

欣赏篇

英语阅读 步步高

阅读与欣赏

马国友 王晓红 杨晓华 编



西北工业大学出版社

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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。本书是丛书的第三篇欣赏篇,共分 12 个单元,精选了 60 篇文章,使读者在欣赏的同时能不断地增长知识,提高自己的阅读能力。

英语阅读步步高,英才的必由之路。

英语阅读步步高

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马国友 王晓红 杨晓华 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

书重视增进词汇,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,共有 72 篇文章,第三册共有 12 单元,每单元 5 篇文章,共有 60 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 Roller 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,疏漏之处在所难免,恳请广大读者及外语界专家批评指正。

编 者

1998. 5. 30

Contents

Unit One

Passage 1	How Life Began	1
Passage 2	A Night on Moorland	3
Passage 3	Henry Ford and American Automobile World	8
Passage 4	Telephone and Communication	11
Passage 5	Money	13

Unit Two

Passage 1	The Car in the 21st Century	17
Passage 2	To Types of People	22
Passage 3	.....	25
Passage 4	Pressure; As Molecules Collide	27
Passage 5	Mary McLeod Bethune	30

Unit Three

Passage 1	.....	37
Passage 2	.....	40
Passage 3	.....	42
Passage 4	Reflecting on Light	45
Passage 5	Willa Cather	48

Unit Four

Passage 1	.....	56
Passage 2	.....	58
Passage 3	How Heat Is Transferred?	62
Passage 4	Facts about Dreams	66
Passage 5	Ernest Hemingway	72

Unit Five

Passage 1	Another Test: Bankruptcy	79
Passage 2	.....	82
Passage 3	The Danger of Drugs	85
Passage 4	The Question of Ethics	88
Passage 5	Thomas Jefferson	95

Unit Six

Passage 1	.....	106
Passage 2	.....	108
Passage 3	.....	110
Passage 4	Boy Dives of the Philippines	113
Passage 5	Mark Twain(Samuel Langhorne Clemens)	120

Unit Seven

Passage 1	.....	132
Passage 2	.....	135
Passage 3	Where There's Smoke, There's Fire	137

Passage 4	Helping Children When a Loved One Dies	...	140
Passage 5	Abraham Lincoln	.....	148

Unit Eight

Passage 1	The Atom	.....	158
Passage 2	Television	.....	161
Passage 3	Heat Pumps	.....	163
Passage 4	Cloning	.....	168
Passage 5	George Washington Carver	.....	174

Unit Nine

Passage 1	The Magic of a Magnet	.....	182
Passage 2		.....	186
Passage 3	Sunless World	.....	188
Passage 4	Your Risk of a Heart Attack	.....	193
Passage 5	Frank Lloyd Wright	.....	198

Unit Ten

Passage 1	Weather or Not	.....	205
Passage 2	UFOs	.....	209
Passage 3	The Brain	.....	211
Passage 4	Somebody May Be Watching You	.....	216
Passage 5	Thomas Alva Edison	.....	224

Unit Eleven

Passage 1	The Moon: A Nice Place to Visit?	.....	231
Passage 2	The Wonderful Books	.....	234

Passage 3	Electricity: The Force That Transformed The World	239
Passage 4	How a Ballpoint Pen Works	243
Passage 5	Elizabeth Blackwell	250

Unit Twelve

Passage 1	.....	259
Passage 2	The Grand Canyon	261
Passage 3	Tornadoes	264
Passage 4	Reading a Newspaper	267
Passage 5	Stephen Crane	274
Key to Exercises	.....	279

Unit One

Passage 1 How Life Began

To discover how life began archaeologists study fossils. Fossils are the remains or imprints of plants and animals of long ago that have been preserved in the earth's crust. The simplest forms of life appear in the lowest or oldest rocks. Although scientists can calculate that the earth is 4.6 billion years old, the oldest rocks that show any trace of life are less than 2 billion years old. Therefore, about 2.5 billion years had passed on the earth when life originated. Since the oldest forms of life were all sea life, many scientists believe life began in the sea.

We do not know exactly how, but in some miraculous way, the right kind of molecules happened to combine in the ocean or in clay to form a minute organism. All life has probably evolved from that single original cell, which may have been something like the bacteria of today. This one-celled organism ate, grew, responded to its surroundings, reproduced itself, and spread throughout the oceans.

Probably those first tiny organisms were not all alike. Some were better able to obtain food or adapt to colder waters. There stronger cells survived and their characteristics were passed on to the next generation.

since 1980.

A. deveopment B. decline

5. After the bombing, the city was rebuilt by those who survived.

A. vived B. died

6. It started to rain when the air was saturated with moisture..

A. filled B. cleaned

7. Galileo discovered the existence of Juppiter's moons.

A. presence B. disappearance

8. The camd is adapted to desert life and can go without water for long periods.

A. unsuited B. adjusted

9. A butterfly evolves from a caterpillar.

A. escapes B. develops

10. Einstein's theories have prevailed throughout the twentieth centry.

A. spreaded B. dominated

Passage 2 A Night on Moorland

As I stepped out of the train I felt unusually solitary since I was the only passenger to alight. I was accustomed to arriving in the summer, when holiday-makers throng coastal resorts, and this was my first visit when the season was over. My destination was a little village eight miles distant by the road, but only four if you took the cliff path over the moor. This I always did, unless it was raining; and I left my luggage at the bus office beside

the railway station, to be conveyed for me on the next bus, so that I could enjoy my walk unhampered by a suitcase.

It took me only a few minutes to come to the foot of the cliff path. Half-way up I paused to enjoy the sight of the purple hills stretching away to my right and to my left the open sea. When I reached the top I had left all signs of habitation behind me. The moorland turf was springy under my feet, the air was like wine and I felt rejuvenated and intoxicated with it. Glancing seaward a minute or two later, I was surprised to notice that the sky was already aflame with the sunset. The air grew perceptibly cooler and I began to look forward to the delectable hot meal I should have when I reached the inn. It seemed to be getting dark amazingly quickly. I did not think that I had walked unduly slowly and I was at a loss to account for the exceptionally early end of daylight, until I recollected that on previous visits I had walked in high summer and now it was October and the nights were drawing in.

All at once it was night. The track was grassy and even in daylight showed up hardly at all against the moor, so it was difficult to keep on it now. If only I had been a smoker with matches always to hand, or if my torch had been in my pocket instead of in the suitcase, I could have walked with more assurance. As it was, I was terrified of hurling over the edge of the cliff to the rocks below. When I did stray, however, it was towards the hills. I felt my feet squelching and sticking in something soggy. There was no bog to my knowledge near the track, so I must have wandered a long way off my course. I extricated myself with difficulty and very cautiously edged myself towards the

sound of the sea. Then I bumped into a little clump of trees that suddenly loomed up in front of me. This was providential rest and shelter until the moon rose. I climbed up the nearest trunk and managed to find a tolerably comfortable fork in which to sit. The waiting seemed interminable and was relieved only by my attempts to identify the little stirrings and noises of animal life that I could hear. I grew colder and colder and managed to sleep only in uneasy, fitful starts, waking when my position got cramped. At last, when the moon came up I discovered that I was not more than fifty yards from the track and I was soon on my way again.

I. **Comprehension**: Select the best of the four choices A, B, C, and D.

1. Why did the author feel unusually solitary? Because _____.
 - A. He was the only passenger on the train
 - B. he did not know any holiday-makers
 - C. he was the only visitor to the place then
 - D. It was his first visit to the place
2. "This I always did, unless it was raining." The author meant that _____.
 - A. he always visited the place alone at this time
 - B. he always left his luggage behind at the bus office
 - C. he always walked to the village by the road
 - D. he always took the cliff path over the moor
3. When he reached the top of the cliff he could no longer see _____.

- 0 A. the open sea C. the purple hills
 B. any trees D. any houses

0 4. He was at a loss to account for the exceptionally early end of day light because _____.

- A. it was getting dark amazingly quickly
B. he had walked much too slow
C. he did not notice the sunset
D. he forgot about the season

5. After dark it was difficult to keep on the track because _____.

- A. he did not have matches to hand
B. he had left his torch in his suitcase
C. it was grassy and hard to find at night
D. he was afraid of falling down the cliff

B 6. From the passage we learn that the author _____.

- A. was a complete stranger to the place
B. was quite familiar with the place
C. seldom travelled during the night
D. often visited the place at this time of year

I. **Vocabulary:** Complete the sentences, choosing a word or phrase from the list.

not more than bumped into previous grew
exceptionally assurance to my knowledge cautiously
paused intoxicated

1. Half-way up I paused to enjoy the sight of the purple hills.

2. The moorland air was like wine and I felt _____ with

- it. bumped into
3. The air _____ perceptibly cooler.
 4. I was at a loss to account for the exceptionally early end of daylight.
 5. I recollected that on previous visits I had walked in high summer.
 6. To my knowledge there was no bog near the track.
 7. I cautiously edged myself towards the sounds of the sea.
 8. With a torch, I could have walked with more assurance.
 9. I bumped into a little clump of trees that loomed up in front of me.
 10. I discovered that I was not more than fifty yards from the track.

II. Choose from the list the word or phrase closest in meaning to the underlined part of the sentence and write it in the blank.

- A. suddenly B. except when C. get off
 D. remember E. move forward slowly
 F. come in crowds G. at hand H. hit by chance

1. I was the only passenger to alight. C
2. Holiday-makers throng coastal resorts. F
3. I always took the cliff path unless it was raining. B
4. I recollected that on previous visits I had walked in high summer. D
5. All at once it was night. A
6. If only I had been a smoker with matches always to hand. G

7. I bumped into a little clump of trees. 41
8. I very cautiously edged myself towards the sound of the sea. 2

Passage 3 Henry Ford and American Automobile World

Detroit has some of the most beautiful residential neighborhoods in the USA and at the same time some of the most shocking slums. In downtown Detroit there are some fine skyscrapers and expensive restaurants and stores, and right on the edge of the downtown area, facing Canada across the busy Detroit River, is the waterfront, and its civic center, with parks and a concert hall, home of the renowned Detroit Symphony Orchestra. This concert hall, called the Ford Auditorium, is a reminder that Detroit owes its rapid growth and one-time prosperity to the automobile, and above all the Henry Ford. (100)

Henry Ford did not invent the automobile, but he was the first man to massproduce it, and thus make it available to the ordinary man. Many automobiles were being built by hand at the turn of the century and were much too expensive for all but the wealthy. In 1903 Henry Ford's first massproduced Model T cars cost \$ 850. By the early 1920s he was able to reduce the price to \$ 350. Between 1930 and 1927 Ford manufactured 15 million Model T Fords and earned a profit of \$ 70 million. In 1927 he produced his sedan Model A, which was much more comfortable than the open, windswept Model T. (209)

Henry Ford was himself a born mechanic and could build a