

自学考试英语辅导丛书

# 阅读进阶(I)

李 馨 李雅丽 李鸿斌



English

西安交通大学出版社

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李 馨 李鸿斌 编  
李雅丽

郝克琦 审

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## 内容提要

本书收集了当代英、美书籍及报刊的文章 40 篇,内容广泛,题材丰富,覆盖了社会生活的诸多方面,如:历史故事、名人传记、现代科技、文化冲突以及社会问题等。体裁包括记叙文、说明文和议论文。每篇文章都配有汉语题目、导读词、难点注释和练习题。大部分文章配有精美插图,学生可在轻松愉快的阅读中培养理解能力,扩充词汇量,提高写作水平。

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的控制。

本书不仅是参加自学考试英语专业大专段一、二年级学生阅读课的辅助教材,同时也是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、Ⅱ、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、球星乔丹等的解为人知的生活趣事;有美国总统与陕西农民的真情对话实录;还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。读者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,同时也适用于广大英语爱好者阅读。

郝克琦

2000年1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。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,我们发现自考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。这些问题主要是由于对地道英语接触不多而导致语感太差所造成的。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。所选文章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。本书力图使学生开阔视野,增长知识,了解西方社会的诸方面和东西方文化差异,以及如何跨过文化障碍面达到有效的交际。

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。本书的编者花费了大量的心血,搜集、整理

了一整套适合自考学生阅读的文章。《阅读进阶(Ⅰ)》语言通俗易懂,生词较少,读后能马上应用,可起到立竿见影的效果,使英语水平有初步提高。它适合一、二年级学生阅读。《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)》可使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,使学生在阅读时能抓住重点,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。其次,每篇文章后都有生词表和注释,以解答学生疑惑。最后设有练习题,以测试学生阅读理解的程度。书后还附有标准答案,以供对照检查。另外,大部分文章都配有精美插图,学生可在轻松愉快的心境中进行阅读和学习。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

2000年1月

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# 1. A Cheap Piano

## 廉价的钢琴

贪小便宜必定吃亏,当心邮购广告啊!



One day Richard Brody got a letter from a company in New York. The company had good news for Mr. Brody, "Congratulations!" the letter said. "You are the winner of a mini electronic piano!<sup>1</sup> Please send us \$ 10 for shipping, and we will mail the piano to you."

A description of the piano was in the letter. Mr. Brody read the description very carefully and decided to mail the company \$ 10 for the piano.

Two months later Mr. Brody received a box in the mail. It was his piano! He opened the box and found pieces of newspaper. He reached through the newspapers, ...and reached ...and reached. Finally, he felt something small and hard. He pulled out his piano. The piano was made of plastic and it was only five inches by two inches<sup>2</sup>. It had 13 tiny buttons. When Mr. Brody pushed the buttons, the piano made a beeping sound<sup>3</sup>. The piano costs \$ 1.99 in most stores.

The company that sent Mr. Brody the piano was dishonest. Dishonest companies often do business by mail. They are very clever. They send letters and tell people that they have won something. They also trick people with their advertising<sup>4</sup>.

One company sold "solar-powered clothes dryers"<sup>5</sup> through the mail. The "clothes dryers" were cheap, so a lot of people ordered them. When the people received their "clothes dryers", they were disappointed and angry. The "solar-powered clothes ~~dryer~~" was a string and a clothes pin<sup>6</sup>.

Another company sold necklaces of "faux pearls"<sup>7</sup>. The necklaces were cheap, so a lot of people ordered them. Those people, too, were disappointed and angry when they received their necklaces. The "pearls" were made of white plastic. The people didn't

know that in French faux means “not real”. People ordered “faux pearls”, and they got “faux pearls”—pearls that are not real.

Every year people in the U. S. send over 500 million dollars to dishonest companies. Richard Brody laughed. He laughed because he spent only \$ 10 for his “mini electronic piano”. Some people send much more than \$ 10 to dishonest companies. Those people can not laugh.

The United States Postal Service<sup>8</sup> tries to stop the dishonest companies who do business by mail. Three hundred employees at the Postal Service have only one job — stopping the dishonest companies.

The Postal Service employees give this advice: “If a company’s prices are very, very low, watch out<sup>9</sup>”. Don’t order a diamond for \$ 5.99. And if you win a ‘mini electronic piano’, don’t send the company \$ 10!”

### **New Words:**

1. shipping [ˈʃipiŋ] n. 寄送
2. description [disˈkripʃən] n. 描述

### **Notes:**

1. mini electronic piano: 微型电子琴
2. …it was five inches by two inches: 五英寸长两英寸宽
3. beeping sound: 短促而尖利的声音
4. 他们也用广告诱骗人。
5. solar-powered clothes dryer: 太阳能干衣机
6. …a string and a clothes pin: 一根绳子和一个衣夹
7. faux pearls: 人造珍珠  
faux [fəʊ] [法]假的, 人造的

8. The United States Postal Service: 美国邮政管理局

9. watch out: 小心, 注意

### Exercises:

Cloze test: Fill in the blanks with words from the passage you have just read.

Attracted by the 1 of a mini electronic piano, Richard Brody 2 \$ 10 to a company only to find that what he got was a very small plastic piano which 3 \$ 1. 99 in most stores. This kind of 4 companies cheated people by their 5. They might call a 6 and a 7 a solar-powered clothes dryer. Besides, they made use of foreign words to 8 people. Necklaces of "faux pearls" turned out to be made of white 9. Therefore, people should 10 advertisements which had very, very low prices for goods.

## 2. Married to Welfare 和福利结婚

社会福利一直是美国政治家、社会学家乃至全社会关注的热门话题。美国社会福利的真实情况究竟如何呢？请听这位黑人女子的独白吧！





I'm a woman. I'm a black woman. I am a poor woman. I'm a fat woman. I'm a middle-aged woman. And I'm on welfare.

In this country, if you're any of those things — poor, black, fat, female, middle-aged, on welfare — you count less as a human being<sup>1</sup>. If you are all those things, you don't count at all. Except as a statistic<sup>2</sup>.

I am a statistic.

I am 45 years old. I have raised six children.

I grew up in Arkansas, and I worked there for 15 years in a laundry, making \$20 to \$30 a week, picking cotton on the side for carfare<sup>3</sup>. I moved to California in 1959 and worked in a laundry there for nearly four years. In 1963, I got too sick to work. My husband and I had split up<sup>4</sup>. Friends helped me to go on welfare.

They call it AFDC—Aid to Families with Dependent Children. Each month I get \$363 for my kids and me. I pay \$128 a month rent; \$30 for utilities; \$120 for food and nonedible household essentials; \$50 for school lunches for the three children, who are not eligible for reduced-cost meal programs<sup>5</sup>.

This leaves about \$5 per person per month for everything else—clothing, shoes, recreation, incidental personal expenses, and transportation. This check allows \$1 a month for transportation for me but none for my children. That is how we live.

There are millions of "statistics" like me. Some on welfare. Some not. And some, really poor, who don't even know they're entitled to welfare. Not all of them are black. Not at all. In fact, the majority — about two thirds — of all the poor families in the country are white.

Welfare's like a traffic accident. It can happen to anybody. But it especially happens to women. That's why welfare is a wom-