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赵建昆 卢根 主编

大学英语六级

读故事记单词

改革版



- **四六级考神** 赵建昆老师倾情奉献
- **只要提高 永远不晚!**

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前 言

词汇是语言学习的基石。学生按照传统学习方法记单词不仅单调乏味,而且效率极低,很多单词背的时候费了九牛二虎之力,用的时候还是一头雾水。鉴于此,我们想给大家一种新的学习词汇的方法——用一些风趣幽默的小故事把一些看似毫无关系的词串连起来。先提供一个故事,然后再提供一个词汇表,这样不仅简单方便,而且妙趣横生。

从理论上讲,背故事比背单词容易,因为故事中有一定的发展线索,联想会更加丰富。这正是我们编写本书的理论基础。在编写这些小故事的过程中,我们发现原本枯燥的单词也可以变得活泼可爱,原本沉闷的学习也可以变得生动有趣。这使我们想起了那个哥伦布征服世人的故事:把鸡蛋敲破了就能立在桌子上。原来世界上没有攻不破的难关,关键是我们能否找到攻关的钥匙。《大学英语六级读故事记单词》一书正是为大家准备的一把攻克词汇难关的钥匙。

有人说过:If you love him, make him study English, for it's interesting; if you hate him, make him study English, for it's boring. 英语到底是 interesting 还是 boring, 这本身就是个见仁见智的问题,我们希望读故事记单词这种形式能够帮助你找到学习英语的乐趣,增加征服英语的信心,提高掌握英语的效率。

编 者



录

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Passage 1

Giving All the Historical Facts Except Those Ancestors

数典忘祖

In 527 B. C., the wife of the King Jing of Zhou passed away. According to the proprieties, every subordinate country should send messengers to take part in the funeral, taking presents with them.

Ji Tan was sent as the representative of Jin. However, King of Jin asked him not to take any present. King Jing of Zhou thus felt unhappy about this. As a result after the funeral when he gave a banquet treat messengers from different countries, King Jing of Zhou used the kettle with which Lu paid tribute to pour wine on purpose and asked Ji Tan deliberately, "Other subordinate countries have all paid tributes to me. Why except you?"

Ji Tan was the official in Jin, in charge of books. He knew well about the history and book system of Jin. Therefore, he replied, "In the first place, each of the subordinate countries all got awards from the royal court except Jin. Besides, Jin is located in faraway places and far from the royal court. So we don't have anything to give as a tribute."

After King Jing of Zhou heard what Ji Tan had said, he felt furious and said, "Have you forgotten? You've been getting awards from the royal court Zhou since Tang Shu, the first Emperor. Your ancestors were officials that were in charge of cultural relic and books. You're their offspring and also in charge of the historical relic and books. You

公元前 527 年,周景王的夫人去世了,按照礼仪,各诸侯国都要派使者携带礼物前往京城去参加葬礼。

籍谈也作为晋国的代表被派去了,但是晋王却没让他带礼物去。周景王因此很不痛快,在葬礼后设宴款待各国使者时,周景王故意用鲁国进贡的宝壶来斟酒,并有意问籍谈:"别的诸侯国都进贡了礼物,为什么唯独你们晋国没有礼物?"

籍谈是晋国掌管典籍文书的官吏,对晋国的历史和典籍制度等都非常熟悉。因此他回答说:"当初各诸侯受封时都得到了王室的赏赐,而晋国没有得到。加上晋国处在深山僻壤,离王室又远,所以没有器物可献。"

周景王听了籍谈的话,感到很生气,说:"你忘记了吗?从晋国的始祖唐叔起,就不断受到周王室的赏赐。你的祖先就是晋国掌管文物典籍的官员,你是掌管典籍的人的后代,现在也掌管着晋国的文物典籍,不应该不知道这些史实,怎么会把这些都忘了呢?"

shouldn't know little about the historical facts. How do you forget all of these?"

Ji Tan couldn't reply on hearing this. After all the guests had gone away, King Jing of Zhou told the subjects that were around him, "It's true that Ji Tan has cited regulations of the ancestors, while forgotten all about his post and responsibilities!"

"Giving all the historical facts except those about the ancestors"—it is used to describe those people who forget their origin, that is to say, forget their original status or the resource of things.

籍谈听了,无法回答。宾客们都走了以后,周景王对左右的大臣们说:“籍谈真是列举了祖上的典章制度,却忘了祖先的职守啊!”

“数典忘祖”——比喻忘本,即忘记自己本来的情况或事物的本源。

真题词汇

system⁴⁷ ['sɪstəm] *n.* 系统,体系;(地层的)系,大洋中脊系;中央海岭

【同义】method, structure

【派生】systematic *adj.* 系统的,体系的(同) ordered, methodical

【报刊例句】Enabled by a new law, churches are stepping into the gap left by the imploding of the welfare system. 译文:根据一项新法律的授权,教会正在填补福利系统萎缩成的空缺。

[注]: imploding, 内爆(exploding, 外爆), 此处转义为“萎缩”。 (Time · 时代周刊)

historical³ [hɪs'tɒrɪkəl] *adj.* 历史(上)的,史学的; historical evidence 史实/a historical play [novel] 历史剧[小说]/a historical treatise 史论

【难句】There are those who assert that the switch to an information-based economy is in the same camp as other great historical milestones, particularly the Industrial Revolution. 也有人认为:向信息经济的过渡可以与其他伟大的历史里程碑,尤其是工业革命,划归同一阵营。

ancient² [ˈeɪnfənt] *adj.* ①古代的,古老的 ②年老的,看上去很老的

crane² [kreɪn] *n.* ①起重机 ②鹤 *vt.* 伸长(脖子等)

behalf² [bi'hɑ:f] *n.* 利益,方面

【报刊例句】They're personal appeals on behalf of the president. 这些呼吁是以总统个人名义发的。 (NY Times · 纽约时报)

violence² [ˈvaɪələns] *n.* 暴力,暴行,强暴,暴虐,剧烈

【助记】(词根) viol(力)

【参考】nonviolence *n.* 非暴力; violate *v.* 违犯,侵犯(同) vehemence

【难句】This movie is not decent for children to see; it contains too much violence and too many love scenes. 这部电影不适合儿童看,因为它包含了太多的暴力和情爱场面。

【报刊例句】School staff are being trained in rapid-response techniques to violence in the playground. 译文:学校教职员正在接受对操场暴力实行快速反应的培训。[注]: rapid response, 快速反应; rapid response forces, 快速反应部队。 (The Guardian · 卫报)

① 47 次是指该单词在历年真题中出现的次数。

Passage 2

Treating People Heart to Heart

推心置腹

After Wang Mang usurped, people were not satisfied with what he had done. Therefore, a large-scale rebellion by the peasants broke out. Under the excellent leadership of Liu Xiu, the rebels, who only were composed of a small number of people, managed to beat an army with more people—they defeated the army of 420000 soldiers sent by Wang Mang. In 24 A. D., in order to put down the northern part, Liu Xiu in person led the army to lay siege to another rebellion by the peasants, the Army of Brass Horses. After several fierce battles, Liu Xiu managed to defeat the Army of Brass Horses. Hundreds of thousands of people surrendered to him.

In order to make his power greater and become more influential, Liu Xiu reorganized all the armies that had surrendered one by one and made them part of his own army. And as for the former generals in the Army of Brass Horses, he gave them official posts and made them in charge of their former soldiers. However, these generals were afraid that Liu Xiu was deceiving them and didn't believe that Liu Xiu could really trust them. Their future was doomed. They were even worried Liu Xiu would kill them by making excuses.

When Liu Xiu got to know their worries, he went on an observation to the camps where the surrenders were staying. He only took two attendants with him. After these generals and soldiers, who had surrendered, saw that Liu Xiu treated them without any precautions and cared about them and approached

王莽篡权以后,人们对他的做法不满,于是发生了大规模的农民起义。起义军在刘秀的正确指挥下,以少胜多,打败了王莽派来的 42 万大军。公元 24 年,为了平定北方,刘秀亲率大军围攻另一支农民起义军——铜马军。经过多次激战,刘秀终于击溃了铜马军,数十万人向他投降。

为了壮大自己的实力,扩大自己的影响,刘秀把这些投降的军队一一整编,编入自己的队伍中。而铜马军中那些原来的将领,仍一一封给他们官职,让他们仍带领原来的人马。但是,这些将领害怕刘秀是在欺骗他们,不相信刘秀会真正信任他们,将来的日子一定不好过,甚至担心将来刘秀会找借口杀死他们。

刘秀知道他们的疑虑后,便只带了两个随从,到新归顺的各营去巡察。这些投降的将领和士兵们见刘秀如此毫无戒心地对待他们、关怀他们、主动接近他们,都感动地说:“萧王这个人很诚恳,他跟我们推心置腹,我们怎能不为他卖命呢?”于是,他们都诚心效命于刘秀。

them actively, they all said movingly, "King Xiao is quite frank. He treats us heart to heart. How can't we work ourselves to bones for him?" So they were loyal to Liu Xiu sincerely.

Seeing that they had already been convinced of him from the bottom of their hearts, Liu Xiu made them his own subordinates. In this way, thousands more people joined in his army. Afterwards, he finally reunited China and established the Eastern Han Dynasty. He became the famous Emperor Guangwu in history.

"Treating people heart to heart"—it means treating people heart to heart.

刘秀见他们都已经打心底里服了自己,就把他们分别安排为自己将领的部下。这样,他一下子就增加了数十万人马。后来,他终于重新统一了中国,建立了东汉王朝,成为历史上有名的光武帝。

“推心置腹”——指真心诚意地待人。

真题词汇

approach²⁰ [ə'prəʊtʃ] *n.* (处理问题的)方式,方法,途径;接近 *vt.* 接近,靠近;处理,探讨

【同义】access, way, method; near, move toward; approximate

【难句】The captain scanned the horizon for approaching ships. 船长审视着海天交界的地方,寻找驶来的轮船。

【报刊例句】Doctors are seeking ways to close the gap between Eastern holistic medicine and the Western pharmacological approach. 译文:医生们正在设法缩小东方整体主义医学与西方药理学理论之间的鸿沟。(US News and World Report • 美国新闻与世界报道)

observation³ [ˌɒbzə'veɪʃən] *n.* 注意,观察(力),观测

【难句】When one seriously studies social orders that have had the opportunity to develop independently, the figure becomes no more than an exact and matter-of-fact observation. 如果一个人有机会对不受外部因素影响的自由发展的社会进行持续且认真的研究,那么这个比喻就是一个与事实相符的精确的看法。

leadership² ['li:dəʃɪp] *n.* 领导,领导层

【难句】Social animals, such as monkeys and cattle, fight to win or maintain leadership of the group. 猴、牛等群居动物通过相互争斗取得和保持自己在群体中的领导地位。

process ['prəʊses, 'prəʊses] *n.* 【律】(诉讼)程序,(法律手段)过程,进程;步骤,方法;制作方法,加工方法 *vt.* 使接受处理(或检查、审议);对……进行加工

【同义】procedure, treat (同根词) procession *n.* 队伍,游行(词根) cess(走)

【词组】processed food *n.* 腌制食品

【难句】Preparing the research paper is an active and individual process, and ideal learning process. 准备这篇论文是一个主动且个人化的过程,也是一个理性的学习过程。

consumer [kən'sju:mə] *n.* 顾客,消费者,用户

【词组】consumer price index (CPI) 消费(品)价格指数, consumer surplus 消费者剩余

【难句】Improved consumer confidence is crucial to an economic recovery. 对于经济复苏来说,不断增加的消费者信心是很关键的。

Passage 3

Jostling Each Other in a Crowd

摩肩接踵

One year, Yan Ying from Qi was sent to Chu on a diplomatic mission. However, since Yan Ying was quite short, King of Chu intended to humiliate him on purpose. The King ordered to close the gate of the city and only dug a hole for dogs at the side of the gate, saying that Yan Ying was supposed to come into the town through this hole.

After Yan Ying arrived in Chu and saw the hole for dogs, he pretended to be surprised and said, "Oops! Have I gone the wrong way and thus come to a country of dogs? Or how can there be only a hole for dogs instead of a gate of the city?" Those officials of Chu, who intended to make fun of Yan Ying, had to open the gate of the city and welcomed him in.

Yan Ying came to King of Chu and conveyed the greetings from King of Qi. But King of Chu appeared arrogant and asked deliberately. "Can it be said that there are not enough people in Qi? Why do they send you on a diplomatic mission to Chu?" Yan Ying retorted the words, "Only take the capital of our Qi, Linzi, as an example. There are hundreds of streets and hundreds of thousands of families. All the people raise their sleeves and then they're able to hide the sun from view. They all swipe sweat and then can form a rain. As passengers walk on the street, they're walking shoulder to shoulder and the people who walk behind can easily walk onto the heel of the people who walk in front. Aren't there so many people?"

有一年,齐国的晏婴奉命出使楚国。由于晏婴个子矮小,楚王存心想羞辱他,派人将城门关上,只在城门边上挖了一个狗洞,说是让晏婴由此入城。

晏婴来到楚国,见到了那个狗洞,他故作惊讶地说:“哎呀!我难道走错了路,来到狗国了。不然,怎么这都城没有城门只有狗洞呢?”那些原来准备看晏婴笑话的楚国官员们,只得乖乖地将城门大开,迎接他入城。

晏婴来到楚王面前,转达了齐王对楚王的问候。但是楚王满脸露出不屑的神情,故意问道:“齐国难道没人了吗?怎么派你来出使楚国呢?”晏婴听了,反驳说:“我们齐国光都城临淄就有几百条街道,几万户人家,人们举起衣袖就能遮住太阳,挥挥汗水就能成为一阵雨,街上的行人走起路来,肩膀挨着肩膀,后面的人能碰到前面人的脚跟,怎么会没人呢?”

Hearing the words, King of Chu burst into laughter and said, "Now that Qi has so many people, why don't you send a better person to Chu?" Yan Ying replied, "Your majesty, you don't know about this! There is a rule on how to send diplomats in Qi: Wise diplomats are sent to wise kings and incapable diplomats to incapable kings. I'm the least able in Qi, so that's why I'm sent here to meet you!"

King of Chu found nothing to say for one-time. Therefore, he didn't dare to look down upon Yan Ying any longer and had to treat him with courtesy.

"Jostling each other in a crowd"—it refers to a big crowd of people, crowded.

真题词汇

heel¹⁷ [hi:l] *n.* 脚后跟,踵;(鞋、袜等的)后跟

【难句】And of course, after wearing heels for a day, any woman knows she can look forward to a night of pain as she tries to comfort her swollen, aching feet. 当然,白天穿了一天高跟鞋,到了晚上肯定会整宿受罪,想方设法让又肿又疼的脚舒服一点,这一点所有女人都清楚。

mission⁵ ['mɪʃən] *n.* 使命,任务;使团,代表团

【难句】The secret agent concealed her real mission, therefore many local people were deceived into thinking that she was a good person. 这个女特务掩盖了她的真实使命,因此很多当地人误以为她是个好人。

【报刊例句】As the U. S combat mission in Iraq ends after seven years, the people the troops leave behind face an uncertain future. 现今距美国对伊拉克战争已有7年时间,美军撤离后,伊拉克人民的未来还不可预知。(Time·时代周刊)

economy⁵ [i'kɒnəmi] *n.* 经济(the system and management of industry and trade within a country);节约,节省(thriftiness; spending time, energy, or money wisely) *adj.* 经济实惠(costing less than the standard or traditional kind)

【词组】economy of scale 规模经济

【难句】Given the claim about German economic might, it is somewhat surprising how relatively small the German economy actually is. 考虑到德国经济强大这一说法,德国经济相对来说实际上是如此弱小这一点有些让人吃惊。

【报刊例句】In the absence of a bailout from the World Bank, the country will have to overhaul its economy and trim its budget. 译文:没有世界银行紧急援助,这个国家将不得不全面实行改革经济,同时削减预算。[注]:bailout,跳伞,转义“紧急援助”;overhaul,原意“大修”,转义“全面改革”;trim,削减。

(The Times·泰晤士报)

楚王听了,哈哈大笑,说:“齐国既然有那么多人,为什么不派一个比你强的人来楚国呢?”晏婴回敬道:“大王有所不知,我们齐国委派外交使臣有个规矩:贤明的使臣被派往贤明的国君那儿,无能的使臣就派往无能的国君处。我在齐国是最无能的,所以就被派到楚国来见大王了!”

楚王一时无语,由此也不敢小视晏婴了,只得按照礼节招待他。

“摩肩接踵”——形容人很多,十分拥挤。

Passage 4

Lamenting One's Littleness Before the Vast Ocean

望洋兴叹

It was said that there was a God of the river in the Yellow River. People respectfully call him Hebo. Hebo had never been away from the Yellow River. So he thought the Yellow River was the biggest river of the world and it contained the most water.

Fall came. There were endless rains. After rivers of all sizes were filled with water, all of the water converged into the Yellow River. The water of the Yellow River blooded the bank, filling the low-lying lands on both banks. The river widened. When Hebo saw the water flow so magnificently, he thought all the water in the world had already floated here. Therefore, he swam in high spirits to the east as the currents carried him.

Afterwards, he swam to the place where the Yellow River ran into the ocean. He saw the sea. He looked far and said nothing but a vast expanse of whiteness. Under the blue sky, the waves were roaring and slapping the banks. He had never seen this before. Only at this moment did he realize the Yellow River couldn't be compared to the sea. He exclaimed, looking at the sea, "It's said that, 'As a person is informed of a hundred principals, he thinks to himself that he's known a lot and nobody is as good as he is.' Maybe I'm right the person. If I don't come here to see the vast sea, my field of vision will never be widened. I may be made fun of by those learned men forever."

传说黄河里有个河神,人们尊称他为河伯。河伯从未远离过黄河,所以他认为黄河是天下最大的河,这里的水也是最多的。

秋天来了,雨水连绵不断,大小河流都涨满后,全汇集到了黄河里。黄河水横溢到了岸上,淹没了两岸的洼地,水面也变得宽阔起来。河伯见水势这么大,以为天下的水都流到这里了,于是,他乘兴顺流东游。

后来,他来到了黄河的入海口,看到了大海,举目望去,只见白茫茫的一片,无边无际。蓝天下,浪涛翻滚,拍打崖岸,这景象是他从未见过的,这时候,他才意识到黄河是根本不可能跟大海相比的,他望着大海感叹道:“俗话说:‘听一百样道理,就自以为知道得很多,觉得谁也不如自己。’这话也许就是指我吧。如果我不到这里来,不亲眼看到这无边无际的大海,我的眼界可能永远也打不开,我也可能永远要被那些有见识的人讥笑了。”

Hebo thought further, We can't neither talk about the sea with the frog on the bottoms of a well nor talk about ice and snow with insects only living during summer, for it's impossible for them to understand that there is always a more wonderful world outside due to the limitation of their living environment. I contain hundreds of small rivers and I'm a lot larger than those small rivers. However, how can I compare myself to the big sea? I'm only a straw on the grassland and a pebble on the Mount Tai comparing to it, quite insignificant.

"Lamenting one's littleness before the vast ocean"—it is used to describe a person who feels himself to be tiny or knows nothing to do when faced with complicated matters.

真题词汇

environment¹⁶ [in'vaɪərənmənt] *n.* 环境, 外界

【难句】Radar is used to extend the capability of man's senses for observing his environment, especially the sense of vision. 雷达可以用来增进人们观察周围环境的感知能力, 尤其是增进视觉的感知力。

【报刊例句】Schools should not be artificial environments that take the place of the home, and teachers should not be surrogate parents. 译文: 学校的环境, 不应使之人为地替代家庭; 教师不应充当家长的替身。
(Reader's Digest • 读者文摘)

vision⁵ ['vɪʒən] *n.* 视觉, 眼光; 远见; 视力

【同义】seeing, sight

【参考】visibility *n.* 可见度; revision *n.* 修订, 修改; supervision *n.* 监督, 管理; provision *n.* 供应; (一批) 供应品; 规定; envision *vt.* 想象, 预想; division *n.* 分开, 分割; subdivision *n.* 细分, 一部

【词汇结构】I have had my eyes tested and the report says that my vision is perfect. 我测了视力, 结果表明视力非常好。[六级真题]

【阅读理解】A new high-performance contact lens will not only correct ordinary vision defects but will enhance normal night vision. 一种新型高性能隐形眼镜不仅可以纠正普通的视力缺陷, 又可以提高夜视力。[六级真题]

product ['prɒdʌkt] *n.* 产量; 乘积 (the number that is determined by multiplying two or more numbers together)

【报刊例句】DDE, a toxic breakdown product of DDT, was thought to be indestructible, but now it is known that it can be digested by bacteria. 译文: DDE 是 DDT 的分解毒性产品, 过去被认为坚不可摧, 现在人们已经知道一些细菌能将其之消化。[注]: breakdown product, 分解产品。
(Newsweek • 新闻周刊)

河伯进一步想到: 不能跟生活在井底的青蛙谈论大海, 也不能跟只生活在夏天里的虫子谈论冰雪, 因为它们受生活环境的限制, 不可能明白天外有天、山外有山的道理。我容纳百川, 比起小河来不知要大多少, 但我永远也没法跟大海比, 和它相比, 我不过是草原上的一棵小草, 泰山上的一颗石子, 是十分渺小的。

“望洋兴叹”——比喻面对伟大的事物感到自己渺小, 或面对复杂的事情无可奈何。