



● 基础英语教材系列

# 英语课外阅读文选

伍小龙 梁洪玉 编著

ENGLISH

暨南大学出版社

435344

·基础英语教材系列·

# 英语课外阅读文选

伍小龙 梁洪玉 编著

暨南大学出版社

## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英语课外阅读文选/伍小龙 梁洪玉 编著. —广州:  
暨南大学出版社, 1996. 11  
(基础英语教材系列)

ISBN7-81029-554-3

I. 英…

II. 伍…梁…

III. 英语—语言教学—语言读物

IV. H319.4

出版发行: 暨南大学出版社

经 销: 新华书店

印 刷: 广东省惠阳印刷厂印刷

版本记录: 850×1168mm 1/32 印张 19.5 字数: 49 万

版 次: 1995 年 12 月第 1 版 1996 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

印 数: 1—5000 册

定 价: 25.00 元

·基础英语教材系列·

## 编辑委员会

主 编：伍小龙      何广铿

编 委：（以姓氏笔划为序）

邓妍妍      邓护英

平 洪      冯清高

张伟明      杨文滢

罗国辉      林琴美

徐永健      黄广森

彭丹逵

## 总 前 言

1994年9月17日，在华南师范大学召开了广东省师范院校英语专业教材编写研讨会。出席会议的除东道主华南师范大学外语系的代表外，还有广州师范学院、湛江师范学院、广州师专、广东教育学院、广州教育学院、韶关教育学院、汕头教育学院、江门教育学院、五邑大学、嘉应大学、广东民族学院等13所院校的代表。与会代表回顾和分析了我省师范院校基础英语教学的历史和现状，并就基础阶段英语专业配套教材编写的必要性、紧迫性和可行性进行了热烈的讨论。全体代表一致认为，随着我国改革开放的发展和社会主义市场经济的建立，社会对高等院校的外语教学要求日益提高。为了适应形势发展的需要和进一步将外语教学改革引向深入，必须对英语基础阶段的教学内容、教学方法，尤其是教材进行改革。正如国家教委颁布的《高等学校英语专业基础阶段英语教学大纲》指出的那样，必须在英语基础知识和基本技能方面对学生进行全面的严格训练，打好语言基础；必须丰富学生的文化背景知识，增强学生对文化差异的敏感性，提高学生逻辑思维能力，打好文化基础。要提高基础阶段的英语教学质量，教材的选择和编写起着举足轻重的作用。因此，极有必要编写一套能体现师范性、具有时代精神和广东特色的配套教材，以保证我省师范院校英语专业培养目标的实现，使外语教学改革始终沿着正确的道路不断向前深入发展。在取得上述共识的基础上，与会代表决定成立“广东省师范院校英语专业基础阶段配套教材编写委员会”，负责组织有关院校编写辅助性配套教材。

现在呈现在读者面前的这套教材便是编写委员会和有关院校的专家教授和编撰人员近年来辛勤劳动的结晶。这套教材包括：

《英语语音实践教程》

《英语视听说教程》

《中级英语阅读教程》

《英语课外阅读文选》

《基础英语语法及训练》

《英语教学法基础》

《英语常用词用法词典》

在编写过程中，编者始终将“实践第一”的原则放在首位，因为任何一种语言，脱离了实践是无法掌握的。此外，编者还着力将科学性、知识性、趣味性、时代性和实践性熔于一炉，使所编教材达到教学大纲对教材的要求。

这套教材之所以能依时与读者见面，除因编撰人员多年不懈努力外，还因暨南大学出版社给予的鼎力支持。可以毫不夸张地说，没有该出版社领导、编辑以及其他工作人员的关怀和帮助，这套教材的出版至今还可能仍是一场幻想。因此我们衷心感谢暨南大学出版社对我省外语教学的一贯支持和在出版这套教材过程中给予我们的鼓励和帮助。

我们还要诚挚感谢华南师范大学外语系系主任徐霖贤教授，因为他对这套教材的编写和出版始终予以极大的支持和关注，提出了许多宝贵意见和建议。另外，中山大学的王宗炎教授和广东外语外贸大学的桂诗春教授对我们的工作也给予极大的支持，提出了许多指导性的意见。在此，我们对王、桂两位教授表示衷心感谢。

## 编者的话

长期以来，我国学生通过中学六年，甚至加上小学两年的英语学习之后，多数大学生的英语阅读能力都不够强，主要原因是他们阅读的材料太少，知识面窄，词汇量不够。如何提高大学生的英语阅读能力，一直是一个困扰着高等院校英语教学界的大问题。《高等学校英语专业基础阶段的英语教学大纲》提出，阅读课的任务在于着重提高阅读理解能力；培养学生细致观察语言、假设判断、分析归纳、推理验证等逻辑思维能力；培养学生速读的能力以及阅读的兴趣；扩大学生的词汇，增加文化背景知识。要真正达到这样的要求，没有大量的阅读训练是不可能的。目前，国内的许多大学英语阅读教材，主要强调课堂教学，培养学生的阅读技能、扩大学习的知识面和词汇量，这些都是必不可少的，但是就阅读量而言，还很不够。而且，光有课堂教学而没有课外大量的阅读材料作为补充是远远不够的。本书就是针对这方面的不足而编写的。参加本书编写的伍小龙、梁洪玉、张才喜、林山、程瑛、林楚玲等都是长期从事大学英语教学、经验丰富的大学英语教师。本书可用作英语专业二年级阅读课的课外补充读物，也适用于其他专业高年级学生作课外阅读的材料。

本书题材广泛，涉及历史、地理、人物、环境、金融、贸易、艺术、传媒、文化、教育、社会习俗和时事新闻等领域。全

部材料均选自英美国家的书报刊物，稍有删改。

全书分十七个单元，每单元的文章约 7000 字。每篇文章附有注释，注释力求精简，注意到既提供必要的指导，又不过多地打断学生的连贯阅读，同时有利于培养学生独立解决问题的能力。每单元后有少量问题，可作为学生阅读时对文章理解的一些指引，也可供教师作为检查学生课外阅读的参考。

**编者**



## 目 录

第一单元	国家与地区.....	(1)✓
第二单元	国际组织 .....	(49)
第三单元	著名人物 .....	(91)✓
第四单元	名城与名胜.....	(129)
第五单元	著名大学与图书馆.....	(161)
第六单元	重大历史事件.....	(193)
第七单元	节假日.....	(227)
第八单元	人口与环境.....	(261)
第九单元	求职.....	(299)
第十单元	金融.....	(331)
第十一单元	传媒与艺术.....	(363)
第十二单元	国际贸易.....	(393)
第十三单元	妇女、青年、老人及其他.....	(423)
第十四单元	语言.....	(457)
第十五单元	政治新闻.....	(487)
第十六单元	经济消息.....	(531)
第十七单元	其他新闻.....	(571)

## CONTENTS

Unit 1	Countries and Areas .....	(1)
Unit 2	International Organizations .....	(49)
Unit 3	Eminent Persons .....	(91)
Unit 4	Famous Cities and Scenic Spots .....	(129)
Unit 5	Famous Universities and Libraries .....	(161)
Unit 6	Important Historical Events .....	(193)
Unit 7	Holidays .....	(227)
Unit 8	Population and Environment .....	(261)
Unit 9	Seeking Employment .....	(299)
Unit 10	Finance .....	(331)
Unit 11	Media and Art .....	(363)
Unit 12	International Trade .....	(393)
Unit 13	Women, Youth, Aged and Others .....	(423)
Unit 14	Language .....	(457)
Unit 15	News about Politics .....	(487)
Unit 16	Economic News .....	(531)
Unit 17	News of Other Categories .....	(571)

# **Unit 1**

## **Countries and Areas**

## 1. HONG KONG

HONG KONG is a British dependency<sup>1</sup> on the southern coast of China. For many years, Great Britain considered Hong Kong a crown colony. Britain reclassified all its colonies as dependencies in the 1970's, but Hong Kong is still often called a colony. It lies near the mouth of the Chu Chiang (Pearl River), about 90 miles south-east of Canton, China.

Hong Kong is a bustling center of economic activity and one of the world's most crowded places. It ranks among Asia's major ports, and as a center of trade, finance, manufacturing, and tourism. Hong Kong has a land area of only about 400 square miles (1,000 square kilometers), but almost 5 million people live there. On the average, about 12,000 persons live on each square mile.

Hong Kong consists of a peninsula attached to the mainland of China, and more than 235 islands. The mainland area is divided into two sections - the New Territories in the north and the Kowloon Peninsula in the south. The main island, Hong Kong Island, lies just south of the Kowloon Peninsula.

Most of Hong Kong's economic activity takes place in the urban areas of Victoria and Kowloon, where a majority of the people live.

Victoria is the capital of Hong Kong, and Kowloon is the largest urban settlement. Victoria is on the north shore of Hong Kong Island, and Kowloon is on the Kowloon Peninsula. The two communities are separated from each other by Victoria Harbor. The Chinese call this large, beautiful port area *hong kong* (fragrant harbor).

All of present-day Hong Kong was part of China from ancient times until the 1800's. Great Britain gained control of Hong Kong Island in 1842 and the Kowloon Peninsula in 1860 through treaty agreements with China. In 1898, China leased<sup>2</sup> the New Territories to Britain for 99 years. The lease expires<sup>3</sup> in 1997. During the late 1800's and early 1900's, Hong Kong served as a port for British trade with China. Since the mid-1900's, it has grown into a center of international trade and finance and has also developed its own industries.

The Chinese Communists, who have governed China since 1949, do not formally recognize Britain's control of Hong Kong. China claims that Hong Kong is Chinese territory. But China has not actively opposed British rule, probably because Hong Kong has great value for the Chinese economy. China earns much income by selling food, water, raw materials, and manufactured products to Hong Kong. The Chinese government also owns many banks, department stores, and hotels in Hong Kong.

Almost all the residents of Hong Kong are Chinese. Through the years, millions of people have moved from China to Hong Kong to find jobs. Since the Communist conquest of China, large num-

bers of Chinese have fled to Hong Kong to escape Communist rule.

## Government

A governor heads the government of Hong Kong. The British monarch<sup>4</sup> appoints the governor to a term of unspecified length. A 15-member Executive Council helps the governor carry out government operations. A Legislative Council, which has up to 50 members, makes Hong Kong's laws. All members of the two councils are nominated by the governor and appointed by the British monarch. Members of the Executive Council serve five-year terms, and Legislative Council members serve four years. British officials hold the governorship and most other top posts in the government. Chinese citizens of Hong Kong serve in many of the lower offices.

Although Britain controls the government, Hong Kong is basically Chinese in character. The British try to limit their role in the dependency. The government's functions include maintaining law and order and providing roads and sanitation<sup>5</sup> facilities<sup>6</sup>. The government works to provide housing for the needy, free education for all children, and care for the elderly. It also promotes Hong Kong's economy but tries as much as possible to avoid interfering in business activities and the lives of the people.

## People

**Population and Ancestry.** Hong Kong has about 4,867,000

people, of whom more than 98 per cent are Chinese. Most are immigrants from southern China or descendants<sup>7</sup> of immigrants from that region. The relatively few non-Chinese residents of Hong Kong include people from Australia, Great Britain, India, Japan, the United States, and Vietnam.

**Languages.** Hong Kong has two official languages, English and Chinese. English was the only official language until 1974, but most of Hong Kong's Chinese people do not speak or understand it well, if at all. The majority of them speak the Cantonese dialect of Chinese. As a result, the government made Chinese an official language.

**Way of Life.** About 80 percent of Hong Kong's people live in urban areas. Many work in factories, and others are employed by the government or the shipping industry. Most of the urban people live in Victoria and Kowloon. Hong Kong's other urban settlements include Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun, and Sha Tin.

People in rural areas of Hong Kong live in small farming villages and raise crops and livestock. Some farmers still plant and harvest crops by hand or with hand tools. But new farming methods and machinery have enabled many to increase their production.

The people of Hong Kong eat large amounts of fresh vegetables, fish, and rice, and some poultry and pork. Many of them wear the same type of clothing worn in western countries. Others wear Chinese-style clothing, such as dark-colored pants and shirts, and long robes. The major religions in Hong Kong are Buddhism and Taoism. Small groups of Christians, Hindus, Jews, and

Muslims also live there.

**Housing** in Hong Kong's urban areas varies sharply. Most wealthy people live in luxury apartment buildings, and some live in beautiful houses with gardens. Large numbers of middle and low-income people occupy crowded high-rise apartment buildings, which stand close together. In many cases, several poor families share one or two small rooms. Large numbers of refugees from China once lived in wood and tin shacks, which stood on hillsides, under bridges, and even on the roofs of buildings. Thousands of families also made their homes on boats in harbors. Some such dwellings still exist, but there are far fewer than in the past.

Hong Kong's government began a public housing program in the mid-1950's to improve housing. Since then, the government has erected low-rent apartment buildings for more than 2 million persons. Most of these buildings are in huge housing complexes called *resettlement estates*.

The majority of Hong Kong's rural people live in one or two-story houses made of brick or stone. Most of the homes have tile or tin roofs. Some rural villages in Hong Kong were settled more than 1,000 years ago.

**Education.** All children in Hong Kong are required by law to go to school for nine years – six years of elementary school and three of high school. The government supports the public school system, in which classes are taught in Chinese. A few private schools conduct classes in English. About 75 per cent of the people can read and write.



Hong Kong has two universities, four teachers colleges, and many technical schools. The largest university is the University of Hong Kong, which was founded in 1911 and has about 5,000 students. The Chinese University, founded in 1963, has about 4,700 students.

## Victoria and Kowloon

Victoria and Kowloon are the main centers of trade, finance, industry, and tourism in Hong Kong. Many small shops, open markets, and high-rise buildings line the narrow streets of these crowded urban areas.

Victoria and Kowloon lie on opposite sides of Victoria Harbor. Every day, thousands of people cross the harbor on ferries to go to work or to shop. About 85,000 motor vehicles travel daily between the Kowloon Peninsula and Hong Kong Island by means of a tunnel under the harbor. A 10-mile underwater subway links Victoria and Kowloon.

**Victoria** is the seat of government and the financial center of Hong Kong. The Victoria urban area has a population of about 521,000. Government buildings and banks and other financial establishments are in central Victoria. Local residents own some of the banks. Others are branches of large banks of China, Great Britain, Japan, the United States, and other countries. High-rise commercial buildings and fashionable shops and hotels stand along Victoria's waterfront.