

阶梯英语读本

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Graded
English
Reader

安徽教育出版社

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Graded English Reader

阶梯英语读本

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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。本书中1~55篇由光峰编译,56~110篇由王海珍编译。对书中的缺点和错误我们热忱希望读者批评指正。

编者

2002年1月

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Beatles

甲壳虫乐队

In previous generations, young people were under their parents thumbs^①; now the teenage children of the West's richest generation were ready for something to get excited about. The Beatles simply put a spark to a fuse that was waiting to be lit.

Everything changed, and what changed for the Beatles was their lives and their working habits, in the midst of the hysterical following the band attracted. Because of the demand of the fans to see them perform, they played bigger and bigger venues^②, especially in America. They played pop music's first "stadium" concert — to 60,000 people in Shea Stadium.

But John, Paul, George and Ringo became increasingly unhappy that, because of the screaming of their fans, neither the band nor the audience could hear the music. Creatively frustrated and tired of the pressures of life under siege^③ from their fans, they

在过去的几代人中,年轻人完全受父母的影响。而现在西方最富裕一代的十几岁子女正期待着可以让他们激动的事情。甲壳虫乐队只不过是等着被点燃的导火索上燃起一朵火花。

处在被其吸引的歇斯底里的追随者中间,一切都发生了变化,对甲壳虫乐队来说变化的是他们的生活和工作习惯。因为歌迷要求看到他们演出,他们就在越来越大的场馆表演,这在美国尤为突出。他们在谢伊体育场六万观众面前举办了流行音乐的首次体育场音乐会。

但由于歌迷们的尖叫,乐队和观众都听不到音乐,约翰、保罗、乔治和林戈变得越发不悦。由于创作上受到挫折并且对在歌迷包围下紧张的生活感到厌倦,1966年他们从演唱会隐退

retired from playing concerts in 1966 and decided to concentrate on recording.

(It was) from this point (that) the brilliance of the Beatles really began to reveal itself: they would record over their career some 200 songs. Never before nor since has any recording and writing group ever developed and yet remained the same in the way the Beatles did.

With the aid of the musically wise producer George Martin, the Beatles took their music from the realms of simple sing-along pop songs into sophisticated pieces that set new boundaries for popular music. But at the same time their songs never lost their universal appeal—thanks to the warmth and time lessness of their melodies and lyrics④. John and Paul were the major writers in the Beatles, though the skilled musicianship and imagination of George and Ringo meant the band always operated very much as an equal group of individuals. //

John and Paul were also powerful singers with distinctive styles. It became apparent that, despite the fact that the songwriting credits were always equally

下来并决定专心于录音工作。

正是从这一刻起,甲壳虫乐队才真正开始展现出它的辉煌;在其音乐生涯中他们录制了大约二百首歌曲。在此之前和从那以后再也没有别的录音和创作乐队能如此发展并像甲壳虫乐队这样长盛不衰。

在精通音乐的制作人乔治·马丁的帮助下,甲壳虫乐队将他们的音乐从简单的伴唱流行歌曲的领域推进到复杂成熟的作品,从而为流行音乐划定了新的界限。同时由于其作品旋律与歌词的热情和永恒,他们的歌曲从未失去广泛的感染力。约翰和保罗是甲壳虫乐队的主要作者,尽管他们熟练的音乐才能及想象力使得乐队总是以一个人水平相当的整体进行运转。

约翰和保罗也是风格迥异的实力歌手,尽管词曲写作总是均等地归功于他们两个,显然保罗和约翰分

attributed to them, Paul and John wrote and sang their own songs. George also contributed two or three of his own compositions to each of the Beatles eleven albums. Even Ringo wrote and sang the occasional song.

(*A Hard Day's Night* was also the soundtrack^⑤ from the band's first feature film which was, naturally, a huge hit with their millions of fans.) Based around the band playing themselves and shot in art-house black and white, it capitalised on^⑥ John, Paul, George and Ringo's natural charm without bothering too much about having a story.

They went on to make a second feature film, *Help*, the following year. It also spawned^⑦ a hit sound-track album and was, likewise, a massive^⑧ success among young people. It too was more of a celebration than a serious film. The band has admitted using it as an excuse to travel to exotic places, including the Bahamas and the Swiss Alps.

Meanwhile, the Beatles were making increasingly sophisticated and influential

别创作并演唱他们自己的歌曲。甲壳虫乐队的 11 张唱片中每张也有乔治自己创作的两、三首歌曲,甚至林戈偶尔也创作并演唱歌曲。

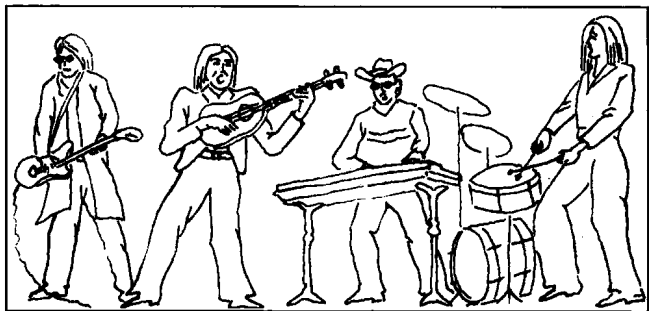
《辛苦了一天的晚上》也是乐队首部故事片的电影配乐,在他们数百万歌迷中自然轰动一时。影片取材于乐队自己的演出,并且用艺术制作室的黑白手法拍摄,它利用了约翰、保罗、乔治和林戈的自然魅力而不太理会它是否有情节。

第二年,他们又继续制作了第二部故事片:《救命》。这部影片同样造就了一个轰动一时的电影配乐集,在年轻人当中同样取得了巨大的成功。它也是一部与其说是严肃的影片,倒不如说是一部颂扬的影片。乐队承认是将它当作到有异国风情的地方去旅游的借口,包括巴哈马群岛和瑞士的阿尔卑斯山脉。

同时,甲壳虫乐队也在制作越来越复杂和有影响

music. *Yesterday*, a simple ballad written by Paul and recorded by the group in 1965, remains one of the most widely recorded songs of all time, even three decades later. With the knowledge and encouragement of George Martin, they were utilising more instruments and sounds than their guitars, bass and drums.

力的音乐。《昨天》，一首由保罗创作并由乐队于1965年录制的纯朴民歌，一直是一首广为录制的歌曲，即使是30年后的今天也是这样。由于乔治·马丁的博识和鼓励，他们使用了比吉他、贝斯和鼓更多的乐器和音响。



Strings, keyboards, brass and, eventually, whole orchestras[®] were brought into the recording studio to take their previously simple sound into new lands. George Harrison fell under the spell of Indian music in the mid-1960s and let this influence his contributions to Beatles albums, sometimes replacing his guitar with an Indian sitar[®]. Richer, more complex hits poured from the band with songs like *Penny Lane*, *Strawberry Fields Forever* and *Hey Jude*.

为了将以前简朴的录音带进新的领域，弦乐器、键盘乐器、铜管乐器，最后整个管弦乐队都被搬进了录音棚。20世纪60年代中期，乔治·哈里森被印度音乐所迷倒并影响了他对甲壳虫乐队唱片集的创作，有时他会用印度锡塔琴来代替吉他。随着《小巷》，《永远的草莓地》和《嗨！裘德》这样的歌曲的问世，乐队源源不断地创作出更为

The fans happily followed wherever the Beatles chose to go with their music and their records continued to sell by the million.

复杂的风行一时的作品,显得更加丰富多彩。

无论甲壳虫乐队及其音乐走向何方,歌迷们总是快乐追随。他们的唱片也总是持续不断地以百万销售。

-
- ①under one's thumb:完全在某人的影响或支配下。 ②venue:场馆,地点。
 ③siege:包围。 ④melodies and lyrics:旋律和歌词。 ⑤soundtrack:电影配乐。
 ⑥capitalise on:利用。 ⑦spawn:造成,引起。 ⑧massive:巨大的。 ⑨orchestras:管弦乐队 ⑩sitar:印度锡塔琴。

2

The Irish Pub Is Popular All over the World 风靡世界的爱尔兰酒吧

Since the earliest times in England, the traveller's inn has always been a warm and hospitable place, a gathering place for voyagers to rest and recover. The tireless landlord, the local customers sharing drinks and food, the welcoming atmosphere, have all become part of the legend of the typical English country and city life. In later centuries, the English tavern took on the role of community gathering place, being the location where friendly chatter and fierce social debate mixed with business discussions, and food, wine, beer and coffee were consumed as the noise of convivial^① exchanges rose.

In modern times, the English pub often continues to function as the communal meeting place, especially for people whose homes are too small to entertain any number of guests or friends. In many Asian countries, the local restaurant serves a similar social function.

In Ireland, the pub has acted as a

在英格兰,很久以来旅行者歇脚的小客栈就一直是个温馨友好的地方,航海者休息、恢复体力的聚会场所。不知疲倦的店主、分享着食物和饮料的本地顾客以及欢悦的气氛一起构成了典型的英国城乡生活传奇的一部分。在随后的几个世纪中,英格兰式小客栈充当了社区聚会场所的角色,在那里友好的闲聊、激烈的争论和买卖上的交谈交织在一起,人们享用着食品、酒水和咖啡,推杯换盏的喧闹声越来越大。

如今,英格兰式的酒吧仍然起着社区聚会地的作用,特别是对那些因家中太小而无法招待很多朋友的人来说更是如此。在亚洲许多国家,当地的餐馆具有类似的社交功能。

在爱尔兰农村,酒吧对

central attraction for poorer villagers in the rural areas, and as a literary and social focus in the cities. In keeping with the sociable nature of pub gatherings, music as well as talk has become a central part of this institution in Ireland.

Now people around the world are able to experience the friendly nature of the Irish pub, which follows in the wake of its English equivalent as a welcome and growing export. English pubs have been found in America, in parts of Europe and throughout the world where English people have settled. Today the Irish pub is witnessing an outburst of international popularity as Westerners turn away from their television and computer screens and seek to put a human face to their social contacts. They are finding it in the bars and corners of Irish pubs, where Guinness stout^②, (the Irish national drink), is available in the tall, dark creamy pint glasses and Irish music is the regular fare.

什表

An international representative for the Irish manufacturers of Jameson's whiskey, Patrick McCarville, points out that while the world has been laughing at Irish jokes (a stereotype of the Irish way of life), the

贫穷的村民有一种向心力,而在城里却是文化和社交中心。与酒吧的社交特性相适应,音乐和交谈一样也成了这种爱尔兰聚会场所的主题。

现在世界各地的人都可以体验到爱尔兰酒吧的温馨,它紧跟英式酒吧之后,成为一种受人们欢迎的出口产品,而且出口量日见增长。人们可以在美国、在部分欧洲国家和世界上有英国人居住的地方找到英格兰式酒吧。而今天,当西方人离开电视和电脑屏幕,亲身参与社交活动时,爱尔兰酒吧在世界范围内便日趋盛行。他们在爱尔兰酒吧的吧台前和角落里找到这种亲切的社交氛围,可以喝到盛在高高的玻璃啤酒杯中黝黑的、泛着泡沫的爱尔兰饮料——健力士黑啤,还可以时常听到爱尔兰音乐。

爱尔兰詹姆森威士忌酒制造商的一位国际代表帕特里克·麦卡维尔指出,当世界为爱尔兰笑话(那种一成不变的爱尔兰式生活)