

自学考试英语辅导丛书

阅读进阶(Ⅳ)

李 馨 李雅丽



西安交通大学出版社

自学考试英语辅导丛书——

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内容提要

《阅读进阶(Ⅲ)》收录了英、美报刊杂志的文章 40 篇。体裁包括记叙文、说明文和议论文。内容覆盖了社会生活诸多方面,如日常生活、社会问题、科技、文化、历史、地理等。语言丰富多彩,有的朴实无华、耐人寻味,有的文笔优美、发人深省,使读者能充分享受到阅读的乐趣。

本书依据全国高等教育自学考试委员会最新制定的《英语阅读(一)自学考试大纲》和《英语阅读(二)自学考试大纲》的要求和规定编写,在选材和难度上做了严格控制。

本书适合于自学考试英语专业大专段中、高级水平的学生使用,同时也是在校大学生及广大英语爱好者不可多得的阅读材料。

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序

著名科学家培根曾说过“阅读使人充实,讨论使人机智,写作使人精确”,这说明了阅读对于人生的重要性。而对于学习外语,尤其在一般缺乏外语环境的条件下,阅读就显得更为重要。从阅读入手有利于提高综合运用外语语言的能力,能起到一举数得的作用。大量阅读是巩固、扩大词汇,熟悉、运用并深化掌握语法的重要途径,也是丰富语感、提高写作能力的良策,而且有助于了解异国文化,拓宽视野,增强对世界的认识。

根据国家教委新颁发的高教自学考试英语专业考试计划,英语专业的专科生和本科生必须具有“较好的或比较熟练的听、说、读、写、译的技能”。在课程设置上特别增加了“阅读Ⅰ”“阅读Ⅱ”两门课,要求应试者“大量接触英语读物”,“逐步提高阅读速度、技能和理解能力”。除此两门课程外,在专科段的“综合英语Ⅰ、Ⅱ”及本科段“高级英语”考试中都有大量阅读理解的内容,近年来许多考生反映,在英语多科考试中很感头疼的是阅读理解。文章多,题量大,反应慢,平常阅读训练少,而目前也缺乏适合的英语读物。

“阅读进阶(Ⅰ~Ⅲ)”是一套中级英语读物,内容选材广泛,由浅入深,涉及到社会生活的诸多方面:有政治、科学、文艺、历史、地理、体育等等;有著名科学家如牛顿、富兰克林的成功之路;有影星卓别林、球星乔丹等的鲜为人知的生活趣事;有美国总统与陕西农民的真情对话实录;又有大量反映西方国家的文化生活、凡人趣事、社交常识等等,寓科学性,知识性与趣味性于一体,有很大的可读性。语言文体多样,有轻松欢快的幽默小品,也有令人深思的寓意深刻的散文。通过阅读此书,可使读者熟悉各种语体,丰富语感,扩大词汇,并大大增长见识,拓宽视野,了解世界。既可学到纯

正规范的英语语言,又可增长文化知识。

这套读物不仅适合英语专业自考生阅读,也可供普通高校学生提高英语水平、准备四、六级考试采用以及广大英语爱好者阅读。

郝克琦

1999年8月

前 言

《阅读进阶 I、II、III》为自学考试英语辅导丛书的阅读系列。它依据全国高等教育自学考试委员会最新制定的《英语阅读(一)自学考试大纲》和《英语阅读(二)自学考试大纲》的要求和规定编写,适用于参加英语自学考试的学生及广大的英语爱好者。根据难度的不同,三本书分别适合于大专段一、二、三年级学生。

在长期的教学实践中,我们发现,参加自学考试的学生中有一些人不敢开口讲英语,有更多的人不能讲地道的英语;在用英语写作时,主题不突出,结构不合理,思想表达不清,句型过于单调,同一词汇反复使用。产生这些问题的主要原因是对地道英语的接触不够充分而导致了语感太差。针对这一点,本系列丛书选用了当代英、美书籍及报刊的文章,力求使学生通过大量的阅读实践,熟练掌握阅读技能,扩大词汇量,增强语感,提高综合运用英语的能力。

本书的编写体现了以下特色:

1. 题材广泛。本套书的材料既有对社会现象的严肃剖析,又有幽默诙谐的故事或传说;既有对历史的沉思,又有对最新科技的介绍;既有名人伟业,又有凡人琐事;既有成功秘诀,又有生活指南;既有对文化冲撞的感知,又有对文化桥梁的设想。力图使学生开阔视野,增长知识,了解西方社会的诸方面、东西方文化差异,以及如何跨过文化障碍而达到有效的交际。

2. 体裁多样。既有日记,又有寓言;既有人物传记,又有非正式谈话;既有简单的记叙文,又有严肃的议论文。目的是使学生在轻松的阅读过程中,了解各种文体的特点,以便更好地提高写作水平。

3. 难度适中。本书的编者们花费了大量的心血搜集整理了适合自学考试学生阅读的文章。《阅读进阶Ⅰ》语言通俗易懂,生词较少,读后能马上应用,起到立竿见影的效果,能使英语水平有初步提高,适合一、二年级学生。《阅读进阶Ⅱ》在难度上有所增加,能帮助二年级学生扩大词汇量,提高表达能力。《阅读进阶Ⅲ》适合三年级学生进一步提高阅读能力和英语水平。

4. 构思新颖。首先,为方便学生阅读,该系列丛书的每篇文章都提供了汉语题目,并配有汉语导读词,使学生在阅读时能抓住重点。其次,每篇文章后都有生词表和注释,以解答学生疑惑。最后还设有练习题,以测试学生阅读理解的程度,并在书后附有标准答案,供对照检查。另外,有的文章还配有精美插图,使学生能在轻松的心境中进行阅读。三本书配套使用,效果更佳。

由于水平有限,书中难免有不尽人意之处,希望各位同行及读者不吝赐教,使之在再版时不断完善。

编者

1999年7月

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1. Love at First Sight

一见钟情

本文讲述了一对丧偶的中年男女在教堂里一见钟情、再结良缘的喜剧故事。



My home had always overflowed¹ with children, pets, plants, and plenty of noise and confusion. Then one day it calmed down. The last of my four children had moved away to begin college, my marriage of 25 years had just ended, and I was left with lots of empty space in my big old country house. For the first time in decades, my life was quiet. Too quiet.

I thought if I wasn't at home I wouldn't have to face the silence. So I put in² long hours at my teaching job, then volunteered for community and church activities to the point of exhaustion³. As the days led into months I longed for a companion to share my life. When I was with my children or friends, I forgot my feelings of emptiness, but as soon as I was home again there it was, that same dreary loneliness. Two years passed, several devoted pets died, even my plants wilted. I was 45 years old: where was I going?

Things came to a head⁴ one night at 2:00 A.M. when I awakened abruptly after feeling a bite on my neck. I jumped out of bed and killed what I was sure was a black widow spider. I thought, I'm going to die here all by myself, and no one will know I'm gone. I cried and cried.

I had never felt so alone as I did at that moment. I dropped to my knees and begged God to bring me a partner, someone to love and care for. I had so much to offer and wanted to share my life with someone who needed me.

Suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder. I sensed the presence of someone there ... touching me ... comforting me. A feeling of overwhelming peace descended, and I knew that somehow I would be taken care of. God was working on my request and all I had to do was be patient.

I didn't die from the spider bite (it itched a little and went

away⁵). But I still had moments when I feared I might die of loneliness if something or someone didn't intervene.

One month later I was seated in the choir loft on Sunday morning when I spotted a nice-looking man sitting alone in the back pew. He looks like an eligible gentleman, I thought. I said a little prayer. God, should I approach him? And when I felt God giving me the go ahead, I took a deep breath and resolved to introduce myself after the service.

At the coffee hour he was standing all by himself. Trim, Slightly graying hair, and glasses. A pleasant expression. Mustering my courage⁶, I walked up and extended my hand. "Hi," I said in what I hoped was my friendliest manner. "I'm Ellen."

He looked at me in astonishment. Color drained from his face. He turned and bolted out the door⁷ without saying a word.

"What a rude man," I muttered to no one in particular. But the truth was that any confidence I had was totally shattered⁸. God, how could you lead me on like that?

The week went by, and I couldn't get the incident out of my mind. I was puzzled, and hurt. The next Sunday when I entered the choir loft, I saw him again in the back pew. I lowered my eyes, unable to look at him.

I went to coffee hour reluctantly — and there he was. Coming straight toward me. This time he held a steady gaze and his warm pale-blue eyes met mine. "My name is Bob Price," he said. "I owe you an apology for my behavior last Sunday. You took me by surprise. You see, my wife, Ellen, died last year and I miss her terribly". He swallowed, then went on. "I had been watching you in the choir. And I've been praying 'Please, God, send me another Ellen.' When you walked up and said 'Hi, I'm Ellen,' I lost it⁹. I

was so shocked I ran out the door.”

We were married six months later. Our story has gone on for 12 wonderful years, and it's been full of happy noise and confusion. We have more pets, and the plants are blooming beautifully. I've never seen a spider in the bedroom again. Bob and I still laugh about our first meeting. And I tell everyone to be careful what they pray for, because God not only hears prayers from the heart, but on occasion he answers them literally.

New Words:

1. wilt [wilt] vi. 枯萎
2. descend [disend] vi. 降临, 下降
3. itch [itʃ] vi. 痒
4. loft [loft] n. 教堂的厢席
5. pew [pu] n. 教堂内的靠背长椅
6. trim [trim] a. 整洁的

Notes:

1. overflowed: 充满, 洋溢
2. put in: 投入
3. 为社区和教堂的活动工作尽义务, 使自己累得精疲力竭。
4. Things came to a head: 事情竟然到了这种地步
5. 它痒过一阵就没事了。
6. 鼓足勇气
7. bolted out the door: 急忙走出门去
8. 我有过的信心全部丧失了。
9. 我手足无措。

Exercises:

Reading comprehension: Find the best answer to each of the following statements or questions according to the passage you have just read.

1. What is the author's job?
 - a. A teacher.
 - b. A secretary.
 - c. A clerk.
2. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - a. The author had 4 children.
 - b. The author was 45 years old when her youngest son went away to begin college.
 - c. A gentleman came to her when she was crying at midnight.
3. Where did she meet her next husband for the first time?
 - a. In the church.
 - b. In the bank.
 - c. At the supermarket.
4. Why did the gentleman run away when he heard the greeting from the woman?
 - a. He was scared.
 - b. He was shocked.
 - c. He was angry.
5. How many years ago did the story happen?
 - a. 10 years ago.
 - b. 12 years ago.
 - c. 6 years ago.

2. Confessions of a Happy Househusband 一位快乐“家庭主男”的自白

挣钱养家糊口似乎是男人的天职,而本文的作者却在操作家务中体会到了自己的价值。

