

English

英语阅读

新·视·野

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东南大学出版社

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内容提要

本教程选编了 50 篇题材广泛、风格各异的文章,试图以有限的篇幅反映英语国家的文化、人物、科技等等。本教程所选文章大多来自英美国家最新的各类出版物,贴近生活,时代感强,语言规范,内容丰富。本教程可供英语专业学生作为阅读课教材使用,也可供具有一定英语基础的其他人员学习使用。

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前 言

阅读课是英语专业学生必修的基础课程之一,因此选取一种适合英语专业学生的阅读教材是必不可少的。一种好的阅读教材可以帮助学生在提高阅读理解能力的同时掌握规范的语言,了解最新的知识和信息,拓宽视野,熟悉英语国家的风土人情等。总体说来,各高校英语专业学生现有的阅读教材内容偏于陈旧。通览这些教材的内容,我们不无遗憾地发现,它们的选材范围仅限于小说等方面,而且以上一二个世纪作家的作品为主。虽然在很大程度上这些小说仍不失为经典之作,但是在内容上却显得与现实生活相距太远,在语言上不能反映今天英语语言发展变化的概貌,因而起不到阅读教程应该起的作用。鉴于此,在亚联董的资助下,我们组织力量,历经三年多的时间,经过多次论证、修改,最终推出了这本《英语阅读新视野》。

本书选材广泛:有涉及名人评传的福特轶闻、有反映美国文化的奥斯卡奖简介、有介绍莎士比亚不为人知的另一面、有反映新科技的信息时代、有时新的网上生活、有反映伊斯兰风土人情的阿拉伯妇女的新生活等等。可以说,本书在选材上作了大胆的尝试,突破传统,尽可能地以有限的篇幅反映英语国家的文化、人物、科技等方方面面。本书另一特点就是语言规范,本书大多取材于国外原版书刊、报纸、杂志,呈现给读者的是原汁原味的现代英语,对学生语言基本功的培养不无裨益。

本书共分二十五个单元,每一单元由课文 A、课文 B、注释、阅读理解练习和讨论题组成。本书可供高等学校英语专业学生作为阅读教程使用,也可供具有中等英语基础的广大英语爱好者学习使用。

本书由罗志强、刘慧君主编,马黎燕、叶红、林慧、朱运致、秦文、秦海花、常倩、杨玲等参加编写。美籍教师 Amy Yee, Theresa Lo, Ada Liu, Mabel Tso, Wallis Wilkinson 先后审阅书稿并提出修改意见,在此谨向他们表示衷心的感谢。

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Unit 1

Text A

An idealist is a person who helps other people to be prosperous.

—Henry Ford

Henry Ford—The Man Behind the Legend

Robert Lacey

Bell and the telephone, Edison and the light bulb, the Wright brothers and the aeroplane. Henry Ford and his motorcar fit neatly into a pantheon^① of American hero-inventors—except that Henry Ford was not an inventor, but Ford's achievement was built upon the work of others.

It has suited the popular imagination to see Henry Ford as a poor boy who pulled himself up from nothing. But this is a true picture of his father, William, who crossed the Atlantic *in steerage*^② with his family in 1847, refugees from the Irish potato famine. The Fords had been poor Protestant settlers in southern Ireland. William's family joined relatives in Michigan and eventually bought land, and by the time of Henry's birth, the Fords were an important family in the Dearborn area.

William Ford had married Mary O'Horn, the adopted daughter of a neighbor, on April 25, 1861. Henry was born two years later. When he was not quite 13, Mary went into labor with her eighth child. The baby was lost, and 12 days later, on March 29, 1876, Mary Ford died. Henry felt, he said later, as if "a great wrong had been done to me". His home and family suddenly seemed "a watch without a mainspring". For the rest of his life, he revered his mother's memory with a *fervor*^③ that amounted to fixation.

A few months after his mother's death, young Henry was riding with his father in horse-drawn wagon and saw a steam engine coming toward him, propelled by its own power. It was the first engine not drawn by horses that Henry Ford had ever seen. As the engine stopped to let the Fords' horses go by, "I was off the wagon and talking to the engineer before my father knew what I was up to."

Henry Ford always regarded his encounter with the moving engine as his meeting with

① 伟人(先哲)祠

② 航海

③ 热忱,热情

destiny. With Henry still recoiling from the shock of his mother's death, groping for some fresh basis for his life, it is easy to see how his encounter with the novel, noisy and powerful machine could *take on*^① special drama for him.

As the Ford children grew up in the 1870s, there was little disagreement over the likely destiny of the eldest son. "We knew," said Margaret, Henry's sister, "that at some time Henry would go to Detroit." The city into which Henry walked on December 1, 1879, was the oldest major settlement on the shores of the Great Lakes. With fewer than 80,000 inhabitants, it was a third the size of cities on the Eastern Seaboard but it had already *embarked upon*^② the expansion that was to make it the power house of the nation's economy. Ford stayed there until sometime in 1882, working first for the James Flower & Brothers Machine Shop and then for the Detroit Dry Dock Company, the city's largest ship-building firm. Having completed his mechanical training to his own satisfaction at the age of 19, Henry decided to go back to the farm and helped his father bring in the harvest. He was to remain on the land until he was nearly 30.

In 1891, Henry and his wife Clara moved to Detroit, where he took over some spare space at the Edison Power Station as a private workshop, and when he had time, he would retreat to his little room to *fiddle with*^③ scraps of metal and electric coils. He liked to tell the tale of how he took an engine home with him late Christmas Eve, 1893, to the lodgings that he and Clara occupied at 58 Bagley Avenue. Clara's parents were due to arrive the next day and Clara was busy getting the meal prepared when Henry walked in with the little engine he had been working on. It had a crude *spark plug*^④, which he connected to the household electric supply, but he needed her help to start the engine. She would have to drip gasoline into the fuel intake, he explained, and turn a screw, while he spun the *flywheel*^⑤. The first time, the engine only coughed, but with a slight adjustment, another spin and another drip, it suddenly belched into life, shooting flames from its *exhaust*^⑥ and nearly shaking the kitchen sink from its *moorings*^⑦.

When the time arrived for the serious building of a motorcar, his activities shifted to a shed at the back of the Fords' house. It was a plain brick shed with small windows, a narrow door, and just enough room in the middle for Henry's do-it-yourself machine.

Henry's machine was designed for a top speed of 20m. p. h. This was remarkably fast by the standard of the time, and the secret of the car's speed was its weight—little more than 500 pounds. With its engine removed, it could be lifted quite easily by a man. It seemed obvious to Henry the early gas engines were fragile things. Saving even a few pounds could

① 呈现, 展现

② 从事, 开始

③ 瞎摆弄

④ 火花塞

⑤ 飞轮

⑥ 排气装置

⑦ [pl.] 支撑物

considerably reduce the strain on them, and that meant they could break down less frequently. They would also go faster, consume less fuel and cost less. Speed, reliability and a low price. Henry Ford's ideas were already starting to crystallize around the principles that were to create the car for the masses.

He called his car the Quadricycle. It had thin, spindly bicycle wheels and a frame that was scarcely visible. Henry covered up the workings with a wooden cabinet and ran a cosmetic sheet of wood across the front, but even then the machine bore a remarkable resemblance to a baby carriage.

In the small hours^① of June 4, 1896, it was completed. Clara was there and so was Jim bishop, who was to escort Henry on a bicycle. But as the two readied to push the Quadricycle out into the street, Henry realized the most ridiculous mistake. The car could not pass through the narrow shed door. Henry got an ax, demolished the doorframe, knocked out several courses of brick, and finally the machine was free. He turned over the flywheel, the engine *sputtered*^②, and Henry Ford's first car came to life.

Notes

1. Henry Ford(亨利·福特, 1863—1947), American automobile designer and manufacturer. While working as a machinist and engineer with the Edison Company, he built his first automobile in his spare time. In 1903, he organized the Ford Motor Company. By cutting production costs, controlling raw materials and distribution, adopting the assembly line to automobiles, and featuring an inexpensive, standardized car, Ford became the largest automobile producer in the world.
2. Bell, Alexander Graham(贝尔, 1847—1922), Scottish-American scientist, inventor of the telephone. For many years he studied and experimented in the area of teaching the deaf to speak, conducting his own school of vocal physiology in Boston. As early as 1865 he conceived the idea of transmitting speech by electric waves, and in 1876 he perfected and demonstrated the first telephone apparatus.
3. Protestant:新教徒,宗教改革以来信奉基督教而不服从罗马天主教(Catholics)或东正教(Orthodox)的信徒,主要是路德派(Lutheran)和卡尔文教派(Calvinism)的追随者,又称清教徒。16世纪时,大批新教徒从欧洲移居新大陆。

Exercises

I. Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. In the first paragraph, the author seems to suggest that _____.
A. Henry Ford was born from a poor family and became a successful industrialist all by

① 凌晨时分

② 劈劈啪啪地响

his own effort

- B. when Henry was born the Fords were not as poor as most people believed to be
 - C. Henry was born of rich parents
 - D. when Henry was born the Fords were poor refugees
2. When his mother died, it seemed to Henry as if _____.
- A. he had done something wrong to his family
 - B. his mother had done something wrong to him and the family
 - C. he had been treated unfairly by the fate
 - D. he had been wronged by his family
3. The author explained the reason why the young Henry was interested in the machine as _____.
- A. it was easy for Henry to learn them naturally
 - B. it was out of sheer curiosity that he took like on the machine
 - C. the machine could be very useful in the farm work
 - D. he wanted to find new meaning in his life after he lost his mother
4. "... but it had already embarked upon the expansion that was to make it the power house of the nation's economy." This sentence suggests _____.
- A. a power station would be built there soon
 - B. it would be an important city of industry in America
 - C. it would supply all the money needed in the country
 - D. it would become the major supplier of energy for the nation's economy
5. One of the possible reasons for Henry's going back home from Detroit in 1882 was that _____.
- A. he couldn't learn anything more there
 - B. his father needed him for his help with the work on the farm
 - C. he found he couldn't earn enough money to support his wife
 - D. he went home to get married
6. In order to produce cheaper and faster cars for the masses, Henry had to _____.
- A. reduce the weight of the car
 - B. use cheap labor
 - C. use wood instead of metal to make the frame of the car
 - D. use other engines to take the place of gas engines
7. When he was only 16, Henry decided to go to Detroit because _____.
- A. his father and his family all wanted him to go there to earn money
 - B. he wanted to earn some money to help support the family
 - C. Detroit was one of the biggest cities then in America
 - D. he wanted to learn more about engines and machines
8. From the story we know the first car Henry made _____.
- A. weighed exactly 500 pounds
 - B. could run as fast as 20 miles per hour

- C. could only carry children
- D. weighed 500 pounds with its engine removed

II. Questions for Discussion:

1. What do most people think of Henry Ford? Is it true?
2. How did Henry feel when his mother died?
3. How did Henry describe his first encounter with the moving engine?
4. Describe the first car Henry Ford made in your own words.
5. What was the trouble he found himself in after the car was completed? How did he solve it then?

Text B

Whatever creativity is, it is in part a solution to a problem.

—Brian Aldiss

A Safe, Bright Light

Thomas Edison sat in his laboratory. His feet rested on his desk. It was nearly midnight, an October night in 1879. Edison was tired and worried. He had been working on one invention for over a year. He began it soon after he had finished the phonograph.

He was trying to invent a new kind of light. He wanted one that would burn brighter than the gaslights everyone used.

Gaslights flickered like candlelight. And there was always a danger of fire. Edison wanted a light that would be steady and even. And he wanted it to be safer and cleaner than gaslight.

“Electricity is the answer,” he said. “But how?” The problem had bothered him for a long time.

“To make light, something has to burn or glow,” he thought. “There’s nothing hard about that.”

He looked at the lights in the laboratory. A *wick*^① burned in the candle on the desk. Gas burned in the lamps overhead. “What can I burn in my electric lamp?” he wondered. “It must be something that will glow for a long time. It’s no use if it burns right up.”

So far, only one thing was certain. An electric light would have to burn inside a glass bulb. The bulb must be sealed tightly so no air could get in. Even a tiny bit of air would make the light go out.

Edison smiled. He remembered *the many things*^② he had tested inside glass bulbs. First

① 灯芯

② “many”之前一般不加冠词,这里用了定冠词是因为“many”所修饰的名词后面有一定语从句。

there was a piece of horsehair, then straw, then corn-silk and then a splinter of wood. He had even used a hair from the beard of one of his helpers!

Nothing had worked when the electricity was turned on. Everything he tested had either broken apart or burned right up.

The tired inventor leaned in his chair and closed his eyes for a moment. His fingers toyed with some cotton thread that lay on his desk. Suddenly he had an idea. He did not go home at all that night. Instead, he slept right at his desk. He was up and down.

“Mr. Edison, you’re here early again,” one of his assistants said.

“No,” said the inventor, rubbing his eyes, “let’s just say that I stayed late. There’s something I want to try.”

Edison found some small pieces of cotton thread. He rolled them in lampblack that was a black material that felt like some soft tar.

Edison carefully bent the blackened threads into the shape of hairpins. Then he set each of them into a small clay dish.

“Here,” he called to his assistants, “bake those in the furnace so they will get hard. Some of the threads may break. But I hope one will come out strong enough for us to use.”

Several hours later, the threads were taken out of the furnace. Edison chose one that looked very strong. He put it inside a glass bulb.

“All set^①,” he said. “Turn on the electricity.” An assistant pulled the switch. The bulb glowed brightly. It did not flicker. The men in the laboratory crowded around Edison’s worktable.

“Let’s not get excited, boys,” Edison warned. “This one will probably burn up just as the others did.”

Edison and his men watched the lamp. Minute after minute it glowed brightly. Then hour after hour. Then late the next day, it went out. It had burned for forty hours!

Two months later, curious people from many towns visited Menlo Park. They came to see the Edison lamps.

What a sight greeted them as they stepped off the train. Electric lamps burned brightly on the streets that led to the laboratory. To the visitors the sight seemed like a miracle. To the inventor and his helpers, it was the end of much hard work.

Notes

Thomas Alva Edison (1847—1931), American inventor who patented more than a thousand inventions, among them were the microphone(1877), the phonograph(1878), and an incandescent lamp(1879). In New York City he installed the world’s first central electric power plant(1881—1882).

① 准备妥当

Exercises

I . Read the following statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the passage.

1. As soon as he completed his invention of phonograph Edison began to experiment on a new kind of light.
2. The problem with the new invention was that he couldn't find anything that could glow inside a glass bulb.
3. Electricity could make anything burn brightly inside a glass bulb if there was no air in it.
4. Edison made the cotton thread hard enough by covering it with clay.
5. Edison used the cotton thread as the wick to burn inside the glass bulb.
6. Everything that had been tested had the same result.
7. Edison and his helpers were very excited when they saw the bulb glow brightly.
8. When the visitors came they were surprised to see many electric lamps burning brightly on the streets.

II . Questions for Discussion :

1. How long did it take Edison to accomplish the new invention?
2. How many things he had tried before he succeeded in making the electric bulb burning for hours?
3. What lesson can we draw from Edison's story?

Unit 2

Text A

As far as the filmmaking process is concerned, stars are essentially worthless—and absolutely essential.

—William Goldman

Oscar: Little Statue of Dreams

John Guililane

What is perhaps the most watched regularly scheduled special on world wide television? “The Oscar” of course—the annual awards presentation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. On March 30 more than one billion viewers in as many as 86 countries will tune in live, or watch a shorter version beamed by satellite, watching closely with the 160 or so candidates nominated by their peers for excellence in films.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences^① was founded in 1927 after a dinner of film notables at the beach house of M. G. M.’s^② powerful studio chief, Louis B. Mayer. The organization’s *professed*^③ purpose was to represent the industry as a whole. Actually, it was set up, at least in part, to *circumvent*^④ the rise of the industry’s trade and craft union. Yet, today, members of Hollywood’s guilds and unions are strongly represented in the running of the Academy.

Before the award ceremonies were televised in 1950s, most of the costs were *underwritten*^⑤ by the studios, and they had been known to pressure employees to vote for pictures they produced. But in 1952, when several major film companies refused to come up with their share of the expenses, NBCRCA^⑥ made a \$1,000,000 bid for the radio and TV rights. The show has been paid for by a television network ever after—since 1976, by ABC-TV^⑦.

The Academy is divided into 13 voting branches, and a member must have gained prominence in his or her field before being invited to join. Each branch for which there is an

① 美国电影艺术科学学会

② (short for Metro-Goldwin-Mayer)米高梅影片公司

③ 假装

④ 阻止

⑤ 支持,同意

⑥ 全美广播公司,美国无线电公司

⑦ 美国广播公司

award nominates achievements in its own field. For example, for the 1989 awards, 107 cinematographers nominated for photography; for best songs and score, 243 members of the music branch nominated for the four acting awards. But all 4,224 voting members of the Academy nominated for Best Picture and were eligible to vote in all but a few categories.

The statuette was first given two years after the Academy's founding. Art director Cedric Gibbons sketched on a tablecloth the naked man who would be Oscar. Molded by sculptor George Stanley, this then nameless 24k gold-plated statuette was 13½ inches tall and weighed 8 pounds. Today the statuette is mass-produced and costs an estimated \$200.

Where did the name Oscar come from? In 1931 Margaret Harrick, long-time executive director of the Academy, was its librarian. She saw the statuette for the first time and exclaimed, "Why, it looks like my uncle Oscar!" Columnist Sidney Skolsky reportedly overheard Academy members calling the statuette Oscar and began using the nickname. It wasn't long before the word was in the dictionary.

During the silent-film era, when the first Academy awards were presented, winners had been known for months. It wasn't until 1941 that the present policy of sealed envelope was instituted.

World-wide suspense is generated today by the competition for Best Picture, Best Director, and the four acting awards—Best Actor and Actress and Best Supporting Actor and Actress. But the less popular technical and scientific awards are just as important.

Daniel Mandell, for example, won an award for the best achievement in film editing for his work in *The Pride of the Yankees* (1942), in which right-handed Gary Cooper portrays a left-handed baseball player. Cooper wore a shirt with the letters sewn on backward, batted right-handed instead of left-handed, and Mandell flopped the film. Moviegoers were convinced that Cooper was a lefty as the player.

Awards for the best achievement in animated short films have recognized such works as the cartoons of Walt Disney, who got an Oscar for *Three Little Pigs* (1933). Disney has still won more Academy Awards than any other individual—26 before his death in 1966.

There's always pressure from the networks to take off the technical awards for they are not as interesting to the public as the acting awards. But we're not downplaying the editing, the music, and the cinematography. That would have us completely dominated by TV's demands for a climax every other minute. Nevertheless, for most viewers, the highlights of each Oscar broadcast are those top six awards. The award for best achievement by an actor in a supporting role has often provided some of the show's most poignant moments. In 1985 the Best Supporting Actor was a non-actor, Dr. Haing S. Ngor, for his role as Dith Pran in *The Killing Fields*, the story of an American journalist and his Cambodian friend. Dr. Ngor, who was a *gynaecologist*^① in *Cambodia*^②, survived tortures similar to those he re-enacts on the screen. "I thank God, Buddha," he said, holding up a hand with a missing

① 妇科医生

② 柬埔寨