



# 彩虹趣味英语阅读系列丛书

*Rainbow Fascinating Reading*

第四册

范红 主编



天津大学出版社

主编：范 红

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第四册

编 著：申云桢 刘 延  
译文审校：覃学岚

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## 编者的话

目前，市面上的英文阅读书籍大都面向各种考试，其选材标准与练习设计方式都同考试题型接近，与模拟阅读试题集大同小异。这类阅读图书在帮助学生熟悉阅读考题类型、提高学生阅读能力以及增进语法知识、扩大词汇量等方面的确作用不小。但许多学生反映读该类图书时提不起兴趣，常感到枯燥无味。如果不是为了应付某种考试，通常他们不会主动购书阅读。

本套丛书的编者大都是清华大学外语系长期从事阅读教学的教师。我们认为提高学生的学习积极性、激发他们的学习热情的主要途径是提高学生的学习兴趣。就阅读而言，所选文章是否引发学生的兴趣、所设计的练习是否寓学于乐、是否能够真正提高学生使用语言进行交际的能力，则是成功编写阅读图书的关键。本着以上原则，我们编写出《彩虹趣味英语阅读系列丛书》，意在提高学生的阅读兴趣，使他们感到由阅读英文文章来学习英语是件有趣的事情。

本套趣味阅读丛书取名为“彩虹”（RAINBOW）有两个含义：（一）彩虹是大自然中的一道绚丽的风景，她寓意着美好的希望，在此，我们衷心希望本套丛书能够带给读者一些值得流连忘返的东西；（二）彩虹是多彩的，她由赤、橙、黄、绿、青、蓝、紫七种颜色构成，而本套丛书共有7册，我们选用彩虹的斑斓色彩来标明各册封面的主色调，体现7册书的连贯性与统一性，以及全套书由浅到深、循序渐进的编写思想。我们也希望读者读此套丛书的感觉犹如看见



彩虹，百看不厌，百读不倦。

本套丛书的第一册适合初中水平的学习者使用，第二、第三册适合高中水平的学习者使用，第四册至第七册适合大学一至四级水平的学习者使用。在编写过程中，我们参阅了初中、高中及大学各阶段的教学大纲，尝试着将这三个阶段的阅读训练既有所区别，又有所衔接地对待，让各册书适合各阶段学生心理、年龄等特点。我们在选材及练习设计方面尤下工夫。练习设计以语言技能的相互转换为指导思想，突出了趣味性与实用性，弥补了传统的知识型练习设计方式的不足。每课练习中的口语或写作技能练习紧扣课文内容，为学习者创造了练习交际能力的机会，使他们能够快速地产学以致用，这可以说是本套丛书的独到之处。

各册书侧重点有所不同，但编写体例统一规范，每个单元均由词汇与表达法、课文、练习、中文译文、练习参考答案等部分构成，不仅适合教师课堂使用，也适合学生课外自学使用。

全套丛书的编写得到了天津大学出版社刘铁同志的大力支持。刘铁同志为此套丛书曾多次到清华大学，就此套丛书的构思与体例与我们进行沟通，花了不少时间与精力。天津大学出版社的领导对本套丛书的出版也给予了大力支持。编辑过程中，刘铁等同志也曾多次来清华大学与编者商谈，并提出了许多非常宝贵的意见，从而提高了全书的质量。我们在此向他们深致谢忱，并热切期望得到本书读者的批评指正。

编者

2000. 12. 30

于清华园



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# Unit 1

## Short Forms

### Words and Expressions

prefer 更喜欢

advantage 优势

represent 代表, 象征

respond 回答, 响应, 作出反应

agency (政府的)机关、机构

federal 联邦

bureau 局

investigation 调查

criminal 罪犯, 犯罪者

revenue 税收

### Text A

#### Mr., Mrs., Miss, and Ms.

Almost everyone knows the meanings of Mr., Mrs., Miss, and MS. Mr. is used before the names of men. Mrs. is for married women and Miss is for single women. But what is Ms. for?

For some time, businessmen in the United States have used Ms. before a woman's name when they do not know whether the woman is married or not. Today, however, many women prefer to use Ms. rather than Mrs. or Miss. The word Mr. does not tell us whether or not a man is married. Many women think this is an advantage for men. They want to be equal to men in this way. These women feel that it is not important for people to know whether they are married or not.

There are some problems with Ms., however. Not all women like it. Some like the older ways of doing things. Some find it difficult to pronounce (Ms. sounds like "miz."). Generally, young women like it



better than older women do. It is difficult to know whether or not Ms. will be used by more American women in the future. What do you think of this change?

## Text B

VOA Short Forms  
Americans often try to say things as quickly as possible, so for some expressions we use the first letters of the words instead of saying each word. Many common expressions or long names are shortened in this way.

BYOB is short way of saying "bring your own bottle". The letters BYOB are often found at the bottom of a written invitation to a simple social event or gathering of friends. For example, I decide to have a party on a Sunday afternoon. I might write a note saying, "Please come to the party, and BYOB." The bottle each person brings is what that person wants to drink at the party.

An invitation to a special event, such as a wedding, would never say BYOB. However, an invitation to an official or very special event often has other letters at the bottom of it. The letters are RSVP. The letters represent the French expression "repondre s'il vous plait". In English, the words mean "Respond if it pleases you". Americans use the letters as a short way to say please answer this invitation.

Another expression ASAP is often heard in business offices. My boss might say she wants something done ASAP. It means as soon as possible. She also might tell me she wants something done by COB. That means she wants it finished by close of business, or the end of the work day.

Beginning letters often are used to represent the name of a university. A famous one is MIT. It is short for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Another major university is UCLA, almost no one ever says its real name, the University of California at Los Angeles. What takes so



long.

Some American businesses are better known for the beginning letters of their name than for their complete names. For example, you may not have heard of the company called International Business Machines, but you probably have heard of the company by its short name IBM. And the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is much better known as AT&T. Many American government agencies are known by the beginning letters of their name, too. For example, the FBI is the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI investigates criminal activity in the United States. Then there is the IRS, the Internal Revenues Service. It is not a very popular agency. It collects Federal taxes. Here is an example you already know. Can you guess what it is? How about VOA, the short name of the "Voice of America"?

### Exercises

I. Answer the following questions.

1. In what case do businessmen in the United States use **Ms.** before a woman's name?
2. What is the advantage of the word **Mr.** for men?
3. Why do many women prefer to use **Ms.** rather than **Mrs.** or **Miss**?
4. What is the problem with **Ms.**?
5. Why do Americans use the first letters of words instead of saying each word?
6. What is the "bottle each person brings to the party"?
7. Why do people seldom say **UCLA's** complete name?
8. What does **FBI** do?
9. Why does the author say that the **IRS** is not a popular agency?

II. Give the complete word for each of the following letters and translate



them into Chinese.

1. BYOB

2. RSVP

3. ASAP

4. COB

5. MIT

6. UCLA

7. IBM

8. AT&T

9. FBI

10. IRS

11. VOA

III. 1. Which one would you prefer to use, Miss/Mrs. or Ms. ?

2. Try to list some shortened words you know.

## Translation

### 短文一

#### 先生,夫人,小姐和女士

几乎人人都知道先生、夫人、小姐和女士的意思。先生用于男士名前,夫人用于已婚妇女名前,而小姐则用于单身女人名前。但是女士如何用呢?

以前,美国商人在遇到某位不知其是否婚嫁的女人时称其为女士。然而,现在许多妇女愿意以女士相称而不愿意以夫人或小姐相称。“先生”一词并不能告之某位男士婚否。许多妇女认为这一称呼对男士有利,因此她们希望在称呼上同男人平等。但是有些妇女却不以为然,这些妇女认为别人知道自己婚否并不重要。

然而“女士”这一称呼存在着某些问题。并不是所有的妇女都喜欢这一称呼,有的妇女倾向于传统一些的做事方法。有的认为发音困难



(“Ms.”听起来像“Miz”)。一般说来,年轻妇女较年长的妇女更喜欢被称为女士。难以预料将来在美国是否会有更多的妇女会用这个称呼。你对这种改变怎么看呢?

## 短文二

### VOA

美国人通常说话尽可能地快,因此对于某些表达,经常用词组的第一个字母来代替整个词组。这样使许多常用的或较长的表达得以缩短。

BYOB是“自带酒水”的缩写。BYOB经常出现在邀请出席某个简单的社交场所或朋友聚会的请柬下面。例如,我决定周日下午举办一个聚会,我会写一封短信:“欢迎光临,请自带饮料。”每个人都会带上供自己在聚会上喝的饮料。

如果请柬是邀请你参加某个特殊的场合,如婚礼,那么上面决不会印上“自带饮料”。但是,如果是邀请出席官方或非常特殊的场合,则会在请柬底部印上 RSVP,这几个字母代表法语“repondez sil vous plait”,英语的意思是“请答复”。美国人用字母缩写这种简短的方式来表达“请答复”。

另一种缩写表达经常在商业场所听到,它是 ASAP。我的老板可能让我按 ASAP 做事,意思是尽可能地快。她也可能让我按 COB 方式做事,即要求我在下班前完成。

人们经常用第一个字母表示大学的名称。MIT 就是著名的麻省理工学院的简称。另一个知名的学校是 UCLA,是加利福尼亚大学洛杉矶分校,几乎从没有人说它的全称,这也太长了。

一些著名的美国公司的缩写也比全称更闻名。例如,你可能从没听说过国际商用机器公司,但是你可能听说过它的缩写名 IBM。美国电报和电话公司不如 AT&T 更广为人知。许多美国的政府机构也是如此,例如 FBI 是联邦调查局的缩写,FBI 负责调查美国境内的犯罪活动。同样还有 IRS,意思是美国国内税务局。它并不是受欢迎的机构,它负责国内税务。这里有一个你已知道的例子,看你是否猜得出? 你



能猜出 VOA 是什么吗? 它是“美国之音”的缩写。

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

## Key to Exercises

I.

1. When they do not know whether the woman is named **or** **not** they will do so.

2. It does not tell us whether or **not** **the man is married**.

3. Because they want to be equal **to men**.

4. It is difficult for some people to pronounce.

5. Because they often try to say things **as quickly as possible**.

6. It is what that person wants to **drink at the party**.

7. Because it takes too long.

8. It investigates criminal activity in the **United State**.

9. Because it **collects Federal taxes**.

10. **bring your own bottle** (自带酒水)

11. **repondez sil vous plait** (请答复)

12. **as soon as possible** (尽快)

13. **close of business** (工作结束)

14. **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (麻省理工学院)

15. **University of California at Los Angeles** (加利福尼亚大学洛杉矶分校)

16. **International Business Machines** (国际商用机器公司)

17. **American Telephone and Telegraph Company** (美国电报电话公司)

18. **Federal Bureau of Investigation** (联邦调查局)

19. **Internal Revenue Service** (国内税务局)

20. **Voice of America** (美国之音)

21. (omitted)



# Unit 2

## Food and Drink

### Words and Expressions

flavor 特别的味道

caffeine 咖啡因

bubble 气泡

artificial 人造的

roll 小圆面包

drip 滴下

cone 圆锥形物

the tropics 热带地区

kola nut 可乐果

the St. Louis World's Fair 圣路易  
斯世界博览会

Earl 伯爵

roast 烘烤的, 烤制的

Naples 那不勒斯(意大利港市)

Saratoga Springs 萨拉托加(美国城市)

### Text A

#### Cola Drinks and Ice Cream Cones

The Coca-Cola Company made the first cola drinks more than a hundred years ago. Companies now sell millions of bottles and cans of Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, and other colas every day. The cola flavor in the drinks comes from the cola or kola nut. These nuts grow on trees in the tropics. Kola nuts have caffeine in them. Coffee, tea, and chocolate have caffeine, too. Caffeine makes some people feel nervous. Now there are cola drinks without caffeine.

Cola and other soft drinks have carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) in the water. This gas makes bubbles. There is also a lot of sugar in these drinks. Some soft drinks have an artificial sweetener instead of sugar. It is possi-



ble that these artificial sweeteners are dangerous to the body.

The ice cream cone came from the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, just like the hamburger. You can't eat either hamburger meat or ice cream in your hands. Someone put hamburger meat in a roll so people could eat it in their hands. For several years, people sold ice cream between two thin cookies so people could eat it in their hands. It was like a sandwich. However, the ice cream always dripped out. Someone made the cookie into a cone. The ice cream could not drip out and people could eat it easily with their hands.

## Text B

### Sandwiches, Pizza, and Potato Chips

Sandwiches are common in many countries. Where did this strange name come from?

The Earl of Sandwich (1718 - 1792) was an Englishman. He liked to play cards. One night he played for hours and got very hungry. However, he didn't want to stop his card game. He asked for some roast meat between two pieces of bread. (People bake roast meat in the oven of a stove.) He ate the food while he played cards. People gave his name to this new kind of food.

Pizza is another international food. A baker probably invented the pizza in Naples, Italy. It was at about the same time as the first sandwich. "Pizza" means "pie" in Italian. People used the name "pizza pie" for a long time. Now it is just "pizza".

Potato chips came from Saratoga Springs in New York State. In 1853 a man at a hotel in that town wanted some French fried potatoes. However, he wanted very thin ones. The cook cut some very thin pieces of potatoes and fried them in oil. Then he put salt on them. They soon became very popular. People called them Saratoga chips for a long time.



## Exercises

I. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

Text A

- \_\_\_ 1. Caffeine makes people feel happy.
- \_\_\_ 2. All cola drinks have caffeine in them.
- \_\_\_ 3. Carbon dioxide is a gas that makes bubbles.
- \_\_\_ 4. There is no artificial sweetener in soft drinks.
- \_\_\_ 5. People once sold ice cream between two cookies.

Text B

- \_\_\_ 1. The Earl of Sandwich stopped his card game to eat some roast meat because he got hungry.
- \_\_\_ 2. Pizza was invented in Italy.
- \_\_\_ 3. The person who invented Sandwich was an Italian.
- \_\_\_ 4. Potato chips came from America.
- \_\_\_ 5. A cook invented the first potato chips in the 18th century.

II. Answer the following questions orally.

Text A

- 1. Where does the cola flavor come from?
- 2. What do coffee, tea, and chocolate have in common?
- 3. How does artificial sweetener affect the body?
- 4. How can you eat hamburger meat in your hands?
- 5. Why did some people make the cookie into a cone?

Text B

- 1. Why did the Earl of Sandwich ask for some roast meat between two pieces of bread?
- 2. Where do people bake meat?
- 3. What city did pizza come from?
- 4. What does "pizza" mean in Italian?



5. How did the cook make potato chips?

III. Choose the correct word from the following words to fill in each blank, using its proper form.

|        |      |         |         |        |        |          |     |       |      |
|--------|------|---------|---------|--------|--------|----------|-----|-------|------|
| nut    | drip | roll    | instead | danger | bottle | caffeine | can | roast | bake |
| invent | card | gamefry | potato  | oven   | pie    | popular  |     |       |      |

1. It is \_\_\_\_ to drive a car on icy roads.
2. We drank a \_\_\_\_ of wine last night.
3. We put \_\_\_\_ in candy, in desserts, and on ice cream.
4. Rain was \_\_\_\_ from the trees.
5. I often buy \_\_\_\_ fruits.
6. Six brown \_\_\_\_, please.
7. Don't drink coffee before you go to bed, since \_\_\_\_ will keep you awake.
8. Let's play cards \_\_\_\_ of watching television.
9. Generally speaking, small children like \_\_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_\_ beef we had yesterday was really delicious.
11. You've left the \_\_\_\_ door open.
12. Would you like another apple \_\_\_\_?
13. Many people enjoy playing \_\_\_\_.
14. The \_\_\_\_ are ready to be dug up.
15. Young people usually like \_\_\_\_ music.
16. The bread is being \_\_\_\_.
17. Bob like \_\_\_\_ chickens very much.
18. Electric light was a great \_\_\_\_.

