

高级中学英语

# 阅读训练

第三册 (下)

(供高中三年级下学期用)

## Reading Practice Book 3 (B)

人民教育出版社外语室英语组编



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## 编写说明

阅读能力的培养一方面是要靠教科书提供的为学生获得主动而准确地运用语言能力设计的语言材料和在教师指导下通过有效的阅读训练活动来进行的。高中英语第二册为学生的阅读训练提供了内容丰富、题材广泛的语言材料。但是另一方面，在高中阶段，阅读能力的培养不能仅靠少量的精读材料，更重要的是要有一定量的泛读材料。因为到了高中阶段，在进一步提高听说能力的同时，要侧重培养阅读能力。读和听一样，是领会能力，是吸收书面语的手段。阅读是一种能力，又是语言学习的一种方法。阅读时，学生的眼、口、耳、脑同时并用，可以帮助理解和吸收书面信息，巩固记忆，有利于动脑筋思考，有助于扩大词汇量，丰富语言知识，了解英语国家的社会文化背景等。要指导学生查阅词典、语法等工具书，鼓励学生根据上下文猜测词义，使学生逐渐获得独立阅读的能力。听和读是输入，只有足够的输入量，也就是说，只有通过广泛地阅读，大量地阅读和快速地阅读，使学生真正具备了阅读能力，才能保证他们具有较好的说和写的能力。因此，在教学中应尽可能加强听读训练，特别要注意增加阅读训练。

另外，《全日制高级中学英语教学大纲(初审稿)》在有关阅读能力的培养和要求方面指出：“能借助词典读懂难度略低于所学语言的材料，生词率不超过3%。能根据语境中较为明显的提示和构词法知识推断少数生词的语义或初步确认其语义范围。一年级和三年级学生能分别以每分钟40-50个词和50-60个词的速度，阅读生词率不超过3%的有关人物传记、寓言故事、活动记述、社会文化、文史知识、科普小品等内容的材料，能够把握主要的事实和中心思想。理解正确率达到70%。”为了贯彻

高中英语教学大纲这些精神，我们编写了高中英语阅读训练第一、二、三册，分别配合高中英语课本第一、二、三册，供高中一、二、三年级学生选用。

本书是按高中英语第三册(下)课文顺序编写的。每一单元编配3篇阅读训练材料，包括1篇快速阅读(Fast reading)材料和2篇泛读(Extensive reading)材料，较长的就分为上、下两篇。第一篇为快速阅读，题材与课文基本上相同，难度略低于课文。每篇阅读材料的长度为300-700个词左右。生词率为1%—3%。快速阅读的目的是为了复习和巩固课堂上所学的语言知识，培养学生对阅读的兴趣，训练他们阅读的技能。要提高学生阅读英语的能力，单纯通过教科书中的课文教学和快速阅读材料是不够的，还要按年级和学生的具体情况，有计划地指导他们在课外阅读一定数量的读物。本书的泛读材料1和泛读材料2就是为这一目的而编写的。泛读材料的题材基本上也与课文内容有一定联系，长度为400-1000个词左右。生词率不超过3%。

书中文章大都选自英美出版的英语读物，个别的作了改写，以适应教学的需要。每篇短文后都编有帮助学生检查自己理解程度的练习。要求学生在阅读时高度集中注意力，一篇短文应一口气读完。读完后，立即做后面的练习，但做练习时一定不要回头再去看短文。如果学生的正确理解率达到70%，可算基本上达到了要求。

学生在阅读短文时最好记下所用的时间，然后算出平均每分钟阅读的词数。这样做，可以鞭策自己在阅读时专心致志，努力提高阅读速度。

各册中的生词，均按字母顺序列表附于书后，便于查阅。凡是学生根据已学的构词法知识能够认识的派生词、复合词或兼类词，都不算生词。不重要的专有名词，也未列入词汇表。学生在阅读短文时，最好不要每遇一个生词就去查阅词汇表，要尽可能通过上下文猜出某些词的词义。坚持这样做，不仅可以加快阅读速度，而且可以提高阅读理解能力。

本书在编写过程中得到了北京外国语学院英籍专家 Philippa Jeffery 的热情支持和帮助。她在百忙中抽出时间修改了本书的部分单元，我们在此表示感谢。

由于编者水平有限，编写时间仓促，本书难免存在缺点和错误，希望读者批评指正。

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## Unit 13

### Reading Passage A

#### AMERICAN SPEECH

Although the United States is a large country with many people, the language is almost the same wherever one goes. There are two reasons for this. One is that people move around a great deal in the United States. A man may grow up in one part of the country, go to college in another part, find work in another place, and marry a girl from still another part of the country. Railroads, airplanes, cars and highways make it easy to travel in America. Many large companies have branches in different parts of the country and transfer their workers from one branch to another. The second important factor is public communication. Movies, radio and television all have a standard way of speech, and almost everyone in the United States hears it.

There are, however, some words and expressions more common in one part of the country than in others. People in the west wear ten-gallon hats and Levis, which are blue jeans or work pants and are named for the manufacturer. In New York people eat a special kind of sandwich called a "hero." In Philadelphia, this same sandwich is called a "hoagie."

The southern part of the United States is probably the region with the most peculiar speech. Southern pronunciation differs from that of the rest of the country.



Southerners talk slowly and often do not pronounce the letter "r" after vowels, or they change the [ŋ] sound to [n], so that "running" sounds like "runnin" and "sleeping" like "sleepin". One of the most common expressions is "you all" or shortened to "y'all," when more than one person is meant. Another example is about the meaning of the word "evening". In most parts of the country this means the time after the sun goes down, the early part of the night, but to a southerner it can mean any time after twelve o'clock noon. In the southern mountains, there have not been new settlers from other countries for two hundred years. The hill people have ways of speech that are like the English spoken when their forefathers left England to settle in the United States centuries ago. Many songs they sing today are those sung long ago in England.

Almost every language in the world has dialects and American English is no exception. At the present time there is an interesting study going on, a study of American speech habits. This study has shown that different words are frequently used in different parts of the country to mean the same thing. For example, in the east, Americans use the word "soda" to mean a soft drink. In some parts of the west, a soft drink is "tonic", or a "pop." In the South, the brand name "Coke" is applied to all carbonated soft drinks. Such differences are usually a source of conversation, not misunderstanding.

In American speech as in American life and life all over the world, changes are frequent. Seventy years ago, it was incorrect to say "It's me," but today it is acceptable simply because most Americans say that instead of "It's

I.” As people change, so language changes. What is wrong today may be right tomorrow.

I. Read the passage and then answer the questions:

- 1 Is the US a big country?
- 2 Are there many people in the US?
- 3 Can most Americans understand each other's language? Why?
- 4 What makes it easy for Americans to move around from one part of the country to another?
- 5 What are the major means of public communication?
- 6 How do radio and television influence American speech?
- 7 Are all the words in American speech used in every part of the country?
- 8 Who wears a ten-gallon hat?
- 9 How do people in Boston call the place where they send their dirty clothes to be cleaned?
- 10 Which part of the US is probably the region with the most individual speech?
- 11 Do southerners pronounce the letter “r” after vowels?
- 12 How do they pronounce “running” and “sleeping”?
- 13 When is “you all” used in the south?
- 14 What is the meaning of “evening” in most parts of US?
- 15 What can it mean in the south?
- 16 Does American English have dialects?

- 17 Does every language in the world have dialects?
- 18 Where is the word “soda” used for a soft drink?
- 19 In some parts of the west, what does “tonic” mean?
- 20 Are those differences sources of misunderstanding?
- 21 Does American speech change?
- 22 Does every language change?
- 23 Is “It’s me” correct today? Why?

## II. Questions for discussion:

- 1 The US is a big country and most Americans can communicate orally with each other. China is also a big country but a lot of Chinese cannot understand each other’s speech. Why?
- 2 Almost every language has dialects and American English is no exception. As a student of English, do you think you have to be familiar with all the dialects of American English? Why?

## Reading Passage B

### EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Most Americans start school at the age of five when they enter kindergarten. Children do not really study at this time. They only attend for half a day and learn what

school is like.

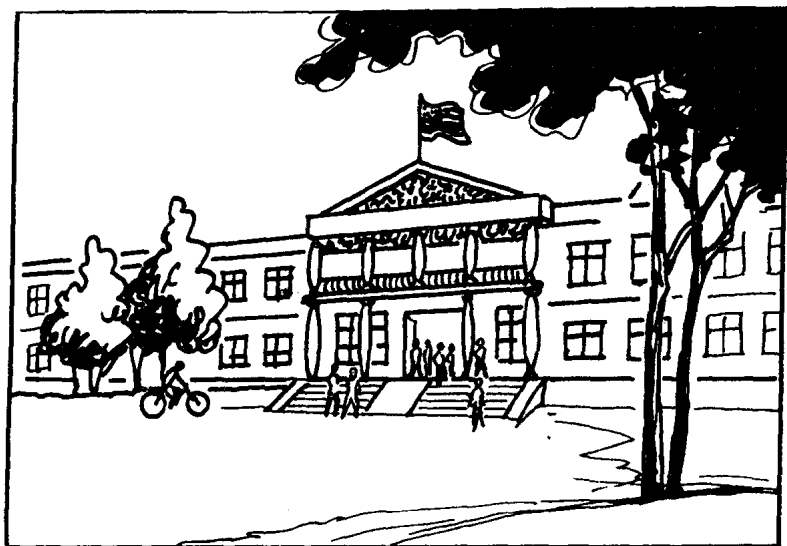
Children attend elementary school for the next six years. They learn to read and write and work with numbers. They also study the world and its people.

After they leave elementary school, children go to junior high school for three years and senior high school for another three years. This is called secondary education. In some places children go to elementary school for eight years and high school for four. At any rate, elementary and secondary education together take twelve years to complete.

In their secondary schooling children study more subjects. They have classes in history, geography, government and the English language and literature. They may choose to study foreign languages, advanced mathematics or science, such as physics or chemistry. Students who plan to go on to college or professional training must take some of these courses. Other students who do not plan to go on with school may have classes in accounting or typing or other subjects that will help them in the business world. Some senior high schools are vocational. Students may learn to operate machines, or learn cooking, sewing or office work.

In most places in the United States children must attend school until they are sixteen or until they finish high school, usually at the age of seventeen or eighteen. Some children who are not good students drop out of school before they complete secondary education. This is a growing problem, for it is harder for people to find work when they have not finished their high school education.

Higher education is found in colleges and universities. The average course is four years. Students choose a major and take courses in this subject. After four years they get a bachelor's degree. Then the students may



go on to graduate school and with a year or two of further study get a master's degree. After another two or three years of study, they may get a still higher degree, a doctor of philosophy. Higher education trains people to become teachers, nurses, engineers or do other professional work. Lawyers attend three years of graduate professional school. Doctors attend four years of medical school.

Most cities have colleges or universities that offer classes at night as well as in the daytime. In this way people who have to work may attend school at night and work for a degree or just take courses in a subject that

interests them. In many cities, secondary schools also offer classes in adult education.

I. Read the passage and then answer the questions:

- 1 At what age do most Americans start to go to school?
- 2 What do you call the first school children attend?
- 3 What do children learn in kindergarten?
- 4 For how many years do children attend elementary school?
- 5 What do they learn in elementary school?
- 6 When do they go to secondary school? How long do they attend secondary school?
- 7 Do they study foreign languages in high school?
- 8 Some students do not plan to go on to college. What courses do they take?
- 9 What do girls learn in high school that will be useful when they keep house?
- 10 Do Americans have to attend school until they are 21 years old?
- 11 Do some students drop out of school?
- 12 How long is the average course of higher education?
- 13 Do college students choose a major?
- 14 What kind of degree do they get when they graduate from college?
- 15 What kind of degree do they get after they have further study in graduate school for one or two years?

- 16 How can they get a degree as doctor of philosophy?
- 17 What does higher education train people to become?
- 18 Do most cities have colleges or universities that offer classes at night?
- 19 Who attends schools at night?
- 20 Do secondary schools in many cities offer classes in adult education?

## II. Questions for discussion:

- 1 The author says that in the United States some children who are not good students drop out of school. We know there are Chinese students who drop out of school, too. What do you think are the major causes that some students drop out of school?
- 2 Are you satisfied with your elementary and secondary education? If so, why? If not, why?

## **THE TWENTY-FOURTH OF DECEMBER**

The clock ticks slowly, slowly in the hall,  
And slower and more slow the long hours crawl;  
It seems as though today  
Would never pass away;  
The clock ticks slowly, s-l-o-w-l-y in the hall.

## Reading Passage C

### HOLIDAYS IN THE UNITED STATES

January 1 is *New Year's Day*, the first day of the year. It is a legal holiday, and all banks, stores and schools are closed. Many people invite their friends to come visit them in the afternoon or evening.

The only legal holiday in February is *Washington's* birthday. Although Washington was born on February 22, his birthday is now celebrated on the third Monday in February. Some states also celebrate *Lincoln's* birthday on February 12. These two, the United States' most famous presidents, were both born in February.

*Easter Sunday* is in spring, usually in April. It is a joyful church holiday, and many churches have an outdoor service at sunrise on this day. Children and their parents color hard-boiled eggs before Easter. Late Saturday night or early Sunday morning the eggs are hidden and the children have an Easter egg hunt on Sunday. Usually little candies and perhaps a large chocolate egg are hidden along with real eggs. Little children believe the Easter rabbit comes and leaves the eggs for them. By this time of the year, winter is over and the weather is getting warmer. Many people buy new spring clothes and wear them for the first time on Easter Sunday.

The last Monday in May is *Memorial Day*. This holiday remembers the many service members, men and women alike, who died defending the freedom all



Americans enjoy. Americans celebrate *Memorial Day* with memorial services in cemeteries and churches, and with patriotic speeches and parades.

America's great national holiday, *Independence Day*, falls on the fourth of July. It celebrates the birth of the United States. It was on this day in 1776 that the colonists declared their independence from England. They had to fight hard for the next seven years to win this independence. On the Fourth of July, people display the flag of the United States, and many cities have parades and speeches. At night there are fireworks displays. Not long ago, people let off firecrackers all day long on the Fourth of July, but so many people were hurt that many states have made firecrackers illegal. After dark, cities and towns usually have a public display. They set off rockets which explode high in the air like showers of sparkling

