

步步高英语系列丛书



Level One ★

英国政体

BRITISH
CONSTITUTION



翁燕珩

主编

北京理工大学出版社

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短期成功, 长期快乐

——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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Parliament

1

What is Parliament?

The British Parliament is in Westminster^①, in London. It is in some old buildings next to the River Thames^②, and next to the old clock, Big Ben^③. It is a very old Parliament. It is the first. Some people call it the 'Mother of Parliaments'^④.

The Parliament is three things—the Queen, the House of Commons^⑤ and the House of Lords^⑥. They work together, but the House of Commons makes the laws. The House of Commons and House of Lords are different. There are different people in the two Houses, and they do different work. The people in the Houses of Commons are MPs^⑦. The name is 'Members of Parliament', but all the people talk about MPs.

Every country has a Parliament, but they are all different. In some countries the President is the Head of the Par-

liament. In Britain the Queen[®] is the Head of the Parliament. She is very important, and she puts her name on all the new laws[®], but she doesn't control the Parliament. She doesn't work in the Parliament buildings, and she cannot make laws or[®] get rid of laws.

The Queen goes to Parliament for only one day every year. She goes there to open Parliament in November, after the MPs' long summer. Then she talks to Parliament, and the country. She talks about the government, and what the government is going to do in the next year[®].

What does Parliament do? It makes new laws for the country, and it can get rid of old or bad laws. The laws say what the people in the country can do, and what they can't do. Parliament controls the country, too. It talks about the money for roads, new schools, for the police or teachers, and it decides how to get this money[®]. It decides how much money to take from the people of the country.

The government is not the same as[®] Parliament. The government has only about 200 people, from the big party. This party controls the House of Commons, if it has more than 50% of the MPs. In 1983, there are 650 MPs in the House of Commons, from many parties. The government cannot always control Parliament. The 650 MPs can say 'yes' or 'no'[®] to the government's ideas. The MPs can take the money away from the government, so the government cannot control the country. The MPs are very impor-

tant.

The MPs work in the House of Commons, and they talk about the new laws and the money problems^⑤ of the country. The room is very small. There are 650 MPs, but only 437 places^⑥ to sit down. The room is not always full, because many MPs work in their offices, too.

Notes

- ① Westminster 英国国会所在地。可译为“西敏斯特”或“威斯敏斯特。”
- ② River Thames 泰晤士河。此河横穿伦敦城。
- ③ Big Ben 大笨钟。以其设计建造者 Benjamin 而得名。
- ④ call somebody (something) something 称某人(或某物)为某物。如: Don't call me Mr Smith, call me John.
- ⑤ House of Commons 平民院, 亦称下院。
- ⑥ House of Lords 贵族院, 亦称上院。
- ⑦ MPs 是 members of Parliament 的缩写。英文中很多著名机构或国家的名字都用缩写形式。如: U. N. 是 United Nations; U. S. A 是 United States of America 的缩写。
- ⑧ Queen 这里指 Queen Elizabeth I 伊丽莎白女王二世。
- ⑨ Put ones name on 签字同意。女王签署所有新法律。
- ⑩ or 在此连接两个意义基本相反或相对的词组 Make laws 和 get rid of laws. get rid of 意为取消, 终止。

如: Would you mind getting rid of your bad habits?

- ⑪ 此句谓语是 talks about, 宾语有两个: 一是 the government, 一是宾语从句做介词宾语. What the government is going to do in the next year. what 引导的是从句, 不是特殊疑问句, 所以用陈述句语序。
- ⑫ 国会讨论用于修建道路和新学校的资金分配情况, 以及警察和教师的工资分配。同时它还决定如何收集这些资金。
- ⑬ the same as 是固定搭配, 不可写成 the same with.
- ⑭ Say "yes" or "No" 表示“赞同”或“否决”如: Say hello. Say goodbye 表达问好和告别。
- ⑮ the money problem 财政问题。
- ⑯ but only 437 places 是省略句。全句应为: but there are only 437 places.

Exercises

Answer the following questions.

1. Where is the British Parliament?
2. What are MPs?
3. Who is the head of the Parliament?
4. How many MPs are there in the House of Commons?
5. What happens in November?

2

What does an MP do?

Every MP works for the country, but he works for one part of the country, too. This is his constituency^①. A constituency can be a town, a part of a town, or a part of the country. The people of each constituency elect the MP, and they want him to help them and to help their part of the country. They want him to find new jobs, or new houses, or new schools for their town. The MP talks to the government and tries to get money for his constituency. He works for the 65,000—75,000 people in his constituency.

But the MP must also work for his party. In Britain there are two big parties, two small parties, and some very small parties. The big parties are the Conservative Party and the Labour Party. The Conservatives help businessmen and people with money^②. The Labour Party is the party of the working people.

The two small parties are the Liberal Party and the Social Democrat Party. They work together, and have the name 'The Alliance', because they make a big party together. Their ideas are in the middle—they are not Left or Right in their ideas.

All the MPs are in one of the parties, and they agree

with^③ the ideas of the party. Perhaps they do not agree with all of the party's ideas, but they must vote with the party when it is important.

The MPs in one party work together to make new laws, to get rid of old laws, and to help the people in the country. They want to make their party the best party, and they want all the people to vote for^④ the men and women in their party. The parties do not pay^⑤ the MPs—the Parliament pays the MPs. In the party, the MP works on committees with his party friends. There are 10—15 MPs in a committee, and they talk about new ideas and new laws. They talk about how to get money for the government, or how to make the country better.

The MP works on committees in the Parliament, too. He sits with MPs from the other parties^⑥, and together they decide what to do about a problem or a new law.

The MP works in his constituency, too. He goes to his constituency at the weekend^⑦, or in the Parliament's holidays, and talks to the people there. If they have a problem, he tries to find an answer. He can write letters to the government about a person from his constituency, or he can telephone^⑧ an important friend to help a person in the town.

Some MPs want to do other things, too. They write about Parliament for the newspapers, and give the new ideas of their party. Or they work to help a small number of^⑨ people—perhaps teachers, or old people.

MPs work very hard. They usually work about sixty-five hours a week, with about fifteen hours in the House of Commons. They don't get a lot of money——about £19,000 in 1984.

Notes

- ①Constituency 选区。
- ②此句中 with money 是定语修饰 people。
- ③agree with 同意支持某人意见。如：I quite agree with you. 它和 agree to 的区别在于 with 后跟人，to 后跟观点(或不定式)等。
- ④for 赞成，against 反对。如：Are you for or against the plan?
- ⑤支付。如：He paid the salesman \$ 2,000 a month.
- ⑥the other parties 其它党派，所有国会议员都属于某党派，这些党派不仅在党内商议国事，而且还和其它党派议员商议大事。
- ⑦weekend 是周六和周日，平日是 workday。
- ⑧telephone 在此为动词，表示给某人打电话。
- ⑨许多。a number of 修饰可数名词。a great deal of 修饰不可数名词。如：a number of students; a great deal of water.

Exercises

Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. There are usually 50,000 People in a MP's Constituency.
2. In Britain there are two big parties, two small Parties and some very small Parties.
3. The Alliances ideas are usually right.
4. The MP works only in his constituency.
5. MPs work very hard, but they don't get a lot of money.

3

The House of Lords

There are about 1062 members of the House of Lords. Some of them are Lords (and Ladies) because^① their family always has a Lord. Some of them are Lords of Ladies because of^② their work. They work hard for the country, or for the government, and now they are a Lord or Lady.

Some are men of the law, and some are men of the Church or England^③. These are the numbers in 1982:

Law lords	23
Men of the church	26
New Lords	155
Old Lords	<u>858</u>
	1062

Usually, only a small number of Lords come to the House of Lords and speak, or listen to the other Lords. The biggest number on one day is 394^④. Usually there are 50 to 100 Lords in the House.

The House of Lords reads and talks about the new laws from the House of Commons. The Lords cannot get rid of the new laws. If^⑤ they don't agree with the new law, they can send it back to the House of Commons. Then it must