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英语科普读物

READING COMPREHENSION

华中工学院出版社

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前 言

有些读者和学生常常遇到这样的问题：学完了基础英语后如何进一步提高英语水平？我觉得应进行大量的阅读。通过阅读不断地扩大词汇量，掌握英语的各种语言结构，从而迅速地提高对英语原著的阅读能力。

近年来，国外不少从事语言教学与研究的学者十分重视学员的阅读速度的训练。他们把阅读能力作为衡量人们语言水平的一个重要尺度。美国每年为国外留学生举行的TOEFL（托福）考试，要求考生具有每分钟约一百个单词的阅读速度。近两年来，我国英语工作者也开始注意学员阅读速度的训练。EPT（英语水平考试）考试中，阅读分量在百分之五十以上，速度要求达到每分钟约七十个单词。国内其它各类英语考试都普遍增加了阅读分量，以反映对阅读速度的要求。

为了帮助读者提高阅读能力，了解阅读测试的一般方法，我把自己在教学中用来训练学员的一些资料加以选择、整理，汇编成这本小册子，供读者参考。此书收集了七十多篇英语科普短文，这些短文分别选自国外用于进行阅读理解训练的教科书以及TOEFL试题和我国的EPT试题。选材时，既注意了材料的知识性，又十分重视它的趣味性。编排顺序，尽量做到由浅入深，循序渐进。本书与一般趣味读物不同的地方是：特别重视对读者阅读理解能力的训练。每篇短文都配有练习题、生词表、译文和练习答案。对文中的各种难点还一一作了比较详细的注释，很适于自学。

读者在做阅读练习时，可以先不查阅生词，看看自己读完一篇短文后能做对几道题。如果生词太多，也可以在查阅生词以后再进行阅读。阅读中要学会掌握所读材料的主旨大意；了解用以阐述主旨的事实和细节；根据所读材料进行推理和判断；领会作者的态度和情绪。不可拘泥于一个字、一句话，进行逐字逐句的翻译阅读。当然，为了求得对所读文章的准确理解，最后再参看一下注释和译文也是必要的。

本书可作大专院校学生、电大、夜大学生的英语辅助读物，也可供有一定英语基础的读者作自学提高用，对于准备研究生英语考试的人也有一定的参考价值。

本书承张义斌副教授和袁永滢副教授全面审校（张义斌同志审练习1至练习39，袁永滢同志审练习40至练习72），在此表示衷心感谢。

由于编者的水平有限，缺点和错误在所难免，欢迎读者批评指正。

编 者

一九八三年四月

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Exercise 1

We live in the jet age. But not all planes are jets. ①
Some are purposely made to move slowly.

Some planes carry signs. They fly low so that people can see them. Other planes spray areas that have insects. ② And some are used to fight forest fires.

Planes sometimes search for fish. ③ They travel in pairs. One marks the spot. And the other leads a ship to the fish.

1. The story says that not all planes
A. need care. B. move in the air.
C. are jets.
2. Planes that carry signs fly very
A. low. B. fast. C. high.
3. The story says that planes are used to put out
fires
A. in town. B. in forests. C. on ships.
4. Planes searching for fish travel in
A. pairs. B. threes. C. large groups.
5. The point of the story is that
A. we should use only jets.
B. jets are the best planes.
C. we need slow planes as well as jets.

New Words and Expressions

1. jet [dʒet] *n.* 喷气式飞机
2. purposely ['pə:pəsli] *ad.* 特意地, 故意地
3. spray [sprei] *vt.* 喷, 撒
4. insect ['insekt] *n.* 昆虫
5. forest ['fɒrɪst] *n.* 森林
6. search for [sə:tʃ] 寻找
7. mark [mɑ:k] *vt.* 标明, 作记号

Exercise 2

There is still a lot of gold in the earth. ① Some of it is in the form of shiny ^{lumps} lumps, or stones. These lumps are called nuggets. ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{gold} ~~gold~~

Some is in the form of specks of gold dust. This dust may be as fine as face powder. ② When gold dust is found in rock, the rock must be crushed into powder so that the gold can be washed out.

1. Some gold is found in shiny lumps called
A. nuggets. B. stars. C. powder.
2. Some gold is in the form of little specks called gold
A. nuggets. B. dust. C. rock.
3. The story says that these specks may be as fine as

- A. face powder. B. sand. C. sugar.
4. When tiny specks of gold are found in rock, the rock must be
 A. melted. B. crushed into powder.
 C. broken into big lumps.
5. The story says that gold is taken from rock by
 A. picking it out. B. melting it out.
 C. washing it out.

New Words and Expressions

1. gold [gəʊld] *n.* 金
2. shiny [ˈʃaɪni] *a.* 发光的, 闪耀的
3. lump [lʌmp] *n.* 团, 块
4. nugget [ˈnʌdʒɪt] *n.* 块金, 矿块
5. speck [spek] *n.* 微粒, 小点
6. powder [ˈpaʊdə] *n.* 粉末
7. crush [kraʃ] *vt.* 压碎, 碾碎

Exercise 3

Wolves have a good sense of smell, ① and they can see and hear very well. Most of them live far from people. Thus they can be difficult to catch. But sometimes they leave signs. They scratch their claws on trees. Hunters find these signs and then

leave their traps.

Wolves are loyal to their families. If a wolf is trapped by man, his mate will look for him, and she might be caught too.

1. The story says that wolves
 - A. run fast.
 - B. smell badly.
 - C. hear well.
2. Most wolves live far away from
 - A. other wolves.
 - B. people.
 - C. other animals.
3. Some wolves are trapped because they
 - A. see badly.
 - B. run slowly.
 - C. leave signs.
4. The story says that wolves are
 - A. loyal to their families.
 - B. always easy to catch.
 - C. mean to their mates.
5. If a wolf is trapped, his mate will
 - A. run away.
 - B. look for him.
 - C. be hard to catch.

New Words and Expressions

1. wolf [wʊlf] *n.* 狼
2. sense of smell 嗅觉
3. catch [kætʃ] (caught [kɔ:t]) *vt.* 抓住,
逮住
4. scratch [skrætʃ] *vt.* 抓, 搔

5. claw [klɔ:] *n.* 爪, 脚爪
6. hunter [ˈhʌntə] *n.* 猎人
7. trap [træp] *n.* 陷阱
8. loyal [ˈloɪəl] *a.* 忠诚的, 忠心的
loyal to... 忠于……
9. mate [meɪt] *n.* 同伴
10. far from 远离……

Exercise 4

Long ago, men had many ways to tell time. ①
In Greece they once used a water clock. ~~just~~

The Greek water clock was a clay bowl. The bowl was marked on the inside with rings. There was a tiny hole in the bottom of the bowl. The bowl was filled with water. The water would drip out through the hole at an even rate. ②

The Greeks could tell how much time had passed since they had filled the bowl with water.

1. The Greek water clock was a bowl made of
A. gold. B. clay C. wood.
2. The inside of the bowl was marked with
A. rings. B. holes. C. clocks.
3. At the bottom of the bowl there was a
A. Greek clock.
B. clay ring.

C. tiny hole.

4. The bowl was filled with

A. water. B. clay. C. holes.

5. The Greeks could tell how much time had passed since they had

A. filled the bowl with water.

B. marked the bowl with holes.

C. filled the bowl with clay.

New Words and Expressions

1. Greek [grɪk] *a.* 希腊的 *n.* 希腊人

2. clay [kleɪ] *n.* 粘土, 泥土

3. tiny [ˈtaɪni] *a.* 极小的, 微小的

4. even [ˈi:vən] *a.* 平均的

Exercise 5

Londoners set their clocks by Big Ben. ① Big Ben is the bell in the world's most famous clock. (Most people call the clock Big Ben; the name really refers to the bell.)

The clock's tower stands 316 feet tall. It was built more than a hundred years ago. The tower now leans by fifteen inches. ② However, experts say that it is in no danger.

During World War II the clock was battered by bombs. Still it kept perfect time. But in 1945 some