



新 东 方 学 校 英 语 文 库



My Reading

快乐

第二册

编著：林晓 卢睿蓉 方富民 徐烨



四 六 级
英语阅读

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MY READING MY READING MY READING MY READING MY READING

快乐

My Reading 2

方富民 卢睿蓉 编著
林 晓 徐 烨

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前 言

根据语言学习的规律,语言学习的成功是建立在大量的语言输入,尤其是大量的阅读基础之上的。一个外语学习者如果只热衷于死记单词、专背语法条框、应付考试,他的成功只会遥不可及。他也体会不到读书的乐趣。只有通过大量的阅读,他才能领略语言所承载的人文内涵;而只有能够欣赏它所展现的异域风情、文化传统、社会思想和经济背景,他才能真正理解和掌握这门语言。这就是我们编写这套丛书的目的。

这套丛书的文章都选自近几年来国内外各类英语刊物、同等水平的英文教材等。既有名家的隽永小品,也有新人的奇思妙想;既有自然世界的风花雪月,也有经济社会的人生百态。题材广泛多样,文字新颖生动、原汁原味。文章集趣味性、思想性、社会性、实用性于一体,从不同角度反映了英美国家的文化、社会、经济、政治、科技等多方面的情况,使阅读者从字里行间领略了英语语言的魅力。

我们的宗旨是快乐阅读,在轻松愉悦的氛围中学习英语、体会英语、掌握英语。我们提倡通过阅读掌握词汇,了

解结构,领会思想,从而达到学会说、写、译等实用目的。

此套书共四册,分为四级。难度逐级递增。每册书由8~9个单元组成,安排的内容大致可覆盖大学一学期的时间。每一单元由五篇文章组成。每周您可看一个单元,每天一篇。每天的内容编排如下:

Proverb (谚语),每天教您一句有用的谚语。

Before You Read 栏目,它将为您的阅读提供背景知识或一些启发您的问题助您阅读。

Notes (注释),对文中出现的疑难处给与简单的解释。

Conquering CET (征服四级),就文中出现的重点单词或句型安排4~6个多项选择题,这里有大量四级考试全真题。

Challenging Yourself (挑战自我),您可结合文章内容及您自己的经历,和您的朋友、同学就给出的讨论题进行口语练习。

Unexpected Gifts (意外礼物),教您一句流行口语。让您积少成多,口语越讲越地道!

Happy Moment (快乐时刻),送您一则笑话,让您在捧腹大笑中体会英语学习带来的乐趣。

每一个周末,在您放松一周紧张学习的时候,别忘记到我们的 **Leisure Bar** (休闲吧)来坐坐。我们为您精心准备了 **Review** (形式轻松的一单元重点单词、词组回顾)、**Brain Teasers** (动脑筋)包括字谜、谜语、小常识问答等等以及更多 **Jokes** (笑话)。您一定会在这儿流连忘返的!

当然您可以以您喜欢的方式来看这套丛书。无论您采用何种方式,我们深信这套书一定会对您的英语学习及为您的全国英语四级考试备考大有帮助!

此套丛书可供大学生1-4级学生用作课外读物,也可

作为全国英语四级考试的备考用书。同样适合广大英语爱好者作为休闲读物。

在此套丛书的编写过程中,我们还得到了徐燕、杨杰璘和张利等同志的热情帮助,谨向他们表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限,时间仓促,书中错误疏漏之处在所难免,望广大读者及同行专家批评指正。

编 者

2002 年 8 月



UNIT 1

<i>If You're Short, Don't Forget Tom Cruise</i>	1
<i>Cat and Man</i>	7
<i>Applying for a New Boss</i>	13
<i>The Story of Salt</i>	19
<i>When a Man Loves a Woman</i>	24

UNIT 2

<i>The World Looks Different Now, Even to the Dog</i>	36
<i>A "Sporting Event"</i>	42
<i>How to Open a Current Account?</i>	47
<i>The Personal Qualities of a Teacher</i>	52
<i>First Measures of Time</i>	58

UNIT 3

<i>Dove, Lies and Poetry</i>	68
------------------------------------	----

<i>Always Here</i>	74
<i>Are the Blind Leading the Blind?</i>	81
<i>The First Thanksgiving</i>	86
<i>Sir Isaac Newton</i>	92

UNIT 4

<i>Why are Men Such Babies When They Get Sick?</i>	101
<i>Nice Ways to Say No</i>	108
<i>A Sketch for Hollywood</i>	114
<i>Stress Free Homeoffice</i>	119
<i>For Conversation, Press # 1</i>	124

UNIT 5

<i>She Can Get Away With Anything</i>	133
<i>How Americans Eat and Drink</i>	139
<i>Betsy Ross and the Flag</i>	144
<i>Dreams</i>	149
<i>A Pair of Socks</i>	154

UNIT 6

<i>The Secret Language of Flowers</i>	164
<i>A life of Quiet Desperation</i>	170
<i>How to Elect a US President</i>	176
<i>£ 36m a Year? How Do They Manage?</i>	182
<i>Feeding Your Spirit</i>	187

UNIT 7

<i>Culture and Eating</i>	196
<i>Advertising—Good or Bad?</i>	201
<i>Dark Horse</i>	206
<i>Miracle of the Flower Boxes</i>	212
<i>A Story of Love</i>	217

UNIT 8

<i>Okay</i>	227
<i>What I Believe</i>	232
<i>The First of May</i>	238
<i>Le Dinner Party</i>	244
<i>Remember What's Really Important</i>	251

UNIT 9

<i>A Long Walk Home</i>	260
<i>Dreams—What Do They Mean?</i>	266
<i>Cyberlove May Be Only a Dream</i>	272
<i>Bill Gates in His Boyhood</i>	278
<i>Will There Be “Carbon Copy” people?</i>	284

UNIT 1

Give me where to stand, and I will move the world.

—Archimedes

如能给我以立足点,我将能撬动世界。

——阿基米德

◇ Before You Read

Is it natural selection that makes women go for taller men?

If You're Short, Don't Forget Tom Cruise

Taller men really do get the girls, according to a study which reveals that childless men are about 4cm shorter than fathers. The discovery that some women are less *partial* to short men follows decades of research on birds and animals. This research put the emphasis on the female preferences which come into play *when it comes to* finding a mate.

“Taller men are reproductively more successful than shorter

men, indicating there is an active selection for stature¹ in male partners by women,” said Dr Robin Dunbar, professor of evolutionary psychology at Liverpool University. He **undertook** the research in conjunction with colleagues at Wroclaw University, Poland.

“Females are much choosier² than males—even in humans. What this shows, I guess, is that choosiness really does have genetic consequences, even though tallness is not the only criterion women are using.”

In earlier research, Professor Dunbar trawled³ through Lonely Hearts columns in newspapers and magazines to find what qualities people looked for in a partner. He noted that men revealed their height only if tall. “Men never say, ‘I’m a 156cm man who looks like Danny DeVito (the successful, but short American film and television star).’” he said.

Professor Dunbar’s study, published in the science journal *Nature*, examined the medical records of nearly 4,500 Polish men between 25 and 60. He **took account of** their education, where they lived (city dwellers are taller), marital status (bachelors are shorter), age and employment. With these controls⁴, childless men were shown on average to be 4cm shorter than those who had fathered at least one child.

Professor Dunbar said the reason could be the allure⁵ of a good background “If you’re tall, it means you grew up in a nutritionally and socially rich environment and that richness is likely to be passed on to the children, reinforced by the circumstances which involve having rich, caring grandparents and a rich, caring partner.”

I asked another television star Oliver Driver, who stands at a

lofty 198cm, what he thought of this research. He said: “The older you get and the taller you are, the easier it is to get a date⁶. But at school my height didn’t help—being tall was too strange for people. I was tall and fat, which probably worsened my chances further still.”

Actress Jennifer Ward-Lealand who at 180cm towers over her husband, Hercules star Michael Hurst (who is 168cm tall), said pushy⁷ men with “short-man syndrome⁸” could be unattractive but she added that her husband’s height never bothered her. “It’s interesting that people say Michael is short yet the public perceive actors like Tom Cruise and Mel Gibson as being tall, which isn’t the case. Nicole Kidman (the 178cm-tall Australian actress who is married to 170cm-tall Tom Cruise) is far taller than Cruise.”

But Tom Cruise, star of top-grossing movies such as *Top Gun*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, and *The Color of Money*, was voted No 3 in the Empire magazine list of 100 top movie stars of all time. Mel Gibson is the star of the top box-office *Mad Max* and *Lethal Weapon* series of adventure movies. Which goes to show that, despite the psychological research, it’s bit of a tall story⁹ that short men cannot succeed.

Notes:

1. stature: *n.* 身高
2. choosy: *adj.* 挑剔的
3. trawl: *v.* 用拖网捕鱼; 搜罗
4. control: *n.* 对照, 实验
5. allure: *n.* 吸引力; 诱惑

6. date: *n.* [美口]异性的约会对象
7. pushy: *adj.* 粗鲁的; 莽撞的
8. syndrome: *n.* 综合症
9. tall story: 无稽之谈

◆ Conquering CET

1. It is said that the math teacher seems _____ towards bright students. (2000. 1)
A. partial B. beneficial C. preferable D. liable
2. Doing your homework is a sure way to improve your test scores, and this is especially true _____ it comes to classroom tests. (1996.1)
A. when B. since C. before D. after
3. The Channel Tunnel is one of the biggest engineering projects ever _____.
A. undergone B. undertaken C. understate D. underlie
4. The teachers promised to take _____ of the wishes of the parents before making any changes.
A. charge B. account C. risk D. pleasure

◆ Challenging Yourself

What do you think about a person's height? Is it an important factor in choosing your friend, either girl or boy friend?

◇ Unexpected Gifts

have got a lot of nerve 竟敢;胆敢

e.g. You have really got a lot of nerve telling me I spend too much money!

你竟敢说 I 花钱太多!

◇ Happy Moment

Not Fair

Two fishermen sitting on a bridge, their lines in the water, made a bet as to who would catch the first fish. One of them got a bite on his line and got so excited that he fell off the bridge.

“Oh, well,” said the other, “if you’re going to dive for them, the bet’s off!”

Reader's Notes

◇ Key to Conquering CET

1. 答案: A。该句的意思为:据说,数学老师似乎都偏爱聪明的学生,be partial towards 的意思为:对…有偏见的,符合句意。