

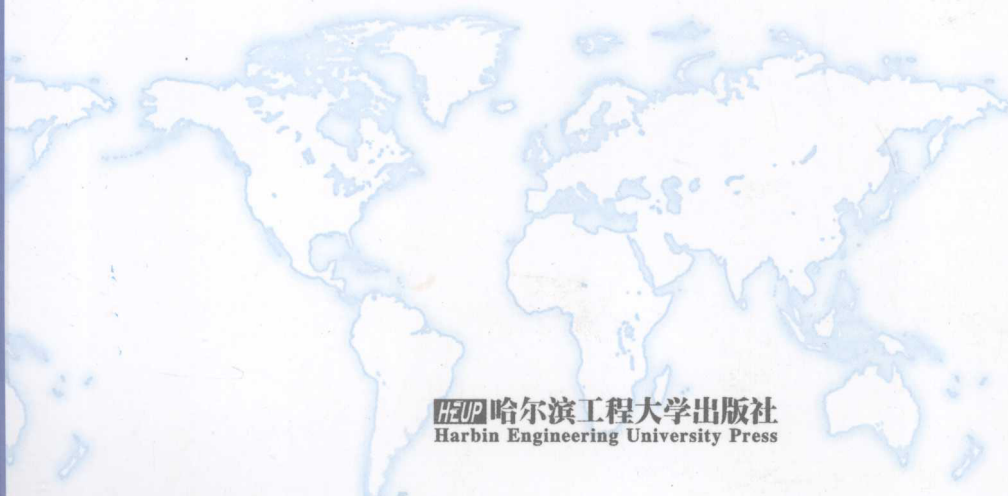


大学外语系列丛书

DAXUE WAIYU XILIE CONGSHU

王晓光 主编

# 基础英语 综合读写教程



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# 基础英语综合读写教程

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## 内 容 简 介

本书共计 28 篇阅读课文,每篇课文分别由课文导入、课文、读写技能整合和参考答案四部分组成。导读部分简要概括文章的主要内容,指出课文难点;读写训练以回答问题和概要写作为中心,每个问题的内容细化定位到段落,严格要求学生运用自己的语言表达思想,同时兼顾词汇强化训练;概要写作针对性较强,要求就课文的某一部分内容或就某一问题来回答相关要点,并且遵从自主表达的原则,不许照抄原文;参考答案所提供的内容仅供参考。

本书可作为基础阶段大学英语专业泛读教材,也可以作为非英语专业学生的普通英语阅读教材使用。

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# 前 言

## PREFACE

阅读作为获取信息的重要途径已成为英语专业学生和广大英语学习爱好者完成学业、查阅文献以及参加各类考试必不可少的工具,因此阅读教学在英语基础阶段教学中的作用和地位更是尤为重要。对于如何快速有效地培养大学基础阶段英语学习者的阅读技巧和提高他们对阅读材料的深透理解已成为基础英语阅读教学的主要任务。

本书是编者根据多年来积累的英语教学经验,结合国外最新语言学习理论,借鉴英国剑桥语言测试模式所编写的一套综合阅读教材。旨在通过尝试整合读写过程,将语言输出和输入科学有效地结合,从积累词汇知识、培养基本句法能力入手,进一步引导学生以读助写、以写促读的阅读实践,进而促进学生熟练阅读技巧,提高阅读质量。

本书所选篇章均为英语原文材料,题材多样,内容广泛,语言地道生动,程度由浅入深,颇具知识性、科学性和趣味性。

本书的特点在于读写技能的深度整合。通过书面问答和梗概写作相结合的模式,整合语言输出和输入,强化学生词汇积累、文化知识、分析问题、组织语言和概括凝练的能力。

本书在编写过程中,参考或引用了国内外一些专家的著作,在此表示感谢。由于编者水平有限,书中错误在所难免,恳请读者批评指正,以便将来再版修改。

编 者  
2012 年 2 月



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## Lesson One Man and Animals

As fellow creatures, man and animals alike, share the same home—the Earth and enjoy together the nurture of nature. However, In recent times, man is turning hostile to animals instead of living in harmony with them. This passage discusses man’s changing relationship with animals throughout history and shows how animals have been mistreated.

1 In prehistoric times, man's treatment of animals was full of respect and sometimes even of awe. His main reason for this was that the wild bulls, mammoths, rhino and boar he hunted were dangerous enemies. The hunting tribes never regarded animals as their inferiors. Indeed, they undoubtedly noticed that in many ways—muscular strength, speed, hearing, sense of smell—they were superior to humans. Later it became common to believe in the concept of life after death. It was then natural to think that animals had souls, as man did. The body of the prey would be eaten, its bones turned into tools, and its skin worn as clothes, but its soul would still have a home in painted and engraved form on the walls, reflecting a huge respect for the animals which had been killed. Eventually certain animals, particularly the most dangerous and impressive ones, were seen by some tribes as being sacred animals, or totems.

2 Each totem animal became so revered that it was no longer hunted. On the contrary, it was protected because it was believed to have a special relationship with the tribes people. To some it was an ancestral figure, from which they themselves had descended. To others, it was the messenger of the gods, or even the god himself. Totem animals were widespread in early societies, and they were the origin of the animal worship which was to develop in the earliest civilizations. Despite this, there was a grave disadvantage in being a totem animal because, if an animal was the totem of some sacred tribe, it could be attacked or destroyed by their enemies. All this shows how closely linked man and animals were in the minds of these early thinkers. But as time went by this link was broken; the belief that animals possessed souls disappeared and man therefore came to think that he was in fact superior to animals! Once animals had lost the respect they enjoyed in prehistoric times,



it was hardly surprising that they were often mistreated or killed unnecessarily.

3 There were several effects of this new attitude towards animals. One was that they came to be used for entertainment, often of a degrading nature. Travelling showmen included performing monkeys and dancing bears in their displays, making these animals look foolish. Circuses attracted crowds curious to see animals specially trained to entertain them with their tricks. Audiences felt a satisfying glow of superiority as they witnessed their antics, insensitive to the humiliation the creatures suffered. The fact that circus animals were superior in some respects to humans was carefully overlooked. The most obvious example was in sheer strength. The lion and elephant were clearly much stronger than humans, so circus acts were devised in which the strength of the animals was dominated by human intelligence; the lion was skillfully trained to jump through the hoop, the elephant to bow to the audience. Such acts have a particular appeal for children, nor can they be blamed for this, since animals have been consistently misrepresented as cuddly toys, and characters in cartoons and stories.

4 Another way in which animals were subdued for Man's pleasure was through zoos. An enormous zoo, with no fewer than 600 animal keepers, was discovered by Spanish explorers in the ancient empire of the Aztecs. Other civilizations also devoted much energy to collecting animals. This was frequently to satisfy a curiosity about animal life, but also sometimes to provide an enclosed area for hunting in which the animals became easy targets. More recently, zoo animals are seen by many as mere captives who are bored, frustrated and deprived of almost all activities natural to them. Directors of zoos argue that such criticism is unfair, and claim that zoos play a major role in the modern world by educating people at first hand about the wildlife that exists elsewhere. Conscious of their limitations, zoos have struggled to develop a style of zoo-keeping which gives animals living conditions that are as close as possible to the way they would live if still in the wild. In some parts of Europe, special parks called safari parks have been set up. Here, small herds of game and troops of monkeys can move about freely, although serious drawbacks have emerged. Some of these animals are made ill by exhaust fumes from visitors' cars, and tropical animals which do not belong in Europe's northern climate may suffer through not having suitable winter quarters. For all their faults, zoos and safari parks are a lifeline to nature, a slender thread that leads us to an increasing interest in living things.

5 Before the advent of cinema and television, city dwellers rarely encountered wild animals in any form except in zoos. Even when the cinema arrived, the impression of animals it gave was not helpful. Animals were depicted in early films as savage killers, attacking the hero, or being gunned down by brave hunters in the name of sport. It was not until the invention of colour television in the late 1960s that many magnificent natural history films were made which provided an awareness of



what wild animals are really like by showing them in their natural surroundings.

6 Animals also suffered at the hands of man in that they were gradually but systematically destroyed by Europeans to make way for agricultural land to provide food for a fast-growing population. Then twentieth-century farmers started to use pesticides, poisoning the creatures on which so many of the remaining larger animals depended. Throughout all this, the rich were hunting, shooting and fishing for sport. Looking back, one is surprised that modern Europe has any wildlife left at all.

7 In the nineteenth century it became fashionable for Europeans to travel to Africa and India to hunt wild animals there for sport. With increasingly sophisticated weapons, it was a one-sided competition. Many European naturalists also joined in the slaughter, in order to build up vast collections of skulls, skins and other museum specimens. With time, the folly of such behaviour was recognized, and practical steps were taken to protect animals by the building of magnificent game parks, where the visitors shot the animals not with guns but with cameras. Today, however, the wild animals of Africa, like their European counterparts in safari parks, are more likely to suffer from exhaust fumes than gunshot wounds. Tourist pollution is considered the main cause in the dramatic decline of the numbers of certain predatory animals like the cheetah and leopard. In desperation, some of these animals have abandoned their natural behaviour patterns and concentrate on nocturnal hunting to avoid the swarm of trucks, zebra-striped vans and other vehicles that bump and lurch through the game parks from first light.

8 Our ancestors treated animals with respect: the way in which modern man shares the earth with animals should also be based upon respect. Many fascinating species of animals are today on the verge of extinction, and the list is depressingly long. This impending disaster is apparently unavoidable because government authorities are too pre-occupied with pressing human problems to be able to give priority to animals.

## Skill Integration 读写技能整合

I. Answer the following questions in written forms. Observe the specific requirements for the questions focused on each paragraph.

From paragraph 1:

1. (a) What was the main reason why early man treated animals with respect?

(b) Name two uses early man found for the animals he killed.





(c) In what way did early man show respect for animals once he had killed them?

(d) What special form of respect did he show to the more dangerous animals?

From paragraph 2:

2. (a) What two advantages were there for an animal which was a totem animal?

(b) What possible disadvantage was there for an animal which was a totem animal?

(c) Man came to think that he was "in fact superior to animals". What led him to think this?

From paragraph 3:

3. (a) The writer refers to the use of animals for a "degrading" form of entertainment. In what way was it degrading for them?

(b) The writer says that "circus animals were superior in some respects to humans". What one aspect of animal superiority does he then refer to?

(c) Circus acts set out to prove that humans had one quality which animals lacked. What was this?

From paragraph 4:

4. (a) Some civilizations devoted much energy to collecting animals. From the evidence of the paragraph, give two reasons for this. You must answer in your words.

(b) In answer to their critics, zoos claim that they play a major role in the modern world. Explain in your own words what this role is.

(c) What particular change have zoos made in response to the criticisms leveled against them?



From paragraph 5:

5. From the evidence of the passage, say why colour television films are superior to early cinema films in the way they represent animal behaviour.

From paragraph 7:

6. (a) Explain what the writer means when he describes animal hunting as a "one-sided" competition.

(b) Apart from sport, what other motive was there for hunting animals in Africa and India?

(c) Some animals concentrate on "nocturnal" hunting (line 10). Write down the expression used later in the paragraph which contrasts with the idea of "nocturnal".

From paragraph 8:

7. Many animals are "on the verge of extinction". What is it, according to the writer, that stops government authorities from doing anything about it? You must answer in your own words.

From the whole passage:

8. Choose five of the following words or phrases underlined in the passage. For each of them give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrase has in the Context.

(a) grave

(e) depicted

(b) devised

(f) systematically

(c) dominated

(g) decline

(d) conscious of

(h) verge

## II. Summary writing.

Once animals had lost the respect they enjoyed in prehistoric times... they were often mistreated or killed unnecessarily. Write a summary of the ways in which, according to the writer,



man has mistreated and destroyed animals.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing(not note form), must not be longer than 160 words, including the 10 words given below.

Begin your summary as follows:

*In relatively recent times, man mistreated animals, using them for...*



## Keys

**I. Answer the following questions in written forms. Observe the specific requirements for the questions focused on each paragraph.**

1. (a) It was dangerous because they regarded animals as dangerous enemies rather than as their inferiors.  
(b) Early man made the bones of animals into tools. He wore their skins as clothes.  
(c) They showed respect for the animals they had killed by painting and engraving their forms on the cave walls.  
(d) He made them into totems, or scared animals.
2. (a) The two advantages were firstly, totem animals were not hunted and secondly, they were protected from danger.  
(b) The possible disadvantage was that the totem animal of a tribe faced the danger of being destroyed or killed by enemy tribes.  
(c) It was when man began to lose the belief that animals possessed souls.
3. (a) It was degrading for the animals because they were made to appear foolish when they performed tricks and dances which they had been trained to do.  
(b) He referred to their strength.  
(c) It was man's intelligence.
4. (a) The collecting of animals was mainly for the detailed study of lives of those animals. It was also for providing an area in which the animals were put in enclosed areas so that hunters could hunt them more conveniently.  
(b) The role zoos play is that of providing educational information to people about the lives of animals which exist not only in his country but also in faraway places.  
(c) They have made their zoos with animals enclosures that have living conditions similar to that of the animals' natural habitat.
5. Early cinema films used animals in their stories as savage killers and inferior beings used in hunting. Colour television films on the other hand documented the natural loves of the animals in their natural habitats in full colour, preserving their beauty and magnificence.



6. (a) The writer is saying that man uses sophisticated weapons, a product of his intelligence to hunt animals. As the animals do not possess such weapons, it is a one-sided competition.
- (b) Another motive was to collect animal remains as museum artifact.
- (c) The expression is "from first light".
7. Government authorities all over the world are two involved in finding solutions for the never-ending human problems. As such they do not wish to spend time or money in curbing animal extinction.
8. (a) serious (b) made for the purpose  
(c) over-ridden (d) aware of  
(e) showed (f) deliberately done in planned steps  
(g) decrease (h) brink

## II. Sample of summary.

In relatively recent times, man mistreated animals using them for entertainment in circuses. The animals were trained to perform desired behaviours. They were also depicted as foolish beings in cartoons and stories.

Zoos previously also mistreated animals. Their enclosures were small and dirty. Visitors disturbed their peace and they were harmed by exhaust fumes from cars, wounds from gunshots and disease due to unsuitable climatic conditions. In cinemas, animals were trained to be the evil predator, killing the heroes, or as the ingenious hunted beings. Then, with man's development in agriculture, animals have their natural habitats destroyed as man burnt down forests for this purpose. Some animals were deliberately destroyed by pesticides and poisons used in man's farms. Finally, the worst is when man kills the animals for sport or for self-glory, animals are being hunted so that man can add to his collection of museum specimens and hang on his walls the body parts of these awesome creatures.



## Lesson Two Travelling with “Queen”

### Lead-in 导入

Elephants are the largest living land animals that scatter over the world. In India, tamed elephants are popular means of transportation. They are good-natured and obedient. Sometimes, however, they can be naughty and playful and may cause you unexpected trouble. This passage describes the author's adventurous journey with an elephant called Queen.

### Text 课文

1 “Am I right in assuming that you want to buy an elephant?” A voice from India shouted down the elephant to me in Hong Kong. It was my friend Aditya. Even through the hiss and crackle of the telephone, I could detect the disbelief in his voice about my strange wish.

“Yes, that's right,” I replied.

“You must be mad,” he said. “But I'll see what I can do.”

2 Within a few days I was in India at Aditya's house. There, waiting for me, was an acquaintance of his, Salim, who had a deep knowledge of wildlife and more importantly, was an expert on elephants. “Otissa, the old kingdom of Kailinga,” Salim said, studying the map, “is where you should go to buy an elephant, and to begin your journey. For centuries the rulers there reckoned part of their wealth in elephants.”

3 So next morning we set off. By coincidence the director of the zoo in Otissa was on our light. But he gave us depressing news. He knew of no elephants for sale in Otissa. When we touched down, my gloomy mood deepened. It was monsoon time and an oppressive heat hung in the air. We checked into our hotel and followed the porter to our rooms. Before we could get inside, the porter suddenly asked us if we wanted to buy an elephant. I didn't ask him how on earth he knew that. Aditya whispered to me: “Don't forget the zoo director is staying here too. News travels fast in hotels.” Sure enough, the porter informed us there was a village nearby where elephants for sale could be found. We made our way there as quickly as possible.

4 There, in the fading light, were three elephants. One caught my eye immediately, a female, looking so good natured that I was sure she was the one for me. The other two elephants



were males and, Salim warned, looked dangerous. "Take the female," he advised me, "it would be impossible to find better." After some bargaining, I proudly possessed my very own elephant, to me the queen of elephants. And that would be her name: Queen. My dream of travelling in India on an elephant was about to come true. We then planned our route—our destination was a town some sixty days' journey away—and assembled the equipment we would need, not forgetting the "bombs". These are objects the size of golf balls which, when thrown on the ground, explode like some powerful firework and are used to scare off threatening animals. With the equipment slung over Queen's back, we began our travels.

5 As we were reaching outskirts of the village, I saw a bus approaching us. Queen swerved abruptly, causing the collapse of a tea stall. We came to a halt amongst a cascading river of cups and teapots. Glaring at us, his face a mottled purple, was the enraged owner.

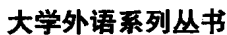
"Er... I'm frightfully sorry, sir," I gasped. "You see my..."

"You! You!" The man shouted furiously. "Everything gone. I'm ruined. I'll take you to court."

"Now, Sir," Aditya said. "There's no need for that. I am sure we can come to some financial agreement." After the man had cooled down, we assessed the damage and compensation was paid. We couldn't get out of that village quickly enough; the drain on my nerves and on my pocket had been considerable. Besides, Queen unashamedly kept on helping herself to cakes which were laid out on some market stalls. Understandably her greed annoyed the owners and Salim would smack her trunk, where upon she would squeeze her small brown eyes shut like a naughty little girl.

6 Eventually, we emerged into open countryside, and to our relief followed a track free of the din of traffic and the possibility of Queen's thieving. After a while we notice that Queen was limping, a bad sign for our future progress, let alone Queen's comfort. Salim discovered the cause—a metal leg chain with small spikes had obviously been used on her by her previous owners. One of the spikes had caused an ulcer, but Salim told me, hot water and salt dressings applied nightly would cure it. Although his knowledge of elephant ailments reassured me, it took some time to make and apply these dressings.

7 Days passed and our journey continued. Queen plodded along, her trunk plucking at branches from overhead trees, munching with contentment. Nevertheless, it was evident that her leg was still troubling her. Soon we came to another little town. The animal doctor there explained that Queen had a serious infection, and that she would need injections of antibiotics. Moreover, this difficult task was to be mine, and I was distinctly uneasy about it. After mentally marking a spot in Queen's enormous side. I shut my eyes and nervously plunged in the needle. I realized my attempt had failed when, with a squeal of rage, Queen trundled away with a broken needle wobbling



8 When Queen was brought back, she gave me a look of pure venom. I repeated the process, this time successfully. So off we went again, adding to our equipment a heavy box of needles and antibiotics. After some time we entered a forest which promised a welcome change of scenery. Queen suddenly stopped, extending her trunk upwards, scanning and smelling the air.

**“Wild elephants,” Salim whispered “and very close.”**

9 Aditya reached for his camera bag. With a sharp downward gesture of his hand Salim indicated to him to keep still. He knew that wild elephants can be very dangerous. Then from the corner of my eye I caught a slight movement. A sort sound, almost inaudible, was the only indication that the foliage was being gently brushed aside. Like ghosts, three female elephants appeared and stood motionless on the road in front of us. They let out a deep rumble and extended their trunks towards Queen. If they sensed our fear, would they attack us? Then, as quickly and quietly as they had appeared, they disappeared.

10 I was about to let out a sigh of relief when Salim gave another of his urgent hand signals. We heard a movement, as if the grass were being crushed by some huge, unidentified force. Suddenly a large male elephant with tusks a meter long confronted us. Queen was trembling violently and Salim was having trouble holding her steady. We were so close I could see the flies clustering around the elephant's eyes. Without warning he rapped his trunk on the ground, emitting a terrifying bellow.

11 “Quick!” Salim hissed. “He’s angry. Throw the bombs!” Aditya hurled one to the ground. Nothing happened. It failed to explode. The elephant stepped forward, throwing his trunk contemptuously into the air, emitting a terrible shrill trumpeting sound, as if warning to keep our distance. It was so loud and enveloping that my senses reeled.

12 “Throw another, now!” I whispered, desperate that this one would work. But Salim moved first. He wrenched it from Aditya’s hand, placed it on the ground and hit hard with the end of his stick. There was a blinding flash, a puff of smoke, and when the smoke had cleared, the track was empty. We could hear the elephants crashing through the trees. In that moment of silence, the primitive energy of the forest was no longer tranquil. It had become threatening. We moved slowly forward until we could find a way out into safer open country beyond. I had learnt an important lesson—elephants are wild animals and deserve an appropriate respect.



## Skill Integration 读写技能整合

**I . Answer the following questions in written forms. Observe the specific requirements for the questions focused on each paragraph.**

From paragraph 1 :

1. How did Aditya feel about the writer's strange wish?

---

From paragraph 2 :

2. Why would Salim be an ideal companion on the journey?

---

From paragraph 3 :

3. Give two reasons for the writer's "gloomy mood".

---

From paragraph 4 :

4. Give two reasons why Queen was the elephant which the writer bought.

---

From paragraph 5 :

5. (a) The owner of the tea stall shows by what he says that he is "enraged". Explain two other ways in which it is clear that he is angry.

---

- (b) The writer says "the drain in my nerves and on my pocket " had been considerable. Using your own words, explain what he means by this.

---

From paragraph 6 :

6. (a) Using your own words, give two reasons for the "relief" the group felt when they reached the open countryside.

---





- (b) Give two reasons why the group were alarmed when they noticed that Queen was limping.

---

From paragraph 9:

7. (a) Explain how the writer makes it clear that Aditya did not know that wild elephants can be dangerous.

---

- (b) Suggest a reason why the writer describes the wild female elephants as being “like ghosts”.

---

From paragraph 12:

8. (a) The writer contrasts the silence of the forest before the arrival of the wild elephants with its silence after their departure. In your own words, explain what such a contrast is.

---

- (b) Suggest two reasons why the group “moved slowly” after the departure of the wild elephants.

---

From the whole passage:

9. Choose five of the following words or phrases underlined in the passage. For each of them give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word or phrases has in the context.

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) assuming    | (e) cooled down |
| (b) destination | (f) assessed    |
| (c) assembled   | (g) sharp       |
| (d) abruptly    | (h) clustering  |

## II. Summary writing.

Using your own words as far as possible, summarize the difficulties and dangers the writer and his companions encountered on their journey with Queen, and how they overcame them.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 160 words, including the 10 words given below.

Begin your summary as follows: