

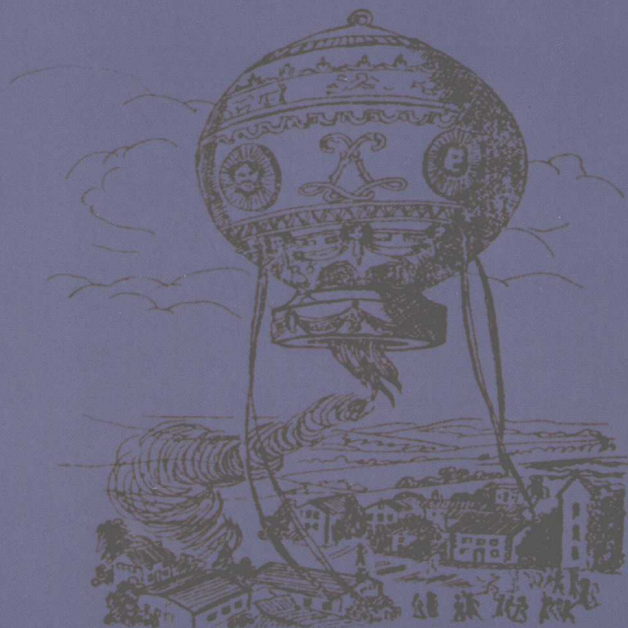
英语名篇阅读精选

中级版
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WHO DID IT FIRST

谁是首创者

- 英语名篇精选
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科学普及出版社

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英语名篇阅读精选

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前 言

英语界著名人士在谈及英语学习方法时，无不强调大量阅读的重要性。他们认为大量阅读是学习英语屡试不爽的好方法。大量阅读对于英语学习的作用，是其他任何形式的练习都无法达到的。在大量阅读中，已学过的词汇和句型多次复现，无需强记便能掌握它们。许多语言现象会在阅读中被自然而然地吸收，使英语水平在不知不觉中提高。即便是高考，也处处显示出阅读能力的重要。不仅是阅读理解题，其他题型也都是在读懂、读准的前提下才能回答正确。可以说，大量阅读是学好英语的必由之路。为配合教学改革，大力开展课外阅读，我们编选了这套“英语名篇阅读精选”，它具有以下特点：

一、本书由多年在重点中学工作的一线教师编著。他们教学经验丰富，熟悉教学大纲和中考、高考范围。书中斜体标出部分和所加注释都是初、高中应掌握的语言重点。

二、这套书是在进行教学改革、开展课外阅读的过程中，从大量英国出版的英语读物中筛选出来的。是历届学生非常喜欢的精典名篇，内容丰富，故事性强。“英语短文集锦”精选自以往的中学英语教材，体裁多样，文笔流畅。它们可使学生在兴趣盎然的阅读中接触新鲜、活泼、原汁原味的地道英语，不断提高学习英语的兴趣。

三、注释详尽，阅读方便；所加注释不仅针对该句本身，还有适当扩展；典型句型，斜体标出；重点词汇，另给例句。丛书分初级版（适合初中二、三年级学生阅读）、中级版（适合高中学生阅读），均按由易到难的顺序编排，有初一基础即可开始按序阅读。非常有利于提高学生的自学能力。对家中无条件辅导和师资缺乏地区的学生更为适宜。

新的教学理念，最重要的就是要教给学生一个终身受益的学习方法。参加本套丛书编注的老师，每送一届毕业班，都会收到学生的大量来信。几乎所有来信中都提到，由于在高中掌握了科学的学习方法，很快就能适应大学的学习，而且在大学阶段的英语学习中仍然游刃有余。其中不少人，在英语竞赛、四、六级考试、TOFEL 和 GRE 考试中的成绩名列前茅。丛书主编的教改经验于 2002 年 3 月在中央电视台播出后，已在多所学校推广，均收到明显效果。

开始阅读，每天所用时间不要多，但贵在坚持，绝不能一曝十寒，也不能只限于一套丛书。内容要不断扩展，难度要不断增加。更要讲究方法，注意精读和泛读相结合，每篇文章至少读两遍。大量阅读会读出自信、读出奇效。愿这套丛书的出版，能对莘莘学子更快、更好地掌握英语有较大帮助。

编者水平所限，错误难免，敬请读者指正。

编 者

2007 年 10 月

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MAN'S ABILITIES¹

JAMES HEMMING

Man first appeared on earth half a million years ago. Then he was little *more than*² an animal; but early man had several big advantages³ over the animals. He had a large brain, he had an upright body, he had clever hands; and he had in his brain special groups of nerve cells, not present in animals⁴, which *enabled him to invent* a language and use it to *communicate with* his fellow men. This ability to speak was *of very great value*⁵ because it *allowed men to share* ideas, and to plan together, *so that* tasks impossible for a single person could be successfully

¹ 本文选自詹姆斯·赫明所著的 *Mankind against the Killers*。

² *more than* 表示一种比较，意思是“比……多”，但前面可以用适当的副词修饰，表示程度，例如：hardly more than 仅仅，不过是 little more than 几乎，不多于，只不过是 no more than 仅仅，不过是，不多于 rather more than 比……多得多

³ advantage [əd'vɑ:ntidʒ] *n.* 优点，长处 There are some advantages in city life. disadvantage [ˌdisəd'vɑ:ntidʒ] *n.* 不利，不利条件，损害，损失 His poor eyesight is a disadvantage to him. 视力不佳是他的弱点。

⁴ he had in his brain special groups of nerve cells, not present in animals 在人的大脑中有动物所没有的神经细胞群 present [ˈprezənt] *adj.* 存在的

⁵ This ability to speak was of very great value = ... was very valuable 这种说话能力有非常重大的意义。 of ... 表示具有…… be of great importance = be important, be of use = be useful, be of great help = be very helpful

undertaken by intelligent team-work¹. Speech also *enabled ideas to be passed on from generation to generation*² so that the *stock*³ of human knowledge slowly increased.

It was these special advantages that put men far ahead of all other living creatures in the struggle *for existence*⁴. They can use their intelligence against their difficulties and master them.

Since those far-off times⁵, when he first appeared, man has achieved *a great deal*. He has used animals, steam, electricity and oil to move himself more and more quickly *from place to place*. He has overcome rivers and seas with rafts, canoes, boats and ships of endless variety⁶.

¹ be successfully undertaken intelligent team-work 靠集体智慧完成 undertake *vt.* 承担, 承办 (undertook, undertaken) intelligent [in'telidʒənt] *adj.* 有智力的, 聪明的 intelligence *n.* 智慧, 聪明 (1) A dolphin is an intelligent animal. (2) The boy looks intelligent.

² from generation to generation 一代又一代

³ stock. *n.* 库存, 原料, 储备 the stock of human knowledge 人类知识宝库

⁴ in the struggle for existence 在争取生存的斗争中 existence [ig'zistəns] *n.* 存在, 实在, 存在物, 实在物 exist 是它的动词形式, 这个句子用的是 “It was ... that ...” 的强调句型, 强调的是 special advantages. ahead = in front or in advance, to put ... ahead of 是 “把……放在……前头”。

⁵ since those far-off times 从人类早期出现以来

⁶ He has overcome ... rafts, canoes, boats and ships of endless variety. 人类用各种各样的筏子、独木舟、小艇和轮船征服河流和海洋。variety [və'raɪəti] *n.* 种种, 多种多样 a variety of ... 种种的……, 形形色色的…… There are a wide variety of people on the earth. 地球上各种不同的人。

He mastered darkness, too, first with dim lights¹ and later with brighter and brighter lamps, until he can now make for himself so *dazzling*² a light with an arc-lamp that, like the sun, it is too strong for his *naked*³ eyes.

Man *found that* his own muscles were too weak for the work which he wanted to do; he explored many forms of power⁴ —wind, water, steam, electricity — until now he *has his hands on*⁵ the *ultimate* source of physical energy, the nuclear power which ties together the smallest units *from which all matter is made*.⁶

From man's earliest days the flight of birds has raised his wonder and desire⁷. Why should he not fly as they did? Then he began to experiment. At last he *learnt how to make* the right machines to carry him through the air. Now he can fly faster than sound.

¹ dim lights 微弱的火光

² dazzling *adj.* 眼花缭乱的, 耀眼的 arc-lamp *n.* 弧光灯

³ naked eyes 肉眼

⁴ many forms of power 许多形式的动力

⁵ ... until now he has his hands on the ultimate source of physical energy ... 人类已经亲自掌握了最大的物理能源 to have one's hands on ... 是亲自干预某事的意思。ultimate ['ʌltimit] *adj.* 最后的, 最终的, 根本的 (口语) 最大限度的, 最大的, 最高的 ultimate *n.* 最终

⁶ the nuclear power which ties together the smallest units from which all matter is made 把组成所有物质的最小单位都积聚在一起的核能

⁷ raised his wonder and desire ... 鸟类的翱翔引起了人类的好奇和向往。

Already he has plans for conquering¹ space, and *a series of*² experiments has been completed. *It will not be long* now before man takes a giant step away from this planet and visits the moon, learning what it is like to have no weight to his body, no upward direction and no downward

Communication also presented³ man with a problem. Not long ago in history even the most important message *took weeks to travel* from one country to another in written form or *by word of mouth*⁴; now a joke on a wireless programme *leaps across* the world *at a speed of*⁵ 186,000 miles a second. Sight has followed sound⁶: man can now *see things happening hundreds of* miles away at the very moment when they *occur*⁷.

¹ conquer ['kɒŋkə] *vt.* 征服, 击败 Our country was not conquered by the Japanese invaders. [in'veideɪ] *n.* 侵略者

² a series of ... 一系列……, 一连串的…… (1) There has been a series of car accidents at the crossing. (2) The writer has written a series of novels about the Qing Dynasty. (*n.* 清朝) 美国阿波罗 11 号已于 1969 年 7 月 16 日登上月球这说明作者的预见是很正确的。

³ Communication also presented man with a problem. 通讯也给人类带来一个问题。present ['pri:znt] *vt.* 向……提出, 交待, 赠送 (1) The report about dealing with the pollution should have been presented much sooner. (2) The headmaster (*n.* 校长) presented a diploma [di'pləʊmə] *n.* 毕业证 to each of the graduates.

⁴ by word of mouth 口头传达的方法

⁵ ...now a joke...a second. 即使是无线电里的一个笑话也以每秒 86 000 英里的速度传遍全世界。at a speed of 以……速度

⁶ sight followed sound 声音之后又有了图像。

⁷ occur [ə'ke:] *vi.* 发生, 出现

Man, always a *wanderer*¹, had to overcome the difficulty of *adapting himself to*² different climates. Fortunately, *in spite of*³ having no thick skin or warm fur to protect him, he is peculiarly strong *compared with*⁴ other living creatures. Most of them *are unable to live* far outside the region that suits them best⁵. Man, however, can go almost everywhere. You will *find him living* on the plains and up in the hills; he lives in damp areas and in dry; in the forests of the hot regions of the earth, and in snow huts in the Far North.

¹ wanderer ['wɒndərə] *n.* 流浪者, 徘徊者, 迷路的动物

² adapt [ə'dæpt] ... to ... 使……适应, 使……适合…… (1)The young lady could not adapt her way of life to the company. ... 生活方式不能适应公司的要求。 (2)The old man can not adapt himself to the cold climate in the northeast.

³ in spite of ... 不管……尽管…… (1)I went out in spite of the rain. 尽管下雨我还是出去了。 (2)In spite of her poor health, he goes on working every day.

⁴ compared with (to) 和……比较, 与……比较起来 (1)The girl is very tall compared with (to) her mother. (2)They have done a great deal of work compared with what they did last year.

⁵ ... the region that suits them best 大多数生物在远离最适应的地区以外的地方是不能生存的 region ['ri:dʒən] *n.* 地区, 地带

SOLIDS, LIQUIDS, AND GASES¹

SIR GEORGE PORTER, M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S.²

Most people would *describe water as*³ a colourless liquid. They would know that in very cold *conditions*⁴ it becomes a solid called ice, and that when heated on a fire it becomes vapour called steam. But water, they would say, is a liquid.

We have learned that water *consists of*⁵ *molecules composed of* two *atoms*⁶ of *hydrogen* and one atom of *oxygen*, which we describe by the *formula*⁷ H_2O . But this is *equally true of*⁸ the solid called ice and the gas called

¹ Solids, Liquids, and Gases 固体、液体和气体

² 乔治·波特爵士生于1920年，1955年任谢菲尔德大学物理化学教授。他曾在利兹大学和剑桥大学学习，担任过许多科学机构的职务。本文选自他1962年首次出版的 *Chemistry for the Modern World* 一书。

³ describe ... as ... 把……说成…… (1) In our daily life some people often describe themselves as important ones. (2) The singer described himself as a famous pop star.

⁴ condition [kən'diʃən] *n.* 条件, 情形

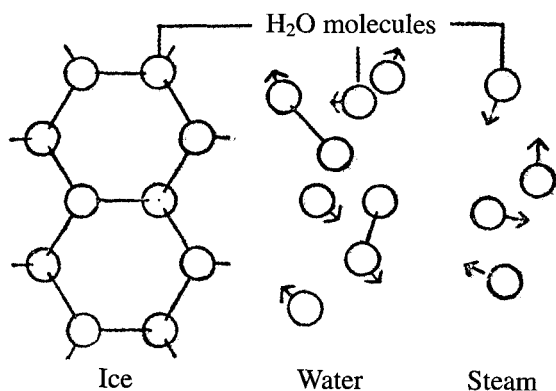
⁵ consist of *v.* 由……组成 molecule [mə'likju:l] *n.* [化] 分子 atom ['ætəm] *n.* 原子 hydrogen ['haɪdrədʒən] *n.* 氢, 氢气 oxygen ['ɒksɪdʒən] *n.* [化] 氧

⁶ molecules composed of ... = molecules which are composed of ... be composed of ... 由……组成

⁷ formula ['fɔ:mjulə] *n.* 分子式

⁸ be true of/ for ... 对……来说也是正确的/符合的/适宜的。substance ['sʌbstəns] *n.* 物质 What our teachers say about reading a lot in English study is true of everyone.

steam. Chemically there is no difference between the gas, the liquid, and the solid, *all of which are made up of* molecules with the formula H_2O . And this *is true of* other chemical substances; most of them can exist as gases or as liquids or as solids. We may normally *think of iron as* a solid¹, but if we heat it in a *furnace*² it will melt and become a liquid, and at very high temperatures it will become a gas. We normally *think of air as* a mixture of gases, but at very low temperatures it becomes a liquid, and at lower temperatures still it becomes a white solid.



Nothing very *permanent*³ occurs when a gas *changes into* a liquid or a solid. Everyone knows that ice,

¹ think of sth. as... 把……看作…… think of... 的意思是 consider. He thinks of himself as a common soldier. (把自己看成是普通一兵)

² furnace ['fə:nis] n. 炉子, 熔炉

³ permanent ['pə:mənənt] adj. 永久的, 持久的 (1) I have a permanent job here. (2) People all over the world love permanent peace. permanently adv. Will you live here permanently?

which has been made by freezing water, can be melted again *by being warmed*; and that steam can be *condensed*¹ on a cold surface to become liquid water. *In fact* it is only because water is *such a familiar substance that* different names are used for the solid, liquid, and gas. For other substances we have to describe these different states directly. Thus for air we talk about liquid air and solid air. We could also talk about *gaseous*² air, but, since this is the normal thing, we usually just *describe it as* air.

What, then, do *we mean when* we say that water is a liquid, air is a gas, and salt is a solid? We mean *nothing more than* that this is the usual condition of things on our earth³. On one of the outer planets all three substances would be solids, and on the sun all three would be gases. Most substances are only *familiar to*⁴ us in one state, because the temperatures required to *turn them into* gases are very high, or the temperatures necessary to turn them

¹ condense [kən'dens] *vi.* 浓缩, 凝结 (气体) 变成液体 [固体]

² gaseous ['gæsiəs] *adj.* 气体的, 气态的

³ We mean nothing more than that ... on our earth. 我们只是说这是地球上一些物质的通常状态而已。此句中的 *nothing more than* 意思是 *no more than*; *just the same as* 可译作: “只不过是, 不外是, 简直是”等。

⁴ *be familiar to* ... = *be well known to* ... (为……所知) 但要注意主语不同时, 该词用不同的短语; *be familiar with* ... (某人) 熟悉……精通……的, 通晓……的 (1) *I am not familiar with the names of plants.* (2) *He is more familiar with pop music than I.* *be familiar to* ... (某事) 世所周知的, 熟悉的, 看惯的, 听惯的, 耳熟的 (1) *His name is familiar to me, but I haven't met him yet.* (2) *These tales (n. 故事) are familiar to Chinese children.*

into solids are so low. Water is an exception in this respect,¹ which is another *reason why* its three states have been given three different names.

The fact that a liquid like water can *be changed to* solid ice and back again to water, just *by changing* the temperature, would *lead us to suppose that* the very strong bonds between the atoms in the H₂O molecules² have not been greatly changed, and examination of water, ice, and steam shows that this is true, and that all of them *consist of* H₂O molecules. The difference between these three different forms of water lies simply in the arrangement of the H₂O molecules or their position *with respect to* each other³.

¹ Water ... in this respect. 在这方面，水是一个例外 exception [ik'sepʃən] n. 例外，破例 I don't drink, but today is an exception. respect [ri'spekt] n. 方面，细节

² the very strong bonds between the atoms in the H₂O molecules H₂O 分子中原子间极强的键

³ The difference ... the arrangement of the H₂O molecules or their position with respect to each other. 水的三种不同形态间的差别仅在于分子的排列不同，或者是它们彼此间的相对位置有所不同而已。with respect to ... 关于……，就……而言 With respect to that question, our manager has already given his idea.

WHO DID IT FIRST



Jenner and Smallpos¹

*There used to be*² an Old English word, *pocc*³, which meant a bad place on a person's skin. Later this word was written *pock*⁴. And when people saw *a lot of* these round marks, they called them *pocks* (*pox*)⁵.

Several different illnesses could and can *cause marks*

¹ Jenner ['dʒenə] 詹纳(1749-1842)英国医师, 牛痘接种法发明者
smallpox ['smɔ:lɒks] *n.* 天花

² used to do ... 过去常(做……)/used to be ... 过去存在的状态 (1)There used to be a big tree in front of my house. (2)He used to get up early when he was very young.

³ pocc [pɒk] *n.* (古)痘疱, 痘痕, 麻子

⁴ pock [pɒk] *n.* 痘疱, 痘痕, 麻子

⁵ pocks *n.* (pock 的复数形式)

*of this kind to appear*¹ on the skin, and one of the worst, perhaps *the worst of all*, is called smallpox. The marks themselves are not very serious, but they are signs of a very serious illness indeed. Smallpox was quite common² in the past, and caused *millions of* deaths. It was worst in Asia and Africa, but it was *bad enough* in Europe. Two million people *died of* smallpox³ in Russia in one year. One person easily caught it from another⁴, and when he had caught it the doctors could do very little to help him⁵.

Although smallpox was very serious, it did not always kill the sufferer⁶. *It was then noticed that* anyone who had had smallpox once never caught it again. So, if a person caught smallpox and did not die, he *felt quite safe from it in the future*⁷, although the pockmarks usually

¹ cause + *n.* + to do ... 引起……干/做…… cause + *n.* 引起…… (1)What has caused you to cry here? (2)In our daily life sometimes a small matter (一件小事) can cause you to argue (*vi.* 争论, 辩论) with your friends about it for some time. (3)In the past smallpox caused millions of deaths.

² common ['kɒmən] *adj.* 常见的, 普通的 common sense 常识

³ ... died of smallpox 死于天花 (1)His father died of illness. Every year many people die from the traffic accidents. die of 常指死于内因 die from 一般指死于外因, 指死于某种具体的疾病, 两个短语可通用。例如: The old man died of /from the lung cancer.

⁴ ... caught it from another 从别人那里很容易传染上天花

⁵ ... the doctors could do very little to help him. 医生对他简直束手无策

⁶ sufferer *n.* 患者

⁷ ... he felt quite safe from it in the future...他就感到安全将来不会再出天花了。be safe from ... 未受到……的危险 (1)Our house is safe from floods. 我们家没有遭水淹的危险。(2)In the bus accident, some passengers were safe from the injury (*n.* 伤害, 损害) caused by the driver.