



步步高英语系列丛书

Level Six ★★

丘吉尔传

WINSTON CHURCHILL



翁燕珩

主编

北京理工大学出版社

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Level Six 2
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翁燕珩 主编

洪 革 刘 扬 谷新黎 曾晓俊
吴思斌 解 智 宋铁花 翁燕珩 编

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——请读步步高英语系列丛书

《步步高英语系列丛书》是一套快速提高英语阅读能力, 扩大词汇量, 增强英语语感, 从而全面提高英语水平的好书。认真地阅读这套书, 一定会在短期内取得学习英语和使用英语的成功, 长期享用成功的快乐。

这套丛书具有大众性、普及性, 适用于各个不同水平层次的英语学习者。既适用于学生, 又适用于自学者。既适用于中学生, 又适用于大学生。水平偏低的可以用作学习材料, 水平较高的可以用作复习精品。作课内读物很好, 作课外读物亦佳。可精读, 可泛读, 可玩味英语语言之美, 也可领略人类体能和智能的奥妙。

这套丛书专门为非英语国家的人学英语而编, 又有针对中国人阅读理解难点而进行的注释。按照难易程度分为六级, 一级比一级增多 350 个新词和适量的新句型。一级接一级循序而读, 自然而然地由浅入深, 由简到繁, 不知不觉地由低水平上升到高水平, 体现了学习英语的最佳途径和方法。可使读者费力不多, 而收效甚大。

这套丛书内容信息性强, 知识层面广, 读来有趣, 引人入胜, 欲罢不能, 确实是同类书中的上品。因此我诚挚地向广大英语爱好者及有志于掌握英语这一工具的人推荐这套书。

北京师范大学外语系 胡春洞

致 读 者

随着不断的对外开放,人们越来越重视外语学习,各级各类学校对外语教学的要求也越来越高。但是,您是不是也同许多人一样遇到这么一个问题:英语学习多年,单词记了不少,语法也算熟悉,但每当需要用英语进行口头或文字表达时便不知所措,说出来的别人听不懂,写出来的别人看不懂。这主要是对常用词汇和语法缺乏具体感受,对英美文化缺乏一定了解的缘故。由此看来,多读英美国家的作品以增强语感和文化摄入,就显得十分必要了。可是,目前国内出版的选材合理、编排科学,集知识性、趣味性于一体的普及型英语读物实在是太少了。为解广大英语学习者之急需,我们选编了这套《步步高英语系列丛书》。这套丛书有以下几个特点:

取材广泛,内容新颖。这些英美作者的文章,短小精悍,妙趣横生。您从中既可以熟悉常用的词汇和语法,增强语感;又可以撷取大量的文化信息,提高您的阅读理解与表达能力。

分级编排,级级衔接。本丛书分为六级,词汇量分别为350、700……至2100。各级之间紧密衔接,成为一体,在一定程度上填补了目前我国高中与大学英语教学中存在的语言知识“断带”问题。

选词科学,难易适中。本书词汇均来源于《Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English》(《朗曼当代英语词汇》),是根据计算机统计的词频安排的。语法现象也是由易到难,精心设计。读者可以循序渐进,逐步提高。

略加注释,便于阅读。凡文中出现的个别难词、新词、俚

语、短语和比较复杂的语法现象,都略加注释,以免除读者查阅辞典之苦。每篇文章末尾配有练习题,可用以检测您的阅读与理解水平。

本书以国家教委颁布的《九年义务教育全日制初级中学英语教学大纲》初、高中学生应掌握的词汇量为依据,一、二级可供初中学生阅读;三、四级可供高中学生阅读;五、六级可供大专以上的学生阅读。全套书亦可用作英语教学的泛读辅助教材。

愿《步步高英语系列丛书》成为您的朋友!

编者

1993年3月

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1

Boyhood and college days



Churchill aged 5

Winston Churchill was born in 1874 in Blenheim Palace near Oxford. This palace was built for his ancestor^① the Duke of Marlborough, a famous soldier, over 100 years before. It is a very large and beautiful house in the country.

Winston's parents did not spend much time with him when he was very young. They had a lot of money and paid a governess², a woman teacher who lives in the house, to look after him until he was sent to school. Her name was Mrs Everest and Winston was very fond of her. In fact, he kept a photograph of her with him all his life.

Winston's father was called Lord Randolph Churchill. He was rich and extravagant³ and enjoyed going to parties. His wife was a very beautiful, black-haired American girl called Jennie Jerome. They agreed to marry only three days after they had met. It was obviously love at first sight⁴!

When Winston was seven years old, his parents sent him to a private boarding school⁵. This is a school where pupils live, sleep and eat, as well as study during term time. Winston was a difficult and unhappy child at school. His parents had no time for him and they never visited him. He felt that they did not love him and he was very miserable. He was always quarrelling with his teachers. He was not interested in learning anything. The headmaster was a cruel man and he used to beat him with a big stick. It is not surprising that he hated school.

His parents sent him to several different schools but it made no difference. He still was not interested in learning and his teachers found it impossible to teach him anything.

When he was fourteen, Winston was sent to an ancient 'public' school. Public schools in England are, in fact, pri-

vate boarding schools. Your family has to be rich because it costs a lot of money to attend one of these schools. The school which Winston attended was called Harrow School. It was for boys only.

Winston was just as unhappy at Harrow as he had been at his other schools and his work was just as bad as before. He did not behave as he should and he was always one of the worst pupils in the class.

He used to write very sad letters to his parents. 'Please come and visit me. I am very lonely and no-one here is nice to me.' But his parents always made excuses. They had to go to an important meeting, or a party, or someone was coming to visit them. It seemed that they never had time for their son.

Winston was always short of money. 'Why can't they give me some more?' he asked himself. 'All the boys here have much more money to spend than me. It's not fair! The other boys are always going out, travelling and buying things for themselves!' Unfortunately, Winston's parents spent so much money on themselves that they never had any left to give to their son. Whenever his mother felt miserable, she would travel to Paris to buy a new dress. She thought it would make her feel happy again!

Winston did badly in his examinations at school. 'All that the examiners want to do is find out what you *don't* know. No-one's interested in finding out what you *do*

know!’ he exclaimed.

Winston’s main hobby was playing with toy soldiers. He used to study how famous battles had been fought. His father found him at home one day, playing with his soldiers and said, ‘Would you like to become a soldier?’

‘Yes, I would,’ replied Winston.

‘Well, we’ll see what we can do,’ said his father.

After Winston left Harrow, he was offered a place at Sandhurst. This is, a very famous military college^⑥. Winston loved it there. It was all so adventurous, and learning to be a soldier was so much better than sitting on a chair at school all day. Now that he was really enjoying the work that he was doing, Winston worked extremely hard. When he finished his training, he was the eighth best out of 150 students^⑦.

Winston’s father died in 1895. After his death, Winston’s mother showed a little more interest in Winston. She was a very beautiful woman and Winston really loved and admired her, but they were never very close to one another and Winston never really had a home. His mother soon started going out to parties again and began to spend money like water.

Winston did not feel that he was a good-looking man. He had a large head, a narrow chest and a round body. He once wrote from Sandhurst, ‘Sometimes my body feels so weak that I can hardly carry it.’ Winston also had difficul-

ties when speaking. He often hesitated and could not pronounce his s's properly.

When he left Sandhurst, Winston became an officer in a well-known regiment^⑧ in the British army. He spent the next three years in India. Because he was only a young officer, he did not earn much money. However, he was determined to do well. From India he wrote to his mother, 'I hope my time in India is successful. If I do not do well, it will break my heart. Ambition is all I have.'

Notes

- ① ancestor 祖先。
- ② governess 家庭教师。
- ③ extravagant 奢侈的。
- ④ love at first sight 一见钟情。
- ⑤ boarding school 寄宿学校。
- ⑥ military college 军事学院。
- ⑦ 他是一百五十名学生中的第八名。
- ⑧ regiment (军队的)团。

Exercises

Complete the following sentences.

1. Mrs Everest was a _____.
2. A private boarding school is a school where _____.
3. Public schools in England are _____.
4. Sandhurst is a very famous _____ College.

5. The first country overseas which Winston went to as a military officer was _____.

2

Soldier and politician

Churchill was twenty-one when he went to India. He soon became very bored because there was no fighting and therefore he had nothing to do. He used to go hunting and play football.

During his leave^① he went to the island of Cuba to fight in a small war. There he won a medal. Now he felt that he was a real soldier at last! A few months later, he won another medal. This time there was fighting in Northern India. He wrote about it to a London newspaper. He also wrote to his younger brother Jack, 'What I want most is to become famous for my bravery.' Many years later his wish came true.

Winston still found army life boring in spite of gaining his two medals. He wrote his first book called *Savrola*.^② It was an adventure story full of action and excitement. About his writing he said, 'I have studied many good writers. I have copied them, too, and then I have added my own ideas.'

Next, Churchill became a member of a regiment which was sent to the Sudan. Before he went, he asked *The Morning Post* newspaper in London if he could send back reports of the fighting. *The Morning Post* agreed. He sent them ex-

citing reports describing the fighting, which was bloody and cruel. The British cavalry regiments^③, soldiers on horseback, killed many Africans at the battle of Omdurman. The Africans were on their knees and the British cavalry rode on top of them. To us this sounds very cruel indeed, but Winston loved only the excitement—that was, as long as he was not hit by anyone! ‘There is nothing more exciting than to be shot at without being hit,’ he wrote^④.

Churchill had now won three medals. He had been successful both as a soldier and as a writer. Next, he wanted to try his skill in politics, so he left the army. Money was no longer a problem for him, because writing for the papers brought him enough. Churchill decided to join the Conservative Party^⑤, but he did not stay in England for long. A few weeks later, in October 1899, the Boer^⑥ war broke out in South Africa. Britain was trying to increase her power in South Africa and the Dutch farmers, the Boers, who already lived there did not approve at all. ‘This is *our* country,’ they said, ‘you British have no right to be here.’

Churchill again became a journalist for *The Morning Post*, packed his things and went to South Africa. He would regularly send articles about the war back to England. He loved a dangerous life and was full of excitement—his articles showed this. During the Boer war, he was taken prisoner by the Dutch. He was taken to the town of Pretoria where he spent his 25th birthday in prison. Here, because

he was a man of action, he was bored and frustrated. There was nothing to do and no-one to talk to. At last he could stand it no longer and made plans to escape. His plans succeeded. He climbed over the prison wall and got away.

As an adult, Churchill sometimes felt very depressed. Perhaps it was because his parents had not loved him very much when he was a child. Usually, when he was sad, he could make himself happy again by keeping very busy. All his life he called his depression 'Black Dog'.

In prison 'Black Dog' was with him all the time. He describes this time of his life in his book *My Early Life*.

'Hours crawl so slowly. Life is one long boredom and dark thoughts come easily.'

Later in his life, when he was Home Secretary[®], and as part of his duties he was responsible for prisons in Britain, he remembered his own time spent in Pretoria prison. 'I understand what prisoners must feel,' he said. 'Must we send so many people to prison?' So he changed the laws so that fewer people were sent to prison and life was made more interesting for those who were already there.

After his escape, Churchill knew that the Dutch would be looking for him. Not only did they do this, but they also said they would give a lot of money to anyone who could find him. They wanted him alive or dead. So for three days he had to hide in a wet dark cellar full of rats. It was so terrible that he could not sleep.

Eventually, he succeeded in jumping onto a train. He hid under sacks for three more days. He was terrified that someone would find him, but he was lucky. Finally he reached Portuguese East Africa. He had travelled two hundred miles from Pretoria, and he wrote about his escape for *The Morning Post* in London.

When he arrived back in England, he found that people saw him as a hero, and in 1900, this fact helped him to become a Member of Parliament. He still wanted to be even more famous and earn even more money, so he went to America and gave lectures. In spite of his hesitation when speaking, Churchill was now no longer afraid of making speeches or giving lectures. He always prepared his speeches carefully and read and re-read them many times. He almost learnt them by heart.

When he returned from America, he had earned enough money to buy himself a car. Hardly anyone had a car in those days. Cars had only just been invented and they were very expensive. He also rented a beautiful flat in a pleasant and fashionable London street. His friends were other young members of the Conservative Party.

It was at this time that Churchill first began to quarrel with the other Members of Parliament. All his life he had arguments in the House of Commons[®]. It was part of his character. He couldn't help it. This first quarrel was about armies. The Conservatives wanted a bigger army. 'Europe