

前 言



随着国家推进“一带一路”建设，社会对大学生英语能力和跨文化交际能力的要求越来越高。了解西方社会与文化、开拓国际视野、去除文化交流障碍已成为英语学习者的基本需求。鉴于此，本教材以任务教学法和产出导向法为理论指导，倡导研究型学习，旨在深度解读英国独特的文明画卷和文化符号。教材依托学习者密切关注的英国社会文化内容，在扩大阅读输入、提高文本难度的同时，侧重于口语和写作的输出，组织学习者进行语言交际活动，既训练了语言技能，也丰富了跨文化知识，可谓一箭双雕、事半功倍。此外，教材还将价值塑造、知识传授和能力培养融为一体，可有效拓宽学习的广度和深度。

与同类教材相比，本教材具有以下特色：

1. 文化导入、能力导向

本教材分为 10 章，重点介绍了英国的文学巨匠和鸿篇巨著，重要历史人物和事件，交往的礼仪，广播、报纸和电视，地理知识和旅游景点，体育运动和流行影视，君主立宪制，国民习惯和性格特征，独特的教育体系和知名学府，女性运动和伟大的女领导人等经典的社会文化现象，旨在增强学习者的英语综合运用能力、自主学习能力和批判性思维能力，培养他们的跨文化交际意识。

2. 原版资料、原汁原味

本教材文章全部选自英文原版资料，通过提供高质量的语言输入，让学习者体会到英国文化的原汁原味，了解生动的案例和最新的社会动态。

3. 寓教于乐、精彩纷呈

本教材从大众的视角出发，选材兼顾知识点的实用性和内容的趣味性，寓教于乐。同时，文章中插入了相关的图片、表格等视觉材料，以活泼的表现手段和多种多样的呈现方式展现出生动直观的效果，让学习者既能深化对语言文化知识的理解，又能体验精彩纷呈的文化之旅。

4. 多元切入、包罗万象

本教材从多元的角度切入，选材涉及文化的各个层面，旨在加深学习者对英国的风俗习惯、国民性格、生活方式、思维模式、价值观念、标准取向和民族发展史的认知和理解，可满足不同学习者的阅读兴趣，便于他们丰富知识储备、开拓国际视野、提高文学素养、培养人文情怀。

5. 预设目标、启发思维

每章开篇进行了章节简介并预设了学习目标，导向清晰、层层递进，有助于不同水平的学习者掌握章节要点，把握文章脉络，进行知识整合，以便做到有的放矢地学习，实现全过程自我检测，并完善自我学习策略，从而提升学习效果。

6. 题型新颖、考查全面

本教材对题型和题目进行了精心设计，层次分明、环环相扣，不仅有对知识点和文化背景的考查，也有对词汇和词组搭配的测试，还有口语讨论和演讲输出，更有重点句子翻译和写作训练，形式多样。编者特意选取了较为真实的场景，设计了应用性强的任务，如头脑风暴、话题辩论、角色表演、主题陈述、故事编述等，既新颖有趣又有挑战性，能多维度提升学习者的英语阅读水平和语言运用能力，促使他们积极地思考、提问、探索、发现和批判。

7. 联想记忆、深度解析

本教材对文章中出现的重点词汇进行了黑体标注，并提供了词性和中文释义，帮助学习者扫除阅读障碍，更快更好地扩大词汇量；对于语言难点、历史人物、重大事件和典故知识，教材也通过二维码提供了注释和解析，以帮助学习者加深对文章的理解，把握相关知识点，并拓展对英国文化的认识。

8. 资源丰富、延伸拓展

为倡导研究型学习，本教材以二维码的形式延展专题。开篇以二维码的形式提供了拓展知识面的相关背景介绍，提纲挈领、分门别类地介绍了相关知识点。篇中二维码提供了文章中历史人物和重大事件的文化注释，并附有推荐的相关网址和影视资源，方便学习者学习、查阅，进而提升他们的自主学习能力、信息获取能力和语言运用能力。篇尾二维码提供了 Text II 的相关习题，对学习者的学习能力进行进一步考查。

9. 横纵结合、兼容并蓄

本教材横向介绍英国社会的方方面面，纵向追溯其发展历程和因果渊源。为满足多群体、多维度、多层次的不同需要，本教材兼容并蓄，具有较高的可读性、可教性和可参考性，方便教师借助教材有条不紊地开展形式多样的教学活动，鼓励学习者自主获取知识、发现问题并解决问题。

10. 课程思政、文化自信

在材料选择和练习设计方面，本教材立足课程思政，旨在提升学习者的文化自信，使其能在中外文化交流的舞台上讲好中国故事，传播中国声音，在跨文化交际中探讨中外差异。

“英国社会与文化”慕课是武汉大学外国语文学学院大学英语部五位青年骨干教师团队十几年授课成果的凝练和提升，自 2018 年在爱课程平台上线以来，已经运行了 10 轮，选课人数近 8 万人。2019 年该慕课荣获“湖北高校线上线下混合式金课教学大赛优秀教学改革案例”称号，2021 年被湖北省教育厅认定为湖北高校一流本科课程。

本教材是“英国社会与文化”慕课的配套教材，编者也是该慕课的制作者，有丰富的语言文化教学经验，深知涉外工作和文化交流中对英语语言和英语文化的需求。这样编写的教材有的放矢、针对性强，可以满足中高级阶段英语学习者的学习需求，适用于高等院校本科生、研究生培养以及教师继续教育。

我们期待，不论是高校英语专业学生，还是英语水平较高的非英语专业学生，或是有一定英语基础准备出国深造的英语学习者，甚至是在高校教授西方文化课尤其是英国文化课的教师，都能从本教材中学有所获、学以致用，为学习、工作和生活提供实用有益的参考。教师也可以与慕课同步，开展线上线下相结合的混合式教学实践。我们也希望，在教材使用过程中，能得到更多院校师生的反馈意见和建议，以便我们不断完善教材，给学习者带来更好的学习体验。

编者

2023年1月

Contents



Chapter 1 Literature—Literary Giants and Their Masterpieces 1

Unit 1	Shakespeare, The Greatest Dramatist: Appreciation of His Comedies and Tragedies.....	2
	Text I Why Study Shakespeare?	3
	Text II On Shakespeare	9
Unit 2	Great Authors and Their Novels of the Victorian Period.....	13
	Text I Gender Roles in the 19th Century	13
	Text II Charles Dickens' Gift of Giving	20
Unit 3	Notable Poets of Romanticism—Byron, Shelley and Keats	24
	Text I Famous Last Words.....	25
	Text II The Later Romantics: Shelley, Keats, and Byron.....	30

Chapter 2 History—Figures and Events of Significance 33

Unit 1	King Arthur and William of Normandy: Early History of Britain and the French Influence.....	34
	Text I King Arthur	35
	Text II The Emergence of the British State	41
Unit 2	King John and King Charles I: Is King's Right Divine?.....	44
	Text I King John.....	45
	Text II Charles I.....	50

Unit 3	Spanish Armada and the Two World Wars:	
	The Empire on Which the Sun Never Sets	54
	Text I Rivalry Between Britain and France	55
	Text II The Battle of Britain	62

Chapter 3 Communication—Etiquette Here and There 67

Unit 1	English Weather-Speak:	
	How to Talk About the Weather with the English	68
	Text I Is the British Weather Unique in the World?.....	68
	Text II Rules of English Weather-Speak	73
Unit 2	Greetings and Goodbyes: How to Greet and Say Goodbye.....	76
	Text I A Short Primer on British Social Etiquette	76
	Text II English Etiquette	80
Unit 3	English Pubs—How to Engage in Non-verbal and Verbal Communication.....	84
	Text I Seven Differences Between American and British Pubs	84
	Text II What Is Britain Without the Pub?.....	88

Chapter 4 British Media—Broadcasting, Newspapers and Television 93

Unit 1	The Broadcasting History of BBC.....	94
	Text I The Growth of Alternative Media	95
	Text II Swashbuckling Sounds: The History of Pirate Radio Stations	99
Unit 2	Britain's Big Three: Quality or Popular Papers	104
	Text I A History of the Broadsheet Newspaper	105
	Text II The Era of the Press Barons	110
Unit 3	Television: An Idiotic Thing?	114
	Text I The Age of Show Business	115
	Text II The Medium Is the Message.....	120

Chapter 5 A Country of Countries—Geography and Tourist Attractions 125

Unit 1	Geographical Divisions of United Kingdom	126
Text I	The Differences Among the UK, Britain, Great Britain and England	126
Text II	People and Language.....	131
Unit 2	Historical Heritage and Landscape	134
Text I	Stonehenge-Era Pig Roasts United Ancient Britain, Scientists Say.....	135
Text II	The White Cliffs of Dover—Things to See and Do	139
Unit 3	A Tour to Major Cities: Landmarks and Spectaculars	143
Text I	Six of London's Best Small Museums and Why You Should Visit Them Now	144
Text II	How to Experience Belfast's Cultural Scene like a Local	148

Chapter 6 Entertainment—Sports, Movies and TV Series 153

Unit 1	Sports: Widespread Participation	154
Text I	Sports in the UK.....	155
Text II	Association Football or Soccer	160
Unit 2	What's So Fascinating of British Films?	164
Text I	The Highest-Grossing British Films of All Time	165
Text II	British Film History.....	171
Unit 3	Charms of Popular TV Series— <i>Sherlock</i> , <i>Downton Abbey</i> and <i>Doctor Who</i>	175
Text I	Best Films and TV Shows Based on the British Royal Family	176
Text II	Do You Love British TV Series? Showmax Got You Covered	182
Unit 4	One City, Three Olympic Games.....	186
Text I	London Olympic Games Then and Now: 1908 & 2012	187
Text II	Legacies of Past Olympic Games	192

Chapter 7 Politics—Constitutional Monarchy.....197

Unit 1	Constitution and Monarch:	
	How to Justify Britain's Support for Monarchy	198
	Text I Elizabeth II	199
	Text II Harry's Departure Could Do Britain's Royal Family a Favor.....	203
Unit 2	General Election: Who Would Become the Winner of First-Past-the-Post.....	207
	Text I How Winston Churchill Lost the 1945 British General Election	208
	Text II Some Arguments Surrounding the Debate over FPTP vs. PR.....	214
Unit 3	Separation of Powers:	
	Would Early Election Do Wonders for Theresa May	218
	Text I Theresa May's Election Announcement: Full Statement	219
	Text II British PM May Calls for Early Election to Strengthen Brexit Hand	225
Unit 4	Product of Ballot and Root of Trouble:	
	Soft Brexit, Hard Brexit or No-Deal Brexit.....	229
	Text I Britain and the European Union	230
	Text II Brexit: Pros and Cons.....	235

Chapter 8 People—Habit Is Second Nature.....239

Unit 1	Queuing: Queueurs and Queue-Jumpers	240
	Text I Queuing: Is It Really the British Way?.....	240
	Text II Coronavirus Has Ruined the Great, Orderly British Queue	245
Unit 2	Moaning: Workplace Moans and Restaurant Moans	249
	Text I Top 50 Things British People Complain About	249
	Text II Moaning Is Bad for Your Health	255
Unit 3	Humour: Understatement and Self-deprecation	259
	Text I British Humour: What Exactly Is It and How Does It Work?....	259
	Text II The Differences Between American and British Humour	265

Unit 4	Sorry, ... Sorry, ... Sorry, ...What Does It Say About Englishness?	269
Text I	Why Do the British Say “Sorry” So Much?.....	269
Text II	Terribly Sorry—But Britain’s Famed Politeness May Be a Myth...274	

Chapter 9 Education—Distinct Educational System and Distinguished Schools..... 279

Unit 1	Understanding the UK Education System	280
Text I	Academic Route vs. Vocational Route: Which Is Better?.....	280
Text II	Western Norms of Critical Argumentation	286
Unit 2	Public Schools and Independent Schools	290
Text I	British Education System—Grammar School	291
Text II	Best of British as Elite Public Schools Tap up Chinese Pupils ...	295
Unit 3	How to Apply for a British University	300
Text I	The Personal Statement that Got Me a Large Scholarship to Cambridge	300
Text II	What Is a Collegiate University?	306
Unit 4	Different Types of British Universities and Their Strengths.....	309
Text I	Differences Between Oxford and Cambridge.....	309
Text II	Why Should You Study at a Russell Group University?.....	314

Chapter 10 Feminine Culture in Britain 319

Unit 1	Women’s Movement in Britain.....	320
Text I	The Lives of the Suffragettes	321
Text II	Woman as Other.....	326
Unit 2	Great Women Leaders in British History.....	330
Text I	Twilight of Splendor: The Court of Queen Victoria During Her Diamond Jubilee	331
Text II	Slums in Late-Victorian London.....	337
Unit 3	The Crazy Hat.....	342
Text I	Margaret Thatcher: Fashion Rebel?.....	343

英国社会与文化

Text II	History of Women Wearing Men's Clothing	349
Unit 4	Weddings: The Carrier of British Culture	356
Text I	Miss Brooke	357
Text II	Marriage Therapy in the 1960s: Marriage as a Platform for Personal Growth	362

Chapter

1

Literature— Literary Giants and Their Masterpieces

Introduction



When it comes to British literary giants, which prominent figure would come to your mind? William Shakespeare, the unparalleled dramatist and poet in Renaissance? William Thackeray, the master of satire who described the world with a critical view in his masterpiece *Vanity Fair*? Charles Dickens, the greatest representative of English critical realism? The brilliant Brontë sisters, the creators of *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights* and *Agnes Gray*? Or the notable poets of Romanticism like Byron, Shelley and Keats? The masterpieces of those literary giants transcend the limitation of time and space, escape the constraint of humanity, purify our souls and spirit, and bring about profound enlightenment for us. This chapter intends to introduce the charms of those prestigious playwrights, authors and poets, and lead you to appreciate their masterpieces with critical analysis.