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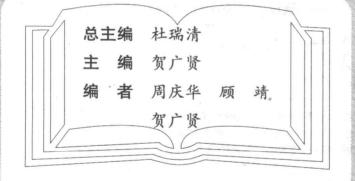
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序

人类即将迈入 21 世纪,新的时代对我们提出了更高的要求,我们也面临着更多的机遇和挑战。只有及时抓住机遇,主动迎接挑战,才能适应不断发展变化的社会,才能无愧于所处的时代。

21世纪是一个国际化、网络化的时代,知识的传播和信息的交流将会更加迅速。因此,作为这些活动的载体——语言,也就显得尤为重要,特别是英语的重要性不言而喻,全世界70%以上的出版物均使用英语。改革开放以来,"英语热"持续升温。不过要学好英语谈问事子,怎样能够在有限的时间里提高学习效率,广大英语工作者一直在探索行之有效的方积。关语词汇历来是困扰广大学习者的一大难题,只有积累了一定数量的词汇,才能进行训练和提高听、说、读、写、译等基本技能。而词汇的积累主要依靠大量的阅读。译等基本技能。而词汇的积累主要依靠大量的阅读。专事出版西安公司组织、全国四所高等院校权威专家联合编写的这套《英语阅读突破书系》在此方面作了有益的尝试。全书有以下几个突出特色.

选材得当,资料新颖。全书收集了英语国家出版的最新阅读资料,内容涉及网络、经济、环境、科技、文化、教育等诸多方面。阅读全书,不仅是在提高英语水平,同时也是在最新知识的海洋里遨游。

循序渐进,突出词汇。此套丛书每册分级处理词汇,前后照应,由简到繁,从易到难,按照最新大纲对词汇的要求来编写。

练习多样,重在掌握。本书在每篇课文之后都安排 了形式不同的练习,并对课文进行翻译,提供参考答案, 以便更好地检查学习效果,巩固所学内容和词汇。

本书不仅可作为在校大学生英语学习的阅读辅助 教材,还可为自学考试学生以及广大英语爱好者提供切 实的帮助,在短期内收到事半功倍的效果。

2001年2月于西安外国语学院

前 言

《英语阅读突破书系》为循序渐进阅读丛书。编写丛书的目的在于通过丰富、广泛的文章阅读和词汇练习为学习英语的读者提供更好、更新、更科学的语言学习方法,使读者在兴趣盎然的阅读中学习、应用,最终掌握英语单词,扩大词汇量。

丛书共分六册,根据最新《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》编写,各册词汇量严格按照大纲要求来做。

丛书具有以下特点:

- (1)每册内含 18 个单元,每一单元均有两篇阅读文章和一篇篇幅短小且生动有趣的幽默故事。练习设置以单词练习为主,兼顾构词法的学习和练习,练习并不拘泥于形式,各种不同类型相互穿插;力求在阅读实践当中完成词意理解、应用并最终达到掌握的目的。
- (2)通过阅读,每册所掌握的词汇数量和重点不同: 第一册可掌握词汇 2300,第二册可掌握词汇 3000,第三 册可掌握词汇 3500,第四册可掌握词汇 4200,第五册可 掌握词汇 5000,第六册可掌握词汇 5500。
- (3)考虑到基础阶段读者的词汇量不够丰富的特点,每篇阅读文章中出现的新词、生词均加有标注,协助读者完成连续的、不间断的思维过程,再加之文后的难句注解及背景知识能使读者实现真正意义上的有效阅读。
 - (4)丛书选材广泛,内容新颖,可扩大读者的语言接

触面;同时又图文并茂,既赏心又悦目。希望能通过一种别致、多变的途径使本书成为读者扩大词汇量、提高阅读能力、增见识、长知识的好帮手。

千里之行始于足下,坚实基础的奠定需要读者的用心和恒心,本书在给读者提供实践机会的同时,更期望通过本书的引导帮助读者培养阅读的兴趣,养成自觉良好的阅读习惯,从而登上更高的台阶。

限于水平及其他客观原因,本书难免有疏漏之处, 敬请各位读者不吝赐教,予以指正。

> 编 者 2001年2月



$\stackrel{\leftrightarrow}{\sim}$	Unit 1		
	Text I	Passion for Cities	
		城市览胜	5 1
	Text I	What's Right About Reading	
		书海徜徉	7
	Reading For Fun	You've Lost	
		你输了	12
		Which Would You Like to Have	
		你要哪个	12
☆	Unit 2		
	Text I	Universities and Their Function	
		大学及其作用	∄ 14
	Text I	A Classroom Full of Flowers	
		溢香流彩的教室	21
	Reading For Fun	How Much Do You Want to	
		Make it?	
		你想要多少?	- 27
		Good News and Bad News	
		好消息与坏消息	27
☆	Unit 3		
	Text I	The Town Week	
		星期画像	》至29
	Text I	American Culture in Transition	



		变化中的美国文化	₹ 37
	Reading For Fun	A Good Meal	
		美餐一顿	43
		Girl's Name	
		女孩的名字	₩ 44
☆	Unit 4		
	Text I	Is Love an Art	
		爱情是一种艺术吗	45
	Text I	Love, I'll Never Forget	
		爱,我永世不忘	53
	Reading For Fun	Lady First	
		女士优先	62
		Who Was the First Man	
		谁是第一个男人	ੀਂ- 62
☆	Unit 5		
	Text I	"You Are My Dictionary"	
		"你是我人生的字典"	64
	Text I	The Web: Infotopia or	
		Marketplace?	
		网络:信息乌托邦还是市场?	焉 73
	Reading For Fun	Prettier Without Glasses	
		不戴眼镜会更美	蹇81
		Henpecked Husbands	
		怕老婆的丈夫	# 81
☆	Unit 6		
	Text I	The Hidden Power of Play	
		游戏的潜力	E 83
	Text I	The Spark She Can't Explain	



		影界皇后		
		·记梅里尔·斯特里普	90	
	Reading For Fun	That's Why		
		原来如此	97	
		I Will Pay the Money for the		
		Word		
		我愿付这个字的钱	# 98	
☆	Unit 7			
	Text I	The Beauty Industry		
		美容业	299	
	Text 	The School That Teaches		
		Real Life		
		传授真实生活的学校	£ 109	
	Reading For Fun	No Math Nobel Prize		
		数学无诺贝尔奖	濂 117	
☆	Unit 8			
	Text I	Heart to Heart		
		以心换心	變 119	
	Text 	My Father's Perfect Christmas		
		父亲心满意足的圣诞节	¥ 127	
	Reading For Fun	Both of the Answers are Right		
		两个答案都对	黨 135	
☆	Unit 9			
	Text I	Inside the Mind of a Genius		
		天才的内心世界	№ 136	
	Text I	What Men Need From Women	,	
		男人需要女人什么	疆 143	
	Reading For Fun	The Unnecessary Worry		



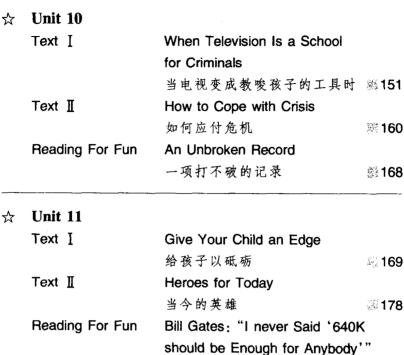
184

186

194

類 203

Reading For Fun





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☆	Unit 13				
	Text I	Youth Crime and Prevention			
		少年犯罪与预防	205		
	Text I	China Beeves Up Effort to			
		Build Brand Names			
		中国在努力争创名牌	£213		
	Reading For Fun	The Bus Conductor			
		公共汽车售票员	₩ 220		
☆	Unit 14				
	Text I	Assisted Suicide			
		美国的安乐死之争	3 222		
	Text I	Easy Ways to Stay Fit for Life			
		简易的健身法	228		
	Reading For Fun	Unlucky Guys			
		不走运的伙计	236		
☆	Unit 15				
	Text I	University Students Want Say			
		in Tenure			
		大学生给不合格教授亮了黄牌	238		
	Text I	What These Hands Dare			
		人手移植	244		
	Reading For Fun	Oh, Rats!			
		可恶的老鼠	252		
☆	Unit 16				
	Text I	Dragon Power (1)			



龙年吉祥 (2)

你了解我吗?

Do You Know Me?

Reading For Fun

Unit 17

☆

261

266





Unit 1



Passion for Cities 城市览胜

对城市的情结使许多人怀有周游世界的梦想。城市犹如万花筒,有的旖旎如穿罗裙的丽人,有的勃发如活力四射的年轻人,有的如雅致浪漫的情人,有的又凝重深沉如哲人……在作者眼中它们是怎样的画面呢?











Pre-reading Questions

- 1. List your favorite city or cities, why do you like it or them?
- 2. The author lists a series of cities which have given him enlightening. Notice how does the author connect the different individual parts (cities) into a whole passage, especially the connected words in the beginning of each part?

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- (1) Love apart, and perhaps wine, more than anything else I enjoy looking at cities—not looking at them methodically(有条不紊地), or even analytically, but just as E. M. Forster recommended long ago, "wandering aimlessly around." The pleasure they have given me has been varied, ranging from the delight of sheer serendipity! to the satisfaction of knowledge gained or anticipation fulfilled, and now that I have visited (with one single exception) all the incontestably(无可争辩地) great cities of the earth. I find myself sorting my favorites not just by degrees of enjoyment, but by category.
- (2) For example, nobody could seriously deny that the most beautiful of all cities is Venice: the Shakespeare of cities², as it was once called, all on its own³; water lapped, shadow-dappled, tower-crowned⁴, gilded and flagged and marvelously chimneyed, stacked so subtly beside its lagoon that as you sail past its palaces in your long black gondola⁵ its layers seem to be moving, building behind building like a marble ballet.
- (3) On the other hand, for intricacy of interest nowhere can match London, the most richly experienced, adaptable, devious and cynical of capitals. London is a theatre. Nothing is unpremeditated there, almost nothing is altogether frank, from the astonishing permutation(排列) of royalty (clank of cavalry down the Mall⁶, billow(巨浪) of golden ensign(旗帜) above the Palace⁷) to the infinite sense of gentle-



英语阅读突破书名

manly cunning that informs the financial quarter of the City⁸. For stimulus and rejuvenation(恢复活力), for staying up late and dancing in the park—well, hackneyed(陈腐的)though the judgment seems, it can only be New York. I am always more than myself in New York⁹: partly because of its architectural intensity, that masonry thicket of Manhattan¹⁰, partly because of its climatic extremes, but chiefly because nearly everybody I know there is cleverer (if not necessarily wiser) than I am.

- (4) Mind you, for majesty, for tremendousness, I think another American city beats it. Charles Dickens was told by his train conductor, when he first went to Chicago, that he was entering "the boss city of the universe¹¹." It is hardly that, but all the same no other city so impresses me with the scale of the human potential. That magnificent lakefront, those terrific windy boulevards, that stupendous Sears Skyscraper¹², like a slab of living rock left standing when the rest of a precipice was quarried away—Chicago is a city fit for giants.
- (5) I suppose one must grant that Paris is the most elegant of cities still, but I have never really responded to it. I prefer a more spontaneous kind of stylishness, and I find it preeminently in Rio de Janeiro¹³. Rio is urbane and squalid cheek by jowl, but its overwhelming characteristic is charm. Set there on its lovely bays, serenely supervised by its hilltop figure of Christ, it seems design to sooth the cares away. More than any other city it possesses what the Arabs call baraka¹⁴, the gift of being blessed, and of bestowing blessings, both at the same time.
- (6) I detested Sydney when I first went there, but it has grown on me—partly no doubt because I have matured, but partly because it has blossomed miraculously during the twenty years I have known it. Now if I were asked to name the jolliest city, I think my mind would spring at once to the good-natured bustle of the Circular Quay¹⁵, the shambled bonhomie of Kings Cross¹⁶, the mordancy(刻薄) of the Sydney taxi



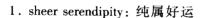


drivers and the inimitable Sydney humour.

- (7) The city where I really grew up, where I experienced I suppose the most formative years of my young adulthood, was Cairo, and it remains for me in many ways the grandest of them all. As Charles Doughty¹⁷ observed of the Arabs, it has its feet in a sewer but its brow touches heaven. As old as the Sphinx, as brash as television, with its incomparable medieval center¹⁸, the desert that hems it in and the benign old Nile that flows through the middle of it, it is truly the great heart of towns, added by poverty, inefficiency and bad luck, but ennobled always by human sympathy.
- (8) And there remains one more category of city than enthralls me¹⁹ the tantalizing city, the mysterious the beckoning, the never-quite-understood. Of all the supreme cities of the earth, for me the most tantalizing is Beijing, because that's the one I've never been to.



Notes



- 2. the Shakespeare of cities:都市中之佼佼者,用莎士比亚的名声来形容威尼斯城的知名度
- 3. all on its own = on its own account; independently
- 4. water-lapped, shadow-dappled, tower-crowned:水波拍岸,阴影斑驳, 塔楼高耸
- 5. Gondola: (威尼斯运河水上行驶的)长形平底舟
- 6. the Mall: 伦敦圣·詹姆斯公园(St. James Park)林荫路
- 7. the Palace: 指白金汉宫(Buckingham Palace)
- 8. the city = the City of London
- 9. I am always more than myself in New York: 在纽约我总是感到不自在。
- 10. masonry thicket of Manhattan: 曼哈顿(纽约市中心)密集的高楼大厦 masonry 砖石建筑的 thicket 丛林





