

外语教学指导与学术研究系列丛书

新世纪大学英语阅读 (第一册)

New Century College English Reading

主编 齐世和 王欣



北京理工大学出版社

BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESS

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第一册

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前言 | Preface

无论从哪个角度讲，阅读都是广大中国学生学习英语并提高英语水平的必经途径之一。一则读是听、说、写、译等其他语言技能的基础；二则我们既无语言环境又无法刻意去创造语言环境，然而却可以在阅读中找到语言环境。置身于阅读之中，我们除了可以学到地道的英语之外，还可以接触到讲英语国家的文化，从而领略到讲英语国家的历史、习俗、风土人情。

本书共分两册，每册包括十六个单元，每单元包括四篇课文，每篇课文后面都编有练习，并附有练习答案和词汇表。这是本书的第一册，适用于大学非英语专业一年级学生的水平。

本书的最大特点是取材新老兼顾，题材多样，知识性强，语言地道，兼顾趣味性和广泛性。置身其中，你既可以领略光怪陆离的尼斯湖的神秘，又可以追溯风靡一时的“博克”的来源；既可以学习名人的成功之道，又可以了解各国有关数字的迷信……

本书的另一特点是练习的针对性强且全面合理。每课的练习都分为两大部分。第一部分为理解练习 (Comprehension Exercises)，其中包括根据短文回答问题、英译汉 (文中的关键句和难句)、汉译英 (练习文中出现的重点词汇或短语) 等三种形式。第二部分为词汇练习 (Vocabulary Exercises)，其中包括易混词、多义词以及构词法练习。

本书由齐世和策划，由齐世和和王欣审定全部稿件，对其中的一

些内容进行了补充修改并最后定稿。第一、四单元由王欣编写，第二、八单元由薛伟编写，第三、十单元由张梦雅编写，第五、十二单元由王海燕编写，第六、九单元由许晓津编写，第七、十一单元由林宏编写，第十三、十四单元由齐世和编写，第十五、十六单元由刘文媛编写。

天津师范大学外国语学院院长顾钢博士对本书的编写提出了许多建设性的意见，在此表示感谢。

由于编者水平所限，书中难免出现疏漏与错误，敬请同行和读者批评指正。

编 者

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Unit One



★ ★ ★ A Good Mistake

I made up my mind to South Carolina to meet my friends there. “Can my used car stand such a long drive?” I was not too sure about it. I called my friends in Columbia and they all agreed. “Do drive carefully!” they told me on the phone. So, after I checked my car-engine, oil, brakes and everything, I was on my way.

It was exciting to drive on the highway. Traffic on the highway outside Nashville was not as busy as that around the city. (1) All the vehicles were moving so fast that I had to give more gas to keep up with them. To be safe, I just drove on the right-side lane so that I could stop wherever I needed.

Nearly every hour I would stop to check the engine oil, the transmission fluid and the radiator, just to keep my car out of trouble. I kept in mind what someone had once told me, “Take care of your car, and it will take care of you.”

I looked at the map from time to time to make sure the direction I took was correct. (2) I had been there once before, but still I asked the way to double check.

At Nashville, there was a juncture. By asking the way, I knew I had two choices: I could go on along the main road or I could take a short cut. The short cut was to cross over several hills. "It's a little dangerous." someone added.

I hesitated for a little while and then chose to be on the safe side — taking the main road. (3) I would rather get there slower than try to be there early and risk falling to the bottom of the hills. It's absolutely true that "Late is better than never."

Something strange happened after I drove a long way and found it was not the correct road that I wanted to take, but the hilly road I decided to avoid. I realized that it was at the crossroad that I had made the direction mistake. "What shall I do?" I asked myself. If I went back to take that road again, it would be very late by the time I got to Columbia. Thinking it over, I decided to go on. "If other people can go along this road, why can't I?" I encouraged myself.

The short cut, to my surprise, was not that dangerous. In fact, it was only a very peaceful country road, going up and down two low hills. There was little traffic. On both sides of the road, you could see trees, wild flowers, and once in a while, farms with cows and horses. My fear was gone with the wind. Listening to the beautiful country music over my car stereo, I drove on and enjoyed the scenery which was so quiet and so natural. No place in the man-made world could compare with it. Even my car forgot to give me problems. It was just in this light-heartedness that I arrived at my destination. My friends, after they heard what had happened to me, all said it sounded like an adventure.

To this day, the experience is still vivid in my mind. I am not Odysseus, but the long car journey to South Carolina, especially the mistake I made on the way, made me understand that, in this world there is always something difficult or dangerous, but after you get fully prepared

and just do it, you will find that it is not so terrible. (592 words)

Comprehension Exercises

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did the author hesitate to go to South Carolina at first by driving?
2. Why did the author decide to take the main road?
3. Which road did he take at last? Why?
4. How did he feel when he was on the short cut?

II. Translate the underlined sentences in the passage into Chinese.

III. Translate the following sentences into English with the given words or phrases.

1. 我这辆二手车能开那么远吗? (stand)
2. 高速公路的交通状况不像城市那么拥挤。(as... as...)
3. 他在右道行驶,以便能在见到他女朋友时停下来。(lane)
4. 走近路到那个城堡只需 15 分钟。(short cut)
5. 这些战士冒着生命危险跳进水中,去救落水儿童。(risk)
6. 正是怀着这份轻松的心情,我抵达了目的地。(It's... that...)

Vocabulary Exercises

I. Read the following sentences; determine the meanings of the underlined words, which are confusing in certain ways.

1. This letter is addressed to someone else; there must be some mistake.
2. No payments were made last week because of a computer error.
3. Don't take it too much. It's just a slip of the pen.
4. If you are still careless like this, you are sure to make a blunder



someday.

5. After a short break the play continued.
6. High interest rates are a brake on the economy.

II. Translate the following sentences into Chinese and pay special attention to the different meanings of the words in italics.

1. direction

- a. Turn the dial in a clockwise *direction*.
- b. All works were produced by the students under the *direction* of John Williams.
- c. Simple *directions* for assembling the model are printed on the box.
- d. No clear *direction* in policy can be identified.
- e. Once again her life felt lacking in *direction*.

2. meet

- a. The cars *met* head-on.
- b. My skirt won't *meet* round my middle.
- c. His hands *met* hers.
- d. We must learn to *meet* adversity gracefully.
- e. Will you *meet* her at the station?
- f. Can the company *meet* their debts?
- g. Does the hotel *meet* your expectations?

III. Use the correct forms of the following words in the sentences below.

1. compare, comparison, comparable, comparative, incomparably
 - 1) We _____ the two reports carefully.
 - 2) _____ was the most important method of analysis in sociology.
 - 3) The situation in the US is not directly _____ to that in the UK.
 - 4) The company is a _____ newcomer to the software market.

- 5) Her latest book is _____ better than her earlier ones.
2. courage, encourage, encouraging, courageous
- 1) My parents have always _____ me in my choice of career.
- 2) I haven't yet plucked up the _____ to ask her.
- 3) I hope people will be _____ enough to speak out against this injustice.
- 4) This month's unemployment figures are not very _____.

Words and Expressions

South Carolina

(美国)南卡罗莱纳州

brake [breik] *n.*

闸, 刹车, 阻碍

vehicle ['vi:ikl] *n.*

交通工具, 车辆, 媒介物, 传达手段

fluid ['flu:ɪd] *n.*

流动性, 流度

radiator ['reɪdiəɪtə] *n.*

散热器, 水箱, 冷却器, 电暖炉, 辐射体

juncture ['dʒʌŋktʃə] *n.*

接合点

destination [ˌdestɪ'neɪʃən] *n.*

目的地, [计] 目的文件, 目的单元格

Odysseus

奥德休斯, 古希腊史诗《奥德赛》的主人公, 经历了漫长的冒险旅途。



Comprehension Exercises

I.

1. Because he was not sure whether his used car could stand such a long drive.
2. Because the main road is safer than the short cut.
3. He took the short cut at last, because he had make the direction



mistake. He would be late, if he went back to take the main road, so he decided to go on.

4. He felt light-hearted, because the road was peaceful and the scenery was quiet and natural.

II.

1. 所有的车辆都飞快行驶。以至于我得加大油门才能赶上。为了安全起见,我在右边的车道上行驶,以便在需要停车的时候停下来。
2. 我曾去过那儿,但我还是问了路,再次核对。
3. 我宁可慢点儿到那儿,也不愿为了早到而冒掉到山下的危险。

III.

1. Can my used car stand such a long drive?
2. Traffic on the highway was not as busy as that around the city.
3. He drove on the right-side lane, so that he could stop when he found his girlfriend on the way.
4. It takes only 15 minutes to get to the castle by taking the short cut.
5. These soldiers risked their lives in jumping into the river to save the drowning children.
6. It was just in this light-heartedness that I arrived at my destination.

■ Vocabulary Exercises

I.

1. (因疏忽引起的) 错误
2. 错误
3. 小错
4. (较大的) 错误
5. 休息
6. 阻碍

II.

1. a. 按顺时针方向拨。
b. 所有的作品都是学生在约翰·威廉姆斯的指导下完成的。
c. 组装模型的简要说明印在盒子上。
d. 无法清楚地判断出政策的趋势。
e. 她的生活又一次失去了目标。

2. a. 两辆汽车头迎头相撞。
- b. 我的裙子太窄, 系不上。
- c. 他的手触到了她的手。
- d. 我们必须学会冷静地去应付逆境。
- e. 你到车站去接她吗?
- f. 该公司能偿还债务吗?
- g. 这家旅馆符合你的要求吗?

III.

1. 1) compared 2) Comparison 3) comparable 4) comparative
5) incomparably
2. 1) encouraged 2) courage 3) courageous 4) encouraging