

技巧篇

英语阅读 步步高

实践与技巧

杨晓华 王晓红 马国友 编



西北工业大学出版社

英语阅读步步高

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《英语阅读步步高》是一套具有指导性的、循序渐进的阅读教材,适用于英语自学者及大中专学生,全书分技巧篇、提高篇、欣赏篇 3 册。本书是丛书的第一篇技巧篇,共分 10 个单元,系统地介绍了词、句、段的特点及学习方法,安排了一定的阅读技巧训练,将为您后续的英语学习打下坚实的基础,是提高阅读能力的必备教材。

英语阅读步步高,英才的必由之路。

英语阅读步步高

(实践与技巧)

杨晓华 王晓红 马国友 编

责任编辑 李 杰

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编者说明

《英语阅读步步高》(An English Reading Ladder)是一套具有指导性的、循序渐进的阅读教材,它是为英语专科和广大英语自学者精心编写的阅读教材,也可作为供职工大学、业余大学、电视大学英语阅读教材。

本书编写的目的是使学生通过大量的阅读实践,阅读技能的培养,词汇知识的拓展,通过精心编写的系列阅读训练,逐步提高阅读速度,阅读能力,培养学生英语语言的综合运用能力,以达到《普通高等学校英语专业教学大纲》对于专科毕业生的阅读能力要求。

本书在题材的选取,习题设置等方面紧紧围绕拓展词汇、提高速度、提高阅读理解能力这一主旨而组织、编排。基于多年的英语教学实践,结合我国英语阅读教学及学习的特点,本书在编写过程中遵循了以下几个原则:

1. 题材广泛,内容丰实。在编写过程中,我们选取了来自英美原著、多种英美语言教学期刊以及当代英美报刊中的各种材料,内容涉及语言、历史、政治、经济、文化艺术、地理、科技诸多方面。所选文章语言标准,难度适宜,内容健康,力求反映欧美社会的各个方面。

2. 由易向难,由浅入深,循序渐进。本书以高中毕业生及相应水平为起点,篇目由短渐长,文字难度逐渐加深,阅读速度逐渐加快,逐级而上,避免大幅度跳跃。

3. 词汇扩大,阅读技巧及阅读理解能力齐头并进。词汇量少是困扰广大英语学习者提高阅读速度,提高阅读理解力的难点。本

书重视扩大词汇量,介绍了多种词汇知识,并配有大量词汇习题。本书以词汇知识学习为开端,由词向句,由句向段,由段向文章,环环相扣,突出阅读技巧培训,重视提高综合能力。

4. 选材内容新颖,力求科学性,知识性及趣味性相结合。

本书共分三册。第一册共 10 个单元,系统介绍了词、句、段的特点及学习方法。第二、三册各有 12 个单元,每个单元 6 篇文章,各有 72 篇文章。每一篇文章后配有相应练习题,以便对学生进行检查、复习。

本书附有答案,供教师和学生参考使用。

在编写当中,我们得到了西安外国语学院外籍专家 Professor David Roner 的大力帮助,西安外国语学院图书馆王进同志为我们提供了大量珍贵资料。在此谨致谢意。由于我们经验不足,疏漏之处难免,恳请广大读者及外语界专家批评指正。

编者: 1998.5.30

西安外国语学院图书馆

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Unit One

I 阅读技能介绍

Introduction of Reading Skills

人们总是为了一定的目的而阅读的。虽然阅读的目的各种各样,但总的来说有以下两种情况:为消遣而阅读,如看小说,读剧本等;为获取信息而阅读,如读信件、通告、报纸、杂志、看论文、参考书和教科书,看说明书等。

那么怎样才能达到有效理解从而获取准确的信息呢?

阅读技能的训练是提高阅读理解能力的有效方法。阅读技能是指运用各种方法和手段,准确而流利地阅读各种语言材料的能力。本书所介绍和涉及的阅读技能主要有:

(1) 辨认、理解和推测单词及词组的含义;

(2) 理解句子的含义:包括句面意思,句子隐含的意思,句子在上下文中的含义及句子之间的关系;

(3) 理解段落的意思:包括段落大意、段落的要点和重要信息,段落内部的逻辑关系以及段落之间的关系;

(4) 掌握全文的中心思想和大意,以及用以说明中心思想和大意的事实、例证和论点;

(5) 了解作者的态度、意见、意图和感情等等,并且对文章作出判断和推论;(这些技巧将在二、三册阅读文章中的理解练习中体现出来)

(6) 迅速浏览全文,了解大意或找出特定的信息。

II Reading Passages

Passage 1

John Bird was being hailed as a spiderman hero last night.

John, a fireman, leaped from the roof of an apartment block to save a lovesick woman who had jumped out of her fifth-floor window.

It was the kind of action that normally belongs to the pages of the cartoon character. John, wearing a harness and line, actually caught 25-year-old Jenny Goodman before she hit the ground.

Jenny had been leaning out of the window for several hours threatening to jump. "My lover has left me," she shouted. "I'm alone with a small baby, and I've lost my job."

As a priest and policeman talked to her through loudhailers from the street, John and his colleague quietly made their way up the stairs of the six-storey building to the roof.

John put on his harness and attached it to a pillar. Then he leaned over a low wall to listen to the woman's threats.

After five hours of fruitless chatting with the priest and the police, the woman climbed out on to the window sill.

John was watching her every movement. Then she jumped to what would have been her death. The fireman jumped too.

Heavier than Jenny, he fell faster. By the time she was level with the 2nd Floor - and only 30ft from the ground - he grabbed

her. John said, "We were swinging in space. Luckily she was so surprised that she did not try to pull herself from grasp."

As the police raced to the roof, the other fireman hauled them up to safety.

Later Jenny said, "I must have been out of my mind."

Comprehension check

Identify the following statements according to the passage you have read. If true, write T. If false, write F.

T 1. John Bird's action belongs to the pages of the cartoon character.

T 2. Jenny had been leaning out of the window for five hours threatening to jump.

T 3. Jenny didn't want to live any longer because her lover had left her.

F 4. John paid little attention to Jenny's movement.

F 5. John quietly made their way up the stairs of the six-storey building to the roof by himself.

Passage 2

It is interesting to reflect how much we judge people by the clothes they wear. Long hair and patched blue jeans? A student, we say to ourselves instantly, and not living at home either, or he wouldn't be going about with those holes in his sweater. A graceful lady in a close-fitting dress, carefully cut nails and earrings? Must be a foreigner, we think, English women of that age don't dress so smartly, and she probably has money, too, those shoes weren't bought in a chain store. And that man walking a-

long the pavement over there? Well-tailored suit, hat just at the right angle—a businessman, of course, and undoubtedly English. Why English? Well, it's raining, isn't it? Only an Englishman would carry his treasured umbrella, still perfectly rolled, in the rain.

I once read of a journalist who went into an extremely expensive department store dressed in her shabby clothes. She was eyed with suspicion as she examined the goods on display. When she finally decided on a small purchase, she said she had forgotten to bring enough money with her and could she pay by cheque. The assistant politely told her that cheques were not accepted for goods of 2 or under. The next day she went back, dressed to kill, smelling of expensive perfume. She selected an even cheaper article, told the same story and her cheque was accepted without question. It only goes to show how easily we are impressed by clothes. I wonder if Stone Age Man selected his woman by the quality of the bearskin she was wearing?

Answer the following questions:

1. What is the main topic of the passage?

2. Why do we suppose the student in jeans is not living at home?

3. Why did the graceful lady appear to be rich?

4. Why did the shop assistant refuse to accept the journalist's cheque?

5. Why did the man roll his umbrella perfectly in the rain?

Passage 3

The world is not only hungry, it is also thirsty for water. This may seem strange to you, since nearly 75 percent of the earth's surface is covered with water. But about 97 per cent of this huge amount is seawater, or salt water. Man can only drink and use the other per cent—the fresh water that comes from rivers, lakes, under—ground and other sources. But unfortunately, some of it has been polluted and is unfit for drinking.

However, as things stand today, this small amount of fresh water is still enough for us. But our need for water is increasing rapidly—almost day by day. Only if we take steps to deal with this problem now can we avoid a severe worldwide water shortage later on. So we all have to learn how to stop wasting our precious water.

One of the first steps we should take is to develop ways of reusing water. Today in most large cities water is used only once and then discharged. But it is possible to pipe water that has been used to a purifying plant, and then it can be used again.

But even if every large city purified and reused its water, we still would not have enough, where could we turn next? To the oceans! That is certainly a possible solution. All we'd have to do is to remove the salt. This process is already in use in many parts of the world.

Reading Comprehension

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

- D 1. An appropriate title for the passage may be _____.
A. Problems of the Modern World
B. Ocean Resources
C. The Hungry World
D. A Thirsty World
- B 2. To avoid worldwide water shortage in the future, the author suggests in this passage that _____.
A. we invent ways of increasing rainfall
B. we develop ways of reusing water and utilizing seawater
C. we cut off our consumption of water
D. we reduce the number of factories requiring the use of large amount of water
- B 3. The author thinks that _____.
A. we should have enough water if every large city purified and reused its water
B. even if we could purify and reuse the water, the problem of water shortage might not be solved
C. most large cities in many parts of the world have succeeded in purifying and reusing their water
D. we have no other ways to solve the problem of water shortage except the purifying process
- C 4. The problem why we are not able to use all of earth's water can be best explained by _____.
A. only a small percentage of it is fit for drinking
B. some of it has been polluted
C. about 97 per cent of it is seawater
D. fresh water is still enough for us today