# 阶梯英语读本

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Graded
English
Reader

安徽教育出版社

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# 阶梯英语读本

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安徽教育出版社

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# 前　言

阅读是学习语言的一项基本技能。读是写的基础，是扩大词汇量、了解众多的语言现象的主要途径。阅读是运用英语获得信息的主要方法之一；阅读能力是考查英语水平的重要依据。

在各级各类学校学习英语的同学们，要想提高阅读能力，光靠阅读课本上的几篇课文是远远不够的，必须大量地接触课外的语言材料。

课外阅读读什么和怎样读，是一个值得研究的问题。

首先，应当选择那些与自己水平相当的语言材料，太难太易都不好。太难了，时间都花在查生词上，速度缓慢，难以获得大量信息。太易了，无法扩大词汇量，也难以增加新的语感。

其次，要研究阅读方法。阅读一般分快速阅读和精细阅读两种。对一篇短文，快速浏览一遍，读懂其中 70% 左右，然后做与短文内容有关的理解性练习——这是在考试中所使用的阅读方法，平时也可以这样进行阅读训练。用这种方法可以提高阅读速度，在短时间内获得大量的信息。这种方法的缺点是没有读懂文章的各个句子，有些囫囵吞枣。另一种方法就是精读细读，不放过每一个段落、每一个句子，把其中的意思和结构都弄清楚。以上两种方法各有利弊，应当结合使用。

基于以上的一些考虑，我们为各种不同程度的英语读者编写了这套《阶梯英语读本》。这套书按照所选英文短文难易程度，由易到难，共分 9 册。其中①②③册大抵上适合我国初中学生阅读，④⑤⑥册大抵上适合我国高中学生阅读，⑦⑧⑨册大抵上适合我国大学专科和本科学生阅读。因为是课外读物，读者尽可以根据自己的实际水平，选用其中一册或若干册进行阅读。此套书中选用的语言材料

所囊括的词汇量由少到多，语言现象由简单到复杂。英文原文均选自原版图书、报纸、杂志等，题材多种多样，内容生动有趣，融知识性和趣味性于一体，有的寓意深刻，富于哲理。所选用的语言材料力求新颖。这些素材都是英语国家中真实的语言文字，但为了适合我国不同程度的读者阅读，我们对少数原文的个别句子进行了改写或简写，但以不破坏原文的语言风格为原则。读者阅读此书，不仅可以学习语言，还可以增进知识、开阔视野。译文均为编者所撰写。译文力求做到忠实于原文、通顺流畅。对于原文中较难理解的词汇和短语，我们作了简明的注释。对生词和短语词义的注释一般只限本文中的含义。

本书以英汉对照方式编排。实践证明，本族语在外语学习中是一根有益的“小拐杖”，它能帮助读者对两种语言进行比较和加深理解。但是，外语学习者不可过分依赖它，平时要用主要精力去阅读和理解原文。对这套书我们建议读者可以先快速通读一遍英文短文，看看读懂了多少，然后再对照译文和注释细细品味。

参加此套书编写的是大、中学校的英语教师和语言科研人员。对书中的缺点和错误我们热忱希望读者批评指正。

编者

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# CONTENTS 目 录


1 The Story of Cambridge 剑桥的故事 …… (1)
2 The Wise Men of Gotham 哥特村的聪明人 …… (4)
3 The Wolf and the Fox 狐狸与狼 …… (8)
4 Who is Dumb? 谁是傻瓜? …… (12)
5 Astronauts 宇宙航行员 …… (16)
6 The Stock Market 证券交易所 …… (21)
7 Kennedy and Franklin 肯尼迪与富兰克林 …… (27)
8 Sense of Color 色彩感 …… (30)
9 Exercise Is Good — but So What?
锻炼有益健康——但那又怎么样呢? …… (33)
10 Popular Mechanics 通俗力学 …… (36)
11 Sunday — the First Day or the Last?
星期日——一周之首还是一周之末 …… (40)
12 Bungee 蹦极跳 …… (43)
13 A Tourist Guide 导游 …… (46)
14 A Lesson for Living 生活的启示 …… (50)
15 Robert E. Lee 罗伯特·爱德华·李 …… (53)
16 Convenience Stores 便民商店 …… (60)
17 The Shock of Recognition 震撼 …… (63)
18 Emergency! 紧急呼救 …… (67)
19 Gateball 门球 …… (71)
20 The Largest Animals on Land 陆地上最大的动物 …… (74)
21 Dinner Customs 进餐之俗 …… (81)
22 The Crowded World 拥挤不堪的世界 …… (86)
23 Mosquitos and Coconuts 蚊子与椰子 …… (90)
24 The Earth: a Great Storehouse 地球:巨大的宝库 …… (93)

25 Driver's License Test Station in Tokyo
东京驾照考核站 …… (96)
26 The Old Flame 旧日情人 …… (99)
27 Rocks of the Earth 地球上的岩石 …… (107)
28 American People and Culture 美国人民与美国文化 …… (110)
29 The First Four Minutes 初始 4 分钟 …… (113)
30 Springtime 春天 …… (117)
31 John Milton 约翰·米尔顿 …… (124)
32 Kuwait 科威特 …… (128)
33 TV Advertising 电视广告是与非 …… (132)
34 Mecca 麦加 …… (136)
35 Can a Computer Think? 电脑会思考吗? …… (139)
36 Head-hunters in the Jobs Jungle 猎头 …… (143)
37 A Questioning Approach 一种调查途径 …… (146)
38 Plan to Save Forest 拯救森林计划 …… (151)
39 American is 3rd Woman to Reach North Pole
到达北极的第三位妇女 …… (156)
40 Secondhand Cigarette Smoke 被动吸烟 …… (159)
41 Tokyo Road Chaos 错综复杂的东京街道 …… (162)
42 Lake Baikal 贝加尔湖 …… (166)
43 Faraday and His Generator 法拉第和发电机 …… (169)
44 Disco Express 迪斯科快车 …… (172)
45 Christmas Card 圣诞卡 …… (176)
46 Queen Elizabeth Ⅱ 伊丽莎白女王二世 …… (179)
47 Australia Puts Monarchy to a Vote
澳大利亚投票表决君主政体 …… (184)
48 New York — American's Largest City
纽约——美国最大的城市 …… (187)
49 Irish Pubs Caught in War of the Wines

爱尔兰酒馆啤酒大战正酣…… (191)
50 Breast Cancer 乳腺癌…… (194)
51 African Ways of Life 非洲人的生活方式…… (197)
52 Florence Griffith Joyner
佛劳伦斯·格里斐丝·乔依娜…… (202)
53 Oceans Face More Serious Threats
海洋面临更加严重的威胁…… (206)
54 Preserving Green "Treasures" 保护绿色"珍宝" …… (210)
55 British Food and Drink 英国的饮食…… (213)

Glossary …… (217)

1

# The Story of Cambridge
# 剑桥的故事

The story of the University begins in 1209 when several hundred students and scholars① arrived in the little town of Cambridge after having walked 60 miles from Oxford.

These students were all churchmen and had been studying in Oxford at that city's well-known schools. It was a hard life at Oxford for there was constant② trouble, even fighting, between the townsfolk③ and the students. Then one day a student accidentally④ killed a man of the town. The Mayor arrested three other students who were innocent⑤, and by order of King John (who was quarrelling with the Church and knew that the death of three student clergymen would displease it) they were put to death by hanging. In protest, many students moved elsewhere, some coming to Cambridge; and so the new University began.

Of course there were no Colleges in those early days and student life was very different from what it is now. Students were of all ages and came from anywhere

剑桥的故事始于1209年，当时数百名学生和学者从牛津出发走了六十英里之后，到达了小镇剑桥。

这些学生都是教徒，在此之前一直在牛津的各个名校中就读。在牛津的生活相当艰苦，因为住在镇上的居民和学生之间总不断地发生纠纷，甚至争斗。后来有一天，一名学生失手杀死了镇上的一个居民，镇长逮捕了另外三个无辜的学生，并遵从约翰国王的命令将他们处以绞刑（国王当时正与教会不和，他清楚处死这三个身为教徒的学生，会让教会大为不快）。许多学生移居别处以示抗议，其中一些人来到了剑桥，就这样一所新的大学建立了。

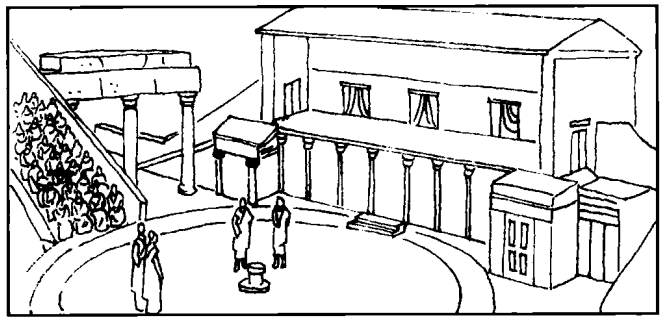
当然，当初这里没有学院。那时，学生们的生活也与现在截然不同。学生们年龄悬殊，多大年纪的都有，他们来自四面八方。来

and everywhere. Those from the same part of the country tended to group themselves together and these groups, called "Nations"⑥, often fought one another.

The students were armed⑦; some even banded⑧ together to rob the people of the countryside. Gradually the idea of the College developed, and in 1284 Peterhouse, the oldest College in Cambridge, was founded.

自同一地区的学生很自然地组织到一起,这些团体叫做"同乡会",他们之间时常发生争斗。

学生们都武装了起来,有一些学生甚至拉帮结伙去抢劫乡民。渐渐地,就有人产生了建立学院的想法,到了 1284 年,彼得豪斯学院成立,它是剑桥最古老的学院。



Life in College was strict; students were forbidden to play games, to sing (except sacred⑨ music), to hunt or fish or even to dance. Books were very scarce and all the lessons were in the Latin language which students were supposed to speak even among themselves.

In 1440 King Henry VI founded

学院有严格的生活制度。学生们不许玩游戏,除了宗教歌曲之外不许唱歌,不许打猎,不许钓鱼,甚至不许跳舞。学院里书籍匮乏,所有的课程都是拉丁文的,学院还要求学生们会说拉丁语,甚至相互之间也要用拉丁语交谈。

1440 年,亨利六世国

King's College, and other colleges followed. Many other great men studied at Cambridge, amongst them Bacon, Milton, Cromwell, Newton, Wordsworth, Byron and Tennyson.

王建立了国王学院，之后其他学院相继成立。许多伟人曾在剑桥求学，他们中有培根、米尔顿、克伦威尔、牛顿、华兹华斯、拜伦和丁尼生。

Practical jokes[10] seem always to have been common, and there is an amusing tale of one[11] played on the poet Gray by the students of Peterhouse College where he lived. Gray was a rather nervous man with a fear of fire, and every night he used to hang a rope-ladder from his window for use in case a fire broke out. One night there was a great noise and shouts of "Fire! Fire!". Dressed only in his nightgown[12] Gray opened his window, climbed onto his ladder[13] and slid down as fast as he could — into a barrel[14] of cold water put there by a joking student!

恶作剧在剑桥似乎是司空见惯的。有这么一个有趣的故事，诗人格雷在剑桥学习时住在彼得豪斯学院，那儿的学生跟他开过一个玩笑。格雷有点儿神经质，对火有一种畏惧感，每天晚上他都从窗口挂下一节绳梯以备失火时急用。一天夜里，外面一片嘈杂声，有人大喊着："失火了！失火了！"格雷只穿了件睡袍，他打开窗子，爬上绳梯，以最快的速度向下滑去——一下子滑进了一大桶冷水中。这水是一个恶作剧的学生放在那儿的。

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① scholar：学者 ② constant：持续的，不停的 ③ townsfolk：镇上的居民 ④ accidentally：意外地，偶然地 ⑤ innocent：无辜的，清白的 ⑥ nation：学生的同乡会 ⑦arm：以……装备，武装 ⑧ band：使团结，结合 ⑨ sacred：神圣的，宗教的 ⑩ practical joke：使人困窘的恶作剧，玩笑 ⑪ 此句中的 one 指代 a practical joke，后接一个过去分词短语修饰它 ⑫ nightgown：睡袍 ⑬ ladder：梯子 ⑭ barrel：大桶

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2

# The Wise Men of Gotham[①]
# 哥特村的聪明人

In days of long ago, the people of Gotham, a village near Nottingham[②], were famous for their folly[③]. No matter what they tried to do, they would set about it in the most stupid manner. All the world laughed at their mistakes and, in fun[④], called them the "wise men of Gotham", but that did not worry these simple folk.

Here is one story about them.

A man of Gotham was going to Nottingham Market to buy sheep. On Nottingham Bridge he met another man of Gotham, who was coming from the market.

"Hello!" said they to each other.

"Where are you going, neighbour?" asked the one who was returning from the market.

"To Nottingham Market, to buy sheep," replied the other.

"To buy sheep!" exclaimed[⑤] the first. "Pray[⑥] tell me, which way will you bring them home?"

很久以前,诺丁汉附近有个哥特村,那儿的村民愚笨是出了名的。无论做什么事,他们都用最笨的办法去做。所有的人都笑话他们,打趣地叫他们"哥特村的聪明人",但这些头脑简单的家伙们一点也不发愁。

下面是一个有关他们的故事。

一个哥特村的村民动身去诺丁汉市场买羊。在诺丁汉桥上他遇到了另一个也是哥特村的村民,正从市场上回来。

"你好!"他们互相打着招呼。

"你上哪儿去,伙计?"从市场回来的那个村民问道。

"去诺丁汉市场买羊。"另一个答道。

"买羊!"第一个村民叫道,"请你告诉我,你准备走哪条路把它们赶回家呢?"

"Why, across this bridge." answered he who was going to market.

Now the other man of Gotham, who loved to find fault with[7] everything, was not pleased at that. "By Robin Hood[8]," he cried, "you shall not bring your sheep back by this bridge!"

"By Little John[9]," shouted the other, "I shall bring them back this way if I please!"

"You shall not!" cried the first.

"But I shall!" declared the other. Then the two men of Gotham began to stamp[10] about the bridge, hitting the ground with their sticks, as if the whole flock of sheep were already there.

"Hold back your sheep there!" cried the one.

"Let them pass!" exclaimed the other, "And be more careful with your stick, lest[11] you make my flock leap the bridge into the river." So they went at it, running this way and that, until a third man of Gotham appeared. He had come from Nottingham Market, and on his horse's back was a sack of meal[12] which he had bought there.

For a few minutes he looked on in

"噢，我从这座桥上把它们赶回去。"准备去市场的村民答道。

听到这，处处都爱找茬的那一个可不高兴了。"天哪！"他叫道，"你不能把羊从这儿赶回去。"

"喔唷！"另一个也叫道，"我高兴，我就要从这儿把它们赶回去！"

"就不行！"第一个叫道。

另一个大声嚷道："我偏要！"接着，这两个哥特村人开始在桥上跺着脚，用棍子在桥面上敲着，好像那儿有一群羊似的。

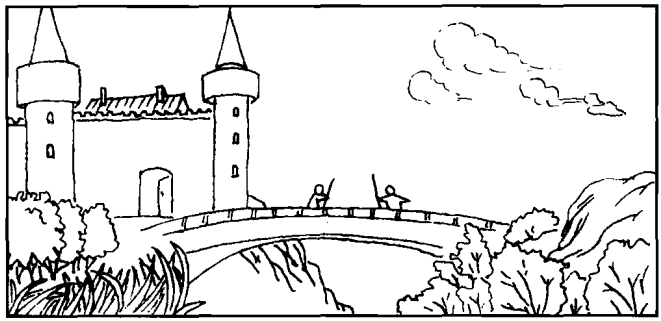
"别让你的羊过来。"一个叫道。

"放它们过去。"另一个喊道，"当心你的棍子，别把我的羊吓得跳进河里去了。"他们就这样卖力地奔来跑去，一直吵到另一个哥特村村民出现。他从诺丁汉市场来，马背上驮着他在市场上买的一袋粗粉。

他不声不响地看他的

silence as his neighbours fought, then he held up his hands and said, "Peace, peace, good fellows. When will you learn wisdom? Pray, help me to lift this sack of meal on my shoulders, and I shall teach you a lesson worth the knowing."

邻居们斗了几分钟之后举起双手说道:"伙计们,别争了,别争了。你们什么时候才能学得聪明些呢?帮我把这袋面抬到肩上,我要教你们一些值得学的东西。"



When they had helped him with the sack, the third man of Gotham went to the edge of the bridge, opened the mouth of the sack, and emptied the meal into the river which flowed beneath. As he shook out the sack, he said, "Tell me, good neighbours, how much meal is in the sack now?"

"Why, none," the others answered together.

"Well said," replied he. "Then there is as much sense in your foolish heads, for a moment ago you were fighting about sheep which are not here at all."

他们把面粉抬到了他肩上,那第三个村民走到桥边,打开袋口,把面粉全部倒入桥下潺潺的河水之中,他抖空了袋子,然后问道:"伙计们,告诉我现在袋子里还有多少面粉?"

"哎呀!一点也不剩了。"那两个异口同声地说。

"说得对,"那第三个村民说道,"你们的笨脑瓜就和这口袋一样,一点见识也没有。刚才你们就是为了

一群根本不存在的羊争来斗去的。”

① Gotham:英国传说中的愚人村 ② Nottingham:英国诺丁汉郡的首府诺丁汉 ③ folly:愚笨 ④ in fun:开玩笑地 ⑤ exclaim:惊叫,大声说 ⑥ pray:相当于 please 或 I pray you ⑦ find fault with:抱怨,找茬 ⑧ By Robin Hood:天哪,是惊叹语 ⑨ By Little John:喔唷,是惊叹语 ⑩ stamp:跺脚 ⑪ 连词 lest 引导了一个目的状语从句,从句中的谓语动词用虚拟语气,lest 相当于 for fear that ⑫ meal:谷类或豆类磨成的未经筛过的粗粉

3

# The Wolf and the Fox
# 狐狸与狼

The wolf had the fox with him, and whatever the wolf wished, the fox was compelled to do, for he was the weaker, and he would gladly have been① rid of his master. It chanced② that once as they were going through the forest, the wolf said: "Red-fox, get me something to eat, or else I will eat you yourself." Then the fox answered: "I know a farm-yard where there are two young lambs; if you are inclined③, we will fetch one of them." That suited the wolf, and they went thither④, and the fox stole the little lamb, took it to the wolf, and went away. The wolf devoured⑤ it, but was not satisfied with one; he wanted the other as well, and went to get it. But as he did it so clumsily⑥, the mother of the little lamb heard him, and began to cry out terribly, and to bleat⑦ so that the farmers came running there. They found the wolf, and beat him so mercilessly, that he went to the fox limping and howling⑧. "You have misled me finely," said he, "I wanted to fetch the other lamb, and the country folks

狼把狐狸带在身边，无论狼想要得到什么，狐狸都必须办到，因为他是弱者，如果他能有机会除掉他的主人，他必乐而为之。机会来了，有一次，它们正穿行于林中，狼说："赤狐，给我弄点吃的来，否则的话我就把你给吃了。"狐狸就说："我知道一个农家院子里有两只小羊羔，如果你想吃的话，我们去抓一个来。"这正合狼的心意，它们去了那个农家小院，狐狸偷来了一只小羊羔，交给狼之后就走了。狼狼吞虎咽地吃完了那只羊羔之后还不知足，它还想吃另一只，就又去偷。但是因为它笨手笨脚地，母羊听见了动静，开始拼命地咩咩直叫，农民们听到了羊的叫声，赶了过来，他们发现了狼，毫不留情地把它痛打一顿，打得他一瘸一拐地哀嗥着去找狐狸。"你狡猾地蛊惑了我，"他说，"我想

surprised me, and have beaten me to a jelly[9]. "The fox replied, "Why are you such a glutton?"[10]

Next day they again went into the country, and the greedy wolf once more said: "Red-fox, get me something to eat, or I will eat you yourself." Then answered the fox: "I know a farm-house where the wife is baking pancakes[11] tonight; we will get some of them for ourselves." They went there, and the fox slipped round the house, and peeped and sniffed[12] about until he discovered where the dish was, and then snatched six pancakes and carried them to the wolf. "There is something for you to eat." said he to him, and then went his way. The wolf swallowed down the pancakes in an instant, and said: "They make one want more," and went thither and tore the whole dish down so that it broke in pieces. This made such a great noise that the woman came out, and when she saw the wolf she called the people, who hurried there, and beat him as long as their sticks would hold together, till with two lame legs, and howling loudly, he returned to the fox in the forest. "How abominably[13] you have misled me!" cried he, "the peasants caught me, and tanned[14] my skin for

去抓另一只羊羔，被农夫们当场捉住，他们差点把我打成肉酱。"狐狸答道："谁让你那么贪吃呢?"

第二天它们又到田野中去，贪婪的狼又说："赤狐，给我弄点吃的来，否则我就吃了你。"狐狸就说："我认识一个农夫的家，他的妻子今晚在烤煎饼。我们去弄一些来吃。"它们去了那家农舍，狐狸在房子周围蹑手蹑脚地转着，窥视着，到处嗅着，终于找到煎饼，接着它抓了六个煎饼带到狼面前，"这些吃的给你。"它对狼说完就走了。不消片刻，狼已把煎饼都吞了下去，他说道："这煎饼让人吃了还想吃。"它又去了那家农舍，把整个盘子都扯了下来，结果盘子摔成了碎片，发出了巨大的声响，招来了农夫的妻子，她一看见狼，就叫喊起来，人们匆忙奔来打狼，一直打到棍子都断了。狼拖着两条被打瘸的腿，大声哀嗥着回到森林里狐狸的住处。"你真是可恶透顶！把我引入歧途，"他叫道，"农夫们抓住了我，

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