

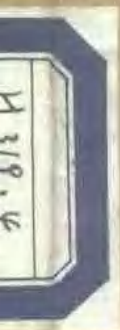
**ENGLISH READING
COURSE**

for Speed and
Comprehension

BOOK ONE

英语阅读教程

第一册



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ENGLISH READING COURSE

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刘希彦编写

高云翔审校



吉林大学出版社

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前 言

阅读(Reading),包括快速阅读(Fast Reading),阅读理解(Reading Comprehension),在英美各地很早就受到重视,不仅中学和高等院校开设阅读课程,还设有专门机构对阅读技巧和阅读教材进行研究。我国教授英语虽有较长的历史,并积累了丰富的经验,但是对英语阅读能力,尤其是对快速阅读能力训练的重视还是在最近几年才开始的。

在这个知识激增的信息时代,每天都有大量新的科技文献、文史资料、报刊、书籍源源不断地出版。若想在知识的海洋中更多地获取所需要的信息,读者必须具有快速阅读能力和高度理解能力。为此,阅读课已经成为我国大专院校英语专业学生的基础课,也是非英语专业学生提高阅读速度,增强理解能力,扩大词汇量,增加文化背景知识的重要途径。

近几年来,我国选派了大批本科生、研究生及进修生赴某些讲英语的国家留学深造,他们大都必须通过某种形式的英语考试。在这些考试中,无论是TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), GRE (Graduate Record Examination),还是EPT (English Proficiency Test),词汇和阅读理解试题都占有相当大的比例。目前,在国内各类英语考试中,如高等院校和研究生入学英语考试,阅读理解都是不可缺少的内容。

现代的阅读就是要求读者在精神高度集中的情况下,用有效的手段,以最快的速度,通读有关的文章,获取所需要的全部信息。考试时,要求考生在限定的时间内快速读完阅读试题,全面理解,并对供选择的答案作出正确判断。实质上,阅读理解是对读者的英语词汇,语法,文化背景知识及分析问题能力等进行的综合测试。

为适应大专院校英语教学和英语爱好者自学的需要,为培养读者对各种英语测试手段的应试能力,我们编写了这套《英语阅读教程》(English Reading Course)。本书所选篇章均为英语原文材料,题材多样,内容广泛,语言地道生动,程度由浅入深,颇具知识性、科学性,趣味性。

本书可作为大学英语专业泛读教材,也可以作为文、理、工、医、师、农等科学学生的英语阅读教材,还可供各类中、高级英语培训班及有一定英语基础的人使用。本书曾在吉林大学外文系英语专业作为泛读教材,也曾先后在六期中、高级英语培训班中作为阅读理解教材使用,都收到良好效果。

本书,每册分为三十六个单元。每个单元由课文 (Passage for Comprehension),生词和习语(Words and Expressions),理解练习(Comprehension),词汇练习(Vocabulary),快速阅读练习(Fast Reading Practice)五部分组成。课文长度约为1,000—1,300个单词。生词量约为4%—5% (包括那些词性不同,意思不同,而词形相同的词的反复出现和个别生僻单词的重复出现)。为了方便读者,我们对每个生词都同时用英、中、中文注释。每篇课文配有理解练习十个,词汇练习十个,练习均为多种选择式。快

长度约为150—250个单词，生词量不超过3%，并配有多种选择练习。

对书中各项练习均提供答案，供读者参考。

本书一、二册由刘希彦同志编写，由高云翔同志审校。参加一、二册编写工作的还有王琳同志。

由于我们水平有限，加之时间仓促，书中难免有不当和错漏之处，望读者批评指正。

编 者

一九八五年十月

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Unit 1

PASSAGE FOR COMPREHENSION

Never Trust Appearance

Starting Time: Minutes _____ Seconds _____

Rush hour in a provincial town is certainly not so busy as in London, but even so there are plenty of people moving about. Long, patient queues wait wearily for buses. Never-ending lines of cars are checked while red traffic lights change to green. Thousands of people are packed tightly in trains, the men's faces buried in their evening papers while women try in vain to knit. In a slow train it may well be an hour's journey to their station.

James Saxon is in his usual comfortable corner, quietly smoking a cigarette. When he is travelling by train at this time, he always reaches the station at ten past five by the station clock, but he never catches the 5:14 train. Instead he travels by the train which leaves at twenty-four minutes past five so as to be sure of getting his corner seat. There are no first-class compartments or reserved seats on this train. He appears to be absorbed in the sports news on the back page of his paper and ignores the hurrying crowds.

Facing him this evening there is a Finnish youth of eighteen, Matti Arpola. This is his first visit to England, though he already knows Geoffrey, the eldest son of the Jackson family, with whom he is going to stay.

As there are several people standing, James Saxon is the only person he can see clearly. Matti decides that he is probably a typical Englishman, and he observes James carefully.

'Can he really be typical?' he thinks. 'He has an umbrella, neatly rolled, but no bowler hat; in fact, no hat at all. Of course, he is reading about cricket and he is reserved and not interested in other people. But he is only of average height and his hair is not fair, but as dark as that of an Italian, and curly, with almost no parting. He is not smoking a pipe, and although we foreigners think that a real Englishman ought to have a moustache, he is clean-shaven. His nose is slightly crooked. What a serious face he has! He is frowning a little, but the eyes beneath his worried-looking forehead are sincere and honest. I don't think he is intelligent.'

'His clothes are anything but smart. In fact, they are rather old, th-

brushed. Even though he is not wearing a wedding ring, he is probably married, with perhaps three children. His gloves are fur-lined and his trousers well pressed. He keeps far too many things in his pockets, so his suit looks badly out of shape. What dull, old-fashioned leather shoes he is wearing! His briefcase is old too and bulging, so that the zip-fastener does not close properly. There are the initials J. S. on it. Is his name John Smith?

‘I think he is probably an office clerk or a shop assistant. Does he look like a teacher, though? Anyhow, he lives with a plain wife and five children in a small worker’s house with a tiny garden, where he spends his leisure time digging and weeding and mowing the lawn, or painting the tool-shed. But to-night, first he is helping his wife to put the children to bed and then he is taking her to the cinema as this is pay-day. Or is he visiting the local pub? Does he drink whisky (I believe most Englishmen do) or does he prefer beer? I am sure he very much likes a cup of tea. He seems quite energetic, but his complexion is pale and he is very thin. Does he find it difficult to satisfy the needs of his miserable wife and seven unfortunate children? Poor fellow! I am sorry for him.’

At last, shortly after a quarter past six by Matti’s watch, the train reaches Lakewell Junction, and Matti immediately sees Geoffrey waiting for him. They greet each other. At first Matti cannot find his ticket, but it is discovered in his bulging coat pocket. He gives it up to the ticket-collector and the two boys go off to find Geoffrey’s father’s car. Near it there stands another car, a magnificent Rolls-Royce, and a handsome, uniformed chauffeur is holding the door open while James Saxon steps in.

‘Who is that?’ Matti asks. ‘Why is he getting into that car? Where does he live? He looks like a poorly-paid clerk or a workman.’

Geoffrey laughs loudly as if this is a good joke.

‘That is Sir James Saxon,’ he replies. ‘He has a fortune of around two million pounds, and controls forty-two factories in this area alone. He is a bachelor who lives in a fourth-storey luxury flat, so, if he feels like it, he can go off to the Riviera for a month or two. Next week he is flying to Japan on business in his private aeroplane, though people say he very much prefers travelling by train. He is said to have twenty-one suits, but he is always seen in the same old one. By the way, I remember now. His father and mother are both Finns: perhaps that is why he takes no interest in cricket. His real name is Jussi Saksalainen, but he is now a naturalised British subject with an English name. He doesn’t look at all Finnish.’

‘Here’s your other case. Put it down a minute while I unlock the car. Do you garden? If so, you can help me, digging, weeding and mowing the lawn. I’m painting the tool-shed to-morrow. You don’t know how to play

cricket yet, but I'm taking you to a match on Saturday. Can you speak English any better now? You can soon lose that Finnish reserve. Come along! Let's get going! I'm hungry and hot.'

Matti remembers sadly all that his school-teachers say about his over-active and unreliable imagination. Perhaps they are right after all.

Finishing Time: Minutes _____ Seconds _____

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

1. trust *v. t. & i.* have strong belief in 信赖, 相信
2. rush hour *phr.* when crowds of people are travelling to or from work in a large town 大城市上下班时的拥挤时刻
3. queue *n.* line of people waiting for their turn 一行等待的人; 长龙 *Queue*
4. weary *adj.* tired 疲倦的; 令人厌烦的
wearily adv. 疲倦地
5. check *v. t. & i.* hold back 阻止; 阻挡
6. pack *v. t. & i.* crush or crowd together 拥挤; 挤
7. in vain *phr.* without the desired result 无效的; 无结果的; 徒然的
8. knit *v. t. & i.* make (an article of clothing etc.) by looping wool, silk, etc; yarn on long needles 编织衣物等
9. compartment *n.* one of several separate divisions of a structure, esp. of a railway carriage or coach (铁路客车中的) 小间, 隔间, 车室
10. be absorbed in *phr.* concentrate one's attention upon 全神贯注
11. Finnish *adj. & n.* of the Finns 芬兰人的; 芬兰的; 芬兰语
12. typical *adj.* serving as a type 有代表性的; 典型的
13. bowler *n.* hard, rounded usu. black hat 一种硬的圆顶礼帽, 通常为黑色
14. cricket *n.* ball game played on a grass field for two teams of eleven players each, with bats and wickets 板球
15. reserved *adj.* slow to reveal feelings or opinions; uncommunicative 有所保留的; 含蓄的; 缄默的
16. curly *adj.* having curls 卷曲的
17. moustache *n.* hair allowed to grow on the upper lip 髭; 小胡子
18. crooked *adj.* not straight or level; twisted; bent 不平直的; 弯曲的; 扭曲的
19. frown *v. i.* draw the eyebrows together, causing lines on the forehead to express displeasure, puzzlement, deep-thought, etc. 皱眉头; 蹙额
20. forehead *n.* part of the face above the eyes 前额; 额
21. intelligent *adj.* having or showing mental ability 有智力的; 有才智的; 聪明的
22. smart *adj.* bright; new-looking; clean; well-dressed 鲜明的; 漂亮的; 整洁的; 衣冠楚楚的

23. **glove** *n.* covering of leather, knitted wool, etc., for the hand, usu. with separated fingers 手套
24. **bulge** *v. t. & i.* swell beyond the usual size; curve outwards 突起; 胀大, 鼓起
bulging pres. part. 突起的; 鼓起的
25. **zip-fastener** *n.* device for locking together two toothed metal edges by means of a sliding tab, used for fastening articles of clothing, bags, etc. 拉链
26. **initials** *n.* (*pl.*) first letters of a person's names (复数) 姓名起首的字母
27. **clerk** *n.* person employed in a bank, office, shop, etc. to keep records and accounts, copy letters, etc. 办事员; 售货员; 书记员
28. **assistant** *n.* helper 助手; 副手; 助理
29. **leisure** *n.* spare time; time free from work 闲暇
30. **weed** *v. t. & i.* takes weeds out of 除去杂草
31. **mow** *v. t.* cut grass with a machine 用刈草机割草
32. **lawn** *n.* area of grass kept closely cut and smooth 草地
33. **shed** *n.* building for storing things 棚子
34. **complexion** *n.* natural colour, appearance, of the skin, esp. of the face 肤色; 面色
35. **miserable** *adj.* wretched; very unhappy 悲惨的; 不幸的
36. **magnificent** *adj.* splendid; remarkable; important-looking 壮丽的; 不凡的; 堂皇的
37. **uniform** *v. t.* wear a certain style of dress worn by all members of an organization 使穿某一种制服
38. **handsome** *adj.* of fine appearance; good-looking 美丽的; 漂亮的
39. **chauffeur** *n.* man paid to drive a privately-owned motor-car 受雇驾驶私人汽车的司机
40. **fortune** *n.* prosperity; great sum of money 兴隆; 巨富; 巨资
41. **bachelor** *n.* unmarried man 未婚男子; 单身汉
42. **luxury** *n.* state of life in which one has and uses things that please the sense 奢侈; 豪华
43. **Finn** *n.* native of Finland 芬兰人
44. **naturalize** *v. t. & i.* give somebody from another country rights of citizenship 给外国人公民权; 使归化
45. **subject** *n.* any member of a state except the supreme ruler 人民; 臣民
46. **unreliable** *adj.* not reliable 不可靠的; 不能相信的

COMPREHENSION

Here are ten questions or unfinished statements about the passage, each with

four suggested ways of answering or finishing it. You are to choose the one you consider the most suitable without looking back at the passage. Give one answer only to each question.

1. James Saxon does not catch the 5.14 train because
 - a. he does not want to hurry.
 - b. the later train is less crowded when he arrives.
 - c. he has not reserved a seat in it.
 - d. it is a slow train.
2. Why is Matti uncertain whether James Saxon is really an Englishman?
 - a. He looks very quiet.
 - b. He is reading about cricket.
 - c. He is not wearing a hat.
 - d. He is not interested in other people.
3. Which of the following details of his appearance show that James Saxon pays some attention to what he looks like?
 - a. His shoes.
 - b. His briefcase.
 - c. His suit.
 - d. His trousers.
4. Matti thinks James may be a teacher. He clearly thinks that all but one of the following things is characteristic of a teacher. The exception is that
 - a. he does not take any care of his clothes.
 - b. he looks anxious.
 - c. he carries too much about with him.
 - b. he is probably not intelligent.
5. Matti is sorry for James for all but one of these reasons. The exception is that
 - a. his wife and children give him little happiness.
 - b. he is thin and so may be underfed.
 - c. he spends most of his spare time gardening.
 - d. his life has little variety.
6. What is the only one of these things that is clear from the passage that Matti and James have not got in common?
 - a. Their nationality.
 - b. They both keep too much in their pockets.
 - c. They have no enthusiasm for cricket.
 - d. They both seem shy and reserved.
7. How long does the journey to Lakewell Junction take?
 - a. Less than an hour.
 - b. About half an hour.
 - c. Nearly an hour and a half.
 - d. Just a little more than an hour.

8. Geoffrey laughs loudly because
- he thinks Matti has made a joke.
 - he is amused by Matti's mistake.
 - he considers James a funny person.
 - he thinks it funny for a workman to have a chauffeur.
9. What is the only right idea Matti has in this story?
- James Saxon is married.
 - He cares little about his appearance.
 - He has a dull, badly-paid job.
 - You can judge a person by his appearance.
10. Why does Matti feel sad?
- He must help in the garden.
 - His teachers think he is unreliable.
 - He cannot trust his own ideas.
 - He is disappointed in Geoffrey.

VOCABULARY

In each of the following sentences, one word or phrase is underlined, you are to select the best meaning or synonym for the word or phrase among the choices given.

- Never-ending lines of cars are checked while red traffic lights change to green.
 - are waited for
 - are held back
 - are parked
 - are waiting
- Thousands of people are packed tightly in trains.
 - are standing
 - are put
 - are crowded together
 - are sitting
- Women try in vain to knit.
 - manage
 - try with the desired result
 - succeed
 - try without the desired result
- He appears to be absorbed in the sports news on the back page of his paper.
 - to concentrate upon
 - to be entertained in
 - to be hurried in
 - to be helped with
- I don't think he is intelligent.
 - ingenuous
 - stupid
 - ingenious
 - dull
- His clothes are anything but smart.
 - smart
 - clean
 - well-dressed
 - not smart

7. He seems quite energetic.
- a. vigorous b. weak
c. tired d. dirty
8. Does he find it difficult to satisfy the needs of his miserable wife and seven unfortunate children?
- a. beautiful b. wretched
c. ugly d. extravagant
9. He is only of average height.
- a. ordinary b. minor
c. slow d. middle
10. He is now a naturalised British subject with an English name.
- a. friend b. topic
c. citizen d. enemy

FAST READING PRACTICE

You are given four minutes to finish reading the following passage and making your choices according to the information given in the passage.

Sea otters off the coast of California have an unusual method of getting food. They dive to the floor of the sea to find the shellfish they like.

When an otter brings a shellfish to the surface of the water, he floats on his back and puts the shellfish on his chest. Then the otter digs the meat out of the shell with his teeth.

Sea otters are especially fond of shellfish with a very hard shell. When the otter brings up one of these, he also brings a stone. He puts the stone on his chest, holding the shellfish in his front paws. He takes a wide swing and smashes the hard shell on the stone. Then he has no troubles getting at the meat in the shell.

- The selection says that these sea otters live
 - off the coast of California.
 - on rocks near the sea.
 - on the floor of the sea.
 - both a and c
- To catch shellfish otters must
 - smash the rocks where shellfish hide.
 - dive to the floor of the sea.
 - float on their backs.
 - come to the surface of the sea.
- An otter gets the meat from most shellfish by
 - cracking the shells on rocks.

- b. digging it out with his teeth.
- c. opening the shell with a sharp stone.
- d. digging it out with his front paws.

4. Sea otters are especially fond of
- a. large shellfish.
 - b. small ocean fish.

- c. tiny soft-shelled fish.
- d. shellfish with a hard shell.

5. The otter uses a stone to
- a. dig the meat from the shell.
 - b. dig the shellfish from the sea floor.
 - c. smash the shell.
 - d. hold the shellfish on his chest.

Unit 2

PASSAGE FOR COMPREHENSION

How Stanley Found Livingstone

by M. G. Bonner

Starting Time: Minutes _____ Seconds _____

Henry Morton Stanley received one of the strangest assignments ever handed to a newspaper reporter. He was working for the *New York Herald*, and his job was to go into the wilds of Africa to find Dr. David Livingstone who had been given up for lost.

Dr. Livingstone had had an unusual career. From the time he was ten, he had planned to be a missionary in Africa. For a number of years he worked with the African natives. He studied their customs and languages. Here and there he started schools. He was the first European to discover Lake Ngami, and this started him off on exploring. He spent years traveling, discovering lakes, rivers, and wild stretches of country.

After a while Livingstone started on an expedition for the Royal Geographical Society. He was going to trace the path of the Lualaba River to the sea. Time passed, and the society did not hear from him. Anything, it feared, could have happened. He could have been torn to pieces by wild animals, slain by a tribe of warriors, or killed by disease.

Then Livingstone wrote that he was going into cannibal country. He quite calmly added that if he was not eaten, he would eventually return to the village of Ujiji, on the shore of Lake Tanganyika. After that letter many months went by. It had then been three years since he had been seen by a fellow countryman. And since he had been planning to go where there were cannibals, and then there had been a long silence, people were sure that he had been killed.

However, newspaperman James Gordon Bennett was not convinced. He had a hunch that Livingstone was still alive, but he knew that he had to find facts to back up his hunch. Suddenly he was determined to act. He sent a telegram to Henry Stanley, a roving reporter for the *New York Herald*, ordering him to come at once. Bennett told the surprised reporter to go to central Africa and find Livingstone. He had either to meet Livingstone face to face or find proof that he was dead.

On March 21, 1871, Stanley's expedition started out from Zanzibar, off the eastern coast of Africa. He had men, horses, a caravan containing weapons, medicines, gifts for natives along the way, clothing, provisions, and other essentials.

Almost at once there was trouble. Fever attacked the expedition. They went through jungles where the heat was overpowering. The bugs were terrible. Wild animals were a constant danger. Sometimes they had to change the route they had planned because of warring tribes. Here and there, however, they heard that Livingstone had been seen, and this gave them hope.

There were no roads. Floods caused delays. Food became scarce. They had to march for many miles with only tea to keep them going. Only occasionally would they find a small settlement where they could get something to eat.

Every day and every night it was a struggle just to keep alive. Stanley asked every native he met about Livingstone, desperately hoping that he would find him and complete his newspaper assignment.

At last he was rewarded. An elderly man with a gray beard and a mustache had been seen at Ujiji. The spot was not far from where they were now. Stanley was sure that the man was Livingstone.

Stanley had traveled nine hundred and seventy-five miles from the coast of Africa. But the sickness, the suffering, and the discouragements of the journey were forgotten. This was a moment of almost unbelievable good luck.

The Stanley caravan approached the village of Ujiji by night. Stanley told his men to put on their cleanest clothes and look their best when they entered the village. At dawn they fired guns and gaily drew near the village. Their tallest guide carried an American flag on a spear.

A native came forward and greeted them in English. He was Susi, he said. He and a companion were there with Dr. Livingstone. These were the words Stanley had waited to hear—words that the outside world had not believed would ever be spoken. The villagers sensed that this was an important meeting. They began to beat their drums. Then Dr. Livingstone came forward.

Here was the man for whom Stanley had been searching, whom he feared he would never find. At that moment of excitement, far from civilization, Stanley spoke the words that are famous today. He said, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume."

It turned out to be mere chance that the two had ever come together. Dr. Livingstone had stopped in Ujiji only for a short rest before going on. If Stanley had not happened to be in that area at that time, he would have missed him completely.

Stanley told Livingstone that he was sending word to the *New York Herald* that Livingstone was alive and well. The world would be thrilled at the news. Livingstone was excited to hear of the things that had happened in the world since