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## 最新高中英语阅读 理解百篇

朱理璇 姜东 编写

河北大学出版社



(冀)新登字 007 号

责任编辑 尹实奇

封面设计 刘长江

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河北大学出版社出版发行  
(保定合作路4号河北大学院内)  
邮政编码:071002电话:222929-586  
全国新华书店经销  
保定市天地电脑激光照排  
保定市航天印刷厂印刷

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开本: 787×1092 1/16

印张: 8.5

字数: 195 千字

1993年9月 第1版

1993年9月第1次印刷

印数:1-15000册

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ISBN7-81028-183-6/G·82

定价:3.90元

## 序

我看了英语特级教师朱理璇等同志编著的《最新高中英语阅读理解百篇》一书的底稿,觉得他们确实为中学生奉献了一本很好的英语读物,在目前为中学生编写的此类书籍中,实属上乘。这当然归结于他们赴英国进修的好机遇,但也同时凝结了作者关注中学英语教学的一片痴心,一腔热情。

众所周知,在英语学习中,阅读理解始终使中学生困惑,如何培养学生正确理解英语语言所特有的文化氛围、不同的社会背景和必要的方言习语,是所有中学英语教师面临的难题,特别是郊县,山区的学生们更需要最新的、趣味性强的阅读材料,此书正好解决了他们的燃眉之急。它囊括了当今计算机应用,青少年吸毒,环境污染等一系列严肃的社会问题,使学生既能被文章的内容所吸引,又理解了地道、标准的英语,集趣味性、知识性和英语语言的异域性于一体,调动各种不同的理解手段和形式,共同达到一个目的:潜移默化地培养英语语感,循序渐进地增强学生的语言分析、推理能力。

我希望广大中学生能不辜负朱老师的期望,认真使用此书,达到教师教得生动、学生学得活泼,收到事半功倍的效果,学到规范、地道的英语。

张国英

1993年9月

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## 1. Fast Reading

Perhaps you would like to know what reading speeds are common among American university students. Tests in Minnesota, U. S. A. have shown that students without special training can read English of average difficulty, for example, War and Peace in translation at speeds between 240 and 250 words per minute (W. P. M. ) with about 70% comprehension. Minnesota claims that after 12 half—hour lessons, once a week, the reading speed can be increased with no less of comprehension, to around 500 W. P. M. . Minnesota also claims that with good training over seventeen weeks, speeds of over 1000 W. P. M. can be reached, but this would be quite exceptional.

If you, as a second language learner can read books of average difficulty at between 80 and 100 W. P. M. with 70% comprehension, you will be doing quite well.

### A. Comprehension questions;

1. The passage is about
  - a. fast reading
  - b. American University Students
  - c. the students as second English learners
  - d. books of average difficulty
2. You, as a second language learner, will be doing quite well if you can read at between
  - a. 50—70 W. P. M.
  - b. 80—100 W. P. M.
  - c. 240—250 W. P. M
  - d. 300—500 W. P. M.
3. The reading speed of 240—250 W. P. M. is reached by the American university students
  - a. after a 12 half—hour training
  - b. after a seventeen—week training
  - c. without any special training
  - d. with some training
4. For the American students War and Peace in translation is
  - a. easy to read
  - b. difficult to read
  - c. neither very difficult nor very easy
  - d. interesting

### B. Vocabulary

1. ... what reading speeds are common among...
  - a. united
  - b. public
  - c. general
2. ... can read English of average difficulty, ...
  - a. of the usual kind
  - b. of the special kind
  - c. of the same kind
3. ... per minute (W. P. M. ) with about 70% comprehension ...
  - a. test
  - b. understanding
  - c. ability

## 2. How to Skim—Read Effectively

Read the first paragraph or two at your fastest of comprehension to see what the general topic about. The opening paragraph you will remember usually introduce you to the author's theme or viewpoint.

Keep the general theme in mind, looking for key sentences or word phrases related to the theme. The

first sentence or the last sentence is usually your best chance to make a guess; but it's good idea to let your eyes glide quickly over the inbetween lines for names, dates, or key words.

Skim sections within paragraphs that seem to cover some examples or illustrations.

Look for main ideas related to the theme of the paragraph. Also look for a few facts, names or dates, to be related to the point of the article.

effectively 有效地      theme 主题

A. Are the following statements true or false according to the reading? If a statement is false, what is the correct one?

1. The opening paragraph usually introduces you the main idea.
2. The first sentence or the last sentence is usually helps you understand the author's viewpoint.
3. Read carefully within the paragraphs where there are examples.
4. Look for the important words between lines.
5. Read carefully about the facts, names, ect. .

B. Vocabulary

1. Know the Skim—Read Effectively
  - a. read quickly      b. read carelessly      c. read slowly
2. ... to see what the general topic is about.
  - a. discussed subject.      b. discussion      c. think
3. ... related to the theme.
  - a. regard to      b. concerning      c. with
4. ... let your eyes glide quickly over the ...
  - a. go down      b. cut down      c. move along

### 3. A Wretched Journey

It was already late when we set out for the next town, which according to the map was about fifteen miles away on the other side of the hills. There we felt sure that we would find a bed for the night. Darkness fell soon after we left the village, but luckily we met no one as we drove swiftly along the narrow winding road that led to the hills. As we climbed higher, it became colder and rain began to fall, making it difficult at times to see the road. I asked John, my companion, to drive more slowly.

After we had travelled for about twenty miles, there was still no sign of the town which was marked on the map. We were beginning to get worried. Then, without warning, the car stopped. A quick examination showed that we had run out of petrol. Although we had little food with us, only a few biscuits and some chocolate, we decided to spend the night in the car.

Our meal was soon over. I tried to go to sleep at once, but John, who was a poor sleeper, got out of the car after a few minutes and went for a walk up the hill. Soon he came running back. From the top of the hill he had seen, in the valley below, the lights of the town we were looking for. We at once unloaded

all our luggage and, with a great effort, managed to push the car to the top of the hill. Then we went back for the luggage, loaded the car again and set off down the hill. In less than a quarter of an hour we were in the town, where we found a hotel quite easily.

biscuit 饼干      luggage 行李

I. Choose the best answer.

1. the travellers had a map but

- a. they did not know how to use it      b. it gave them the wrong information
- c. they could not see it very well in the dark
- d. the town they were looking for was not clearly marked

2. Their car stopped because

- a. they had travelled more than twenty miles      b. the petrol ran out of it
- c. there was no petrol left      d. they were going uphill

II. Complete the following sentences. Your answers must be related to the ideas contained in the passage

- a. The writer asked John to drive more slowly because \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. '\_\_\_\_\_', said John after he had run back to the car.
- c. John went for a walk because \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ so that it would be easier to push it to the top of the hill.
- e. They would have spent the night in the car if \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Choose the best explanation according to the context.

1. winding means

- a. going uphill      b. dangerous      c. not straight      d. cold

2. without warning means

- a. suddenly      b. nobody told them      c. before it got hot      d. without any explanation

#### 4. A Remarkable Coincidence

While I was walking along the road the other day I happened to notice a small brown leather purse lying on the pavement. I picked it up and opened it to see if I could find out the owner's name. There was nothing inside it except some small change and a rather old photograph — a picture of a woman and a young girl about twelve years old, Who looked like the woman's daughter. I put the photograph back and took the purse to the police station, where I handed it to the sergeant in charge. Before I left, the sergeant made a note of my name and address in case the owner of the purse wanted to write and thank me.

That evening I went to have dinner with an uncle and aunt of mine. They had also invited another person, a young woman, so that there would be four people at table. The young woman's face was familiar, but I could not remember where I had seen it. I was quite sure that we had not met before. In the course of conversation, however, the young woman happened to remark that she had lost her purse that

afternoon. I at once remembered where I had seen her face. She was the young girl in the photograph, although she was now much older. Of course she was very surprised when I was able to describe her purse to her. Then I explained that I had recognised her face from the photograph I had found in the purse. My uncle insisted on going round to the police station immediately to claim the purse. As the police sergeant handed it over, he said that it was a remarkable coincidence that I had found not only the purse but also the person who had lost it.

leather 皮革    purse 钱包    pavement 便道    remark 谈到,说起  
coincidence 巧合

I. Choose the best answer.

1. The purse which the writer found
  - a. was empty
  - b. had some money in it
  - c. had a few coins and a photograph in it
  - d. had an old photograph in it
2. The writer recognised the young woman because
  - a. he had met her somewhere before
  - b. she was the woman in the photograph
  - c. she often had dinner with his uncle and aunt
  - d. she looked rather like the young girl in the photograph

II. Complete the following sentences. Your answers must be related to the ideas contained in the passage.

- a. When the writer opened the purse, He hoped \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. The sergeant had a book, in which \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. The young woman \_\_\_\_\_ so that there would be four people at table.
- d. The writer said: 'There was a photograph in the purse. That is how \_\_\_\_\_'.
- e. 'Let's \_\_\_\_\_,' the writer's uncle insisted.

III. Choose the best explanation according to the context.

1. familiar means

- a. common    b. known    c. famous    d. domestic

2. claim means

- a. pretend    b. identify    c. ask for    d. take

## 5. My Companions on Board

August 31 st,

There are five people at our table, including myself. I've already learnt a great deal about them in the short time we have been at sea, although we rarely meet except at meal-times.

First of all, there is Dr. Stone — my favourite, I must confess. He is a man of about sixty-five, with grey hair and a humorous face. He gave up his practice a short while ago and is now travelling round the world before he retires to some quiet country village. As a young man, he served abroad for many

years as a doctor in the Army. He speaks several languages and has told us a great deal about the ports we are going to call at. He seems to have been everywhere. During the day, when he is not talking to his fellow passengers (one gets the impression that he already knows everybody on board!), he sits on deck reading or else gazes out to sea through an old-fashioned telescope.

Then there is 'grandmother'. I call her that because her name escapes me. In spite of being a grandmother, she looks remarkably young, not more than forty-five. She is on her way to visit a daughter who emigrated to Australia some years ago. Naturally she is very excited at the thought of seeing her again, and her three grandchildren, whom she has never seen. She can talk of little else. This voyage is a great adventure for her; she has never been abroad before.

Then there is a man I do not care for very much, an engineer by the name of Barlow. He has been on leave in England and is now returning to his work in Singapore. He seems full of energy; he swims or plays tennis the best part of the day. I have never in my life met a man with such a loud laugh. He has the cabin next to mine and I can hear his laugh even through the wall!

The other person who sits at our table is Mrs Hunt. I have found out hardly anything about her. She is extremely quiet and rarely talks, except to consult the doctor about her children's various ailments. She is on her way to join her husband in India.

Extract from a diary

confess 承认    emigrate 移民    consult 咨询    ailment 病症

I. Choose the best answer.

1. Dr. Stone is travelling round the world because

- a. he likes meeting a lot of people
- b. he is having a holiday before he retires
- c. he wants to visit the places he knew in the past
- d. he enjoys travelling abroad

2. The writer calls the second person at the table 'grandmother' because

- a. she looks old
- b. she has three grandchildren
- c. he has not been told her name
- d. he has forgotten her name

II. Answer the following questions briefly, in your own words as far as possible. Use one complete sentence for each answer.

- a. how does Dr. Stone spend his time when he is not talking to his fellow passengers?
- b. Why is 'grandmother' going to Australia?

III. Complete the following sentences. Your answers must be related to the ideas contained in the passage.

- a. Dr. Stone \_\_\_\_\_ after he has travelled round the world.
- b. Dr. Stone seems to know everyone on board because \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Barlow spends most of his time \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Barlow has such a loud laugh that \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. The writer does not know much about Mrs Hunt because \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. Choose the best explanation according to the context.

- 1. remarkably means

- a. attractively      b. quite      c. noticeably      d. extraordinarily

2. on leave means

- a. about to go      b. away from work      c. absent      d. at home

## 6. The Expedition to the Forest

Half an hour before daybreak three of the boys assembled, as they agreed, near the old bridge. The fourth, a boy by the name of Tolly, had not turned up. His absence did not greatly surprise the others. They knew that his mother did not want him to come on this expedition into the forest.

Charles, who was the oldest and their accepted leader, waded downstream to the place where their boat was tied up in the shelter of some overhanging bushes. Then he rowed the boat back to the shallow water near the bridge, where the boys loaded it with the provisions, blankets and other things which they were taking on their journey.

Dawn was just breaking as they climbed into their boat and pushed off from the bank. A swift current carried them downstream, so there was no need to row. They took it in turns to keep the boat in the centre of the river. Three hours later they entered the forest where they intended to spend the next few days.

'Let's go ashore now and make some tea,' suggested Charles. 'No one will see us here.'

It was forbidden to light fires in the forest, but people rarely came this way.

While Charles tied the boat up, the other two boys set about gathering wood for a fire. When they came back, each with a large handful of sticks, they found Charles looking very worried.

'We haven't got any matches,' he announced gloomily. Tolly was going to bring them.'

This was bad news. They were miles away now from the nearest shop.

assemble 集合      expedition 探险      wade 涉过      shelter 遮避      provisions 食物  
swift 快的      current 水流

### I. Choose the best answer

1. The boys did not have to row because

- a. they had plenty of time to get to the forest      b. they kept their boat in the centre of the river  
c. the river carried their boat along quite quickly      d. they had pushed off from the bank

2. The boys could not light a fire because

- a. the wood was too big      b. Charles had forgotten to bring any matches  
c. it was forbidden to light fires in the forest  
d. the boy who was going to bring the matches had not come on the expedition

### II. Complete the following sentences. Your answers must be related to the ideas contained in the passage.

- a. The name of the boy who \_\_\_\_\_ was Tolly.  
b. It was easier to load the boat near the bridge because \_\_\_\_\_.  
c. The boys did not have to row because there \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_.

d. While they were going downstream, all the boys had to do was \_\_\_\_\_.

e. Although \_\_\_\_\_, the boys went ashore to make tea.

III. Choose the best explanation according to the context.

1. waded means

a. crossed the river      b. swam      c. went out of sight      d. walked slowly through the water

2. in turns means

a. round and round      b. one after the other      c. all together      d. from time to time

## 7. Miss Hughes' New Class

The children stopped chattering as Miss Hughes entered the classroom. Then they stood up as one body and said in a loud chorus:

'Good morning, teacher.'

Miss Hughes smiled, said good morning too and told the class to sit down. At a glance there seemed to be about thirty—five pupils in the class. The majority were girls. She noticed several intelligent faces. All the pupils were watching her intently, waiting no doubt to find out what sort of person she was.

'I suppose you want to know my name,' she said. But before she could tell them, someone in the class called out, 'It's Miss Hughes.' Everybody laughed. Miss Hughes laughed too.

'News travels quickly,' she said. 'I'm afraid it will take me longer to learn all your names.'

Miss Hughes opened the attendance register and called their names in turn. When she came to the last name on the list, John Young, she noticed that he had been absent for over a month.

'What's the matter with John Young?' she asked, looking up.

'He's in hospital, Miss Hughes,' said a fair-haired girl in the front row. 'He's broken his leg.'

'He slipped on the ice,' added one of the boys.

'Has anyone been there to see him?' Miss Hughes asked.

No one replied.

It was time to start the lesson. 'Now let me see,' said Miss Hughes, looking at the timetable. 'The first lesson is English.'

'Oh! please tell us a story,' begged one of the girls.

Several of the pupils repeated this. Miss Hughes smiled.

'Very well,' she said. 'But first of all I want you to write a letter to John Young. We'll send the best ones to cheer him up in hospital. Afterwards I'll tell you a story, if you're good.'

They were all writing busily when Miss Hughes slipped out of the classroom to fetch a book which she had left in the staffroom. She passed the headmistress in the corridor.

'Any trouble from that class?' the headmistress asked.

'Not so far,' said Miss Hughes confidently. 'They all seem very well behaved.'

chatter 喋喋不休      chorus 合唱      majority 多数,大部分      attendance 出勤

register 记录    cheer 使...高兴    corridor 走廊    behave 做

I. Choose the best answer.

1. Miss Hughes came into the classroom  
a. but nobody took any notice of her  
b. and all the children stoop up at the same time and said good morning  
c. and all the children said good morning    d. and all the children stoop up one after the other
2. Miss Hughes

- a. refused to tell the class a story
- b. had forgotten her story book, so she asked the class to write a letter
- c. asked the class to write a letter before she told them a story
- d. asked the class to write a letter so that she could go to the staffroom

II. Complete the following sentences. Your answers must be related to the ideas contained in the passage.

- a. 'Good morning.' Miss Hughes said to the class '\_\_\_\_\_.'
- b. No one replied when Miss Hughes asked whether \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Miss Hughes looked at the timetable in order to find out \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Miss Hughes said that she wanted the class to write to John Young before \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. Miss Hughes met the headmistress while \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Answer these questions, using only short form answers.

- a. Was Miss Hughes a new teacher?    b. Did Miss Hughes any trouble from the class?

IV. Choose the best explanation according to the context.

1. intently means

- a. with a great deal of attention    b. by chance    c. on purpose    d. unpleasantly

2. not so far means

- a. very near    b. very much    c. to a small degree    d. not until now

## 8. The Helpful Postman

Bill Fuller, the postman, whistled cheerfully as he pushed his bicycle up the hill towards old Mrs Dunley's house. His work for the day was almost finished; his bag, usually quite heavy when he set out on his round, was empty now except for the letter that he had to deliver to Mrs Dunley. She lived over a mile from the village so that, when Bill had a letter for her, he always finished his day's work much later. He did not mind this, however, because she never failed to ask him in for a cup of tea.

When Bill entered the gate of Mrs Dunley's house, he was surprised not to find her working in her garden. She usually spent most afternoons there when the weather was fine. Bill went straight round to the back of the house, thinking that she might be in the kitchen. The door was locked and the curtains were drawn. Puzzled, he returned to the front of the house and knocked hard on the door. There was no answer. Bill thought that this was very strange because he knew that Mrs Dunley rarely left the house.

Just then he noticed that her bottle of milk, which was delivered early in the morning, was still on the doorstep. This worried him. If Mrs Dunley had not taken in her milk, perhaps she was ill. Bill walked round the house until he found an open window. It was small, but he just managed to squeeze through. He went into the hall. There he almost fell over Mrs Dunley, who was lying at the foot of the stairs, unconscious. Realising that there was little he could do for her, Bill rushed out of the house, stopped a passing car and told the driver to telephone for an ambulance as soon as he got to the village.

deliver 送    squeeze 挤    unconscious 不清醒的    ambulance 救护车

I. Choose the best answer.

1. Bill Fuller was going to Mrs Dunley's house because
  - a. she had asked him for a cup of tea
  - b. he had some letters to deliver to her
  - c. his day's work was over
  - d. he had a letter for her
2. The thing that especially worried Bill was
  - a. finding the back door locked and the curtains drawn
  - b. seeing her bottle of milk on the doorstep
  - c. not getting answer when he knocked on the door
  - d. not finding Mrs Dunley in the garden

II. Complete the following sentences. Your answers must be related to the ideas contained in the passage.

- a. Bill's bag was not heavy because \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. when the weather was fine, Mrs Dunley \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. Bill was worried when he saw that \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. It was lucky that one of the windows was open, otherwise \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. As soon as Bill got into the house, he \_\_\_\_\_, where he found Mrs Dunley \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Answer these questions, using only short form answer.

- a. Was Bill riding his bicycle up the hill?
- b. Was Mrs Dunley alive when Bill found her?

IV. Choose the best explanation according to the context.

1. did not mind means
  - a. looked forward to
  - b. enjoyed
  - c. did not remember
  - d. did not object to
2. straight means
  - a. without going back
  - b. immediately
  - c. fairly quickly
  - d. in a direct line

## 9. Catching the Train

Helen packed a small suitcase, said goodbye to her mother and hurried out of the house to catch the bus to the station. There was no one else waiting at the bus stop, so it looked as if a bus had just left. Helen looked at her watch anxiously; it was already two o'clock. Her train left at two-thirty, and since it would take at least twenty minutes to reach the station, she did not have much time to spare, even if a bus came

along at once.

Just then a taxi came slowly down the road. Helen knew that the fare to the station was at least two pounds, which was more than she could afford; but she quickly made up her mind that it would be well worth the extra expense in order to be sure of catching her train. So she stopped the taxi and got in. She told the driver that she had to catch a train which left at half past two. The man nodded and said that he would take a short cut to get her to the station in good time.

All went well until, just as they were coming out of a side—street into the main road that led to the station, the taxi ran into a car. There was a loud crash and Helen was thrown forward so violently that she hit her head on the front seat. Both drivers got out and began shouting at each other. Helen got out as well, to ask them to stop quarrelling, but neither of them took any notice of her at all.

Helen was now quite sure that she was going to miss her train, although she was not very far from the station. She was wondering what to do when a bus came into sight, going in the direction of the station. The bus stop was not far off, so Helen got her suitcase out of the taxi and ran towards the bus, which had stopped to let some passengers get off. The bus conductor saw her running and did not ring the bell for the bus to start until she had got on. Helen reached the station just in time and managed to catch her train after all. But if she had waited for the taxi driver to stop arguing, she would probably have missed it.

suitcase 提箱    fare 费用    afford 支负得起    violently 剧烈地

I. Choose the best answer

1. Helen took a taxi because

- a. she was afraid of missing her train    b. she did not want to wait for the bus  
c. it was already two o'clock    d. she had a suitcase to carry

2. In the end Helen

- a. finished the journey by taxi    b. did not reach the station  
c. did the last part of the journey by bus    d. had to walk part of the way to the station

II. Answer the following questions briefly, in your own words as far as possible. Use one complete sentence for each answer.

1. Why did Helen think that she had just missed a bus?  
2. What happened to Helen when the taxi ran into the car?

III. Complete the following sentence. Your answers must be related to the ideas contained in the passage.

- a. The train which Helen \_\_\_\_\_ left at two—thirty.  
b. Helen did not usually go to the station by taxi because \_\_\_\_\_.  
c. The taxi driver nodded said: \_\_\_\_\_.  
d. The bus had stopped so that \_\_\_\_\_.  
e. If the bus conductor had rung the bell, Helen \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. Choose the best explanation according to the context.

1. short cut means

- a. interruption    b. quick way    c. secret path    d. back street

2. as well means

- a. equally good      b. quickly      c. feeling better      d. also

## 10. Out of Sight, Out of Trouble

A car drew up outside the Swan Hotel and a young man got out. Pausing only for an instant to see that he had come to the right place, he went into the hotel and rang the bell on the counter of the bar.

Mrs Crump, the landlady, who was busy in the kitchen at the time, hurried out, wiping her hands. The young man raised his hat.

'Excuse me,' he said. 'I'm looking for my uncle, Mr White. I believe he is staying here.'

'He was staying here,' Mrs Crump corrected him, 'But I'm afraid that he went back to London yesterday.'

'Oh dear,' said the young man, looking disappointed. 'I understood that he was going to stay here until the end of the month. At least, that is what his servant told me when I rang up his house.'

'Quite right,' said Mrs Crump. 'He intended to stay here the whole of July, as he always does. But yesterday he got a telegram to say that one of his relatives was ill. So he caught the train back to London immediately.'

'I wish he had let me know,' the young man said. 'I wrote him a letter saying that I was coming. I've had all this trouble for nothing. Well, since he isn't here, there is no point in waiting.'

He thanked Mrs Crump and went out. Mrs Crump went to the window and watched him drive off. When his car was out of sight, she called out:

'You can come out now, Mr White. He's gone.'

Mr White came out of the kitchen, where he had been waiting.

'Many thanks, Mrs Crump,' he said, laughing. 'you did that very well. These nephews of mine never give me any peace. That young man is the worst of them all. As you see, when he need money, he even follows me into the country. Well, perhaps next time he won't warn me by writing me a letter!'

relative 亲戚      nephew 侄子, 外甥

### I. Choose the best answer

1. This story is about a man who

- a. did not like his nephew      b. did not want to meet his nephew  
c. was not able to meet his nephew      d. wanted to spend a quiet holiday in the country

2. When his nephew came to the hotel, the man

- a. avoided giving him any money      b. caught the train back to London  
c. went to see a sick relative      d. hid in the kitchen

### II. Answer the following questions briefly, in your own words as far as possible. Use one complete sentence for each answer

- a. How did Mrs Crump know that someone had entered the hotel?