

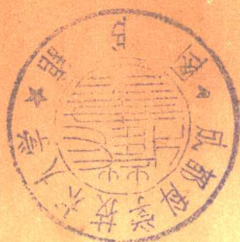
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高校英语泛读教材

# 英语阅读技巧与实践

ENGLISH READING  
SKILLS AND PRACTICE

BOOK 2



吴丁娥 刘学明编著

湖南师范大学出版社

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BOOK

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# 英语阅读技巧与实践

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## 编 者 的 话

《英语阅读技巧与实践》是一套供英语专业学生在基础阶段使用的泛读教材。教材的编写目的是教给学生阅读技巧，并在技巧的指导下进行实践。

本套教材有助于培养学生细致观察语言的能力和假设判断、推理验证等逻辑思维能力，培养学生的阅读兴趣，使他们在较短的时间里尽快扩大词汇量，扩大知识面，提高阅读速度和理解能力。书中各种练习都是围绕这些目的而设计编写的。

本套教材共四册，每周上课2—3学时，可在两年内学完。教材除供普通高校英语专业学生在基础阶段使用外，还可作教师进修学院、夜大、函大学员的泛读教材，也可供较高水平的自学者自学，那些想顺利通过英语四级、六级、EPT及TOEFL考试的应考者阅读本教材也将会获益匪浅。

本套教材第一册分四个单元，集中介绍各种重要的阅读技巧，并在技巧指导下进行大量实践。1. Word Study (如何根据上下文猜测词义；如何按构词法猜测词义及扩大词汇量)。2. Sentence Reading (如何按上下文、语法等理解难句)。3. Paragraph Reading (如何找中心思想，如何正确判断，如何得出正确结论等)。4. Article Reading (如何略读、跳读等)。从第二册起，每册编有30—40篇文章，文章之后不仅配有各种练习，而且标明了单词数，这样便于学生综合运用已学的各种技巧，进行计时阅读。教师可按大纲要求及

学生的水平规定每分钟应读的单词数。

本套教材还配有两册快速阅读活页材料，每周一篇，供教师用来测试学生的阅读速度和理解率。此乃我国英语专业泛读教材之首创。

使用本套教材时，要求学生不进行预习，否则很多练习将失去意义，此外教师也无法真正了解学生运用技巧的能力及确切的阅读速度和理解率。

为了使学生克服依赖思想，本套教材练习答案另外装订，夹在书中，请教师在使用时先将答案抽掉，待书用完之后再发给学生。

在编写本套教材的过程中，我们得到了周定之教授和廖世翹教授的指导，我们在此深表谢意。湖南省各高校的英语泛读课负责教师对本套教材的修改提出了许多宝贵建议，我们也在此一并表示感谢。

由于水平有限，书中一定会有不妥之处，望广大读者，特别是使用本套教材的教师们提出宝贵意见，以便再版时修正。

**编者于湖南师范大学**

**一九九〇年二月**

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## Passage 1

### English As A World Language

1 The number of speakers of English in Shakespeare's time is estimated to have been about five million. Today it is estimated that some 260 million people speak it as a native language, mainly in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In addition to the standard varieties of English found in these areas, there are a great many regional and social varieties of the language, as well as various levels of usage that are employed both in its spoken and written forms.

2 It is virtually impossible to estimate the number of people in the world who have acquired an adequate working knowledge of English in addition to their own languages. The purposes for which English is learned and the situations in which such learning takes place are so varied that it is difficult to define and still more difficult to assess what constitutes an adequate working knowledge for each situation.

3 The main reason for the widespread demand for English is its present-day importance as a world language. Besides serving the infinite needs of its native speakers, English is a language in which some of the most important works in science, technology, and other fields are being produced, and not always by native speakers. It is widely used for such purposes as meteorological and airport communications, international conferences, and the dissemination of information over the radio and television networks of many nations. It is a language of wider communication for a number of developing countries, especially former British colonies. Many of these countries have multilingual populations and need a language for internal communication in such matters as government, commerce, industry, law and education as well as for international communication and for access to the scientific and technological developments in the West. (303 words)

### Exercises

I. Tick off the best choice according to the information given in this passage.

1. Which of the following statements is true?
  - a. Today some five million people speak English as a native language.

- b. In Shakespeare's time about 260 million people spoke English as a native language.
  - c. Today about 260 million people speak English as a native language.
  - d. Today about 2600 million people speak English as a native language.
2. Which of the following statements is Not true?
- a. Some 260 million people in the world have an adequate working knowledge of English.
  - b. There are some 260 million native speakers of English in the world.
  - c. It is almost impossible to estimate the number of people with an adequate working knowledge of English.
  - d. People learn English for a variety of reasons.
3. According to this passage, what is one main reason for the widespread use of English?
- a. It was popular during Shakespeare's time.
  - b. It was used in former British colonies.
  - c. It serves the needs of its native speakers.
  - d. It is a world language that is used for international communication.
4. What makes up an adequate working knowledge of English?
- a. The ability to read newspapers.
  - b. It is difficult to assess because it differs for each situation.
  - c. Being multi-lingual.
  - d. Being a native speaker.
5. What type of developing countries would be most likely to use English?

- a. Those geographically close to the United States.
- b. Those geographically close to Great Britain.
- c. Former colonies of Great Britain.
- d. Countries where international conferences are held.

**II. Guess the meaning of the given words according to their contexts.**

1. The word "estimated" (in paragraph 1) means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. calculated or formed a judgment
  - b. written
  - c. told
  - d. established
2. The word "virtually" (in paragraph 2) means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. not
  - b. almost
  - c. naturally
  - d. vividly
3. The word "adequate" (in paragraph 2) means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. adverb
  - b. equal
  - c. active
  - d. enough
4. The word "constitutes" (in paragraph 2) means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. exists
  - b. concludes
  - c. co-operates
  - d. makes up
5. The word "access" (in paragraph 3) means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. way or entrance
  - b. possession
  - c. wave
  - d. money

**III. Choose a correct word to fill in the blank. Use suitable verb tenses, singular or plural forms for nouns, and passive voice where necessary.**

1. developer, development, to develop, developing, developed
  - a. I don't know anything about the historical \_\_\_\_\_ of capitalism.
  - b. China is still a \_\_\_\_\_ country.
  - c. The United States is a \_\_\_\_\_ country.

d. Oh, I think he is a real estate \_\_\_\_\_.

e. Go on and \_\_\_\_\_ your argument fully.

2. nation, national, nationally, nationality

a. That product was \_\_\_\_\_ advertised on TV.

b. Do you know all of the words to the \_\_\_\_\_ anthem?

c. Which is the largest \_\_\_\_\_ in the United Nations?

d. What's your \_\_\_\_\_ ?

3. speaker, speech, to speak, speechless

a. Yesterday I \_\_\_\_\_ to 20 people on the phone.

b. Carlos is such a good \_\_\_\_\_ that everyone likes to hear him talk.

c. He always gives an excellent \_\_\_\_\_.

d. I was so surprised that I couldn't say a word; I was \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Industry, industrial, industrious

a. Heavy \_\_\_\_\_ is very important for a country.

b. Shanghai is an \_\_\_\_\_ city.

c. The Chinese people are brave and \_\_\_\_\_.

5. variety, variation, to vary, various, variously

a. I have visited \_\_\_\_\_ countries in Europe.

b. Customs \_\_\_\_\_ in the countries I have visited.

c. I tried a \_\_\_\_\_ of new foods in every country.

d. From time to time, I have \_\_\_\_\_ worked as a printer, an editor, and an artist.

e. There are \_\_\_\_\_ in public opinion.

IV. Do you know the meaning of the following pairs of sentences?

1. { She is with child.  
She is with a child.
2. { He is in black.  
He is in the black.
3. { She is in pink.  
She is in the pink.
4. { He keeps shop.  
He keeps a shop.
5. { He went to pot.  
He went to a pot.
6. { Mr. Smith took a chair.  
Mr. Smith took the chair.
7. { The boss gave the worker a sack.  
The boss gave the worker the sack.
8. { He took flight.  
He took a flight.

## Passage 2

### Owls

1 A fat young mouse runs out to play at night. The moon is full and round. A few soft white clouds drift in the sky. The cows sleep in the stalls. Now the big hound is not on watch. It sleeps in its house, growling a bit as it dreams. The hawks, which have hunted all day, have gone to sleep, too. It is safe. Our mouse grows bold. It crosses the road.

2 Down swoops a gray owl. Not a sound does it make. Its claws close tight on the mouse. And the owl flies back to its tree. Down its throat slides our young mouse — in one piece! The owl munches its mouse lunch. Then the owl spits small round balls of ground-up bones out on the ground. Owls hunt food at night. They like meat, and they catch rats, moles, and shrews.

3 Owls have big heads, strong hooked beaks, and strong claws. The eyes sit in round disks, side by side, and not on the side of the head, like the hawk's<sup>1</sup>. The eyes of the owl do not move from side to side. The owl must move

his whole head to the left and right to see: Owls see best at night. They catch sounds by means of big slits on the side of the head<sup>2</sup>.

4 Owls do not like crowded towns, so they live close to the woods. Small owls build nests in holes in trees: Some build nests in the ground: Big owls may live in old hawks' nests. In spring you may find from one to twelve round white eggs in an owl's nest:

5 At least 500 kinds of owls have been counted: The small elf owl is just six inches high: The big gray owl grows to be 30 inches high. It has a wing span of 60 inches — five feet! But big owls and small ones seem to have the same wise look as they watch us with big wide eyes. And a big owl and a small one make the same kind of call, as if asking "Who-oo-oo?" (350 words)

### Exercises

I. Tick off the best choice according to the information given in this passage.

1. When an owl flies, it does not \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. flap its wings
  - b. make a sound
  - c. look at the ground
  - d. hunt
2. The owl gulps down its food \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. in one piece
  - b. in small balls



- c. in one minute                      d. with salt
3. Owls like hunting \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. at noon                                  b. in the morning  
c. all day                                  d. at night
4. The owl likes catching \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. birds                                      b. rats and shrews  
c. cows and hounds                      d. hawks
5. The beak of an owl is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. round                                      b. hooked  
c. weak                                        d. straight
6. The claw of an owl is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. strong                                      b. weak  
c. big    d. small
7. The owl's eyes do not \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. see well                                   b. close  
c. move left or right                      d. blink
8. Small owls have nests in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. houses                                      b. woods  
c. trees                                        d. sheds
9. The size of an owl may be from \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 30 to 60 inches                          b. 6 to 30 inches  
c. 10 to 20 inches                          d. 3 to 50 inches
10. We have counted at least \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 600 kinds of owls                        b. 1,000 kinds of owls  
c. 500 kinds of owls                        d. 300 kinds of owls

**II. Choose a correct word to fill in the blank.**

1. tight, tightly  
a. The door was shut \_\_\_\_\_.