

阶梯英语读本

Graded
English
Reader

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安徽教育出版社

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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。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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The Candle and the Cigarette

蜡烛与香烟

One day the cigarette said to the candle:

“Brother Candle, people all praise you for your great spirit of ‘destroying yourself while giving others light.’ But indeed, there’s almost no difference from my ‘destroying myself and awakening others’.”

Having heard these words, the candle laughed and said:

“You are just using sweet words to fool these feeble-minded people and you are really doing harm to their health. You are destroying yourself and poisoning others. On account of this, people don’t praise but condemn you.”

It is the very talk given by the candle and the cigarette that advises each reader to make his or her dear life useful to the people’s cause and never to do what does harm to the people.

一天,香烟对蜡烛说道:

“蜡烛哥哥,人们都在赞美着你的伟大精神——‘烧毁了自己,照亮了别人’。但事实上,这跟我的差不了多少——‘烧毁了自己,唤醒了别人’。”

听了这些话,蜡烛哈哈大笑道:

“你正在用甜言蜜语,愚弄那些意志薄弱的人,并损害着他们的健康。你在‘毁灭着自己,毒害着人家’。正因为这一点,人们不在赞扬你,而正在谴责你。”

就是蜡烛和香烟的这段对话,告诫着每一位读者:要让宝贵的生命有益于人民的事业,而切不可去干有害于人民的事。

2

The Fox and the Grape 狐狸和葡萄

A hungry fox was walking along a road one day. He suddenly saw some lovely bunches of grapes hanging over a tall wall. The fox stood on his hind legs and put his front paws on the wall. But the grapes were still too high for him to reach. The fox jumped as high as he could. Sometimes his nose touched a grape, but he could not bite one off.

一天,一只饥饿的狐狸在路上走着。突然,他看见一座高墙上挂着一串串可爱的葡萄。狐狸用后腿站起来,把前爪搭在墙上。可是葡萄太高了,他仍然够不着,狐狸竭尽全力往高处跳。有时候他的鼻子碰上一颗葡萄,却不能咬一颗下来。



The fox jumped and jumped until he was very tired. At last he stopped jumping and walked away with his nose in the air.

"I don't want those grapes," he said, "I thought they were ripe, but now I'm sure they are very sour."

狐狸跳了又跳,直到累得不行。最后他不跳了,翘着鼻子走开了。

"我不想要那些葡萄,"他说道,"我原以为它们都熟了,现在我可以断定它们是非常酸的。"

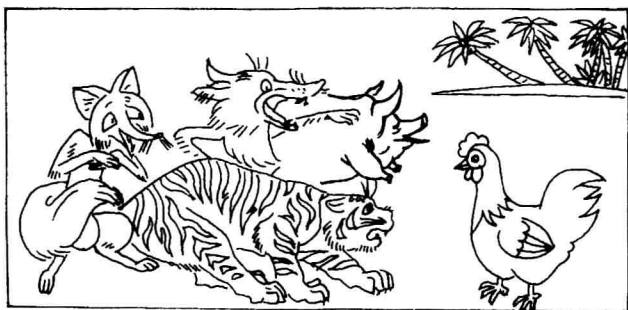
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The Fox's Eyes

狐狸的眼睛

The hen, unable to bear her danger any longer, went to the stronger animals to complain that her kindred were being bullied by the fox and to ask them to uphold justice and stop the fox's savageries. "If only you looked into those eyes," she cackled, "you'd understand!"

母鸡再也不能忍受她的危险处境了,就去找强壮一些的动物。她向他们诉苦说,她的亲属们正在遭受狐狸的欺侮,要求他们主持公道,制止狐狸的野蛮行径。“你们只要看看狐狸的眼睛就会明白的。”她咯咯地叫道。



"I have done, often enough," growled the tiger. "Timidity and caution are all they express. There's nothing to fear there."

"The fox makes way for me whenever he sees me," grunted the wild boar. "What I see in his eyes is modesty and forbearance."

"我看得够多的了,"老虎吼叫道,"狐狸的目光里只有畏怯和小翼翼,没有什么可怕的。"

"狐狸每次见到我都给我让路,"野猪哼道,"我在他们的目光中见到的是谦虚和克制。"

“I know the fox all right,” howled the wolf. “His kind always slopes off when there’s a fight. The fox’s eyes are meek and mild.”

“You are all wrong!” cackled the hen. “Why can’t you see the cunning and cruelty in the fox’s eyes?”

“Hold your tongue!” said the tiger. “I will not have you trumping up charges against the fox.”

“You shouldn’t be prejudiced,” said the wild boar.

“You must be responsible for what you say,” said the wolf. “It’s just as wrong for the weak to bully the strong as for the strong to bully the weak.”

“我很了解狐狸,”狼叫道,“遇到争斗狐狸们总是溜走。狐狸的目光是温顺柔和的。”

“你们全错了!”母鸡叫道,“你们为什么见不到狐狸那奸诈与残忍的目光?”

“住嘴!”老虎说,“不许你诬陷狐狸。”

“你不应对狐狸有偏见,”野猪说。

“你必须对你所说的负责任,”狼说,“弱者欺负强者同强者欺负弱者同样是错误的。”