

汇智软件

情景英语



C E N F R N G I S W

目 录

社会

Breaking the law. 违法 (1)

About society. 关于社会 (10)

住房

Do you rent an apartment or own it? 你租房住,还是住自己的房? ...
..... (23)

My mom likes to live alone. 我妈妈喜欢一个人住。 (29)

职业

How is your job search going? 你的工作找得怎么样了? (37)

Two Have you ever bought any insurance? 你买过保险吗? (43)

娱乐

Let's take a vacation! 我们去度假吧! (49)

I love going to the mall. 我爱逛商场。 (60)

Three How often do you work out? 每隔多久锻炼一次? (71)

家庭

Modern dating. 现代约会 (82)

Here comes the bride. 新娘来了 (91)

Why did your parents have so many? 为什么你父母要这么多孩子?
..... (103)

International Marriage. 涉外婚姻 (113)

You can't change a child's behavior by using force! 你不能用武力改变一个小孩的行为! (121)

信仰

One Do you believe in God? 你有什么宗教信仰吗? (128)

Do you believe in palmistry? 你相信手相术吗? (135)

风俗

You must have been here a long time already. 你肯定在这里等了很久了。 (148)

We'll just get a doggie bag. 我们就将剩菜打包。 (156)

Have you wrapped your Christmas presents? 你的圣诞礼物包好了吗?
..... (166)

How much did this painting cost? 这幅画多少钱? (177)

Did you tip the bellboy? 你付小费给那个服务生了吗? (185)

A shouting match? 一场争吵比赛? (194)

社 会

Breaking the law.

违 法

1 Introduction

Most Americans never have any contact with the police except for traffic violations. However, when other Americans break the law, they are supposed to be guaranteed a fair trial. If it is a serious crime, a jury will conclude the defendant's guilt or innocence.

多数美国人除了违反交通规章制度外从未和警察打过交道。然而，一旦有美国人违法，他们就被保证有一个公正的审判。如果是重大的罪行，陪审团就会宣判被告有罪，或者无罪。

2 Sample Sentences

1. He **committed a serious crime**.

他犯了重罪。

2. **STOP THIEF!**

捉贼!

3. He was **found guilty** after so many years.

经过这么多年后，他被判有罪。

4. Do you think I would break the law? Absolutely not! I'm very lawful.

你认为我会犯法吗？当然不会！我是非常守法的。

5. **Call the police!**

叫警察！

6. How much **crime** is there in Baltimore?

巴尔的摩的犯罪率有多高？

7. It's **against the law** to let the dog run around the street.

让狗在街上到处跑是违法的。

8. I live on the ninth floor. I'm not afraid of burglars breaking into my window.

我住在九楼。我不担心盗窃者从我的窗口闯入。

9. He is not **a legal resident** yet.

他还不是合法的居民。

10. Maybe we need consult an immigration lawyer.

也许我们需要找一个移民律师咨询一下。

3 Conversations

1. Injustice.

Gina: Can you believe the headlines?

Harold: What are you reading?

Gina: I'm reading about Michael Milliken, the **Bond**¹ King.

Harold: Didn't he sell worthless **stocks**² to people or something? He got **arrested**³ for that, didn't he?

Gina: He got arrested all right.

Harold: If I remember, he got off with a **light sentence**⁴. Something like three years in a minimum – security prison.

Gina: Yup, that's him. He made millions of dollars selling bonds to people and ended up with a pile of cash when they became useless.

Harold: I think the government fined him a small amount, and he kept the rest in his foreign bank accounts. He's still a millionaire.

Gina: That's the kind of thing in America that gets me mad. Some guy pulls off a stock **scheme**⁵ and makes millions while spending the bare minimum sentence in jail.

Harold: I know. And some poor guy that robs a liquor store makes \$ 500 at most and ends up in jail for five to ten years.

Gina: Yup, you got it. Criminals in America do a lot better if they're white – collar thieves.

Harold: So what's Michael Milliken up to these days?

Gina: He's giving lectures on business at colleges.

【译文】

——你相信新闻报道吗？

——你在看什么？

——我在看关于保债券大王麦克·米昂肯。

——难道不是他卖给人们一些无价值的股票或什么的吗？他因此事被捕了，是不是？

——他罪有应得。

——如果我没有记错，他判刑很轻。好像只在一个安全保障最低的监狱里呆三年。

- 是,那就是他。他卖保债券给别人,赚了数百万美元,当这些债券变得毫无价值时,他却得到了一堆现金。
- 我认为政府罚得很少,他把剩余的钱存在他国外的账户里。他还是百万富翁。
- 在美国那是我狂怒的一件事。一个家伙搞证券阴谋,赚取了数百万,而只判了明显最轻的罪入狱。
- 我知道。而一个穷人抢劫一个小酒店最多得到 500 美元而同时判刑入狱 5 至 10 年。
- 是,你说得对。在美国,如果罪犯是白领阶层的,判罚就会轻得多。
- 那么,麦克·米昂肯现在在忙什么?
- 他在大学做商业演讲。

2. A pyramid scheme.

- Val:** Hey, look at the offer I got in my e-mail. It says that I can get rich quickly while working at home!
- Peter:** Do you also believe in Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy?
- Val:** What do you mean?
- Peter:** I mean that you're **gullible**⁶. You shouldn't believe everything you read, especially on the Internet.
- Val:** But it seems like a good idea. All I have to do is first send some money to the person who sent me the letter. After that he'll tell me how to earn much more money.
- Peter:** Sounds like a pyramid scheme. Have you heard of those before?

Val: Pyramid scheme? What is that?

Peter: It's a **scam**⁷ that's based on a **hierarchy**⁸, like a pyramid. The person at the top asks the people below him for money, and then tells them to go and ask other people for money while sending some of it back to him.

Val: Sounds good to me. The guy at the top gets money and so do the people below him.

Peter: Not exactly. The scam keeps on going, with the people at the bottom paying more and more money until they reach the very bottom.

Val: What happens then?

Peter: Nothing. The people at the bottom give their money to the people above them, and they get nothing. They end up losing. That's why it's a scam.

Val: I see. I guess I should be more careful about what I read, especially on the Internet where you have no idea who anybody is.

【译文】

——嘿,看我电子信箱里别人寄过来的邮件。上面说我在家工作也能快速致富。

——你也相信圣诞老人和牙齿仙女?

——你什么意思?

——我是说你很容易受骗。你不应该相信所有你看到的,尤其是在互联网上看到的。

——但是看起来好像是个好主意。我所要做的就是先给发给我这封信的人寄一些钱。然后他就告诉我怎样去挣更多的钱。

——听起来像是传销。你以前听过那些东西吗？

——传销？是什么？

——它是一个以等级为基础的诡计，像一个金字塔。上层的人向他下面的人要钱，然后告诉他们去向别人要钱并同时把一部分返回给他。

——听起来不错。上面的人得到钱，而且他下面的人也得到钱。

——并不如此。诡计一直玩下去时，底部的人付的钱越来越多，直到他们成为最底部的人。

——那会怎么样？

——不怎么样。底部的人把他们的钱给他们上面的人，他们自己什么也得不到。他们最终遭受损失。这就是为什么它是个诡计的原因。

——我明白了。我想我应该对我看到的要多加小心，尤其是在互联网上的，你都不知道谁是谁。

3. Clever thieves.

Harry: So Kim, have you ever had anything stolen?

Kim: Stolen? No, why?

Harry: My uncle just had his motorcycle stolen a few nights ago. I was just thinking about how clever **criminals**⁹ are these days.

Kim: Criminals are clever? They're only successful when people are care-less.

Harry: I don't know. The ones who stole my uncle's motorcycle were pretty good.

Kim: If your uncle had an **alarm system**¹⁰, then it wouldn't have happened.

Harry: He did. It was one of the best ones available. But that didn't stop them from **disabling**¹¹ it. And on a crowded street too.

Kim: Didn't anyone stop them?

Harry: You would think that people would be smart enough to stop something like that. No one knew his motorcycle was being stolen. The thieves came in a truck and convinced everybody that my uncle was parked illegally and they were there to **tow**¹² it away.

Kim: Wow, they were good. I guess criminals aren't that **dumb**¹³ after all.

Harry: That's not the end. They were so good that they convinced a **by-stander**¹⁴ to help them lift the motorcycle and put it in the truck.

【译文】

——那么,金,你有没有被偷过东西?

——被偷过? 没有,问这干什么?

——几天前我叔叔的车被偷了。我在想现在的小偷真是太聪明了。

——小偷聪明? 只有当人们粗心时,他们才得手。

——我不清楚。偷我叔叔摩托车的那些小偷很聪明。

——如果你叔叔装了报警系统,那就不会发生这样的事了。

——他有报警器。是能买得到的最好的一种。但它没有阻止小偷偷车,而且还是在人群拥挤的大街上。

——难道没有人阻止他们?

——你认为有人会那么聪明去阻止那种事情。没人知道有人在偷摩托车。小偷坐卡车来的,告诉每个人我叔叔是非法停车,他们去

那就是把车拖走。

——喔,他们太绝了。我想罪犯毕竟不是那么哑巴。

——那还没有完。他们伪装得如此好以致于一位旁观者还帮助他们把摩托车抬进卡车。

4. Getting a ticket.

Policeman: Sir, may I please see your license and **registration**¹⁵? Do you know how fast you were going?

Bob: No, I'm not sure. I think about 65 mph, right?

Policeman: You're not sure? You were going at 90 miles per hour! That's 25 mph over the **legal speed limit**¹⁶! Have you been drinking?

Bob: No, Officer, not at all.

Policeman: Then how can you explain your behavior?

Bob: Well, I guess I just wasn't paying attention to the **speedometer**¹⁷.

Policeman: Not paying attention to the speedometer? Why not?

Bob: Um, because I was busy talking to my friend.

Policeman: On a cell phone?

Bob: Yes, I was using a cell phone. I just bought it, so I decided to give my friend a phone call to tell him about it. While I did that I also turned on the radio and was listening to one of my favorite songs, and eating some food I had bought at a fast food restaurant, and, um, guess I had too many **distractions**¹⁸.

Policeman: That's definitely true. I'm going to have to give you a ticket.

Please remember to drive more carefully next time.

【译文】

- 先生,我可以看看你的驾照和登记证吗?你知道你开得有多快吗?
- 不,我不知道。我想时速大约是 65 英里,对吗?
- 你不知道?你正以 90 英里的时速行驶!超过法定时速 25 英里!你在喝酒吗?
- 没有,警官,我根本没有喝酒。
- 那你怎么解释你的所作所为?
- 唔,我想我只是没有注意速度计表。
- 没有注意速度计表?为什么没有注意?
- 嗯,因为我忙着和朋友谈话。
- 用手提电话?
- 是的,我在用手提电话。我刚买的,所以我决定给我的朋友打个电话,告诉他这件事。与此同时,我还打开了收音机,正在听一首我特别喜欢听的歌,吃一些我在速食店买的食物,还有,嗯……我想我分心的事太多了。
- 肯定是这样了。我要给你一张罚款单。请记住下次开车时要多加小心。

4 Words and Expressions

1. **bond** [bɒnd] 债券;公债
2. **stock** [stɒk] 股票,股份
3. **arrest** [ə'rest] 逮捕;拘留

4. **light sentence** 轻的判刑
5. **scheme** [ski:m] 诡计, 阴谋; 计划
6. **gullible** ['gʌlib(ə)l] 易受骗的
7. **scam** [skæm] 骗钱; 阴谋
8. **hierarchy** ['haiərə:ki] 等级制度
9. **criminal** ['kriminal] 罪犯
10. **alarm system** [ə'lɑ:m'sistəm] 报警系统
11. **disable** [dis'eibl] 使失去能力, 使伤残
12. **tow** [təu] 拖, 拉; 牵引
13. **dumb** [dʌm] 哑的, 不能说话的
14. **bystander** ['baistændə(r)] 旁观者
15. **registration** [ˌredʒis'treɪʃən] 登记, 注册, 挂号
16. **legal speed limit** 法定时速
17. **speedometer** [spi'dɒmitə] 速度计; 里程计
18. **distraction** [dis'trækʃən] 分心, 消遣; 散心

About society.

关于社会

1 Introduction

A Some people find it's very meaningful to be kind to the young and care

for the old. America is a wealthy nation, but it has many problems like poverty and loneliness. So, many people volunteer their time to help teach poor children, or they visit elderly people who are lonely.

一些人觉得尊老爱幼很有意义。美国是个富强的国家,但是也有很多贫穷和孤独这些问题。所以,许多人自愿给出时间来帮助教育贫穷的孩子,或者去探望年迈孤寂的老人。

B In many western nations, people are concerned about others who drink or smoke too much. And drugs are a problem that people openly discuss.

在西方许多国家,人们关注那些酗酒或抽烟太多的人。毒品问题就是人们公开谈论的一个话题。

C Pregnancy can be an issue that causes arguments in America. Pregnancy, abortion, and birth control, are topics that people do not agree on.

在美国,怀孕是一个可以引起争执的话题。关于怀孕、堕胎以及节育这些问题,人们都持有不同意见。

D It is a common tradition for some Westerners to donate money to charities that help to solve problems such as poverty, disease, and intolerance.

捐钱给慈善机构去帮助解决像贫穷、疾病和无法容忍这样的问题,这是一些西方人所共有的一个传统。

E The suburbs are popular because people enjoy more space for their homes and the crime rate is usually lower.

郊区很受欢迎,因为人们可以享受更大的住房空间,犯罪率通常也要低一些。

2 Sample Sentences

1. Do you prefer the city or the country?
你喜欢城市还是乡下?
2. Watch your diet.
注意节食。
3. You have **lost some weight**. / You have **come off some weight**.
你瘦了一些。
4. At an early age, I found that positive relationships with **elderly, infirmed, and disabled people**, were personally fulfilling.
早年,我就发现和年老的、体弱者,还有残疾人积极地相处很令人充实。
5. I have the power to **change my body and my health**, yet I can't seem to **get the job done**.
我有能力改变我的身体状况和健康,但是我似乎就是不能把这事搞定。
6. I think that once you **become accustomed to life** in a place like New York State, New England, or Minnesota, you would be happy to live there.
我想一旦你习惯了在像纽约州、新英格兰(美国东北部六州的总称)或者明尼苏达州这样的地方生活,你会很高兴住在那儿的。
7. Carl was very **supportive of your right** to be an individual.
Carl 很支持你作为个人的权力。

8. He seems very **respectful of** people of different backgrounds.
他看起来很尊重来自不同出生背景的人。
9. How would you **react** if your friend wanted an abortion?
如果你的朋友要求流产的话,你会有什么反应?
10. I haven't had a **personal experience** with abortion **other than** knowing someone who had one.
除了认识一个人有过此经历外,我个人还从未经历过流产。

3 Conversations

1. Dieting.

George: Do you hear what happened to Sally?

Joanne: No, what?

George: She had to go to the hospital.

Joanne: Why?

George: She **passed out**¹ in class. Seems she hadn't eaten anything in days.

Joanne: Why on earth would she do that? You mean that she **intentionally**² did not eat any food for days? That's crazy!

George: Yeah, but that's what she did.

Joanne: I can't believe that there are girls who are willing to do that to their bodies. And all for a certain look.

George: Well, it's not just the girl's fault. It's also society's fault – magazines and ads that show **wafer**³ – thin models all saying “It's in to be thin”. It's hard for them not to listen.

Joanne: True, but there are limits. Being thin is one thing; starving oneself to death is another. No one forces them to do this.

George: I know that, but sometimes it's hard to make the right decision. And besides, **anorexia**⁴ is a **psychological**⁵ problem as well. Anorexics never think that they are thin enough, and they keep pushing themselves.

Joanne: Well, they should do more to **tone down**⁶ those messages and try to promote a healthier body image. It really hurts girls if they grow up thinking they're always too fat.

George: I agree.

【译文】

——你听说莎利出什么事了吗？

——没有，什么事？

——她必须去医院。

——为什么？

——她在课堂上昏倒了。好像她几天没有吃东西了。

——她究竟为什么要那样做？你是说她故意几天不吃东西？那真是疯狂！

——是的，但她是那么做的。

——我不相信有女孩子愿意对她的身体那样做，况且仅仅是为了某些方面好看。

——唔，这不只是这个女孩子的过错。也是社会的过错——那些登着最瘦模特的杂志和广告都说“减肥很流行”。对她们来说，不听是很难的。