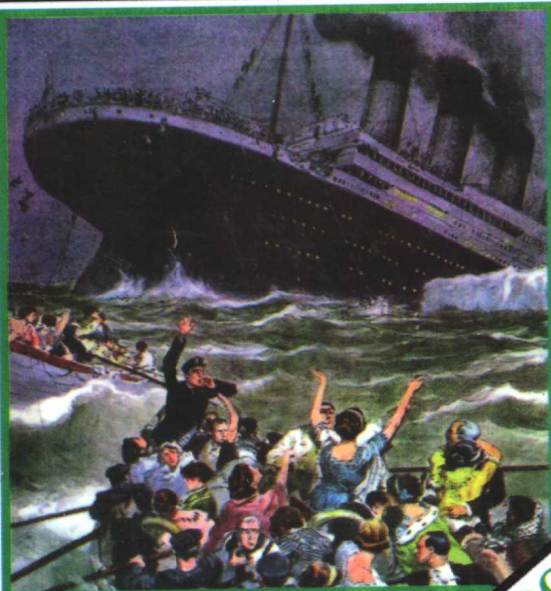


AAA 精释英语阅读系列 · 3 级

第一辑 · 4

泰坦尼克号 巨轮的沉没

吉林科学技术出版社



IMPROVE YOUR
ENGLISH

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〔英〕 珍妮·多尔曼 原著
卜玉坤 来庆彬 导读

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泰坦尼克号巨轮的沉没

泰坦尼克号巨轮的确存在，也确实沉没了。本故事中的所有事实都是真实而准确的。故事中的人物是虚构的，但是很可能这些人物（如吉姆斯·毛蒂莫，他的妻子玛丽及其儿子汤姆）当时就在那艘横渡大西洋的巨型客轮上。这艘巨轮正在进行她的首航，但不幸的是其首航以悲剧告终。

珍妮·多尔曼，1947年出生于英国的伯恩茅斯，至今在意大利已生活了多年。她在意大利中学从事英语会话教学工作，并尽可能地利用空余时间进行写作和翻译。

致 读 者

许多家长常常抱怨自己的孩子不爱学习英语。为了孩子学好英语,送他们参加各种学习班,甚至请家庭教师。但是,孩子的成绩还是上不去,往往事倍功半。

一位心理学家说过,学习的最大动力是兴趣。没有兴趣的学习,学什么也是注定学不好的。

说惯了自己的母语去学习英语,最大的困扰是枯燥、乏味。除了课堂上学过的单词和课文,什么也看不到,或者看不懂。在书店里买不到适于少年儿童初学英语可以阅读的书籍。

现在,我们出版的《AAA 精释英语阅读系列》,就是一套能激起学生学习兴趣的阅读书。这套引进 Libreria Meravigli Edirriee 的简化英语读物,全都是由英语专家根据世界名著,简化词汇量,编辑而成的。所选编的故事都十分生动有趣,为世界各国孩子们所喜爱,书上提供的练习也颇具趣味性。

全套书共分4级。1级的词汇量为300个单词,就是说只要掌握300个单词就可以阅读;2级的词汇量为500个单词;3级的词汇量为600~1000个单词;随着词汇量的增多,就可以阅读4级了。在结构设计上,

本书也独具特色。1~3级左边是故事,右边是练习;4级左边是故事,右边是生词,书后是练习。设计这些练习和游戏,帮助学习语法知识,检验理解能力,不再需要多余的作业,一扫学生学习英语通常出现的恐惧感,使学生在学习中不知不觉地克服了畏难情绪,增加了安全感(Assurance)。

每篇故事短小精悍,既保留了世界名著的原貌,又使孩子们能一睹名著风采。每个故事独立成册,不要用多少时间就能读完一册。“瞧,今天我又读了一本世界名著!”孩子们多高兴啊!这种学习上的成就感(Achievement),无疑是学好英语的强大动力所在。

从阅读1级开始吧!你只要掌握300个词汇就足够了。再增加200个词汇,就奔向2级;再增加100个词汇,就奔向3级……当你进入了AAA精释英语系列,就像踏上了高速行驶的列车,用难以置信的加速度(Acceleration)闯入英语世界。

祝你成功!

编 者

The Sinking of the Titanic

Jane Dolman

The Titanic really existed and it really did sink. All the facts in this story are true and accurate. The characters have been invented but it is very likely that people like James Mortimer, his wife Mary and their son Tom were on board that famous transatlantic liner during her maiden voyage which ended so tragically.

Jane Dolman, born in Bournemouth, England, in 1947, has been living in Italy for many years. She teaches English conversation in Italian High School and spends as much time as possible at the Cinque Terre, writing and translating.

La Spiga
Lombardi

THE SINKING OF THE TITANIC

Southampton, 10th April 1912.

"Mummy! Daddy! Look, there she is!" shouted Tom excitedly.

"Yes," said Tom's father. They were walking along the quay¹ past lots of big ships. **"That's the Titanic. Look, Tom, she's bigger than all the other ships."**

"How many people are going on this voyage?" asked Tom's mother.

"More than two thousand three hundred," answered her husband. He turned to his son. **"You're a very lucky boy, Tom. Lots of boys of your age would like to go on the Titanic's maiden voyage²."**

"I know I'm lucky, Dad. But so are you and Mum."

"That's just one of the advantages of being a journalist's wife or son," said Mrs Mortimer, smiling.

"How big is the Titanic, Dad?"

"Well," said his father. **"She's 28 metres in width³ and almost 269 metres long."**

"Gosh! That's even longer than a football pitch⁴! And how much does it weigh?"

"Its gross⁵ tonnage is 46,328 tons," answered his father.

"You've certainly done your homework, darling," said his wife.

"Just part of my job. Seriously though, it is an incredible feat⁶. It's the biggest ship in existence. Come on, let's go on board."

They joined all the other passengers who were walking up the gangway⁷ to the decks⁸. Tom looked around him. He had never seen so many people. Everyone was shouting and waving. There was a band playing, flags were flying. It was a beautiful, sunny

1. Explain who or what the following are.

a) Tom.

.....

b) Mr Mortimer.

.....

c) Mrs Mortimer.

.....

d) Mr Mortimer's profession.

.....

e) The Titanic.

.....

f) The year.

.....

2. Match the numbers to the definitions.

269

number of voyages

28

length of ship (metres)

46,328

number of passengers

0

width of ship (metres)

2,300

weight of ship (tons)

Now write the figures in full, making sentences.

e.g. *There are two thousand three hundred passengers.*

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

1. quay: where the ships are anchored in the port.

2. maiden voyage: first voyage made by a ship.

3. width: how wide it is.

4. pitch: field.

5. gross: total.

6. feat: difficult thing to do.

7. gangway: what you walk up to go on board a ship.

8. decks: open areas on ships.

day and the atmosphere was like a great big party.

"Look, Tom," said Mrs Mortimer. "There's the captain, Captain Edward Smith."

"I like his uniform. When I grow up I want to be in command of a big ship, too."

James Mortimer nudged¹ his wife. "Look, Mary," he said. "There's the President of the White Star and those are the directors of the most important American and Canadian railway companies."

"And who's that young girl arm in arm with the old man?"

"Ah! That must be Colonel Astor with his new, young wife. She's only twenty!"

"She's on to a good thing²," laughed Mary.

They squeezed³ their way through the crowd of people on deck.

"Let's go down and see our cabin and leave our things. Then we can come back on deck to watch her set sail⁴," said Tom's father.

"Are we in the first class, Dad?" asked Tom.

"No, son," said his father. "But even the second class is pretty luxurious. Later I'll take you on a trip round the ship."

Their cabin was indeed very grand. It was very large with two port-holes⁵ that Tom could look out of, a double bed and a single bunk, a large table, a sofa and armchairs, a wardrobe and a desk - everything they needed for the voyage.

"Come and see the bathroom," shouted Mary. "It's got everything!"

Tom ran around happily. He had never been on such an adventure before. "It doesn't even feel like I'm on a ship," he said. "Except when I look out of the window, of course."

3. Answer the questions.

a) Who is Tom?

.....

b) Who is Mary?

.....

c) What kind of passengers are there?

.....

d) What is the difference between first and second class?

.....

e) What does Tom see when he looks out of the port-holes?

.....

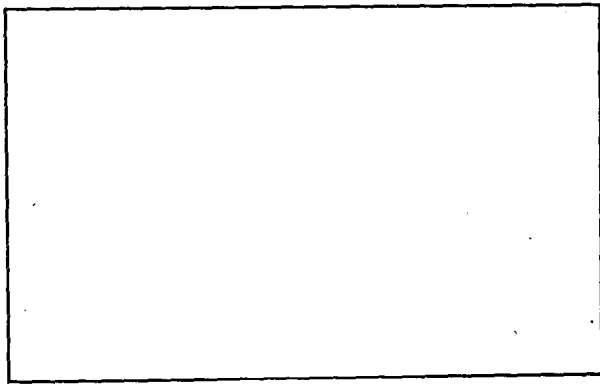
f) What does Tom want to do when he grows up?

.....

g) What do you want to do when you grow up?

.....

4. Draw a picture of the Mortimers' cabin, putting in all the furniture.



1. nudged: *touched her to get her attention.*

2. on to a good thing: *in a good situation.*

3. squeezed: *pushed.*

4. set sail: *depart.*

5. port-holes: *windows of a ship.*

They went back on deck just as the sirens¹ were hooting. Tom watched the sailors pulling up the huge anchors². There were two other enormous Transatlantic liners moored³ beside the Titanic, the New York and the Oceanic. When the Titanic began to move, it caused a great wave which seemed to pull the Oceanic towards her.

"Look out!" shouted someone. "They're going to collide!"

The Titanic managed to swerve⁴ just in time. All the passengers on deck almost fell over.

"Hold tight, Tom," said his Dad, clinging on to him as he almost lost his balance.

"Phew!" said James. "That was a close⁵ one!"

"Lucky we're not superstitious," said Mary.

"What do you mean, Mum?"

"Nothing, darling," she said, smiling. "I'm just being silly."

Her husband looked at her. "Now, Mary," he said, "Don't get any of your strange ideas."

"It's too late, anyway," she answered. "We're off⁶."

Tom looked back. The Port of Southampton was getting smaller and smaller.

"Wow! She goes so fast and smoothly that I didn't even realize we were moving."

"That's why they call her a floating⁷ hotel. On this liner⁸ you can actually forget you're on a ship."

Their conversation was interrupted by a crackling from the loudspeakers ...

"Good day, ladies and gentlemen. This is your captain, Edward J. Smith speaking. It is a great honour for me to welcome you aboard the Titanic on this her maiden voyage. I wish you all a most comfortable and pleasant trip and it is with pleasure that my officers and myself offer our services to all those who have any

5. Decide whether the following are TRUE or FALSE.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| a) Before a ship sets sail, the sailors must pull up the anchor. | T | F |
| b) The three liners hit each other. | T | F |
| c) Everybody fell into the sea. | T | F |
| d) Tom's mother thought it was a good sign. | T | F |
| e) The Titanic was called a floating hotel because she did not seem to move. | T | F |
| f) The Titanic had made many voyages. | T | F |

Now correct the false ones.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6. Put the correct prepositions in the sentences.

- a) The passengers stayed deck.
- b) The anchors were pulled
- c) To be board means to be a ship.
- d) Tom almost fell
- e) Tom could see the port when he looked
- f) When James looked his wife she smiled.

-
1. **siren:** loud whistle to say the ship was off.
2. **anchors:** things that hold the ship to the bottom of the sea.
3. **moored:** anchored, tied up.
4. **swerve:** move to one side to avoid something.
5. **close:** near (they almost hit).
6. **off:** (here) leaving.
7. **floating:** moving on top of the water.
8. **liner:** large ship transporting passengers.

requests or particular needs. The weather forecast is excellent so sailing¹ should be smooth and without problems. So please make yourselves at home and enjoy the voyage."

There was a warm applause for Captain Smith and then the passengers began to move away. There were a lot of people but the ship was so big that it didn't seem crowded at all.

"Can we have a peep² at the first class cabins, James?" asked Mary.

They went down and walked along a passage lined with golden chandeliers³. There was a cabin door open and Mary stopped and looked in.

"I can't believe it's the cabin of a ship," she whispered. "Look at the furniture. And the paintings! It looks more like a room in a castle!"

"Well," said James. "If you pay two hundred guineas⁴ a day I'm not surprised it's luxurious."

At that moment a good-looking young man walked past.

"Did you see, Tom? That was Clarence Brown, the sports champion."

"Can I ask him for his autograph?" asked Tom, excitedly.

"I don't see why not," said his father.

After lunch, Tom's father took him to see the gymnasium, the swimming-pool, the mini-golf course and the squash courts while his mother went to the beautiful winter garden to have a look at the ladies.

"I don't think you'll have time to get bored⁵, son," said James. "You can have some swimming lessons if you like and we can go to the gym every morning together. I need to get some exercise."

7. Think of as many adjectives as you can to describe the first class cabins. Write them down.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

8. Now write sentences with each comparing the first class cabins to the second class ones.

e.g. *The first class cabins were more luxurious than the second class ones.*

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

-
1. **sailing:** *travelling.*
2. **peep:** *a brief look.*
3. **chandeliers:** *very large, grand lamps.*
4. **guinea:** *the same quantity of pounds and shillings.*
(200 guineas = 200 pounds + 200 shillings = 210 pounds.)
5. **bored:** *having nothing to do.*

11th April.

The next morning Tom woke up and looked out of the port-hole.

"Dad," he said. "I can see land!"

His father explained that they were stopping at Cork, in Ireland, to pick up more passengers. They went up on deck just as the Titanic came into the port. They could see crowds of people on the quay and when the gang-planks were ready they all came hurrying on board.

"They don't look very rich," said Tom.

"No, Tom," explained his father. "They are poor people. They are emigrating to America because there's no work in Ireland. They are hoping to have a better life in the New World."

"So how can they afford¹ to come on the Titanic?"

"They are travelling in the third class. It only costs them twenty-five pounds a day."

"Poor things," said Tom. "I bet² they aren't as comfortable as we are."

Enjoying the Cruise³

Tom spent the next two days having great fun. His parents let him go off by himself and he explored almost the whole ship. Luckily there were plans⁴ everywhere showing you where you were, so it was quite difficult to get lost. His mother spent most of the time sitting in the sun on deck or reading in the library and when his father was not writing at the desk in his cabin, he went to the saloon bar or the smoking salon to talk and listen to the other men. He had to write a detailed description of the voyage for his newspaper, the *Daily News*.

Tom read part of the article his father was writing:

9. Complete the following sentences.

- a) Cork is the name of a town in
- b) The Irish passengers did not have much
- c) They travelled in the third class which cost
.....
- d) They wanted to go to America because they hoped to
.....
- e) Many Irish people live in
- f) People who aren't happy with their lives often
.....

10. Find the words from the anagrams and match them with the definitions.

TORP-ELOH
GOVAYE
CEDK
NIBAC
CHORAN
RELIN

- a) open-air area on a ship =
- b) window of a ship =
- c) used for stopping a ship from moving =
- d) journey by sea =
- e) a big passenger ship =
- f) room on a ship =

-
- 1. afford: *have enough money.*
 - 2. bet: (here) *am sure (to bet; bet; bet).*
 - 3. cruise: *holiday voyage.*
 - 4. plans: *maps.*