



# Exercises in Reading and Writing

## 美语阅读与写作练习

### —美国短篇小说

#### American Short Stories

(美) Greg Costa 编著

金科 译



机械工业出版社  
China Machine Press



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本书以美国短篇小说为题材，以基础英语（词汇、语法）的讲解为根本，结合阅读与写作的练习，重点提高读者的美语思维能力，（结合练习）强化读者的发散性思维，使学生通过此书，既掌握了基础英语的运用，又深化了英语的整体水平，并且提高了读者的美国文学鉴赏能力，“一箭多雕”。

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# 前 言

本书精选 9 篇脍炙人口的美国短篇小说故事，它们可以说是美国文化和历史中一笔小小的财富。本书可供具备中级英语水平的读者赏析，尤其是正在学习英语精读和写作的同学们。

本书内容丰富，语法特点具体鲜明。动词时态、句子结构以及词语类型在每篇文章后的各类题型中都将得到讨论与练习。语法练习来源于文章当中，每个练习中的语法结构都在文章中得以应用。

本书的目的是提高广大读者的阅读与写作技能。同时小说本身和其中包含的美国背景十分精彩，读《American Short Stories》确实也是一种享受。丰富的人物性格、清晰的情节和矛盾冲突以及出人意料的结局，将会使所有读者觉得，这些故事是如此引人入胜，即使是英语语言技巧有限的读者们，也会如此。

读者在以美国短篇小说为中心，对阅读和写作进行讨论时，将会学到复杂的语法构造和精确的写作。

本书的第二版在以下四个方面得到了拓展和改进：

1、新增三篇美国短篇小说，迄今为止，《American Short Stories》的内容足够满足英语中级水平读者的欣赏。

2、新的导读部分介绍了每个故事的作者和历史文化背景，便于读者预览全文以及了解所要阅读文章的大致内容。

3、每篇文章中的地图和图片都证明了美国的历史和发展，文章后的练习有助于学生会如何理解这些信息。

4、新的阅读练习将使学生会从意思上分析文章，并将每篇小说分割成几个容易理解的部分。

对于广大学生来说，《American Short Stories》将锻炼词汇技巧，提高阅读能力。他们将在享受阅读乐趣的同时，接受文学分析的基本概念和美国文化的丰富遗产，再一次了解美国的建国、发展和成为一个现代化的工业国家，并从美国人民及其斗争中得到学习。

对于广大读者来说，《American Short Stories》将是一本值得赏析而又受益匪浅的书。

Greg Costa

San Francisco, California

# Preface

I have adapted the nine stories in this book, these small treasures of American culture and history, so they can be shared with advanced learners of English—students still learning accuracy in reading and writing their second language.

The stories have been adapted to feature specific points of grammar in a meaningful context. Verb tenses, sentence patterns, and word forms are discussed and practiced in extensive exercises following each story. All the language in the grammar exercises comes from the stories, and each story uses the grammatical structures taught in the exercises.

While the purpose of the book is to increase a student's reading and writing skills, the stories and the American context in which they were written are so interesting that everyone should enjoy reading *American Short Stories*. Rich characters, clear plots and conflicts, and surprising resolutions make these stories entertaining to all readers, even those with limited English-language skills.

As students are talking, reading, and writing about the interesting American topics central to these stories, they will be practicing troublesome grammatical structures and learning to write accurately.

The second edition has been expanded and revised in several ways:

- Three new stories have been added. *American Short Stories* now contains enough fiction for most intermediate reading classes.
- New pre-reading sections introduce the author and the historical background of each story. Students are encouraged to make predictions and anticipate what they are going to read.
- Maps and graphs illustrate the history and development of the United States at the time each story was written. Exercises help students learn how to interpret the information.
- New reading exercises help students learn to analyze text for meaning, to break down fiction into more easily understandable parts.

Students who read *American Short Stories* will sharpen vocabulary skills and become better readers. They will learn to enjoy reading fiction as they are introduced to basic concepts of literary analysis and the rich heritage of American literature. They should gain a general understanding of how the United States began, grew, and developed into a modern industrial nation, and they should learn something of America's peoples and their struggles.

*American Short Stories* will prove to be both enjoyable and profitable to all who read it.

Greg Costa  
San Francisco, California

# Contents

## **The Fat of the Land / Anzia Yeziarska.....1**

Reading Comprehension .....	24
Vocabulary Check.....	26
Story Summary .....	27
Analyzing the Text .....	28
Interpreting Graphs.....	28
Grammar and Sentence Writing.....	29
Past Perfect Tense and Simple Past Tense .....	29
Sentence Writing .....	29
Word Forms .....	33
Developing Ideas .....	34
Paragraph Writing .....	34
Topics for Discussion.....	35
For Further Discussion: The Character of Hanneh Breineh .....	36

## **South of The Slot / Jack London.....37**

Reading Comprehension .....	50
Vocabulary Check.....	51
Story Summary .....	53
Analyzing the Text .....	53
Grammar and Sentence Writing.....	54
Using <i>When</i> and <i>While</i> to Combine Sentences.....	54
Sentence Combining .....	55
Sentence Completion .....	58
Conditional Sentences .....	58
Writing Conditional Sentences.....	59

## VI Contents

Word Forms .....	61
Comparatives .....	62
Writing Comparatives .....	63
Developing Ideas .....	64
Topics for Discussion .....	64
Paragraph Writing .....	65
Role Playing .....	66
For Further Discussion: Stereotypes .....	66
<b>The Gift of the Magi / O. Henry .....</b>	<b>68</b>
Reading Comprehension .....	75
Vocabulary Check .....	76
Analyzing the Text .....	77
Interpreting Graphs .....	78
Grammar and Sentence Writing .....	79
Participial Phrases .....	79
Sentence Writing A .....	79
Sentence Completion .....	81
Sentence Writing B .....	82
Past Conditional Sentences .....	83
Writing Past Conditional Sentences A .....	84
Writing Past Conditional Sentences B .....	85
Guided Paragraph Writing .....	86
Writing Comparatives .....	87
Developing Ideas .....	89
Topics for Discussion .....	89
Role Playing .....	91
For Further Discussion: Irony .....	91
<b>The Only Rose / Sarah Orne Jewett .....</b>	<b>93</b>
Reading Comprehension .....	107
Vocabulary Check .....	108

Story Summary .....110

Analyzing the Text .....110

Interpreting Maps .....111

Grammar and Sentence Writing .....111

    The Present Perfect Continuous Tense .....111

    Sentence Writing .....112

Writing About Yourself .....114

    Verbs after *Wish* .....114

    Sentence Writing .....115

    Word Forms .....116

    Writing Comparative Sentences .....118

Developing Ideas .....119

    Paragraph Writing .....119

    Topics for Discussion .....120

    For Further Discussion: Symbols .....121

**The Bride Comes to Yellow Sky / Stephen Crane .....122**

    Reading Comprehension .....134

    Vocabulary Check .....135

    Story Summary .....137

    Analyzing the Text .....137

    Interpreting Maps .....138

    Grammar and Sentence Writing .....139

        Using *Because* and *So* to Combine Related Ideas .....139

        Sentence Combining .....140

        Sentence Completion .....142

        Sentence Writing .....143

        Changing Direct Quotations to Indirect Quotations .....144

        Writing Indirect Quotations .....146

        Using the Apostrophe to Show Possession .....147

        Forming Possessives .....148

        Word Forms .....149



## VIII Contents

Developing Ideas .....	150
Guided Paragraph Writing .....	150
Topics for Discussion.....	151
Role Playing .....	152
For Further Discussion: Conflict .....	153
<b>An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge / Ambrose Bierce .....</b>	<b>154</b>
Reading Comprehension.....	166
Vocabulary Check.....	167
Story Summary .....	168
Analyzing the Text .....	169
Interpreting Maps.....	169
Grammar and Sentence Writing.....	170
The Passive Voice .....	170
Sentence Writing .....	171
Appositives .....	173
Writing Appositives.....	173
Word Forms .....	175
Gerunds .....	176
Writing Gerunds.....	176
Sentence Writing .....	178
Developing Ideas .....	178
Guided Paragraph Writing .....	178
Topics for Discussion.....	179
For Further Discussion: The Surprise Ending .....	180
<b>A Curious Dream / Mark Twain.....</b>	<b>181</b>
Reading Comprehension.....	189
Vocabulary Check.....	191
Story Summary .....	192
Analyzing the Text .....	193
Grammar and Sentence Writing.....	194

Using *Got* in Informal English ..... 194

The Present Perfect Tense ..... 194

Sentence Writing A ..... 195

Sentence Writing B ..... 196

The Past and Present in the Old Cemetery ..... 198

Combining Phrases and Clauses to Form a Series ..... 199

Sentence Writing C ..... 200

Word Forms ..... 202

Developing Ideas ..... 203

    Paragraph Writing ..... 203

    Topics for Discussion ..... 204

    For Further Discussion: The Supernatural in Fiction ..... 205

**The Black Cat / Edgar Allan Poe ..... 206**

    Reading Comprehension ..... 216

    Vocabulary Check ..... 217

    Story Summary ..... 219

    Analyzing the Text ..... 219

    Grammar and Sentence Writing ..... 219

        Relative Clauses: *Who* and *Which* ..... 219

        Sentence Combining ..... 220

        Using Commas to Set Off Relative Clauses ..... 223

        Commas in Relative Clauses ..... 224

        Sentence Completion A ..... 224

        Sentence Completion B ..... 225

        Sentence Writing ..... 225

        Sentence Combining ..... 227

        Sentence Completion C ..... 228

        Word Forms ..... 229

    Developing Ideas ..... 230

        Paragraph Writing ..... 230

        Topics for Discussion ..... 231

For Further Discussion: The Narrator .....	232
<b>Rip Van Winkle / Washington Irving .....</b>	<b>233</b>
Reading Comprehension .....	247
Vocabulary Check .....	249
Story Summary .....	250
Analyzing the Text .....	250
Interpreting Maps .....	251
Grammar and Sentence Writing .....	251
Joining Sentences with <i>Whose</i> .....	251
Sentence Combining .....	252
Joining Sentences with <i>Before or After</i> .....	254
Sentence Combining .....	255
Archaic Language .....	257
Rewriting Archaic Language .....	257
Word Forms .....	258
Developing Ideas .....	259
Paragraph Writing .....	259
Topics for Discussion .....	260
Role Playing .....	261
For Further Discussion: The Curious Theme of “Rip Van Winkle” .....	261
<b>Credits .....</b>	<b>262</b>



Ten million eager immigrants entered the U.S. between 1860 and 1890.

# *The Fat of the Land*

---

**ANZIA YEZIERSKA**

## THE AUTHOR

*Anzia Yeziarska immigrated to the United States with her Jewish family from Poland when she was just a small girl. Poverty forced her to work in sweatshops during the day, but hard work in night school earned her scholarships and a teaching degree from Columbia University in 1904. She married twice and had one daughter, but she did not find her path in life until she met the philosopher and educator John Dewey at Columbia in 1917. He encouraged her to write about the immigrant community in which she grew up. When "The Fat of the land" won the O'Hare prize for best short story of 1919, Anzia Yeziarska finally found success. She moved to Hollywood, where she became popular as a woman who rose up from a poor background in the ghetto to become a famous writer. Although she had some further success during the 1920s, her career ended with the economic depression of the 1930s. She died in obscurity in 1970, well before her stories were rediscovered by a new generation of American women.*

## 作者简介

安齐亚·耶齐尔斯夫，出身于犹太人家庭，年幼时随父母从波兰移民到美国。由于贫困，耶齐尔斯夫不得不在白天卖苦力，晚上进夜校读书，但就是在这种艰苦的条件下，勤奋、刻苦的她赢得了哥伦比亚大学奖学金并于1904年获得教学文凭。耶齐尔斯夫结了两次婚并有一个女儿，但是她始终没有找到适合自己的人生轨迹，直到1917年，她在哥伦比亚遇到了哲学家和教育家约翰·德维。德维鼓励她进行创作，并把她成长的移民环境记录下来。当《沃土》在1919年获得奥黑尔最佳短篇小说奖的时候，耶齐尔斯夫终于获得了

成功。随后她去了好莱坞，作为一名从贫民窟里长大的著名作家她深受人们喜爱。尽管在20年代耶齐尔斯特夫获得了更大的成功，但随着30年代经济大萧条的到来，她的事业也就此中止了。1970年耶齐尔斯特夫无声地死去，之后许多年，她的作品才被新一代的美国女性重新发掘。

## THE STORY

*“The Fat of the Land” is the story of a family divided by two cultures. The main character, Hanneh Breineh, comes to live in the United States as a married woman with six children to raise.*

*She keeps the culture of her old country, Poland, but her children adopt American values and lifestyles when they grow up. In the first part of the story we see Hanneh Breineh in New York City struggling to raise her children. The second part of the story takes place years later, after the children have grown up and become wealthy, successful Americans. But can they make their old mother happy? As we see in the story, the generation gap that often causes problems between young and old can only be worse when the older generation comes from a different world.*

## 故事梗概

《沃土》讲述的是一个家庭被两种不同文化分裂的故事。小说的主人公，汉内·布赖因是一位有6个孩子的母亲，她从波兰去了美国。汉内·布赖因一直保留并遵循着她祖国的文化和传统，但她的孩子在长大之后却接受了美国的生存方式和价值观念。

故事的第一部分描写的是汉内·布赖因在纽约如何含辛茹苦地养育她的六个儿女，第二部分则开始于几十年后，汉内·布赖因的孩子都已长大成人，变成了富有、成功的美国人。但是他们能让他

们的老母亲感到快乐吗？正如我们在文中看到的那样，父母与孩子间的代沟总会导致问题，而当老一辈的人来自于不同文化背景时，矛盾只会愈发显著。

## I

**H**anneh Breineh leaned out of her apartment into the airshaft and knocked on her neighbor's window.

"Can you loan me your boiler for the clothes?" she called.

sash: window  
窗子

Mrs. Pelz lifted up the **sash**. "The boiler? What's the matter with yours again? Didn't you tell me you had it fixed already last week?"

"Damn him, the robber, the way he fixed it! If you have no luck in this world, then it's better not to live. There I spent fifteen cents to stop one hole, and it runs out another. How I fought bargaining with him to get it down to fifteen cents! He wanted a quarter, the **swindler**. I curse him from my bitter heart for every penny he took from me for nothing!"

swindler: crook,  
cheater  
骗子

"You've got to watch all those swindlers, or they'll steal the whites out of your eyes," warned Mrs. Pelz. "You should have tried out your boiler before you paid him. Wait a minute until I empty out my dirty clothes in a pillow case, then I'll hand it to you."

Mrs. Pelz returned with the boiler and tried to hand it across to Hanneh Breineh, but it would not fit through the small window. "You've got to come in for the boiler yourself," said Mrs. Pelz.

"Wait until I tie my Sammy on to the high chair so he doesn't fall again. He's so wild that ropes won't hold him." Hanneh Breineh tied the child in the chair, stuck a **pacifier** in his mouth, and went in to her neighbor.

pacifier: plastic  
nipple for sucking  
婴儿用的塑料吸嘴

As she took the boiler Mrs. Pelz said, "Do you know Mrs. Melker ordered fifty pounds of chicken for her daughter's wedding? And such fat chickens! My heart melted in me just looking at them."

Hanneh Breineh smacked her thin, dry lips, a hungry gleam in



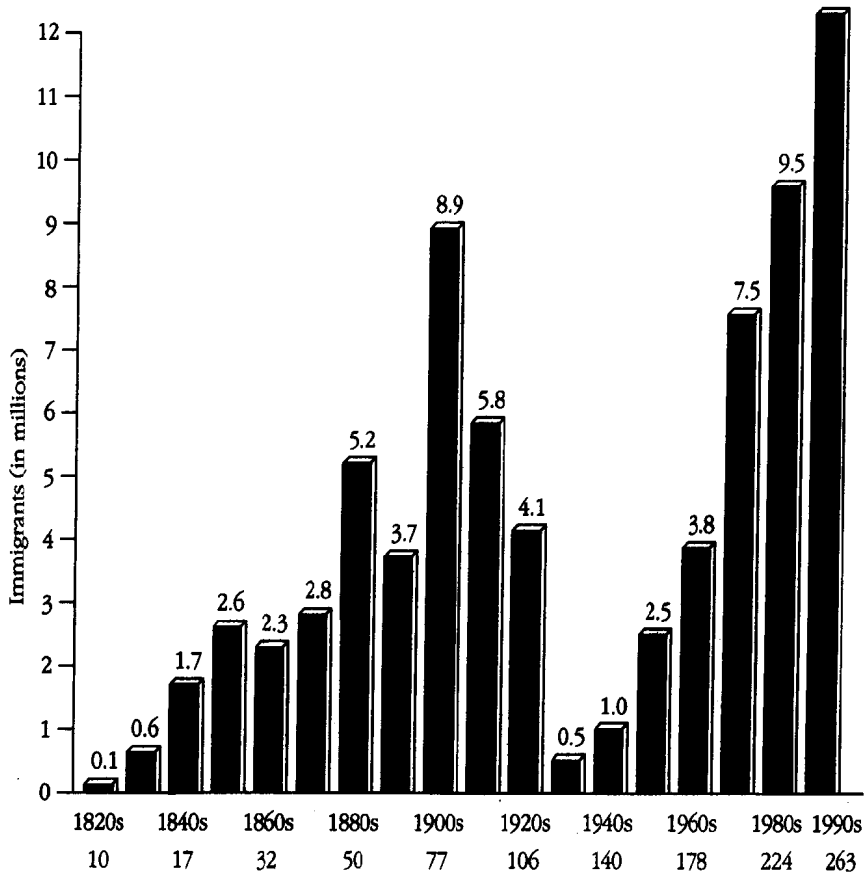
1878年，法国将自由女神的雕像作为礼物送给美国，以此纪念美国成立100周年。在这张照片上，这尊巨大雕像的头部和肩部正静静地矗立着，等待即将被运往纽约港的自由岛。从那时起直到现在，自由女神雕像就屹立在纽约，迎接来自四面八方的移民，在这滚滚人流中，也包括本书的作者安齐亚·耶齐尔斯夫。

her sunken eyes. “Fifty pounds!” she gasped. “It isn’t possible. How do you know?”

“I heard her with my own ears. I saw them with my own eyes. And she said she will chop up the chicken livers with onions and eggs for an appetizer, and then she will buy twenty-five pounds of



美国人口（单位：百万）



大多数的美国家庭中的父母或者祖父母是从另一个国家移民过来的。这张图显示的是从1810年以来每10年美国的移民数量。

fish, and cook it sweet and sour with raisins, and she said she will bake all her strudels in pure chicken fat.”

“Some people work themselves up in the world,” sighed Hanneh Breineh. “For them America is flowing with milk and honey. In the old country Mrs. Melker used to get **shriveled** up from hunger. She and her children used to live on potato peelings and crusts of dry bread, and in America she lives to eat chicken,

**shriveled:** shrunken  
and wrinkled  
枯萎，起皱