

黑龙江省“十一五”教育科学重点规划课题研究成果

英语专业
学生适用

READING

英语阅读系列教程

ENGLISH READING SERIES COURSE

第五册 文化篇



总 主 编：甄艳华
副总主编：张文英 邹春玲
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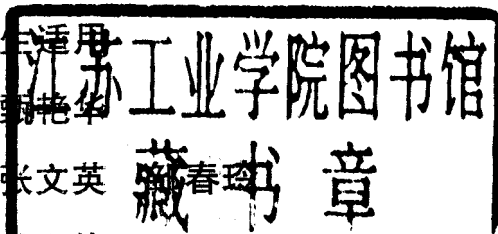
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前 言

《英语阅读系列教材》是一套适合英语专业不同程度的学生使用的英语泛读教材。全套教材共分七册。涉及题材广泛,包括校园生活篇、世界风云篇、商务贸易篇、科技信息篇、语言习得篇、文化习俗篇和旅游见闻篇等。所选文章大多出自当代英语报刊,编者未对文章做任何变动,因而,读者可以原汁原味地领略当代英语的特色,增进对西方国家的了解。所选文章语言流畅,文字新颖,信息量大,真实性强,符合外语教材必须取材广泛、真实性强的要求。同时还有利于对学生进行人文意识和科技意识的融合的培养,实现我们的人才培养目标。

《英语阅读系列教材》的另一特点是每篇文章都配有详细的单词释义、注解和针对性较强的练习(第五册除外)。我们对文章中出现的疑难部分,尤其是较难理解的词汇,以及必要的背景知识(人名、地名、组织名称等)作了注释。我们编写的练习有四种:正误判断题、名词解释、翻译和问答题。这四种练习题都是围绕考察综合理解能力设计和编写的,侧重培养学生的理解能力和综合归纳能力,同时又可以提高学生的翻译能力和口头交际能力。为了帮助读者进行自我检测,我们在书后附有练习答案。所有答案只是参考性的,我们希望答案不会束缚读者的思考和想象力。

本册书是本套教材的第五册—文化篇。全书共14个单元,每个单元围绕一个共同的主题,如纵横体育赛场、英国节日面面观、社会制度博览、传媒前沿、闲暇时光、巨人之声、名流肖像、教育在线、聚焦美国节日等。主要文章后配有练习,以便加强对课文的理解和对语言知识的掌握。本册书触及英语国家的风土人情,使学生通过阅读开拓视野,了解西方文化特质进而提高其语言交际水平。

《英语阅读系列教程》的选材和编著工作均由各分册主编承担,最后由甄艳华教授负责统稿,单兴缘教授负责审稿。本套教材在编写过程中还得到了哈尔滨理工大学副校长孟大伟教授、教务处处长戈宝军教授、教务处副处长蔡良群教授、外国语学院院长郝朝辉博士的大力支持与勉励;同时还得到了黑龙江教育出版社领导和编辑的热情帮助,在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

《英语阅读系列教程》还是黑龙江省“十一五”教育科学重点规划课题《黑龙江省属院校英语专业多元化人才培养模式的研究与探索》的研究成果。该套教材作为哈尔滨理工大学、齐齐哈尔大学和大庆师范学院等高等院校英语专业学生阅读、科技英语阅读课程的教材；基础英语、文化基础、语言学、商务英语、旅游英语等课程的辅助教材。在编著中，我们充分查阅现有资料，但我们深感反映当代西方社会状况的资料不能完全满足编写工作的需要，加上我们对文章的理解或有偏颇，注释和练习中难免出错，请读者与同行指正。

编 者

2006年8月17日于哈尔滨

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Unit One

Passage A Sports in Britain

The English are passionate lovers of competitive sports; and when they are neither playing nor watching games they like to talk about them, or when they cannot do that, to think about them.

The game peculiarly associated with England is cricket. Many other games too are English in origin, but have been popularly adopted in other countries; but cricket has been extensively adopted only in the Commonwealth, particularly in Australia, India, Pakistan and the West Indies. Nearly every village in England, except in far north, has its cricket club. A first-class match lasts for up to three days, with six hours play on each afternoon.

Cricket makes no progress in popularity. For the majority of the British public the eight months of the football season are more important than the four months of cricket. Professional football is always a big business. Every town has at least one professional football club. The players have not necessarily any personal connection with the town for whose team they play. They are bought and sold between the clubs. The Cup Final, which is played in May each year in London, is the greatest event of the season.

Rugby football is played with an egg-shaped ball. It can be a dangerous game as players wear no protective clothing. This form of sport got its name because it originated from the famous Rugby Public School. There is some professional League rugby in the north, but elsewhere rugby union is mainly played by amateurs and favoured by the middle class. It is also the game played at the great majority of "public schools".

Most secondary schools have playing fields, and boys usually play rugby or soccer in winter and cricket in summer as a normal school activity; while schoolgirls play tennis and a sort of baseball in summer and netball and hockey in winter. Men's basketball is almost unknown.

The more social adult games of golf and tennis are played by great number of people. Golf courses are also meeting places of the business community. It is, for example, very desirable for bank managers to play golf. Moreover, there are plenty of tennis clubs. Every town provides numerous tennis courts in public parks, and anyone can play tennis cheaply.

Next to Association Football, the chief spectator sport in English life is horse racing. Partly because of the laws which forbid such activities on Sundays, horse racing is

organized rather differently in England from other countries. Their horse racing mainly takes place on working days and during working hours. The whole atmosphere of a race meeting still belongs in some ways to the eighteenth century with old divisions between upper and lower people. Every day people all over the country bet on the day's races.

Although the British are so fond of watching horses racing, they are not very interested in being spectators at occasions when human beings race together. Although athletic sports and gymnastics are practiced at school, few towns have running tracks for public use. Remarkably few people are interested in bicycle racing. On the other hand, rowing, in fours or eights, occupies a leading place in the sporting life of schools and universities which have suitable water nearby. It is watched from the river banks by vast crowds of spectators.

When English people use the word "hunting", they usually mean *fox-hunting*, a sport which is popular among a small but important minority. There are many people who would like to see fox-hunting forbidden by law on the ground that it is cruel, but there is little possibility that this will be done.

Americans use the word "hunting" to include the shooting of birds, but the English do not. The moorlands of the north and of Scotland are rich in grouse and partridge. And to go shooting on the moors is perhaps the most distinctive of upper-class activities. The opening of shooting season on August 12th attracts many top people on the moors. They pay enormous amounts for their pleasure. Being afraid of losing votes, modern leaders do not shoot, or if they do they try their best to avoid the photographers.

Britain was the first home of many of the modern world's most popular sports. The English can not claim, today, that they have surpassing skill in any form of sport when they engage in international competition. But they care strongly about the sporting spirit, the capacity to play with respect for the rules and the opponents, to win with modesty and to lose with good temper.

Words and Expressions

cricket:n. a game played on grass by two teams of 11 players each, in which a ball is bowled at stumps and a batsman tries to hit it with a bat, and the score is made in runs.

rugby:n. a form of football played with an oval ball which may be kicked or carried.

Questions for Discussion.

1. Please make a list of the most typical British sports.
2. Give some comments on *hunting*. Do you think it is cruel?
3. Explain the exact meaning of "sporting spirit" in Great Britain.

Passage B Scotland's Traditional Games

A love of sport has been characteristic in Highlands and Lowlands alike. It is inherent in the Scottish character. Of all the games played in Scotland in days gone by,

three stand out as claiming Scottish origin and being particularly Scottish in character—golf, curling, and shinty, and of these golf has now achieved world-wide popularity.

The best country for golf is a large expanse of uncultivated soil not too much broken up by hills; and in Scotland the links, particularly along the east coast, form ideal ground of all Scottish golfing centres, St. Andrews is the shrine of golfing tradition.

There is much evidence, however, that the kings and queens of Scotland themselves shared their people's enthusiasm for playing games. Mary Queen of Scots was accused by her enemies of playing golf shortly after her husband's murder. And the years before 1857 have been described as the golden age of private golf matches, for it saw the first championships inaugurated at the initiative of the Prestwick Golf Club in Scotland. It began with a letter addressed by the Prestwick Golf Club to seven leading clubs, proposing that each club should nominate four players for a golf match. The last victorious pair should be declared champions and the prize a medal or a piece of plate. The response was enthusiastic. This began the English Amateur Golf Championship, now restricted to players born in England and the Channel Island and the sons of parents born in these places.

Curling is a game played on a sheet of ice. This sport is believed to have sprung from Holland just over four centuries ago, but Scotland has been its real home since the early part of the seventeenth century. In principle the game very much resembles bowls, but curling is played with heavy flat stones to slide along the ice. The oldest curling stone found in Scotland bears the date of 1511. The game is often referred to as "the roaring game" because of the sound resulting from the stone speeding along.

Like golf, curling can claim to be both Royal and ancient. Tradition has it that the Stuart kings were curlers, and both Mary Queen of Scots and Darnley are reputed to have played. Like golf, it too has won popularity outside Scotland, although to a lesser extent, and there are curling clubs in England, Canada, New Zealand, Russia and Switzerland. Now curling stones are cut from hard rock, rounded and polished, and fitted with a wooden handle.

Among games less widely popular, but still played with great enthusiasm, shinty (shinny, or shinney) is one of the most traditional, played with a ball made of cork and leather and a wooden club, it used to be popular among all ages, particularly round about the season of Christmas, but now is usually indulged in only by the more youthful members of the community. In the old days it was the custom for local parishes to engage each other in this game, and the prize, according to one tradition a keg of "genuine mountain dew", was attractive, for Highland whisky was appreciated no less than today.

Shinty is a fine free game, much less restricted by rules but otherwise not unlike hockey, which is derived from it. In old times a field of shinty must have resembled a battle ground; its usual accompaniment being skirling pipes and waving banners. Today

the pipes still play a picturesque part, marching their teams on to the field of play and hailing their victories with piercing blasts of triumph.

Words and Expressions

inaugurate: v. to introduce

indulge: v. allow oneself to enjoy the pleasure of something

Questions for Discussion.

1. Please make a list of the most typical Scottish sports.
2. Give some comments on *shinty*. Do you think it is amazing?

Passage C Sports in Australia

In relation to population, Australia holds an outstanding international position in sport. Its champions have been many and varied, and there is hardly a popular sport in which Australia has not gained recognition. Most likely explanation for this sporting preeminence seems to lie not in any single reason, but in a combination of factors.

Natural ability is an important consideration, as is the opportunity that potential champions have to develop in their particular fields through widespread clubs, State and national competitions.

Many Australian youngsters of both sexes begin playing regular competitive sports at the early age of eight or under. Thousands of youngsters can be seen each weekend joining in football, cricket, tennis, hockey, basketball and swimming competitions.

Sport also plays an important part in school life, where a half-day a week is usually set aside for inter-school competitions. Spectator sports like horse-racing, football, cricket, tennis and car-racing draw big crowds. And public interest is stimulated by extensive television, newspaper and radio coverage.

A distinctively Australian contribution is the volunteer surf—lifesaving movement which keeps a constant vigil over swimmers in the surf. Thousands of young men, all excellent swimmers, belong to these clubs at most surfing beaches. The spectacular surf carnivals when the lifesavers compete against each other in special surf events are an outstanding feature of the Australian summer scene.

Other popular water sports are swimming in constructed pools and inland waters, yachting and sailing, surfboard riding, water-skiing, skin-diving, motor-boat racing and fishing, including big game, beach and rock fishing and freshwater angling.

In winter, snow sports in the Australian Alps have become popular, and facilities in the snowfields have developed rapidly in recent years to keep pace with increasing demand. Growing numbers of top overseas skiers and instructors are coming to the Australian snow resorts during the northern hemisphere summer.

There are four main codes of football. Australian Rules, a fast, open and rugged game, played with 18 men a side on a large oval field, is the chief code in four of the six

States. Rugby League and Rugby Union are the most popular codes in New South Wales and Queensland, while soccer is played in all States, mainly by migrants, and is growing in popularity.

Other popular sports include men's and women's field hockey, basketball, squash and athletics. There are also many devotees of baseball and softball, table tennis and rifle-shooting, boxing, wrestling, judo, archery, rowing, fencing, gymnastics, ten-pin bowling. All forms of horse-riding are popular, from pony clubs to polo and Olympic equestrian style events. The premier turf event is the Melbourne Cup, held at Flemington Racecourse in November. It is a public holiday in the Melbourne metropolitan area and the focus of national betting interest.

Words and Expressions

Squash: *n.* a game played with rackets and a small softish hollow rubber ball, in a court enclosed by walls and a roof.

Questions for Discussion.

1. Please make a list of the most typical Australian sports.
2. Give some comments on the *snow sports*.

Professional Tips

英语常见同形/同音异义词

(一) 完全同形异义词

1. air	<i>n.</i>	空气
air	<i>n.</i>	曲调
2. angle	<i>n.</i>	角
angle	<i>v.</i>	钓鱼
3. ball	<i>n.</i>	球
ball	<i>n.</i>	舞会
4. bank	<i>n.</i>	岸
bank	<i>n.</i>	银行
bank	<i>n.</i>	一排
5. base	<i>adj.</i>	卑贱的
base	<i>n.</i>	基础
6. bay	<i>n.</i>	海湾
bay	<i>n.</i>	吠声
bay	<i>n.</i>	月桂树
bay	<i>n.</i>	壁洞
bay	<i>n.</i>	栗色马
7. bear	<i>v.</i>	负担
bear	<i>n.</i>	熊

8. bow	<i>v.</i>	鞠躬
bow	<i>n.</i>	船头
9. calf	<i>n.</i>	小牛
calf	<i>n.</i>	小腿
10. cock	<i>n.</i>	公
cock	<i>n.</i>	干草堆
11. count	<i>v.</i>	点,数
count	<i>n.</i>	伯爵
12. crab	<i>n.</i>	螃蟹
crab	<i>n.</i>	酸苹果
13. date	<i>n.</i>	日
date	<i>n.</i>	枣
14. desert	<i>n.</i>	沙漠
desert	<i>n.</i>	功过
15. diet	<i>n.</i>	饮食
diet	<i>n.</i>	议会
16. down	<i>adv.</i>	向下
down	<i>n.</i>	开阔的高地
down	<i>n.</i>	绒
17. duck	<i>n.</i>	鸭
duck	<i>v.</i>	闪避
duck	<i>n.</i>	帆布
18. ear	<i>n.</i>	耳朵
ear	<i>n.</i>	穗
19. even	<i>adv.</i>	甚至
even	<i>adj.</i>	平坦的
20. fair	<i>adj.</i>	美丽的
fair	<i>n.</i>	定期集市
21. fan	<i>n.</i>	扇子
fan	<i>n.</i>	狂热爱好者
22. fast	<i>adj.</i>	快的
fast	<i>n.</i>	斋戒
23. hail	<i>v.</i>	向……欢呼
hail	<i>n.</i>	冰雹
24. hawk	<i>n.</i>	鹰
hawk	<i>v.</i>	叫卖
25. hip	<i>n.</i>	臀部
hip	<i>n.</i>	蔷薇果

hip	<i>adj.</i>	熟悉内情的
26. last	<i>adj.</i>	最后的
last	<i>v.</i>	持续
last	<i>n.</i>	鞋楦头
27. lay	<i>v.</i>	放, 搁
lay	<i>n.</i>	短叙事诗
lay	<i>adj.</i>	凡俗的
lay		lie 的过去式
28. light	<i>n.</i>	光线
light	<i>adj.</i>	轻的
light	<i>v.</i>	停落
29. mark	<i>n.</i>	痕迹
mark	<i>n.</i>	马克(德币)
30. mean	<i>v.</i>	意旨
mean	<i>adj.</i>	卑鄙的
mean	<i>adj.</i>	中间的
31. nap	<i>n.</i>	瞌睡
nap	<i>n.</i>	绒毛
nap	<i>n.</i>	一种牌戏
32. own	<i>adj.</i>	自己的
own	<i>v.</i>	拥有
33. peer	<i>v.</i>	凝视
peer	<i>n.</i>	同等的人
34. pen	<i>n.</i>	钢笔
pen	<i>n.</i>	圈
pen	<i>n.</i>	雌天鹅
35. pile	<i>n.</i>	堆
pile	<i>n.</i>	桩
pile	<i>n.</i>	绒面
pile	<i>n.</i>	痔疮
36. port	<i>n.</i>	港
port	<i>n.</i>	舷窗
port	<i>n.</i>	左舷
port	<i>n.</i>	举止
port	<i>n.</i>	葡萄酒
37. rear	<i>n.</i>	后部
rear	<i>v.</i>	抚养
38. reel	<i>n.</i>	卷轴

reel	<i>v.</i>	旋转
reel	<i>n.</i>	苏格兰双人舞
39. ring	<i>n.</i>	环状物
ring	<i>v.</i>	鸣,响
40. save	<i>v.</i>	救
save	<i>prep.</i>	除……之外
41. scale	<i>n.</i>	鱼鳞
scale	<i>n.</i>	天平
scale	<i>n.</i>	标度
scale	<i>v.</i>	攀登
42. sound	<i>adj.</i>	健康的
sound	<i>n.</i>	声音
sound	<i>v.</i>	测……的深度
sound	<i>n.</i>	海峡
43. stable	<i>adj.</i>	稳定的
stable	<i>n.</i>	马厩
44. tense	<i>n.</i>	时态
tense	<i>a.</i>	拉紧的
45. till	<i>prep.</i>	直到……为止
till	<i>v.</i>	耕
till	<i>n.</i>	抽
46. well	<i>n.</i>	井
well	<i>adv.</i>	好
well	<i>adj.</i>	健康的
well	<i>interj.</i>	好啦
47. yard	<i>n.</i>	院子
yard	<i>n.</i>	码

(二)同音词

1. ah	<i>interj.</i>	啊
are	<i>v.</i>	是
2. air	<i>n.</i>	空气
ere	<i>prep.</i>	在……以前
heir	<i>n.</i>	后嗣
3. altar	<i>n.</i>	祭坛
alter	<i>v.</i>	改变
4. ant	<i>n.</i>	蚂蚁
aunt	<i>n.</i>	姑母
aren't		are not 的缩略式

5. bare	<i>adj.</i>	赤裸的
bear	<i>v.</i>	承受
6. baron	<i>n.</i>	男爵
barren	<i>adj.</i>	贫瘠的
7. be	<i>v.</i>	是
bee	<i>n.</i>	蜜蜂
8. berry	<i>n.</i>	浆果
bury	<i>v.</i>	埋葬
9. bough	<i>n.</i>	大树枝
bow	<i>n.</i>	弓
10. brake	<i>n.</i>	制动器
break	<i>v.</i>	打破
11. buy	<i>v.</i>	买
by	<i>prep.</i>	在……旁边
12. cell	<i>n.</i>	小房间
sell	<i>v.</i>	卖
13. cent	<i>n.</i>	分
sent		send 的过去式
scent	<i>n.</i>	气味
14. chord	<i>n.</i>	弦
cord	<i>n.</i>	细绳
15. coarse	<i>adj.</i>	粗糙的
course	<i>n.</i>	过程
16. dear	<i>adj.</i>	亲爱的
deer	<i>n.</i>	鹿
17. dew	<i>n.</i>	露水
due	<i>adj.</i>	适当的
18. die	<i>v.</i>	死
dye	<i>n.</i>	颜料
19. eye	<i>n.</i>	眼睛
I	<i>pron.</i>	我
20. father	<i>n.</i>	父亲
farther	<i>adj.</i>	较远的
21. fair	<i>adj.</i>	公平的
fare	<i>n.</i>	车费
22. flour	<i>n.</i>	面粉
flower	<i>n.</i>	花
23. for	<i>prep.</i>	为了……