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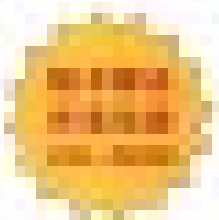
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The Three Musketeers



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Illustrated and
Designed by
K. J. FORDON

英语课外自学文库·第三辑·Ⅲ

张道真 主编

The Three Musketeers

《三个火枪手》

大仲马

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序

这次应社会科学文献出版社之邀，主编了这套《英语课外自学文库》，旨在为英语学习者创造一个良好的英语阅读环境。

长期以来，我深感国内缺乏适当的英语读物，在书店能够看到的英文原版图书不是价格昂贵，就是鸿篇巨制，对在校的学生及英语学习者来讲，这样既会造成畏难情绪又不实用，对培养他们学习英语的兴趣、提高他们的英语水平极为不利。社会科学文献出版社针对这种情形，同时配合他们的“自学英语行动计划”，精心策划出版《英语课外自学文库》，并诚邀我担纲主编，他们用心良苦，我也欣然应允。

《英语课外自学文库》首批编辑出版的各辑图书都是依据在世界各地流传广泛而受欢迎的英语文学作品缩写而成（以后还要出版各类英文版知识性读物），是长期在非英语国家从事英语教育的英国专家 S.E. Paces 特意为中国学生精心打造的。

这样的简写读本实际上也非常适合中国的初学英语的成年人。有些内容只要掌握上千词汇甚至几百词汇就能阅读，同时，语法结构也简单化。更为可取的是，每册图书都配有一张动画光盘，既可以像唱卡拉 OK 那样随字幕跟读，又可以在光盘上做相应的练习，而且光盘还具有修改练习错误的功能。总之，是一套听说读写兼顾，很实用又很有趣味的英语读物。

读原文著作，听原声讲话，通过英语学习英语，是吸收英语知识，掌握英语规律最有效的途径。大量阅读英语著作的作用很多，首先是培养阅读的兴趣和能力。认真读完这几十本简写著作，在为

精彩的故事所吸引的同时，英文阅读自然也打下了初步基础；其次是巩固课内所学知识，提高整体英文水平。课堂上所学的知识，孤零零很难巩固，如果在阅读中反复印证，就会既丰富了语法知识，又扩大了词汇量，不知不觉中语言修养就得到了稳步提高；再有就是通过阅读，能开拓视野，体会异域风情和文化背景，扩大知识面，反过来又为进一步学好英语打下基础。另外，在这里我要建议读者要充分利用原声朗读光盘来学习语音，提高口语能力。在读完一本书或一段文字之后，结合跟读录音，像讲故事一样的进行复述。试试看，你的英文水平会有神速的进步。

我念书的时候条件艰难，英文原著不容易找，我是千方百计地寻觅。现在，国家逐步富裕起来，有条件出版更多更好的英语读物给莘莘学子，让他们很容易从学校图书馆里借来阅读，让他们很容易从书店里买来做藏书随时翻阅。希望这套颇具规模的《英语课外自学文库》成为可以让学生们尽情遨游的英语学习海洋，成为广大读者乐而忘返的英语学习乐园。那么，作为主编，更作为一名英语教育工作者，我将倍感欣慰。

张道真

2003年7月于深圳

Introduction

"The Three Musketeers" is one of the most widely known novels of the famous French writer, Alexandre Dumas (1803-1870). It is a historical novel, set in France early in the seventeenth century. Louis XIII was then King of France and his chief minister was the great Cardinal Richelieu. England, then at war with France, was ruled by Charles I and his favourite, the Duke of Buckingham.



The heroes of the book are three musketeers, together with D'Artagnan who is also a soldier in the King's Guard. They are brave and fearless and the most skilful swordsmen in France. Their adventures make a great and most exciting novel.



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D'Artagnan leaves home and has his first adventure in Meung



It was the first Monday in April, 1626 when *D'Artagnan* rode into the small French town of *Meung*. He was on his way to Paris. There he hoped to become a musketeer, that is, a soldier in the King's Guard.

D'Artagnan looked like a farmer's son, because he was very plainly dressed, and he was riding an ugly horse that made everyone laugh. It was a very old horse, yellow in colour, with a tail that was quite hairless. It was a present from D'Artagnan's father.

At the time when D'Artagnan was leaving home, his father, a wise old man, said to him:

"My son, I have nothing to give you except my horse, fifteen crowns and this piece of advice: Serve our King faithfully. Be proud and brave. Look for adventures. I have taught you how to use a sword and you are a good swordsman. Fight, therefore, whenever you can. It is true that duels are forbidden now, but that does not matter. Fight all the duels that you can. *Monsieur de Tréville*, who is the captain of the King's musketeers, is an old friend of mine. He will be a friend to you. Always follow his noble example. Give him this letter."

After taking the letter and thanking his father for his advice, D'Artagnan set out for Paris. He reached Meung at about midday and decided to stop there for a meal. Accordingly, at the *Jolly Miller Inn*, he got down from his horse and walked into the inn-yard.

Through an open window, he saw three men talking together. They also saw him. One of them, who looked like a gentleman

of some importance, pointed towards D'Artagnan. He said something which made his companions laugh loudly. D'Artagnan felt very angry. He did not like being laughed at.

"Hey, you there," he shouted, "tell me what you are laughing at. Then we will all laugh together."

The important-looking gentleman looked at him coldly.

"I was not speaking to you, Monsieur," he said.

"But I am speaking to you," D'Artagnan said angrily.

The gentleman came out of the inn and walked up to D'Artagnan. D'Artagnan saw that the man was tall and thin. His hair was black and he had a scar on his right cheek. He pointed to D'Artagnan's horse and, looking towards his companions, said,

"Look here! This horse was once a buttercup. I am certain of it. This colour is common among flowers. Till now, it was unknown among horses."

These words made his companions laugh loudly. The man turned and walked back towards them. D'Artagnan followed him, crying, "For that, I will fight you, Monsieur!"

"Fight me!" the gentleman said, turning round. "Are you mad?"

D'Artagnan rushed at him. If the man had not jumped quickly to one side, D'Artagnan would have killed him. The man drew his sword, but his two friends threw themselves on D'Artagnan. The innkeeper, hearing the noise, ran out with his servants. They drove D'Artagnan back. A blow from a heavy stick broke D'Artagnan's sword. Someone struck him a heavy blow on the head. D'Artagnan fainted and was carried into the inn. There, in the kitchen, his wounds were washed and bandaged.



D'Artagnan sees Milady for the first time



The innkeeper hurried to the gentleman.

"I hope your Excellency is safe?" he said.

"Oh, yes! How is that young fool who attacked me?"

"Better, your Excellency. He has only fainted. His wounds are not deep."

"Who is he?"

"I do not know, your Excellency. But I found in his pocket a letter addressed to Monsieur de Tréville, the captain of the King's musketeers."

"Monsieur de Tréville!" exclaimed the gentleman, in some surprise. He looked very thoughtful. "Did Tréville send this fellow to kill me?" he thought. "I should like to know what is in that letter." He kept his thoughts to himself. To the innkeeper, he said,

"Where is the fellow?"

"He is lying down in a room on the first floor."

"And his things?"

"In the kitchen."

"Ah! Well, will you make out my bill and call my servant. I am leaving now."

"Very well, your Excellency," replied the innkeeper.

The gentleman went into the kitchen. When nobody was looking, he took the letter from D'Artagnan's pocket. He then went into the inn-yard where his servant and his horse were waiting.

D'Artagnan, who could not rest in his room upstairs, went down to the kitchen. Through the open door, he saw his enemy again. The gentleman was talking to a lady in a carriage. She

was leaning out of the carriage window and D'Artagnan could see that she was young and beautiful. She was pale and fair, with golden hair that hung down over her shoulders. D'Artagnan could hear what she was saying:

"His Eminence then orders me"

"To return to England at once, Milady. You must inform him at once when the Duke of Buckingham leaves London."

"And has he any other orders for me?"

"Yes, they are in this box, Milady."

"Very well. And what are you going to do?"

"Milady, I have to go back to Paris immediately."

"Go back, you shall not," cried D'Artagnan, running towards him. "This time you shall not escape me."

The gentleman placed his hand on his sword, but Milady cried:

"Remember that the least delay may ruin everything."

"You are right," the gentleman said. He bowed to the lady. Then he sprang on his horse and rode quickly away. At the same time, Milady's carriage drove off in the opposite direction.

"Coward!" shouted D'Artagnan as he ran after him. He did not run far because his wounds had left him very weak. He fell down.

"Coward!" he was still shouting when the innkeeper picked him up.

"Yes, you are right," agreed the innkeeper, who was anxious to please the sick man.

"But how beautiful she is!"

"She? Who?" asked the innkeeper.

"Milady," D'Artagnan said weakly. Then he fainted for the second time.



3

*D'Artagnan arrives in Paris*

D'Artagnan passed a restless night. However, in the morning, he was able to get up and walk about. In the evening, he felt much better. The next day, he was able to continue his journey.

He went to the innkeeper to pay his bill. He then found out that his purse was in his pocket but the letter to Monsieur de Tréville had disappeared. He looked for it everywhere but he could not find it. This made him very angry.

"Find that letter," he shouted to the innkeeper and the servants, "or I will cut you all to pieces!"

D'Artagnan drew his sword but he quickly put it back again. He had forgotten that it had been broken in half during the fight.

"Well," he said, more calmly, "where is my letter?"

"Your letter is not lost," the innkeeper told him. "It has been stolen."

"Stolen? And who has stolen it?"



“That gentleman you fought with, Monsieur. I saw him go to the kitchen where your coat was. He stayed there some time alone. I am sure that he stole it.”

“Do you really think so?”

“I am sure of it. He looked very thoughtful when I told him that you had a letter for Monsieur de Tréville. He asked me where the letter was.”

“Then he must be the thief.” D’Artagnan stood up very straight and, speaking in a lordly way, said, “I shall complain to Monsieur de Tréville and he will complain to the King.” He took two crowns from his pocket. These, with a lordly air, he handed to the innkeeper. The innkeeper, cap in hand, walked with him to the gate of the inn-yard.

D’Artagnan mounted his yellow horse and rode off. He reached Paris without further trouble. At the city gate, he sold his horse for three crowns – a good price for such a horse! He found a cheap place to stay in. Then he went to a smith, who put a new blade in his sword. On his way back to his lodgings, he asked a musketeer where Monsieur de Tréville’s house was. It was not far from his own lodgings. Having done this, he returned to his lodgings and went to bed.

D'Artagnan meets "The Three Musketeers"



The next morning, D'Artagnan went to see Monsieur de Tréville.

Treville was a great friend of the French King, Louis XIII. The King had made him captain of his musketeers – a band of soldiers who were his most faithful guards. Both Tréville and the King were proud of this band of brave and handsome musketeers.

The King's chief minister, *Cardinal Richelieu*, also had his own band of brave and fearless musketeers. Like the King, he was proud of his men and boasted of their strength and courage. There were frequent fights between the musketeers of the King and those of the Cardinal. The King's musketeers wanted to show that they were better than the Cardinal's men. The Cardinal's musketeers wanted to show that they were better than the King's men. The King blamed and punished his musketeers for fighting. So did the Cardinal. However, in his heart, the King was delighted when his men won. So was the Cardinal when his did.

D'Artagnan easily found Monsieur de Tréville's house. He walked in. The hall was crowded with noisy soldiers who were talking, laughing and quarrelling. They paid no attention to D'Artagnan, who began to feel lost in that lively crowd. Seeing a servant, he went up to him. He told him why he had come, and the servant promised to inform Monsieur de Tréville of his coming.

While he was waiting, D'Artagnan watched the musketeers. In the middle of the noisiest group, stood one who was addressed as *Porthos*, a tall and fine-looking soldier. Although it was warm,