

*Reading Passages*

*for Senior Middle  
School Students*

高中英语课外读物选

天津人民出版社

# 高中英语课外读物选

(附练习与答案)

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## 出版说明

为了配合高中英语教学，解决高中学生阅读材料不足的问题，本书选编了七十五篇短文，作为高中学生的英语课外读物。

这些短文大都选自英美原文材料，题材广泛多样，有名人轶事、科普文章、寓言故事、风土人情、各国概况、幽默趣闻等。为帮助读者提高英文水平和阅读理解能力，每篇后附有与文章内容有关的三项练习，最后附练习答案。

本书既可用作高中学生的课外读物，也可供广大英语爱好者自学之用。

本书第1—30篇由王树凯、张清福编，周永启校；第31—75篇由李映辉、梁志大、李学建编，庞秉钧校。

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## 1. BRITAIN

Britain is an island kingdom off the north-west coast of Europe. Its official name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The island of Great Britain is divided among Scotland, Wales and England. The United Kingdom has a land area of 244,000 square kilometres and a population of more than 55,000,000.

The British are islanders. They speak of their country as "our island home". Indeed, no place in Great Britain is more than 120 kilometres from the coast and it has an unusually long coastline. The sea is never far from Englishmen's thought.

The capital of Britain is London, the largest city and seaport of the country. It has a museum with buildings and memorials of every period in Britain history. The West End of London is the country's main cultural, entertainment, shopping and tourist centre. In the East End is the port of London. Here are miles and miles of docks, and all the works and firms that depend upon shipping.

Britain is a highly industrialized country. The great metal works of Birmingham and the Black Country produce everything from needles to locomotives. Manchester





visitors in \_\_\_\_\_ a. real name b. full name  
England. They then c. common name d. old name  
( ) 3. The island of Great Britain is divided into \_\_\_\_\_ parts.

a. two b. three  
c. many d. five  
( ) 4. The main cultural centre of the country is at the \_\_\_\_\_ of London.

a. port b. East End  
c. museum d. West End  
( ) 5. The coastline of Great Britain is quite \_\_\_\_\_.

a. far b. short  
c. long d. more

II. Decide which of the following statements are true (T) and which are false (F):

- ( ) 1. The population of the United Kingdom is over fifty-five million.  
( ) 2. Scotland, Wales and England are the three main parts of the island.  
( ) 3. The great metal works of Birmingham and the Black Country produce everything except needles and locomotives.  
( ) 4. Englishmen know quite a lot about the sea.  
( ) 5. Manchester is the centre of heavy industry in the country.

III. Put in the missing words:

\_\_\_\_\_ of the first things noticed \_\_\_\_\_ visitors in England is the greenness of the land. They then complain, as the British themselves \_\_\_\_\_, about the rain that causes it. Never can the British feel certain \_\_\_\_\_ tomorrow's weather; seldom it is the same in all parts of the country. \_\_\_\_\_ one day a certain place may be white with snow; but half a day's journey \_\_\_\_\_, and one can see trees \_\_\_\_\_ blossom. And sometimes, in one small part of the country the \_\_\_\_\_ will change between hot and \_\_\_\_\_, rain and sun three or four \_\_\_\_\_ in a day.

a. far

b. short

c. long

d. more

II. Decide which of the following statements are true

(T) and which are false (F):

( ) 1. The population of the United Kingdom is

over fifty-five million.

( ) 2. Scotland, Wales and England are the three

main parts of the island.

( ) 3. The great metal works of Birmingham and

the Black Country produce everything

except needles and locomotives.

( ) 4. Englishmen know quite a lot about the sea.

( ) 5. Manchester is the centre of heavy industry

in the country.

III. Put in the missing words:

## 2. LOST IN THE FOG

It's been quite some time since I was last in London, but something happened during that visit that I'll remember as long as I live.

London had one of the thickest fogs in years. You could hardly see your hand in front of your face. Cars and buses crept along, their lights on and their horns blowing furiously. When evening fell, the weather got even worse. The fog was as thick as pea soup. All traffic came to a standstill. I had an important meeting on the other side of the town, but it was impossible to find a taxi. I decided to walk, and started out confidently.

Minutes later I was completely lost. I couldn't even find a street sign to know where I was. Then I heard a voice come out of the fog. "I suppose you are lost. Can I help you?" I could barely see the young woman who had spoken to me, but was grateful to find another person out in the fog. I explained where I wanted to go, and she said she knew exactly how to get there. I was doubtful, but followed her through the dark streets.

The city seemed as quiet as a graveyard, and I remember thinking my guide could be leading me to a back street where she and some of her friends would rob

me. But my fears were unfounded. The woman led me straight to my destination. I was amazed at how well she had found her way through the fog. "I know this part of the town quite well," she explained. "But the fog — this terrible fog — made it impossible to see anything," I said.

"It makes no difference to me if it's foggy or clear. You see, I'm blind."

### NEW WORDS

fog [fɒɡ] *n.* 雾

creep [kri:p] (crept, crept) *v.* 爬行

horn [hɔ:n] *n.* 喇叭

furiously ['fjuəriəsli] *adv.* 狂怒地

pea soup 豌豆汤

standstill ['stændstil] *n.* 停止; 停顿

taxi ['tæksi] *n.* 出租汽车

confidently ['kɒnfɪdəntli] *adv.* 有信心地

supposes [sə'pouz] *v.* 假定, 猜想

barely ['beəli] *adv.* 几乎没有, 勉强

graveyard ['greivjɑ:d] *n.* 坟场, 墓地

destination [desti'neiʃən] *n.* 目的地

be amazed at 吓了一跳

## EXERCISES

- I. Answer the following questions:
1. What did London have during the time the author visited it?
  2. How thick was the fog?
  3. Was there any traffic when evening came?
  4. What made the author stay out on one of the fog days?
  5. He was lost in the fog, wasn't he?
  6. What did he think when the woman led him forward?
  7. What was he amazed at?

- II. For each word in Column I find a group of words of similar meaning in Column II:

### I

- ( ) 1. happen
- ( ) 2. fog
- ( ) 3. creep
- ( ) 4. unfounded
- ( ) 5. graveyard
- ( ) 6. guide
- ( ) 7. destination

### II

- a. vapour in the air or near the earth's surface
- b. place to which sb. is going
- c. without foundation
- d. move slowly and quietly
- e. ground where the dead are buried
- f. take place
- g. person who shows the way

### III. Put in the missing words:

Britain, in which fifty million — live and work, is the land of a great variety. There — many large cities, but they are surrounded — the quiet countryside. There are plains in — east, hills — the centre and the south-west, and mountains in the north. — parts of the country are almost — trees while others have great forests, the south is a — of rivers, but Scotland is a land of lakes.

- II. For each word in Column I find a group of words of similar meaning in Column II.

II	I
a. vapour in the air or near the earth's surface	( ) 1. happen
b. place to which sb. is going	( ) 2. fog
c. without foundation	( ) 3. creep
d. move slowly and quietly	( ) 4. unfounded
e. ground where the dead are buried	( ) 5. graveyard
f. lake place	( ) 6. guide
g. person who shows the way	( ) 7. destination

### 3. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States covers a large part of the North American continent. Its neighbors are Canada to the north, and Mexico to the south. Although the United States is a big country, it is not the largest in the world. In 1964, its population was over 185,000,000.

When this land first became a nation, after winning its independence from England, it had thirteen states. Each of the states was represented on the American flag by a star. All these states were in the eastern part of the continent. As the nation grew toward the west, new states were added and new stars appeared on the flag. For a long time, there were 48 stars. In 1959, however, two more stars were added to the flag, representing the new states of Alaska and Hawaii.

Indians were the first inhabitants of the land which is now the United States. There are still many thousands of the descendants of these original inhabitants living in all parts of the country. Sometimes it is said that the Indians are "the only real Americans". Most Americans, however, are descendants of people who came from all over the world to find a new life in a new land. Those who came first and in greatest numbers to make their



homes on the eastern coast of North America were mostly from England. It is for that reason that the language of the United States is English and that its culture and customs are more like those of England than of any other country in the world.

## NEW WORDS

- Mexico ['meksikou] *n.* 墨西哥(国名)  
independence [indi'pendəns] *n.* 独立  
represent [reprɪ'zent] *v.* 代表  
Alaska [ə'læskə] *n.* 阿拉斯加(美国州名)  
Hawaii [ha'waii:] *n.* 夏威夷(美国州名)  
Indian ['indjən] *n.* 印第安人  
inhabitant [in'hæbitənt] *n.* 居民  
descendent [di'sendənt] *n.* 子孙, 后裔  
original [ə'ridʒənəl] *a.* 原来的, 原始的

## EXERCISES

I. Complete the following:

1. The population of the U. S. was less than 185 million in 1964.
2. The United States is to the west of Canada and the south of Mexico.
3. Each star on the American flag stands for a state.