·理工科英语分级读物·

知道吗？

翁世纳　路佳英　选注

1

Grade

高等教育出版社

DO YOU KNOW

理工科英语分级读物　第1级

Did You Know?

知道吗?

翁世仰　路桂英　选注

高等教育出版社

1984·2

理工科英语分级读物

Did You Know?

知 道 吗?

*

高等教育出版社出版

新华书店北京发行所发行

河北省香河县印刷厂印装

*

开本 787×960 1/32　印张 7.375　字数 183,000

1985 年 7 月第 1 版　1985 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

印数 00,001—19,040

书号 9010·0205　　定价 1.40 元

G154105

主编者例言

一、这套读物主要供高等院校理工科各专业学生英语课外阅读之用，也可供自学英语的工程技术人员选用，以提高英语阅读与理解能力。

二、全套读物共分四级，按词汇量和语言难度分级。词汇量以 Thorndike 和 Lorge 所编 *The Teacher's Wordbook of* 30,000 为依据，但按我国具体教学情况作适当调整。每级读物分若干册。第一级到第三级为一般科普文章，包括科普知识、科学家传记和轶事、科技珍闻、科学幻想等。第四级读物中一部分为一般科普文章，亦即一、二、三级的继续；另一部分为分大类读物，如：机械动力、电子电工、土建水利、交通运输等。

三、全套读物都选自英美原文。在编选过程中力求选文题材新颖、内容有趣、语言生动。

四、每册内容包括选文、注释和理解练习三个部分。书后附有该册词汇总表和练习答案，可供查阅。

西安交通大学外语系
理工科英语分级读物主编组
施明德　潘能　施荣根

一九八三年十二月

CONTENTS

1. Mr., Mrs., Miss and Ms. ……1
2. The First Stamps ……2
3. How Did April Fool's Day Begin? ……5
4. Why Do Barber Shops Have Red and White Poles?……7
5. Why Do Men Have Buttons on Their Jacket Sleeves? ……9
6. What Is the Riddle of the Sphinx?……11
7. What Causes Waves?……12
8. The Birth of an Island……15
9. How Civilization Can Die? ……17
10. Some Things Do Not Change ……19
11. The Longest River……21
12. The Longest Fence in the World ……24
13. Antonio Gaudi and His Church……26
14. The Tragedy of Saint-Pierre ……28

15. Animals Which Live a Long Time ……30
16. Snakes……32
17. An Insect That Opens Doors……35
18. The Fastest Tongue on Earth……38
19. Pigeon Talk ……41
20. Monkey Intelligence ……43
21. A Shooting Animal ……45
22. Quiet! Worms at Work……49
23. Good Parents in Antarctica ……50
24. Our Most Dangerous Enemy — the Rat……52
25. Tiny but Beautiful……54
26. The Tree of Life ……57
27. Eating the Sun……59

此为试读,需要完整PDF请访问: www.ertongbook.com

28. The Children of the Sun ……60
29. Life and Death of a Sun……62

30. The Baby in the Silver Suit ……64
31. What Does Man Do with His Big Brain?……67
32. Blood to Save Lives ……68
33. Roman Physicians ……70

34. How the Olympic Games Started ……72
35. Women in the Olympics ……74
36. The Closing of the Games……76
37. Basketball ……78

38. The Origin of words ……80
39. World of Words ……83
40. Slang ……84
41. Two Languages or One? ……86
42. Colourful Language……87
43. The English Language ……89

44. Where Did Americans Come from? ……92
45. American Indians ……93
46. Which States in the U.S. Have the Most People?……95
47. How Did the States in the U.S. Get Their Names?…96
48. The Congress of the United States……98
49. The Climate of the United States……101
50. New York Is More ……102
51. Which Washington? ……104
52. Schools in the U. S. A. ……106
53. Mail Service in the U. S. A. ……109
54. The Throwaway Society ……110

55. Town and Country ……112

56. Living under Cover 115
57. An Indoor Town 117
58. A City at Sea 119

59. Food 122
60. Jam and Pickle 124
61. Drying and Smoking 125
62. Food Decay 127
63. Bottles and Cans 128
64. Refrigeration 130
65. Salt (I) 132
66. Salt (II) 135

67. Clothmaking 137
68. Wool, Cotton, or Nylon? 139
69. Plastics 140

70. Fly with Wings Made from Chicken Feathers 142
71. A Strange Thing from the Sky 144
72. Early Passenger Service 146
73. Have You Anything to Declare? 148
74. A New Way to Fly 150
75. Steam Cars 152
76. Cars for Tomorrow 155
77. Hovercraft 157
78. Hovertrains 160
79. A New Lifeboat 163

80. What Is a Camera? 165
81. Seeing Aid 167
82. Adjustable-focus Glasses 168
83. Manual Marvel 170
84. I Saw Him on the Phone Today 172

85. Across the Atlantic by Computer……174
86. The Computer and the Motor-car……177
87. Computer Helps Fire Fighters……179

38. Zero Hour ……181
89. Satellites in the Solar System……183
90. Space Research……185

APPENDIX 1
KEY TO EXERCISES
APPENDIX 2
VOCABULARY

1. MR., MRS., MISS, AND MS[1].

Almost everyone knows the meanings of Mr., Mrs., and Miss. Mr. is used before the names of men. Mrs. is for married women and Miss is for single women. But what is Ms.?

For some time, businessmen in the United States have used Ms. before a woman's name when they do not know whether the woman is married or not. Today, however, many women prefer to use Ms. rather than Mrs. or Miss[2]. The word Mr. does not tell us whether or not a man is married. Many women think this is an advantage for men. They want to be equal to[3] men in this way. These women feel that it is not important for people to know whether they are married or not.

There are some problems with Ms., however. Not all women like it. Some like the older ways of doing things. Some find it difficult to pronounce[4]. (Ms. sounds like "miz".)[5] Generally, young women like it better than older women do. It is difficult to know whether or not Ms. will be used by more American women in the future. What do you think of this change?

(from *A Reading Sampler*)

---

1. Mr., Mrs., Miss, and Ms.: Mr. 是 mister (先生) 的缩写, 读作['mistə]; Mrs 是 mistress(夫人)的缩写, 读作['misiz]; miss 小姐, 读作[mis]; Ms 代表 miss 或 Mrs, 读作 [miz], 用在婚姻情况不明的女子姓名前。
2. prefer to use Ms rather than Mrs. or Miss: 宁愿使用"女

士”而不使用“夫人”或“小姐”。“prefer to + V. + rather than ...”意为“宁愿…而不…”，如：I prefer to work rather than sit idle. 我愿意工作，而不愿闲着。

3. be equal to: 与…平等。
4. Some find it difficult to pronounce: 有些人认为发音不便。句中 it 为形式宾语，实际宾语为不定式 to pronounce。
5. Ms. Sounds like “miz”: Ms. 发音为[miz]。

Are these statements true or false according to the passage?

____ 1. The word Mrs. is used before the names of married women.

____ 2. Businessmen in the United States always use Ms. before women's names.

____ 3. Many women like Ms. because they want to be equal to men.

____ 4. All women like the new word Ms.

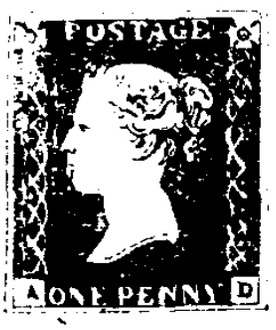
____ 5. The women who like Ms. feel it is important for people to know whether or not they are married.

2. THE FIRST STAMPS

Did you know that the first stick-on or adhesive stamps[1] in the world were issued in Great Britain in May 1840? They were the Penny Black and the Two-penny Blue[2].

The man responsible for these stamps[3] was Sir Rowland Hill[4]. who is sometimes described as[5] the inventor of the modern postage stamp. Before 1840 all letters had been paid for by the person who received them. The cost of a letter from a great

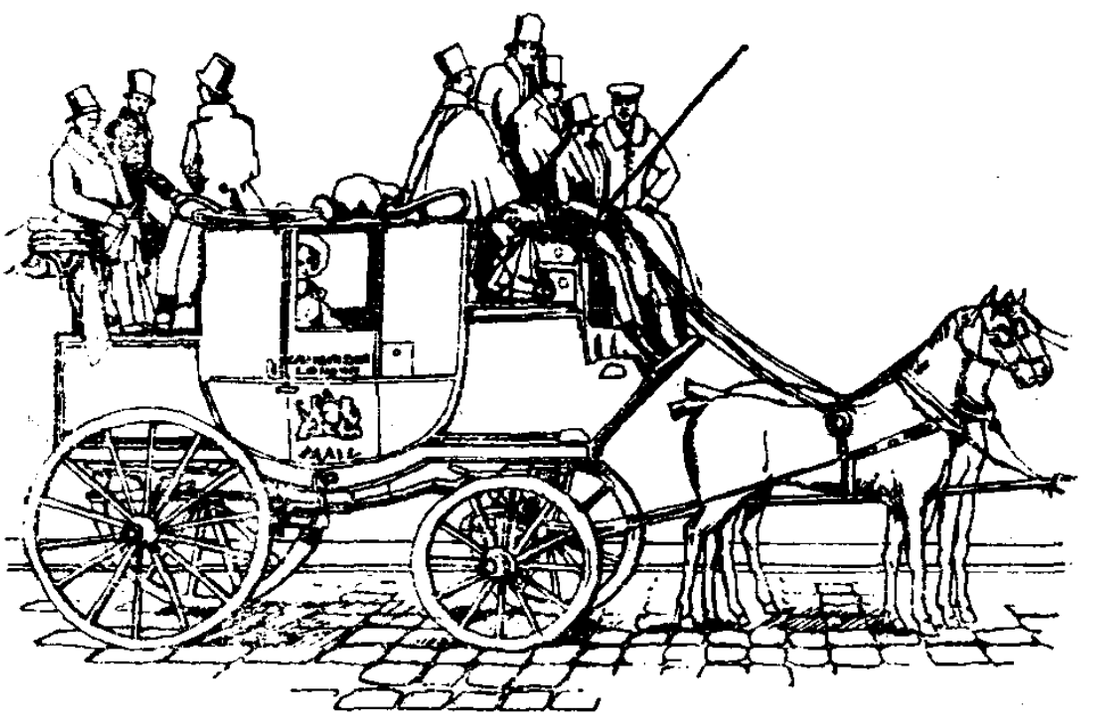
distance was very heavy. Many people were too poor to accept their mail. Then in 1840 Sir Rowland Hill introduced the Penny Post[6]. This allowed people to send letters for one penny per half ounce, regardless of the distance[7]. Since the sender now had to pay the cost, something was needed to show that the cost had already been paid. Sir Rowland produced little 'labels' to stick on the envelopes for this purpose. These 'labels' were the first postage stamps.



The Penny Black from Great Britain appeared in 1840.

The Bull's Eye stamp from Brazil appeared in 1843.

The first airmail stamp appeared in the USA in 1918.



When the first stamps were introduced the mail was carried in mail coaches like this.

The Canton of Zurich[8] in Switzerland[9] followed

此为试读,需要完整PDF请访问: www.ertongbook.com

Britain's lead[10] in March 1843. A few months later Brazil[11] issued the famous Bull's Eyes[12]. Soon most countries of the world had their own stamps and postal service[13] of a similar kind.

There have been other 'first' stamps since 1840. For example, Peru[14] issued the world's first commemorative stamps in 1871 on the twentieth anniversary of the first railway in South America. The first specially designed airmail stamp was printed by the USA in 1918.

(from *Did You Know?*)

---

1. stick-on or adhesive stamps: 背面粘有胶水的邮票。
2. the Penny Black and the Twopenny Blue: 黑色一便士的邮票和蓝色两便士的邮票。
3. The man responsible for these stamps: 意义上相当于 The man who thought of issuing these stamps 想到发行这些邮票的人。responsible for ... 原意为"对…负责"，"担负"。
4. Sir Rowland Hill(['rəulənd hil]): Rowland Hill 爵士。
5. be described as (= be considered as): 被认为是…。
6. the Penny Post: 用一便士邮寄一封信的(邮政)制度。
7. to send letters for one penny per half ounce, regardless of the distance: 信件按每半两重贴一便士邮票投寄，不管距离远近。regardless of ... 不管(顾)…。
8. the Canton (['kæntɔn]) of Zurich (['zjuərik]): 苏黎士行政区(瑞士)。
9. Switzerland (['switsələnd]): 瑞士。
10. followed Britain's lead: = followed Britain's example 仿照英国。
11. Brazil ([brə'zil]): 巴西。
12. the famous Bull's Eyes: 著名的牛眼邮票。
13. postal service: 邮政机构(部门)。
14. Peru ([pə'ru:]): 秘鲁。

Are these statements true or false according to the passage?

____ 1. With the introduction of the Penny Post, the receiver of a letter had to pay for it.

____ 2. Postage stamps are used to show the sender has paid the cost of postage.

____ 3. Bull's Eyes stamps were issued by Peru.

____ 4. The idea of using little 'labels' on envelopes was Sir Rowland Hill's.

____ 5. The first commemorative stamp was issued to mark the beginning of airmail.

3. HOW DID APRIL FOOL'S DAY[1] BEGIN?

The custom of playing tricks on[2] friends on April 1st is believed to have originated in[3] France[4] in the middle of the 6th century.

Before that time, one calendar was used throughout Europe. Under this calender, each new year began on April 1st. On that day, people celebrated by exchanging gifts and visiting each other[5].

Then in 1564, King Charles IX of France[6] adopted a new calendar and decreed that each new year was to begin on January 1st[7]. However, while[8] most people followed their king's decree, there were some who did not like the idea of the change and refused to accept the new New Year's Day.

These people soon became the butt of jokes and tricks[9] by their friends and neighbors because they continued to observe April 1st as New Year's Day. These friends and neighbors sent mock gifts[10], invited these people to fake parties[11], and played tricks on them because they were"April Fools", people who clung to their April New Year's Day[12].

(选自《广播节目报》1983 年第 10 期)

---

1. April Fool's Day: 四月一日愚人节。
2. play tricks on sb: 捉弄(戏弄)某人。
3. originate in: 起源于…。
4. France ([fra:ns]): 法国。
5. by exchanging gifts and visiting each other: "by+V-ing" 的结构常用于表示方式方法，如: By reading much we learn much. 读得多，学得多。
6. King Charles ([tʃa:lz])IX of France: 法王查尔斯九世。
7. that each new year was to begin on January 1st: 每年新年应从元月一日开始。"to be + V" 常表示"应该"，"必须"、"预定要"，"可能"等意。
8. while(conj.): = although 虽然，尽管。
9. the butt of jokes and tricks: 开玩笑和戏弄的对象。
10. mock gifts: 骗人的假礼物。
11. fake parties: 假宴会。
12. people who clung to their April New Year's Day: 是前面 "April Fools" 的同位语，意为"坚持四月一日为元旦的人们"。cling to 坚持…。

Choose the right answer according to the passage.

1. The origin of April Fool's Day
   a) is known with certainty.
   b) has probably been determined.
   c) is only a legend.

d) is completely unknown.

2. Some people didn't follow the new calendar because
   a) they didn't like their king.
   b) they prefer old things.
   c) they liked to be made fun of.
   d) they liked mock gifts.

4. WHY DO BARBER SHOPS HAVE RED AND WHITE POLES?

Long, long ago, barbers did much more than cut people's hair[1]. Barbers performed some minor operations on[2] people, especially blood-letting, or bleeding. This was believed to be a cure for some illnesses[3] in which[4] the "bad blood" was supposed to leave the body.

To perform the operations, barbers had their patients hold onto a pole standing in the shop[5]. Then the patient's blood was "let". When the pole was not being used by a patient, it stood in the barber's doorway with bandages wrapped around it[6]. This was an advertisement that the barber was a good "bleeder."

When people realized that it was unsanitary to use a pole that stood in a doorway, barbers painted red stripes around the poles as a continuing advertisement[7]. The red stripes were to remind the customers of[8] blood-soaked bandages.

Red and white striped barber poles became so identified with[9] barbers that the custom of having a pole outside a barber shop continues today.

(选自《广播节目报》1983 年第 10 期)

1. did much more than cut people's hair: 远不止只是给人们理发。
2. perform operations on sb.: 给某人做手术。
3. a cure for some illnesses: 治疗某些疾病的方法。
4. which: 指代 cure。
5. barbers had their patients hold onto a pole standing in the shop: 理发师让病人抱住竖立在店堂里的柱子。"have + 宾语 + V" 表示"使(叫,让)…做"之意,如: We can't have the motor run idle. 我们不能让马达空转。
6. with bandages wrapped around it: 柱子上缠着绷带。这是 "with + n. + V-ed$_2$" 的结构,这里表示伴随情况。
7. barbers painted red stripes around the pole as a continuing advertisement: 理发师就在柱子四周漆上红色条纹,继续作为一种广告。
8. remind sb. of sth.: 使某人想起某事。
9. be (become) identified with: 和…联系起来。

Choose the right answer according to the passage.

1. The red stripes of the barber's pole represent
   a) blood running down the pole.
   b) nothing, it is only for decoration.
   c) the fact that the barber shop is open for business.
   d) stripes of blood-staind cloth tied round the pole.
2. Barbers 'let' the blood of ordinary people because
   a) they were cruel.
   b) they were paid a lot of money to do so.
   c) they were ignorant about blood.
   d) they were doctors.

5. WHY DO MEN HAVE BUTTONS ON THEIR JACKET SLEEVES?

The buttons on the sleeves of men's jackets serve no real purpose today[1]. But there are many stories explaining how they came to be there[2].

One story involves Frederick the Great, who was King of Prussia[3] in the 18th century. Frederick's armies were involved in[4] a great many wars, and he was often on the field of battle with his troops. One of his concerns, so the story goes, was the appearance of his men[5]. Once as he went about inspecting his soldiers[6], he became quite upset at[7] the dirty sleeves of their uniforms. When he asked why the sleeves were dirtier than the rest of the uniforms, he was told that the soldiers wiped the sweat from their faces on their sleeves.

Frederick refused to have this habit continue. So to stop it[8], he ordered metal buttons sewn on the top side of[9] all soldiers' sleeves. That way, if the men wiped their faces, using their sleeves as a towel, they would get badly scratched.

Eventually these buttons were put on civilians' jackets as well, but only as decoration. So if you notice buttons on your father's jacket sleeves, don't think that your mother put them there to stop him from using his jacket as a towel. The buttons are only for decoration!

(选自《广播节目报》1983 年第 11 期)

此为试读,需要完整PDF请访问: www.ertongbook.com