

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

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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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1

The City of New York

纽约市

New York City consists of^① five parts: Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island. The population is about 7.5 million and 1.5 million live in Manhattan.

Manhattan, the centre of the city, is on an island^② between the Hudson River and the East River. Most of the famous buildings such as the Empire State and the United Nations and other skyscrapers are in Manhattan. Some of its districts are: Broadway, which has many theatres and cinemas; Fifth Avenue, with stores and apartments; Greenwich village, where many artists and writers have lived; and Central Park, with a small zoo and a skating rink^③. From Manhattan you have to cross to the other parts of New York City through a tunnel or over a bridge. The bridge from Brooklyn to Staten Island is the longest in the world.

New York is the second biggest port in the world and it has two airports. The people who live there come from all over the world and speak many different languages.

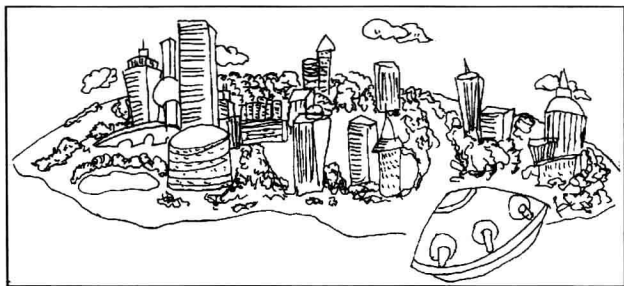
纽约市包括五个部分：曼哈顿岛，布鲁克林，昆斯，布隆克斯及斯塔腾岛。人口有七百五十万，其中一百五十万人住在曼哈顿。

曼哈顿是市中心，位于哈得逊河和东河之间的一个岛上。大多数著名建筑物，例如：帝国大厦，联合国总部及其他一些摩天大楼都在曼哈顿。其中一些地区是：拥有众多影剧院的百老汇大街；有商店和高层公寓林立的第五大道；有聚居着许多艺术家和作家的格林威治村；以及有一个小动物园和溜冰场的中央公园。从曼哈顿岛你必须过隧道或从桥上走过去才能到达纽约市的其他地方。这座从布鲁克林到斯塔腾岛的桥是世界上最长的一座桥。

纽约是世界上第二大港口。它有两个飞机场。居住在纽约市的人来自世界各地，他们使用不同的语

There are 324,000 Germans and 390,000 Poles^④ as well as people from Greece, Scotland, Ireland, Italy and Romania. People call one district^⑤, Little Italy and another 'Chinatown'^⑥.

言。市民中有三十二万四千名德国人,三十九万波兰人,也有来自希腊,苏格兰,爱尔兰,意大利和罗马尼亚等地的人。人们称其中一个区为“小意大利”,而另一个区被称为“唐人街”。



① consist *vi.* 由……组成;由……构成 ② Manhattan, the centre of the city, is on an island 句中 the centre of the city 是同位语,说明 Manhattan 的地理位置。

③ Some of its districts are: Broadway, which has many theatres and cinemas; Fifth Avenue; with stores and apartments; Greenwich village, where many artists and writers have lived; and Central Park, with a small zoo and a skating rink. 句中 Broadway, which... 及 Greenwich village, where... 均是非限制性的定语从句,它们与所用的先行词关系并不密切,可以看成是对先行词的补充说明。句中 Fifth Avenue, with stores and apartments 及 and Central Park, with... rink. 两个 with 所引导的介词短语,在句中作定语。 ④ Poles *n.* 波兰人 ⑤ district *n.* 区域,地区,管区 ⑥ People call 后接复合宾语句中 one district. 是宾语 'Little Italy' 及 'Chinatown' 是宾语补足语。

2

How an Animal Expresses Itself?

动物是怎样表达自己意思的?

A rabbit is running into its hole. You may well ask, "What has this to do with language?"

Well, when a rabbit sees something dangerous, it runs away. Its tail moves up and down as it runs. The other rabbits see this tail moving up and down, and they run too. They know that there is danger. The rabbit has told them something without making a sound^①. It has given them a signal.

Many other animals use this kind of language. When a bee has found some food, it goes back to its home. It cannot tell the other bees where the food is by speaking to them, but it does a little dance in the air. This tells the bees where the food is.

Some animals say things by making sounds. A dog barks, for instance, when a stranger comes near. A cat purrs when pleased^②. Some birds make several differ-

一只兔子跑进它的洞里去了。你可能会问“这与语言有什么关系呢”。

嗯,情况是这样的:当一只兔子看见危险的事后,它就跑开。在它奔跑时,它的尾巴上、下摆个不停。别的兔子看见尾巴上下摆动后,于是它们也跑起来。它们知道有危险存在。那只兔子不用发出一点声音就告诉它们一些事情。它给它们发出了一种信号。

许多别的动物也使用这种语言。当一只蜜蜂发现一些食物后,它飞回自己的家中,它不能用说话的方式告诉其他蜜蜂食物的地点,但它在空中飞舞一阵子,这就告诉了其他蜜蜂食物在哪里。

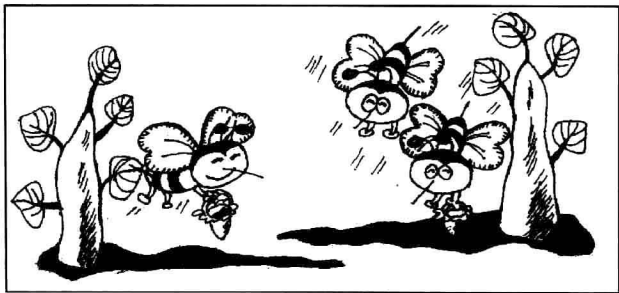
有些动物用声音来讲出一些事。例如:当看到陌生人过来时,狗就叫起来。猫在高兴时就呜呜做声。有些鸟类能发出几种不同

ent sounds, each with its own meaning^③.

But human beings have something that no animal has — a larger number of words which have the meanings of things, actions, feelings or ideas. We are able to give each other information, to tell or inform other people what is needed.

的声音,每一种声音都有它自己的意思。

但是人类却拥有动物所不具备的东西——有大量的词汇来表达事物,行动,感情或观点。我们能彼此交流信息,去告知其他的人想要做什么。



① The rabbit has told them something without making a sound. 句中 without making a sound 是介词短语,用作方式状语。 ② A cat purrs when pleased. 句中 when pleased 是一种省略表达形式。它的完整形式是 :when it is pleased. purr vi. 发出呜呜的叫声;发出低低而愉快的叫声。 ③ Some birds make several different sounds, each with its own meaning. 句中 each with its own meaning 可改写成 each has its own meaning,在句中作 different sounds 的同位语。

3

Fire Making

生火

Many thousands of years ago, people lived only in hot countries. They did not live in cold countries because they could not keep warm. Then they learnt how to make clothes. When an animal was killed, they cut off its skin. They wrapped^① the skins around their bodies. The skins kept them warm. Skins which had fur on them were the best. Even today some people wear the furs of animals to keep them warm.

At first people did not know how to make fire. Sometimes lightening hit a forest and started a fire. The people took some of this fire to make a fire near their homes. A fire was very important for three reasons. It kept them warm. It frightened wild animals. They did not attack when they saw a fire. Then another thing was discovered: if you cook food, it tastes much better.

But people still did not know how to make fire. When they had a fire, they did not let it stop burning. If it went out, they could not start it again. They had to wait for lightening^② to start another fire! Some-

数千年前,人们只居住在炎热的地区。他们不在寒冷的地方居住因为他们不会保暖。然后他们学会了怎样做衣服。当一个动物被杀以后,他们剥下它的皮。他们把兽皮裹在身上。兽皮使他们保暖。带有毛的兽皮最好。即使现在仍有一些人穿皮袄来保暖。

起初人们不知道怎样生火。有时闪电烧着了一片森林,引起了大火。人们取一些火种带回自己的住所附近生起火来。火的重要性表现在三方面:它使人保暖,它能吓退野兽,因为它们见到火光就不来攻击人类。后来还发现用火来煮食物,味道更鲜美。

但是人们仍然不知道该怎样生火。当有了火源后,他们让火一直烧个不停。如果火灭了,他们不懂怎样生出火来。他们只

times they had to wait for years .

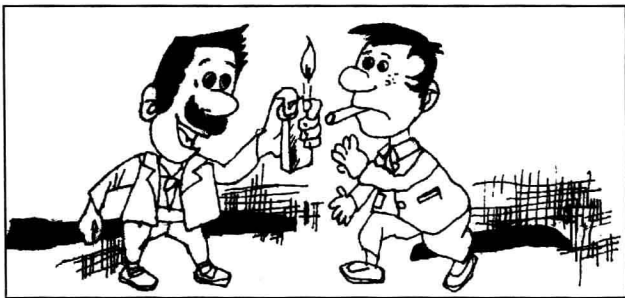
Later, they discovered how to make fire. If you rub^③ two pieces of wood together, they become hot and burn. You have to rub very fast! One way of doing it is to make a little hole in a piece of wood, pieces of wood or dry leaves are put into the hole. Then you put the end of a stick into the hole. You rub the stick between the hands. This makes it turn very quickly. The end in the hole becomes very hot. The small pieces of wood and dry leaves begin to burn.

Another way of making fire is to knock two pieces of stones together. This makes a spark^④. You can use this spark to start a fire.

好等候另一次闪电来重新生起火来。有时他们不得不等上好几年。

后来,他们发现了怎样生火的办法。如果把两块木头一起摩擦。它们受热后会燃烧起来,你必须摩擦得非常快才行。还有一种做法是:在一块木头上挖一个洞,把几块干木片或干树叶放进洞里去。然后把一根树枝的一头放进洞里你把这根树枝在两手间摩擦,使它快速转动。在洞里的那一头变得很热,小木片和干树叶开始燃烧起来。

另一种生火的方法是把两块石头在一起敲击,这样可以产生火花,用火花就能生火了。



Nowadays we have matches. We can |

现在我们有了火柴,可

carry them in our pockets and make a fire when we want to. Many people use heaters to keep warm. Oil heaters burn oil. Gas heaters burn gas. Electric heaters^⑤ use electricity. We also use oil, gas and electricity for cooking.

以装在口袋里,什么时候想生火都可以。许多人用取暖器保暖。油取暖器用油、作燃料。煤气取暖器用煤气作燃料。电取暖器则使用电。我们也用油、煤气和电来烹饪食物。

① wrap[ræp] *vt.* (wrapped, wrapping) 包,裹,卷; wrap a blanket about a person 用毛毯裹在人身上。 ② lightening ['laitniŋ] *n.* 闪电 ③ rub[rʌb] *vt.* (rubbed, rubbing) 擦,摩擦; rub one's face with a towel 用毛巾擦脸 ④ spark[spɑ:k] *n.* 火花 ⑤ heater['hi:tə] *n.* 加热器;火炉