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任文阁 主编

步步高

英语阅读步步高 (中级)

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内 容 简 介

本书是《英语阅读步步高》系列丛书的第二册，内容包括英美风情、科普文选和最新科技三部分，共 80 篇文章。这些文章取材广泛，内容健康。读者阅读本书既可提高英语水平，又可增长知识，可谓一举两得。

本书适用于具有中级英语水平的大学生或英语基础较好的中学生，也可供广大英语爱好者阅读。

前 言

《英语阅读步步高》是《英语看图作文步步高》的姊妹篇。全书共三册，每册分为若干专题，内容涵盖寓言故事、幽默集锦、知识小品、英美风情、科普文选、最新科技、时文选读、议论文选、散文精萃等。

本丛书在内容和结构编排上充分体现“步步高”的特点：

初级部分（第一册）的文章篇幅短小，文字浅显易懂。考虑到读者的情况，该部分的每篇短文后均列有生词表，加注音标和汉语词义，对文中的难句也加了注释。

中级部分（第二册）的文章取材广泛，内容健康。每篇文章后也列有生词表，但略去音标部分，只注汉语意义；注释部分重点在于短语和难句的翻译。

高级部分（第三册）的内容分为时文、议论文、散文三部分。时文选读部分均系英文原著，内容新颖，贴近现实生活；议论文多系名作，观点鲜明，论证透彻；散文取材偏重于景物描写，亦有托物寓志、礼赞抒怀的文章，每篇文章后略去生词，仅对文章中的若干难句加以注释。

阅读是提高英语水平的重要途径。本书试图通过这种阶梯式编排，使读者由浅入深、循序渐进地培养阅读能力，提高英语水平，同时也可使读者拓展思路，开阔视野。

由于编者水平有限，成书仓促，书中错误和不足之处敬请读者批评指正。

任文阁

1999.8.1

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英 美 风 情

New York City

New York City is the largest city in the United States and one of the largest in the world. Facing the Atlantic, it is on the northeastern coast of the United States, and most of the city is built on islands^①. It is one of the world's most important centers of finance, industry and culture. In some ways New York City seems to belong to the entire world. Both the Statue of Liberty and the United Nations are located here^②. The giant lady with a torch in hand has been welcoming people from many countries for a hundred years. Leaders from all over the world have been working together at the United Nations since 1952.

Located at the mouth of the Hudson River, New York City is the busiest port of the country. It handles 35% of the country's international shipping and can handle more ships than any other port in the world. Every day hundreds of ships bring in oil, sugar, coffee, tea, fruit, paper and many other pro-



ducts^③. New York also ships wheat, flour, cars, machines, and many kinds of ready-made goods to other ports in the country and in the world. The city produces nearly a quarter of the country's total manufactures. The center of New York's business world is Wall Street, whose influence is felt by the whole nation and probably by countries everywhere in the world^④.

New York is an exciting city. Splendid is the architecture of Manhattan, the heart of the city, with its one hundred and more skyscrapers^⑤. The most famous among them are the Empire State Building, the United Nations Headquarters and the World Trade Center^⑥. The materials used — copper, steel, concrete and glass — give the buildings a striking beauty. Nearly all the streets are in straight lines running from east to west. Those running from north to south are called avenues. The streets and avenues are lined with many expensive stores and huge apartment houses.

New Words

northeastern *a.* 东北的

coast *n.* 海岸

finance *n.* 金融

culture *n.* 文化

statue *n.* 雕像

liberty *n.* 自由

giant *a.* 巨大的

torch *n.* 火炬

flour *n.* 面粉

ready-made *a.* 现成的, 做好的

port *n.* 港口

manufacture *n.* 产品
 influence *n.* 影响
 architecture *n.* 建筑
 Manhattan *n.* 曼哈顿
 skyscraper *n.* 摩天大楼
 empire *n.* 帝国
 headquarters *n.* 总部
 copper *n.* 铜
 concrete *n.* 混凝土
 striking *a.* 引人注目的
 avenue *n.* 大街
 apartment *n.* 公寓

Notes

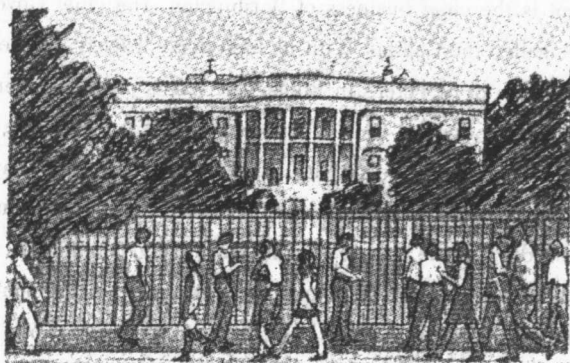
- ① Facing the Atlantic... is built on islands. 这座城市(纽约)位于美国东北海岸,面对大西洋,大部分建在岛上。Facing the Atlantic为现在分词短语作状语。
- ② Both the Statue of Liberty... are located here. 自由女神像和联合国(总部)都设在这里。be located 位于,坐落于。
- ③ Every day hundreds of ships... and many other products. 每天有数以百计的船只运进石油、食糖、咖啡、茶叶、水果、纸张以及其他许多产品。hundreds of 数以百计的; bring in 引进,带人。
- ④ The center of New York's business world... everywhere in the world. 纽约的商业中心是华尔街,全国甚至很可能全世界都感受到它的影响。Wall Street 华尔街,美国金融中心,也是世界金融中心之一。
- ⑤ Splendid is... and more skyscrapers. 这座城市拥有一百多栋摩

天大楼,其中心曼哈顿岛上的建筑华丽无比。这是一个倒装句,因为表语太短,故将其提前以保持句子结构的平衡。正常语序为:*The architecture of Manhattan...is splendid.*

- ⑥ *The most famous among them...and the World Trade Center.* 其中最著名的有帝国大厦、联合国总部以及世界贸易中心。

Washington D.C.

When you hear people talk about Washington D.C., you may want to know what the letters D.C. mean. They mean "District of Columbia". Washington, the capital city of the U.S.A., is in the District of Columbia, not, as you might expect, in the State of Washington. Washington State is thousands of miles away on the north-west coast. (There are also several other towns called Washington in the United States.)



Washington D.C. lies between Virginia and Maryland on the Potomac River. It's about 220 miles south of New York City. The pleasantest and easiest way to get there is by long-distance bus, or by the fast (125-miles-an-hour) train which costs a little more than the bus journey and a little less than flying. I would travel far more than 200 miles to see Washington. It's not a city that has grown up^① accidentally as most big cities have done. It was carefully planned as the

nation's capital by a Frenchman, Pierre L'Enfant. The city was named after George Washington^②, the much-loved, much-admired, much-respected first President of the United States. In 1791 he himself arranged to buy the land on which it stands.


Now let's take our first look at the capital. For a few moments you may feel you are dreaming and that you are in another country long ago. You have stepped back through the centuries into ancient Greece. Many of the beautiful, shining white buildings are built in the noble style of^③ the ancient Greek temples, and stand in wide avenues amid trees and fountains. Most of them are museums or Government offices. Government is the chief business of Washington. The chief Government building is called the Capital. With its high dome it looks a little like St Paul's in London or St Peter's in Rome^④. It stands on a hill overlooking the city, which is divided by Rock Creek Park^⑤. A long wide avenue called the Mall leads to the Capitol. At the other end of this avenue a tall, white, needle-like building points to the sky. This is, of course, the highest "needle" in the world! — the Washington Monument.

On both sides of the Mall are museums and Government buildings. What a surprise this city is! Washington and New York seem to be in two different worlds. Here there are no huge office skyscrapers and so it's not necessary to lean backwards to look up all the time. Then there is the Washington Cathedral which looks very like a cathedral in an old European city. Of course, as in any other big city, parts of Washington are not so pleasant. There are narrow dirty little streets and ugly houses. But there are many splendid things to see and, because Washington covers such a wide area, the easiest way to see them is to take a special sightseeing bus. Go to the Visitors' Bureau where you will get all

the advice you need. But don't expect the guides on the buses to give you a very serious talk.

On one tour, I remember, the guide told us: "That's the Washington Monument, folks," (people here are often addressed as^⑥ "folks"). "It's the highest 'needle' of its kind in the world." And then he added, "At least, I don't know a higher one!"

This is the city where America remembers her famous Presidents. The guide will take you to see the memorials to them. The Jefferson Memorial is a very beautiful white building in the shape of^⑦ a circle. Its roof is supported by tall columns. Inside stands a statue of President Jefferson. The Lincoln Memorial is a huge white building. Inside you can see a famous statue of Abraham Lincoln, sitting in a great chair. The theatre where he was murdered while watching a play is now a museum, the Lincoln Museum. Then there is the memorial to President Kennedy at Arlington. Here a flame which was lit on the day of his funeral burns and is never put out^⑧. Like Lincoln, Kennedy was shot.


accidentally *ad.* 突然地, 意外地

shining *a.* 耀眼的, 发光的

noble *a.* 高雅的

fountain *n.* 喷泉, 喷水池

the Capital 美国国会大厦

cathedral *n.* 大教堂

folk *n.* 伙计, 老乡

memorial *n.* 纪念馆

flame *n.* 火焰

funeral *n.* 葬礼

Notes

- ①grow up 成长,发展
- ②be named after George Washington. 以乔治·华盛顿的名字命名。
- ③in the style of... 按……的式样
- ④St. Paul's 圣保罗大教堂; St. Peter's 圣彼得大教堂
- ⑤Rock Creek Park 石湾公园。天然公园,面积达 1800 英亩。
- ⑥be addressed as 被称作……
- ⑦in the shape of 呈……的形状
- ⑧put out 熄灭