, explosive sound 发出(持续而单调的)短声;(火车、汽船等)咔嚓咔嚓地前进

⑦ hub: *n.* a center of activity or interest or commerce or transportation; a focal point around which events revolve 轮轴;中心,焦点

Guo says 2 050 cargo trains passed by Khorgos last year, and he is confident that the goal of 5 000 for 2017 is achievable.

Khorgos sits on the edge of the Taklamakan Desert^①. The land is so inhospitable that it is nicknamed the “Sea of Death.” Herodotus^② wrote in his *Histories* of griffins guarded golden treasure at the craggy northern extreme, and that the North Wind gushed from one of its mountain caves. It remains one of the most remote spots on earth: Khorgos lies just 100 miles from the Eurasian pole of inaccessibility—the farthest point on earth from any ocean.

Today, the Taklamakan fills part of China’s westernmost autonomous region of Xinjiang, which borders seven Central and South Asian nations and is thus the central hub for Belt and Road’s land portion. A total of 3 500 miles of the ancient Silk Road passes through this Alaska-size territory, where the Taklamakan’s dunes to the south are separated from a lush northern prairie by a central spine of meringue-peaked^③ mountains.

Economic questions also plague many aspects of the initiative. Moving goods to Europe by rail through Khorgos is two to three times the cost of sea freight, with twice the carbon footprint, while only cutting transport times from eastern Chinese factories to Europe in half—18 days compared with 35 by sea. Few goods would benefit from this time-saving for the extra cost: perishable fruit or pharmaceuticals are flown by air to minimize spoilage; electronics and household wares are dispatched by the cheapest method possible to maximize profits.

Compounding matters, while China sends clothes, electronics and building materials through Khorgos to the West, those same “cargo trains are coming back empty,” says the official Guo. Europe isn’t a cost-effective destination, and the economies of Central Asia are weak. At the Khorgos free-trade zone,

① Taklamakan Desert: 塔克拉玛干沙漠,位于新疆南部的塔里木盆地中心,是中国最大的沙漠,也是世界第十大沙漠和世界第二大流动沙漠。整个沙漠东西长约1 000千米,南北宽约400千米,面积达33万平方千米。

② Herodotus: 希罗多德,公元前5世纪(约前480—前425年)的古希腊作家、历史学家,他把旅行中的所见所闻,以及第一波斯帝国的历史记录下来,著成《历史》(*Histories*)一书,这本书是西方文学史上第一部完整流传下来的散文作品,希罗多德也因此被尊称为“历史之父”。

③ meringue-peaked; *adj.* 像(盛冰淇淋、水果的)蛋白酥皮筒(卷)一样的山峰

only 10% of traders come from Kazakhstan. While the Chinese browse mink furs, Georgian red wine and Siberian honey, the Kazakhs queue for rust-bucket minibuses clutching plastic chairs, cheap bedding and sneakers. “Ninety-nine percent of our customers are Chinese,” says Lian Gang, the manager of a duty-free shop in the trade zone.

When Xi first announced the initiative in Almaty in 2013, commodity prices were at historic highs. But they have now fallen precipitously^①. China is, of course, big enough to handle a few white elephants. Its meteoric rise over the past three decades was engineered^② on exactly this massive state-championed approach to financing. China has the resources: its GDP was \$ 11.2 trillion last year, with growth at a slowing though healthy 6.7%, and a trade surplus of \$ 48.5 billion in August. The combined fund allocated to the Belt and Road Initiative from the Silk Road fund, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank^③(AIIB), New Development Bank, China Development Bank, Export-Import Bank of China and the nation’s humanitarian aid budget add up to \$ 269 billion. The rest of the estimated \$ 900 billion for the initiative must come via private Chinese banks and contributions by host countries. Beijing has enormous centralized power to get things done, including offering myriad incentives for business that embrace Belt and Road. Still, there are dangers. “The Chinese are very possibly taking on commitments that will exceed their ability to fund in a period of dramatically slowing growth,” says Scott W. Harold, a China expert for Rand Corp^④.

① precipitously: *adv.* very suddenly and to a great degree 陡峭地; 陡然地, 出乎意料地

② engineer: *v.* to design as an engineer or plan and direct(a complex undertaking) 设计, 策划; 安排或处理; 改变……的基因(或遗传)结构

③ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank: 亚洲基础设施投资银行, 简称“亚投行”, 是一个政府间性质的亚洲区域多边开发机构, 重点支持基础设施建设, 成立宗旨是促进亚洲区域的建设互连互通化和经济一体化的进程, 并且加强中国及其他亚洲国家和地区的合作, 总部设在北京。亚投行法定资本 1 000 亿美元。

④ Rand Corp: 兰德公司, 是美国最重要的以军事为主的综合性战略研究机构。它先以研究军事尖端科学技术和重大军事战略而著称于世, 继而又扩展到内外政策各方面, 逐渐发展成一个研究政治、军事、经济科技、社会等各方面的综合性思想库, 被誉为现代智囊的“大脑集中营”“超级军事学院”, 以及世界智囊团的开创者和代言人。它可以说是当今美国乃至世界最负盛名的决策咨询机构。