【3.5】

**3.5每日一篇 | 外刊精读**

Urban **expansion**：The fast city  
   
Growth lessons from Britain's most American town  
   
【1】A SCHOOL THAT has never seen children is a strange place. The **carpets** and walls are **unnaturally** clean; the building is **eerily** quiet. Elverby Primary School feels especially odd. It sits in a field north-east of Milton Keynes, amid **mud** and half-built roads. But the children will come, because some 5,000 homes are planned for the site. “And that’s only a **fraction** of what we can build, or want to,” says Peter Marland, **leader** of the Labour-run city **council**.Panda Foreign Magazine Intensive Reading:Respect for Originality, Piracy Must Be Punished  
   
【2】The Oxford-Cambridge Arc links three cities which, if they were guests at a wedding, would not be **seated** together. Cambridge and Oxford are small, ancient university cities (though Oxford has an **industrial** **fringe**). They are **girdled** by green belts and **miserable** to drive around. Milton Keynes is **brash**, modern and car-**oriented**. Although **founded** only in 1967, it already **contains** some 300,000 people, almost as many as Cambridge and Oxford put together. It shows the rest of the Arc, and the rest of Britain, how to build.  
   
【3】Milton Keynes’s most important and **unusual** **feature** is its **grid** of major roads **connected** by roundabouts, around which local people drive at **alarming** speed. Between the roads, behind trees, are neighbourhoods of roughly one square kilometre where everything moves more slowly. In other cities, people **mobilise** to protect **beloved** buildings. In Milton Keynes they **defend** the **grid**. Last September the **council** suggested adding traffic lights to a **grid** road. “Are you joking,” one **respondent** wrote. The **council** **retreated**.Panda Foreign Magazine Intensive Reading:Respect for Originality, Piracy Must Be Punished  
   
【4】Grids allow cities to expand quickly and **neatly**, as Barcelona and New York **demonstrated** in the 19th century. Milton Keynes’s **grid** has probably helped **suppress** local **objections** to the city’s **expansion**. It helps, too, that the city tends to build large suburbs with **proper** infrastructure, like Elverby Primary School, rather than allowing a few dozen homes here and there in the standard British fashion. And it helps that people are used to change. Chris Curtis, the MP for Milton Keynes North, suggests that the city is pro-growth because it has always grown.  
   
【5】Its **ambition** is to reach a population of 410,000 by 2050, which would make it bigger than Cardiff or Newcastle today. It seems likely to hit or **comfortably** exceed that target. The centre of Milton Keynes **contains** vast **moats** of **surface** **parking** and some **decrepit** office buildings, some of which will soon give way to blocks of **flats**. More important, on the **outskirts** of the city, the **grid** is reasserting itself.  
   
【6】Some of the **developments** that were built on the fringes of Milton Keynes this century are not **plugged** into the road **grid**. Instead of houses being set back from major roads behind banks of trees, they press up against them, as in a **conventional** modern suburb. Because the homes are so close, speed limits are low. Drive east out of central Milton Keynes along Chaffron Way, and a fast **parkway** turns into a slow **residential** road. Soon a driver is **confronted** by a 20mph zone, a **crossroads**, a T-**junction** and—**horrors**!—traffic lights.  
   
【7】The city **authorities** now **regret** that era. The new development, known as MK East, will be **connected** to the **grid** and will extend it. Not far from Elverby Primary School, earth-moving **machines** are **constructing** a road and a **roundabout**—the first time for many years that one has been added to the **grid**, claims Mr Marland. The new school is impressive; a nearby **clinic** and **community** centre is too. But he seems more **delighted** by the **roundabout** than by anything else.

**①短语**

1.原文：And that’s only a fraction of what we can build, or want to

词典：a fraction of 一小部分；一部分

例句：Fake designer watches are sold at a fraction of the price of the genuine article.

伪造的设计师名牌手表以真品若干分之一的价格出售。

2.原文：Although founded only in 1967, it already contains some 300,000 people, almost as many as Cambridge and Oxford put together.

词典：put together 组合，拼凑

例句：Mary ate more than the rest of us put together.

玛丽吃得比我们其他人加在一起还要多。

3.原文：rather than allowing a few dozen homes here and there in the standard British fashion

词典：here and there 各处，到处

例句：I do a bit of teaching here and there.

我在各处教些书。

4.原文：Its ambition is to reach a population of 410,000 by 2050, which would make it bigger than Cardiff or Newcastle today.

词典：a population of 人口数量为

例句： Nigeria has a population of nearly 100 million.

尼日利亚有近1亿人口。

5.原文：some of which will soon give way to blocks of flats

词典：give way to 让位给，让步给

例句：He should give way to a younger, more decisive leader.

他应该让位给一位更年轻、更果断的领导者。

6.原文：Not far from Elverby Primary School, earth-moving machines are constructing a road and a roundabout

词典：far from 远离，远非

例句：The restaurant is not far from here.

饭店离这儿不远。

**②长难句**

原文：Milton Keynes’s most important and unusual feature is its grid of major roads connected by roundabouts, around which local people drive at alarming speed.

分析：这句话的主干结构是Milton Keynes’s most important and unusual feature is its grid of major roads，connected by roundabouts是过去分词短语，修饰grid，表示这些道路网由环形交叉路口连接而成。随后，around which local people drive at alarming speed是一个非限定性定语从句，修饰roundabouts。

译文：米尔顿凯恩斯独具一格的特点，便是其以环岛相连的主要道路网格，当地人在这些道路上风驰电掣。

原文：Not far from Elverby Primary School, earth-moving machines are constructing a road and a roundabout—the first time for many years that one has been added to the grid, claims Mr Marland.

分析：这句话earth-moving machines是主语，are constructing是谓语，a road and a roundabout 是宾语，表明推土机正在修建一条道路和一个环形交叉路口。句首的Not far from Elverby Primary School是地点状语短语，修饰整个句子，表示施工地点。破折号后的部分the first time ......是对前文的补充说明，其中the first time for many years作为先行词，引导了一个that引导的定语从句，说明这是多年来首次有新的环形交叉路口被添加到道路网中。最后，claims Mr Marland是一个插入的主谓倒装结构，表明这个说法的来源，即马兰德先生的观点。

译文：在埃尔维比小学附近，推土机正在施工建设一条新道路和一个环岛。据马兰先生所言，这是多年来首次在网格中添加环岛。

**③写作技巧**

It seems likely to hit or comfortably exceed that target.

这一目标不仅触手可及，甚至毫无悬念地会被超越。

在这句话中，hit作为动词，通常有“达到”或“触及”的意思，尤其是在表示目标、标准或预期值的上下文中。例如，“hit the target”（达到目标）常用于描述某个预期目标被实现。与其字面意思（碰撞）相比，这里的hit更侧重于达到或实现某个明确的数字或标准。

同义表达：

1. Reach：It seems likely to reach that target，在此可以替换hit，表示达成某个目标或标准，语气更为中性。

2. Achieve：It seems likely to achieve that target，也可以替代hit，用来表示通过努力或计划达成目标，语气偏正式一些。

3. Attain：It seems likely to attain that target，相比hit，attain显得更为学术或正式，适用于更高端的语言环境。

例句：

The company is likely to hit its revenue target this quarter.

这家公司有可能在本季度实现其收入目标。

With the current growth rate, the firm will likely reach its sales target by the end of the year.

按照目前的增长率，公司有可能在年末达到销售目标。

The athlete worked hard to achieve her goal of qualifying for the Olympics.

这位运动员努力工作，最终实现了自己进入奥运会的目标。

**④背景知识**

牛津—剑桥走廊（Oxford-CambridgeArc）是指英国一条连接牛津（Oxford）和剑桥（Cambridge）的地区，这两个城市分别因其世界著名的大学而闻名。走廊涵盖了多个重要城市、大学和科研中心，并且是英国的高科技产业和创新活动的一个重要集聚地。这一地区的重要性在于其在教育、研究、科技创新及经济发展方面的集中性。牛津和剑桥作为全球领先的学术和科研中心，周围地区也有着强大的科技企业和研究机构。牛津—剑桥走廊内不仅有多家领先的科技公司，还形成了一个被称为“硅绿带”的高科技产业区，特别是在生命科学、人工智能和先进制造业等领域具有显著的优势。

此外，英国政府和地方政府将这一走廊作为经济发展的重点区域，推动更加紧密的城市规划和基础设施建设，以进一步促进区域内创新、经济增长和高质量就业机会的发展。

**⑤段落大意**

【1】背景引入：原来空无一人的埃尔维比小学将迎来属于它的学生

【2】城市分野：牛津、剑桥和米尔顿凯恩斯的城市特点迥异，却通过走廊连接

【3】网格特色：米尔顿凯恩斯城市建设以独特的道路网格为特点

【4】扩张优势：网格设计让城市得以快速且有序扩张

【5】人口目标：米尔顿凯恩斯计划到2050年人口增至41万，目标可轻松实现

【6】新旧变化：原有的一些开发项目并未融入道路网格，导致交通缓慢且不畅

【7】政策悔改：市政府后悔早期开发模式，新项目将恢复与网格连接