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# 新英语

## 每周读写培优

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MEIZHOU DUXIE PEIYOU

八年级上册



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## 导 读

“读书破万卷，下笔如有神”，讲的是阅读的重要性，没有语言的输入，就没有高质量的语言输出。国家教育部新近颁发的《英语课程标准》(试验稿)对中小学学生阅读能力的发展提出了明确的分级要求，确定了各级阅读的词汇量、习惯用语、文体等范围及阅读题型与阅读能力发展的层次。英语阅读理解的目的不仅是让学生学会语言知识，获取文章的信息，领悟文章的内涵，更重要的是要学生掌握阅读的方法和技巧，成为一个有独立阅读能力的人。正因为如此，学生在平时的阅读中需注意以下两点：

### 第一，观念更新。

提及英语阅读，很多同学就会把它与试卷联系在一起，好像阅读就是为了考试。考试才需要去阅读。其实英语的阅读应该和中文的阅读一样，把它当作一种提高自身的途径。阅读应该是一种终身的习惯，不管是英语的，还是中文的。同学们只有在观念上加以更新，才能切实体会到阅读的乐趣，真正达到阅读的目的，切实提高阅读的能力。

### 第二，技能培养。

英语阅读是一项复杂的脑力劳动。它涵盖的内容非常广泛，与学生的基础知识、文化知识、阅读技能等息息相关。阅读是有技巧的，技巧是需要培养的。尤其是八年级的阅读对学生提出了进一步的要求。因此，我们有必要从阅读题材、阅读方法、阅读题型等方面对阅读做全面的了解。

(1) 按阅读题材，我们可以把阅读分为：科普小品、说理小品、新闻报道、人物传记、短篇故事、图形表格、幽默小品、史地文化等。

(2) 按阅读方法，我们可以把阅读分为：摘录法、证据法、顺向法、逆向法、直接法、信息转化法等。

(3) 按阅读题型,我们可以把阅读题分为:猜测词义题、推理判断题、主旨大意题、事实细节题、归纳概括题、信息搜索题等。

阅读和写作是相辅相成的,“写”在英语学习中具有举足轻重的作用,在各类英语测试中占有15%~30%的比分。

国家教育部新近颁发的《英语课程标准》(试验稿)对中小学英语学科语言技能这一部分明确写道:语言技能包括听、说、读、写四个方面的技能以及这四种技能的综合运用能力。并且写道:听和读是理解的技能,说和写是表达的技能。如果说七年级的写作是以模仿为主,那么八年级的写作应从模仿慢慢向掌握写作技能过渡。

初中阶段的写作练习主要是以题目的形式来开展的。那么在面对题目时,我们又该如何解答呢?

第一步:仔细审题,确定人称、时态、格式和字数等。

第二步:以摘要的形式确定写这篇文章有可能会用到的词组或句型并列提纲。

第三步:用一定的关联词连词或句成文。

第四步:仔细检查,确定有无人称、时态、格式、字数、单词、词组等方面的错误。

以上是面对所有写作题时我们应该具备的基本的思维方法。具体的写作技巧我们将通过本书每一单元的具体内容加以介绍。

本套读物以独特的视角选编了适合初中学生阅读的各类题材的短文,有讲解、有练习,而且读写结合。我们相信广大读者能从中受益,大大提高读写能力,以达到和超越新课标的要求。

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## 第1周 短篇故事

### ● Goals

1. 掌握阅读短篇故事的技巧。
2. 学习写作简短故事的技巧。

### ● Reading skills

在阅读中,短篇故事类型往往是同学们比较感兴趣的阅读材料。与人物传记不同的是,这类文章一般描述的是一件具体事情的发生、发展或结局,有人物、时间、地点和情节。命题往往从故事的情节、人物或事情之间的关系、作者的态度及意图、故事前因或结局的推测等方面着手,考查考生对细节的辨认能力以及推理判断能力。只要同学们做题时仔细认真点,这种类型的阅读还是比较容易的。

### ● Writing skills

此类文章一般以记叙文为主。因此学生在写作时应从 who、when、where、what、why 及 how 等几个方面进行写作。要注意故事的逻辑性。



## Section A: Reading

### 范文

#### Two cheats(骗子)

A rich American went into a shop in London. He wanted to buy a nice-looking watch. He saw a watch and he liked it. But the shop owner asked 500 dollars for it. Just then a young man came in, took the watch out of the owner's hand and ran out with it. It all happened in a minute. When the owner ran out into the street, the young man was already gone.

The American went on. At the next corner, he saw the young man with that watch in his hand. "Do you want to buy a fine watch, Sir?" he said in a low voice(小声地). "It's made in Germany. It's only 100 dollars."

"The young man didn't know I saw what happened in the shop just now," he thought. The American paid at once and went back to his room with the watch. He was happy and told his friend about the fine watch.

His friend took a look at his watch and started laughing. He said, "You're a fool.



This watch isn't worth even 10 dollars."

根据短文内容选择恰当的答案。

( ) 1. The rich American wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ in a shop in London.

- A. have a look
- B. buy a fine watch
- C. steal(偷窃) a fine watch
- D. run out with a watch

( ) 2. The young man took the watch and \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. went to his room
- B. ran out into the street
- C. came to the American
- D. wanted to look at it

( ) 3. From the story we know the young man was \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a thief
- B. a kind man
- C. the owner's partner
- D. a fool

【答案解析】 故事发生在一家商店,一个美国男子买了一块不值 10 美元的手表。

1. B 直接理解题。可以从“He wanted to buy a nice-looking watch.”一句找到答案。

2. B 直接理解题。可以从文中“When the owner ran out into the street, the young man was already gone.”得出答案。

3. C 逻辑推理题。有一定的难度,不能直接从文中找出答案,但可以从最后一段领会到:“店主和那个抢劫手表的年轻人事先设计好这样的圈套来卖表”,才能找出正确的答案来。

### 实题演练

#### A

A man has a cat. He likes her very much. At meal time the cat sits at the table with him. The man eats with a knife and a fork, but the cat eats from her plate. Sometimes, when she finishes her dish, her master will give her a bit of his food. He shares his meal with her. One day the cat is not at the table at meal time.

“Ah! Where is my cat?” asks the man.

His wife says, “Can't you eat without her?”

So the meal begins without the cat. Before lunch is over, the cat rushes into the room and jumps into the chair quickly. She has two mice in her mouth, and before anyone can stop her, she drops(扔下) one into her own plate, and the other into her master's plate.

“Dear me!” cries the woman, “A mouse is in your plate!”

“Hush(安静)!” says her husband. “This shows that she is a nice cat. She knows what friendship(友谊) is. She wishes me to share her dinner as I often share mine with her.”

根据短文内容,判断正(T)误(F)。

( ) 1. The master loves his cat very much.



- ( ) 2. The cat always shares her food with her master.
- ( ) 3. One day the cat is not at the table at meal time.
- ( ) 4. The cat hurries(匆忙) home with two mice in her mouth when the master and his wife are having lunch.
- ( ) 5. The story tells us the cat also loves her master.

## B

## The hard-working student

The story is about a young student. She worked very hard at her lessons. She was too busy to rest. At last, she became ill, so she couldn't go to sleep. Every night, when she went to bed, she closed her eyes and tried to sleep. But the more she tried, the more she stayed awake.

After a while she went to see a doctor. "I just can't go to sleep at night. What should I do?" "I have a suggestion," said the doctor. "Try counting numbers. By the time you reach one thousand, you will be asleep. I'm sure of it."

The next day the student returned to the doctor's office. "Well," said the doctor. "How are you today? Did you try my suggestion?"

The student still looked tired. "Yes," she said. "I tried counting one, two, three up to one thousand. But when I reached five hundred and sixty-nine, I began to feel sleepy. I had to get up and drink some coffee so that I could go on counting up to one thousand. But then I still couldn't fall asleep."

- ( ) 1. Why couldn't the young student go to sleep?
- A. She was worried about her lessons.
- B. She hadn't finished her homework.
- C. She had worked too hard and became ill.
- D. There was a lot of noise.
- ( ) 2. What did the doctor ask the young student to do while she was lying in bed?
- A. To take some medicine.
- B. To count numbers.
- C. To count numbers before she went to bed.
- D. To read some books on the bed.
- ( ) 3. The underlined word "awake" in Paragraph 1 means. "          ".
- A. asleep
- B. not asleep
- C. sleepy
- D. sleeping
- ( ) 4. What did she do after she felt sleepy?
- A. She fell asleep.
- B. She stopped counting.
- C. She got up and drank some tea.
- D. She got up to have some coffee.





## C

## Pitiful Iraqi children

A four-year-old girl is lying in the arm of a doctor. She has just become motherless. A few minutes ago a big bombing(轰炸) happened near her home in the south of Iraq.

Every day we see pictures like this on our televisions. We see young Iraqi children, asking for food and water from American and British soldiers as they move through towns and cities towards(向,朝) the capital, Baghdad. We see these children following grown-ups, carrying bags of things almost the same size as their small bodies as they quickly left their homes in Baghdad.

All this shows that some of the young lives have been turned upside down(乱七八糟) by the war. And they show the terrible price being paid by Iraqi children.

In southern parts of the country, like the second largest city, Basra, the UN is working to repair the damage(毁坏) caused by the war. "We are working to provide(提供) clean water and get the electrical power(能量) to work again," said Groffrey Keele, a UN spokesman.

But little else can be done. In Baghdad, parents give their children sleeping pills to try to let them escape(逃脱,逃离) the sound of bombing. And all the schools are closed. Some diseases(疾病) break out among the children, sometimes leading to(导致) death.

Nearly 50% of Iraqi population, which is over 20 million, is under 15 years old. And 30% of them are suffering(遭受……的苦难) from malnutrition(营养不良).

- ( ) 1. From the first paragraph, we know that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the girl in the doctor's arm is dead  
B. the girl's mother is looking for her  
C. the girl's mother was killed during the bombing  
D. the text tells nothing about her mother
- ( ) 2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in Paragraph 2?  
A. There are bombings every day in Iraq.  
B. Children ask for water and food from the American and British soldiers.  
C. Children with big bags are leaving their homes for Baghdad.  
D. Baghdad is the capital city of Iraq.
- ( ) 3. The second sentence in Paragraph 3 means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the Iraqi children pay much money for what they need  
B. the Iraqi children are suffering a lot in the war  
C. some people sell children at a terrible price  
D. the young lives have been turned upside down
- ( ) 4. How much help is the UN giving to the Iraqi children?  
A. They are helping them return to school.





- B. They are giving them enough food and drinks.  
 C. They can do only a little.  
 D. They can do nothing.
- ( ) 5. What's the meaning of the underlined word "break out" in Paragraph 5?  
 A. 打碎                      B. 撕坏                      C. 破碎                      D. 爆发
- ( ) 6. The number of Iraqi children in malnutrition is about \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. 20 million              B. 10 million              C. 6 million              D. 3 million



## Section B: Writing

一个雨天,李莉乘出租车回家。在车里她发现司机在学英语。他对李莉说了些什么?通过此事对你学习英语有何启发?为支持北京奥运你打算做些什么?

- (1) one rainy day, go home, by taxi  
 (2) in the car, find, was learning English  
 (3) said to Li Li, I, weak, English, when at school, now work hard, to help with the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games  
 (4) I think... to show support(n. 支持) for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

### 参考范文

One rainy day, Li Li went home by taxi. In the taxi she found (that) the driver was learning English. He said to Li Li, "I was weak in English when I was at school. Now I'm working hard at it to help with the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games." I think I should learn from the driver. English is very important to us because it is widely used all over the world. As a student, I'll do my best to learn English well at school. And I'm going to speak English as much as possible to show support for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

### 实题演练

上星期天你和你的同学计划好去公园野餐,但是因为起得晚,你迟到了。当你匆忙赶到的时候,你的同学已经在玩了。12点的时候你们进行了野餐,吃了很多食物,你还拍了很多照片。当你们回到家的时候,虽然很累但非常快乐。请以此为内容写一篇短文。词数 50—60。



## 第2周 人物传记

### ● Goals

1. 掌握阅读人物传记的技巧。
2. 学习人物的写作技巧。

### ● Reading skills

这类文章通常以记叙一个人的成长历程、生平事迹等为内容,以时间为主线来展开。因此学生在解题时应牢牢把握这根时间主线,然后通过适当的分析推理来进行解题。下面将通过例子来具体剖析这种题材的阅读理解的解题方法。

### ● Writing skills

学生在写作时可以以时间为主线进行展开,必要时也可采用顺叙或倒叙法来介绍。



### Section A: Reading

#### 范 例

Arnold Schwarzenegger was born in Graz, Austria (奥地利) on July 30, 1947. He enjoyed playing sports when he was around 15 years old. He began lifting weights to build up his strength(力量) for soccer and swimming.

When he was 18, he won the Junior Mr Europe competition. Then he later won Mr Olympia.

In 1968, when he was 21 years old, Arnold went to the US. He continued to enter and win body building competitions, but he also started a company in order to earn extra money.

In 1970, he made a comedy called *Hercules in New York*. For the movie, he changed his name to Arnold Strong instead of using his real name. This was his first acting job. In 1973, he showed up in a small part in another movie called *The Long Goodbye*.

He finally decided that his future was in acting even though many people did not think that the body builder with the funny way of speaking was cute for acting. It was not until movies like *Conan and Terminator* made millions of dollars that Hollywood began to see Arnold as a real actor.

And now he has stepped into another field of his life.



- ( ) 1. Where is Arnold Schwarzenegger from by birth?  
 A. Asia. B. Australia.  
 C. Europe. D. North America
- ( ) 2. When did he begin lifting weights for body building?  
 A. At college. B. At the age of 15.  
 C. At high school. D. In competitions.
- ( ) 3. What did he start to do when he went to the US in order to earn extra money?  
 A. He acted in a movie. B. He continued body building.  
 C. He started his own business. D. He worked as a teacher.
- ( ) 4. Which of the following movies was the most successful(成功)?  
 A. *Hercules in New York* B. *The Long Goodbye*  
 C. *Pumping Iron* D. *Conan and Terminator*

【答案】 1. C 2. B 3. C 4. D

【解析】 这篇文章是一篇比较典型的以时间为主线的人物传记。我们在阅读时可以结合“摘录法”把时间和相关信息进行简单的摘录。然后把问题与这些信息一一对应，答案也就迎刃而解了。

On July 30, 1947

was born in Graz, Austria(奥地利)

15

began lifting weights

18

won a competition

21(1968)

1. went to the US

2. continued...

3. started a company

1970

made a comedy

1973

showed up...

### 实题演练

#### A

#### Henry Ford

Henry Ford was the first person to build cars which were cheap, strong and fast. He was able to sell millions of models because he could produce them in large numbers at a time; that is, he made a great many cars of exactly the same kind. Ford's father hoped that his son would be a farmer, but the young man did not like the idea and he went to Detroit(底特律) where he worked as a mechanic(技工). By the age of 29, in 1892, he had built his first car. However, the car made in this way, the famous "Model T" didn't appear until 1908—five years after Ford had started his great motor car factory. This car showed to be so well-known that it remained unchanged(保持不变) for twenty years. Since Ford's time, this way of producing cars in large numbers has become common in industry and has reduced the price of a lot of goods which would otherwise be very expensive.



根据短文内容,判断正(T)误(F)。

- ( ) 1. Henry Ford was born in 1863.
- ( ) 2. Henry Ford was interested in agriculture(农业) so he went to Detroit to seek his fortune.
- ( ) 3. In 1903, Henry Ford built his own car factory.
- ( ) 4. "Model T" was the name Henry gave to his first car.
- ( ) 5. Henry could produce(生产) a lot of cars of the same model.
- ( ) 6. Henry's way of producing cars helped reduce the price of a lot of other goods in his time in some way.
- ( ) 7. Henry Ford was the first person to make cars.

### B

If you think Declan Galbraith is an ordinary(普通的) 15-year-old boy, you are wrong. The British boy is a singing genius(天才). He released(发行) his first album at 10. He is one of the most popular young singers in the world.

Last week, Declan had a news conference(新闻发布会) in Beijing. He will do a concert tour in China next May. Declan's Chinese fans must be very happy about this.

Declan's singing gift was found while he was a child. His grandfather was a musician. He often brought Declan along with him when he played music. Declan would sit for hours just watching and listening.

At the age of 8, he started taking part in competitions. He won 16 of them in 14 months. Soon EMI, a big record company, paid him 15, 000, 000 yuan to make records.

His first album Declan came out in 2001. It was a big hit and Declan become well-known. In 2006, Declan put out another album called "Thank You". Declan works hard at his singing. Every day he practices for two hours. When he is not singing, Declan is like most other 15-year-olds. He likes computer games, swimming, cycling, football and Harry Potter.

- ( ) 1. Where is the boy from?  
A. China.                      B. Britain.                      C. USA.                      D. Australia.
- ( ) 2. When did he release his first album?  
A. At 15.                      B. At 10.                      C. At 25.                      D. Last week.
- ( ) 3. Where did he have a news conference last week?  
A. In Britain.                      B. In Beijing.                      C. In America.                      D. In Australia.
- ( ) 4. Why did EMI pay 15,000,000 yuan for him?  
A. Because he won a competition.  
B. Because his grandfather was a musician.  
C. Because he made a film.  
D. Because he made records.



- ( ) 5. Which sentence is true?
- A. He doesn't work hard because he is a singing genius.
- B. He practices singing the whole day.
- C. When he is not singing, he is like most other 15-year-olds.
- D. His album "Thank You" came out in 2001.

## C

Do you know Li Yuchun? Last weekend, the 23-year-old held a solo(个人的) concert in her hometown, Chengdu. It is part of the tour for Mine(《我的》), her second album. It was released(发行) on October 20. The next stop is Hangzhou in December.

How does Li get her on-stage charm? "I've always wanted to show my best side," Li said. "That's it."

As a child, Li said she overheard(偷听) her mother say she would have preferred a son. It was only a joke, but she took it seriously. She threw away all her skirts and began to dress like a boy. That became her style.

In 2005, Li won the Super Girl contest and became famous. But her success didn't come overnight. Li gave her first solo concert in the middle school. She says she often practiced singing in front of a mirror.

Although she has millions of fans all over China, she keeps a cool head. "I hope I can keep improving," she said. She plans to leave the stage for a while to study abroad early next year.

- ( ) 1. Where is Li from?
- A. Shanghai.      B. Beijing.      C. Chengdu.      D. Nanjing.
- ( ) 2. When was her second album released?
- A. at 15.      B. On October 20.
- C. In December.      D. Last weekend.
- ( ) 3. When did she give her first solo concert?
- A. Last weekend.      B. In December.
- C. In 2005.      D. During middle school.
- ( ) 4. How does Li get her on-stage charm?
- A. She has always wanted to show her best side.
- B. Her mother told her to do so.
- C. Her teacher told her to do so.
- D. She doesn't know, either.
- ( ) 5. What is her feeling after she has millions of fans?
- A. She still keeps a cool head.
- B. She doesn't pay any attention to singing at all.
- C. She feels very sad because of so many fans.
- D. She is very excited.



## Section B: Writing

以“A famous person”为题,介绍一位你了解的名人的一些情况。词数不少于 50。

### 参考范文

#### A Famous Person

I admire Midori. She's a famous violinist. She's Japanese. She was born in Osaka in 1971. When she was eight years old, she was already a talented violinist. When she was fourteen years old, she toured the United States. I saw her play when I was eight. I have many of her CDs. I play them all the time.

### 实题演练

请根据 Bill Gates 的简历,写一篇文章。(80 词左右)

Name: Bill Gates

Date of birth: 10/28/1955

1968: start to play with computers

1972: work out a software program(软件)

1975: start his company called Microsoft with his friend Paul Allen

1999: write a book called *Business@the Speed of Thought*



## 第3周 史地文化

### ● Goals

1. 掌握阅读史地文化类型文章的技巧。
2. 学习以文化背景等相关知识为内容的文章的写作技巧。

### ● Reading skills

文化是一个复合体,其中包括知识、信仰、艺术、法律、道德、风俗以及人作为社会成员而获得的任何其他能力和习惯,是人们运用语言知识和社会文化知识传递信息的过程,所以学习语言与了解语言所反映的文化背景知识是分不开的。了解英语文化知识,有助于我们思维畅通并有效地进行。相反,缺乏英语文化背景知识必然导致阅读障碍、冲突和误解,也就是我们所说的“语用失误(Pragmatic Failure)”。近年来此类体裁文章逐步增多,也就要求我们平日增加关注和积累。

可从两方面解读此类文章的阅读题:

1. 内容解读——即理解英语国家的地理环境,理解该国家的风俗文化,且能理解某句某段的意义。

2. 能力解读——要求考生根据文章所提供的直接信息选择正确的答案,一般可以直接从文章中找到明确的答案。

### ● Writing skills

此类文章的写作除了技巧上的要求外,更重要的是学生对于相关文化背景的了解。本单元主要学习征求意见、发出邀请及学习写邀请函。在收到邀请函后如果因事不能前往,这还需要回复一个邮件告知你不能前往的原因,以便主人准备聚会用的东西。

围绕这个话题,常有下列词组可以灵活运用:

study for a test

go to the doctor

go to the movies

have a piano lesson

too much homework

another time

tennis training

join sb.

try to do sth.

keep quiet

the whole

science report

come over

be going to do sth.

come to my birthday party



## Section A: Reading

### 范 例

In America, just as in Europe, men usually open doors for women, and women





always walk ahead of men into a room or a restaurant, unless(除非) men have to be ahead of the ladies to choose the table, to open the door of a car or do some other things like the above. In the street, men almost always walk or cross the street on the closer side of the ladies to the traffic. But if a man walks with two ladies, he should walk between them. Then if the host(男主人) or hostess(女主人) or both of them come into a car to get their guest for dinner, the guest should sit at the front seat and leave the back seat though there is no person sitting on it.

- ( ) 1. In America men usually \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. walk ahead of women                      B. eat in a restaurant  
 C. walk behind women                      D. drive a car to work
- ( ) 2. In the street men \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. cross the street  
 B. walk on the right side of the ladies  
 C. walk on the closer side of the ladies to the traffic  
 D. walk near the ladies
- ( ) 3. If a man walks with two ladies, he should \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. walk between them                      B. run before them  
 C. follow them                      D. go away
- ( ) 4. If Mrs. Green wants you to her house in a car, you should \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. sit beside a guest                      B. sit at the front seat  
 C. sit at the back seat                      D. drive the car

【答案】 1. C 2. C 3. A 4. B

【解析】 1. C 事实细节题。由第1句中“women always walk ahead of men”可知。

2. C 事实细节题。由第2句“In the street, men almost always walk or cross the street on the closer side of the ladies to the traffic”可知。

3. A 事实细节题。由第3句“But if a man walks with two ladies, he should walk between them”可知。

4. B 由最后一句中“the guest should sit at the front seat”可知。

### 实题演练

#### A

If you have a chance to travel in Europe, you'd better choose Italy as a good place to visit. Because Italy is a very famous country with a long history, and there are many interesting cities in this country. There are three million people each year who visit the city of Pisa. It is known for the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The tower looks as if it might fall at any time. In fact, some visitors stop at the tower just long enough to take a picture, and then they hurry away. The tower has 294 steps. Visitors who can climb to the top and come down will feel like heroes.



Engineers say that the visitors are safe, though the tower does lean. This tower has been leaning for about eight hundred years. And it leans a tiny bit more every year. If this keeps on, the tower will fall at last. But many engineers are trying their best to keep the tower standing as long as possible.

- ( ) 1. Italy is famous for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. millions of people                      B. its long history  
 C. many interesting cities                D. both B and C
- ( ) 2. People visit Pisa because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. it is a city of Italy  
 B. a tower has fallen down  
 C. they want to see the Leaning Tower  
 D. they want to take some pictures
- ( ) 3. Standing near the tower is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. safe                      B. dangerous                      C. brave                      D. difficult
- ( ) 4. The tower will fall, \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. if too many visitors climb it            B. if the visitors don't hurry away  
 C. if it keeps on leaning                    D. if it keeps on standing
- ( ) 5. The tower was built \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. more than 800 years ago                B. 800 years ago  
 C. in the 19th century                      D. in the 18th century

## B

### Big Ben

In 1834, the clock tower in London was burned down. People planned to build a new clock which would be the biggest and best in the world. So the clock had to be big and keep very good time. The big clock was made in two years. Five more years later the tower was finished. Then people put the big clock in the tower, and made it ring out for the first time on July 11, 1859.

In order to give the big clock a good name, people held a meeting. Someone wanted to call it the Queen of Bells, and someone thought Victoria was good. At last, a man named Benjamin Hall stood up. He was a big man. Before he started to speak, someone shouted, "Why not call it Big Ben?" Everybody laughed and agreed with him.

From then on, Big Ben became its name. And it also became a famous building of London. People all over the world write to Big Ben. They even send birthday presents—bottles of oil—to help keep Big Ben running. Big Ben is not only a clock but also a dear friend of people.

- ( ) 1. Big Ben's birthday is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. on July 11, 1854                      B. in 1834  
 C. on July 11, 1859                      D. on July 11, 1852