

Extensive Reading

大学基础阶段

英语泛读课本

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前 言

本书是受湘、鄂、豫英语教学研究会委托，为大专院校英语专业基础阶段编写的泛读教材，也可供英语基础较好的其它专业学生或具有高中毕业程度以上自学者使用。

本书分八册，即每学期二册。前四册共25万字左右（不含注解和练习），后四册共30万字左右，在阅读数量上可基本满足基础阶段两年泛读课堂教学（不包括快速阅读训练）的需要。阅读速度与单元划分，由任课教师根据课时安排与学生实际能力自行规定。要求学完第八册以后，学生能基本看懂英语国家出版的中等难度文学原著（如 *The Moon Is Down*）、报刊文章和史地、科技等其他读物。为了培养学生良好阅读习惯和准确理解能力，并便于在阅读过程中吸收语言知识、全面打好语言基础，我们对前四册，特别是第一、二册的难度作了适当控制。

在选材方面，本书一律采用浅易或中等难度原文；除注意保留了一些多年实践证明教学效果较好的材料以外，力求做到题材与体裁的多样化，确保思想内容健康、语言现代化、规范化。第一至四册以反映一般生活的故事、小说为主，知识性材料为辅，第五册至第八册增加了国际政治、文化科技知识等材料的比例。

本书的注解，是以交代背景知识为主，包括人名、地名的注音和标准译名以及少量难句翻译。常用单词短语一般不注，由学生查阅字典，培养其独立工作能力。多数语言难点留给教师课堂讲解。

练习的目的是为了检查学生对所学内容的理解情况。练习形式有两种：即检查对课文大意、基本观点与基本事实理解情况的综合性问答题 (Global questions) 和检查对课文中某个具体事实、具体论点以及语言含义理解情况的局部性问答题 (Local questions), 后者分别采用正误题 (True/false questions) 或多项选择题 (Multiple-choice questions) 的形式。

本书的编写, 受到了中国英语教学研究会秘书长丁往道教授、湘、鄂、豫英语教学研究会负责人武汉大学潘耀皞教授、洛阳外国语学院朱树颀教授和湖南师范大学周定之教授的热情支持和鼓励, 谨致谢意。

编 者

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1. THE 1,000,000 BANK-NOTE

(adapted)

By *Mark Twain

When I was twenty-seven years old, I was a mine-owner's clerk in *San Francisco. I was alone in the world and had nothing to depend upon.

On Saturdays, my time was my own after lunch, and I was accustomed to spend it on a little boat on the bay. One day, I went too far, and was carried out to sea. When it was getting dark and hope was about gone, I was picked up by a cargo ship which was on its way to London. The sailors were very friendly to me. They made me work on the ship as a common sailor so that I could live and eat with them without paying anything. It was a long journey. When I got to London, my clothes were ragged, and I had only a dollar in my pocket. This money lasted me twenty-four hours. During the next twenty-four, I went without

Mark Twain 马克·吐温 (1835—1910)：美国杰出的批评现实主义作家，著有《汤姆·索耶历险记》和《哈克贝利·费恩历险记》等小说。

San Francisco 圣弗朗西斯科 (旧金山) (美国西海岸大城市)

food.

About ten o'clock the following morning, hungry and tired, I was walking aimlessly on the street, when a child threw a piece of cake on the ground. I stopped, of course, and anxiously stared at it. My mouth watered for it, my stomach urged me to reach down for it. But every time I made a move to get it, some passing eye seemed to have discovered my purpose, and of course I kept myself back and looked indifferent as if I hadn't been thinking about the cake at all. This same thing kept happening and happening, and I could not get the cake. I was just getting desperate enough to brave all the shame and to snatch it, when a window behind me was raised, and a gentleman spoke out of it, saying:

"Step in here, please."

I was admitted by a colorfully-dressed servant. After closing the door, he turned back and said, without looking at me:

"Allow me to lead the way, sir."

I was led into a splendid room, where a couple of old gentlemen were sitting. They sent away the servant and made me sit down. They had just finished their breakfast, and the food left on the table made my mouth water, but as I was not asked to eat it, I had to take my eyes off it and try to look as if I were not at all interested in it.

Now, I must tell you something that I did not know

about at that time, but you have to know now in order to have a better understanding of the situation I was in. The two gentlemen were brothers. They had been having a rather hot argument a couple of days before, and had ended by agreeing to decide it by a bet, which is the English way of settling everything.

You will remember that *the Bank of England once issued two notes of a million pounds each, to be used for a special purpose connected with some business with a foreign country. For some reason or other only one of these had been used and cancelled; the other one was still kept in the *safe of the Bank. Well, the brothers happened to get to wondering what might be the result if that million-pound bank-note should fall in the hand of an honest and intelligent stranger who was alone in London, without a friend, with no money but that million-pound note and no way to account for how he had got it. Brother A said he would starve to death; Brother B said he wouldn't. Brother A said he couldn't offer it at a bank or anywhere else, because he would be arrested on the spot. Brother B said the man would live thirty days, anyway, and keep out of prison, too. So they went on disputing till they agreed to bet twenty thousand pounds. Brother B then went down to

the Bank of England 英格兰银行; 英国的中央银行,
国家垄断资本金融企业。

safe n. 保险箱

the Bank and bought that note. Just like an English man, you see. Then he wrote a letter and put the million-pound note in an envelope with it. Then the two brothers sat at the window a whole day, watching for the right man to give it to.

They saw many people pass by. Some were honest but not intelligent enough; some were intelligent but not honest enough; some were both honest and intelligent but not poor enough, or, if poor enough, were not strangers. There was always some shortcoming till I came along. They both agreed I was the very man they had expected, so they elected me. That was why I had been called in.

Now, they began to ask me questions about myself, and very soon they had my story. Finally they told me they would like me to do something for them. I said I was sincerely glad and asked what it was. Then one of them handed me an envelope and said I would find the explanation inside. I was going to open it, but he said:

"No, take it to your place and look it over carefully. Don't be in such a hurry."

So I had to put it in my pocket, and left them, feeling quite hurt to be made part of what was apparently some kind of a joke and yet I had to do what they asked of me, not being in a position to refuse rich and strong folk like them.

I would have picked up the cake now, and eaten it.

before all the world, but it was gone. So I became more angry with those two old brothers. As soon as I walked down the street, I opened the envelope and found that it contained a bank-note! My opinion of those two old gentlemen changed at once. I did not lose a moment. I put the letter and the money in my pocket and ran into the nearest eating-house. Well, how I enjoyed myself! When at last I couldn't eat any more, I took out my money and unfolded it, took a look at it and nearly fainted. One million pounds—five millions of dollars! Why, it made my head swim.

I must have sat there motionless and looking at the note as much as a full minute before I recovered from the shock. The first thing I noticed, then, was the landlord. His mouth was wide open; his eyes were on the note; he looked as if he could not move hand or foot. I gave him the note and said carelessly:

"Give me the change, please."

Then he was restored to his normal condition, and made a thousand apologies for not being able to change it. I could never get him to touch it. He wanted to look at it, and kept on looking at it, he could not see enough of it, but he was so much afraid to touch it as if it were something too sacred for a poor common hand to handle. I said:

"I'm sorry if it is an inconvenience, but I haven't anything else. Please change it."

But he said it wasn't any matter; he was perfectly

willing to wait till another time when I came again. I said I might not come to his place again; but he said it was of no consequence at all, he could wait, and moreover I could have anything I wanted and pay him any time I chose. He said he could trust a gentleman as rich as I was, and he thought it an honour that I should have come to his little eating-house and played such a little joke on him.

Then he bowed me all the way to the door, and I started straight for the two old brothers to correct the mistake. I was pretty nervous, in fact badly frightened, though of course I was not to blame but I expected they would get very angry with me, instead of blaming their own carelessness as they should, when they found they had given a stranger a million-pound note when they thought it was a one-pound one. As I get near the house, I was surprised to find that the door was closed and all was quiet. This made me feel better; I was sure the mistake was not discovered yet. I rang. The same servant appeared. I asked for those gentlemen.

"They are gone."

"Gone? Gone where?"

"To *the Continent, I suppose."

"Which way——by what route?"

the Continent, Europe without the British Isles

"I can't say, sir,"

"When will they be back?"

"In a month, they said,"

"A month! Oh, too bad! Give me some idea of how to get a word to them. It's a matter of great importance."

"I can't, indeed, I've no idea where they have gone, sir."

"Then I must see some member of the family."

"Family is away too; been abroad months—in India or some other place, I think."

"Man, there has been a great mistake made. They'll be back before night. Will you tell them I've been here and that I'll keep coming till it's made right, and they needn't be afraid?"

"I'll tell them if they come back, but I am not expecting them. They said you would be here in an hour and ask to see them for something important, but I must tell you it's all right. You needn't be afraid. They'll be back on time and expect you."

So I had to give it up and go away. What a riddle it all was! They would be here "on time." What could that mean? Oh, the letter would explain, maybe. I had forgotten the letter; I got it out and read it. This is what it said:

"You are an intelligent and honest man, as one may see by your face. In this envelope you'll find a sum of money. It is lent to you for thirty days. Come back to us at the end of that time. I have a bet on you. If I win it, you

shall have any position in my power to give."

I hadn't the least idea what the bet was, nor whether harm or good was meant me. I went to a park and sat down to try to think it out, and to consider what I had best do.

At the end of an hour, my consideration boiled down to this:

Maybe those men mean me well, maybe they mean me ill: no way to decide that — let it go. They have got a bet, a game, a scheme or an experiment on me; no way to determine what it is — let it go. The rest of the matter is what to do with the note. If I ask the Bank of England to help me to find the owner of the note and return it to him, they'll do it for they know him. But they'll surely ask me how I have got it. Whether I tell them the truth or not, they will never believe me and they will have me arrested on the spot. If I bank it anywhere or borrow money on it, the result will be the same. I have got to carry this burden around until those men come back, whether I want to or not. The note is useless to me, as useless as a piece of waste-paper, yet I must take care of it and watch over it. I could not give it away, even if I should try, neither honest citizen nor highwayman would accept it or dare to have anything to do with it. Those brothers are safe. Even if I lose the note, or burn it, they are still safe, because they can stop payment and they will not lose a cent of it. But now, I have to suffer till the time when

they come back, and my only comfort and hope is that position I am promised if I help win the bet. I should like to get that position. Men of their sort have position in their power to give and it is worth having.

I got to thinking a good deal about my future position. My hopes began to rise high. Without doubt, the salary would be large. It would begin in a month; after that I should be all right. Pretty soon I was feeling better. By this time I was walking aimlessly in the street again. When I went past a tailor's shop I had a desire to get rid of the rags on me. Could I afford it? No, I had nothing in the world but a million pounds. So I forced myself to go on by. But soon I found myself standing before the shop again. I must have passed that shop back and forth six times during my mental struggle. At last, I decided to go in. I asked if they had any cheap ready-made clothes. The fellow I spoke to nodded his head towards another fellow, and gave me no answer. I went to the indicated fellow, and he indicated another fellow with his head, and no words. I went to him, and he said:

"Just a moment."

I waited till he was through with his work. Then he took me into a back room and from a pile of rejected clothes, he selected an old-fashioned suit for me. I put it on, not at all caring whether it became me. I was anxious to have it as long as it was new. I said:

"It would be very kind of you if you could wait some days for the money. I haven't any small change about me."

The fellow examined me from top to bottom with his eyes and said with a cold smile:

"Oh, you haven't? Well, of course, I didn't expect it. I'd only expect gentlemen like you to carry large change."

"My friend, you shouldn't judge a stranger always by the clothes he wears. I'm quite able to pay for this suit; I simply didn't wish to put you to the trouble of changing a large note."

He changed his tone a little at that, and said, still with something of an air:

"I didn't mean any particular harm, but as long as business is concerned, I might say it is not quite your affair to jump to the conclusion that we couldn't change the note that you might happen to carry. On the contrary, we can."

I handed the note to him and said:

"Oh, so much the better."

He received it with a smile, and then in the act of his taking a look at the note, this smile froze solid. He stood there holding the note, unable to speak or move. The shop-owner hurried over to see what was the matter, and asked:

"Well, what's the trouble?"

I said: "There isn't any trouble. I'm waiting for my change."

“Come, come, get him his change, Tod, get him his change.”

Tod cried out: “Get him his change! It’s easy to say, sir; but look at the note yourself.”

The shop-owner took a look, rushed to the pile of the best clothes and began to snatch it this way and that, talking all the time excitedly:

“Sell a millionaire such an unspeakable suit as that. Tod is a fool—a born fool. Always doing something like this. Drive every millionaire away from this place because he can’t tell a millionaire from a beggar. Ah, here’s the thing. Please get those things off, sir, and throw them in the fire. Do me the favour to put on this shirt and this suit. It’s just the thing, the very thing—rich, modest, made to order for a foreign prince; you may know him personally, sir, *His Highness Prince Halifax. There, there, look at that! Perfect, the whole thing! I never saw such a success in all my experience.”

I expressed my satisfaction.

“Quite right, sir, quite right; it’ll do for the time being, I’m bound to say. But wait till you see what we’ll get up for you on your own measurement. Come, Tod, book and pen. *Length of leg, 32’—” and so on. Before I could get in a word, he had ordered for me all sorts of clothing —

His Highness Prince Halifax 哈利法克斯亲王殿下
length of leg, 32’ 裤腿长32英寸

evening dresses, morning suits, full dresses, over-coats, shirts and so on. When I got a chance, I said:

"But my dear sir, I cannot afford the money unless you can wait indefinitely!"

"Indefinitely! It's a weak word, sir, a weak word. Eternally—that's the word, sir. Tod, rush these things through and send them to the gentleman's place without any waste of time. Let all other customers wait. One moment, sir, let me show you out. There—good day, sir, good day."

Well, after my experiences at the eating-house and the tailor's shop, don't you see what was bound to happen? I went here and there, buying whatever I wanted and asking for change. Within a week, I was equipped with all comforts and luxuries and was housed in a wonderful hotel. I took my dinners in the hotel, but for breakfast I went to Harris' eating-house, where I had got my first meal on my million-pound note. The news spread all over the city that the foreign millionaire who carried "rolls of million-pound notes in his pocket" was a regular customer of the place. That was enough. Overnight, Harris' shop became well-known and over-crowded with customers. Harris was so grateful to me that he insisted on lending money to me so that I might have small change for convenience. And so, though I was poor, I had enough money to spend and was living like the rich and the great.