

英语扩充词汇阶梯阅读

主编 辛柯

——精通 **3000** 词汇

目标英语阅读阶梯系列

第一代



西安交通大学出版社

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主 编 辛柯
副主编 闫玲
王莉 李健 孙瑜

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内 容 提 要

本书为“目标英语阅读阶梯系列”书第三册。全书共收集短文 60 余篇,题材广泛,体裁多样,内容新颖,难度适中。每篇短文后均有长难句分析、难点注释和一定量的关于重点词汇、词组的练习。每 5 篇短文后编有一个总结练习,以起到复习、检查之目的。

阅读本书可使读者接触到真实的英语;在了解英美等讲英语的国家的科技文化、风土人情的同时,提高阅读速度和理解准确度;在阅读中培养学习英语的兴趣,提高英文阅读能力,扩大词汇量,打好语言基础;在阅读中掌握语法知识和 3 000 最基本的词汇。

本书可作为大学低年级学生、中专学生的英语阅读辅助教材,也可作为具有同等水平的读者和高中生的英语读物。

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副主编 闫玲

王莉 李健 孙瑜

责任编辑 沈 康 陈 丽

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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 Someone Waiting

翹首以待

I am sitting at an airport watching people in the final moments before their loved ones arrive or depart. They are pacing, nervous, looking at one another, touching and not touching. The emotion is intense.

A woman, speaking Spanish, is running in circles¹ trying to gather family members together for a goodbye. Her voice is high-pitched (尖锐的). When the final moment comes before boarding, she



wraps her arms around her son, giving him a powerful embrace (拥抱) that should protect him until he returns.

A grandmother and grandson stand at the rail where I am waiting; the people who were supposed to pick them up² are late. Two ladies, next to them but unrelated, look up and down the corridor as if scanning an open sea. A mother holds a baby as she kisses her husband. Tears dampen her cheeks. The moment is charged.³

At Gate 13, the arrivals (到达的人) are just coming in. "I see her. There she is." Just as poignant (痛切的, 伤心的), the arrivals fold into the mix of people as if they have been the missing ingredient (成分, 混合物). There are tears and smiles, pure delight ringing in the laughter of seeing

someone who has been gone.

I sit, glancing at my book, waiting for my turn to leave, alone because the ones I love have a different schedule from mine, and the one I am going to see, a daughter, is at the other end of my journey.

I think of other departures(出发者) and arrivals. I recall seeing my daughter, the daughter I am now going to visit, coming down that narrow, portable corridor with her backpack slung on one shoulder, her over-stuffed(因用厚垫而柔软舒适) carry-on(行李) cradled in her arms, her headphones making her oblivious(不注意, 忘记) to the stream of people flowing along with her. She was in her first year at university coming home for a holiday in November—the first time since August. I wrapped myself around her as if she had been lost to me.

Today my flight is two hours late. The book I am reading is not as interesting as the people leaving and coming, coming and leaving. A little boy about five is meeting his grandfather for the first time. He looks up and up at the face of a man who is not that tall, except to a child. Joy shines down and up, and I am wondering how one would capture this moment in words or on film.

When my flight is finally called, I gather my books and carry-on. Since there is no one to see me off¹, I do not look back to see where I have come from. Instead, I think of my husband at work wondering if I have left yet, and my daughter at the other end wondering the same thing.

As I head toward the plane, I find myself remembering yet another arrival and departure. When I was a newlywed(新婚的人), my 91-year-old grandfather died. We had been very close, and one evening, returning from his funeral, I arrived in the airport crying. My husband of only a year⁵ was waiting at the gate to take me in his arms. Because of my tears, everyone was looking at us, but I didn't care. Somehow the emotion I felt seemed not all out of place for the airport.⁶

Life needs to be this important all the time. I wish all the people who went on a journey could come back to find someone waiting for them. I also wish they could leave with someone to see them off. I think of my grandfather and realize that if dying is like this, a passage, then I am unafraid.⁷

Notes

1. running in circles 跑来跑去
2. pick ... up 去接某人
3. The moment is charged. 此刻令人百感交集。charged adj. 充满感情因而很激动

4. see ... off 去(机场、车站)送人
5. My husband of only a year 我新婚仅一年的丈夫
6. Somehow the emotion I felt seemed not at all out of place for the airport. 不管怎样, 我所体味的情感似乎对于机场来说也没有什么不合时宜的。
7. I think of my grandfather and realize that if dying is like this, a passage, then I am unafraid. 我想到我的祖父, 并意识到若人的生命由生到死也如这样的一次旅行, 那么我便不畏惧了。

Exercises

1. Find words in the passage with meanings similar to these.

1) tense, excited

2) high in degree

3) cover or roll up

4) leave

5) going to a place, esp a distant place

6) look at attentively

7) read pleasure, joy

8) bring back to the mind

2. Use the words you have found in Exercise 1 to finish these sentences.

1) You will probably have need of it during your long, cold _____.

2) The sick man was _____ in a blanket.

3) She listened to the music with great _____.

4) The sailors anxiously _____ the horizon.

5) Whenever I hear the sound of a bugle I _____ the death of my son.

6) She always feels _____ when she is questioned by the teacher.

7) As we all know, the effects of the drug are _____ and brief.

8) He _____ for London early in the morning.



2 Mother's Day and Father's Day

母亲节与父亲节

People in the United States honor their parents with two special days¹: Mother's Day, on the second Sunday in May, and Father's Day, on the third Sunday in June.

Mother's Day was proclaimed(宣布) a day for national observance by President Woodrow Wilson in 1915. Ann Jarvis from Grafton, West Virginia, had started the idea to have a day to honor mothers. She was the one who chose the second Sunday in May and also began the custom of wearing a carnation(康乃馨).

In 1909, Mrs. Dodd from Spokane, Washington, thought of the idea of a day to honor fathers. She wanted to honor her own father, William Smart. After her mother died, he had the responsibility of raising a family of five sons and a daughter. In 1910, the first father's Day was observed in Spokane. Senator(参议员) Margaret Chase Smith helped to establish Father's Day as a national commemorative(纪念的) day, in 1972.

These days are set aside² to show love and respect for parents. They raise their children and educate them to be responsible citizens. They give love and care.

These two special days are celebrated in many different ways. On Mother's Day people wear carnations. A red one symbolizes a living mother. A white one shows that the mother is dead. Many people attend religious services to honor parents. It is also a day when people whose parents are dead visit the cemetery(墓地). On these days families get together at home, as well as in restaurants. They often have outdoor barbecues(烧烤) for Father's Day. These are days of fun and good feelings and memories.

Another tradition is to give cards and gifts. Children make them in school. Many people make their own presents. These are valued more than the ones bought in stores. It is not the value of the gift that is important,

but is "the thought that counts".³Greeting card stores, florists (花店), candy makers, bakeries, telephone companies, and other stores do a lot of business during these holidays.

Notes

1. honor their parents with two special days 以两个特殊的日子向父母表示敬意。
2. set aside 留作……之用
3. It is not the value of the gift that is important, but it is "the thought that counts". 礼物的贵贱并不重要,但“重要的是对父母的心意”。

Exercises

1. Find words in the passage with meanings similar to these.

- 1) do sth. to show that a day or an event is _____
important, or an occasion for rejoicing
- 2) make use of a symbol or symbols for _____
- 3) of religion _____
- 4) area of land, not a churchyard, used for burials _____
- 5) make known publicly or officially _____
- 6) member of highest council of state _____
- 7) person who grows or sells flowers _____
- 8) place where bread is baked for many people _____

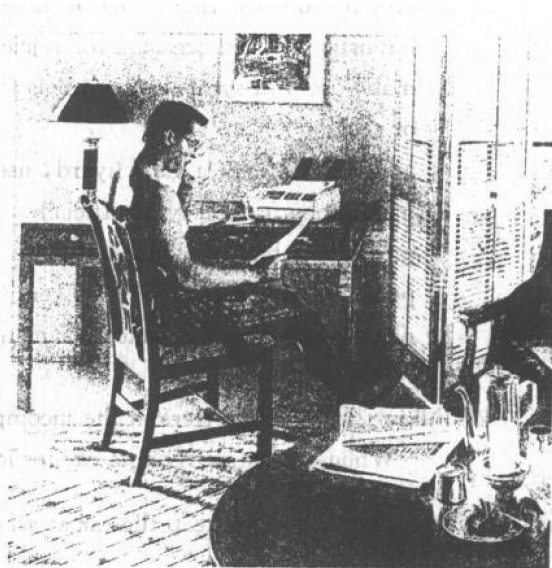
2. Fill in the missing letters in the incomplete words.

When a man is driving a car for long d along a main road or motorway, two
(1)
of his p are to keep the car at a fairly steady speed and to make sure that he does
(2)
not run into the car in front of him. Easy e you may think—but it is even easier
(3)
on a long motorway drive for a man's attention to wander. The Ford Motor Company
is experimenting with a s which involves computer control of these two problems.
(4)
The car's computer k the speed steady. At the same time the distance between
(5)
the car and any other car in f of it is measured by a beam of light transmitted for-
(6)
wards. The beam meets the rear reflectors of the car in front and is reflected back, so
enabling the distance to be measured. This i is fed to the computer, which adjusts
(7)
its s control accordingly.
(8)

3 Meet My Friend

人机对话

One of the advantages of teamwork is that a scientist can discuss his ideas and progress with colleagues in the team who are intelligent, aware of the way he thinks, and knowledgeable about the subject.¹ The ideal friend for a research worker would probably be one who would listen sympathetically, make relevant comments based on a wide



knowledge, and suggest additional lines of investigation². A report published in the United States in 1968 by the U. S. National Research Council³ suggests that a computer might provide this service. The report, called "Communication Systems and Resources in the Behavioral Sciences⁴", places its main stress on how to provide the research worker with relevant information. The problem is not just to supply the scientist with the data he requests, but to inform him of the existence of data which he may not know of, or which he may not at first have thought relevant. In other words, the computer would be asked to provide the sort of service expected of an intelligent, informed friend⁵.

In other fields, as well, people are looking forward to the possibility of a person discussing his problems with a computer—establishing a dialogue between man and machine. In psychiatry (精神病治疗法), the dialogue

between doctor and patients is usually guided along the lines which the psychiatrist regards as most useful. Could a computer be programmed to do the psychiatrist's work for him, or at least conduct one or two of the dialogues?

Researchers at Stanford University⁶ in the United States have experimented in this direction. The psychotherapeutic (心理疗法) dialogues conducted by the computer in this experiment correspond to the first or second interview between psychotherapist and patient. The patient types a message on a keyboard linked to the computer. The computer replies with a typewritten answer designed to produce a further response from the patient.

The program is based on the concept of "key words". Certain topics are more important to the psychotherapist than others. The computer recognizes the important topics by identifying key words in the patient's sentences—more than 500 words and word groups can be picked out by the computer as significant—and the replies given by the computer encourage the patient to continue "talking". If the computer finds no such key words in the patient's input, then its reply aims at leading the patient on to important topics.

The Stanford researchers admitted that their original program was inadequate (缺乏; 不足), as the computer did not always understand what was said to it.⁷ Nevertheless, this may well lead to the day when people will break off⁸ more normal conversations with the words "I must go. I have a session (讨论会) with my computer."

Notes

1. One of the advantages of team work is that a scientist can discuss his ideas and progress with colleagues in the team who are intelligent, aware of the way he thinks, and knowledgeable about the subject. 集体工作的优点之一,就是科学家能在集体中和他的同行讨论自己的想法和所取得的进展,而他的同行是很聪明的,了解他的思路并对他所研究的课题具有充分的知识。
2. and suggest additional lines of investigation 并能提供新的研究线索
3. the U. S. National Research Council 美国国家研究委员会
4. Communication Systems and Resources in the Behavioral Sciences 行为科学的通信系统与资源
5. the sort of service expected of an intelligent, informed friend 像一个聪明而见多识广的朋友所能提供的那种服务
6. Stanford University 斯坦福大学(美国)
7. understand what was said to it = understand the thing which was said to it 懂得对