

# 英语扩充词汇阶梯阅读

刘树蕙(主编) 赵冬梅 申军梅

— 精通 **2000** 词汇

目标英语阅读阶梯系列

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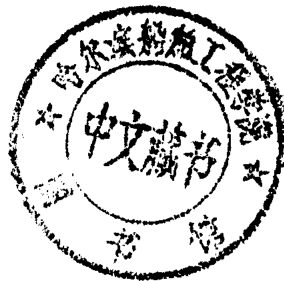
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刘树蕙 主编  
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## 内 容 提 要

本书为“目标英语阅读阶梯系列”书第二册，编写词汇量基于2 000词左右。所选短文60篇，内容涉及人文地理、科普知识、政治经济、风土人情、名人轶事、幽默故事等，目的在于丰富读者的文化背景知识，培养阅读兴趣，扩大词汇量，提高阅读能力。选材不但有较强的趣味性和知识性，而且针对性和实用性也较强。每篇短文后，对一些长句、复杂句以及句子中难理解的地方，附加了注释，并配有不同类型的词汇练习。每5篇短文后配有一个词汇、词组综合练习题，可帮助读者熟练而牢固地掌握一些重点单词及词组，打好语言基础，从而提高语言的应用能力。为便于读者阅读和正确理解短文，书后附有参考译文，并有练习答案，便于自学。

本书可作为大专院校低年级学生英语阅读辅助教材，也可供高中、中专以及各类相应水平的读者使用。

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——精通 2 000 词汇

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## 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述历史的深沉、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，本系列书的编者们特编辑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。

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# 1 The Birth of American Football

## 美式足球的诞生

A hundred years ago, the game we now call football did not exist. American football started during a game between two colleges. The teams had gotten together to play what they called "football"<sup>1</sup>, but each team played by different rules. One team played what we now call soccer(英式足球). The other played what we now call rugby(橄榄球).

Both games had been invented a thousand years before. In the first kind of football game ever played, all the men from one village tried to kick a ball into another village. The men of the second village tried to kick the ball into the first. Hundreds of people joined in, running everywhere, ruining(毁坏) crops and knocking down fences. In time, people agreed on some rules to keep order, but many rules were left open to change.<sup>2</sup> Different rules developed in different places.

When the two colleges met to play football, each followed its own rules. They mixed the games together and invented a new game. A hundred years later we call that game American football.

In what ways do you suppose the games we know now will have changed in another hundred years?<sup>3</sup>

### Notes

1. The teams had gotten together to play what they called "football" 这里"what they called"作插入语。
2. ..., but many rules were left open to change. 句中 open 的意思是未解决的,未完成的; be left open to change 意思是有待于改进。
3. In what ways do you suppose the games we know now will have changed in another hundred years? 句中 we know now 是定语从句,修饰 the games,关系代词 that (which)已省略。

## Exercies

1. Fill in the past and past participle forms of the following verbs.

Verb	Past tense	Past participle
1) play	_____	_____
2) try	_____	_____
3) run	_____	_____
4) agree	_____	_____
5) meet	_____	_____

2. Finish the following sentences with the given words.

ago, before, later, during, between

- 1) My grandfather died five years \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) My grandmother had already died three years \_\_\_\_\_ (that).
- 3) What's the difference \_\_\_\_\_ soccer and rugby?
- 4) They lived abroad \_\_\_\_\_ the war.
- 5) You go first, and I'll come five minutes \_\_\_\_\_.



## 2 Footprints

### 脚印

One happy day Abe's father brought home a new wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln. Abe and Nancy liked their cheerful, kind stepmother. She brought three children of her own, John, Sarah and Matilda.

Now the house was lively again, with five children in it. Sarah Lincoln was a busy mother. She kept the house clean and a kettle of hot food cooking. <sup>1</sup> She listened to the children talk and laughed at their fun. <sup>2</sup>

One day Abe played a joke<sup>3</sup>. The ceiling had just been whitewashed (粉刷). Dennis Hanks, Abe's older cousin, loved mischief (恶作剧) as much as Abe did. Abe got Dennis to boost (升) him upside down<sup>4</sup> on his shoulders. Then Abe reached up and made footprints across the clean white ceiling.

Abe was sure his stepmother would be puzzled. She would wonder who could have walked on the ceiling. Abe's stepmother took one look at the footprints.

"Nobody but<sup>5</sup> Abe Lincoln would ever have thought up such a thing," she said. Even though the ceiling was spoiled (糟蹋), she laughed. Abe cheerfully helped his stepmother clean up. <sup>6</sup>

When Abe grew older he worked harder. He helped his father farm. He milked cows and chopped (砍) down trees. Some of the other farmers hired Abe to work for them.

Abe's favorite chore (家庭杂务) was taking grain to the mill. He had to wait for his turn to have the grain ground<sup>7</sup> into flour. He had plenty of time to listen to the men talk and swap stories. Abe loved to swap stories.

All his life, Abe Lincoln remembered his own mother: He never forgot his stepmother's kindness and patience. When he had been elected President<sup>8</sup>, he went back to visit his stepmother before he went to Washington.

约翰

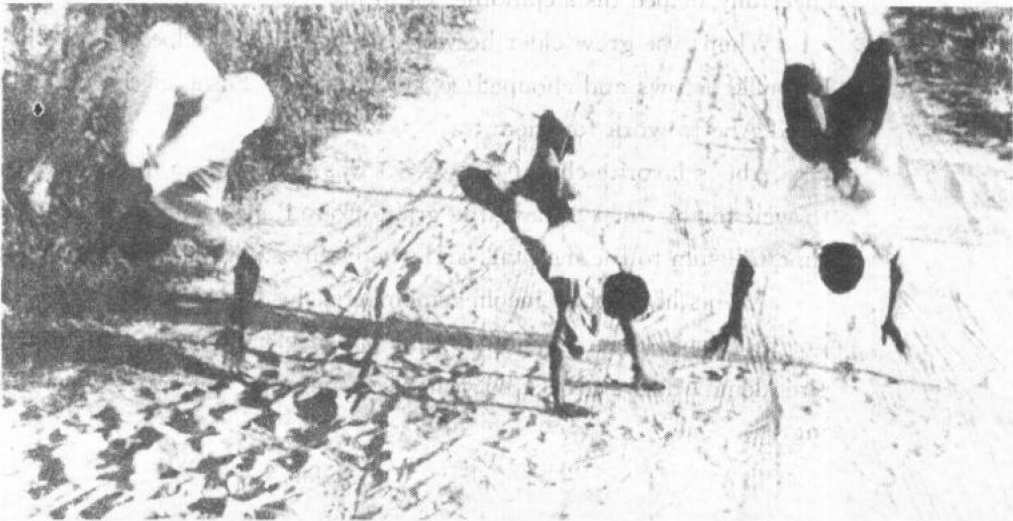
if never had

## Notes

1. She kept the house clean and a kettle of hot food cooking. 句中 the house 和 a kettle of hot food 做 kept 的宾语, clean 和 cooking 是宾语补足语。
2. She listened to the children talk and laughed at their fun. 句中 the children 是动词短语 listen to 的宾语, talk 是省去 to 的不定式短语做宾语补足语。
3. play a joke 开玩笑
4. upside down 颠倒, 倒转
5. nobody but 除……以外没有人……
6. Abe cheerfully helped his stepmother clean up. 句中 his stepmother 是动词 help 的宾语; clean up 是省去 to 的不定式短语作宾语补足语。
7. to have the grain ground 这里, ground 是过去分词, 它的原形动词是 grind.
8. when he had been elected President. President 是主语补足语。

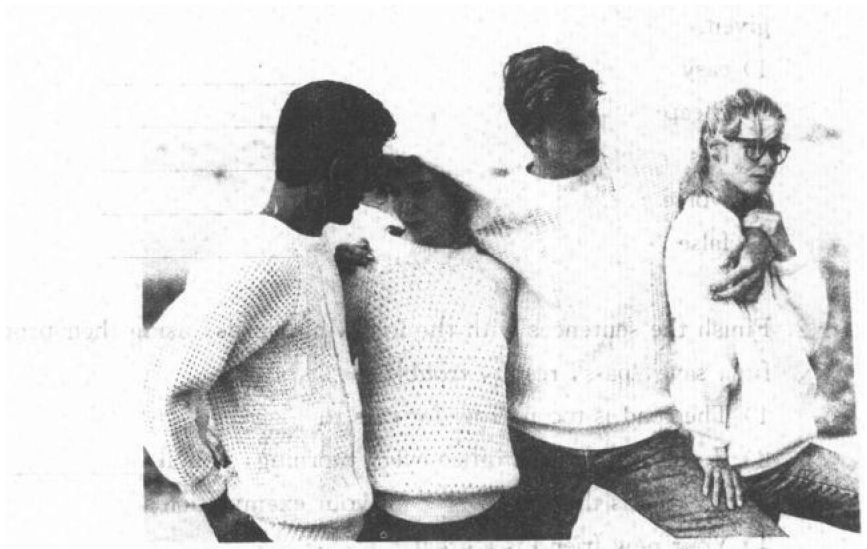
## Exercises

1. Finish the following sentences with the given words in their proper forms.  
fun, own, lively, joke, plenty of
  - 1) I saw it with my own eyes.
  - 2) He has a fantasy imagination.
  - 3) He's too fond of fun.
  - 4) He can't take a joke.
  - 5) There are plenty of eggs in the basket.
2. Fill in the missing past tense of the following verbs.
  - 1) like \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) keep \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) understand \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) chop \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) grind \_\_\_\_\_



### 3 Young People in Britain 英国的年轻人

Life used to be fun for “teenagers (青少年)”. They used to have money to spend, and free time to spend it in. They used to wear teenage clothes, and meet in teenage coffee bars and discos. Some of them still do. But for many young people, life is harder now. Jobs are difficult to find. There’s not so much money around. <sup>1</sup> Things are more expensive, and it’s hard to find a place to live. Teachers say that students work harder than they used to. <sup>2</sup> They are less interested in politics, and more interested in passing exams. They know that good exam results may get them better jobs.



Most young people worry more about money than their parents did twenty years ago. They try to spend less and save more. They want to be able to get homes of their own one day.

For some, the answer to unemployment (失业) is to leave home and

look for work in one of Britain's big cities. Every day hundreds of young people arrive in London from other parts of Britain, looking for jobs. Some find work, and stay. Others don't find it, and go home again, or join the many unemployed in London.

When you read the newspapers and watch the news on television, it's easy to get the idea that British young people are all unemployed, angry and in trouble. But that's not true. Three quarters of them do more or less what their parents did.<sup>3</sup> They do their best at school, find some kind of work in the end, and get married in their early twenties. They get on well with their parents, and enjoy family life. After all, if they didn't, they wouldn't be British, would they?

### Notes

1. There's not so much money around. 这里, around 意思是身边, 周围。
2. Teachers say that students work harder than they used to. 句中 used to 意思是过去常常, 后面省略了 work。
3. Three quarters of them do more or less what their parents did. 句中 more or less 意思是大约, 类似。 what their parents did 是从句, 做 do 的宾语。

### Exercises

1. Find the words in the passage that are most nearly opposite in meaning to the words given.
  - 1) easy \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) cheap \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) less \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) worse \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) false \_\_\_\_\_
2. Finish the sentences with the following words, using their proper forms.  
fun, save, pass, result, trouble
  - 1) The road is too narrow for cars to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) If you walk to the office every morning, you'll \_\_\_\_\_ your money.
  - 3) What was the \_\_\_\_\_ of your examination?
  - 4) Your new friend is a great \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 5) He never came except when he was in \_\_\_\_\_.



## 4 The Outlaw

### 罪犯

This is Robin Hood. He lived a long time ago when there were many forests in England.

Robin's father had a small farm. One day his father died.

"Now, I will be a farmer," said Robin.

Robin's farm was near the forest. There were a lot of<sup>1</sup> deer in the forest. The deer belonged to<sup>2</sup> the king, and the king hunted the deer. If any other man hunted the deer, he was hanged.

The king had a friend called Guy of Gisborne. He did not like Robin Hood.

One day Guy of Gisborne stood in the market place of the town and talked to all the people.

"Robin Hood has killed one of the King's deer," he said. "He is an enemy of the king and cannot live here any more<sup>3</sup>. He is an outlaw."

Robin ran away<sup>4</sup> into the forest. Five friends went with him. They were all outlaws.

"Will you be our leader?" the outlaws asked Robin.

"Yes, certainly," Robin replied.

The men made a fire<sup>5</sup> in the forest, and they all sat round it eating and talking.<sup>6</sup>

More outlaws came to the forest. They wore green suits and lived in huts. The huts were hidden among the trees.

