

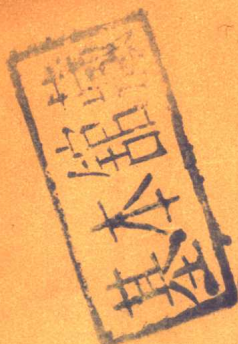
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高校英语泛读教材

英语阅读技巧与实践

ENGLISH READING
SKILLS AND PRACTICE

BOOK 1



吴丁娥 刘学明编著

湖南师范大学出版社

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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翘教授的指导，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，我们也在这一并表示感谢。

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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Unit I

Word Study

Part 1

Context Clues

Efficient reading requires the use of various problem-solving skills. For example, it is impossible for you to know the exact meaning of every word you read, but by developing your guessing ability, you will be able to understand enough to arrive at the total meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or essay. These exercises are designed to help you improve your ability to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words by using context clues (Context clues refer to the sentence and the paragraph in which a word occurs). In using the context to decide the meaning of a word, you have to use your knowledge of grammar and your understanding of the author's ideas. Although there is no formula which you can memorize to improve your ability to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words, you should keep the following points in mind:

1. Use the meanings of other words in the sentence or paragraph and the meaning of the sentence as a

whole to reduce the number of possible meanings.

2. Use grammar and punctuation clues which point to the relationships among the various parts of the sentence.

3. Use your general or common knowledge of the world.

4. Be satisfied with a general idea about the unfamiliar word; the exact definition or synonym is not always necessary.

5. Learn to recognize situations in which it is not necessary to know the meanings of the word.

Sample Exercise

Each of the sentences in this exercise contain a blank in order to encourage you to look only at the context provided as you try to determine the possible meanings of the missing word. Read each sentence and supply a word for each blank. You must use context clues to help you provide a word which is suitable in terms of grammar and meaning.

1. I removed the ___ from the shelf and began to read.

2. Bob is a thief; he would ___ the gold from his grandmother's teeth and not feel guilty.

3. Our uncle was a ___, an incurable wanderer who could never stay in one place.

4. Unlike his brother, who is truly a handsome person, Hogartty is quite_____.

5. But surely everyone knows that if you step on an egg, it will_____.

6. Tom got a new_____ for his birthday. It is a sports model, red, with white inside and bucket seats.

Explanation

1. I removed the_____ from the shelf and began to read _____.

book magazine novel newspaper

The number of things that can be taken from a shelf and read is so few that the word "book" probably jumped into your mind at once. Here the association or connection between the object and the purpose for which it is used is so close that you have very little difficulty in guessing the right word.

2. Bob is a thief; he would_____ the gold from his grandmother's teeth and not feel guilty.

steal take

Bob is a thief. A thief steals. The semicolon (;) shows that the sentence which follows contains an explanation of the first statement. Furthermore, you know the definition of "thief" is : a person who steals.

3. Our uncle was a_____, an incurable wanderer who never could stay in one place.

traveler drifter roamer nomad

The comma(,) following the blank shows a phrase in apposition, that is , a word or a group of words which could be used as a synonym of the unfamiliar word. The words below the sentence are all synonyms of "wanderer".

4. Unlike his brother, who is truly a handsome person, Hogartty is quite ____.

ugly homely plain

Hogartty is the opposite of his brother , and since his brother is handsome , Hogartty must be ugly. The word "unlike" signals the relationship between Hogartty and his brother.

5. But surely everyone knows that if you step on an egg , it will ____ .

break

You recognize the cause and effect relationship² in this sentence. There is only one thing that can happen to an egg when it is stepped on.

6. Tom got a new ____ for his birthday . It is a sports model, red , with white inside and bucket seats.

car

The description in the second sentence gives you the information you need to guess the word "car".

Exercises

In the following exercises, try to develop your ability to guess the meaning of italicized words by using context clues. Read each sentence carefully and then tick off the correct choice among a, b and c.

Exercise 1

1. Charles asked the bank for a small *loan* so that he could repair his house.

- a. sum of money b. load c. tool

2. One who is *desperate* has a great need for food and clothing.

- a. very tall b. very poor c. very rich

3. The flowers in the vase *withered* because they had no water.

- a. became sweeter b. became red c. became dry

4. The bullet hit and *maimed* the young soldier for life.

- a. wounded b. saved c. beat

5. That old man was so *decrepit* that he could hardly walk.

- a. weak b. strong c. healthy

6. Just for fun, they decided to try a very *circumious* country road instead of the more direct highway.

- a. direct b. indirect c. straight

7. That museum is so *immense* that it will be impossible to see all the exhibits in one day.

a. small b. large c. dull

8. The wind made the kite *soar* high above the trees in the park.

a. run b. fly c. sail

9. some of the *prospectors* who came to California to find gold and silver were successful.

a. engineers b. doctors c. miners

10. A lot of men were killed during the *fierce* battles of the American Civil War.

a. peaceful b. violent c. ugly

Exercise 2

1. A tropical-rain forest is very *lush* because it receives much rain.

a. green b. yellow c. brown

2. Trying to control a wild animal can be *perilous*.

a. dangerous b. easy c. interesting

3. The land is *fertile*; the farmers can grow many kinds of crops there.

a. fruitful b. fruitless c. poor

4. Unfortunately, the farmer discovered too late that the land he had bought was *barren*.

a. fruitful b. poor c. rich

5. The professor was chosen to teach the course

because of his *expertise* on the subject.

- a. interest b. drive c. knowledge

6. The cake was so *scrumptious* that Cindy ate quite a few pieces.

- a. bad b. delicious c. hard

7. Some children eat too many sweets and their teeth become *decayed*.

- a. bad or rotten b. good and strong
c. nice and clean

8. John moved from New York to a small farm because he prefers *rural* living.

- a. city b. town c. country

9. It was difficult to keep law and order in the Old West because of all the *outlaws*.

- a. lawkeepers b. lawbreakers c. lawmakers

10. The city was *devastated* by the powerful earthquake.

- a. destroyed b. repaired c. built

Exercise 3

1. I begged the family not to kill the wild animal, and they finally listened to my *pleas*.

- a. requests b. questions c. suggestions

2. As the fat man sat down, the chair *collapsed* under him, with a loud noise of tearing canvas.

- a. rose b. broke c. jumped

3. Your library permit *expires* next month. If you want to borrow more books, you must request a new one.

- a. starts b. begins new c. ends

4. The whole region is *sparsely* populated; our nearest neighbor lives ten miles away.

- a. thinly b. thickly c. over

5. Instead of complaining to me that you *are ailing*, you should see a doctor to find out what's wrong with you.

- a. are well b. are ill c. are hungry

6. Not wanting to disturb the sleeping little cat, I *gingerly* lift her from the box and put her on a blanket near the heater.

- a. carelessly b. hurriedly c. carefully

7. The man behaved *furiously* and the policeman thought he might be the thief who stole the money.

- a. secretly b. bravely c. slowly

8. My first impression of Tom was really not good. He did his homework *haphazardly*. In a short essay of 500 words, there were 30 spelling mistakes.

- a. skillfully b. carelessly c. carefully

9. The old house is in perfect condition because it *has* recently been *renovated*.

- a. restored b. damaged c. destroyed.

10. The president *resumed* his speech after the audi-

ence had stopped applauding.

- a. stopped b. went on with c. gave up

Exercise 4

1. Joe built a new house in a *remote* area of the desert so that he could be away from the city.

- a. near b. beautiful c. faraway

2. Jack was *thrilled* to find out that he had won a special award for his work.

- a. angry b. nervous c. excited

3. Very small *infants* who are still feeding on their mother's milk are protected from colds and other diseases.

- a. babies b. grown-ups c. nurses

4. Mary is very *prudent* with her money; therefore, she never buys expensive things.

- a. free b. careful c. careless

5. Jane *dominated* the conversation so much that nobody else had a chance to speak.

- a. controled b. spoke c. dismissed

6. Large *freighters* carry all kinds of goods or products across oceans to foreign countries.

- a. trains b. trucks c. ships

7. The pilot increased the *altitude* of the airplane in order to avoid the rain clouds.

- a. height b. weight c. speed

8. Ancient *mariners* made long voyages across the ocean before finding Hawaii.

- a. nomads b. seamen c. airmen

9. That man is so sick that the doctors will *isolate* him from the rest of the patients in the hospital.

- a. put b. separate c. treat

10. The mountain climbers will reach the *summit* in a few hours.

- a. foot b. side c. top

Exercise 5

1. John does not like swimming; therefore he does not take part in *aquatic* sports.

- a. relating to air b. relating to water
c. relating to land

2. The newly married couple took a romantic *cruise* to several islands in the Caribbean on an excellent boat.

- a. trip by water b. trip by land
c. trip by air

3. Because of the heavy rain, a flood was *imminent*.

- a. likely to go b. likely to fall
c. likely to come

4. After Mark lost his job, his future looked very *bleak*.

- a. bright and cheerful b. hopeless and discouraging
c. hopeful and encouraging

5. It was so *cozy* by the fire that we hated to go out into the cold.

- a. warm and comfortable b. clean and dry
- c. dirty and wet

6. After ~~the~~ attack on civilians or people by army troops, a committee met to try to discover what could have *provoked* such an action.

- a. prevented b. led to c. kept

7. Blind people meet countless difficulties in their lives but, happily, they succeed in *coping with* many of them so they can live near-normal lives.

- a. catching up with b. dealing with
- c. keeping up with

8. For example, if a pilot *averts* a plane crash by making a safe emergency landing, he may laugh as he describes his experience.

- a. avoids b. awaits c. awakes

9. We did not have time to read the whole novel, so the teacher prepared a *synopsis* for us.

- a. details b. everything c. summary or outline

10. Since Mr. Walter did not expect to speak and had not prepared anything, his talk was an *impromptu* one.

- a. without preparation b. with full preparation
- c. uninteresting