

# STAGE ENGLISH READING — FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

- Improve your reading
- Enlarge your vocabulary
- Excite your interests

## 大学英语分级读物

丁 琪 彭金定 杨昌英 编

中南工业大学出版社

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## 前 言

近几年来，全国高等院校非英语专业贯彻执行《大学英语教学大纲》，对学生实行了分级教学，定期统考。为了帮助同学们在有限的时间内学好英语，增长知识，提高能力，在全国统考中取得好成绩，我们特编写了《大学英语分级读物》一书，奉献给那些正在勤奋攻读的大学生，也奉献给广大的业余英语爱好者们。

本书贯彻由浅入深，循序渐进的编写原则，全书分一二、三篇。词汇量以《大学英语教学大纲》为依据，对那些超纲且根据上下文无法猜测的偏词、难词加注中文。

本书选材尽量考虑到知识性、趣味性，并特别注重对学生理解能力的培养。每篇文章后配有练习题，旨在训练学生的推理、判断和概括能力，同时也有少量的词汇和结构题以帮助巩固所学的语言知识。

本书编排力求新颖，富有吸引力。每篇文章前配有精心挑选、力求与文章内容相关联的英文谚语和少量格言。习题后有猜谜语或小幽默一节，旨在寓教于乐，训练同学们用英语进行有趣的形象思维与逻辑思维。

为了便于同学们自学，我们在每篇的文选后面附有该篇所有英文谚语和格言的译文，习题的参考答案以及谜语的谜底。

这里要特别提到的是，本书原文大多选自国内外出版的各

种语言教科书、读物和杂志。除大部份经过改编外，还有少部份未作改动。在此，我们谨向所有为本书提供了选材的出版社与作者表示衷心感谢。

由于时间匆促，水平有限，书中缺点错误在所难免，敬请专家和读者批评指正。

编者

1989.4.18.

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## Section I

### How To Become a Good Reader

**MAKING READING A HABIT**      § Self-trust is the first

The only way you can become a § secret of success.  
good reader is through practice. You  
cannot read a few paragraphs in your English book once a  
week and become a fluent reader. You need to read constantly.  
You should carry something to read with you wherever you go.  
Tear out pages of English magazines, for example, and carry  
them in your pocket. whenever you have the chance, pull out a  
page and read a paragraph or two.

You should read in as many different subject areas as you  
can. You should try to find English books on different sub-  
jects and read a few paragraphs in each chapter in each book.  
Your eyes and mind need to practice. Your eyes need to prac-  
tice moving quickly across the page from left to right, and your  
mind needs to practice making quick associations (联系) be-  
tween the printed word and meaning.

### READING WITH A PURPOSE

When you begin to read you should ask yourself a basic

## QUESTION

Why am I reading this?

If you are reading to practice your English, you will read in a certain way. You will read slowly and concentrate on (集中) the relationship between the words and the grammatical structures. If you are reading for information (信息) about a particular subject, you will read in another way. You will focus on main parts and supporting facts. You use the grammar of the passage as a means, not an end.

## READING TO PRACTICE ENGLISH

Reading to practice English is the way most foreign students read English. In school you do not read English to learn about a particular subject, for example, you do not read English to learn history. You read English to learn how a sentence was put together, how the verbs agree with the subject, what the clause is, etc. This is the way you have to read for the Structure and Written Expression section of the TOEFL, but it is not the way you should read for the Reading Comprehension section.

1. The author believes that to become a good reader you need to
  - A. have a large vocabulary.
  - B. understand grammar.
  - C. practice.
  - D. move your eyes across the page.
2. Which of the following can be inferred from the paragraph?

- A. You should always have some English reading material close to you.
  - B. You should buy more English books.
  - C. Most Foreign students read English.
  - D. Reading a few paragraphs a week is sufficient.
3. With which statement would the author agree?
- A. The Structure and Written Expression section and the Reading Comprehension section test the same skills.
  - B. You read a newspaper differently than you do a text-book.
  - C. Reading right to left is an important skill.
  - D. Read only the material that interests you.
4. Most foreign students read English by
- A. reading every word.
  - B. only reading the important words.
  - C. asking themselves "Why am I reading this?"
  - D. tearing out pages.

**Humour: An Excuse for Being late**

"Sonny, why are you late for school every morning?"

"Every time I come the corner, a sign says, 'School- Go Slow. '"

## The Sunday Paper

Almost everyone reads the Sunday Paper. Often the paper is waiting outside door when the family gets up. The newspaper boy has delivered it. The Sunday paper is usually very thick. It has many advertisements and many different sections. The adults in the family like the front page, the editorial page, and the world news section. Many men also read the sports pages and the financial pages.

Most men don't read the women's pages but the mother of the family usually does. The women's pages have news about parties and marriages, and advice about food, health and clothes.

Most Sunday papers have comics, which children enjoy. Old people read the death notices, which tell about people who have died during the week.

There is something for everyone in the Sunday paper.

5. This passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. various kinds of advertisements.
- B. the Sunday Newspaper.
- C. financial problems.
- D. the death notice of someone.

6. You can read about football games in the \_\_\_\_\_ section.

- A. editorial
- B. sports
- C. world news
- D. women's

7. Advice most nearly means \_\_\_\_\_

A. news    B. notices    ~~C. suggestion~~    ~~D. proposal~~

8. If you are in good health, you probably feel \_\_\_\_\_

A. clean    B. fine    C. weak    D. tired

9. The financial pages contain information about \_\_\_\_\_ matters.

A. industrial    B. economic  
C. cultural    D. commercial

10. Comics usually make you \_\_\_\_\_

A. afraid    B. sad    C. laugh    D. worried

11. Business-men often buy space in the newspaper for \_\_\_\_\_

A. advertisement    B. advice  
C. editorial    D. broadcast

**Riddle:** Take away my first letter, take away my second letter, take away all my letters, and I remain the same, what am I?

### } All Kinds of Manners

Sometimes good manners in one place are bad ones in other place. § Take things as you find them.  
Suppose you are a visitor in the land of Mongolia. Some friends ask you to eat with them. What kind of manners do they want you to have? They want you to give a loud "burp" (打嗝) after you finish eating. Burping

would show you liked your food.

In some countries, if you give a loud burp, you are told to say "Excuse me, please."

In many places people like to eat together. But in some parts of Polynesia it is bad manner to be seen eating at all. People show their good manners by turning their backs on others while they eat.

In an East African town the people try not to see you. They are being polite. You may see a friend. He may not see you at all. If you are polite, you will sit down beside him, and wait until he finishes what he is doing. Then, he will talk to you. Suppose you visit a friend in Arabia, you should walk behind the other tents until you come to his tent. If you pass in front of the other tents, you will be asked into each one. The people will ask you to eat with them. And it is bad manners if you say no.

Manners are different all over the world. But it is good to know that all manners begin in the same way. people needed ways to show that they wanted to be friends.

12. In Mongolia, burping is a way of showing that

A. you enjoy your meal.

B. you are rude.

C. your meal was not good.

D. you are not satisfied with the meal.

13. In Polynesia, to be polite while eating you should

A. eat quickly.

- B. sit still
  - C. turn your back on others.
  - D. eat with a smiling face.
14. We have good manners to show that we
- A. are different from other people.
  - B. don't want other people to bother us.
  - C. want to be friends with other people.
  - D. are getting along well with our life.
15. This passage is mainly about
- A. good and bad manners
  - B. manners in Mongolia
  - C. manners in Polynesia
  - D. different manners all over the world
16. In Arabia it would be a good manner \_\_\_\_\_
- A. to talk behind the tents
  - B. to visit a friend
  - C. to say yes if you are asked to eat
  - D. to say sorry if you are asked to eat

**Riddle:** To what man does everyone always take off his hat?

### The Mru People

"Why, Nangla, do you wear ear-rings and tie blossoms in your hair? Why do you blacken your teeth and paint your forehead?" The young

Wonders are many,  
and nothing is more wonderful than man.



bachelor laughed. "Because that is what our girls like!" Indeed, romance occupies much time of the Mru teenager. The Mru people are very poor, and make or grow everything they need. They concentrate on growing rice and melons, and depend on bamboo for nearly everything—tilling the fields, building houses and so on. They asked me questions: "Why do you wear long pants (长裤)?" "Why do you wear a shirt?" What, I wonder, will become of these primitive people? Someday, their land will be changed by roads and factories. But I remember their last words to me. They said: "You will have to come back. We want you to live with us."

17. Which statement would best describe the dress of a young Mru boy?
  - A. Long pants
  - B. Elaborate shirt
  - C. Narrow sweater
  - D. Earrings and blossoms in his hair
18. The most important element in the Mru economy is
  - A. rice
  - B. melons
  - C. bamboo
  - D. cattle
19. Which of the following might the author be most likely to select as a good title for his travelogue (旅行见闻录)?
  - A. A young Mru bachelor
  - B. Land of Poverty
  - C. The friendly Mrus
  - D. Primitive People
20. A well-mannered person never \_\_\_\_\_ people