



英语培训 系列教程  
Enhanced Efficient Effective

# 英语读写教程 I

Preliminary Reading and Writing

Enhanced

提升

主 编 严忠志

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重庆大学出版社



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## 内 容 提 要

本书是根据中国人英语学习的特点,并借鉴国外外语强化教学的经验编写而成的英语读写强化教程。它突出语言知识的实用性,而且以提高学习者英语阅读理解能力、增加词汇量、扩大知识面为编写目的。本书在每篇课文后设计阅读理解练习、词汇练习、语法练习、阅读技巧练习,以及与课文中出现的句型和词汇相关的翻译练习。学习者不仅可以学习阅读技巧,提高阅读成绩,而且还可以提高包括阅读理解能力在内的实际语言运用能力。本书的英语语言起点为大学英语2级,可供出国留学初级班学员、其他各类英语短期培训初级班学员、准备参加大学英语4级考试的学生以及其他具有同等英语水平、希望进一步提高英语读写能力的学习者使用。

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## 前 言

随着我国成功加入 WTO, 以及我国与国际间的交往日趋频繁, 社会对英语人才的需求越来越大。为适应我国经济的快速发展, 满足社会对英语人才培养的现实需求, 我们以先进的英语教学理念为指导, 借鉴国外出版的最新英语语言教材, 结合编者自己在主要英语国家留学、任教和研究的亲身经历, 根据新颖、实用的原则, 编写了这套《3E 英语培训系列教材》。全套教材分“英语读写教程”和“英语听说教程”两大部分, 每一部分按照读者的英语水平分为 I、II、III, 即初级、中级、高级三个分册。

目前, 国内出版的读写教材的编写体例主要有两种: 其一是传统的泛读教材形式, 即在选文后配上一些词汇、阅读理解和写作练习。这种做法往往忽略了中国人英语学习的具体情况, 没有注意到相关语法知识在阅读理解和写作中的重要作用。其二是传统的精读教材形式, 即在课文后配上较多的语音、语法和词汇用法方面的练习。这种做法所提供的阅读量往往较小, 在阅读技巧方面的训练大多不足。

根据中国人英语学习的特点, 《英语读写教程 I (提升)》借鉴了国外外语强化教学的相关经验, 力求在背景知识和词汇两个方面反映当今英语国家的社会风貌, 在语言知识方面则强调实用。在编写本书的过程中我们注意综合前述两类教材的长处, 在主课文之后设计了阅读理解练习、词汇练习、语法练习和阅读技巧练习, 还适量提供了与课文中出现的句型和词汇相关的翻译练习。通过本书的学习, 读者不仅可以掌握阅读技巧, 而且还可以提高包括阅读理解能力在内的实际语言运用能力。

在选材方面, 本书力求做到语言规范, 题材多样, 内容新颖, 且兼顾知识性、趣味性和科学性, 有利于激发读者学习英语的积极性和兴趣。本书在体例编排上由浅入深, 循序渐进, 以便读者在学习中增加词汇量, 扩大知识面, 逐步提高英语语言修养。

本书的英语语言起点为大学英语 2 级, 可供出国留学初级班学员、其他各类英语短期培

训初级班学员、准备参加大学英语 4 级考试的学生以及具有同等英语水平、希望进一步提高英语读写能力的学习者使用。

四川外语学院的严忠志教授负责本书的总体策划和结构设计，并且审阅和修改了全稿。黄绍胜和杜华老师负责材料收集和具体编写工作。

在本书的编写过程中，我们参考和使用了相关资料，在此谨向相关人士表示真诚的谢意。最后，我们恳请使用本书的老师 and 读者提出宝贵意见，以便本书再版时修改完善。

编 者

2003 年 7 月

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## Public Holidays in the UK

In England, Christmas Day and Good Friday<sup>1</sup> have been holidays (literally "Holy Days") for religious reasons since the establishment of Christianity in this country. Christmas is celebrated on December 25, not on Christmas Eve as in several other European countries. The other public holidays or "Bank Holidays" are Easter Monday<sup>2</sup>, May Day (May 1st)<sup>3</sup>, the Spring Bank Holiday (the last Monday in May), the Summer Bank Holiday (the last Monday in August), Boxing Day (December 26th), and New Year's Day. The term "Bank Holiday" goes back to the Bank Holiday Act of 1871, which owes its name to the fact that banks are closed on the days specified.<sup>4</sup>

Boxing Day<sup>5</sup> takes its name from the old custom of giving employees or tradesmen (such as the milkman) a present or "Christmas box" on that day every year. It has nothing to do with the sport of boxing. If Christmas Day or Boxing Day falls at the weekend, the weekday which follows December 25th and 26th becomes a Bank Holiday.<sup>6</sup>

Easter Monday is usually regarded as an unofficial consecration of spring. In many towns there are funfairs with roundabouts, switchbacks and other amusements. The fair on Hampstead Heath, in the north of London, is particularly famous. Easter Monday used to be the day, on which the ladies would parade in the parks, wearing new dresses and hats.<sup>7</sup> Although this custom is dying out, the tradition still provides the ladies with an excuse for buying spring clothes.

The August Bank Holiday is probably the most popular one of the year, partly because it comes at a time when children are not at school. Very many people try to make this a long weekend, and go away to the seaside or the country (as they may indeed have done at Easter or in Spring). The result is that anyone who can manage to take a holiday at another time would be well advised to do so, for the roads get crowded with traffic.

In recent years, there has been a good deal of talk of creating another Bank Holiday midway between August and Christmas, but nothing has yet been done. October would be a good month, as the weather is often very pleasant then. Many people would welcome an extra Bank Holiday or two as England has fewer than most Continental countries.

In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day (March 17th)<sup>8</sup> is also a Bank Holiday. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. It is strange that St. George's Day (April 23rd) is not a public holiday in England, for Saint George is the Patron Saint of England, and in addition, that day is the anniversary of the birth of the most famous Englishman, William Shakespeare. However, the flag of St. George (a red

cross on a white background) or the Union Jack<sup>9</sup> is flown on that day, particularly by churches of the Church of England.<sup>10</sup>

The public holidays in Scotland are New Year's Day and the second day of January (the third, if the first or the second day of January is a Sunday), Good Friday, May Day and usually the first Monday in August. There are local differences. New Year's Eve is called Hogmanay in Scotland and is an occasion for much joyous and noisy celebration. In London, Scottish people come together on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral<sup>11</sup> and sing "Auld Lang Syne"<sup>12</sup> at midnight. There are also large crowds in Piccadilly Circus<sup>13</sup> and Trafalgar Square<sup>14</sup>, and New Year's Eve is a great occasion for parties and happiness.



### Words and Expressions

literally /'litərəli/ *adv.* 照字面意义, 逐字地

holy /'həuli/ *adj.* 神圣的, 圣洁的

religious /ri'lɪdʒəs/ *adj.* 宗教的

establishment /is'tæblɪʃmənt/ *n.* 建立, 成立

Christianity /ˌkrɪstɪ'ænɪti/ *n.* 基督教

celebrate /'selɪbreɪt/ *v.* 庆祝

eve /i:v/ *n.* 前夕, 前日

Easter /'i:stə/ *n.* 【宗】(耶稣)复活节

funfair /'fʌnfə/ *n.* 游乐场, 儿童乐园

roundabout /'raʊndəbaʊt/ *n.* 旋转木马 (又作 merry-go-round)

switchback /'swɪtʃbæk/ *n.* 滑行铁道, (游乐园中的)之字形小铁路

amusement /ə'mju:zmənt/ *n.* 娱乐, 消遣

particularly /pə'tɪkjʊləli/ *adv.* 特别地, 格外, 尤其

parade /pə'reɪd/ *v.* 行进, 游行, 炫耀

extra /'ekstrə/ *adj.* 额外的

continental /ˌkɒntɪ'nentl/ *adj.* 大陆的

patron /'peɪtrən/ *n.* 守护神; (对某人, 某种目标, 艺术等)赞助人, 资助人

saint /seɪnt/ *n.* 圣人, 道德崇高的人, 圣徒

anniversary /ˌæni'vɜ:səri/ *n.* 周年纪念

background /'bækgraʊnd/ *n.* 背景

local /'ləukəl/ *adj.* 地方的, 局部的

hogmanay /'hɒgmənei/ *n.* (苏格兰)大年夜; 除夕礼物

occasion /ə'keɪʒən/ *n.* 场合, 时机, 机会

joyous /'dʒɔɪəs/ *adj.* 快乐的, 高兴的

### Notes

1. Good Friday 受难节, 复活节前的星期五, 被基督教徒作为耶稣受难节予以纪念。
2. Easter Monday 复活节后的星期一, 在一些国家作为法定假日。
3. May Day 五朔节 (美国、加拿大和西欧部分国家定在五月一日的欢庆春天到来的节日); 五一国际劳动节 (尤指在社会主义国家内向劳动者及劳动组织表示敬意的节日)。



4. The term “Bank Holiday” goes back to the Bank Holiday Act of 1871, which owes its name to the fact that banks are closed on the days specified. “银行假日”一词源于 1871 年通过的银行假日法案,因在该方案确定的日子里银行关门停业而得名。Bank Holiday 指英国的法定假日。“go back to”意为“始于,起源于”,如:Our association with him goes back to four years. 我们四年前开始与他有联系。“owe to”意为“归功于”,如:She owes her good health to diet and exercise. 她的健康归功于饮食和锻炼。
5. Boxing Day 礼盒日,又译为节礼日。圣诞节的次日,人们按习俗向雇员或服务行业工人赠送圣诞节礼物。
6. If Christmas Day or Boxing Day falls at the weekend, the weekday which follows December 25th and 26th becomes a Bank Holiday. 如果圣诞节或节礼日刚好是周末,12 月 25 日和 26 日后那个工作日将作为法定假日。weekday 指一周中除了星期六和星期日之外的任一天,平日。
7. Easter Monday used to be the day, on which the ladies would parade in the parks, wearing new dresses and hats. 以前,女士们一般在复活节后的星期一会穿上新衣,戴上新帽,在公园里行进。
8. Saint Patrick's Day 圣帕特里克节。据说圣帕特里克帮助爱尔兰人将害人的蛇赶进大海,是爱尔兰人尊崇的圣人。绿色是这个节日的象征。
9. Union Jack 联合王国国旗,英国国旗。
10. Church of England 英国国教。
11. St. Paul's Cathedral 圣保罗大教堂,为世界第三高教堂,以悠久的历史、壮观的圆形屋顶和别具一格的建筑特色而闻名于世。
12. Auld Lang Syne /ɔ:ld'laɪŋ'zain/ (苏格兰语) 美好的往日,常译作“友谊地久天长”。
13. Piccadilly Circus /'pɪkə'dɪli'sɜ:kəs/ 皮卡迪利广场,位于伦敦市西部,戏院及娱乐中心,因著名的埃洛斯(Eros)铜像而闻名。
14. Trafalgar Square /trə'fælɡə skweə/ 特拉法加广场,位于伦敦市中心。

## **? Read and Think**

### **1. Decide if the following statements are true or false according to the information in the text.**

- (1) Christmas Day and Good Friday are holidays in England.
- (2) Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve in several European nations.
- (3) “Bank Holidays” are so called because they are holidays only for banks.
- (4) Boxing Day takes its name from the sport of boxing.
- (5) Today the ladies still parade in the parks, wearing new dresses and hats on Easter Monday.
- (6) Many people may not take the August Bank Holiday if they can manage to do it at another time.

er time.

- (7) In recent years, people want another Bank Holiday mid-way between August and Christmas, but it is not decided.
- (8) St. George's Day is a public holiday in England, for St. George is the Patron Saint of England.
- (9) People throughout the UK have the same number of days as holidays in a year.
- (10) New Year's Eve is a great occasion of parties and happiness for many people.



## Read and Complete

2. Match the following words in the left column with their definitions on the right.

- |                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) literally  | a. amusement park              |
| (2) funfair    | b. tradition                   |
| (3) public     | c. well-liked                  |
| (4) tradesman  | d. craftsman                   |
| (5) custom     | e. people in general           |
| (6) pleasant   | f. time                        |
| (7) Union Jack | g. word for word               |
| (8) occasion   | h. nice                        |
| (9) popular    | i. the national flag of the UK |
| (10) Hogmanay  | j. New Year's Eve in Scotland  |

3. Choose the best answers to complete the following sentences.

- (1) They were both very \_\_\_\_\_ and felt it was a gift from God.  
a. helpful                      b. pleasant                      c. religious                      d. continental
- (2) Mrs. Allen's style of cooking \_\_\_\_\_ much to her mother-in-law.  
a. causes                      b. brings                      c. owns                      d. owes
- (3) In England, the banks are closed on the days \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. specific                      b. specified                      c. followed                      d. celebrated
- (4) Boxing Day takes its name \_\_\_\_\_ the old custom of giving employees or tradesmen a present on that day every year.  
a. to                      b. from                      c. in                      d. by
- (5) A man of sixty is \_\_\_\_\_ as being in the prime of life.  
a. believed                      b. considered                      c. regarded                      d. supposed

- (6) I love to put on a bathing suit and \_\_\_\_\_ on the beach.  
a. walk                      b. crowd                      c. take                      d. advise
- (7) After I had the baby, I had the perfect \_\_\_\_\_ to stay at home.  
a. excellence              b. example                      c. excuse                      d. apology
- (8) New Year's Day is celebrated all over the world with \_\_\_\_\_ differences.  
a. local                      b. area                      c. place                      d. space
- (9) She was running down the stairs, her hair \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. flowing                      b. rising                      c. running                      d. waving
- (10) Keep your office space looking good, \_\_\_\_\_ your desk.  
a. unusually                      b. often                      c. famously                      d. particularly

**4. Read the following passage and fill in the blanks with the appropriate words.**

New Year's Day is a special day. It is (1) a birthday party for the new year. People feel happy and excited. They want to (2) this feeling with their families. Family members (3) together to welcome the new year. They (4) songs, eat special foods, and (5) the old year. They remember the happy (6) they have spent together. They look (7) to the good times that the family (8) have in the year to come. Family members wish one (9) a "Happy New Year."

The Chinese New Year is celebrated (10) mid-January and mid-February. It is the most important Chinese (11). It (12) for five days. Families are very busy before the festival. They prepare (13) for all visitors who will come to their homes (14) the festival. They clean their (15) and put up signs and decorations.



**Read and Translate**

**5. Complete the following sentences.**

- (1) In England, Christmas is celebrated on December 25, \_\_\_\_\_. (而不是像其他一些欧洲国家那样在圣诞前夜)
- (2) This work must be finished \_\_\_\_\_. (在规定的时间内)
- (3) If New Year's Day \_\_\_\_\_. (刚好是周末), the weekday which follows becomes a holiday.
- (4) This provides him \_\_\_\_\_. (买新衣服的借口)
- (5) On May Day and National Day, all the tourists spots \_\_\_\_\_. (都挤满了人) And you would be well advised to \_\_\_\_\_. (如果能行,你最好另选时间休

假)

(6) England has \_\_\_\_\_. (法定假日没有多数欧洲国家那么多)

(7) New Year's Day is celebrated throughout the world, \_\_\_\_\_. (但是也有地区差异)

(8) There has been a good deal of talk of this, but \_\_\_\_\_. (什么事都没有做)

(9) The Spring Festival \_\_\_\_\_. (是中国最重要的节日之一)

(10) It is strange that \_\_\_\_\_. (她圣诞节没有收到礼物)



## Read and Learn

### 6. Dictionary Study

The dictionary is very important for a person who is learning English. When students begin their study of a second language, they usually use a bilingual (or two-language) dictionary. For example, a student from China uses a English-Chinese dictionary. The use of a bilingual dictionary is necessary when students first begin to study another language. However, after some time, all students should try to use a monolingual (or one-language) dictionary.

#### A. ⇨ Entries and guide words ⇐

In an English dictionary, you will find a list of several thousand words. Each word in this list is called an *Entry*. All of the entries are in alphabetical order so that you can find an entry easily. In addition, dictionaries have another way to help you find an entry easily and quickly. At the top of every page, you will find two words. These two words are called *Guide Words*. These two guide words are the first and last entries on that page. Below you will find a list of page numbers and the guide words on those pages.

Read the entries in this exercise and decide which page contains the entries. Write the page number on the line.

page number	289	290	291	292	293	294
guide words	able-act	action-art	artist-back	bad-bought	bowl-carrot	carry-cold

- |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| (1) ____ after   | (6) ____ airport | (11) ____ coast  |
| (2) ____ blind   | (7) ____ absent  | (12) ____ baby   |
| (3) ____ aspirin | (8) ____ century | (13) ____ butter |
| (4) ____ climate | (9) ____ carry   | (14) ____ above  |

(5) \_\_\_\_ beef

(10) \_\_\_\_ bleed

(15) \_\_\_\_ age

## B. ⇨ Parts of speech ⇨

Each entry in the dictionary begins with the correct spelling of the word. After the spelling, you will find the pronunciation and *the Parts of Speech*. There are eight parts of speech in English. Most dictionaries use abbreviations for the parts of speech. A common system to indicate the parts of speech for an entry is:

noun ( n. )

pronoun ( pron. )

verb ( v. )

interjection ( interj. )

adjective ( adj. )

adverb ( adv. )

preposition ( prep. )

conjunction ( conj. )

In each sentence below, you will find an italicized word. Decide the parts of speech of these words and write their abbreviations on the line.

(1) \_\_ He called a *taxi*.

(9) \_\_ They ran *quickly* in order to catch the bus.

(2) \_\_ The test *was* very difficult.

(10) \_\_ We played *against* their team.

(3) \_\_ *Ouch!* That hurts!

(11) \_\_ I dislike *portable* televisions.

(4) \_\_ How many *watches* do you have?

(12) \_\_ I know *that* man.

(5) \_\_ Wow! I'm *tired*.

(13) \_\_ It was raining very *hard*.

(6) \_\_ I like the fish, *but* she doesn't.

(14) \_\_ What color did they *paint* your house?

(7) \_\_ Can you drink coffee, tea, *or* milk?

(15) \_\_ I couldn't believe the *mess* in the bedroom.

## C. ⇨ Syllables ⇨

When you pronounce the word "November," you will say it in three parts: No·vem·ber. Each part is called a *syllable*. Many words have only one syllable, but most words have more than one syllable. Most dictionaries indicate syllable division by a *dot* (class·room).

Here is a list of dictionary entries. Pronounce each word. Write the number of syllables on the first line. Divide the word into syllables and write it on the second line. Use a dot to indicate the syllables.

(1) entry

\_\_\_\_

(5) geology

\_\_\_\_

(2) understand

\_\_\_\_

(6) apple

\_\_\_\_

(3) again

\_\_\_\_

(7) heavy

\_\_\_\_

(4) Friday

\_\_\_\_

(8) caught

\_\_\_\_

- |                       |       |                 |       |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| (9) government        | _____ | (13) dictionary | _____ |
| (10) division         | _____ | (14) sickness   | _____ |
| (11) unpredictability | _____ | (15) each       | _____ |
| (12) telephone        | _____ |                 |       |

7. Read the passage and decide whether the following statements are true or false.

### *New Year's Resolutions*

Celebrating the New Year with parades, costumes, and parties is fun for everyone. For many people, New Year's Day is also a time for making decisions. People decide how they can make their new year better than the old one. The following story is about a girl who makes an important decision on New Year's Day.

### *Messy Allison Cleans Up*

It was the beginning of a brand-new year. Allison wanted to make a New Year's resolution. Her grandmother had told her that a New Year's resolution is a decision that people make at the beginning of the year. It can be a decision to try harder at something or to break a bad habit.

Allison thought to herself, "I have so many bad habits. I lose my mittens on the way to school, and sometimes I'm not as nice to my brother as I should be. But my worst habit is messiness. I guess that's why people call me Messy Allison."

Allison looked around her bedroom. Clothes were lying everywhere. Her stuffed animals were scattered across the floor. Socks and sweaters hung out of the dresser drawers. "What a mess!" she thought.

Allison decided to make her New Year's resolution. "I'm going to be neat for a whole year. No more Messy Allison. I'm going to remember to pick up my clothes and put away my toys."

Allison smiled happily. It felt good to make a New Year's resolution! But then she took another look at her messy room. Her bed was unmade. It was covered with books and toys. Over in the corner, the glass eyes of her stuffed elephant, Jojo, winked sadly.

"It's going to be awfully hard to keep my New Year's resolution for a whole year," Allison sighed. "Maybe I should just try to be neat for half a year. I can start right now by cleaning up this room."

Allison started picking up her stuffed animals and putting them back on the shelves where they belonged. "This is going to be a big job. Once this room is neat, it's going to be very hard

to keep it neat.”

Allison frowned and started to clear the books off her bed. “I don’t know if I can promise to be neat for half a year. Maybe I should try to be neat for just one day!”

Allison started to smile again. She hugged Jojo and told him, “Now, that’s a New Year’s resolution I know I can keep.”

costumes 服装

messy 不整洁的

brand-new 全新的, 崭新的

resolution 打算

mitten 手套

stuffed 填充的

dresser drawers 梳妆台的抽屉

neat 整洁的

unmade (床)没有整理或叠好

wink 眨眼

frown 皱眉头

hug 拥抱

- (1) Many people made decisions on New Year’s Day.
- (2) Allison did not want to make a New Year’s resolution.
- (3) Allison learned about New Year’s resolution from her grandfather.
- (4) Allison is a girl with many good habits.
- (5) Allison’s bedroom is a mess.
- (6) Allison first wanted to be neat for half a year and then for one year.
- (7) Allison’s books were scattered on the floor.
- (8) After making her decisions, Allison immediately started to clean up her room.
- (9) Allison found it difficult to keep her room clean and tidy for long.
- (10) Allison might not be able to get rid of her bad habits.

## Unit 2

## A Survey of Australia

Australia is as old as time.<sup>1</sup> Probably it was once connected to South America, but the continents separated as the earth's plates moved. Having been separated from other continents for millions of years, Australia has many plants and animals not found anywhere else in the world. One strange animal lays eggs, yet feeds its young on its milk. Kangaroos and koalas give birth to very small and weak young. They are then carried in a pocket of folded skin on the mother's stomach for several months while they feed on the mother's milk and grow stronger. Also in Australia there are many varieties of parrots, and over 140 different types of snakes, many of which are extremely dangerous.

Australia is the only country in the world, which covers an entire continent. From north to south the distance is 3,220 km and from east to west 3,860 km. In area it is about the same size as the USA (without Alaska), which has more than thirteen times as many people.<sup>2</sup> Today about 85% of the population live in the six major cities around the coast. Two thirds of the country is dry or desert.<sup>3</sup>

Australia is an extremely rich country. It produces metals, precious stones, coal, grain, meat and wines, and has the biggest iron mines in the world. Australia has about one sixth of the world's sheep and produces almost one third of its wool. Cattle are also kept, and about 15 million tons of wheat is grown every year. Fruit and vegetables are grown in areas where there is enough water.

A long fence runs for hundreds of kilometers across Australia. The purpose of the fence is to keep out a type of wild dog called "dingo". Dingoes hunt at night and like to attack sheep. Farms in the middle of Australia are so large that farmers use motorbikes or helicopters for the task of rounding up the sheep or cattle.<sup>4</sup>

The climate is different depending on the area. The south has cool, wet winters and warm, dry summers. The north has warm, dry winters and hot, wet summers. The center of Australia is hot and dry all the year round. Because of such a climate, much of daily life happens outdoors. Australians love sports and win world competitions in tennis, sailing and swimming. If you are asked to an Australian home, you will probably eat outside and cook meat or fish on an open fire.<sup>5</sup> At weekends many Australians go walking and camping in the countryside, called the "bush"<sup>6</sup>. For holidays, many people visit Great Barrier Reef<sup>7</sup> off the northeast coast of Australia, which has 700 islands.



## Words and Expressions

survey /'sə:veɪ/ *n.* 概观, 概况  
 connect /kə'nekt/ *v.* 连接  
 continent /'kɒntinənt/ *n.* 大陆; 陆地; 洲  
 separate /'sepəreɪt/ *v.* 分开, 隔离  
 plate /pleɪt/ *n.* (形成地壳的) 板块; 盘子; 碟子  
 lay /lei/ *v.* 产(卵); 放置  
 kangaroo /'kæŋgə'ru:/ *n.* 袋鼠  
 koala /kəu'ɑ:lə/ *n.* (产于澳大利亚的) 考拉, 树袋熊 (亦作: koala bear)  
 fold /fəʊld/ *v.* 折叠  
 stomach /'stʌmək/ *n.* 肚子; 腹部; 胃  
 variety /və'raɪəti/ *n.* 变化; 多变(性); 多样化

parrot /'pærət/ *n.* 鹦鹉  
 extremely /ɪk'stri:mli/ *adv.* 极端地, 非常地  
 precious /'preʃəs/ *adj.* 宝贵的, 贵重的  
 iron /'aɪən/ *n.* 铁  
 mine /maɪn/ *n.* 矿  
 dingo /'dɪŋɡəʊ/ *n.* 澳洲野狗  
 attack /ə'tæk/ *v.* 进攻, 攻击  
 motorbike /'məʊtəbaɪk/ *n.* 摩托车  
 helicopter /'helɪkɒptə/ *n.* 直升飞  
 depend /dɪ'pend/ *v.* 视...而定; 依靠  
 competition /'kɒmpɪ'tɪʃən/ *n.* 竞赛, 竞争  
 reef /ri:f/ *n.* 暗礁

## Notes

1. Australia is as old as time. 澳洲大陆历史悠久。句中“as old as time”意在强调其历史之悠久, 相似的说法还有: as old as Adam (极古老的)。
2. In area it is about the same size as the USA (without Alaska), which has more than thirteen times as many people. 它的面积与美国 (不含阿拉斯加) 国土面积相当, 但是美国的人口却是它的13倍多。英语中倍数常用“...times as many as ...”来表示。如: Petrol is twice as expensive as it was a few years ago. 石油价格是几年前的两倍。(或: 石油价格比前几年上涨了一倍。)
3. Two thirds of the country is dry or desert. 三分之二的国土为干旱地带或沙漠。作主语的名词词组由“分数(或百分数) + of词组”构成, 其动词形式依 of词组中的名词类别而定。如: Over sixty percent of the city was destroyed in the war. 这座城市超过百分之六十的市容毁于战争之中。Three fourths of the surface of the earth is sea. 地球表面的四分之三为海洋。
4. Farms in the middle of Australia are so large that farmers use motorbikes or helicopters for the task of rounding up the sheep or cattle. 澳大利亚中部的农场很大, 农场主们骑摩托车或动用直升飞机将羊群或牛群驱赶到一块儿。
5. If you are asked to an Australian home, you will probably eat outside and cook meat or fish on an open fire. 如果你应邀去澳大利亚人家中做客, 你可能会在室外用明火烹肉烧鱼, 露天就餐。“open”意为“露天的, 户外的”, 如: There is an open market in the village. 村里有一个露天市场。
6. bush 多指“矮树丛”, 在澳洲或非洲多指“未开垦的丛林地”。
7. Great Barrier Reef 大堡礁, 世界上最大的珊瑚礁, 长约2,011公里, 在澳大利亚东北沿海。