

# 现代英语 阅读教程

赵 伟 编

MODERN ENGLISH  
READING COURSE

冶金工业出版社

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## 内 容 简 介

培养读者的阅读能力是本书的宗旨。全书共有16章。这16章分为三种类型。第一种类型以介绍阅读技巧为主(第1、3、5、7、9、11、13章),在每一章中包括一篇主体文章,二至三项阅读技巧,以及针对本章阅读技巧而安排的大量的练习。第二种类型编排的目的是对学过的阅读技巧进行复习与再一次的实践,因此这种类型包括二至三篇阅读文章和一项阅读技巧,双数章节(2、4、6、8、10、12、14章)体现了这一类型。第三种类型体现在最后两章上,每章只包含两篇篇幅较长的文章,做为综合性的阅读理解练习。

## 图书在版编目

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## PREFACE

In my view this book written by Mrs. Zhao Wei will be of particular practical help to advanced students of English. In organizing the materials of this book she has researched a number of similar English reading textbooks and taken the best parts from each of them placing them together in this volume. In other words, the book you are about to read is a compilation of the best English reading studying methods available. As you read you will be able to discover modern methods and raise your reading skills greatly.

I believe that using this book and its methods will be particularly profitable. Of course, in any event, studying English is a good experience, but especially when one is able to gain such a good study method the value increases. This book will be a tool to help you advance your English skills. By the time you finish reading this book you will discover that your newly acquired skills have become a part of you and will remain with you, assisting you in subsequent readings.

Reading is the key to gaining new knowledge and information. The methods in this book will assist you in developing that key. I hope your studies are successful and pleasant!

*Ronald R. Meyers*

March, 1995

## 序 言

赵纬编写的《现代英语阅读教程》一书，是一本适合理工科大学英语程度较高的本科生和研究生阅读的好教材。其特点为：选材广泛，内容丰富，文体多样，趣味性强，语言规范；编写突出了技巧性，注重培养提高学生的阅读能力，不但强调提高学生的阅读速度，而且还能锻炼学生的分析思考能力，独立判断和准确获取作品信息的能力；此外，该书还编有恰到好处的配合课文的练习，这对提高学生的阅读能力和语言水平都有很大帮助。

这本书不但便于英语教师课堂教学使用，而且还适合于学生自学使用，是值得广泛推广和使用的一本有价值的好书。

北京科技大学外语系

王文才 教授

## 前 言

《现代英语阅读教程》以培养学生的阅读能力为宗旨，以突出阅读技巧的讲解和练习为特色，在扩大词汇量、增长多方面知识的基础上，提供了一些常用的阅读技巧方面的知识，并配有大量针对性较强的有关阅读技巧方面的练习。对于那些旨在努力提高自己的英语阅读速度的读者来说，通过阅读本书，将会得到一定的收益。

全书分为16个单元。主体文章的长度依次递增，难度由浅入深。文章主要选自近年来英语原版书刊，涉及文学、历史、科技、社会风情、艺术及未来学等诸多方面，内容新颖，题材广泛，体裁多样，信息量大，适合具有中等以上英语水平的广大读者使用。本书全部英语写作这一特点，也将有助于培养读者对于英语的阅读与理解的能力。

在本书的编写过程中，麦浪博士花费不少时间对本书进行修改；王文才教授与陈达星教授曾给予鼓励并提出不少好的建议；张小平先生及张家骅副教授对本书的编写与出版给予了热情支持和帮助，在此一并表示衷心感谢。

限于编者的水平和经验，书中疏漏及不妥之处，欢迎广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1995年3月

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## UNIT 1

### Reading Selection:

# *Americans Want to Work —But Need Leisure, Too*

### **Studies show Americans working longer and harder**

In six days, God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day. He passed on that work-and-leisure ethic in the commandments<sup>2</sup>, instructing: "Six days shalt thou<sup>3</sup> labor, and do all thy<sup>4</sup> work... But the seventh day thou shall not do any work..." It sounds simple, but Americans have been wrestling<sup>5</sup> with the implications and amending the rules for centuries.

The Puritans<sup>6</sup> stepped ashore with values<sup>7</sup> that became known later as the Protestant work ethic. It runs like this: God expects people to work; all forms of honest work have dignity; work is service not only to God but to humanity and to self; but work should leave time for spiritual concerns.

The desire to work is still strong in the U. S. When a survey by the University of Michigan asked "If by chance you inherited enough money to live comfortably without working, do you think you would work any way?" 87 percent of professionals and 76 percent of blue-collar workers replied yes.

As A. R. Gini, of Loyola University, in Chicago, put it in his book on the work ethic, *It Comes With the Territory*: "Most

lives are built on work; for most people, to live is to work...We literally<sup>8</sup> need to work in order to fulfill and define ourselves as human beings...we cannot endure without it, either physically or psychologically." That's why unemployment is so painful; the American who can't find work loses not only income but also self-respect.

It also explains in part the feminist<sup>9</sup> revolution. Women demand that they as well as men have the right to enjoy

**Hours of work per week**

Country or District	1981	1989
U. S.	39.8	41.0
Bolivia	46.3	46.5
Hong Kong	46.2	44.8
Japan	46.0	46.3
Korea	53.7	50.7
Mexico	43.6	44.4
Peru "	34.0	46.7
Philippines	47.6	49.4*
South Africa	48.2	46.9
Spain	37.8	36.8
Sweden	37.4	38.5*
* 1987		

SOURCE: YEARBOOK OF LABOUR STATISTICS (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, 1991)

careers outside the home because work is rewarding not only in money but also in social status and personal satisfaction.

In the 1970s when it was the conventional wisdom that automation would reduce the need for human labor, much was said and written about the problem of increased leisure. Whatever

would we do with ourselves for all those hours, possibly-hor-  
rors!-even whole days, when we were not working? We avoided  
that problem because the time Americans spend at work has in-  
creased rather than declined-on average, by about one day every  
year. It doesn't sound like much, but cumulatively at the end of  
20 years, it amounts to working almost an extra month every  
year, points out Juliet B. Schor, author of a forthcoming book on  
overworked Americans, writing in the US publication. Technology  
Review.

The percentage of employees working 49 hours a week or  
longer rose from 18 percent in 1970 to 23 percent in 1989. Hours  
of leisure for the average American dropped from 26 in 1970 to  
17 in 1987, and more than 7 million Americans now hold two  
jobs.

So if we all want and need to work and there is work to be  
done, why don't we all just labor six days a week, as the Lord  
prescribed, and be happy? Some people do, of course, and a few  
work for seven long days, but they are described as worka-  
holics<sup>10</sup> and thought to be suffering from a social disease that  
makes their families ill. Many more Americans would like to re-  
duce their workweek. In a recent poll, 41 percent said leisure  
was more important to them than work.

Another factor influencing attitudes and statistics is the  
changing role of women. They have always worked, but house-  
work was somehow not counted as real work, although running  
a home and raising kids 12 hours a day was usually harder than  
going off to the office for eight hours five days a week.

Men have to do more of the household work but, curiously,  
it doesn't show up as work in the statistics; when they aren't in  
the office, they are assumed to be enjoying leisure, an assump-

tion from which women take much not-so-innocent amusement. So when workers say they value leisure above work, they may really be saying that they need more time for domestic chores.

The truth probably is that Americans work as hard today as they ever did, and if they spend hours in front of the TV set amusing themselves to death, as someone put it, it's because they are too fatigued to do anything more energetic.

(Anthony Westell,  
from *The Worldpaper*)

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Notes: 1. ethic: system of moral principles, rules of conduct. 2. commandment: divine command. 3. thou: (old or liter form of ) you (sing.). 4. thy: (old use) your. 5. wrestle; struggle (with sb.) and try to throw (him) to the ground without hitting (him). 6. Puritan: (15th and 17th centuries, in England) member of a division of the Protestant Church which wanted simpler forms of church ceremony. 7. value: standard. 8. literally: without exaggeration. 9. feminist: someone who believes in feminism. 10. workaholic: person who works very hard in order not to be dismissed.

## Exercises

### I. *Multiple Choice*:

1. The survey by the University of Michigan shows that in the U. S. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. most of professionals would not work if they by chance inherited enough money.
  - b. many blue-collar workers are tired of their work.
  - c. the desire to work is still strong.
  - d. both a and b.



2. The reason why Americans feel painful when they lose their jobs is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. most of them think that to work is human nature.  
b. they cannot endure without work, either physically or psychologically.  
c. they will lose not only income but also self-respect.  
☒ d. all of the above.
3. The reason why women demand that they have the right to enjoy careers outside the home is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. they don't want to stay at home.  
b. they are tired of household chores.  
c. they think that they can earn their daily bread.  
☒ d. they think that work will bring them not only money but also social status and personal satisfaction.
4. According to the passage, the time Americans spend at work has \_\_\_\_\_.  
☒ a. increased.  
b. declined.  
c. declined by about one day every year.  
d. not been mentioned.
5. Cumulatively at the end of 20 years, the time Americans spend at work increases by \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. about one day every year.  
b. almost one month every 20 years.  
c. about one week every year.  
☒ d. almost an additional month every year.
6. According to the passage, the countries or districts that have decreased their hours of work are \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Hong Kong and Spain.  
b. Korea.