

主 编 张艳仑

# 大学生英语阅读精选



湖北教育出版社

Gems of English Reading  
for College Students

编 著 梁 徽 程文英

主 审 朱利安

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## 前 言

《大学生英语阅读精选》是一本题材广泛、内容新颖、体裁多样、语言地道的高级英语详细注释读物。它适合于已经具备了中等程度的英语基础和阅读能力、并希望进一步提高英语阅读理解能力的专科生、本科生、研究生以及其他英语爱好者阅读之用。

本书不同于目前较为流行的快速阅读教材或试题式教程。首先,所选文章不受篇幅限制,内容精采,可读性强,而且还附有详尽注释,通过大量的阅读实践,提高学生的英语阅读能力,扩大认知词汇量,拓宽知识面,培养阅读英语原著的兴趣,从而达到全面提高英语水平的目的。

本书共分三部分:文学,社会科学和自然科学。每一部分的文章均按语言程度的先易后难而编排其次序。

文学部分由 11 篇短篇故事组成,其中有的情节紧张、扣人心弦;有的委婉动人、催人泪下;有的轻松幽默、妙趣横生;有的则辛辣无情、入木三分。为了开阅读者视野,本书不仅选入了美国、加拿大等英语国家作家所写的优秀短篇,同时也精

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选了墨西哥、印度、法国、尼日利亚等非英语国家作家所写的精采篇章,其英语译文精确传神。

社会科学部分有短文 12 篇,其中有名人轶事,人物专访,新闻报导,案例侦破等,语言风格及文体多种多样。

自然科学部分收入短文 10 篇,内容涉及自然现象,动物世界,生态问题,航天航空,科学幻想等方面。选材注意了科技英语的特点。

书中每篇短文均由四个部分组成:简介、正文、词汇及注释。词汇包括单词及词组,所注词性、词义均依据该词或词组在文中的意义而定。注释包括难句翻译,某些句型及词汇的用法,并适当举例。为使译文达义通顺,编者在难句翻译时作了一些技巧上的处理,比如词性的变化,句型转换,语序调整及适当的增补和删减。凡译文中括号内的文字,均是编者根据上下文意思而补充的内在含义,在原句中并无相应的词句。

《大学生英语阅读精选》不仅是一本极好的自学读物,而且亦可用作阅读课程教材。

由于编者水平有限,书中难免有缺点错误,恳切希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者 1993.8.

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【注】：凡没标明国名的文章，均为美国作者所著

# LITERATURE

THE  
FIRST  
PART





## A Letter to God

*Gregorio* (Mexico)

### 简 介

田里的庄稼熟了,丰收在望。不幸的是,一场突如其来的冰雹使它毁于一旦。农民连柯深信只有写信给上帝乞求帮助。

上帝给他回信了吗?是谁向他伸出了援助之手?连柯能够理解其中的道理吗?亲爱的读者,当你读完这篇简洁、生动而幽默的故事后,自己去找答案吧!

THE HOUSE—the only one in the entire valley—sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height one could see the river and, next to the corral, the field of ripe corn dotted with the kidney-bean flowers that always promised a good harvest.

The only thing the earth needed was a rainfall, or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lencho—who knew his fields intimately—had done nothing else but scan the sky toward the northeast.

“Now we’re really going to get some water, woman.”<sup>1</sup>

The woman, who was preparing supper, replied:

"Yes, God willing."

The oldest boys were working in the field, while the smaller ones were playing near the house, until the woman called to them all:

"Come for dinner..."

It was during the meal that, just as Lencho had predicted, big drops of rain began to fall. In the northeast huge mountains of clouds could be seen approaching. The air was fresh and sweet.

The man went out to look for something in the corral for no other reason than to allow himself the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body<sup>2</sup>, and when he returned he exclaimed:

"Those aren't raindrops falling from the sky, they're new coins. The big drops are ten-centavo pieces and the little ones are fives. ..."

With a satisfied expression he regarded the field of ripe corn with its kidney-bean flowers, draped in a curtain of rain<sup>3</sup>. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and together with the rain very large hailstones began to fall. These truly did resemble new silver coins. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls<sup>4</sup>.

"It's really getting bad now," exclaimed the man, mortified. "I hope it passes quickly."

It did not pass quickly. For an hour the hail rained on the house, the garden, the hillside, the cornfield, on the whole valley. The field was white, as if covered with salt. Not a leaf remained on

the trees. The corn was <sup>all</sup> totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the kidney-bean plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons:

"A plague of locusts would have left more than this<sup>5</sup>... The hail has left nothing; this year we will have no corn or beans..."

That night was a sorrowful one:

"All our work, for nothing!"

"There's no one who can help us!"

"We'll all go hungry this year..."

But in the hearts of all who lived in that solitary house in the middle of the valley, there was a single hope, help from God.

"Don't be so upset, even though this seems like a total loss. Remember, no one dies of hunger!"

"That's what they say; no one dies of hunger..."

All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. <sup>6</sup>

Lencho was an ox of a man, <sup>7</sup>working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write. The following Sunday, at daybreak, after having convinced himself that there is a protecting spirit, <sup>8</sup>he began to write a letter which he himself would carry to town and place in the mail.

It was nothing less than a letter to God. <sup>9</sup>

"God," he wrote, "if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos in order to resow the

field and to live until the crop comes, because the hailstorm..."

He wrote "To God" on the envelope, put the letter inside and, still troubled, went to town. At the post office he placed a stamp on the letter and dropped it into the mailbox.

One of the employees, who was a postman and also helped at the post office, went to his boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address. <sup>10</sup>The postmaster -- a fat, amiable fellow -- also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented:

"What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. To believe the way he believes. To hope with the confidence that he knows how to hope with. <sup>11</sup>Starting up a correspondence with God!"

So, in order not to disillusion that prodigy of faith, revealed by a letter that could not be delivered, the postmaster came up with an idea; answer the letter<sup>12</sup>. But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his resolution; he asked for money from his employee, he himself gave part of his salary, and several friends of his were obliged to give something "for an act of charity." <sup>13</sup>

It was impossible for him to gather together the hundred pesos, so he was able to send the farmer only a little more than half. He put the bills in an envelope addressed to Lencho and with them a letter containing only a single word as a signature; GOD.

The following Sunday Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to

ask if there was a letter for him. It was the postman himself who handed the letter to him, while the postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who has performed a good deed, looked on from the doorway of his office. <sup>14</sup>

Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the bills—such was his confidence—but he became angry when he counted the money...God could not have made a mistake, nor could he have denied Lencho what he had requested!

Immediately, Lencho went up to the window to ask for paper and ink. On the public writing table, he started in to write<sup>15</sup>, with much wrinkling of his brow, caused by the effort he had to make to express his ideas. When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist.

The moment that the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said:

“God: of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don’t send it to me through the mail, because the post-office employees are a bunch of crooks<sup>16</sup>. Lencho. ”

## Words and Expressions

crest	n.	山顶
corral	n.	牲口栏, 畜栏

<b>kidney-bean</b>	<i>n.</i>	菜豌豆
<b>shower</b>	<i>n.</i>	阵雨
<b>intimately</b>	<i>ad.</i>	熟悉地,亲切地
<b>scan</b>	<i>vt.</i>	仔细观看,了望
<b>regard</b>	<i>vt.</i>	注视
<b>resemble</b>	<i>vt.</i>	像,类似
<b>mortify</b>	<i>vi.</i>	受屈辱,受伤害
<b>go hungry</b>		挨饿
<b>solitary</b>	<i>a.</i>	孤独的,孤零零的
<b>peso</b>	<i>n.</i>	比索(墨西哥货币单位)
<b>amiable</b>	<i>a.</i>	和善的,和蔼的
<b>disillusion</b>	<i>vt.</i>	使幻想破灭
<b>bill</b>	<i>n.</i>	钞票,纸币
<b>contentment</b>	<i>n.</i>	满足,满意
<b>affix</b>	<i>vt.</i>	贴上,粘上

## Notes

1. "Now we're really going to get some water, woman."

“看样子真的要下雨了,老婆子。”

2. ...for no other reason than to allow himself the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body, ...

仅仅是为了去感受一下那雨点打在身上时的喜悦之情。

3. ...draped in a curtain of rain.

(铺满山谷的菜豆花)被笼罩在一片雨帘之中。

注: drape, 披上, 铺在……之上

4. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls.

男孩子们任雨打在他们身上,跑出门去拾冰珠。

5. "A plague of locusts would have left more than this..."

“即使一场蝗灾也许多少会给我们留下点什么……”

注:这是过去式虚拟语气的句子,表示一种与实际情况不同的假设。

6. ...even what is deep in one's conscience.

甚至能看到一个人内心深处想什么。

注:even 后面省略了动词 see.

7. Lencho was an ox of a man,...

连柯是一个吃苦耐劳的人。

注:ox 被用来比喻吃苦耐劳,埋头苦干。类似的短语有:a fox of a man  
像狐狸一样狡猾的人。

8. ...after having convinced himself that there is a protecting spirit,...

他使自己确信有圣灵保护,……

注:spirit 圣灵,(指上帝)

9. It was nothing less than a letter to God.

那确确实实是一封给上帝的信。

注:nothing less than;完全是,确实是

例:He was nothing less than a tyrant.

他简直是一个暴君。

10. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address.

他干邮递员这一行以来,从没见过这个地址。

注:in his career;干他这一行

11. To hope with the confidence that he knows how to hope with.

像他那样充满信心地去希望。

注:that he knows how to hope with 是一个定语从句,修饰名词

confidence,关系代词 that 代表 confidence,在从句中作 with 的宾语。

12. So, in order not to disillusion that prodigy of faith, revealed by a letter that could not be delivered, the postmaster came up with an idea; answer the



letter.

因此,为了让这封无法投递的信所表露出来的神奇信念不至遭到幻灭,邮政局长想出了一个主意:给他回信。

**注:**come up with:提出,提供(想法、方法、建议等)

**例:**Scientists will have to come up with new methods of increasing the world's food supply.

科学家必须为增加世界的粮食产量提供新方法。

13. ...and several friends of his were obliged to give something "for an act of charity."

他的几个朋友也责无旁贷地捐钱以示“上帝之博爱。”

**注:**1)be obliged to do sth: 有责任做某事

2)to give something 这里指捐钱

3)charity (宗)上帝之爱,博爱

14. ...while the postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who has performed a good deed, looked on from the doorway of his office.

……,而邮政局长,因为自己所做的善行而感到满足,则从办公室的门口观望着。(他想看看连柯收到钱之后有什么反应)

15. ...he started in to write,...

……,他开始写信。

**注:**start in (口语)开始做某事

**例:**The guide came in and we started in to analyse the climb.

向导进来后,我们就开始分析研究有关登山的问题。

16. a bunch of crooks

一群骗子