

(初中卷)

英语阅读演练

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主编 尹福昌

上海交通大学出版社



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前 言

在英语听、说、读、写、译各种语言技能的教学中,阅读理解能力培养占有极其重要的地位。国家教委颁布的、现行的全日制高级中学《英语教学大纲》明确指出:“在高中英语教学中,听、说、读、写要进行综合训练,在进一步提高听说能力的同时,侧重培养阅读能力。阅读是理解和吸收书面信息的能力,有助于扩大词汇量,丰富语言知识,了解英语国家的社会文化背景。要指导学生查阅词典、语法书等工具书,鼓励学生根据上下文猜测词义,使学生逐渐获得独立阅读的能力。因此,在教学中应尽可能加强听读训练,特别要注意增加泛读的训练。”

对于英语学习者来说,听、说、读、写、译五会能力中,读是最基本的要求。在一般人心目中,读似乎应比其他四会容易。掌握 2000~3000 个词汇,借助词典阅读较浅易的文章,确实比听电台的英文广播、用英文和别人交谈或通信要容易一些。但要真正流畅地阅读英文原著,没有庞大的词汇和广博的背景知识,或未曾经过大量的阅读训练,则很难实现。阅读报刊等一般性文章约需 5000~7000 个词汇,阅读文学作品则需要 10000 个或 10000 个以上词汇,涉及各种专业的题材,又须掌握一批特定的词汇,可见词汇是造成阅读困难的一大原因。目前中学里所学到的 3000 个左右词汇是远远不够的,因此我们有一个努力扩大词汇的任务。反之,熟练地掌握 2000 个甚至 3000 个词汇,我们就可以和英美人交谈和通信,如果有了 4000~5000 个词汇,我们就能大体上听懂英美电台的一般性节目,这岂不证明其他三会比阅读有容易的地方,词义变化多端,再加上西方人的行文习惯和幽默,往往使中国读者在许多地方理解失误,因此透过表面深入内涵亦是阅读理解的训练任务。

我国中学的英语教学有一种偏颇,即太注重精读而忽视了泛读。一篇课文慢咀细嚼,一学期还学不完一册书。如果仅限于此,中学毕业估

计总共念了4万字英文。因此有必要大量补充阅读,至少应读完10倍于课本的文字,也即40万字。英美学生或中国在英美的留学生,往往每天要完成老师布置的100页以上的阅读任务,如此大的量,不进行快速阅读怎么行。精泛读结合是刻不容缓的当务之急,凡有志于学好英文的人,应每天抽一定时间,那怕十分钟于阅读,聚涓成河,集腋成裘,不断提高自己的阅读速度,锻炼自己的理解能力。

阅读贵在聚精会神。有时虽逐字逐句读一篇文章,却因心不在焉而不知所云,这时还不如快速扫视,反而能略知其要;有时为了训练默不出声地快读,虽眼睛扫描着文字,脑中却未形成印象,这时宜暂且放慢速度,至少要稍微缓慢一点地读开首段落和每段的开首句,得其脉络后再开始扫描。读书应该是有目的的活动,即使是随手翻翻,也包含着一定的寻求。只有专心致志才能读得快、吸收得多。因此凝神贯注是快速有效阅读的精髓所在。

本书所选的阅读材料难度相当于中考英语试卷,所选文章的题材也是根据上述考试阅读理解部分的要求而确定的,有政治、经济、文化、教育、天文地理、交通运输、环境生态、文史哲学、科普、社会生活、人物传记及风土人情等方面的文章。其中以自然科学、文化教育、社会风俗、心理行为等方面的文章居多。很多题材都反映了当今社会各种新的社会现象和科技新发展,有助于读者开阔视野,扩大知识面,加深对世界的了解,借鉴和吸收外国优秀的文化精华,提高文化素养。总之,所选材料集知识性、趣味性、科学性、可读性于一体,也是进行素质教育的理想读物。

本书由尹福昌老师主编。参加本书编写的还有许曼华,肖颖,李强,陈明,王丽敏,张明华等。

由于编者水平有限,缺点在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

编者

2002年1月

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Part One

True or False. (判断下列句子是否符合上文内容,符合的用“T”表示,不符合的用“F”表示,填入空格内。)

Step One

(1)

Reading newspapers has become an important part of our life. Many people read them to begin their day. They learn what is going on in the world. Sometimes they do not have time to read the news, so they just take a quick look at the front page.

There are newspapers for every reader. In big cities there are many kinds of newspapers. In small towns there are fewer. In some places, people can read newspapers only once a week.

- () 1. For many people reading newspapers is the first thing to do in the morning.
- (T) 2. Newspapers help people know what is happening in the world.
- (F) 3. Important news is usually on the front page.
- () 4. The Chinese meaning for “reader” is “读者”.
- (F) 5. There are more kinds of newspapers in small towns than in big cities.

(2)

Bob and Jim once worked in the same factory. One day, Bob lent Jim ten dollars, but then Jim left his work and went to work in another town without giving back the money.

Bob didn't see Jim for a year. And at that time he knew from another friend that Jim was in another town and staying at a hotel. So he went there to see him late in the evening.

When he got to Jim's room, he saw his shoes near the door. “Well, he must be in,” he thought, and knocked at the door. There was no answer. He knocked again, and said, “I know you are in, Jim. Your shoes are out here.”

"I've gone out in my ^{boots}," answered Jim.

- (7) 1. Bob and Jim once worked in different factories.
78 2. One day Bob borrowed ten dollars from Jim.
78 3. Jim didn't give back the money to Bob and went to work in another town later.
(1) 4. It was a year before Bob learned that Jim was in another town.
(7) 5. Jim was not in the room.

(3)

Can we live without salt(盐)? No, salt is very important to us. We need salt in our food. Animals need it, too.

Most of the salt in our country comes from the sea. People dig great pools and let in the sea water. When the sun dries up the water, people can get salt from the ground. The salt is white, clean and beautiful.

There are a lot of salt wells(井) in Sichuan. A salt well is much like a water well. People bring the well water up to the ground and then dry it in big pans(锅) over fire. In this way they get salt.

We can also get salt from salt mines(矿). Some years ago, people in Jiangxi found a big salt mine and soon opened it. People there need no salt from other places now.

In the north of our country, there are many salt lakes. Some of these lakes are very big. The salt in big lakes can even meet the needs of our people for many years.

- () 1. We can't live without salt.
() 2. We get most of the salt from the sea water.
() 3. People in Sichuan get salt from salt mines.
() 4. People in Jiangxi need no salt in their food now.
() 5. There are some big salt lakes in our country.

(4)

An Englishman arrived at a small French town and was staying there with his wife. One night he went out for a walk alone. It was late and the small street was dark and lonely. Suddenly a Frenchman quickly walked past

him. Just then the Englishman found that his watch was lost. He thought that the Frenchman must have taken his watch. He decided to follow him and catch him.

Soon the Englishman found the Frenchman. He put his fist(拳头) in front of the Frenchman's face, pointed to his watch and shouted at him. They couldn't understand each other's language. So the Frenchman thought that the Englishman wanted to have his own watch and gave up his watch to him. The Englishman returned to his room and told his wife what had happened. His wife pointed to the table. He was surprised to see his watch on the table. Now he knew what he had done.

- () 1. One night the Englishman was walking in the street with the Frenchman.
- () 2. He didn't find his watch lost until a Frenchman passed him quickly.
- () 3. They knew each other's language.
- () 4. The Frenchman gave up his watch to the Englishman because he was afraid of him.
- () 5. The Englishman felt sorry for what he had done.

(5)

The building of the Bastille, according to history, was started in the year of 1370 under Charles V. By the seventeenth century, it was important for defence. Later Cardinal(红衣主教) Richelieu turned the Bastille into a prison. It was not an ordinary prison to punish common crimes(罪行). The prisoners there were only enemies of the French King.

Everything in the Bastille was secret. Prisoners were taken to it in closed carriages. Soldiers on duty had to stand with their faces to the wall. No talking was allowed. Worst of all, a prisoner never knew if he would be there a day, a week, a year, or forever. Only the King's letter could set him free.

Over the years the number of the prisoners put into the Bastille by the King's letter became fewer. By the time of its fall, most of the prisoners were writers who had written against the government. Voltaire, the famous

French writer, spent a year there in 1726. The day it was stormed(猛攻), people found only seven prisoners inside. However, the Bastille was hated by the people, because it was a symbol(象征) of the King's complete power.

- () 1. It took about two centuries for the Bastille to be completed.
- () 2. Only those who were against the French kingdom were sent there.
- () 3. Voltaire spent one year there, working as a writer.
- () 4. No one but the King had the right to set the prisoners there free.
- () 5. The Bastille was not an ordinary prison at all.

(6)

Once there was no zero(零). To write the number sixty-three, people wrote 6 3. To write six hundred and three, people wrote 6 3. The space was there to mean "not any" tens. Sometimes people did not remember the space. It was hard to see and to read.

Later people used a dot(点) to hold the space. Six hundred and three looked like this 6. 3. But the dot was hard to see. So people put a circle around it like this 6 ○ 3. Then people could see the dot. They remembered the space.

At last, only the circle around the dot was used. It was like a zero. This is one story of how the zero came to be used.

Now zero has many important uses. Zero tells how many. Can you tell some other ways zero is used?

- () 1. At first, zero was not used by people.
- () 2. The space between 6 and 3 was easy to see and to read.
- () 3. When people wrote eight hundred and nine, they would put a circle with a dot in it between 8 and 9.
- () 4. Zero came from the circle around the dot.
- () 5. Zero isn't useful in our life.

(7)

John was a very famous pianist. When he was a small boy, he once played at a party at the home of a rich man. He was only eight years old. But he had played the piano for several years. At the party, he played a

famous piece by Beethoven. He played wonderfully.

The famous piece has in it several very long rests. In each of these rests he took his hands from the piano and waited. To him this was very exciting. But it seemed that the mother of the rich man thought differently. Finally, during one of these rests she came over to him. She touched him on the head with a smile and said, "My boy, why don't you play us what you know well?"

- () 1. John once played the piano at a party when he was only a little child.
- () 2. John began to play the piano at the age of eight.
- () 3. In each of the rests John took his hands from the piano because he felt tired.
- () 4. The rich man's mother did not think John played the piece well.
- () 5. In fact, the mother of the rich man knew the piece very well.

(8)

Four friends were drinking in a village pub. Their jackets were hanging on the backs of their chairs. Suddenly one of them, Jack, shouted that he had lost five pounds. Fred said he was sure nobody there had stolen the money. Tom suggested they should all empty their pockets on the table. But the owner of the pub would not let them do that because money all looks the same. Nobody knew what to do. Just then, Jim, a traveler, stood up. He said he could help them find the money.

Jim said, "I've found out the cocks are good at catching thieves. Let's borrow the pub owner's cock." He put a big black pot upside down on the table. Then he put the cock under it. "After I turn off the lights," he said, "you must come up one by one and touch the bottom(底) of the pot with your right hand. When the thief does so, the cock will crow(啼)."

The others did not know whether they should believe him. One by one they went past the table in the dark, but the cock never made a noise. When the light went on, Jim asked everybody to show his right hand. He looked at each hand in turn and then said, "Fred, give the five pounds back to Jack."

“But the cock never crowed!” said Fred.

Jim told Fred to look at all the hands. “They’re all black with soot(煤烟) except yours. Can you explain why you didn’t dare touch the pot?” Fred’s face went white. He hung his head.

- () 1. All of them put their money on the table.
- () 2. All the men in the pub didn’t know what to do except Jim.
- () 3. Jim said the cock wouldn’t crow when the thief went past the table and touched the bottom of the pot in the dark.
- () 4. Fred didn’t dare touch the pot because he was afraid that the cock would find him out.
- () 5. The cock found the thief at last.

(9)

It was Sunday and we were sitting at the table when father suddenly smiled and said to us, “Oh, dear me. I forgot to tell you the good news. There’s a letter from Granny. She’s coming to see us this afternoon. I’m going to meet her at the station.” With these words he went out.

How happy we were! We hadn’t seen Granny for half a year and missed her very much. After lunch my mother and I went shopping. We bought a lot of food that Granny liked. My sister cleaned the house. It was four o’clock when we finished and we sat around the table, waiting for Granny. At last the door opened and in came my father, alone. “Where’s Granny?” we asked. Father laughed and said, “April Fool’s!” “Today is April 1st, April Fool’s Day(愚人节).”

- () 1. Father was happy, because he got a letter from Granny.
- () 2. Father went out to his office before he finished his lunch.
- () 3. Granny wanted to see us on April 1st, because that day was Sunday.
- () 4. My sister did some cleaning at home that day.
- () 5. Everyone may play a joke on April Fool’s Day.

(10)

American people like to say “Thank you” whenever others help them or

say something kind to them. People of many other countries do so, too. It is a very good habit.

You should say "Thank you" when someone passes you the salt on the table, when someone walking ahead of you keeps the door open for you, when someone says you have done your work well, or you have bought a nice thing, or your city is very beautiful.

"Thank you" is used not only between friends, but also between parents and children, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives.

"Excuse me" is another short sentence they use. When you hear someone say so behind you, you know that somebody wants to walk past you without touching you.

It's not polite to break others while they are talking. If you want to speak to one of them, say "Excuse me" first, and then begin talking. You should also do so when you want to cough or make any unpleasant(令人不愉快的) noise before others.

Let's all learn to say "Thank you" and "Excuse me".

- () 1. The American people like to say "Thank you" when they want to help others.
- () 2. When they hear others say that their city is very beautiful, they often say "No, not good".
- () 3. "Thank you" is said only between friends.
- () 4. When you want to cough before others, you should say "Excuse me" first.
- () 5. It is polite to say "Thank you" and "Excuse me" on proper(适当的) occasions(场合).

Step Two

(1)

Radio and television are very useful in the world today. They can be seen everywhere. Thousands and thousands of people watch TV. Perhaps even more people listen to the radio. TV is, of course, more useful than

radio. On TV you can see and hear what is happening in the world.

However, radio is not disappearing. It is still with us. And the number of listeners is becoming large. One reason for this is the invention of the transistor (半导体). It can be made very small. It is very easy to carry. You can put one in your pocket and listen to it in the bus or on your bike when you go to work. Besides, radio is better for blind (盲人) people. When people are working, they can't watch TV but can listen to music or news over the radio. Radio is much cheaper than TV.

- () 1. Radio and television are necessary in our everyday life.
- () 2. More people listen to radio than people watch TV.
- () 3. The number of radio and TV sets is getting larger and larger.
- () 4. Radios are better for blind people because they can see news over the radio.
- () 5. TV is much more expensive than radio.

(2)

One day, a businessman was going to another town to sell his goods. He decided to take ten servants (佣人) with him. They would carry his goods, and also some food to eat on the way. He said to one of the servants, "You are the smallest and shortest one. You may carry the lightest load."

The servant thanked him but took the biggest load. This was the bread to eat on the way. The man said, "You are foolish. That is the heaviest load." But the servant took up the load happily, and so they set off.

After four hours they stopped for a rest. They all ate some of the bread. Then there was less bread for the servant to carry. Every time they ate some bread, the load became smaller and lighter. At the end of the trip, the servant had nothing to carry, and all the other servants still had a lot of things to carry.

- () 1. The businessman was rich and lived out of town.
- () 2. One day the businessman went to sell and buy some goods.
- () 3. The businessman wanted the shortest servant to carry the lightest load, but he chose the heaviest one.