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阅读  
与  
理解

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**科技英语阅读与理解**

梅德明 编

戴炜栋 审校

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## 说 明

《科技英语阅读与理解》以从事科学技术专业工作的英语学习者为主要对象,也可以作为爱好自然科学的中学生、理工农医类学科的大学生以及成人自学英语者的一本英语读物。阅读本书的起点词汇量为在各类英语教材中出现频率最高的700个常用词。

全书共编选英语短文60篇,题材广泛多样,语言浅近易懂,内容涉及数学、物理学、医学、生物学、遗传学、气象学、生态学、空间技术、自然环境、人类的创造发明以及衣、食、住、行等。每篇短文均附有生词表、必要的注释和旨在检查理解程度的“是与非”练习题。

除了阅读短文外,本书配有一套“科技谜语”。26条谜语颇具趣味性,并且在内容和语言深度两方面都与短文相近。因此,“科技谜语”既可以激发读者的学习兴趣,亦可起到复习和巩固所学内容的作用。

“词汇表”所注各词的词类和释意以本书短文中出现为限;每个单词都注有相关短文的顺序号,以备读者随时查阅。

在编选过程中,编者参考并选用了近年来国内外出版的教材中内容合适的材料,特此说明。

对本书中的纰缪之处,希望读者不吝指正。

梅德明

一九八七年四月

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## I

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## 1. Light and Shadow

Light and shadow are friends. They usually go together. We receive light every day. At the same time, we produce shadow.

Light cannot shine through you. Your body blocks it. There is a dark spot on the ground next to you. The light cannot reach the dark spot. This is your shadow.

At noon the sun shines over your head. Your body stops very little light from reaching the ground. So your shadow is quite short.

But in early morning or late afternoon the sun is low in the sky. Its light streams over more of your body. Then your shadow is quite long. Your body keeps a lot of light from reaching the ground.

We love light, especially sunlight. Without sunlight, life on earth is impossible. Most of us like to stand in the shadow of a tree in the summer. But some people are afraid of their own shadow at night. They do not want to walk in a dark street. They do not want to see the shadow, either. However, light and shadow usually go together.

## New Words

shadow /'ʃædəu/ *n.* 阴影

usually /'ju:ʒuəli/ *ad.* 通常

receive /ri'si:v/ *v.* 得到;

收到

produce /prə'dju:s/ *v.* 生

产; 产生

block /blɒk/ *v., n.* 阻挡;

阻碍物

spot /spɒt/ *n.* 阴影; 斑点

reach /ri:tʃ/ *v.* 到达

noon /nu:n/ *n.* 中午

more /mɔ:/ *a., ad.* 更多

(的)

stream /stri:m/ *v., n.* 流

动; 溪河

especially /is'peʃəli/ *ad.*

特别; 尤其

sunlight /'sʌnlaɪt/ *n.* 阳光

earth /ə:θ/ *n.* 地球

impossible /im'pɒsəbl/ *a.*

不可能的

own /əʊn/ *a.* 自己的

either /'aɪðə/ *ad., conj.*

也, 或者

however /hau'evə/ *ad.*

可是; 然而

## Notes

1. Light and shadow usually go together.

光和影通常形影不离, 结伴而行。

2. At noon the sun shines over your head.

正午时刻, 太阳在你的头顶上空直射下来。

3. Your body stops very little light from reaching the ground.

你的身体只阻挡住极少的阳光, 使其无法照射到地面。

4. Its light streams over more of your body.



你身体的更多部分沐浴在阳光下。

5. Your body keeps a lot of light from reaching the ground.

你的身体挡住了大量的阳光，使其无法照射到地面。

6. stand in the shadow of a tree 站在树荫下

### Comprehension Exercise

#### True or False?

- ( ) 1. We get light every day.
- ( ) 2. We produce light when we receive it.
- ( ) 3. There will be no shadow without light.
- ( ) 4. Light does not go through people.
- ( ) 5. Shadow is a dark spot.
- ( ) 6. A man's body keeps a lot of light from reaching the ground at noon.
- ( ) 7. Man cannot live without sunlight.
- ( ) 8. People are afraid of their shadow at night.
- ( ) 9. Some people are afraid of their shadow because they are afraid of light.
- ( ) 10. Very few people do not like to stand in the shadow of a tree in the hot summer.

## 2. Do You Like Insects ?

All the small, six-legged animals in the world are insects. You know some of them. Flies, ants and bees are insects. Some insects are our enemies, but many of them are our friends.

Insects can provide much of our food. They work very hard on the flowers of plants. Without their work, most plants cannot produce fruit, vegetables or seeds. And without seeds, there would be no new plants. We eat a lot of fruit and vegetables every year. We also eat a lot of meat every year. Most of our meat comes from animals. The food for many kinds of animals comes from plants.

Insects can keep the world clean. They eat dead animals. They eat animal waste.

Without insects, the world would be very different.

### New Words

insect /'insekt/ *n.* 昆虫  
leg /leg/ *n.* 腿  
animal /'æniməl/ *n.* 动物  
fly /flai/ *n.* 苍蝇

ant /ænt/ *n.* 蚂蚁  
bee /bi:/ *n.* 蜜蜂  
enemy /'enimi/ *n.* 敌人  
provide /prə'vaɪd/ *v.* 提供

without /wi'daʊt/ *prep.* 无

most /məʊst/ *n., a., ad.*

大多数; 最多的; 最

fruit /fru:t/ *a.* 水果

vegetable /'vedʒɪtəbl/ *n.*

蔬菜

seed /si:d/ *n.* 种籽

dead /ded/ *a.* 死的

waste /weɪst/ *n., v.*

废物; 浪费

## Notes

1. six-legged animals 有六条腿的动物
2. They work very hard on the flowers of plants.  
它们在植物的花朵上辛勤耕耘(采集花粉)。
3. And without seeds, there would be no new plants.  
没有种籽, 就不会有新的植物。
4. The food for many kinds of animals comes from plants.  
许多种动物的食物来自植物。
5. Insects can keep the world clean.  
昆虫能使世界洁净。
6. They eat animal waste.  
它们食动物的粪便。

## Comprehension Exercise

### True or False?

- ( ) 1. Insects are small animals with four legs.
- ( ) 2. Flies and bees are insects but ants are not.
- ( ) 3. Many insects are man's friends.
- ( ) 4. We give insects much of their food.
- ( ) 5. Many insects like to work on the flowers of plants.

- ( ) 6. Because of insects' work we have fruit and vegetables every year.
- ( ) 7. We hate some insects because they eat a lot of fruit every year.
- ( ) 8. Many kinds of animals eat plants.
- ( ) 9. Insects like to eat animals.
- ( ) 10. Without insects, the world would **not be the same as it is today.**

### **3. Are Sounds Useful or Harmful ?**

The world is filled with many interesting sounds. Some are unpleasant to our ears while others are very pleasant to hear. In a single day you probably hear hundreds of different sounds. All sounds are different. Some may be soft; others may be loud. Some sounds are high; others are low. Some sounds are useful. Without sound we cannot talk or listen to one another. The ringing of the alarm clock wakes people up. The hooting of a car warns people of danger.

Some sounds are harmful. When planes fly low over the land, the very loud sounds can cause damage to houses. Very loud sounds can even make people deaf.

We know sound travels about one kilometre in three seconds. In a thunderstorm you see the lightning first and then hear the thunder. This is because light travels much faster than sound. Next time you see lightning, count the number of seconds before you hear the thunder. Divide this number by 3. This will tell you how many kilometres away the thunderstorm is.

## New Words

sound /saund/ *n.* 声音  
useful /'ju:sful/ *a.* 有用的  
harmful /hɑ:mful/ *a.*

有害的

fill /fɪl/ *v.* 充满  
interesting /'ɪntrɪstɪŋ/ *a.*

有趣的

unpleasant /ʌn'pleznt/ *a.*

不愉快的

while /hwaɪl/ *conj.* 而; 当  
pleasant /'pleznt/ *a.*

愉快的

single /sɪŋgl/ *a.* 单一的  
probably /'prɒbəbli/ *ad.*

很可能

different /'dɪfrənt/ *a.*

不同的

soft /sɒft/ *a.* 柔和的  
loud /laʊd/ *a.* 响亮的  
alarm /ə'la:m/ *n.* 警报

wake /weɪk/ *v.* 醒; 唤醒  
hoot /hu:t/ *v.* 汽车喇叭声 喇叭  
warn /wɔ:n/ *v.* 警告  
danger /'deɪndʒə/ *n.* 危险  
cause /kɔ:z/ *v., n.*

引起; 原因

damage /'dæmɪdʒi/ *n., v.*

损害

deaf /def/ *a.* 聋的  
travel /'trævl/ *v., n.* 旅行  
kilometre /'kɪlə'mi:tə/ *n.*

公里

thunderstorm /'θʌndə-  
stɔ:m/ *n.* 雷暴雨

lightning /'laɪtnɪŋ/ *n.*

闪电

thunder /'θʌndə/ *n.* 雷  
count /kaʊnt/ *v.* 计数  
divide /dɪ'vaɪd/ *v.* 除; 分

## Notes

1. is filled with 充满着

2. unpleasant to our ears 刺耳
3. pleasant to hear 悦耳
4. hundreds of 数百种
5. one another 互相
6. The ringing of the alarm clock wakes people up.  
闹钟的铃声将人们唤醒。
7. The hooting of a car warns people of danger.  
汽车的喇叭声警告人们有危险。
8. fly low over the land 低空飞行
9. ... sound travels about one kilometre in three seconds.  
……音速大约每三秒一公里。
10. This is because light travels much faster than sounds.  
这是因为光速远远超过音速。
11. Divide this number by 3.  
将此数除以 3。

### Comprehension Exercise

#### True or False?

- ( ) 1. The world is full of sounds.
- ( ) 2. We like to hear sounds because they are loud.
- ( ) 3. All sounds are different and useful.
- ( ) 4. We can talk or listen to one another because of sound.
- ( ) 5. Some sounds are harmful because they are not interesting.
- ( ) 6. The sound from the alarm clock tells people to get up.

- ( ) 7. People become deaf because very loud sounds have damaged their hearing.
- ( ) 8. Sound travels about three kilometres in a second.
- ( ) 9. Light travels as fast as sound.
- ( ) 10. We have a simple way to tell how far away a thunderstorm is from us.



## 4. Sweet Dreams

In the past twenty years scientists have learned a great deal about sleep and dreams. They have discovered, for example, that sleep and dreams affect the way people feel. A good night sleep generally makes the person happier in the morning. Dreams also have a strong effect on the moods of people. However, who appears in the dream is more important than what happens. Every person has a special dream character. If this special character appears in dreams, people are happier after sleeping. If there are many people in one's dreams, this has a good effect. A person will wake up happier. The moods of people affect their performance throughout the day. The level of one's moods rises and falls during the day. The less sleepy people are the better they perform and usually they are more friendly, more aggressive and more clear thinking. Some day scientists hope to be able to manipulate sleep in order to control the way people feel and perform.

### New Words

dream /dri:m/ *n., v.*

梦, 做梦

past /pɑ:st/ *a., n.*

过去(的)