

# 阶梯英语读本

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Graded  
English  
Reader

安徽教育出版社

**Graded English Reader**

**阶 梯 英 语 读 本**

**4**

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安徽教育出版社

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# 前 言

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阅读是学习语言的一项基本技能。读是写的基础,是扩大词汇量、了解众多的语言现象的主要途径。阅读是运用英语获得信息的主要方法之一;阅读能力是考查英语水平的重要依据。

在各级各类学校学习英语的同学们,要想提高阅读能力,光靠阅读课本上的几篇课文是远远不够的,必须大量地接触课外的语言材料。

课外阅读读什么和怎样读,是一个值得研究的问题。

首先,应当选择那些与自己水平相当的语言材料,太难太易都不好。太难了,时间都花在查生词上,速度缓慢,难以获得大量信息。太易了,无法扩大词汇量,也难以增加新的语感。

其次,要研究阅读方法。阅读一般分快速阅读和精细阅读两种。对一篇短文,快速浏览一遍,读懂其中 70% 左右,然后做与短文内容有关的理解性练习——这是在考试中所使用的阅读方法,平时也可以这样进行阅读训练。用这种方法可以提高阅读速度,在短时间内获得大量的信息。这种方法的缺点是没有读懂文章的各个句子,有些囫囵吞枣。另一种方法就是精读细读,不放过每一个段落、每一个句子,把其中的意思和结构都弄清楚。以上两种方法各有利弊,应当结合使用。

基于以上的一些考虑,我们为各种不同程度的英语读者编写了这套《阶梯英语读本》。这套书按照所选英文短文难易程度,由易到难,共分 9 册。其中①②③册大抵上适合我国初中学生阅读,④⑤⑥册大抵上适合我国高中学生阅读,⑦⑧⑨册大抵上适合我国大学专科和本科学生阅读。因为是课外读物,读者尽可以根据自己的实际水平,选用其中一册或若干册进行阅读。此套书中选用的语言材料

所囊括的词汇量由少到多,语言现象由简单到复杂。英文原文均选自原版图书、报纸、杂志等,题材多种多样,内容生动有趣,融知识性和趣味性于一体,有的寓意深刻,富于哲理。所选用的语言材料力求新颖。这些素材都是英语国家中真实的语言文字,但为了适合我国不同程度的读者阅读,我们对少数原文的个别句子进行了改写或简写,但以不破坏原文的语言风格为原则。读者阅读此书,不仅可以学习语言,还可以增进知识、开阔视野。译文均为编者所撰写。译文力求做到忠实于原文、通顺流畅。对于原文中较难理解的词汇和短语,我们作了简明的注释。对生词和短语词义的注释一般只限本文中的含义。

本书以英汉对照方式编排。实践证明,本族语在外语学习中是一根有益的“小拐杖”,它能帮助读者对两种语言进行比较和加深理解。但是,外语学习者不可过分依赖它,平时要用主要精力去阅读和理解原文。对这套书我们建议读者可以先快速通读一遍英文短文,看看读懂了多少,然后再对照译文和注释细细品味。

参加此套书编写的是大、中学校的英语教师和语言科研人员。本册主要由王耀文编译。参加本册书编译的还有董启明、吴志良、张海燕、崔勤、华西广、何舟等。对书中的缺点和错误我们热忱希望读者批评指正。

编者

2002年1月

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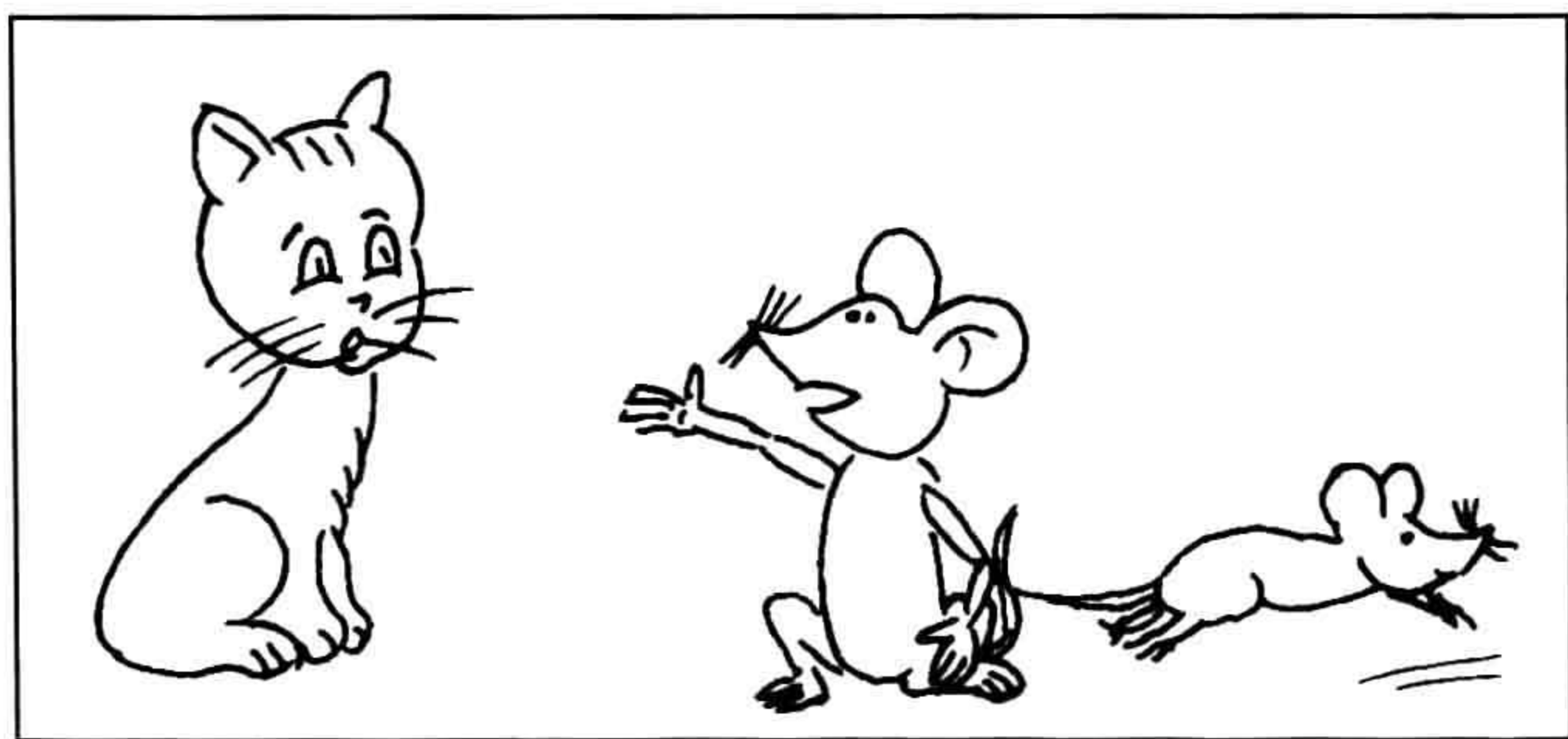
## 1

## A Clever Rat

### 聪明的老鼠

One day a mother rat and her babies were out in an open field. They were playing and having a good time when suddenly a hungry cat came on the scene! It hid behind<sup>①</sup> a big tree and then crawled forward<sup>②</sup> through the tall grass until it could almost hear them talk. Before the mother rat and her babies knew what had happened, the cat jumped from its hiding-place and started to run after them.

有一天,一只母老鼠和她的孩子们在空地上玩耍。他们玩得正高兴时,突然,一只饿猫出现了!猫藏在一棵大树后,然后穿过茂密的草地朝前爬行,一直爬到可以听见他们谈话的地方。未等母老鼠和她的孩子们反应过来发生了什么事,猫就从躲藏的地方窜出来,追撵他们。



The mother rat and her babies all fled<sup>③</sup> at once. They hurried towards their home. It was under a pile of large stones. But the baby rats were so frightened that<sup>④</sup> they

母老鼠和她的孩子们全都立即逃跑。他们匆忙朝家里跑。他们的家就在一堆大石头下。可是小老

could not run very quickly. Closer and closer the cat came. In no time<sup>⑤</sup> that cat would be upon them. What was to be done?

The mother rat stopped running, turned round and faced the cat, shouting, “Woff! Woff! Woff<sup>⑥</sup>!” just like an angry dog. The cat was so surprised and frightened that it ran away.

The mother rat turned to her babies, “Now you see how important it is to learn a second language!”

鼠们因受惊骇而跑不快。猫追了上来,离他们越来越近。眼看猫就要抓着他们了。该怎么办呢?

母老鼠停了下来,转过身看着猫,怒吼道:“Woff! Woff! Woff!”就像一只愤怒的狗叫似的。这只猫非常吃惊,非常害怕,就跑掉了。

母老鼠转身对孩子们说:“你们看到了,学一种第二语言(外语)多么重要啊!”

---

① hid behind: 躲在……的后面。 ② crawled forward: 向前匍匐爬行。 ③ fled: 逃跑,是 flee 的过去式。 ④ so... that: 非常……以致……。 ⑤ in no time: 立即,马上。 ⑥ Woff: 是描述狗吠的声音。

## 2

A "Clever" Man  
一个“聪明”人

John thought that he was very clever. He thought that no one could play a trick on<sup>①</sup> him because he was too clever. He often talked about his cleverness. He once spoke very rudely<sup>②</sup> to Tom, "You will never play a trick on me, Tom. You are too stupid."

"Wait here by this gate," replied Tom, "I will find a way to trick you." Then he went home.

Two hours later Lucy came along<sup>③</sup>.

"Why are you standing there?" She asked John.

"I am waiting for Tom," replied John. "He is going to try to trick me."

"Tom has gone home," said Lucy. "You have already been tricked!"

John never spoke about the cleverness again.

约翰认为自己非常聪明。他认为谁也没法愚弄他,因为他太聪明了。他经常在别人面前提起他的聪明。有一次,他非常无礼地跟汤姆说:“汤姆,你甭想能愚弄我。因为你太笨了。”

“在这个门口等着,”汤姆回答道,“我会找个办法来愚弄你的。”汤姆说完就回家去了。

两个小时后,露西走了过来。

“你站在这儿干嘛?”露西问约翰。

“我在等汤姆。”约翰回答道,“他想设法愚弄我。”

“汤姆已经回家了。”露西说,“你已经被他愚弄了。”

此后,约翰再也不提他的聪明了。

① play a trick on sb: 愚弄某人。 ② rudely: 无礼地。 ③ come along: 过来了。

3

## Happy New Year 新年快乐

Students in the United States are still enjoying their vacations<sup>①</sup>. Christmas is over, but school does not begin again for another week. Before they return, there is still another important holiday — the first day of the New Year. It is the last night of the old year, however, that people celebrate<sup>②</sup> the most.

美国的学生还在度假。圣诞节结束了,可是学校还要再过一周才开学。返校之前还有一个重要的节日——元旦。这是过去一年的最后一个夜晚,然而人们却以最热烈的方式庆祝这个晚上。



Almost everyone is going to a party. It is nice to be with friends when you say goodbye to the old year. The people at the parties are dancing and singing. Most of them are wearing paper hats and making noise. It is getting close to<sup>③</sup> midnight now

几乎所有的人都去参加聚会。告别过去的一年时,跟朋友们在一块真是妙不可言。聚会时人们唱歌跳舞。大多数人戴着纸帽子,尽情地唱着跳着。时近午夜,大家都停下来注视着

and everyone is stopping to watch the clock. At exactly midnight everyone cheers<sup>④</sup>. A new year is beginning. Everyone is hoping for a very good New Year. For many Americans this is a time of year to think about the future<sup>⑤</sup>. Some people make a list of<sup>⑥</sup> things that they hope to do. They promise<sup>⑦</sup> to stop smoking, to lose weight<sup>⑧</sup>, to save their money, or to do something else that is good. They call these promises resolutions<sup>⑨</sup>. Some people remember their resolutions all year long, but many others forget them. The parties to celebrate the New Year are great fun<sup>⑩</sup>; but when the dancing and singing are over, it is nice to remember the past and to plan the future.

钟。当钟敲响 12 点时,大家纵情地欢呼着。新的一年开始啦。大家都期盼着美好的新年。对于许多美国人来说,这是一年中考虑未来的时候。有些人还把自己希望做的事列一张清单。他们承诺要戒烟、减肥、存钱或做一些其他有益的事。他们把这些诺言称为决心。有些人全年都记着他们许下的诺言,而有许多人却将诺言忘得一干二净。庆祝新年的聚会是非常有趣的,但是,当歌舞结束后,美好的事情就是回忆过去和憧憬未来了。

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① vacation: 假(期)。 ② celebrate: 庆祝。 ③ close to: 紧挨着……。 ④ cheer: 欢呼,高兴。 ⑤ future: 将来,未来。 ⑥ a list of: 一张……的单子。  
⑦ promise: 承诺。 ⑧ lose weight: 减肥。 ⑨ resolution: 决心。 ⑩ fun: 有趣的事。

4

## Watching TV 看电视

Television presents<sup>①</sup> a vivid world in front of us. For example, TV can keep us informed of what is happening throughout the world. For another example, with a TV set at home, we can visit a great deal of wonders<sup>②</sup> of the world in a day, even in an hour: the Great Wall of China, the skyscrapers<sup>③</sup> in New York, the pyramids<sup>④</sup> in Egypt, and so on. Besides, TV brings us various<sup>⑤</sup> forms of entertainments<sup>⑥</sup> such as sports competitions, concerts etc. Television has become one of the most influential<sup>⑦</sup> forms of communication today. It affects the life of everyone from the infant<sup>⑧</sup> to the senior citizen. The influence of this powerful medium<sup>⑨</sup> ranges widely from most beneficial to extremely detrimental<sup>⑩</sup>. Then how to select the programs is critical.

电视能将世界生动地展现在我们面前。例如,电视能让我们知晓世界各地正在发生的事情。又如,家里有台电视,我们就可以在一天之内,甚至是一小时之内游览许多世界之最:中国的万里长城、纽约的摩天大楼、埃及的金字塔,等等。而且电视还能让我们观看诸如体育竞赛、音乐会等各种形式的娱乐活动。今天的电视已经成为最富感染力的交际形式之一。它影响着包括从孩童到长者的每一个人的生活。人们既可以从其中获益匪浅,也可以因之受害颇深。那么如何有选择性地收看电视节目是非常关键的。

---

① present: 呈现。 ② wonder: 奇迹。 ③ skyscraper: 摩天大楼。 ④ pyramid: 金字塔。 ⑤ various: 各种各样的。 ⑥ entertainment: 娱乐。 ⑦ influential: 有影响的。 ⑧ infant: 婴儿。 ⑨ medium: 媒体。 ⑩ detrimental: 有害的,不利的;有害的人(或物)。

## 5

## The Secret of Success

### 成功的秘诀

A young man once asked Albert Einstein what the secret of success is. The scientist told him that the secret of success is hard work. A few days later the young man asked him the same question again. Einstein was very annoyed<sup>①</sup>. He did not say anything but wrote a few words on a piece of paper and handed it to the young man. The young man looked at the piece of paper. On it was written:  $A = X + Y + Z$ .

“What does this mean?” asked the young man.

“A means success,” explained the old scientist, “X stands for<sup>②</sup> hard work, Y for good methods, and Z...Z means stop talking and get down to work<sup>③</sup>.”

一个年轻人曾问阿尔伯特·爱因斯坦成功的秘诀是什么。这位科学家告诉他说,成功的秘诀就是努力地工作。几天以后,这个青年人又问了同样的问题。爱因斯坦很恼火,他二话没说,就在一张纸上写了几个字递给年青人。年青人只见纸上写着: $A = X + Y + Z$  这个公式。

“这是什么意思?”年青人问道。

“A 代表成功,”这位老科学家解释道,“X 代表努力工作, Y 代表好的方法, 而 Z……Z 代表停止空谈, 扎扎实实地工作。”

---

① be annoyed: 生气。 ② stand for: 代表。 ③ get down to (one's) work: 扎扎实实地工作。



## Education in Canada 加拿大的教育

Education in Canada is the duty of each province, and the country as a whole has no national education goals<sup>①</sup> and no national courses<sup>②</sup> of study. Instead, each of the ten provinces and two territories<sup>③</sup> can make its own plans for the education of its young people. A look at the map of this large nation will prove<sup>④</sup> the wisdom<sup>⑤</sup> of this policy. Canada includes a variety of cultures and climates from the frozen areas of the Northwest Territories with its native Indian population to the French-speaking cities of Quebec and Montreal<sup>⑥</sup> and the English-speaking city of Toronto.

Like the United States, the Canadian educational system has elementary school<sup>⑦</sup>, beginning at age 5 to 6, and high school, beginning at age 12 to 14 and ending at age 18.

在加拿大,教育是各省的职责,而国家作为一个整体,既没有全国性的教育目标,也没有全国性的学习课程。反而是加拿大的十省二区无不为本地区青少年的教育制定了各自的计划。只要看一看这个大国的地图,就可以证明这种政策的英明。其原因就在于加拿大包容了多种多样的文化和气候,从居住着当地印第安人的西北自治区严寒地带到讲法语的城市魁北克和蒙特利尔以及讲英语的城市多伦多。

加拿大的教育体系同美国一样,有小学,始于5至6岁,以及中学,始于12至14岁,止于18岁。

① goal: 目标。 ② course: 课程。 ③ territory: 地区, 领域。 ④ prove: 证明。  
⑤ wisdom: 英明。 ⑥ Quebec: 魁北克; Montreal: 蒙特利尔。这是加拿大的两个讲法语的城市。 ⑦ elementary school: 小学。