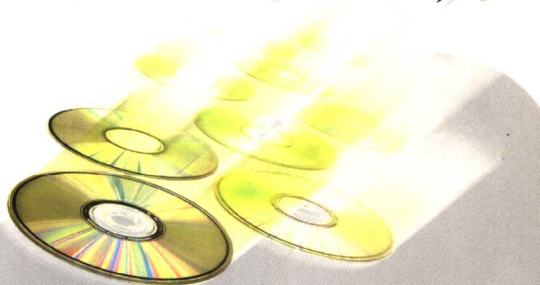




COWIN 英语百科阅读

Cowin 英语教育丛书编写组 编写
北京出版社

从事电子商务





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序

学习外语要掌握听说读写四项技能,听和读是接受性技能,说和写是产出性技能。从交际教学法来说,学外语就是为了交际,通过掌握实际应用的能力,能说会写。要做到这一点,便要多听多读,因此听说读写是互补的,缺一不可的。其次,当代语言教学理论的实践,强调学习与习得兼顾。前者在宏观上通过老师在教室内进行,配有固定的教材;在微观上指导老师改进课堂教学方法,以学生为中心,多让学生参与,可取得更好的教学效果。惟独在习得方面,尽管在理论上谁都明白让学生在自然真实条件下,无意识地、轻轻松松地接触英语,但很少有人为学生创造习得的环境和物质条件,形成自流。

从目前国内的出版市场上看,所提供的一些听力和阅读材料,多半是供成人用的,或是直接从国外引进的教材,不能引起国内广大青少年的兴趣,不能满足他们的要求。其次,某些编书者把听和读分开,听力教材和阅读教材分流,这不利于接受性技能的综合培养。现北京出版社出版了《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》将听和读两者通盘考虑,可谓英明之举。如文库的一个品种《美国之音特别节目听读》以听为主,同时提供文字材料,而另一品种《Ladybird 英语听读》以读为主,同时配有磁带。

《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》的第二个优点是,这些课外学习材料针对性明确,面向中学生的需要。它非常注意趣味性和可读性。如《中学英语轻松阅读》有学生们

所喜欢的寓言、诗歌、故事、幻想、传说等内容,也把学生引入蜘蛛、黑猩猩、狮子、小狗、小猫等动物世界。

《文库》注意将英语学习和文化知识的传授结合起来,使学生在学习英语过程中同时增长文化知识,或者在接受文化知识的不知不觉过程中习得了英语。如《美国之音特别节目听读》介绍了西方国家的“愚人节”、“劳动节”等文化习俗,以及美国拳王阿里在体育运动上的成就和政治上的正义感等。《Ladybird 英语听读》让学生接触到英美国家的优秀儿童文学,如《格列佛游记》、《金银岛》、《艾丽丝漫游奇境》等名著。《Cowin 英语百科阅读》的内容有对英语学习的指导、英国的衰落、英国剑桥和牛津两所名大学的掌故、美国的穷富差距、体育音乐等。《中学英语轻松阅读》和《Cowin 英语百科阅读》还收入计算机千年虫、克隆技术、航天、健康长寿等现代科技知识。

由于中学生涵盖从初一到高三的不同年龄段,《文库》的优势是提供难易度不同的品种,供读者酌情选用。有的是初中生的理想材料,如《美国之音特别节目听读》;有的适合高中生,如《Cowin 英语百科阅读》;而《中学英语轻松阅读》共6册,分别与初中和高中相对应。

教育部英语课程标准研制组起草的《国家英语课程标准(义务教育阶段)》的讨论稿曾规定,在阅读方面除正规教材外,应引导学生进行课外阅读,如英语标准第3级应达到10万字的阅读量。《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》将与广大中学生读者携手,共同向这个目标迈进。

胡壮麟

2000年7月13日于

北京大学畅春园

蓝鸚鵡中學 英語听讀文庫

《Ladybird 英語听讀》是从世界著名的企鵝出版集團下屬的 Ladybird 圖書有限公司引進的。該叢書為世界古典文學名著簡寫本系列，首批精選的 10 本包括《霧都孤兒》、《海蒂》、《金銀島》、《艾麗絲漫遊奇境》、《格列佛游記》、《鐵道少年》、《三劍客》、《黑駿馬》、《秘密花園》和《小飛俠》。這批文學名著簡寫本通俗易懂，文字優美流暢，插圖精美生動，適合作為我國中學生的英語課外閱讀讀物。一批有多年豐富教學經驗的中學英語高級教師根據我國中學生的英語學習情況，對該套叢書中的生詞難句作了注釋，並在每一本書的每一章後設計了一些閱讀練習題。這些練習題數量適中，針對性強，適合一般中學生的英語水平。解答這些練習題，讀者可以有效地提高對作品的理解和閱讀能力，同時也會增強讀者的閱讀興趣。為了使讀者能夠更好地理解原文，滿足不同英語程度的讀者需求，我們在每一本書都附上了參考譯文和參考答案。

《美國之音特別節目听讀》是從“美國之音”的 Special English 中精選出來的，適合中學生閱讀的學習材料。它的特點是，英語原汁原味、語言活潑生動、內容涉獵很廣，包括國外的風俗習慣、文化傳統、節日假日、動物生態、名人趣事、環境保護、社會問題等。

叢書共分 10 冊，其中初中、高中各 5 冊，並附有練

习、译文和答案。练习与中考、高考的阅读题型相符。

本套书选材角度新颖,可读性极强,选出的文章让人感受到知识的强烈冲击,既能掌握最新的知识信息,又能体验到英语语言的魅力。

《Cowin 英语百科阅读》,顾名思义,这是一套将百科知识融入语言学习的英语阅读物。所编入的语篇均取材于原版的英语文章,以提高广大读者的英语阅读能力为第一目的,在潜移默化中,将丰富的文化、知识信息与地道的语言一起传输给读者,使读者在掌握一种语言技能的同时,提高自己的综合知识水平,达到知识与能力双获益的最终目的。本次共推出 10 本,每本编入既反映时代发展,又贴近时代气息的短文 20 余篇,由北京、上海的英语教学专家联手合作,专门为广大中学生和初级英语水平者编写。

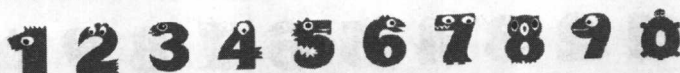
《中学英语轻松阅读》包括《三条腿的鸡》、《神秘的小屋》、《巨龙传说》、《幸运的小灯塔》、《未来的城市》及《苹果中的星星》6 册,供初高中学生阅读。全套书依据新教材、新大纲,围绕中学生的兴趣爱好、认知发展因素及阅读理解要求达到的水平而选编,收入文学、动物世界、生活常识及自然现象等约 200 篇生动有趣的小故事,按由易到难、由浅入深的顺序编排。多数故事源自国际互联网及异国中小学生之笔。为便于阅读理解,每篇文章后设计了适应中高考命题的读前思考题、读后练习题、习惯用法、注释及答案。该丛书题材广泛、内容新颖,读后既可提高英语阅读理解能力、应试能力、又能增长知识、开阔眼界,是中学生理想的英语阅读物。

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The Gift of Language

天赋的语言能力

When a rabbit sees something dangerous, it runs away. Its tail, which is white, moves up and down as it runs. The other rabbits see this white 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. It has given them a signal.

Many other animals use this kind of language. When a cobra is angry, it raises its hood and makes itself look fierce. This warns other animals. 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.¹ Some birds make several different sounds, each with its own meaning.² Sometimes we human beings speak in the same way. We make sounds like "Oh!" or "Ah!" when we are frightened or pleased or when we drop something on our toes!

But we have something that no animal has — a large number of words which have the meanings of things, ac-



tions, feelings or ideas. We are able to give each other information³, to tell other people what is in our mind or how we feel. By writing words down we can remember things that have happened, or send messages to people far away. No animal can do this. No animal has the wonderful power of language.

No one knows how man⁴ learned to make words. Perhaps he began by making sounds like those made by animals. Perhaps he grunted like a pig when he lifted something heavy. Perhaps he made sounds like those he heard all round him, — birds singing, bees humming, a stone falling to the ground. Somehow he learned to make words. As the centuries went by, he made more and more new words. This is what we mean by language.

People living in different countries made different kinds of words. Today there are about fifteen hundred different languages in the world. Each contains many thousands of words. A very large English dictionary, for example, contains four or five hundred thousand words. But we do not need all these. To read a popular newspaper, you need four to five thousand words.

The words you know are called your vocabulary. You should try to make your vocabulary bigger. Read as many books as you can. There are plenty of books written in easy English for you to read. You will enjoy them. When you meet a new word, find it in your dictionary. Your diction-



ary is your most useful book.

(470 words)

New Words and Phrases:

1. hood [hʊd] *n.* (眼镜蛇等的)颈部皮褶
2. fierce [fiəs] *adj.* 可怕的
3. purr [pɜ:] *v.* (猫等)呜呜地叫
4. information [ˌɪnfə'meɪʃən] *n.* 信息
5. grunt [grʌnt] *v.* (猪等)作呼噜声
6. hum [hʌm] *v.* (蜂等)嗡嗡叫
7. go by (时间)过去
8. contain [kən'teɪn] *v.* 包含
9. vocabulary [vəʊ'kæbjʊləri] *n.* 词汇

Notes:

1. A cat purrs when pleased. 猫开心的时候会呜呜地叫。
When pleased = When it is pleased.
2. Some birds make several different sounds, each with its own meaning. 有些鸟发出几种不同的声音,每一种声音都表达一种意义。
each 相当于 each sound, 而 each with its own meaning 是补充说明 several different sounds 的。如:
There are several people standing there, each wearing a cap. 有好几个人站在那儿,每个人都戴着一顶帽子。
There are five rings on the table, each worth 2000



yuan.

桌子上有五个戒指，每一个值 2000 元。

3. information 是不可数名词，同一段中的 message 是可数名词。
4. man 人类

Exercises:

I. Select the best answer from the four choices A, B, C and D:

1. Why does the tail of a rabbit move up and down when it is frightened and runs away?
 - A. To give the message of danger.
 - B. To show fear.
 - C. To frighten its enemy.
 - D. To keep balance.
2. What is the main idea of Paragraph 2?
 - A. Self-protection of animals.
 - B. Fierce cobras.
 - C. Kinds of dancing by bees.
 - D. Body language of animals.
3. What is the main idea of Paragraph 3?
 - A. Reasons why a dog barks.
 - B. Difference of means of communication between human beings and animals.
 - C. Sounds produced by certain animals as means of communication.
 - D. Reasons why birds make different sounds.



4. Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
- Man learned to make words in a planned way.
 - It is not certain how man learned to make words.
 - Man learned how to make words from birds, etc.
 - Man and animals learned to make words almost at the same time.
5. The title of this passage The Gift of Language means that _____
- some people have the gift of language, and others haven't.
 - man and animals have the gift of language.
 - human beings have the gift of language, and animals haven't.
 - English is the gift of language given by God.

II . Point out in the following summary which sentences are false and which are true according to the passage (write F for false and write T for true):

S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7

- ① Animals do not have the gift of language.
- ② However, they can use a body language or produce sounds to express simple meanings.



- ③ For example, all frightened animals make some sounds while running away.
- ④ A dog barks when it sees a stranger come near.
- ⑤ Man can use words to express feelings, ideas, things and actions, but animals can't.
- ⑥ Words in a language were first used by some clever people and then spread to other people.
- ⑦ You are able to read a newspaper when you master at least 7000 words.

III. Translate the following sentences into Chinese, paying attention to the underlined phrases that have appeared in the reading passage:

1. He lifts a heavy stone up and down every morning.
2. Human being can use a large number of words to express their ideas and feelings.
3. As the days went by, he became stronger.
4. This is what we mean by friendship.
5. Read as many books as you can if you want to be a writer.

IV. Give the name of the animal according to the sound it produces:

1. bark —
2. purr —
3. hum —
4. grunt —



Christmas

圣诞节

Christmas Day is a very happy day for boys and girls. Before the term ends in some schools, the children act a nativity or "birth" play¹, showing how Jesus was born in a stable.

Many of the celebrations at Christmas are old customs. Some fathers dress up² in a red cloak and put on a long white beard. They pretend to be Father Christmas, or Santa Claus, and put presents³ by the beds⁴ of their children. The words Santa Claus are a way of saying Saint Nicholas, a good man who helped poor people and gave presents to them more than 300 years after Jesus was born⁵.

To most people in Europe and America, Christmas Day finishes the year, although there are still a few days left after it. Shop windows are decorated with Christmas trees some months before December, and notices are put up saying "68 shopping days to Christmas" or "21 shopping days to Christmas". Cotton wool is stuck on to the shop windows to look like snow, and holy things are hung up.

Parents buy presents for their children. Then they have to hide them in the house to stop the children from⁶ finding out what "Father Christmas" is going to bring them⁷.

