

星火

5元

丛书

英语报刊文摘

Journalistic English Digest



侯萍萍 编注

中国对外经济贸易出版社

5元丛书第二辑 英语精粹文丛(Ⅱ)

英语报刊文摘

侯
萍
萍

编
注

丛书主编 张晓博 马德高

中国对外经济贸易出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语报刊文摘/侯萍萍编注. —北京:中国对外经济贸易出版社, 2000. 10

(5元丛书. 第二辑. 英语精粹文丛(Ⅱ)/张晓博, 马德高主编)

ISBN 7-80004-838-1

I. 英... II. 侯... III. 英语-语言读物
IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2000) 第 53037 号

5元丛书第二辑
英语精粹文丛(Ⅱ)
丛书主编 张晓博 马德高
英语报刊文摘
侯萍萍 编注

中国对外经济贸易出版社出版
(北京安定门外大街东后巷28号)
邮政编码:100710

新华书店发行
山东省临沂市沂蒙印刷厂印刷
787×1092毫米 36开本
印张:38.5 字数:1032千字
2000年10月第1版
2000年10月第1次印刷

ISBN 7-80004-838-1
H·135

全套定价:40.00元

丛书致读者

那天陪朋友逛“科技市场”，感觉到从未有过的累。

得跟您说明一下。这个科技市场是山东济南靠近山大南院的一个计算机商场。一座三层楼里面，汇集三百多家计算机商，经销整机，硬软件，耗材，配套设施，当然还有节目光盘。

说到那些节目光盘，我困惑得头大。都是些什么呀。我奶奶——愿她在地下安息——如果还活着，逢此盛世，肯定乐得再活几十年。七仙女，白娘子，老包，目连，说书的瞎子，算命的先生，都在。麻将和桥牌可能让她皱眉，三国游戏可能玩不来了；可是，金庸和琼瑶，韦小宝和小燕子，她一定喜闻乐见。

朋友曾怜悯我至今还用着十几年前的 286 和 WPS：“呵，很多享受你错过了。”But dear Grandmother，要是“享受”指的是这些，俺宁可回俺村去看俺的蚂蚁上树。

临出门，上高中的儿子对我说：“要是多媒体上能看欧几里德和牛顿讲数学，那咱就买一台。”

我问了。没那节目。有些商家连这些名字都没听说

过。“有孩子看的科技节目吗?”“有。”拿过一张盘,套封上列着“地球奥秘”,“人体奥秘”,什么什么,不用看就知道,小学三年级以下的孩子可能感兴趣。

那天是个“秋老虎”,预报说33度。可是,包围在那些媒体里面,我觉得怎么也有34度。除了一身一身的汗,没感到别的享受,也没看到什么科技。

所以,让我选择,还是看书,白纸黑字的书。最好是五块钱一本的,可看可不看的闲书(注意,这是广告)。花明柳媚时,梧桐秋雨时,长夏无聊时,没有功课也没有约会;当此时也,手执一卷,卧榻上,树荫里,安安静静,读上一叶两叶,三叶五叶,是一种心境,是一种活法儿——一种在闹市尘嚣电化声光威凌之下离我们越来越远的活法儿。

绍明

前 言

接触英语近二十年,愈来愈觉得自己知道的太少,不知道的太多,这也许便是古人所说的“学然后知不足”。于是便有一种强烈的欲望,想找到一条好的途径,使自己的英语水平能再上一个台阶。与一位外国朋友谈起此事,他表示出极大的热情。他建议说,阅读最新的英语原文报刊不失为一种好的方法。一来可以帮助我们了解英语国家的生活、文化等方方面面,二来可以了解英语语言的使用即最新发展,我觉得他言之有理。此后,便得到了这位外国朋友的鼎力相助。

我在阅读了大量最新的英语原文报刊以后,确实学到了很多在别处没学到或学不到的东西,深感获益匪浅,于是就想,何不把自己的收获与大学分享?再于是,就有了这本小册子。

如果你在翻完这本小册子后能对英文报刊发生兴趣,甚至养成定期阅读英文报刊的习惯,那我会感到莫大的欣慰。

真诚希望同行专家们提出宝贵意见。

编者

2000年9月20日

目 录

The Physically and Mentally Disabled in America

Introduction	2
<i>Living with Disabilities in the United States</i>	5
<i>We Just Want to Be Included with Everyone Else</i>	11
<i>Technology Helps the Disabled</i>	15

Animal Issues

Introduction	22
<i>Monkey Being Sent to the Zoo even though It</i> <i>Believes It Is Human</i>	23
<i>Escaped Pet Lizard Eats People's Pets</i>	28
<i>All Mice Are Not Bad</i>	30

Crime as a Part of American Culture

Introduction	34
<i>Corruption and the Salt Lake City Olympic Bid</i>	37
<i>Mother Abandons Two Children</i>	41
<i>One Fourth of American Women Report Being</i> <i>Attacked by a Partner</i>	43
<i>Frank Sinatra under FBI Scrutiny for Years</i>	45

Economic Scene

Introduction	55
<i>Standard of Living Decreasing for</i> <i>the Working Class</i>	58
<i>Differences in Income Narrowing in Indiana Town</i>	62
<i>What about Students Who Don't Go to College?</i>	67

<i>Farm Workers and Children Exploited in American Fields</i>	72
<i>Americans Borrow and Borrow and Borrow</i>	77
<i>Housing and Capitalism in San Francisco</i>	83

Life in America

Introduction	91
<i>One of America's Most Polluted Areas Is Its Most Visited National Park</i>	92
<i>When is Puberty Too Early?</i>	97
<i>It is Common for Employees to Steal from Their Employers</i>	101
<i>Wealthy Teenagers Who Attacked Elderly Migrants Are without Remorse</i>	106
<i>A Church Destroyed by Hate</i>	108
<i>The City of Oakland Establishes Relations with Cuba</i>	111
<i>Prenuptial Pacts Shield Businesses from an Heir's Ex</i>	114

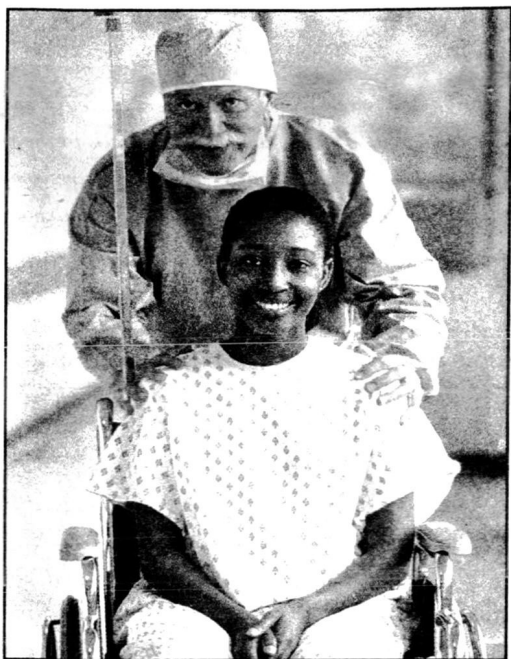
Affirmative Action: Rectifying Past Wrongs

Introduction	119
<i>Rejected Texan Whites Threaten US Race Laws</i>	122
<i>Cal 'Reject' Turns to West Point</i>	127
<i>White Males Take up Arms on Affirmative Action</i> ...	135
<i>Hostility at Black Welfare Study</i>	140

The Changing Social Culture of Tobacco

Introduction	144
<i>Making a Case for Death</i>	147
<i>The Great Outdoors Is Latest Battlefield in War on Smoking</i>	152
<i>Leave Smokers Alone—It's Their Choice</i>	158

The Physically and Mentally Disabled in America



Introduction

Until Congress passed The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), people with physical and mental disabilities kept to themselves and seldom went out to shop, go to a movie, or even to get some fresh air. The disabled who were brave enough to venture outside were often called unpleasant names and stared at. Even those who were thick-skinned^① and adventuresome seldom were able to go very far as they would be stopped by almost insurmountable^② barriers. People confined to wheelchairs were unable to go very far since it was virtually impossible for them to use public transit^③. They were no more successful in maneuvering their wheelchair down the street since there were no curb cuts enabling them to move back and forth from the sidewalk to the street. The unkindest and most unthinking cut of all, public restrooms were so designed that it was impossible to maneuver a wheelchair into a toilet stall^④.

The disabled observed blacks, Asians, women and people confined to prisons, all of whom had been deprived of basic human rights, first demanding and then receiving their rights. Sometimes they worked through the political process and other times they were involved in direct action. They observed that the political fights were sometimes unpleasant and confrontational^⑤ but ultimately they won. In the 1980s the country's disabled became just as feisty^⑥ as any other group who had been deprived of their rights with the consequence that Congress enacted the ADA in 1990. However, "Living With Disabilities in the United States" shows that in a great many cases the legislation is just ignored.

The disabled are the first to admit that the ADA legislation has been of immense help to them. However, in many cases busi-

nesses and state and local governments have ignored it with the excuse that the legislation imposes an undue financial burden on them. Cities resent having to equip buses with expensive equipment to help the disabled when each day only a small number ride the bus. Theaters resent having to reconfigure[®] their seating area for a few wheelchair viewers, and everyone balks at the cost of rebuilding rest rooms to accommodate the disabled. Nevertheless, grudgingly[®] and little by little the disabled are winning rights for which they have long been entitled.

"We Just Want to Be Included with Everyone Else" provides several poignant accounts of people with physical disabilities who want to be part of society and live the same way as everyone else. The first account describes a bright but quadriplegic professional couple determined to do as much as is humanly possible to live life to its fullest. The second account deals with the physically handicapped chief financial officer for the Federal Transit Administration who is dogged in his determination to ensure businesses are living up to the ADA legislation. The third account is of a mother and her teen-age daughter bound to a wheelchair in San Francisco and the fourth is of a physically handicapped park naturalist. Each account brings to life a handicapped person with feelings and emotions.

"Technology Helps the Disabled" shows how the technological revolution has dramatically changed the lives of people who are severely disabled. With devices so sensitive that they can be controlled by the touch of a tongue or the directional change of an eyeball, these people can type, use the Internet, and communicate with their friends. People who at one time were unable to leave their home can now get into a specially designed wheelchair that can be driven into a van and locked into place in the driver's position. Now engineers with disabilities are bringing their engineering

skills to bear to make life much more comfortable for themselves and others.

★ Notes

- ① thick-skinned: 厚脸皮的
- ② insurmountable: 不可克服的
- ③ transit: 通道
- ④ stall: 小分隔间
- ⑤ confrontational: 对抗性的
- ⑥ feisty ['faisti]: 活跃的, 好争论的
- ⑦ reconfigure: 重新配制
- ⑧ grudgingly: 勉强地

Living with Disabilities in the United States

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)—a law so sweeping that it was hailed at passage as an Emancipation Proclamation for the disabled—made a promise: that 43 million Americans would have a right of access to employment, to public places and to the mainstream of American society.

Ten years later, a walk down any street will attest to^① the progress made. But get past a curb cut or two, and the spirit of cooperation so widely hailed in 1990 is dissolving into an increasingly bitter fight between the disabled and the business community.

Disability rights groups say that despite much voluntary progress, a routine, widespread and often blatant^② disregard for the law is making a mockery of their civil rights. Businesses say that much good has been achieved but that the ADA is lining the pockets of lawyers and making a mockery of common sense.

Both sides agree that whatever progress has been made on removing architectural barriers in everyday life, the ADA has failed in one of its highest goals: to increase the number of disabled who work, still stuck at roughly one-third of the disabled population.

Nowhere is the fight more visible than in California which gave birth to the disability rights movement. From actor Clint Eastwood's Inn at Carmel, on the California coast, to the biggest names in corporate America—Macy's, Safeway, Chevron, Disneyland, United Artists theaters—businesses are being sued for not providing access for people with disabilities. Governments and public agencies get sued too, from Bay Area Rapid Transit

(BART) to the city of Sacramento and the Oakland school district.

The director of litigation^③ for Disability Rights Advocates said the long list of high-profile^④ defendants is testament to a broad failure to comply with the law. "You find people who use wheelchairs who could not get to work or school because the BART elevators would not work," he said. "There is no excuse, 10 years after the ADA, for a major business establishment like Macy's (a major department store chain in California), for example, continuing to have architectural barriers."

The executive director of the Disability Rights Council of Greater Washington D.C. agrees, noting that her group is suing the Ames department store chain for lack of store access. "Enforcement has been appallingly lacking," she said. "The rules are simple, they're easy to follow, and people aren't following them."

Businesses say the rules are anything but simple and easy. They insist that they want to comply but that the law is often-times^⑤ vague.

Does "disabled" include employees with back pain and depression? Those two complaint categories lead, by a wide margin, the 125,946 ADA cases filed at the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission since the law was implemented.

"When President Bush signed this bill, the people standing and sitting behind him and around him were not people with back injuries and depression," said the vice president of human resource policy at the National Association of Manufacturers. She notes that the ADA is "a constant nuisance" and a source of "an awful lot of mischief" for large employers.

Disability rights groups say Congress intended the ADA to cover back injuries and depression along with cancer, learning

disabilities, allergies®, manic-depressive disorder® and other "invisible" disabilities.

The law's very preamble® cites 43 million disabled—roughly 1 in 5 Americans—a number that far exceeds the mobility-, sight-, and hearing impaired. Surveys show that employers win 92 percent of disability cases that go to court.

Last year, the Supreme Court narrowed the definition of disability rejecting claims in three decisions involving two truck drivers, one blind in one eye and another with high blood pressure, and myopic® twin sisters applying for commercial airline pilot jobs.

Although attention gets paid to people who test the ADA's boundaries—like the 410-pound job applicant who sued the New York subway to enlarge its conductor cabs, a case dismissed in court—the courts have proved to be strict on ADA employment claims, said the director of litigation for the Oakland Disability Rights Advocates. "We only have a single employment case in this office," he said, "because they're so risky and difficult to win."

Businesses argue that despite victories, defending the suits costs a small fortune. ADA suits and their complicated interactions with other employment laws, like workers compensation, have become a big headache, many businesses say.

"It's driving them crazy," said a San Francisco attorney who advises corporate clients on labor law. "Since the correct answer under the ADA is always, 'it definitely depends,' that is going to be a wonderful opportunity for individuals who want to take advantage of the system to file claims."

Whatever the reason, both sides agree that the ADA has failed to lift employment among the disabled. A Cornell University economist said the data show that employment of the disabled

"has not gone up, but in fact it has gone down since 1993 which is a very disturbing trend."

The employment drop has coincided with the 1992 implementation of the ADA, and some economists argue that the law contributed to the decline by raising the cost of hiring a disabled worker. The Cornell economist rejects that idea, saying that an expansion of Social Security disability benefits and lack of health insurance could explain the phenomenon.

Although the disabled say they cannot find work, small businesses, mostly exempt from the ADA's employment provisions, complain about its rules requiring access. They accuse lawyers, mainly in California and Florida, of "drive-by lawsuits" in which attorneys go up and down strip malls[®] charging stores with ADA violations.

A provision in the law requires losing parties to pay all attorney fees. But as a result, some lawyers now specialize in ADA suits. Businesses have a strong motive to settle quickly rather than contest the charges and rack of thousands of dollars in legal costs, their own and those of the opposing side.

A Republican member of the House of Representative from Florida introduced a bill in Congress that would require a 90 day notification[®] before an ADA suit can be filed. Needless to say, the bill was strongly opposed by disability groups.

"When somebody tells me that there have been over 300 suits filed on one street, that would tell me that someone is not necessarily looking out for a plaintiff[®] but is looking out for themselves," said the sponsor of the bill.

The president of the California Restaurant Association, said the number of lawsuits against his group's 14,000 members has jumped in the last six months. Restaurants are committed to the spirit of the ADA without reservation," the president said.

"What these lawsuits seem to be more about is 'gotcha' rather than 'hey, let's work together, let's find a way so we can have access.'"

But voluntary compliance is not always forthcoming and some businesses need to be sued, said a bay area access consultant who is a quadriplegic[®]. He has served as an expert witness on more than 500 disability cases for both plaintiffs and defendants. He concedes that some lawyers have been taking advantage of ADA enforcement procedures "and quite frankly are making a small business out of it."

But much of the litigation involves real disputes over what constitutes compliance. Ironically, parts of the law written to shield small businesses from onerous[®] costs cause the most problems—like the mandate that barriers be removed if doing so is "readily achievable."

And the few court decisions have not clarified the law. "What happens is that all these things settle, but it leaves a very bitter taste in businesses' mouth, because they feel they've been railroaded[®]," the consultant said. Likewise, people with disabilities are left "in a position where they're angry. All they're asking for is modifications that, quite frankly, the law gives them, and they're made out to be bad guys by trying to get enforcement."

The standoff could foment a backlash "that ultimately will cause us trouble," he said. "I think when the pendulum[®] swings, it swings violently."

The head of the National organization on Disability, said earlier civil rights laws went through a similar legal sifting. "You've got to take a lot of approaches—like Ho Chi Minh said, 'Fight, fight, talk, talk.'" He went on to say, "sure we're going to pursue more than one avenue, and when necessary, of course