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英语阅读突破书系

# 掌握

# 词汇

# 2300

附参考译文 练习答案

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● 英语阅读突破书系 ●

掌握词汇

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# 序

人类即将迈入 21 世纪,新的时代对我们提出了更高的要求,我们也面临着更多的机遇和挑战。只有及时抓住机遇,主动迎接挑战,才能适应不断发展变化的社会,才能无愧于所处的时代。

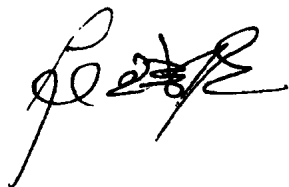
21 世纪是一个国际化、网络化的时代,知识的传播和信息的交流将会更加迅速。因此,作为这些活动的载体——语言,也就显得尤为重要,特别是英语的重要性不言而喻,全世界 70% 以上的出版物均使用英语。改革开放以来,“英语热”持续升温。不过要学好英语谈何容易!怎样学好英语,怎样能够在有限的时间内提高学习效率,广大英语工作者一直在探索行之有效的方法。英语词汇历来是困扰广大学习者的一大难题,只有积累了一定数量的词汇,才能进行训练和提高听、说、读、写、译等基本技能。而词汇的积累主要依靠大量的阅读。由世界图书出版西安公司组织、全国四所高等院校权威专家联合编写的这套《英语阅读突破书系》在此方面作了有益的尝试。全书有以下几个突出特色:

**选材得当,资料新颖。**全书收集了英语国家出版的最新阅读资料,内容涉及网络、经济、环境、科技、文化、教育等诸多方面。阅读全书,不仅是在提高英语水平,同时也是在最新知识的海洋里遨游。

**循序渐进,突出词汇。**此套丛书每册分级处理词汇,前后照应,由简到繁,从易到难,按照最新大纲对词汇的要求来编写。

**练习多样,重在掌握。**本书在每篇课文之后都安排了形式不同的练习,并对课文进行翻译,提供参考答案,以便更好地检查学习效果,巩固所学内容和词汇。

本书不仅可作为在校大学生英语学习的阅读辅助教材,还可为自学考试学生以及广大英语爱好者提供切实的帮助,在短期内收到事半功倍的效果。

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

2001 年 2 月于西安外国语学院

# 前 言

《英语阅读突破书系》为循序渐进阅读丛书。编写丛书的目的在于通过丰富、广泛的文章阅读和词汇练习为学习英语的读者提供更好、更新、更科学的语言学习方法,使读者在兴趣盎然的阅读中学习、应用,最终掌握英语单词,扩大词汇量。

丛书共分六册,根据最新《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》编写,各册词汇量严格按照大纲要求来做。

丛书具有以下特点:

(1)每册内含 18 个单元,每一单元均有两篇阅读文章和一篇篇幅短小且生动有趣的幽默故事。练习设置以单词练习为主,兼顾构词法的学习和练习,练习并不拘泥于形式,各种不同类型相互穿插;力求在阅读实践当中完成词意理解、应用并最终达到掌握的目的。

(2)通过阅读,每册所掌握的词汇数量和重点不同:第一册可掌握词汇 2300,第二册可掌握词汇 3000,第三册可掌握词汇 3500,第四册可掌握词汇 4200,第五册可掌握词汇 5000,第六册可掌握词汇 5500。

(3)考虑到基础阶段读者的词汇量不够丰富的特点,每篇阅读文章中出现的新词、生词均加有标注,协助读者完成连续的、不间断的思维过程,再加之文后的难句注解及背景知识能使读者实现真正意义上的有效阅读。

(4)丛书选材广泛,内容新颖,可扩大读者的语言接

触面;同时又图文并茂,既赏心又悦目。希望能通过一种别致、多变的途径使本书成为读者扩大词汇量、提高阅读能力、增见识、长知识的好帮手。

千里之行始于足下,坚实基础奠定需要读者的用心和恒心,本书在给读者提供实践机会的同时,更期望通过本书的引导帮助读者培养阅读的兴趣,养成自觉良好的阅读习惯,从而登上更高的台阶。

限于水平及其他客观原因,本书难免有疏漏之处,敬请各位读者不吝赐教,予以指正。

编 者

2001 年 2 月

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# Unit 1



## Text I

### Dividing a Kingdom

### 分裂王国

大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国多年来一直是英格兰、苏格兰、威尔士和北爱尔兰四个部分的联合。但这能持续多久呢？许多人担心英国政府给苏格兰、威尔士更大独立性的计划可能会最终导致英国的分裂。





## Pre-reading Questions

1. What are the major political components of Great Britain?
2. Who is the Head of State of Great Britain now?
3. Who is the Prime Minister of Great Britain?
4. What happened to Hong Kong on July 1, 1997?
5. What accounted for the decline of the British Empire?

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

(1) In the last century, Britain was the largest and most powerful nation on Earth. But, for much of this century, the British Empire<sup>1</sup> has been becoming smaller. It finally came to an end on July 1, 1997 when the last significant colony<sup>2</sup>—Hong kong—was handed over to China.

(2) Until recently, it was thought that the United Kingdom<sup>3</sup> could not become smaller any further, since all that is left are the small islands that make up the union itself. But now, Britain's Labour government<sup>4</sup> plans to create new parliamentary assemblies<sup>5</sup> in Scotland and Wales, raising fears that the union might disappear altogether.

(3) Britain's Prime Minister<sup>6</sup>, Tony Blair, argues that his policy of devolution<sup>7</sup> may be the only way to prevent the fall of the UK. The giving of additional powers to Scotland<sup>8</sup> and Wales<sup>9</sup> will, he believes, put a stop to the ongoing demands for total independence for those countries.

(4) The more important of the new governing bodies is the Scottish Parliament<sup>10</sup> in Edinburgh, which is planned to take office at the start of the year 2000. The 129 members of the Parliament will set up an executive<sup>11</sup>, which will have most of the powers of a full government over Scotland's five million citizens. The only functions of government that will still be determined in Westminster<sup>12</sup> will be constitutional affairs<sup>13</sup>, foreign and defence policy, national security and economic



affairs (although the new Parliament will have the power to make income tax rates up to three percent higher or lower than they are in the rest of Britain.)

(5) Nationalists<sup>14</sup> argue that Scotland should be independent from the UK because it is so different from Britain as a whole. The most obvious differences are cultural—kilts, bagpipes and certain sports and games are unique to Scotland. But the systems of law, education and religion also differ considerably to those of the rest of the Britain.

(6) But even those who don't want Scotland to become a completely separate country agree that a parliament in Edinburgh may be necessary to ensure that the £ 14 billion the British government gives to Scotland every year is spent properly.

(7) The same argument applies to Wales, where the British government spends about £ 7 billion a year. However, the proposed Welsh Assembly will not have the same power as Scotland's. It won't be able to raise or lower taxes, nor introduce any laws that have not already been approved by Westminster. In short, the Welsh Assembly will do little more than distribute money given by London. This, say critics, makes it little more than a large local authority<sup>15</sup>.

(8) Although Wale's three million citizens have a rich and distinct culture, as well as their own language—spoken by just under 20 percent of the population—at present there is little popular support for a complete break with London. However, opponents of independence fear that the Welsh Assembly will make further independence seem more attractive, especially if the Scottish Parliament is successful.

(9) More pressing though are the problems that the new assemblies could cause in London. Scotland and Wales will continue to have MPs<sup>16</sup> in Parliament at Westminster. This means they will be in the strange position of having a say over the affairs of England, with its far greater population of 48 million, but not over matters in their own countries. In England, there is already unpleasant feeling about this, and





there are fears that it could lead to calls for a separate Parliament for England itself. If that happens, there is little chance of the UK holding together in its current form.

(10) Most British politicians agree that devolution will mark a step into unknown territory for the UK. But people like Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, which wants total independence for Scotland, believe that history is on their side. "We see a pattern of big nations breaking up and separatist parties gaining ground throughout the world," says Mr. Salmond. "Within the European Union<sup>17</sup>, there is clearly room for an independent Scotland to take its place alongside the new democracies of the former Soviet Union, eastern and central Europe."

(11) Even those who disagree with Mr. Salmond believe that the end of the Cold War<sup>18</sup> has encouraged moves towards independence by small nations, and not just in Europe but in countries as different as Canada and India. Indeed, some experts in government law believe that a federal system<sup>19</sup> similar to that of the US or Germany may prove the best solution for Britain. This would include a new English Parliament which, like those of Scotland and Wales, would have major powers to negotiate international agreements.

(12) In such a situation, the UK would stay as the overall sovereign<sup>20</sup> power with the British Monarchy<sup>21</sup> at its head. But many of its responsibilities would be handed over to regional parliaments. In the long run, this may be the best that those strongly in favor of a united Britain can hope for.



## Notes

1. British Empire 英帝国

2. colony *n.* 殖民地

3. the United Kingdom 联合王国(英国) 其全称是 the United