

# 英语扩充词汇阶梯阅读

——精通 **4000** 词汇

赵春霞 周玉梅 王 东

目标英语阅读阶梯系列  
**第一代**



西安交通大学出版社

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## 内 容 提 要

本书为“目标英语阅读阶梯系列”第四册，编写词汇量基于4 000词左右。全书共收集文章60篇，所选短文均出自国外最新出版的各类读物，选材广泛，有人物传记、社会文化、科普知识和热门话题；体裁多样，有议论文、说明文和记叙文。本书题材新颖，容知识性、趣味性和可读性于一体，注重学生阅读能力的培养和扩大词汇量。每篇文章后均有难句分析、难点注释和关于重点词汇、词组的练习。每5篇后编有一个总结练习，以起到复习、检查之目的。

本书既可作为中级英语水平读者的阅读辅助教材，也可作为其它各类读者的英语课外读物。

(陕)新登字 007 号

目标英语阅读阶梯系列  
英语扩充词汇阶梯阅读  
——精通4 000词汇

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西安交通大学出版社出版发行  
(西安市咸宁西路28号 邮政编码710049 电话:(029)3268316)

陕西省轻工印刷厂印装  
各地新华书店经销

\*

开本: 787×1092 1/16 印张: 13.5 字数: 310千字

1996年5月第1版 1997年7月第3次印刷

印数: 10 001—18 000

ISBN7-5605-0816-2/H·87

定价: 9.80元

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话: (029)3268357, 3267874

## 编者的话

词汇量是衡量英语水平的重要标志之一。在英语教学中,我们看到很多学生由于词汇量贫乏而影响了他们阅读理解和考试答题速度。为了扩充词汇,一些学生往往急于求成,孤立地背单词或盲目使用各种词汇强化练习参考书。这些方法最初可能有一定的效果,但随着词汇量的增加,多数人会感到负担过重或因枯燥乏味而难以持续下去,从而降低了学英语的兴趣。

扩大词汇量决非一朝一夕之功,切实可行的办法就是大量地阅读。通过阅读来扩充和掌握词汇,既有助于记住单词本身,又可同时熟悉词的用法和搭配。实践证明,这比孤立地背记单词要好得多。

阅读无疑是扩充词汇的重要手段,而选材是否得当则是能否吸引读者深入下去的重要因素。要兼顾材料的难易程度、词汇量的范围和文章本身的趣味性、知识性是件不易的事。这对编者的能力和水平提出了很高的要求。为了达到这一目的,本系列书的编者都是具有多年英语教学经验的骨干。通过大量地选材、比较、征求意见,基本上使本系列书在诸多方面达到统一。您只要浏览一下每本书的目录就会被文章的题目所吸引!所选文章,避免一般英语读物题材单一的倾向,代之以广博的内容,包括政治经济、社会生活、历史地理、风土人情、名人轶事,体裁多样,包

括记叙文、说明文、议论文、应用文、故事和诗歌等,内容新颖,语言规范,结构严谨,可读性强。

篇篇妙文,字字珠玑,思想深邃,哲理通达,似神笔天成。从妙趣横生的童话到力透纸背的檄文,从娓娓动听的故事到慷慨激昂的演讲,你可感受到伦敦塔叙诉历史的深沉、密西西比河奔腾咆哮的豪迈、古代印度的神秘、澳大利亚的奇异,你可跟上当今科技发展的步伐,能触摸到现代社会发展的脉搏。

短文中超纲词汇和难点均加注释,以便读者巩固和扩大词汇量,加深对短文的理解。每篇短文后编有形式多样的词汇练习,可以帮助读者复习和巩固所学过的重点词汇和短语。

攀登峭壁总没有沿梯而上轻松。要使阅读成为一件轻松愉快的事,除了有精彩的内容外,读者还要根据自己的程度,选定适合自己的阅读材料。为了达到这一目的,本系列书的编者特编辑6本扩充词汇阶梯阅读材料,词汇量依次为1 000、2 000、3 000、4 000、5 000、6 000。这是一架助你摘取桂冠的“云梯”,读者通过这架“云梯”还可以积累语言经验和培养语感,以达到提高语言运用能力之目的。如果您认真地读完本系列书并掌握书中的关键词和重点词,可以说您已达到非英语专业研究生英语水平。

朋友,如果本系列书能激起你智慧的火花、情感的涟漪,这正是我们的心愿。

由于编者水平的局限,难免有疏漏和错误之处,诚请读者不吝指正。

编 委 会

1996年5月

# 目标英语阅读阶梯系列书

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## 目 录

1. The Advantage of Disadvantage	
弊中之利	1
2. Increased Use of Renewable Energy	
充分利用再生能源	5
3. The Sense That Shapes Our Future	
亲昵塑造未来	8
4. Global Economic Competitiveness	
全球经济竞争	12
5. Domestic Matters	
家庭琐事	15
<i>Review Exercise One</i>	19
6. A Matter of Wills	
立遗嘱	20
7. A Life of Quiet Desperation	
冷漠绝情的人生	23
8. Saving Science Education	
拯救教育	26
9. Dancing Grandma	
舞痴奶奶	29
10. Foods That Fight Aging	
延年益寿的食物	32
<i>Review Exercise Two</i>	34
11. Jet-Powered Flight	
喷气式飞机	36
12. Careers in Science	
科技生涯	39
13. "Mind If I Give You Cancer?" ( I )	
“介意我使你得癌症吗?”(一)	42
14. "Mind If I Give You Cancer?" ( II )	
“介意我使你得癌症吗?”(二)	46

15	Fires of Destruction and Creation 火山破坏又创造	49
	<i>Review Exercise Three</i>	52
16	Mozart: Darling of the World( I ) 世界宠儿莫扎特(一)	54
17	Mozart: Darling of the World( I ) 世界宠儿莫扎特(二)	57
18	Clinton—Born to Run( I ) 克林顿——天生的竞争者(一)	60
19	Clinton—Born to Run( I ) 克林顿——天生的竞争者(二)	64
20	Frontiers of Computer Science 计算机科学前沿	67
	<i>Review Exercise Four</i>	69
21	A Father, a Son and an Answer 父亲, 儿子与答案	71
22	Are the Blind Leading the Blind? 盲人导盲?	74
23	Travellers' Tales 旅行者轶事	77
24	Graveyard of the Atlantic( I ) 大西洋墓地(一)	80
25	Graveyard of the Atlantic( I ) 大西洋墓地(二)	82
	<i>Review Exercise Five</i>	84
26	Remembering Tracy Bill 永远记住特蕾西·比尔	86
27	Sonar for the Blind 盲人与声纳	89
28	Go Ahead, Take a Nap! 瞌睡了, 就打个盹吧!	92
29	My Gentle Son 我的乖儿子	95
30	The Five Stages of Grief 悲伤五台阶	98
	<i>Review Exercise Six</i>	99



31	One Mixed-up Chick 一只糊涂鸡	101
32	Office Romances 办公室浪漫曲	104
33	How to Starve a Tumor 饿死肿瘤	107
34	What Makes Olympic Champions? ( I ) 什么造就了奥林匹克冠军? (一)	109
35	What Makes Olympic Champions? ( II ) 什么造就了奥林匹克冠军? (二)	112
<i>Review Exercise Seven</i>		114
36	"Get This Scum Out of Here!" "把这个杂种从这里撵出去!"	116
37	Rest in Peace, Molly! 安息吧, 莫莉!	119
38	Homosexuals 同性恋	122
39	How to Live Dangerously? ( I ) 怎样在危险中生存? (一)	125
40	How to Live Dangerously? ( II ) 怎样在危险中生存? (二)	129
<i>Review Exercise Eight</i>		131
41	Bitter Sweet 复活节彩蛋	133
42	Is There Life on Mars? 火星上有生命吗?	136
43	Out of Africa 非洲寻根	138
44	On Tour with the President 随总统出访的日子	141
45	Are You Playing Favorites? 你偏心吗?	144
<i>Review Exercise Nine</i>		146
46	Mind over Matter 精神胜利法	148
47	The Truth Test 测谎试验	152

48	Legacy of Pearl Harbour ! 珍珠港, 让历史铭记!	154
49	Gambling for a Living 以赌为生	156
50	"Why Measure Life in Heartbeats?" "何必以心跳定生死?"	159
<i>Review Exercise Ten</i>		161
51	It Pays to Complain 投诉有偿	163
52	You Will Have a Good Life 幸福永驻	166
53	The Dope Debate 毒品论战	169
54	Wild West Heroes and Villains 西部蛮仔	173
55	A Night to Remember 难忘之夜	176
<i>Review Exercise Eleven</i>		178
56	The First Farmers 农业的起源	180
57	New Economic Superpower 海外华人中的新"贵族"	183
58	Small Town Terror 恐怖笼罩小镇	186
59	"Where There's a Will..." "有志者, 事竟成"	190
60	Four Minutes That Get You Hired 应聘的秘诀——关键的四分钟	192
<i>Review Exercise Twelve</i>		197
<b>Key to Exercises and Review Exercises</b>		199

# 1 The Advantage of Disadvantage

## 弊中之利



Our society, accustomed to <sup>說</sup>affluence, looks upon financial comfort as the norm and views poverty as an unacceptable option. A child of monied parents is said to be “advantaged.” Conversely, a child of poor parents is labeled “deprived.” Understandably, a great <sup>多</sup>amount of well-meaning pity and concern is directed at the poor souls who “follow the crops”—the migrant workers. The children of migrant workers are uneducated, underprivileged, and disadvantaged.

My parents followed the crops, living in the car or in a tent unless housing was provided by the grower. It was unthinkable to them that I should be “farmed out”(寄养) with more stable friends or relatives and so, from infancy through my seventh year, I was a part of the migrant tide.

Those seven years are a kaleidoscope(万花筒) of memories. I haven't erased all of the bad. I remember my mother wrapping adhesive tape(胶带) around each of her fingers after the sharp stems of thousands of cherries had cut her flesh almost to the bone. I remember evenings when my father, stiff from an old back injury, could not get off his ladder without help.<sup>1</sup> I remember a Christmas when there were no presents, just a tiny,

forlorn tree. But mostly, I remember the good times.

Although we lived a life devoid of material "extras," I don't remember ever being hungry. I do remember endless pots of ham hocks and beans and thick potato soup with onions and homemade bread. I remember nights in dingy kitchens in fruit camps watching Mother can endless mason jars full of peaches. In the winters, even in the really bad times, we had juicy, golden peaches, their taste no less sweet for the cut-out sections(被切掉部分) that made them unfit for fancy pack sales.

Rather than being insulated from the differences in people by invisible boundaries, I was in the midst of a child's United Nations. When Maria Lopez fed her family tacos, she fed me as well. I saw her working in the fields for several seasons and still think of her when I hear about "shiftless Mexicans." I loved my Uncle Pete. Pete rode with us sometimes from orchard to orchard. He was a big man, broad and tall, who used to swing me up above his head and call me his "baby girl child." He was the first man up the ladder in the morning and the last one out of the row in the evening. Pete was Black.

Seven years of driving up and down the West Coast, following the cycle of apples to pears, peaches to apricots, winter apples to cherries, made me feel that the whole area was mine. My childhood territory, rather than being six blocks square, encompassed six states. My neighborhood parks were Yellowstone and Sequoia and the Grand Canyon.

Yellowstone was as familiar to me as a backyard. I felt the sulphur spray of geysers(间歇喷泉) and knew Old Faithful when he still performed on schedule. I laughed at playful grizzly bears and never thought to fear them. I played in meadows strewn with wildflowers, lovelier than any planned suburban garden.

At Sequoia, I marveled at the oldest living things in the world. I ran on the stumps of giant redwoods that had once served as dance floors for lumber camp residents. I galloped along shaded trails and pretended that I was a forest-dwelling sprite.

The Grand Canyon was awesome in its size and frightening in its depth. I was, however, most impressed with the sturdy donkeys and horses used to ferry visitors down the steep trails.

I didn't know why we spent so much time in the parks. What concern was it of mine that annual camping fees were only ten dollars?

Away from the parks and their wonders, life was still full of riches. I played in the ocean, falling into waves and tasting their salt. I tormented hermit crabs(寄居蟹) and was amazed at the pelicans(鹈鹕). I still re-

member the rhyme—my introduction to “poetry”—“A wonderful bird is a pelican; his beak can hold more than his belly can.”

Bridges had a special sound, a melody of tires on steel. We would cross the Golden Gate at night, and I was always convinced that we were entering a fairyland. Even the very name Golden Gate invoked a magical picture of an enchanted land.

One of my favorite places was the San Diego Zoo. We spent countless days wandering its pathways, leisurely, with no pressure to see everything in one day. There was time to linger by the bears; time to wait for the lion to roar; always “one more minute” to feed a demanding duck.

Life was for learning too—no fruit picking for my parents’ child. I learned to read from road signs, with an assist from Burma Shave. Highway markers and speed limit signs taught me my numbers. My parents encouraged my learning and bought an endless stream of workbooks.

I learned about pride and honor when we reached a state of desperation. A poor harvest had left us stranded in a strange town. My father, hat in hand and shoulders slumped, borrowed ten dollars from the Red Cross. They made it plain that it was considered a handout. I remember the jar that my mother saved dimes and quarters and dollars in until there was ten dollars to pay back the debt. I wish I could have seen the prune-faced do-gooder<sup>5</sup> when she opened the envelope.

That part of my life ended when I started second grade. I lived in a real apartment and had a real bed, instead of the back seat of our old Studebaker. I had permanent friends instead of orchard encounters. I had stability, security, a place. For the first time in my young life, I felt deprived. The first seven years were the best. I was not underprivileged nor uneducated nor disadvantaged. I was rich, in the truest sense.

## Notes

1. I remember evenings when my father, stiff from an old back injury, could not get off his ladder without help. 我记着多少个晚上,父亲背部由于受过伤而僵硬,我们不帮他,他都下不了梯子。
2. He was a big man, broad and tall, who used to swing me up above his head and call me his “baby girl child.” 他高大、魁梧,曾把我荡得比他头还高,又称我是他的“小女孩”。
3. Sequoia 美国加州中部—国家公园(以高大杉树闻名)
4. Old Faithful 美国黄石公园中的一股间歇喷泉,每隔65分钟喷一次,高度达170英尺。
5. the prune-faced do-gooder 这位紫红色脸膛做好事的人

## Exercises

1. There are five incomplete sentences in this part. For each sentence there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Choose the one answer that best completes the sentence.

1) Mary took \_\_\_\_\_ of the fine weather to do a day's work in his garden.

- A) charge      B) chance      C) advantage      D) interest

2) These are the facts that are familiar \_\_\_\_\_ every schoolboy.

- A) with      B) to      C) for      D) of

3) I am not really familiar \_\_\_\_\_ the taxation laws here.

- A) with      B) to      C) for      D) of

4) Is this your \_\_\_\_\_ address, or are you only staying there for a short time?

- A) temporary      B) permanent      C) temporal      D) personal

5) On television we \_\_\_\_\_ the divers work in the sea.

- A) saw      B) noticed      C) watched      D) regarded

2. Choose the correct word from the following list to complete the sentences.

imagine, imaginative, imagination, imaginable, imaginary, image

1) She is the very \_\_\_\_\_ of her mother.

2) We cannot \_\_\_\_\_ life without any contradictions.

3) My little daughter has an \_\_\_\_\_ friend.

4) He is an \_\_\_\_\_ writer.

5) I'll leave the details to your \_\_\_\_\_.

6) We tried every \_\_\_\_\_ means, but we couldn't wake her up.

n. image 雕像、肖像、偶像；影像、图像、印象；极为相像

imagination 想象(力)、想象中、事物

[E] imaginative a. 有想象力的

v. imagine 假设、想象

[E] imaginable a.

a. imaginary 想象中的、假想的、虚构的

## 2 Increased Use of Renewable Energy 充分利用再生能源

Depletion of reserves of fossil fuels and concerns about greenhouse gases guarantee an ultimate major role for renewable energy in the United States. The rate of transition to a different energy economy will be dependent on many factors such as competitive costs, international crises, and public opinion. Crises come and go. Public opinion heats and cools. Federal appropriations (拨款) for solar energy rocketed<sup>1</sup> in about 1980, then fizzled<sup>2</sup>. The major lasting shifts in modes of energy production will occur as renewable energy becomes cost-competitive in application after application.

During the past 10 years costs of some of the devices for exploiting renewable energy have dropped substantially. Reliability has improved. This progress was made abundantly evident at a biennial meeting of the International Solar Energy Society. The meeting, held in Denver, Colorado, 19 to 23 August, was attended by more than 1400 participants including representatives from about 50 countries.

Trends in applications of photovoltaics(PV)<sup>3</sup> and wind energy are particularly interesting. Both are already cost competitive in some situations. Their technology continues to be improved at an impressive rate, and further advances seem ensured.

The cost of photovoltaic electricity is still considerably greater than that generated in coal-fired stations. However, in many circumstances PV is the practical energy source. It is of great convenience in consumer products including calculators, watches, and trickle chargers. It is increasingly being used around the world in remote locations. The PV devices are manufactured and sold at a profit without subsidy. Increasingly, major public utilities are using PV in their operations. Engineers employed by Pacific Gas and Electric of California have installed PV energy sources at 700 locations. Some of these have been on towers of high voltage transmission

lines. Costs of a step-down transformer<sup>4</sup> exceed those of a PV installation.

Kurt Yeager of the Electric Power Research Institute said that at least two dozen U. S. utilities are now using PV in their operations. He further stated that on the basis of utility surveys the PV applications by electrical utilities could amount to 40,000 installations over the next 5 years. This statement is a great testimonial(鉴定书) to the perceived reliability of PV. Electric utilities are extremely cautious about adopting unproven equipment.<sup>5</sup> Good experience with PV now and soon would make them receptive to enlarged applications later when the cost of PV electricity drops further as it likely will. It is now 25 to 30 cents per kilowatt hour(kWh). Yeager has said that once the cost falls to 10 to 20 cents/kWh a variety of grid-connected applications will become cost effective.

The day when PV can become a major quantitative contributor to the power grid is distant. Prospects for a large role for wind power are more immediate. Reliability of windmills has been substantially improved. Costs of generating power have been reduced. In the early 1980s there was excessive optimism for wind power. Performance of the early installations proved disappointing. Lifetimes of the equipment were limited. Costs of maintenance were excessive. But during the 1980s costs of wind energy decreased by a factor of 3 to 4. Now in areas where the annual average wind velocity is 13 miles per hour the cost of generating electricity is 7 to 9 cents/kWh. In locations where the velocity averages 16 mph the cost is 6 cents/kWh. The total wind-generating capacity in the United States exceeds 1600 megawatts(兆瓦). Today's turbines, which average about 100-kW capacity, can be installed for \$1000/kW. New generating units are being installed because the cost of their electric output is competitive (without subsidy) with other local generators. Today almost all the wind power is being generated in California. However, a new variable-speed turbine is being developed that will increase energy capture, lower costs to 5 cents/kWh, and introduce new flexibility in siting.<sup>6</sup> Some regions of the Great Plains could become major power producers. About 90% of U. S. wind power potential lies in 12 north central and western states.

The climate for sustained growth of renewable energy seems excellent. World-wide interest and activity are increasing. In the United States rapid improvements in cost-cutting technologies are being made. Funding for R&D is improving. Federal appropriations for renewable energy that hit a low in fiscal(财政的) 1990 are now increasing. The Electric Power Research Institute is fostering renewable energy. Some companies active in renewables are showing a profit.



## Notes

1. rocket 如火箭般迅速上升
2. fizzle 终于失败
3. photovoltaics 光电
4. a step-down transformer 降压变压器
5. Electric utilities are extremely cautious about adopting unproven equipment 电力公司在采用未经检验的设备时是非常谨慎的。
6. However, a new variable-speed turbine is being developed that will increase energy capture, lower costs to 5 cents/kWh, and introduce new flexibility in siting. 然而, 现在正在研制一种新的变速透平机。这种透平机可以增加动力, 把成本降低到每千瓦小时 5 分钱, 还可以使其安装灵活。

## Exercises

1. Fill in the blank with word or phrase from the list:  
on the basis of, major, guarantee, substantially, considerably  
① 牢固的 结实  
② 大体上 基本上  
③ 担保 有保证  
1) The manufacturers \_\_\_\_\_ the watch for three years.  
2) Shipbuilding used to be one of our \_\_\_\_\_ industries.  
3) Most colleges in the U. S. admit students \_\_\_\_\_ their high-school records.  
4) It is \_\_\_\_\_ colder today than it was yesterday.  
5) There are one or two minor differences, but they are \_\_\_\_\_ the same.
2. Find words in the passage with meanings similar to these:  
1) far away in space or time  
2) go up fast like a rocket  
3) make safe  
4) that can or may come into existence or action  
5) of public revenue