

阅读欣赏 与词汇应用

PLEASURABLE
READING

AND

VOCABULARY
PRACTICE

冯 卓 编著
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北京师范大学出版社出版

新华书店总店科技发行所发行

北京市平谷县胶印厂印刷

开本: 850 × 1168 1/32 印张: 13 字数: 237千

1991年10月第1版 1991年10月第1次印刷

印数: 1-5 000

ISBN 7 303 01147 1 H · 87

定 价: 3.90元

编者的话

本书是为大专院校英语专业二年级学生或具有同等水平的自学者提供的一本词汇阅读课本。所选阅读材料和部分练习主要依据哈罗德·利文编著的《阅读技巧和词汇》，具有较高的文学性、实用性和趣味性，旨在扩大读者的词汇量和提高阅读英语原著的理解能力。

优秀的文学作品不仅能赋予读者以美的享受，通常也被看成是学好语文的范本。本书选用的 24 篇阅读材料，大多选自世界名家之作的精彩片断，如美国著名作家马克·吐温的《汤姆·索耶历险记》，杰克·伦敦的《野性的呼唤》，英国史蒂文森的名著《金银岛》等。

众所周知，词是构成语言的基本单位，词汇量的大小在很大程度上影响着阅读速度和理解能力。本书将使读者在轻松愉快的阅读过程中较自如地掌握新词。词汇部分编选了大量既实用又灵活多样的练习，有助于激发读者学习和应用词汇的兴趣。读者在学完一课之后能紧密结合实际牢固地掌握所学的词汇。学完全书后，读者可掌握包括同义词、反义词和派生词在内的近千个单词。

根据所选材料的难易程度，本书分为两大部分，每部分以 4 课为一组，合计 12 篇阅读短文。各篇内容包括阅读和词汇两个部分。在课堂教学过程中，要求学生事先不预习并在课内阅读时不得查阅字典，教师要根据课文篇幅和难易程度限定阅读时间。学生在做完理解练习后，教师可通过提问或讨论等方式，检查学生的理解能力并核对答案，与此同时，教师要进一步做背景知识介绍和重点讲解语言难点（自学者可参考课文后面的注释）。对词汇部分，每课要求学生学会使用 10 个单词（即课文中的划线部分）。教师要结合上下文，讲解 10 个词的正确使用以及它们的同义词、反义词和派生词，然后，引导学生做词汇部分的练习，以加深、巩固和消化已学的词汇。

为了使读者能温故知新，本书在每 4 篇课文之后专门编排了一组词汇复习练习，用以检查对已学词汇的拼写，应用和派生词变化等

掌握情况。全书两大部分之后各附有一份按字母顺序排列的词汇总复习表,并列出部分同义词,反义词以及全部已学的派生词,可供读者复习或随时查阅之用。

自 1985 年以来,本书一直被用做北京师范大学外语系英语专业二年级学生的学习教材,并曾多次为中学英语教师进修班、出国人员短训班以及其他类型训练班所选用。学员们普遍反映,这本教材在提高阅读的理解能力和在较短时间内扩大和掌握词汇方面确有独到之处,它既为读者提高和检验欣赏英语原著的理解力提供了实践机会,又通过大量实例表明只有结合具体的语言环境学习词汇才能收到良好的效果。本书力求充分发挥读者在学习外语时的联想力和判断力,摒弃孤立地死记硬背单词的旧习,把阅读欣赏和扩大词汇量有机地溶为一体。

限于编著者的水平,本书的缺点和不尽人意之处在所难免,我们恳切希望得到广大读者的批评和指正。

1990 年 8 月 21 日

CONTENTS

SECTION I

GROUP I (Reading Selections I—4)

1 The Tell-Tale Heart	(2)
2 The Light in the Forest	(15)
3 The Member of the Wedding	(29)
4 The Count of Monte Cristo	(43)
Review of Group I	(58)

GROUP II (Reading Selections 5—8)

5 Crispus Attucks, Martyr for American Independence	(64)
6 The Most Dangerous Game	(78)
7 The Overcoat	(92)
8 Shane	(105)
Review of Group II	(118)

GROUP III (Reading Selections 9—12)

9 My Name Is Aram	(124)
10 The Call of the Wild	(137)
11 Johnny Tremain	(150)
12 The Lilies of the Field	(162)
Review of Group III	(176)
A General Review of the Words Learnt in Section I	(182)

SECTION II

GROUP I (Reading Selections 1—4)

1 The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	(192)
2 Up From Slavery	(206)
3 The Yearling	(218)
4 Life with Father	(234)
Review of Group I	(247)

GROUP II (Reading Selections 5—8)

5 The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter	(254)
6 Robinson Crusoe	(266)
7 Treasure Island	(278)
8 The Pearl	(291)
Review of Group II	(305)

GROUP III (Reading Selections 9—12)

9 Two Years Before the Mast	(312)
10 Old Yeller	(326)
11 An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge	(340)
12 Frederick Douglass, an American Slave	(354)
Review of Group III	(367)
A General Review of the Words Learnt in Section II	(374)
Key to Exercise	(383)

SECTION I

GROUP I (Reading Selections 1—4)

READING SELECTION I

Read this opening passage of a short story that has sent chills down millions of spines.

from The Tell-Tale Heart

by Edgar Allan Poe

True! — nervous — very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am! but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses — not destroyed — not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily — how calmly I can tell you the whole story.

It is impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, it haunted me day and night. Object there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me insult. For his gold I had no desire. I think it was his eye! yes, it was this! One of his eyes resembled that of a vulture — a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees — very gradually — I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye for ever.

Now this is the point. You fancy me mad. Madmen know nothing. But you should have seen me. You should have seen how wisely I proceeded — with what caution — with what foresight — with what dissimulation I went to work!

I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before

I killed him. And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it—oh, so gently! And then, when I had made an opening sufficient for my head, I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, so that no light shone out, and then I thrust in my head. Oh, you would have laughed to see how cunningly I thrust it in! I moved it slowly—very, very slowly, so that I might not disturb the old man's sleep. It took me an hour to place my whole head within the opening so far that I could see him as he lay upon his bed. Ha! — would a madman have been so wise as this? And then, when my head was well in the room, I undid the lantern cautiously — oh, so cautiously — cautiously (for the hinges creaked) — I undid it just so much that a single thin ray fell upon the vulture eye. And this I did for seven long nights—every night just at midnight—but I found the eye always closed; and so it was impossible to do the work; for it was not the old man who vexed me, but his Evil Eye. And every morning, when the day broke, I went boldly into the chamber, and spoke courageously to him, calling him by name in a hearty tone, and inquiring how he had passed the night. So you see he would have been a very profound old man, indeed, to suspect that every night, just at twelve, I looked in upon him while he slept.

(515 words)

Notes on the Selection

Line

- 2 **sense** (*n.*) the physical powers that make it possible for a person to know about things outside his own mind and body, i. e. sense of sight, sense of smell, sense of hearing, sense of touch, and sense of taste
- 3 **acute** (*a.*)
- a) (of the mind or the senses) able to notice small differences; quick

to notice things and understand them clearly; sensitive and powerful (Synonyms; sharp, keen Antonyms; blunt, dull)

e. g. The dog has acute sense of smell.

He is an acute observer.

b)severe; very great; urgent

e. g. an acute illness; an acute lack of water

5 **hearken**(*v.*); listen to ; pay attention to (what is said)

5 **observe**(*v.*)

a) watch something carefully, esp. in order to learn or understand something about it

e. g. The boy likes observing the stars.

b) see and notice; perceive; take notice of

e. g. He looked out of the window and observed me walking along the street.

c) One observes that something is the case = make a remark or comment about it. esp. when it is something that you have noticed or thought about a lot; say e. g.

He observed that the house seemed to be too small.

observable(*a.*) observation(*n.*) observer(*n.*)

8 **conceive**(*v.*)

a) think of (a plan, an idea, etc) and work out how it can be done or put into practice; form in the mind; imagine (Synonym: think up)

e. g. Scientists first conceived the idea of the atomic bomb in the 1930s.

b) conceive of someone (something) = imagine that it might happen or might be possible

e. g. It's difficult to conceive of travelling to the moon.

c) conceive something as something else = consider it in that way

e. g. He conceived the world as being a stage.
conceivable (*a.*) (Synonym: imaginable)

8 **haunt** (*v.*)

a) to visit often, frequently

e. g. As a girl, she used to haunt the local cinema.

b) to come to mind continually

e. g. Memories of her childhood haunted her.

c) to appear in the form of a ghost

e. g. It is said that ghosts haunt that old house.

8 **object** The word is pronounced [ˈɒbdʒɪkt] when it is a noun, and [əbˈdʒekt] when it is a verb.

(*n.*) purpose; aim

e. g. The object of his visit was to open the new hotel.

(*v.*) (to) disagree; protest

e. g. She objected to his rudeness.

I strongly objected to your saying that.

8 **passion** (*n.*)

a) a very strong, deep, often uncontrollable feeling about something,
esp. of love, hatred or anger

e. g. The poet expressed his burning passion for the woman he
loved.

b) have a passion for something or someone = have a very strong in-
terest in it or like it very much

e. g. She has developed a passion for the natural world (for garden,
for birds, etc.)

passionate (*a.*) passionately (*adv.*)

10 **desire** (*n.*)

a desire for something (or: to do something) = a strong wish for
something (or: to do, to get something)

e. g. They have always had a keen desire for a really comfortable home.

She hasn't the slightest desire to talk to you.

11 **resemble** (*v.*); look (be) like

e. g. She resembles her sister in appearance but not in character.

resemblance (*n.*); There is a strong resemblance between the two sisters.

11 **vulture** (*n.*); a large ugly tropical bird with almost featherless head and neck, which eats the flesh of dead animals

13 **gradually** used to describe something happening slowly and by degrees

e. g. Things change gradually in engineering.

gradual (*a.*); In this town there has been a gradual increase in the number of people who own cars.

14 **rid myself of the eye forever** = free myself from . . . ; make myself free of . . .

more similar expressions;

rid. . . of; be rid of; get rid of, free. . . of

e. g. They swore that they would rid the country of its military rulers.

To tell the truth, I was not sorry to be rid of him.

Do your best to get rid of the man who always pesters you for money.

but: He got rid of his car (his house, his bike, etc.) = He sold it.

(informal English)

17 **dissimulation** (*n.*)

dissimulate (*v.*); to deceive; to disguise or hide (one's feelings, etc.) under a false appearance

e. g. As a politician he was not good at dissimulating.

- 24 **cunningly** (*adv.*): cleverly
cunning (*a.*): showing cleverness in deceiving
 e. g. as cunning as a fox
 But cunning can also be used to describe someone with the meaning of 'sweet and cute' (AmE).
- 24 **thrust** (*v.*): to push forcefully and suddenly
 e. g. He thrust his way through the crowd.
 The murderer thrust a knife in her back.
- 28 **well** (*adv.*): fully; quite
 e. g. well up to the knees in the mud
 He was well out of sight.
 The bracelet is worth well over a thousand dollars.
- 33 **vex** (*v.*)
 a) cause (someone) to feel angry or annoyed and puzzled; displease;
 irritate (Antonym: please)
 e. g. The boy's bad behaviour vexed his mother.
 b) a vexed problem = it causes people a lot of trouble
 e. g. They lived in vexed and troubled time.
vexation (*n.*) (Synonym: annoyance)
vexing (*a.*) (Synonym: annoying)
- 34 **chamber** (*n.*)
 a) old use of a room, esp. a bedroom
 e. g. The king retired to his chamber.
 b) a room set aside for a special purpose
 e. g. the death chamber where murderers wait to be put to death
- 35 **hearty** (*a.*): warm-hearted and friendly
 e. g. a hearty greeting
 The suffix -y may be added to the ends of base words to make nouns or adjectives

noun + y = adjective

e. g. cloud — cloudy; oil — oily; guilt — guilty

adjective + y = noun

e. g. jealous — jealousy; grouch — grouchy

35 **inquire** (= **enquire**) (*v.*): ask

inquire of someone (about) something = ask him to tell something

e. g. I inquired the way to the railway station.

I inquired of him what he wanted.

I inquired about the times of trains to London.

inquire after someone = ask for information about him, about how he is or what he is doing

e. g. He inquired after my mother's health.

inquire into something = look into; investigate, search for information about it

e. g. The police inquired into the deaths of the two young girls.

inquiry (*n.*) make one's inquiries about something

inquirer (*n.*)

inquiring (*a.*) inquisitive (*a.*)

e. g. have an inquiring mind = like asking a lot of questions and finding out things, esp. about other people; have a great interest in learning new things

have an inquiring expression (look) = questioning

36 **profound** (*a.*)

a) having or showing thorough knowledge or deep understanding; thoughtful

e. g. a profound thinker (mind); a profound idea (work; way of thinking)

b) used to emphasize the seriousness or depth of something (Synonyms: deep, complete Antonym: shallow)

e. g. a profound silence (difference); the profound depths of the ocean

c) a profound change (effect) = one that effects or changes something very greatly

e. g. The development had a profound effect on all our lives. profoundly (*adv.*)

Reading Comprehension

In the blank space, write the letter of the choice that best completes the statement.

1. The narrator (the one who tells the story) is _____.
a) dreadfully nervous
b) mad
c) not too talkative
2. The narrator says that he has a very fine sense of _____.
 a) hearing
b) sight
c) smell
3. The old man, according to the narrator, _____.
a) is a poor sleeper
 b) has some money
c) has insulted the narrator
4. On each of his seven attempts to kill the old man, the narrator finds _____.
a) the door locked
b) the old man awake
 c) the eye closed
5. The narrator _____.
a) wishes the old man were alive again

- b) is not capable of constructing and carrying out a detailed plan
c) wants us to believe that he is perfectly sane

Vocabulary

I. Learning Some Words

A. Find the meaning of each expression from the vocabulary list below and write it in the space provided.

acute observe conceive object inquire
passion vulture gradually vex profound

- _____ 1. by degrees
10/10 _____ 2. perceive by paying careful attention
_____ 3. strong, overpowering feeling
_____ 4. take into the mind
_____ 5. thing aimed at
_____ 6. bird of prey
_____ 7. seek information about
_____ 8. serious and demanding attention
_____ 9. very deep
_____ 10. bring trouble to

B. Fill in the blanks with the words from the previous list in appropriate form.

1. If our whispering you, go to a quiet part of the library.
2. Stephenson the idea for the steam engine by watching a boiling kettle.
3. My in calling you is to wish you a happy birthday.
4. The daring rescue aroused our admiration.
5. Many new homes must be built to ease the housing shortage.
6. The quickly found the carcass of the deer abandoned by the hunters.