

阶梯英语读本

Graded
English
Reader

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安徽教育出版社

Graded English Reader

阶梯英语读本

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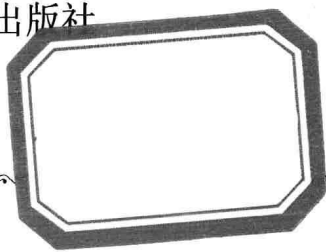
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前 言

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

Twin Speak
李语

*Freda and Greta Chaplin are two people—
but they walk, talk and dress as one.*

They sat down in their matching red coats and floral headscarves, their red shoes and handbags completing the colourful picture. They ate their chocolate éclairs at exactly the same moment. Then they lifted their tea cups in unison and both took a sip. Every movement seemed synchronised—as if one were a mirror reflection of the other.

This was the extraordinary scene which greeted TV programme-maker Juliet Darling when she first met identical twins Freda and Greta Chaplin.

To the twins there was nothing remarkable about that tea-time. “We feel like we’re one person, not two people,” they say. “Ever since we were little girls we’ve always dressed exactly the same, always done the same things. Our parents always told us to stick together and be friends with

弗莱达·查普林和戈莱达·查普林是两个人，但她们行走、谈话和衣着均如一人。

她们俩坐在一起，穿着同样的红色上衣，戴着同样的花围巾；她们同样的红色的鞋和提包，完成了一幅艳丽的彩图。她们吃巧克力小甜饼的时间完全相同，然后同时举起茶杯啜上一口。每个动作似乎都是同时进行的——好像一位是另一位在镜中的投影一样。

这是电视节目制作人朱丽叶·达尔琳初次见到这对长得完全一样的孪生姐妹弗莱达·查普林和戈莱达·查普林时的特写镜头。

这对对孪生者来说，吃茶点时间（的吻合）是不值一提的。“我们觉得我们是一个人而不是两个人，”她们说，“自从孩提时起，我们总是穿同样的衣服，做同样的事情。我们的父母亲总

each other.”

When there's something about them that isn't identical they try to create a similarity. Greta has larger sized feet but they always buy the same sized shoes.

“It's a habit. Like some people have habits of smoking and drinking. Well, we have a habit and we can't stop it,” they say.

The twins were born in York in 1943. They say they can't remember their school years but it was after leaving school that they started to synchronise their speech. Now most of what they say they say together at the same time. In fact, when the telephone rings, both twins insist on speaking. One will talk and then pass the phone to the other, who will repeat the conversation.

They do not know what they feel about anything, except as reflected in their twin. “One had the impression that if you took one away the other would fall down,” says Juliet Darling. “They were being held up by each other's presence.”

是要我们呆在一起,友好相处。”

如果两人在哪些方面不是完全一样,她们就设法使之一致起来。戈莱达的脚大点,但她们总买同一码的鞋子。

“这已成习惯了,好像一些人习惯抽烟和喝酒一样。哦,我们有这习惯,改不掉了,”她们这样说。

这对双胞胎于1943年出生在约克城。她们说她们记不清学生时代的情况了,但在毕业后开始同化她们的语言。现在她们说话大都是同一时间里一起说的。事实上,电话铃一响,她俩都要开腔。一位说过了,然后把话筒递给另一位,后者会把谈话重复一遍。

她们对事物的感觉完全来自于事物在另一方身上的反映。“你会有这样一种印象:如果把一个带走,另一个就会倒下去。”朱丽叶·达尔琳说,“她们依靠对方的存在而存在。”

2

Strange But True! 离奇却是真的!

Bamboo can grow one metre in 24 hours.

Napoleon was afraid of cats.

There were elephants, lions and camels in Alaska 12,000 years ago.

In the winters of 1420 and 1438, wolves were found in the streets of Paris.

If all the ice in the world melted, the sea would rise over 50 metres.

85% of all the world's plants grow in the sea.

Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, is heated by underground hot springs.

Nearly 25% of the surface of Los Angeles is occupied by cars.

99% of all forms of life that have ever existed on the earth are now extinct.

All US Presidents have worn glasses.

35% of all Americans are overweight.

Your skin weighs nearly three kilograms.

The first parachute jump was made by a dog in a basket (belonging to the French

竹子 24 小时可长 1 米。

拿破仑害怕猫。

12,000 年以前, 阿拉斯加有象、狮子和骆驼。

1420 年和 1438 年的冬天, 巴黎街道上发现有狼。

如果全世界的冰融化, 海面将上升 50 米。

世界上 85% 的植物生长在海里。

冰岛首都雷克雅未克用地下温泉取暖。

洛杉矶的地面近 25% 被小汽车占用。

地球上生存过的所有生物中的 99% 现在已灭绝。

所有的美国总统都戴过眼镜。

35% 的美国人超重。

人的皮肤重量近 3 公斤。

首次跳伞是 1785 年, 由一只放在吊篮中的狗完

balloonist Blanchard) in 1785.

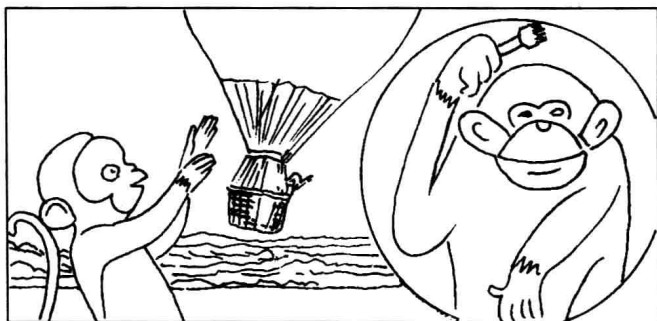
Betsy, a chimpanzee at the Baltimore zoo, paints pictures, and has had 65 of them sold.

The most common name in the world is Muhammad.

成的(它的主人是法国汽球驾驶员布朗查德)。

贝特西是巴尔的摩动物园的一只黑猩猩,会画画,而且已卖出 65 幅画。

世界上最常用的名字是默罕默德。



3

What to Do? 干什么?

Twenty five-year-old children from a British primary school class were asked what they wanted to be when they grew up. The answers were varied and interesting. Seven of the children had medical ambitions—there were four future nurses, one dentist, one vet and one “air force doctor”. Two children wanted to be farmers—not very surprising, as the school is in a small country village. Two of the children obviously liked school: they wanted to be teachers. One child said he would like to be an actor, one hoped to be a train driver and one had decided to become a fisherman. Of the rest, two did not know what they wanted to be, and four gave rather unexpected answers.

有人曾问英国的一所小学里的 20 名 5 岁儿童长大以后想做什么。得到的回答多样而有趣。7 个孩子有医学方面的志向——4 个未来的护士、1 个牙医、1 个兽医，还有一个空军军医。两个孩子想务农——这并不奇怪，因为这所小学坐落在一个小乡村里。有两个孩子显然很喜欢上学：他们想当老师。一个孩子说他想做一名演员，一个想去开火车，还有一个决定要当渔夫。余下的孩子中有两个不知道要做什么，还有 4 个孩子的答案是意想不到的。

4

Work and Pay in Fantasia 幻想国里的工作与工资

I had a thought-provoking dream last night. In it, I was living in Fantasia—a place where people are paid according to their real value to society. There are some striking mismatches with what happens in other countries.

In Fantasia, doctors are paid for keeping people alive. A doctor is well rewarded as long as his or her patients stay healthy. But when a patient falls ill, the doctor's pay is reduced by half; and if a patient dies, the doctor has to pay massive compensation to the surviving spouse or relatives. Average life expectancy in Fantasia is 132, although doctors tend to die young.

Soldiers are paid on the same lines as doctors. In peacetime they get a reasonable wage, but as soon as war breaks out the government stops paying them. Officers earn far less than ordinary soldiers, and generals get least of all. This is because of the Fantasian principle that power is its own re-

昨天晚上我做了一个引人深思的梦。我梦见自己生活在范塔西亚。在那里,人们的工资是依照他们对社会的真正价值而决定的。与其他国家相比,范塔西亚有一些引人注目的错位现象。

在范塔西亚,医生因维持他人的生命而获得工资。只要病人保持健康,医生就会得到丰厚的报酬。但病人一旦发病,医生的工资就要减半;如若病人死亡,医生就必须向其健在的配偶或亲属付出巨额赔偿。范塔西亚的人平均寿命估计为132岁,尽管大夫们多有早逝。

给士兵付酬的方针与医生相同。和平时期,他们有一份适当的薪水,但战争一爆发,政府即停止发薪。军官的收入远低于普通士兵,而将军的薪水最低。这是因为范塔西亚信奉权力