

# Fast Reading

英語 For Basic English  
快讀 Course 上

高等学校试用教材

钟元  
张国英

主编

河北大学出版社

# 英语快读(上)

马钟元 张国英 主编



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**英 语 快 读 (上)**  
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(上)

## 前 言

为了帮助高校英语专业的学生学好基础阶段英语泛读课程，受河北省教委的委托，由河北省高校外语教学研究会组织省内高校英语专业的骨干教师编写了这套《英语基础泛读教程》的配套教材《英语快读》上、下册。学生每学完一定量的泛读内容，由教师安排使用快速阅读教材进行测验，从而使学生能迅速地对自己英语阅读理解能力有一个全面的估价。本书的语言难度根据泛读教材的难易度安排。编著者在编写时力求题材、体裁多样化，语言现代、规范化。

本教材共两册，每学年使用一册。教师也可根据本校实际情况删减或增补。每册附有练习参考答案。

该教材既可供大学英语专业学生使用，也可作为非英语专业和英语自学者英文水平自测的测试题。该教材的大部分内容已在省内高校中试用过二至三年，效果很好。这次编写，又进行了筛选。

由于编者水平有限，本书难免有疏漏，错误之处，恳请读者批评指正，以便再版时修正。

河北省高校外语教学研究会

《英语快读》教材编写组

一九九二年五月

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## 1. Correspondence — George To Cuihua

Dear Cuihua,

I've been intending to write you ever since I got back to Canada but now I have a special reason. A friend of mine is going to China to work in the same school I used to work in. She doesn't know anyone in Wuhan and she will be the only Canadian in the school. Her work unit will arrange for her accommodation and will help her get settled but I know she would really enjoy meeting you. I'm sure she will have a lot of questions about China to ask you. You know what Canadians are like when it comes to asking questions!

I have given Mary Ann your name and address and she will get in touch with you as soon as she arrives. Perhaps you could show her some of the sights and explain how to use buses — that sort of thing. She would really appreciate any help you can give her and so would I.

I have been working flat out ever since I got home but as soon as things calm down, I will write you a long letter with all my news. Just one last thing. Do you remember the speaker at our school who talked to us about 'reverse culture shock'? He was referring to the mental shock you experience when you return to your own culture after spending a long time in a very different one. I think that is what I am experiencing now. Don't worry! I don't have a very serious case of reverse culture shock.

Thanks in advance for your help

Best Wishes,

George

### Comprehension Exercises:

1. The writer of this letter (George) is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. on his way to China      b. just leaving China  
c. working in Canada      d. going to work in Wuhan
2. George writes to Cuihua because one of his friends is going to work in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. China      b. Canada      c. American      d. England
3. In his letter, George suggests that Canadians are people who \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. like to ask lots of questions      b. know a lot about Canada  
c. enjoy meeting other people      d. are happy to answer questions
4. George is writing to ask Cuihua \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. to help someone to find a place to live  
b. to show someone around Wuhan  
c. to meet some one at the bus station  
d. to help find a job

5. In the letter, George \_\_\_\_\_ of his friend.  
a. informs Cuihua of the name      b. doesn't mention the name  
c. mentions the address              d. mentions the salary
6. George isn't writing a long letter because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. he has already told her all his news  
b. he is extremely busy at work  
c. he is going to hear a talk about culture shock  
d. he thinks he has a serious case of culture shock
7. From the letter we know that George \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. has never been to foreign countries  
b. has just spent a few days in a very different culture  
c. has been to foreign countries for many times  
d. has just spent a long time in a very different culture
8. George \_\_\_\_\_ what 'reverse culture shock' means.  
a. asks Cuihua to explain      b. asks the speaker to explain  
c. explains to Cuihua              d. doesn't know
9. \_\_\_\_\_ is experiencing reverse culture shock.  
a. Cuihua      b. Mary Ann      c. Nobody      d. George
10. How would you describe this letter?  
a. Formal      b. Unhappy      c. Business-like      d. Familiar

## 2. The Man Who Missed the Plane

James wrote a play for television, about an immigrant family who came to England from Pakistan, and the problems they had settling down in England. The play was surprisingly successful, and it was bought by an American TV company.

James was invited to go to New York to help with the production. He lived in Dulwich, which is an hour's journey away from Heathrow. The flight was due to leave at 8.30 a.m., so he had to be at the airport about 7.30 in the morning. He ordered a mini-cab for 6.30, set his alarm for 5.45, and went to sleep. Unfortunately he forgot to wind the clock, and it stopped shortly after midnight. also the driver of the mini-cab had to work very late that night and overslept.

James woke with that awful feeling that something was wrong. He looked at his alarm clock. It stood there silently, with the hands pointing to ten past twelve. He turned on the radio and discovered that it was, in fact, ten to nine. He swore quietly and switched on electric kettle.

He was just pouring the boiling water into the teapot when the nine o'clock pips sounded on the radio. The announcer began to read the news ... "reports are coming in of a crash near Heathrow Airport. A Boeing 707 bound for New York crashed shortly after taking off this morning. Flight number 2234 ..." James turned pale.

"My flight," he said out loud. "If I hadn't overslept I'd have been on that plane."

### Comprehension Exercises

#### I. Multiple Choice:

1. Jame's play was about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. an immigrant family who came to the United State from Pakistan
  - b. the problems they had settling down in England
  - c. an immigrant family who came from Pakistan to England
  - d. both b and c
2. They invited him to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. hold trade talks
  - b. give a lecture on his play
  - c. help with the production
  - d. play the title-role in his play
3. He had to wake up at \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. 6:30
  - b. 5:45
  - c. 8:30
  - d. 7:30
4. When he found he was late for the flight \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. he heated up some waters
  - b. he ordered his breakfast
  - c. he read the newspapers
  - d. he corrected his clock

5. James turned pale because \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. he had great pain in his stomach
  - b. he heard a terrible airplane crash
  - c. he got same bad news about his parents
  - d. he saw a big viper

**II. True or False:**

- 1. James expected the play to be successful.
- 2. An American TV Cocompany bought the play.
- 3. His alarm clock stopped because his wife forgot to wind it.
- 4. The first item on the news was an aviation accident.
- 5. Boeing 707 was the plane James missed.

### 3. Cher Ami

The dove (a member of the pigeon family) is known as a symbol of gentleness and peace. But strangely enough, pigeons played an important part in war. During World War I every army had a corps of trained homing pigeons. The courageous pigeons were often cited in official dispatches. Many of them won the "ring of honor."

One of these was a Yankee bird with a French name, Cher Ami, which means "dear friend." Cher Ami was a bird who stepped (or flew) right into the pages of human history. In fact, he won the Distinguished Service Cross.

A battalion of the U.S. Army in France will always be known as the Lost Battalion. The men were lost in the Argonne Forest. No one knew their whereabouts. They were starving and without ammunition. They were surrounded by the enemy, and all means of communication were cut off. There was little hope for them—unless one undersized, defenseless bird could make his way through the bullets, gas, and smoke that lay between him and his pigeon house.

Cher Ami reached home and delivered the message. Planes went out to drop food and ammunition to the marooned men. With their strength renewed and with fresh supplies of ammunition, the Lost Battalion fought through the enemy lines. They reached their own army, thanks to Cher Ami.

Cher Ami, stuffed and mounted, now stands in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. There is a scar on his breast, made by a German bullet. One leg is gone, cut off by another bullet. This happened during a later flight, but even then Cher Ami reached his own post. He lived to return to his native land, and became the most honored of all American "homers."

#### Comprehension Exercises

##### I. Multiple Choice:

1. During World War I every army trained pigeons for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. searching for lost Army men
  - b. enjoying soldiers at victory meetings
  - c. eating pigenos' meat
  - d. carrying messages
2. A battalion of the U.S. Army in France will always be known as the lost Battalion because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. all the soldiers of that were not back
  - b. no one knew their whereabouts

- c. they were out of contact with the higher authorities
- d. they were almost lost but they were saved by the pigeon Cher Ami
- 3. Cher Ami was \_\_\_\_\_ during a later fight.
  - a. killed by an enemy bullet
  - b. seriously wounded by enemy bullets
  - c. lost in the Argonne Forest
  - d. both b and c
- 4. Now Cher Ami is stored up in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the Smithsonian Institution
  - b. Yale University
  - c. Harvard University
  - d. New York University
- 5. Giving a pigeon's the "ring of honor" was the same as giving a soldier's  
a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. parade
  - b. rifle
  - c. medal
  - d. citation

II. True or False:

- 1. The name Cher Ami means "dear fellow".
- 2. Pigeons played an important part in war because it brings people peace.
- 3. Pigeons will carry messages to any receiving station.
- 4. Cher Ami once saved an army battalion by delivering the message.
- 5. A pigeon that can send messages is called a carrier pigeon.

## 4.Soccer

There they go —— a pack of maybe forty kids —— whooping and hollering and kicking at that black and white ball. There doesn't seem to be any teamwork going on. In fact there aren't even any goals. But those kids are out there every day after school —— running and kicking at that ball —— maybe hoping to be soccer stars someday.

Soccer has had a slow start in America. In fact the majority of schools still have no official soccer teams or coaches. But the blossoming popularity of the game cannot be denied. Thanks to the efforts of soccer stars like world-famous Pele, soccer is soon to have its place in American Culture.

Although soccer has enjoyed decades of popularity elsewhere, it was literally ignored in America. Instead, a variation of the game called "football" was most popular in the U.S. and still is to this day. But the obvious advantages of playing soccer instead will soon win even the most avid football enthusiasts.

For one thing, soccer is much safer game to play than football. No one deliberately tries to knock an opponent down in soccer. In fact, the players are discouraged from even touching each other. In football, the whole point of the game is to knock the person with the ball down and keep him down. This often results in severe injuries and, sometimes, even in the unfortunate death of a player.

Soccer is a game that requires skill and dexterity in controlling the ball. Since no one may use hands to do this, soccer players soon acquire incredible control of their heads, knees, and feet. Football, on the other hand, requires more brute strength and speed than it does skill and dexterity.

If you are an interested spectator rather than a player, you'll find that soccer can be more fun to watch since the ball is continuously visible —— which is not the case with football. In football, part of the strategy of the game is to keep the ball well hidden as much of the time as possible.

When considering the number of teams and leagues that have recently appeared because of soccer, there's no doubt that soccer will soon be one of America's most popular sports.

### Comprehension Exercises

#### I. True or False:

1. The majority of schools in America have official soccer teams.
2. Soccer players must have skill in controlling the ball.
3. In football, the ball must be continuously visible.

4. Soccer can be more fun to watch than football.
5. Players are discouraged from touching each other in football.
6. Soccer has enjoyed decades of popularity in America.
7. For players, soccer is safer than football.
8. The forty kids didn't make any goals, but they had good teamwork.
9. Soccer has now become more popular than football in America.
10. Playing football often results in severe injuries.

## 5. Who Is Uncle Sam?

"Uncle Sam," of course, stands for the United States. It is the nickname of the country. It is hard to believe that this nickname arose quite by accident and there actually was a man called "Uncle Sam." However, not many people have ever heard of such a man. Not even most young Americans.

The man was called "Uncle Sam" Wilson. He was born in Arlington, Mass., September 13, 1766. At the age of 14 Sam enlisted in the American Revolutionary War and served in the Continental army under George Washington until the end of the war. He then moved to Troy, New York State, and began a meat-packing business. In the year of 1812, war broke out between the United States and Great Britain. On October 2 that year, a group of visitors came to Sam's meat-packing plant. Among them was Governor Daniel Tompkins of New York State. He noticed the initials EAUS on the barrels of the meat and asked what they stood for. A workman replied that EA stood for Elbert Anderson, the contractor for whom Sam worked. And he added jokingly that US (actually an abbreviation for the United States) stood for "Uncle Sam" Wilson.

In May 1813, this story appeared in a newspaper published in New York. Since "Uncle Sam" was a popular man and was an example of hard-working and patriotic American, the idea of Uncle Sam as a name for this kind of man caught on rapidly.

By the end of the War of 1812 "Uncle Sam" had come to symbolize the character of the nation and the government. "Uncle Sam" has since become the nickname of the United States. In 1961, the U S Congress adopted a resolution saluting "Uncle Sam" Wilson as the "progenitor of America's national symbol."

### Comprehension Exercises

#### Multiple choice:

- Uncle Sam represents \_\_\_\_\_.
  - the United States
  - the United Kingdom
  - the United Nations
  - France
- There was actually a man called "Uncle Sam". His name was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Wilson
  - William
  - Nilson
  - Johnson
- He was born in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1676
  - 1766
  - 1667
  - 1767
- He enlisted in the American Revolutionary War in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 1780
  - 1708
  - 1870
  - 1770
- He moved to Troy, New York State \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. before the war                      b. during the war  
c. after the war ended              d. in 1780
6. The war between the U. S. and Great Britain broke out in \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. 1821    b. 1766    c. 1812    d. 1676
7. The story about initials EAUS on the barrel of the meat appeared in a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. newspaper    b. fillm    c. play    d. book
8. Elbert Anderson was \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. the governer of New York State  
b. the contractor of a meat-packing plant  
c. a workman  
d. a newsman
9. The idea of Uncle Sam as a name for the hard-working and patriotic Americans caught on vapidly, because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Uncle Sam was admired by people  
b. Uncle Sam worked very hard  
c. Uncle Sam loved his country very much  
d. All of above
10. From the whole passage we can see that Uncle Sam was the nickname of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. American nation                      b. American government  
c. American people                      d. All of above