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American Education

美国教育小故事

Dennis Hagen 陈辉岳 编著

上海外语教育出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

美国教育小故事/(美)哈根(Hagen D.)陈辉岳
编著. —上海:上海外语教育出版社 2001
(中学生英语文库)

ISBN 7-81080-227-5

E. 美... n ①哈...②陈... i. 英语-阅读教学
- 中学-课外读物 s. G634.413

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2001)第 042490 号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内)

责任编辑: 严 凯

印刷者:

经 销: 新华书店上海发行所

开 本: 787×960 1/32 印张 字数 千字

版 次: 2001年0月第1版 2001年0月第1次印刷

印 数: 册

书 号: ISBN7-81000-000-0/G·000

定 价: . 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题,可向承印(订)厂调换。

Acknowledgements

The manuscript for *American Education* was typed by Zhang Ping of Wuhan University of Technology , Yu Jia Tou Campus. Final preparation and editing was by Janet Hagen , wife of the author.

The intense desire of the Chinese students who wish to explore every educational opportunity was the inspiration for writing this book. As they improve themselves for future careers , they will enjoy personal achievement , praise from their parents , and the pride of their country.

Forward

One of the most important decisions in life is the choice of a university or college. In China , the best 100 universities have been identified so students know where all the best schools are in the country.

In America , the magazine called *U. S. News & World Report* produces an annual listing of more than 1,400 schools where students from around the world can know the best universities. You can imagine the difficulty of the editors in trying to compare all these schools with each other.

Each school is sent a questionnaire and 16 categories are compared. However , the schools have different missions so all universities and colleges are put into four different categories defined by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The “ national universities ” offer a full range of undergraduate majors , masters and Ph. D. degrees as well as emphasizing faculty research.

The “ national liberal arts colleges ” are concerned mostly with only undergraduate education with 40 per cent of their degrees in the liberal arts. The “ regional universities ” have undergraduate and master’s degrees but few Ph. D. degrees. The “ regional liberal arts colleges ” focus on undergraduate programs.

The 50 best “ national colleges ” are listed in the appendix and the top six will be discussed in the first chapters of the book. If you want to research America’s Best Colleges , you should log on to the Internet at HYPERLINK <http://www.usnews.com> , or www.usnews.com.

Most Chinese students are interested in graduate programs so the “ national universities ” will be the emphasis of this text. However , the full story of American education is very diverse so a study of all levels of education and major fields will give you the full story of how Americans learn.

Respectfully ,
Dr. Dennis Hagen

前 言

《美国教育小故事》(American Education)是继《美国文化小故事》(American Culture Stories)、《美国名人小故事》(Famous Americans)之后,我们为《中学生英语文库》(English Library for High School Students)编写的第三本书。本书有短文 58 篇,每篇长度约 400 词左右,从以下 5 个方面对美国的教育较系统地进行了简要的介绍:

(一) 美国大学的排名,并列举了几所最著名大学的情况。

(二) 美国大学本科的文、理、工、商、医、教育等各专业及研究生院的情况。

(三) 美国基础教育的托儿所、幼儿园、小学、初高中、社区专科学院及特殊类型学校的概况,还特别介绍了图书馆在各级、各类学校中的重要作用。

(四) 美国大中小学的课外活动及主要活动内容。

(五) 美国教育、教学及教师的管理;学监及校长的产生及职责;学校经费的筹措、分配及教师收入等。

为帮助读者检查自己的理解程度,在每篇短文后附有三个理解测试题(Comprehension Check)。本书所用的词汇凡超出目前高中课本及高考英语词汇表的,均有中文注释并标出国际音标。本书共有生词、词

组 747 个(见所附词汇表),平均生词率为 3%。读者在听读本书的同时可熟悉并掌握有关教育方面的常用词语及专业术语。

教育部新颁布的《国家英语课程标准》,要求高中毕业生一门外语基本过关,在词汇量上普通高中毕业生应达到英语八年级水平(3,000 词以上),重点学校、外语学校毕业生应达到九年级水平(5,000 词)。由此可见,按课程标准的要求我们所标出的生词大部分都是高中生应该掌握的。为此,我们建议读者充分利用本书所提供的词汇来扩大词汇量,并在实践中积极运用,以适应形势发展的需要。

英语作为一门世界通用的语言,在 21 世纪信息技术迅猛发展的时代,其重要性已越来越明显。据统计世界上 80% 以上的网页是用英语制作的,因此可以说掌握英语就大大增强了掌握大量信息,参与国际竞争的能力,在未来的各种竞争中占有很大的优势。通晓英语已是 21 世纪青年人必须具备的一种基本素质。在此,我们期望广大读者通过听读本书来提高自己的英语水平,锻炼自己用英语直接获取信息的能力。

为本书配套的录音带由上海外语音像出版社制作出版。

2001 年 10 月 1 日

陈辉岳于上海

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Famous Colleges

The name of a famous college on a student's graduation diploma guarantees a certain respect for that student in his or her future. The value of a superior education is inestimable which means it cannot be estimated. Someone has said that the choice of a college might be the most important choice in a student's career. It is the college that shapes the mind to strive for excellence and the better the college faculty , the better the college graduate.

The colleges in this book have each achieved a certain distinction based on a recent evaluation that is used for all American universities. The explanation of their curriculum strengths will be a guide for analysis of other universities in America.

1. University Study

Education has produced leaders in China from the ancient times. This high value placed on education remains today. As you read this book , you are probably thinking about what you want to do with your life and how you will achieve it.

Everyone must have a basic education to be able to read , write , and speak reasonably well. Society demands that all children must be educated so they can live effectively. However , leadership in nearly every case comes by education beyond this basic level of communication. In every country , higher education of some type is the goal for young people.

This book was written to help you think new thoughts about your future. Perhaps you know of only a few universities you might attend or of only a few majors you might study. Here you will have lists of significant schools and you will explore many majors.

The vocabulary you will read is for academic minded young people. You might struggle with the words but each major you will define might give you a key to unlock your future vocation. The knowledge you will gain by reading about universi-

ty majors will cause you to be a good conversationalist amongst your peers as well as your teachers.

Think about this statement from Teilhard de Chardin. " Our duty as men (and women) is to proceed as if limits to our ability did not exist " .

Another writer named Vergil has written , " They are able because they think they are able. "

There is a Chinese proverb that takes some concentration to understand but it is worth your time to study it carefully.

Men are four :

He who knows and knows not that he knows.

He is asleep ; wake him.

He who knows not and knows not that he knows not. He is a fool ; shun him.

He who knows not and knows that he knows not. He is a child ; teach him.

He who knows and knows that he knows. He is a king ; follow him.

The educated person knows that he knows. He or she will be confident because of this knowledge. This will lead to a successful and happy life.

May you be disciplined in your study , responsible for your actions , and dedicated to your profession. Because of your attitude towards education , you will play a significant role in the future of China.