

First Step English Series

# Reading

## 英语初阶系列教程 阅读

周淑清  
袁昌寰

编著

First Step English Series

# Reading

北京语言文化大学出版社

# 英语初阶系列教程

## 阅 读

FIRST STEP ENGLISH SERIES

READING

编 著 周淑清 袁昌寰

审 订 沈叙伦

北京语言文化大学出版社

(京)新登字 157 号

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英语初阶系列教程: 阅读/周淑清, 袁昌寰编著.

- 北京: 北京语言文化大学出版社, 1998

ISBN 7-5619-0638-2

I. 英...

II. ①周... ②袁...

III. 英语 - 阅读教学 - 高等学校 - 教材

IV. H31

责任印制: 乔学军

出版发行: 北京语言文化大学出版社

(北京海淀区学院路 15 号 邮政编码 100083)

印刷: 北京北林印刷厂

经销: 全国新华书店

版次: 1998 年 8 月第 1 版 1998 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

开本: 787×1092 毫米 1/16 印张: 14.5

字数: 360 千字 印数: 1-3000 册

定价: 22.00 元

## 编者的话

《英语初阶系列教程·阅读》是为高校英语专业一、二年级的学生设计和编写的,也可供已掌握了一定的英语语法和 3000 左右词汇的英语自学者使用。

本书的课文大多直接选自英语国家近期报刊杂志,有时代气息。题材广泛,体裁多样,包括新闻报道、广告汇集、报刊小品、科技文章、文艺短篇、旅游指南、名人介绍、天气预报等;课文内容新颖有趣,具有丰富的文化内涵,符合成年人的文化品味;语言真实地道,基本未经删改,无学院式语言或人造语言,读者可从中直接领略语言运用的微妙,其中的习惯用法、深层语义,以及句式的选择,使读者感到面对的是完全不同的另一个文化模式。

本书的编写目的旨在:

- 1) 帮助学生提高英语阅读理解能力和阅读速度;
- 2) 帮助学生掌握不同的阅读技巧,如浏览、查找、预测、猜测、推断、概括总结、评论等;
- 3) 通过阅读,理解、欣赏不同题材与体裁的原文文章,提高实际运用语言的能力。

读者要提高英语阅读能力,成为一名高水平的阅读者,较之用母语阅读,需要懂得和运用更多的阅读技巧。因此,本书在编写过程中,根据第二语言习得原理特别强调如下几点:

- 1) 母语阅读技巧的借鉴;
- 2) 原文材料的选用;
- 3) 阅读前的准备活动;
- 4) 阅读练习的科学设计和相关活动的安排;
- 5) 阅读与其他技能的综合训练。

在母语阅读中,人们有时不必逐字逐句阅读,多数人懂得运用不同的阅读技巧去获取信息。他们通过文章标题,猜测文章的大致内容;通过阅读第一部分,猜测下一段的内容大意;通过上下文推断生词词义。在阅读中,他们懂得用 *skimming* 领略课文大意,用 *scanning* 找具体信息,用主题句找篇章或语段的主要意思。所有这些母语中的阅读技巧,都可以运用到英语阅读中。但遗憾的是,多数学生并不知道如何在英语阅读中运用这些技巧。如何才能将母语中的这些阅读技巧转换到英语阅读中呢?这有赖于教师的指导帮助,但更需要借助于阅读课本的选材和阅读练习的设计编写。

什么是阅读理解?阅读理解就是在尽可能短的时间内,获取所需要的信息。泛读课的目的就是培养学生的这种能力,即不借助于外界的帮助,能以较快的速度默读,准确地理解并不熟悉的原文材料。本书在编写过程中,特别注重这种能力的培养和上述技巧的转换。

本书根据国外最新第二语言教学法理论,将阅读过程分为三个步骤,即阅读前、阅读中和阅读后。阅读前的活动主要为学生阅读作主题、词汇等方面的准备,减轻阅读中的难度。在这一阶段,教师要尽可能调动学生的积极性,积极思维,运用已有的知识和对这一主题的了解,预测课文大意,推断作者态度,明了文章目的等等。阅读中的练习包括第一遍的快速阅读大意,

亦可进一步检查自己在阅读前所做的推断的准确性;第二遍重在对内容细节的理解,要求学生仔细阅读课文,准确理解文章的内涵;第三遍着重语言、词汇的处理,特别强调根据上下文推断词义。阅读后的练习则强调阅读与其他技能的综合运用。本书根据不同的课文内容和体裁形式,设计了不同的阅读练习,形式生动活泼,不呆板单一。整个单元的练习设计均围绕着能力和各种技巧的培养和训练。三个阶段的练习相互连接,一环紧扣一环。整个阅读教学活动通常从讨论或提问开始,继之阅读理解,然后通过语言训练,最后过渡到语言的综合运用。

本书分 31 个单元,每个单元的内容均围绕同一主题。根据课文长短不同,每单元包括 1 - 3 篇课文,全书的阅读材料多直接选自原文报刊杂志。根据第二语言习得原理,阅读教学的目的需侧重于信息的获取和对原文的欣赏,而不是语言训练本身,阅读技巧如果不用为某种阅读目的服务则毫无实用价值。因此,本书选用的原文文章与为培养不同阅读技巧而设计的练习相结合,正是相得益彰。

本书由周淑清和袁昌寰两位同志编写而成,其中周淑清编写了 1 - 16 单元,袁昌寰编写了 17 - 31 单元。本书是《英语初阶系列教程》的第三部,它的编写是一种新尝试,疏漏甚至错误在所难免。编者诚心地希望英语界的同仁和广大读者在使用中发现它的问题,以便将来修改。

北京语言文化大学外语学院沈叙伦教授在百忙之中抽空审订了全书,又承北京语言文化大学出版社余心乐等同志的大力支持与帮助,在此一并致以谢意。

由于这是一本阅读教材,素材大都直接选自英语报刊杂志。关于这些材料的使用,编者曾设法与原作者取得联系。但因各种原因,还有一些作者未取得联系。如果涉及到某些原作者作品使用权的问题,可直接与北京语言文化大学出版社联系。

编者

1997 . 8. 18

## CONTENTS

<b>UNIT ONE</b>	<b>WHY WAS THE DOCTOR LATE?</b> .....	( 1 )
<b>UNIT TWO</b>	<b>SUCCESS STARTS WITH A GOOD INTERVIEW</b> .....	( 6 )
<b>UNIT THREE</b>	<b>WE HAVE A VACANCY FOR ...</b> .....	( 12 )
<b>UNIT FOUR</b>	<b>THE WEATHER</b> .....	( 18 )
<b>UNIT FIVE</b>	<b>FAMOUS NAMES</b> .....	( 24 )
<b>UNIT SIX</b>	<b>FLATS TO LET</b> .....	( 29 )
<b>UNIT SEVEN</b>	<b>HEALTH</b> .....	( 35 )
<b>UNIT EIGHT</b>	<b>HOW DOES ADVERTISING WORK?</b> .....	( 41 )
<b>UNIT NINE</b>	<b>EARTHQUAKE</b> .....	( 45 )
<b>UNIT TEN</b>	<b>FAMOUS PLACES</b> .....	( 51 )
<b>UNIT ELEVEN</b>	<b>NEWS</b> .....	( 57 )
<b>UNIT TWELVE</b>	<b>CHILDREN AT WORK</b> .....	( 63 )
<b>UNIT THIRTEEN</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS</b> .....	( 70 )
<b>UNIT FOURTEEN</b>	<b>AFTER TWENTY YEARS ( I )</b> .....	( 75 )
<b>UNIT FIFTEEN</b>	<b>AMERICAN SOCIAL RELATIONS</b> .....	( 80 )
<b>UNIT SIXTEEN</b>	<b>AFTER TWENTY YEARS ( II )</b> .....	( 86 )
<b>UNIT SEVENTEEN</b>	<b>FIRST WORDS</b> .....	( 91 )
<b>UNIT EIGHTEEN</b>	<b>TOO MANY TOYS!</b> .....	( 95 )
<b>UNIT NINETEEN</b>	<b>SCHOOLS WITH A DIFFERENCE</b> .....	( 99 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION</b> .....	( 103 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - ONE</b>	<b>INSIDE A COMPUTER: HOW CHIPS ARE MADE</b> .....	( 110 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - TWO</b>	<b>HEALTHY EATING</b> .....	( 115 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - THREE</b>	<b>VEGETARIAN ANSWERS</b> .....	( 121 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - FOUR</b>	<b>HOW TO GIVE UP CIGARETTES</b> .....	( 129 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - FIVE</b>	<b>POLLUTION: A THREAT TO OUR ENVIRONMENT...</b>	( 133 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - SIX</b>	<b>THE TRAGEDY OF AN AIDS FAMILY</b> .....	( 139 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - SEVEN</b>	<b>CHARLIE CHAPLIN PART I: ON STAGE</b> .....	( 147 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - EIGHT</b>	<b>CHARLIE CHAPLIN PART II: THE LITTLE TRAMP</b> .....	( 152 )
<b>UNIT TWENTY - NINE</b>	<b>THE SKIN AND SUNLIGHT</b> .....	( 158 )
<b>UNIT THIRTY</b>	<b>BODYSPEAK</b> .....	( 164 )
<b>UNIT THIRTY - ONE</b>	<b>DAUGHTER'S CRUSADE FOR THE BIG DAY</b> .....	( 169 )
<b>ANSWER KEY</b> .....		( 175 )
<b>VOCABULARY</b> .....		( 204 )

## UNIT ONE

---

### WHY WAS THE DOCTOR LATE?

#### Before reading

1. Have you ever been robbed? If not, do you know anyone who has had the experience of being robbed?
2. Do you think robbers could be forgiven? If yes, name some of the situations in which, you think, they could be forgiven.

#### While reading

3. Look at the title of the text.  
Where do you think the doctor was going , and what for?  
Why do you think the doctor was late?

#### Text A

##### Why Was the Doctor Late?

One night, a little before nine o'clock, the doctor answered his telephone. "Glens Falls calling Dr. Van Eyck," said the voice on the telephone.

"This is Dr. Van Eyck speaking," said the doctor.

A moment later Dr. Van Eyck heard another voice: "This is Dr. Haydon at the hospital in Glens Falls. We have a very sick boy here in our hospital. He has just been brought in with a bullet in his brain. He is very weak and may not live. We should operate at once, but I'm not a surgeon, you know."

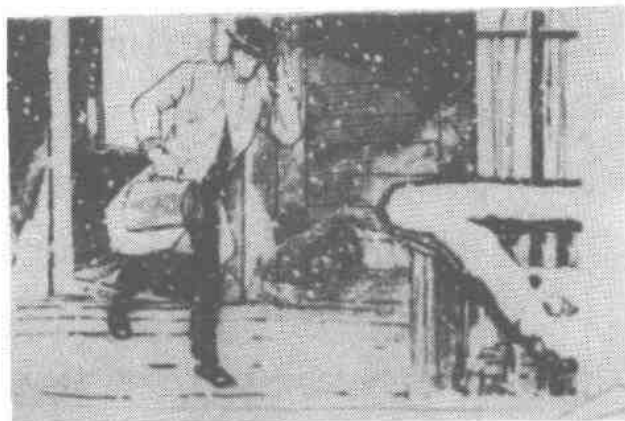
"I'm 60 miles from Glens Falls," said Dr. Van Eyck, "Have you called Dr. Mercer? He lives in Glens Falls."

"He is out of town," said Dr. Haydon, "I am calling you because the boy comes from your city. He was visiting here and shot himself while playing with a gun."

"You say that the boy is from Albany?" asked Dr. Van Eyck, "What is his name?"

"Arthur Cunningham."

"I don't think that I know him. But I'll get there as soon as I can. It's snowing here, but I think that I can get there before 12 o'clock."



"I should tell you that the boy's family is very poor. I don't think that they can pay you anything."

"That's all right," said Dr. Van Eyck.

A few minutes later, the surgeon's car had to stop for a red light at the edge of town. A man in an old black coat opened the door of the car and got in.

"Drive on," he said, "I've got a gun."

"I'm a doctor," said Van Eyck, "I'm on my way to the hospital to operate on a very sick ..."

"Don't talk," said the man in the old black coat. "Just drive."

A mile out of town he ordered the doctor to stop the car and to get out. Then the man drove on down the road. The doctor stood there for a moment in the falling snow.

Half an hour later Dr. Van Eyck found a telephone and called a taxi. At the railway station he learned that the next train to Glens Falls would not leave until 12 o'clock.

It was after two o'clock in the morning when the surgeon arrived at the hospital in Glens Falls. Dr. Haydon was waiting for him.

"I did my best," said Van Eyck. "But I was stopped on the road and my car ..."

"It was good of you to try," said Dr. Haydon. "The boy died an hour ago."

The two doctors walked by the door of the hospital waiting room. There sat the man in the old black coat, with his head in his hands.

"Mr. Cunningham," said Dr. Haydon to the man. "This is Dr. Van Eyck. He is a surgeon who came all the way from Albany to try to save your boy."

4. Read the text quickly.

Was your prediction right?

5. Read the text again.

Answer T (True) if the statement is true, answer F (False) if it is not true.



- ( ) 1) Dr. Van Eyck received a midnight call from his friend.
- ( ) 2) Dr. Haydon asked Dr. Van Eyck to operate on a very sick boy because he was the best surgeon in that area.
- ( ) 3) The boy was in the hospital 60 miles away from Albany.
- ( ) 4) Dr. Van Eyck agreed to go to save the boy because he knew the boy's family.
- ( ) 5) The doctor had to stop the car on the way to the hospital because of the falling snow.
- ( ) 6) The man in an old black coat took the doctor's car and drove on.
- ( ) 7) It was after two o'clock in the morning when Dr. Van Eyck arrived at the hospital.
- ( ) 8) The boy died an hour after Dr. Van Eyck operated on him.
- ( ) 9) In the hospital waiting room the doctor saw the man who had taken his car.
- ( ) 10) The man in the old black coat was the boy's father.

6. Fill in each blank with an appropriate preposition.

- 1) The boy has just been brought in \_\_\_\_ a bullet \_\_\_\_ his brain.
- 2) Dr. Van Eyck was \_\_\_\_ his way to the hospital to operate \_\_\_\_ a very sick boy in spite \_\_\_\_ the falling snow.
- 3) The surgeon's car was stopped \_\_\_\_ the man \_\_\_\_ an old black coat.
- 4) The next train to Glens Falls would not leave \_\_\_\_ 12 o'clock.
- 5) The man who was sitting in the hospital waiting room \_\_\_\_ his head \_\_\_\_ his hands was the boy's father.

7. Discuss in pairs.

What do you think of Dr. Van Eyck?

What do you think of the boy's father?

Do you think that he could be forgiven?

If yes, explain why; if no, explain why not.

Who do you think should be responsible for the boy's death?

8. In many parts of the United States, people are allowed to own a handgun and to use it in certain circumstances to defend or protect themselves. Many people think that owning handguns should be outlawed because guns are widely used to commit crimes and they also cause accidental injury or death.

The following is a panel discussion about the right to own a handgun. Read the discussion and complete the table below. For the first reading, just find out whether each speaker is for the right to own a gun or against it. Then read the text again and write down the reasons.

	For	Against	Reasons
Paul			
Jane			
Roger			
Steven			
Suzie			

### Text B

A: The question of handguns always raises a lot of discussion in this country. I'd like to get your opinions about it. Paul, why don't we start with you? What do you think?

B: Well, as far as I'm concerned, the law on this should be changed. Do you know there are nearly 40000 people every year who are murdered with handguns? It's insane. Guns ought to be outlawed immediately.

A: I see you have a comment on this, Jane.

C: Yes. I think people should have the right to defend themselves. I mean, there are so many crazy people out there. It's a very violent country, and there'd probably be just as many murders even if we did ban handguns.

A: Roger?

D: I really can't agree with Jane. Why do people have to defend themselves? That's what we've got the police for. In my opinion, violence only breeds more violence. We give people guns, and the murder rate goes up every year.

A: Steven?

E: Well, I agree with Jane. I think people have the right to protect themselves. If someone tries to break into your house — and that happens all the time — you never know what the guy plans to do once he gets inside. That's when you need a gun.

A: Suzie, you haven't said anything yet.

F: The thing is, there are 16,000 accidents in homes every year involving handguns. It's not the thieves who get killed. It's mothers, fathers, and kids. You really should check the facts, Steven. Then maybe you'd change your mind.

9. Find the words in the text which mean:
- 1) foolish
  - 2) to make illegal
  - 3) to prohibit
  - 4) to cause, to produce or to be produced
  - 5) a man

**After reading**

10. Discuss in groups of four.
- Do you think that citizens should be allowed to own handguns?
- If yes, why?
- If no, why not?
- Present your opinions.

## UNIT TWO

### SUCCESS STARTS WITH A GOOD INTERVIEW

#### Before reading

##### 1. Questions

- 1) Imagine a friend of yours is going to have a job interview. What do you think he/she needs to know about it?
- 2) Can you suggest the most important things to remember about a job interview?

#### While reading

##### 2. Read Text A.

Which of the statements below best expresses the main idea of the passage?

- 1) Only a person who has a good appearance will be successful during an interview.
- 2) You shouldn't say much during an interview. Listen only.
- 3) The main thing to remember is to be well prepared for the interview.
- 4) You should try to please the interviewer during an interview. Don't disagree with him/her.



### Text A

In order to make a good impression during a job interview, you need to prepare yourself for the interview. You must arrive in plenty of time for the interview, so that you give yourself a little time to relax before the interview begins.

You have to look your best for the interview. The impression you make as you walk into the room is very important. Try to find out if the company or organization has any rules about dress. Then try to dress according to their regulations. If they don't allow their staff to come to work in casual clothes, you may ruin your chances for a job by wearing the wrong sort of clothes to the interview.

You also need to plan what you are going to say. In some interviews you will have to do a lot of talking, and in others you will only have to answer a few questions about your education and experience. You need to have answers ready about yourself, your school work, your strong points, your reasons for applying for the job, and the salary you expect.

You will also be allowed to ask some questions of your own. The questions you ask will show the interviewer that you have given careful thought to the position. You can ask questions like these:

What duties will I have to do in the job?

Will I be allowed to join a health insurance programme?

Does the company provide opportunities for further education?

You must also try to find out as much as you can about the company you want to work for. You can get information about the company by talking to someone who works there, or by asking for copies of the company's booklets, brochures, or advertising.

### 3. Read the text again.

Indicate if the following are VERY IMPORTANT or NOT IMPORTANT during an interview.

	VERY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
1) The type of clothing you wear.	_____	_____
2) Talking about your family.	_____	_____
3) Asking if the office you will be working in is air-conditioned.	_____	_____
4) Talking about your hobbies and your favourite TV programmes.	_____	_____
5) Asking for more information about the job you apply for.	_____	_____
6) Finding out if the interviewer has the same hobbies as you do.	_____	_____
7) Arriving at least 15 minutes before the interview.	_____	_____
8) Preparing what you want to say before the interview.	_____	_____
9) Taking a letter of recommendation with you.	_____	_____
10) Finding out as much as you can about the company you wish to work for before going to the interview.	_____	_____

4. Find the words in the text which have the same meanings as the words or phrases etc. in Column A. Write these words in the blanks. The first one is done for you.

Column A	Column B
1) a rule or instruction	<u>regulation</u>
2) to destroy and spoil	_____
3) a group of people employed in running a business, school, etc.	_____
4) responsibility	_____
5) to become less tense or worried	_____
6) a small thin book, esp. one giving instructions or details of a service offered for money	_____
7) informal	_____
8) (the business of making an) agreement by contract to pay money esp. in case of misfortune	_____

5. Fill in each blank with the correct form of the phrasal verb below.

make ... impression on	prepare (oneself) for
be allowed to do sth.	provide... for      apply (...)for

- 1) The Red Cross \_\_\_\_\_ food and shelter \_\_\_\_\_ disaster victims.
- 2) In order to be successful, you have to \_\_\_\_\_ the interview.
- 3) She has decided to \_\_\_\_\_ to the government \_\_\_\_\_ financial help.
- 4) They asked to \_\_\_\_\_ to see him.
- 5) What he said \_\_\_\_\_ a great \_\_\_\_\_ me.

6. What should you do if you want to find a job? What is the most important advice for job hunting? Read our JOB HUNTING SKILLS QUIZ below.

### Text B Finding The Right Job

#### Test your job hunting skills

1. Before you started to look for work, did you answer the question, "What do I really want to do?"
  - a. Yes.
  - b. I thought about it a little.
  - c. I never thought about it.
2. Have you prepared an up-to-date résumé?
  - a. Yes.
  - b. I have a résumé, but it's two years old.
  - c. I don't have a résumé.
3. Have you called all your friends, relatives, neighbors and classmates and told them you are looking for work? Do you read the help-wanted ads. ?
  - a. Yes.
  - b. I read the ads. , but I haven't called my friends.
  - c. Someone should call me.
4. When you send your résumé to a company, do you address it to a specific person, not just "Dear Sir or Madam"?
  - a. Yes.
  - b. I usually send it to a specific person or to the Personnel Department.
  - c. I just send it to the company.

5. Do you send a short thank-you note after each interview? (This is your chance to remind the person you spoke to about your qualifications.)
- a. Yes.
  - b. I've sent notes, but haven't mentioned my qualifications.
  - c. I've never sent thank-you notes.

#### **How to score your quiz**

- \* 10 points for each "a" answer.
- \* 5 points for each "b" answer.
- \* 0 for each "c" answer.

If you scored between 40 and 50, just keep looking — your luck is sure to change soon.

If you scored between 15 and 40, try some of the tips in the quiz.

If you scored less than 15, follow the advice in the quiz carefully.

#### **The most important advice**

It is important to:

- \* know what you want,
- \* have an up-to-date résumé,
- \* tell everyone you know about your job search,
- \* send your résumé to a specific person, not just to "Dear Sir or Madam", (If a company has a Personnel Department, you can send your cover letter and résumé there. If not, you can call the company to find the name of the person you should send your résumé to.)
- \* follow your interview with a polite thank-you note.

BUT the most important advice is — DON'T give up!

The right job for you is out there somewhere, and if you keep trying, you can find it.

7. Can you answer the questions now?

Score your Quiz. How many points have you got?

8. Use what you have learned in Text B.

Someone has been out of work for five months. He wants to find a job but has had no success. Now he is talking to you about his job search. He has done several things wrong. Tell him what he should do.



- 1) "I don't know what kind of job I want."
- 2) "Yes, I have a résumé. I wrote it two years ago before I graduated from school."
- 3) "No, I don't want my friends to know I'm not working."
- 4) "Yes, I sent my résumé to the telephone company. But I didn't send it to a specific person."
- 5) "Why should I thank him for the interview? That's his job."

#### **After reading**

#### **9. Work in pairs.**

- 1) Have you learned anything new about job search? If yes, what is it?
- 2) Do you agree with the advice in the Quiz? Why or why not?
- 3) Have you got any other suggestions to add? What do you think makes one a successful applicant?