

华中理工大学出版社



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书

第 一 册



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大学英语分级阅读丛书 第一册

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内 容 提 要

本书根据英国 Cassell 出版公司出版的分级读物改编而成,是一套适合我国高等学校文、理、工科专业学生使用的英语系列读物。集知识性、趣味性、时代性和实用性于一体。该书题材广泛,内容丰富,涉及青年人喜爱的有关电影、戏剧、历史、音乐、特异功能和体育等各种专题,因而可读性极强。

丛书共分四册,每册的语言深度分别与我国大学英语各级水平一致。书中出现的词汇和句法按难易程度严格分级处理。每册后附有注释和练习,以帮助读者提高阅读理解能力,为读者提供训练英语语言能力的机会。

本书是该套丛书的第一册。

前 言

阅读是一种技能,掌握这种技能主要靠实践。正象学游泳一样,只谈理论,不去实践,是学不会游泳的。同样,要学会阅读,光讲理论,不去实践,也是学不会阅读的。

"多读"——这是许多人学外语的一条重要经验。要提高阅读速度和阅读理解能力,关键在于是否进行大量阅读。课堂阅读对熟悉阅读技巧固然重要,但要真正掌握这些技巧,还得靠精心设计的、大量的、独立的课外阅读。因此,一切有经验、有远见的教师,莫不鼓励学生进行大量阅读。

然而遗憾的是:在市面上学生很难找到称心如意的阅读材料。有的读物语言过难,读者望而生畏、敬而远之;有的读物故事陈旧,内容早已为读者所知晓,缺少时代性和新鲜感;有的读物由于文体与学生所希望阅读的不一样,因而有实用性和知识性不足之感;有的读物虽文体内容尚可,但由于是节选而成,东拼西凑,有头无尾,读来使人颇有不满足之感。

几年来我们一直希望能够解决这个问题。在寻找合适的大学英语课外阅读材料的时候,我们高兴地发现 Cassell 出版公司出版的一套分级读物。这套丛书避免了以上所说的种种缺点,集知识性、趣味性、实用性和时代性于一体。同时由于编者用词造句巧妙自然,因而读来毫无一般简易

读物的不地道和非真实之感。因此说这是非英语国家学生的一套理想的英语课外读物,那是毫不夸张的。

为了适合我国文理工科大学生英语学习的需要,我系 教师浏览了这套丛书,并选出其中15本按难易程度编成与 我国大学英语1至4级相符的四册阅读教材,增加了词汇和 注解部分。我们相信:广大读者,特别是文理工科大学生, 一定会喜爱这套丛书的,因为它会扩大你的视野,丰富你 的知识,使你体会到以英文为工具吸取新信息的那种由衷 的喜悦之情。我相信你会在不知不觉中对英文阅读产生兴趣,同时你也会在不知不觉中提高了自己的阅读速度和阅读理解能力。

> 程恩洪 一九八九年六月

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Book One

Football

Michael

Dean

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1

The early game and the start of the F. A.

Nobody knows when or where the game of football started. But we know that people have been playing football in China for more than two thousand years. Greek poets wrote about a game like football in their long poems and some people think that the Romans brought the game to Britain. The Romans called the game harpastum and it was not like the football that we know today.

The game of *harpastum*, played about the year 217, was played with two teams and a small, hard ball. Each team had to get the ball across the other team's line. They could do anything with the ball and they could also do anything that they wanted to the players* in the other team. The players often hurt themselves, and each other, when they were playing.

In Derby, a town in the north of England, they started to use goals*. At first, they played the game in the street and the goals were house or garden gates and anybody who wanted to play could join in. Even more

New words are asterisked (*) the first time they occur only.

^{* =} see Glossary.

players hurt themselves than in *harpastum* and many of the older people in the town wanted to stop the game because it was so dangerous.

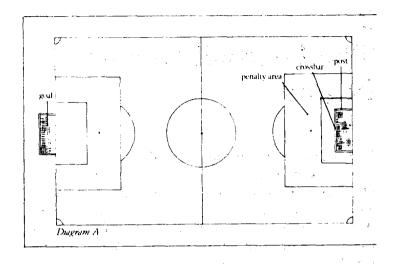
In fact, in 1314, the English king, Edward II tried to stop it because his soldiers were playing football instead of learning how to fight other armies. In 1322, a man died in a game of football. Gilbertine Canon was still wearing his knife in his belt when a friend who was playing in the other team ran up against him — and died.

By 1410, the game was such a problem that King Henry IV also tried to stop it. But nobody could — not even the King himself! More and more people liked to play and by 1541, they were calling it 'foote balle'.

By 1620, teams in the town of Cambridge were playing against each other every week. Now the teams needed their own fields to play in. They called these 'grounds' and today, a football ground or pitch—that is the field on which the team always plays—looks like a field because it is covered with grass.

In the 1700s, there were a lot of games of six-a-side football, with six men in each team. In fact, they thought a game was a good excuse for a good fight and there is still a lot of fighting in the game now.

By the 1800s, there were usually eleven men in each side, as there are today, but seven of them were in the forward line* and played near the other team's goal. By this time, the goals looked like the goals we use today but they had no crossbar — the wooden post, or bar, that goes across the top. (See Diagram A.)



Nobody passed the ball on to another player in the team. Every time a player grabbed the ball, he ran down the field with it until someone stopped him. The players were long trousers, not shorts*, like today, and until 1871 there was no referee. Everybody used their own rules, so it was still a dangerous game and people kicked and hit each other a lot.

In 1862 some men in Cambridge got together and wrote down some rules — a list of things that a player can or cannot do in a game — for everyone to follow. One year later, in 1863, a group of the players from different towns got together in London and formed the Football Association, or F.A. They wrote down a better set of rules and everyone began to follow them. Now teams in all the different towns had the same rules.

2

The Football League begins

More and more teams joined the Football Association and followed its rules. Soon, the teams found a way to play even more games. They started the Football League on the now famous day of 8th September 1888. From that date, many, many teams have played many, many games against each other in the Saturday League matches. All the best teams play in the League.

The League makes a list of all the teams that are in it and they put the name of the best team each week at the top of the list. When a team in the League wins or loses a game, their name goes up or down the list and at the end of the season* — games are played from August until the next April — one team is always 'Top of the League'.

The first winner at the end of the first season was a team from the north of England, called Preston North End. Aston Villa, from Birmingham, was second and Wolverhampton Wanderers, from a town in the Midlands, was third.

At the beginning, in the early years, it seemed that all the best teams came from the north of England. Only three good ones — Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton — came from the south. Arsenal is still a

famous team. The name came from the Arsenal, the place where the army keeps its guns in south-east London near Woolwich.

Eleven of the men who worked there decided to start a team. When they played their first match, they had no football shirts, so they had to borrow red ones from another team called Nottingham Forest. Both teams still play in red shirts but the Arsenal players all have a gun shown on their shirts so that people will remember their early days in the game.

Another famous team in the Football League at the start was Everton — one of the two important Liverpool teams. Now, many big towns and cities have more than one football club* and more than one football team. Two of the other teams in the first League season were Derby County and Stoke City. Stoke came last on the list in the first season. At that time, there were twelve teams in the League itself so the list was not a long one.

The first really great team in the Football League was Aston Villa. As well as coming second in the first season, they were 'top of the League' five times in the years 1888–1900.

Now it is much harder because there are ninety-two teams in the league. It is divided into four divisions with more than twenty teams in each. Eleven of the first twelve teams are still in the League, though it is now a long time since it started. Some people think that we now have too many football teams in England—it is the biggest League in the world. This is not a good thing

because not enough people want to watch the teams in the lower Divisions, Three and Four. Most people, of course, like to see the games that are played by the best teams, the teams in Division One.

So the clubs and teams in the lower three divisions often do not have enough money to buy good players for themselves. They depend on a large crowd who will pay money to watch their matches. If the people do not come, their money does not come with them. Sometimes, if a club in Division Three or Four gets a good young player, he soon leaves to join a club which will pay him more, or his club will have to sell him to a richer one. Then they have money to pay their other players. If they cannot pay their players very much, the players themselves will ask if they can be sold to another club which will pay them more.

Without good players in a team, a club will stay in the Third or Fourth division, so the good teams get better (and richer) and the bad teams get worse (and poorer).

Also, because the League is too big, English teams have to play too often. There are twenty-two clubs at the moment in Division One. They must play forty-two league games in one season, so most top English teams play twice a week. Sometimes they play three times a week — and there are no easy games at the top of the League.