

编著 麦本道

# 高级英语

## 阅读训练教程

*Dr. Douglas Milburn*

**An  
Advanced  
Reader  
for  
English  
Students**



新世界出版社

# 高级英语阅读训练教程

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[美国] 麦本道

(*Dr. Douglas Milburn*)

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## 编 者 的 话

《高级英语阅读训练教程》的编者麦本道博士，曾先后在美国莱茨大学、休斯顿大学、南得克萨斯大学任教多年，具有丰富的英语教学经验。这部书是麦本道博士经过调查研究，专门为学习英语的中国学生编著的。它的针对性和实用性很强，明显地不同于以往出版的同类书籍。这部书特别适用于大学二年级以上程度的学生迅速提高阅读能力，从而全面提高英语水平；对准备报考托福的学生也大有裨益。

许多非英语国家学生学习英语多年，成绩也很好，但他们初到美国往往发现听和读仍有困难，其原因主要是他们掌握的英语和当前美国人实际生活中使用的语言有一定的距离。语言文字作为文化的载体，是和这个国家（或民族）人民的社会生活和活动密切相连的。麦本道博士充分认识到这个问题的重要，故本书三十篇阅读材料大多选自全美发行量最大，最有影响的报刊之一《纽约时报》。从“语言的起源”、“英式与美式足球”、“中草药治病”到“宇宙飞船”，内容广泛，词汇丰富，使学生不仅能够学到活的语言，也能增加对当今美国社会和文化的了解和认识。这三十篇阅读材料都是经过麦本道博士精心挑选的，在一定程度上代表着美国报刊时文的精粹。

麦本道博士确信兴趣是刺激学习欲望的关键。在编写此书时，他一方面尽量选取文体活泼、内容生动、语言精练的文章，同时在每课课文之后精心设计了各式各样的趣味练习，如理解练习、词语搜索、填空拚字等等，使整个学习过程成为一次趣味盎然的经历。

本书深入浅出，难度适宜，是一部难得的自学教材，相信会对读者提高英语水平有所帮助。

# INTRODUCTION

Sometimes my students ask me, “How can I become fluent in English when I have no Americans to talk to?”

I make a joke and say, “Oh, that’s no problem. There are three good ways to learn English really well. The very best way is to marry an American.” My students laugh, because they know I’m not serious, although it is true. If you marry an American, your English will improve very rapidly!

Then I say, “The second best way is to get sick and become a patient in an American hospital for six months.” They laugh again.

I become serious and say, “Obviously both of those ideas are not reasonable, so what can you do? The answer, actually, is simple. In one word: read. Read, read, read, aloud and silently. Your dictionary should become your best American friend.”

What you choose to read is important. After you have mastered the rules of English grammar and spelling, “textbook” English is no longer useful to you. This book contains a series of up-to-date articles on a wide range of subjects of the kind which educated Americans read. These articles will provide much practice in grammar and should also expand your vocabulary considerably. They even contain new words which may not be in your dictionary. You will find a glossary at the end of the book with definitions of these new words.

There is an old English saying: “All work and no play makes a person dull.” When I teach English, I try to keep that saying in mind, because I believe that boredom is the enemy of fast, effective language-learning. In choosing the articles for this book, I looked for fascinating stories on many different subjects to avoid boredom.

Even reading interesting stories can become boring. Keeping in mind yet another old saying, “Variety is the spice of life,” I have included a series of unusual language exercises after each reading selection. These will encourage you to practice your English perhaps in some new and important ways. These exercises are the “spice” of the book, just as we add spices to food to make the taste more interesting. After all, variety is also the spice of language-learning.

## HOW TO DO THE PUZZLES

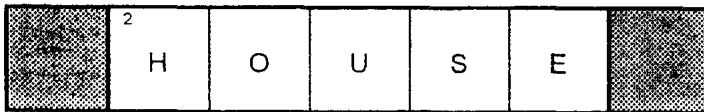
### Crossword Puzzles

The words go in two directions: across, and down. The “across” words read from left to right. The “down” words read from top to bottom.

You have two sets of clues, one for the words that go across, and one for the words that go down. The number of the clue gives you the number of the square where the word starts.

Write only one letter in each square.

Example: In the Across list of clues, you read: “2. Where people live.” First, you try to think of a word meaning “where people live.” You think maybe the word is “city” because people live in a city. You look in square number 2, and you write “C,” then in the next square across you write “I,” then “T,” then “Y.” Uh-oh. There is one more empty square, so “city” is not the right word. You need a word with *five* letters meaning “where people live.” You think some more and then you say, “House!” and you write “house” in the five squares.



A few abbreviations are used in the crossword puzzle clues:

abbrev. = abbreviation.

adj. = adjective.

opp. = opposite.

plur. = plural.

s.o. = someone.

s.t. = something.

sym. = symbol.

### Wordsearch Puzzles

The words go in various directions: across, down, and diagonally. Also, the words may go either backward or forward in any of those directions.

Example: You are trying to find the word “cat.” It may be written as “C A T,” but you may find it written backward as “T A C.”

### Word Fill-in Puzzles

The words go across (left to right) or down (top to bottom).

After you place all the words, you will find some of your letters are circled. You must then unscramble those letters to answer a question below the puzzle.

Example: After you place the words, you find you have these letters circled: U E B L. The question at the bottom of the puzzle says:

The American flag has three colors:

red, white, and \_\_\_\_ \_ .

You unscramble your four letters and write the word “blue” in the blanks.

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# LESSON 1

## Which American Dictionary Should You Buy?

*By Joyce M. Stewart*

Choosing the right dictionary can be as bewildering as choosing the right computer. Dictionaries today offer about as many features, which may not always be useful to you, like biographical or geographical lists. And as with computers, you can't always get a complete idea of a dictionary's usefulness until after you have worked with it awhile — when it's too late to return it.

"We send people to a variety of library sources for dictionary reviews," said Merle Jacob, adult materials selection specialist for the Chicago Public Library. She said the sources include Book List, a periodical for book buyers; an American Library Association pamphlet titled "Dictionaries for Adults and Children," and "Kister's Best Dictionaries for Adults and Young People" (Oryx Press).

It's a good idea to give several dictionaries a trial run by looking up test words and comparing the entries of each. For instance, you may want to include recently coined words like "spin doctor," "wonk" or "infomercial." In addition, try words whose current meanings or usage has changed from the original ("gay" or "hacker"). Your list should also contain commonly used technical terms ("epicenter," "psychosexual," "endorphin") and a few simple words ("peach," "carburetor") to test a dictionary's ability to explain and illustrate physical attributes.

Also check the copyright date. Even if a dictionary is fairly recent, re-copyrighting doesn't always involve much revision.

As you study a dictionary, use the following checklist:

- Are the pronunciation symbols and stress marks clear? "Most people have a terrible time deciphering the phonetic symbols that dictionaries use," said Kenneth Kister, author of "Kister's Best Dictionaries for Adults and Young People." "Some dictionaries run a simplified pronunciation key along the bottom of every other page, for easy reference."

- Are definitions precise, unbiased, complete? For instance, modern dictionaries evenhandedly define "homosexual" as "characterized by sexual desire for those of the same sex as oneself," whereas earlier versions contained mentions of "abnormality" or omitted the word completely.

- Are definitions prescriptive or descriptive? Prescriptive definitions tell you how a word should be used, while descriptive definitions explain how a word is used currently, regardless of its "correctness." For example, a prescriptive dictionary would probably not even include "irregardless" as a word, but a descriptive dictionary would describe its common usage, right or wrong.

- Are connotative or figurative meanings for a word explored as well as its denotative, or

explicit, uses? For example, most people know what an “envelope” is, but the new figurative use of the word, as in “pushing the envelope,” may not be immediately clear.

• Does the entry provide accurate synonyms and antonyms? It is helpful to get a clear idea of how synonyms are different from but similar to the defined word.

For use in a typical household, the abridged version of a well-known dictionary will be adequate. Unabridged versions are updated much less often than the abridged dictionary from the same publisher.

The best-selling college, or desktop, dictionaries, according to Abe Fiss, trade buyer-manager at Barnes & Noble book stores, are Merriam-Webster’s Ninth New Collegiate, Random House, World Book, Simon & Schuster’s Webster’s New World, Houghton Mifflin’s American Heritage, and the Compact Edition of the Oxford English (Oxford University Press). (The name “Webster” is not copyrighted; it is used by both the best and the worst dictionary publishers.)

Here are some features of the best sellers:

Merriam-Webster’s: The 10th Collegiate Dictionary is to be published in May. Calls itself the most descriptive of dictionaries, defining words by their current usage rather than just by their original definitions.

Random House: Balances prescriptive and descriptive definitions. Is known for its illustrative examples.

World Book: Strong on illustrative examples to show the figurative meaning of words. Uses real quotations in addition to staff-written phrases to show word usage.

Simon & Schuster’s Webster’s New World: Balances prescriptive and descriptive definitions. Good pictorial illustrations. Generally up to date, but definitions aren’t as detailed as those in other dictionaries.

Houghton Mifflin’s American Heritage: The most prescriptive of the best sellers. Lists multiple definitions in descending order of common usage.

Compact Edition of the Oxford English: Widely considered the ultimate in unabridged dictionaries. British usage is considered standard. Fewer usage notes than in most American dictionaries and a more precise but more complicated phonetic pronunciation system.

— *The New York Times*

**True-False. Give the line number where you find the answer.**

1. The chief similarity between computers and dictionaries lies in their profusion of extra features.

2. We can infer that dictionary publishers have to struggle to keep up with changes in the language.

3. The copyright date is a reliable guide to a dictionary’s timeliness.

4. One expert thinks a good dictionary should have a brief pronunciation guide on each page.

5. We can infer that all dictionaries are culturally biased.

6. We can infer that the author of this story thinks the best dictionaries are descriptive.

7 7. One test of a dictionary's functionality is its handling of idioms.

8 8. Unabridged dictionaries are the best source of information about the latest changes in the language.

9 9. The word "Webster" in a dictionary's title is a valuable guide to the quality of the dictionary.

10 10. The author attempts to be evenhanded in her brief descriptions of the six most popular unabridged dictionaries.

### **Vocabulary. Write a form of the best word or expression in each blank.**

bewildering, variety, periodical, coin, gay, hacker, revision, decipher, unbiased, push the envelope

1. In every language, people are always \_\_\_\_\_ new words.
2. Some codes are easy to \_\_\_\_\_, but others require days or weeks of work.
3. The first impression of a new country may be \_\_\_\_\_ or even frightening.
4. A truly \_\_\_\_\_ person accepts other people as they are, without judgment.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ people still do not have full legal equality in many societies.
6. No one understands why, but \_\_\_\_\_ tend to be male and adolescent.
7. The exploration of space \_\_\_\_\_ in many areas of science and engineering.
8. One of the great things about American supermarkets is the \_\_\_\_\_ of food sold.
9. Formal writing always requires careful \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Newspapers are not considered \_\_\_\_\_ because they're published daily.

### **How Good Is Your Dictionary?**

Any dictionary can help you learn English. But some dictionaries are much better than others. When you enter a university, you will need a *good* dictionary. Here is a little test that you can use to see if your dictionary is good enough to use in a university. Any American dictionary will contain the answers to *all* these questions. If your dictionary does not have many answers, you should probably visit a bookstore very soon!

New words enter English frequently. Here are some new words from the last 10 years or so. They should all be in your dictionary.

1. to boot a computer:
2. EU:
3. hacker:
4. homophobe:
5. Internet:
6. multimedia:
7. quasar:

8. RV:
9. Slovakia:
10. to chill out:
11. to skydive:
12. virtual reality:

Because English has taken words from so many languages, English has many synonyms. They are often very close in meaning but not exactly the same. See how your dictionary distinguishes between the following pairs of synonyms.

13. primitive — savage.
14. to make up an exam — to re-take an exam.
15. crowd — mob.
16. knob — handle.
17. The rain has stopped — The rain has let up.
18. tie — cravat.
19. queasy — nauseated.
20. spaceship — space shuttle.
21. maid — servant.
22. a dozen — a baker's dozen.

The following words have different meanings in British and American English. What does your dictionary give as the meaning of these words?

23. pavement:
24. torch:
25. bumper:
26. hood:
27. garden:
28. braces:
29. billion:

There are differences in spelling and pronunciation between British and American English. Does your dictionary tell you how to spell and pronounce these words in American English?

30. British = colour. American spelling:
31. British = theatre. American spelling:
32. British = aluminium. American spelling:
33. British = laboratory (accent on 2nd syllable). American pronunciation:
34. British = surprise. American spelling:
35. British = catalogue. American spelling:

Perfect Score = 35.

Your Dictionary = \_\_\_\_\_.

### Word Search



Here are the words you just used in sentences. They are all hidden above. How many can you find?

BEWILDERING

COIN

DECIPHER

ENVELOPE

GAY

HACKER

PERIODICAL

PUSH

REVISION

THE

UNBIASED

VARIETY

## LESSON 2

# Acura Legend Coupe LS Blends Luxury & Power

It must be frustrating for Acura engineers to work at improving the design of a Legend. These are among that elite group of luxury cars so flawless that you have to work at it to find fault. Some of these are so good they're boring, but boring wasn't the case with Legend's flagship '93 Coupe.

It's a charismatic two-door personal luxury car with a dual mission — to provide comfort and performance.

This isn't just another sluggish luxury car with a spongy suspension and a column-mounted automatic. The test-car was the top-line LS edition fitted with a sport-calibrated suspension, new six-speed manual shifter and the most powerful engine ever slipped into a Coupe. The front-drive Coupe's longitudinally mounted 3.2-liter, 24-valve V-6 engine delivers 230 horsepower, trouncing the '92 Coupe by 30 horses. This boost in horsepower comes without an increase in displacement, weight or add-on devices. Refining the engine via exhaust and intake efficiency was the only trick engineers used.

Adding to the Coupe's performance package is a front/rear double-wishbone suspension that provides both a luxury ride and performance handling. Bumps, potholes and other road irregularities are absorbed by the Legend's suspension system. Since a smooth ride typically comes at the expense of handling capabilities, the test-car's agility in cornering maneuvers was impressive.

A high-tech traction control system, standard on the LS, is designed to improve the Coupe's stability. This traction control uses the anti-lock braking system's wheel-speed sensors to measure the rotational speed of all wheels. In slippery conditions — or on split-friction (rough and smooth) surfaces — when front-wheel speed exceeds the rear wheels, traction control shuts down engine power to enhance traction.

Legend's double-duty wheel-speed sensors also work with the ABS system to detect impending lock-up caused by hard braking. When this situation occurs, the sensors message a control unit that modulates brake-line pressure. This permits regulated wheel rotation, allowing the driver to maintain control.

Adding to the Coupe's safety package are three-point seat belts that automatically tension on impact. These belts are supplemented by dual air bags.

Along with having an air bag packed in its hub, the test-Coupe's leather-wrapped, telescopic steering wheel incorporated an innovative convenience feature. At the wheel's left is a simple, compact audio control that allows the driver to easily adjust the music system's volume and change stations. This redundant control allows the driver to manipulate the melodies of the eight-speaker Acura/Bose Premium Music System without taking his eyes off the road.



While this top-flight music system is standard on the LS, electronic goodies such as a six-disc CD changer and hands-free cellular phone are available as dealer-installed options.

At a base price of \$38,550 for the Coupe LS with manual transmission (\$39,350 with four-speed automatic), interior luxuries listed as options for "normal" cars are standard. Leather interior, knurled walnut trim on the center console and power window controls, and power sliding moonroof come with the base LS price tag.

The driver's seat is eight-way adjustable with lumbar support and seat-position memory. The passenger's seat has four-way power, and both seats are heated. Access and egress are improved for '93 with a power passenger seat-slide system.

Up front, headroom and legroom are excellent. In the rear, headroom is sufficient, but legroom is tight for adults when the front seats are scooted all the way back.

An interior highlight is the Coupe's well-sculpted dashboard. Planted within it are superb analog instruments that are big and easy to read.

Also making life within the cabin good for '93 is what you can't see or feel. Reduced levels of noise, vibration and harshness make a car already known for its tranquil environment even more civilized.

Legend's Coupe LS is a well-balanced personal-luxury car that cocoons the driver in an environment that provides the choice of forgetting about the road or, when the mood strikes, intimately communicating with it.

**True-False. Give the line number where you find the answer.**

- \_\_\_ 1. The writer believes that the Legend is so good that it is boring.
- \_\_\_ 2. It is not possible to buy a more expensive Legend coupe than this model.
- \_\_\_ 3. The power increase this year came from the addition of a turbo-charger.
- \_\_\_ 4. We can infer that this car would be safer than many other cars to drive on icy roads.
- \_\_\_ 5. When stopping, it is virtually impossible to cause this car to skid.
- \_\_\_ 6. Only the driver is protected by an air bag.
- \_\_\_ 7. The steering wheel is not adjustable.
- \_\_\_ 8. It is possible to speak without holding the phone, if you have the optional cellular phone installed.
- \_\_\_ 9. If you want leather seats, you will pay more.
- \_\_\_ 10. Michael Jordan would probably be uncomfortable in the back seat.

**Vocabulary. Write a form of the best word or expression in each blank.**

elite, charismatic, sluggish, boost, to refine, pothole, typically, agility, slippery, enhance, impending, incorporate, redundant, adjustable, access, analog, tranquil, when the mood strikes

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_, coastal cities in the south are humid year-round.
- 2. TOEFL usually has a question about \_\_\_\_\_ words in a sentence.