

中学英语学习文库

主编 杨顺德

**JUNIOR
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
ENGLISH
READERS**

**中学英语
阅读初阶**

陈锡麟 吴小英 张育青 编著

山东理工大学出版社

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代 序

中学生少年朋友们:

这里呈现在你们面前的是一套“中学英语学习文库”丛书。把她奉献给你们的是几位颇有名气、成绩斐然的英语特级教师、教育专家。这些大朋友不仅英语娴熟,教学得法,著作颇丰,而且在青少年时代其他方面也各有建树:有的是划船能手,有的是围棋冠军,有的在数学竞赛中得过奖,有的美术作品还登过报。回溯过去学习外语的经历,他们所言有两点共同之处发人深思:一、英语学习很轻松。二、英语大多是课外学来的。姑且不论他们的说法是否因为谦虚而有一些失实,但至少英语学习的真谛是给他们言中了。

英语教育家们关于英语学习理论有大段论著,对你们也不无启迪。但是,语言毕竟是通过运用来掌握的。在课内学习了基本词汇和语法,如果没有时间听、说和运用也是不能熟记在胸,得心应手的。况且,大量的语言素材呈现在生活之中,课内学到的英语基本知识只有结合生活,通过操练才能化为自己的英语基本运用能力。电视体育节目中出现 CHICAGO BULLS vs UTAH JAZZ 你们一看就知道意思是芝加哥公牛队对犹他爵士队。vs(versus)这个词我国的教科书上一般不会有,但是看了电视你是一辈子也不会忘记的。名牌体育用品公司 ADIDAS 的球鞋商标用语是 FEET YOU WEAR。许多小朋友坐地铁时看到这条广告明明每个词都认识就是不懂是什么意思,如果能够学以致用,就可以明白 YOU WEAR 是定语,修饰 FEET,意思是穿的鞋非常合脚,简直就像是“穿着一双脚”,没有穿鞋一样。这样的妙语言简意赅,用来推销球鞋是再好不过的了。所以我想,中国的英语语言环境较差,确实影响了学习;但是,如果我们能够注意语言学习规律,改进学习方法,把学习和应用结合起来,英语学习肯定能够做到事半功倍。

不可能人人都获得诺贝尔奖,但是人人都能学好英语。只要我们学习得法,持之以恒,就能取得显著的效果。如果这套“中学英语学习文库”丛书能够对你们有所帮助,我们就心满意足了。借用一句英语,祝大家成功:

GOOD HOPE AND GOOD LUCK.

杨顺德

1998年5月18日

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Part A

Reading Passage 1

Watson won his all-important game and became American Chess¹ Master for the year 1985. He was given the silver cup, a rare honour.

"It isn't rightly mine," he said, holding the cup. "It was won two years ago when I was on holiday in. . ."

He began to tell us the story.

"A family called Prag was staying at my hotel. Mrs Prag had somehow heard that I played chess, and she begged me to give her son a game. 'He's only ten,' she said, 'but I've been told that he plays very well. I hope you can prove it.'"

"Well, as you can imagine, I was not very happy. A player likes to meet somebody at his own level. But it was holiday time, and I agreed to play. We set up the board in the garden. The game began. I hoped it would be quick—and so it was.

"I soon found out that David Prag was no learner. After ten minutes his sister came outside and began to play tennis against a wall. The boy seemed to have lost interest in our game. He moved a piece carelessly. I bent over the board.

"'Call me when you're ready, Mr Watson,' " he said.

"When I was ready, I looked up. He had gone off to play with his sister. I studied the board—and found myself in difficulty. So it went on with David; a quick move, then tennis, back to the board, then back to his sister. My difficulties became impossible. I was beaten, so easily by a born chess player. The victory was his—in twenty seven minutes."

"David Prag: a name to remember. I had a chance to use his game today, and it won this cup for me. To him, of course, it is only one of a hundred, or perhaps a thousand, winning games."

Note:

chess/tʃes/n. 棋

1. Watson always remembered David Prag because .

- A. he felt hurt
- B. he was thankful to him
- C. he was angry at the shame put to him
- D. the boy was so unusual

2. When Watson was asked to play with the boy, he thought .

- A. he could beat the child easily
- B. he would soon be beaten by the boy
- C. he could not play as well as the boy
- D. it would be quick because he was ready to lose

3. At first Watson was not happy because he expected to meet somebody who could paly _____.
- A. almost as well as him
- B. much worse than him
- C. very little
- D. according to his own rules
4. The boy seemed to have lost his interest because _____.
- A. he wanted to play tennis
- B. he saw his sister
- C. he found Watson was playing poorly
- D. he knew he could not succeed easily
5. The boy was a born chess player. He _____.
- A. could do nothing but play chess
- B. started playing chess right after he was born
- C. could play chess by nature
- D. learned how to play chess from his parents

Reading Passage 2

The angry woman stood on the station platform. "The railway owes¹ me £12," she said to Harry Jenks, the booking clerk. "My ticket was for May 22nd, and there was no ship from Jersey that night. My daughter and I had to stay in a hotel. It cost me £12."

Harry was worried. He remembered selling the woman a return ticket. "Come into the office, madam," he said politely. "I'll just check the Jersey timetable for May 22nd."

The woman and her little girl followed him inside. She was quite right, as Harry soon discovered. There was no sailing on May 22nd. How ever had he made such a careless mistake? Wondering what to do, he smiled at the child. "You look sunburnt," he said to her. "Did you have a nice holiday in Jersey?"

"Yes," she answered, shyly. "The beach² was lovely. And I can swim too!"

"That's fine," said Harry. "My little girl can't swim a bit yet. Of course, she's only three —"

"I'm four," the child said proudly. "I'll soon be four and a half."

Harry turned to the mother. "I remember your ticket, madam," he said. "But you didn't get one for your daughter, did you?"

"Er, well —" The woman looked at the child. "I mean — she hasn't started school yet. She's only four."

"A four year old child must have a ticket, madam! A child's return to Jersey costs — let me see — £13. 50. So if the railway pays your hotel bill, you will owe £1. 50. The law is the law, but since the fault was mine —"

The woman stood up, took the child's hand and left the office.

Notes:

1. owe/əu/v. 欠

2. beach/bi:tʃ/n. 海滩

1. The woman said that the railway owed her money because _____.
 - A. she paid too much for the ticket
 - B. the railway service was delayed
 - C. she was not given a ship ticket
 - D. it cost her extra money to stay in a hotel
2. Harry Jenks discovered that he should have _____.
 - A. given the woman a return ticket
 - B. noticed that there was no sailing on that day
 - C. noticed that the child looked sunburnt
 - D. checked that timetable before paying the bill
3. A return ticket is one that _____.
 - A. allows a passenger to make a journey to a place
 - B. is the same as a single ticket
 - C. must be returned if one wants to get his money back
 - D. allows a passenger to travel somewhere and return later
4. According to the railway law, a child _____.
 - A. must have a return ticket
 - B. should pay £13.50 at the age of four
 - C. below the age of four can travel without a ticket
 - D. must have a ticket just like a grown-up
5. The clerk mentioned the child's ticket in order to _____.
 - A. get rid of the woman
 - B. get back £1.50
 - C. say sorry to the woman
 - D. make clear the importance of the law

Reading Passage 3

Fear and pain are two of the most useful things men and animals have by nature, if they are properly used. If fire did not hurt when it burnt, children would play with it until their hands were burnt away. If pain existed but fear did not, a child would burn itself again and again, because fear would not warn it to keep away from the fire that had burnt it before. A really fearless soldier is not always a good soldier, because he is soon killed; and a dead soldier is

of no use to his army. Fear and pain are therefore two guards without which men and animals might soon die out.

We have suggested that fear ought to be properly used. If, for example, you never go out of your house because of the danger of being knocked down and killed in the street by a car, you are letting fear rule you too much. Even in your house you are not always safe; an aeroplane may crash¹ on your house, or ants may eat away some of your roof so that it falls on your, or you may get cancer!

The important thing is not to let fear rule you, but instead, to use fear as your servant and guide. Fear will warn you of dangers; then you have to decide what action to take.

In many cases, you can take quick and successful action to keep away from the danger. For example, you see a car coming straight towards you; fear warns you, you jump out of the way, and all is well.

In some cases, however, you decide that there is nothing that you can do to avoid the danger. For example, you cannot prevent an aeroplane from crashing into your house, and you may not want to go and live in a desert where there are no aeroplanes. In this case, fear has given you its warning; you have examined it and decided on your course of action, so fear of this particular danger is no longer of any use to you, and you have to try to overcome it.

Note:

crash/kræʃ/v. 撞下

1. Fear and pain are useful because they give people a kind of _____.
 - A. help
 - B. warning
 - C. danger
 - D. suggestion
2. To be fearless may not be good because one may have _____.
 - A. lost the sense of responsibility
 - B. no sense of danger
 - C. become dead soon
 - D. been no use to other people
3. Fear should _____ you.
 - A. make use of
 - B. rule
 - C. be kept away from
 - D. serve and guide
4. Danger may fall on you even when _____.
 - A. you have pain
 - B. you are sure you are in safety
 - C. you have avoided it
 - D. you have overcome it
5. Which of the following statements is not correct?
 - A. One should try hard to keep away from danger.
 - B. One should have the sense of danger, but not be frightened.
 - C. One is always safe if he doesn't take an aeroplane.
 - D. One who lives in a desert is not really free from danger.

Reading Passage 4

How often one hears children wishing they were grown up, and old people wishing they were young again. Each age has its pleasures and its pains, and the happiest person is the one who enjoys what each age gives him without wasting his time in useless regrets.

Childhood is a time when there are few responsibilities¹ to make life difficult. If a child has good parents, he is fed, looked after and loved, whatever he may do. In addition, life is always offering new things to the child—things that have lost their interest for older people because they are too well-known. A child finds pleasure in playing in the rain, or in the snow. But a child has his pains; he is not so free to do as he wishes as he thinks older people are, he is continually being told not to do things, or being punished for what he has done wrong. His life is therefore not perfectly happy.

When the young man starts to earn his own living, he becomes free from the discipline² of school and parents; but at the same time he is forced to accept responsibilities. He can no longer expect others to pay for his food, his clothes, and his room, but has to work if he wants to live comfortably. If he spends most of his time playing about in the way that he used to as a child, he will go hungry. And if he breaks the laws of society³ as he used to break the laws of his parents, he may go to prison. If, however, he works hard, keeps out of trouble and has good health, he can have the great happiness of seeing himself make progress constantly in his job and of building up for himself his own position in society.

Old age has always been thought of as the worst age to be; but it is not necessary for the old to be unhappy. With old age should come wisdom and the ability to help others with advice wisely given. The old can have the joy of seeing their children making progress in life; they can watch their grandchildren growing up around them; and, perhaps best of all, they can, if their life has been a useful one, feel the happiness of having come through the battle of life safely and of having reached a time when they can lie back and rest, leaving others to continue the fight.

Notes:

1. responsibility /ris, ponsi' biliti/ n. 责任
2. discipline /'disiplin/ n. 纪律
3. society /sə' saɪəti/ n. 社会

1. People often wish that they were not at their present stage because they _____.
 - A. do not see their responsibility
 - B. think other stages are more pleasant
 - C. are always unhappy
 - D. are always tired of life
2. Children can _____.

- A. do whatever they like to
B. realize that life is hard
C. do nothing wrong
D. be unhappy from time to time
3. A young man is sure to _____.
A. take up responsibilities
B. enjoy good health
C. be successful in the society
D. have trouble with the laws
4. People of an old age don't have to be unhappy because _____.
A. they need others to take care of them
B. they are respected for their useful wisdom and experience
C. they are not alone
D. they are no longer in good health
5. Whether one is happy or not is decided _____.
A. by his age
B. by the people around him
C. by the stage at which he is living
D. by the way he looks at life

Reading Passage 5

The world's population continues to grow. There are now about 5 billion of us on earth. It could reach 6 billion by the end of the century and 11 billion in another 75 years. Experts have long worried about such a growth. Where will we find the food, water, jobs, houses, school and health care for all these people?

A new study shows that the situation may be changing. A large and rapid drop in the world's birth rate¹ has taken place during the past 10 years. Families generally are smaller now than they were a few years ago. It is happening in both developing and industrial nations.

Researchers said they found a number of reasons for this. More men and women are waiting longer to get married and are using birth control tools and methods to prevent or delay pregnancy². More women are going to school or working at jobs away from home instead of having children. And more governments, especially in developing nations, now support family planning programs to reduce population growth.

China is one of the nation that has made great progress in reducing its population growth. China has already cut its rate of population growth by about one half since 1970.

Each Chinese family is now urged³ to have no more than one child. And the hope is to reach a zero population growth with the total number of births equaling the total number of deaths, by the year 2000.

Notes:

1. rate/reit/n. 比率
2. pregnancy/'pregnənsi/n. 妊娠
3. urge/ə:dʒ/v. 强烈要求; 力劝

1. According to this passage, the world population could reach _____.
 - A. six billion in 75 years
 - B. 11000 million in 2075
 - C. 11 billion by the end of this century
 - D. six hundred million in 15 years
2. There is population growth in _____.
 - A. all countries
 - B. a few countries only
 - C. most countries
 - D. developed countries
3. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. Birth control is well practised in all countries.
 - B. The world's birth rate is higher than ten years ago.
 - C. Families are becoming larger than before.
 - D. In the past ten years the population growth is slow.
4. The world's birth rate is dropping because _____.
 - A. families are growing smaller
 - B. women go out to study and work
 - C. birth control is being practised
 - D. women refuse to have children
5. The Chinese people are doing well in birth control that they _____.
 - A. hope to reduce their population greatly
 - B. want to have no more children
 - C. expect to reduce their population growth to zero
 - D. are sure to have one child only

Reading Passage 6

Molly Wilson was a waitress at a hotel. One morning she had to take breakfast to a lady in Room 204. The lady happened to be in the bathroom, so Molly put the food on the table. There was a small handbag—an evening bag—on the table. Molly looked around and quickly opened the bag. It was empty. She shut it and turned to go.

"Thief! What are you doing at my bag?" a voice cried.

Molly stopped. The lady had been watching her from the bathroom door. Immediately the police were called to the hotel. Everything seemed clear. The police officer's report said that Wilson was caught while she was trying to steal from an evening bag.

The next day Molly was brought before the judge. The lady from Room 204 was there too. The judge asked her.

The lady said, "I saw the waitress opening my evening bag. By chance, there was nothing inside it. She then shut the bag and turned away. My money was in another bag ..."

"Did she try to steal the bag itself?"

"No, sir. She left it on the table as there was nothing inside it. If my money had been kept there ..."

"Thank you, madam," said the judge. "We must only consider the facts. The evening bag was empty. Now a person cannot steal anything from an empty bag. Since stealing from that bag was not possible, her being a thief is also impossible. So I don't think the waitress has done anything wrong."

That afternoon Molly went back to the hotel and continued to work as if nothing had happened.

"There must be something wrong with the law," said the lady angrily afterwards.

1. Molly opened the customer's bag _____.
 - A. and it was nothing wrong
 - B. but she didn't get anything
 - C. and she was honest
 - D. but it was no harm to anybody
2. The lady called for the police _____.
 - A. but there was no proof of stealing
 - B. but it was not right for her to do so
 - C. but it was too late
 - D. but she should not have cried
3. Which of the following statements is not true?
 - A. The waitress did not have to go to the court.
 - B. The lady wanted to have the waitress punished.
 - C. The judge could not punish the waitress.
 - D. No money was stolen.
4. The waitress _____ the lady's bag.
 - A. did not have to open
 - B. should not have opened
 - C. could have taken money out of
 - D. could not have opened
5. The story tells us that the western law is _____.