



步步高英语系列丛书

Level Three ★★

# 肯尼迪梦

THE  
KENNEDYS



翁燕珩

主编

北京理工大学出版社

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Level Three 2

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# 短期成功, 长期快乐

## ——请读步步高英语系列丛书

《步步高英语系列丛书》是一套快速提高英语阅读能力, 扩大词汇量, 增强英语语感, 从而全面提高英语水平的好书。认真地阅读这套书, 一定会在短期内取得学习英语和使用英语的成功, 长期享用成功的快乐。

这套丛书具有大众性、普及性, 适用于各个不同水平层次的英语学习者。既适用于学生, 又适用于自学者。既适用于中学生, 又适用于大学生。水平偏低的可以用作学习材料, 水平较高的可以用作复习精品。作课内读物很好, 作课外读物亦佳。可精读, 可泛读, 可玩味英语语言之美, 也可领略人类体能和智能的奥妙。

这套丛书专门为非英语国家的人学英语而编, 又有针对中国人阅读理解难点而进行的注释。按照难易程度分为六级, 一级比一级增多 350 个新词和适量的新句型。一级接一级循序而读, 自然而然地由浅入深, 由简到繁, 不知不觉地由低水平上升到高水平, 体现了学习英语的最佳途径和方法。可使读者费力不多, 而收效甚大。

这套丛书内容信息性强, 知识层面广, 读来有趣, 引人入胜, 欲罢不能, 确实是同类书中的上品。因此我诚挚地向广大英语爱好者及有志于掌握英语这一工具的人推荐这套书。

北京师范大学外语系 胡春洞

## 致 读 者

随着不断的对外开放,人们越来越重视外语学习,各级各类学校对外语教学的要求也越来越高。但是,您是不是也同许多人一样遇到这么一个问题:英语学习多年,单词记了不少,语法也算熟悉,但每当需要用英语进行口头或文字表达时便不知所措,说出来的别人听不懂,写出来的别人看不懂。这主要是对常用词汇和语法缺乏具体感受,对英美文化缺乏一定了解的缘故。由此看来,多读英美国家的作品以增强语感和文化摄入,就显得十分必要了。可是,目前国内出版的选材合理、编排科学,集知识性、趣味性于一体的普及型英语读物实在是太少了。为解广大英语学习者之急需,我们选编了这套《步步高英语系列丛书》。这套丛书有以下几个特点:

取材广泛,内容新颖。这些英美作者的文章,短小精悍,妙趣横生。您从中既可以熟悉常用的词汇和语法,增强语感;又可以摄取大量的文化信息,提高您的阅读理解与表达能力。

分级编排,级级衔接。本丛书分为六级,词汇量分别为350、700……至2100。各级之间紧密衔接,成为一体,在一定程度上填补了目前我国高中与大学英语教学中存在的语言知识“断带”问题。

选词科学,难易适中。本书词汇均来源于《Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English》(《朗曼当代英语词汇》),是根据计算机统计的词频安排的。语法现象也是由易到难,精心设计。读者可以循序渐进,逐步提高。

略加注释,便于阅读。凡文中出现的个别难词、新词、俚

语、短语和比较复杂的语法现象,都略加注释,以免除读者查阅辞典之苦。每篇文章末尾配有练习题,可用以检测您的阅读与理解水平。

本书以国家教委颁布的《九年义务教育全日制初级中学英语教学大纲》初、高中学生应掌握的词汇量为依据,一、二级可供初中学生阅读;三、四级可供高中学生阅读;五、六级可供大专以上的学生阅读。全套书亦可用作英语教学的泛读辅助教材。

愿《步步高英语系列丛书》成为您的朋友!

编者

1993年3月

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# Airports

## 1

### **What happens in an airport?**

This chapter looks at all the different parts of a typical international airport and it explains how 30,000,000 passenger pass through it every year.

When people travel by train they arrive at the station ten minutes before the train leaves. They buy their ticket and get on the train. The train usually leaves on time. It usually arrives on time. The passengers get off the train, give in their ticket and leave the station. Going from the station to the train or from the train to the station can take as little as ten minutes.

But of course, airports are different. If the departure<sup>①</sup> time on a ticket is 11.30 then the passenger has to arrive at the airport at 10.30 or before. If the plane arrives at its des-



mination<sup>②</sup> at 4.00 the passengers might not leave the airport until 5.00 or even later. Leaving and arriving at airports can be long and tiring. It is always more difficult on international flights<sup>③</sup> than on national flights, because of customs<sup>④</sup>, immigration<sup>⑤</sup> and security.

This is what passengers have to do when leaving or arriving at airports<sup>⑥</sup>.

### **Departure**

#### **Check-in<sup>⑦</sup>**

Passengers take their luggage to the check-in desk of their airline<sup>⑧</sup>. All the passengers of the flight go to the same desk, so there is often a long queue. They put their luggage on a machine and if their luggage is more than 20 kilos they have to pay extra. They give their tickets to the official who asks them if they want to sit in a 'smoking' or 'no-smoking' part of the plane. They leave their luggage at the check-in and wait for their flight call. While they are waiting they can use the airport bank, post office, shops, restaurants, medical centre, toilets or nursery. There is sometimes also a small church. When they hear their flight call, they go to Passport Control<sup>⑨</sup>.

### **Passport Control and Security**

Here passengers have to show their passports to an official.

Then they go on to Security. Here they have to walk through a special machine which shows if they are carrying anything dangerous, such as a gun or a bomb<sup>®</sup>.

### **Duty Free Area<sup>®</sup>**

After passport control and security, passengers move through to the duty free area. Most international airports have this area where passengers wait for their planes. Here they can go to special shops to buy cigarettes, alcohol, perfume<sup>®</sup> and other things very cheaply.

### **Departure Area**

The passengers then go to the departure area and get on their plane. Sometimes they go straight from the Departure Lounge on to the plane. At other times they have to walk<sup>®</sup> or take an airport bus from the departure lounge to the waiting plane<sup>®</sup>.

### **Arrival**

#### **Landing**

When the plane lands on the runway<sup>®</sup> it 'taxis'<sup>®</sup> to a stop. Then the passengers go by bus or on foot to the arrival area and Immigration.

### **Immigration**

Here the passengers have to show that they have permission

to come into the country. They have to show their<sup>①</sup> passports, visas<sup>②</sup> or special documents<sup>③</sup> before the official will let them come in. There are usually two or three different queues at Immigration, for example at British airports there are three queues: one for British people, one for visitors from EEC<sup>④</sup> countries and one for all others. After Immigration passengers have to get their luggage.

### **Luggage**

Passengers pick up their luggage as it comes along a machine. Then they go through to customs.

### **Customs**

At customs the passengers have to tell the official anything that they have to pay duty<sup>⑤</sup> on, such as cigarettes, alcohol or perfume.

At British airports, for example, passengers have to pay duty if they are carrying more than the duty free allowance<sup>⑥</sup>.

There are usually a lot of people passing through customs at one time and it is impossible for customs officials to look at everybody's suitcases. So they only ask a few to open their bags.

Customs officials have to be well-trained to know if people are not telling the truth or perhaps hiding something. If they find someone who is trying to go through

without paying duty, then the passenger has to pay a lot of money or go to prison.

Many people work in an airport, to make it possible for the passengers to buy things, find their plane, leave and arrive safely, and so on. In the next chapters some of these people talk about their work.

### Notes

- ① departure 离港。
- ② destination 目的地。
- ③ flight 班机。
- ④ customs 海关。
- ⑤ immigration 入境。
- ⑥ security 安全检查。
- ⑦ check-in (机场内)旅客验票并领取登机证的地方。
- ⑧ airline 航空公司。
- ⑨ Passport Control 护照查验口。
- ⑩ bomb 炸弹。
- ⑪ Duty Free Area 免税区。
- ⑫ perfume 香水。
- ⑬ Departure Lounge 候机室。
- ⑭ 有时他们步行或乘机场大巴士由候机室到达等待起飞的飞机。
- ⑮ runway 飞机跑道。
- ⑯ taxi (使)飞机滑行。如: The plane came in and taxied along the runway. 飞机降落,在跑道上滑行。

- ⑰ Permission 允许, 许可。
- ⑱ Visa (护照上的) 签证。
- ⑲ document 证件。
- ⑳ EEC 即 The European Economic Community 欧洲经济共同体(有法国、德国、意大利等国)。
- ㉑ duty 税(尤指关税)。
- ㉒例如在英国机场, 如果乘客携带的物品超出了免税规定, 他们就要交纳关税。duty free 免税的。

### Exercises

Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Sometimes people find that travelling by air is more difficult than travelling by train, for leaving and arriving at airports is long and tiring.
2. Most international airports have a duty free area where passengers are entertained.
3. When a plane lands, taxis will take passengers to the arrival area of the airport.
4. There are usually a lot of people passing through customs at one time, so it is impossible for customs officials to open all the passengers' suitcases.
5. Customs officials have to be well-informed to know if people are telling a lie or perhaps hiding something.

## 2

### **The ground staff<sup>①</sup>**

Eric Parker is one of the British Airways ground staff in London. He sometimes works at the Information Desk<sup>②</sup>, answering passengers' questions and helping them with their problems. At other times he works at the 'Check-in', weighing their luggage. He has been working at London Airport for 20 years and enjoys his job very much. Here he is talking about his work:

'Do you find the job interesting?'

'Oh yes most of the time. When I'm working at the Information Desk people come to me with all kinds of problems. But when I'm at the 'Check-in' it's not so interesting because I only have to make sure that the passengers aren't carrying too much luggage'.

'So do you have plenty of contact with passengers?'

'Yes. Most of the time. You see, people come to Britain from all over the world and for many different reasons. They come to me with all sorts of problems and questions. For example, they don't know how to contact their friends. Perhaps they have a telephone call to make and they don't know how to use a telephone. Sometimes friends

promise to meet them and they don't come. Sometimes the passengers lose their luggage. There are all sorts of problems!'

'And can you help them?'

'I try to help if I can. It can be very difficult for passengers when they arrive in a strange place for the first time'.

'What do you think is the biggest problem for people when they arrive at a big airport like this?'

'Well, many passengers have no problems at all. They know where to go and what to do. But, I think that the biggest problem is often language. A lot of people arrive here who speak no English at all. It's very difficult to understand what people want if you don't understand one word of their language and they don't understand yours'.

'What do you do when this happens?'

'Well, we have interpreters<sup>④</sup> who can talk to the passengers and that can be very useful, but sometimes the interpreters are too busy or we don't have an interpreter for the language of the passenger——there are a lot of languages in the world! Then we have to try the best we can——using our hands or pictures to help the passenger understand what we are saying. Some people, of course, speak a little English. But this can cause problems because perhaps people understand only a little of what you are saying and then they often misunderstand you. They might

think you are being unfriendly and then they get angry!’

‘What do you like best about your job here?’

‘It’s difficult to say. There are many things I like. I like the people I work with here. We work well together and we help each other a lot. You meet a lot of other airline staff too and it’s interesting to talk to them about other airports and countries they have been to. And there is always something different happening——different problems, different questions, different experiences and funny things too. For example, there was a little old lady who couldn’t find her snake. We looked everywhere for it and after about an hour another passenger found it in his lunch box!’

‘How awful! Tell me, do you travel a lot?’

‘Yes I do. If you work for an airline, very often you can travel free. At other times you can fly very cheaply. You never have to pay more than 25% of the full price on any airline’<sup>⑤</sup>.

‘And where do you fly to?’

‘Oh, all sorts of places. This year, for example, I’ve been to Libya<sup>⑥</sup>, Canada, Malta<sup>⑦</sup> and Greece. And next week I’m going to Turkey’<sup>⑧</sup>.

‘Is there anything you don’t like about the job?’

‘Oh yes. The worst part is when you’re working at the Information Desk alone and suddenly there is an announcement about delay<sup>⑨</sup>; maybe an aeroplane is late in taking off or arriving. Then there is always a crowd of people at the



desk, all asking questions at the same time. The passengers want to know why the plane is late and when it's going to leave or arrive. Sometimes these people are very rude. Then I start to get really angry. They can never understand that if they wait quietly for a few minutes, it's usually possible to answer all their questions in a short time<sup>①</sup>.

Another thing I don't like very much about the work is the hours. Sometimes I have to work all through the night and this can be very boring because the airport is usually quite empty at that time. But, in general, I like working here very much—it's very international<sup>②</sup>. You meet people from all over the world and a lot of famous people too: politicians, film stars, writers, all kinds of people. I think the thing I like best is the variety<sup>③</sup>——and I like the uniform too!’

### Notes

- ① Staff (全体)工作人员。ground staff 地面工作人员。
- ② the Information Desk 问询处。
- ③ 因此你有许多与乘客接触的机会,是吗? contact 接触。
- ④ interpreter 翻译(特指口头翻译并以此为职业者)。
- ⑤ 在任何一个航空公司,你只需付全票的 25%就可以了。
- ⑥ Libya 利比亚(北非国家)。
- ⑦ Malta 马尔他(地中海岛国)。