

<<英语国家社会与文化>>

图书基本信息

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前言

With the quickened steps of globalization, English is learned and practiced by more and more people, and as a result, the English language we are exposed to today is not merely British English and American English but "Englishes" of different English-speaking countries. In order to better understand English for more efficient communication with English speakers, English learners should have some social and cultural knowledge about the English-speaking countries. *Social and Cultural Mosaics of English-Speaking Countries* is a book intended for English majors and non-English majors both as a textbook and a kind of reading material. This book aims to provide the students with a brief and comprehensible introduction to the social and cultural knowledge of the major English-speaking countries so that they can have a better understanding of the English materials they are learning or reading and are able to communicate successfully with English speakers. Unlike many other introductory textbooks which have their partiality for some historical or cultural knowledge, *Social and Cultural Mosaics of English-Speaking Countries* touches upon not only the history but also the literature, music, mass media, family and other cultural aspects that English learners should know about the major English-speaking countries. The characteristics of the book lie in its integration of social and cultural knowledge, simplicity in language and brevity in introduction. The idea of compiling such a book originated from our teaching and research. Both Chinese and foreign teachers teaching this course have suggested adding more topics to the textbooks to make this course an integrated course on the social and cultural knowledge of the major English-speaking countries so as to help students lay a solid foundation for their future English learning and academic pursuit. The topic-oriented format and wide range of subjects lead to the choice of the term "mosaics" in the name of the book. The whole book consists of 17 units. As an organic part of this book, a couple of prereading questions are designed to arouse the students' interest in reading and learning. Besides, different types of postreading activities are designed to help students in their understanding of each unit and to motivate them to explore further on each topic.

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内容概要

《英语国家社会与文化》是一本为英语专业学生和非英语专业英语爱好者所编写的关于英语国家社会与文化的基础读本，内容既包括了英国、美国、澳大利亚、加拿大、新西兰、印度、南非等主要英语国家的地理气候、土地面积、人文状况、政治经济等方面的概况，也包括了对这些英语国家的文学、教育、宗教、音乐、媒体、建筑和生活方式等的简介。

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章节摘录

Lunch comes at about one o'clock. It generally consists of cold meat, potatoes, and salad made of lettuce, cucumber, tomatoes, carrots, beetroots, etc. Sometimes these dishes are placed on the sideboard. Each person takes his plate, helps himself and comes back to his place. On the table are pepper, salt, mustard and sometimes vinegar. After that there is bread or biscuits and cheese. Most people drink water at lunch time; some drink beer or wine. It is not the custom to drink spirits like whisky or brandy even in wealthy homes in the middle of the day.

Afternoon tea, taken between four and five, is the most informal meal of the day. If you are a friend of the family you may drop in for tea without an invitation or telling them that you are coming. Very often it is not served at a table. Each person has a cup and saucer, a spoon and a small plate for bread and butter and cake. Two pieces of advice: do not help yourself to cake first; bread and butter first, then cake if there is any; do not put more than one piece of bread or cake on your plate at the same time. Dinner is the most substantial meal of the day and is a very formal meal. Many people even wear special clothes for dinner. Dinner is generally served at about half past seven. The first course is soup, served on shallow plates and eaten quietly with a fairly large spoon. Then comes fish. There is often a knife and fork of special shape by each person for this course. The next course is the most important, which may generally be a joint of meat, a leg of lamb, pork, chicken or duck. With it are served various vegetables, peas, beans, cabbage or cauliflower. Some sort of pudding (or sweets) is generally the fourth course. After the pudding, the table is cleared and the dessert is brought on. However, it must not be imagined that all English people eat like this. Not 10% of them do so. As in all countries, the great majority of people are working class people who can afford neither the time nor the money to live like this. More than 90% of English people have their dinner in the middle of the day, and it is cooked, not by a servant but by the mother of the family. In most houses the meals are breakfast, dinner, tea and supper, which is a cold meal for which nothing is cooked.

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