

Y I N G Y U Y U E D U J I A O C H E N G

英语阅读教程

(下册)

主编 高桂香

 中国人民大学出版社

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主编 高桂香

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编委会名单

主 编 高桂香
副主编 张亚蜀 王 琪 郑月莉
杨丽华
编 委 (按姓氏笔画顺序排列)
王 琪 尹丽娟 史俊凤
叶艳红 付晓丽 张亚蜀
陈卫安 杨丽华 郑月莉
郝惠珍 赵英俊 高桂香
翟福娟 潘炳信

前 言

学习英语要通过大量阅读英文材料以提高语感，自然吸收语言。《英语阅读教程》是为英语自学者、高等学校英语专业函授生、夜大学生所编写的泛读教材。本教材对参加成人自学考试的学生在扩大词汇量、提高阅读技巧、扩大知识面及增加对讲英语国家文化的了解方面均有所帮助。

本教材的内容选材较新，涉及范围较广，包括教育、科技、商贸、政治、文化、语言、文学、宗教、风土人情、人物传记、百科知识等内容，具有知识性、教育性和趣味性。

教材结构包括课文正文、课文注释、词汇表，以便教师讲解和学生自学。除此之外，还编排了各种形式的练习，一般分为阅读理解性练习、判断性练习和综合性问题三种。快速阅读练习部分则要求学生在规定的时间内读完课文并回答问题，以提高快速阅读能力。

在本教材的编写过程中，我们参考了大量国内外有关的英文资料，如论著、教材、学术杂志、英文报纸等。在此，我们谨向这些资料的编者表示感谢。

另外，在编写过程中，我们一直受到河北省考试院、河北省中小学培训办公室以及河北师大外国语学院有关领导的大力支持，我们谨在此向他们表示真诚的谢意。

由于编者水平有限，加之时间仓促，教材中疏漏、不妥乃至错误之处在所难免。希望专家、学者及使用本教材的广大师生批

评指正。

编者

2001年4月

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Unit Six

Text 1 The Bravest Eagle

Answer the following questions after the first reading of the passage.

1. Who discovered the wounded bald eagle?
2. Why did the Memphis Zoo abandon the eagle?
3. On which day did Osce fly back to the sky?

Over the phone, the Arkansas¹ game warden sounded worried.
“I’ve got a bald eagle in trouble.”

That was all John Stokes needed to hear. Assistant curator of birds at Tennessee’s² Memphis Zoo, Stokes quickly drove to a gas station near Osceola, Ark., where the warden was waiting with the eagle. The minute Stokes saw it, he felt sick.

What had once been a magnificent bird—soaring through the sky on wings that reached six feet across—was now a pathetic, trembling creature wrapped in a burlap bag. Its brown eyes were dim with pain and fear.

“His wing is broken,” the warden said, handing him to Stokes.

Stokes put on leather gloves and reached into the bag, cautiously avoiding the sharp talons and knife-edged beak. Slowly he pulled

out the bird.

The creature's small brown body indicated that he was a young male. Part of his humerus bone was sticking through his feathers. The wound was several days old.

"Rabbit hunters found him," the warden said. They figured a poacher had shot the bird for target practice.

"Why would anyone do something so cruel?" Stokes asked angrily.

Naming the bird Osceola, Stokes brought him to the zoo's veterinarian, Mike Douglass, who repaired what he could of the injured wing, and fed the bird antibiotics. But within two days, gangrene set in. "I'm sorry," Douglass said. "I'm going to have to amputate his wing."

Stokes' heart sank. At least Osceola's alive, he kept telling himself.

Since childhood in Meridian, Miss.³, Stokes had been drawn to birds of prey—especially bald eagles. In Boy Scouts, Stokes joined the Eagle Patrol. Concerned about bald eagles' danger of extinction, he encouraged his mother to buy Hunt-Wesson Foods products after he read that in exchange for returned labels, the company would purchase bald-eagle nesting land. John proudly arranged his land purchase certificates in an album.

At times, marveling over the grace and ease of an eagle's flight, he wondered how it would feel to fly like an eagle. Then in his first year at Memphis State University, Stokes read an article on hang gliding. Realizing this might be what he was looking for, he bought a glider.

On a hill near Memphis, Stokes ran with the glider, and its

wings suddenly caught the wind, lifting him off the ground. He rose high enough to feel the freedom and joy of being birdlike for a few breathtaking moments.

As Osceola healed, he hopped onto low perches, flapped his wing and his four-inch nub to take off—then spiraled to the gravel floor. “The poor bird doesn’t realize his wing is gone,” Stokes told the vet.

But the eagle still showed a relentless spirit, and Stokes knew he couldn’t let Osceola sit in a cage for the rest of his life. If the eagle couldn’t go back to the wild, Stokes decided, he could appear in the zoo’s educational programs. Perhaps Osceola’s tragedy could help keep other eagles from being shot.

Stokes began taking the eagle to Memphis schools. Osceola was frightened of the children, so to keep him from trembling, Stokes cradled him against his chest.

Extending Osceola’s healthy wing, Stokes explained, Eagles steer by manipulating the airflow over their wings and tail. When hunting, they hurtle down to the water and sink their talons into fish. “Sometimes during courtship,” he added, “eagles flap high into the sky, lock their talons together, and somersault over and over before they release each other near the ground and fly back up again.”

“Osceola will never do any of these things now because someone shot him in the wing.” Stokes pointed out the eagle’s stump to the children.

A year after “Osce” had been shot, Stokes detected a small—yet significant—change in the eagle. Just possibly, Osce might no longer need to be cradled in crowds. During a lecture at the Memphis Audubon Society, Stokes set the bird on a perch. Osce stood

there, once again proud and brave. Without flinching, he pierced the audience with his steady gaze.

Afterward a woman came up for a closer look. "He's such a pretty bird," she said. "It's a shame he'll never fly again."

Suddenly an idea hit Stokes. Perhaps Osceola could fly again. Maybe there was a way.

For months the thought haunted Stokes. But he was so busy with his job that he had no time to make plans. Then came some bad news. The zoo director told Stokes, "Our federal permit allows us to keep only two bald eagles—Osceola makes three. Now that he's healthy, we're going to have to find him a new home."

Stokes was stunned. He couldn't let Osce go. Then a friend introduced him to the president of the Cumberland Wildlife Foundation near Nashville, who agreed to take Osce. Later, the foundation was looking for someone with Stokes' expertise, and he became director of its rehabilitation and education program involving birds of prey.

Stokes worked hard to get the program running smoothly, but three years after he'd arrived, the foundation collapsed because of a lack of funds. Stokes was left all alone to care for Osce and 80 other birds. Then Stokes went to work for Al Cecere, who'd started a nonprofit foundation in Nashville, the National Foundation to Protect America's Eagles. Now Osce was not only a star at educational programs—he also accompanied Stokes and Cecere when they met with potential donors.

Cecere shared the dream of getting Osce back in the air. "I'll help you any way I can," he told Stokes.

"I'm just waiting for the right time," Stokes replied.

In 1990, officials at Dollywood, Dolly Parton's theme park in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., offered to build a new headquarters for the foundation, including a home for Osce and the other birds. On a hill in the park, there was soon a huge bald-eagle sanctuary where the birds could live and mate. Three big barns were provided for eagle rehabilitation, hatching and breeding.

Osce became the highlight of Dollywood's "Wings of America" show. Hawks, vultures, falcons, owls—all specially trained—flew over the audience to Stokes on stage. Then Stokes introduced Osce. Cameras flashed and crowds cheered at the eagle, perched in front of an American flag.

"The time is right," Stokes finally told Cecere one day in December 1995. "I want to fly with Osce in my hang glider."

Stokes designed an eagle-size gliding harness, a sling-like pouch made of sturdy nylon. Holding it up and examining its straps, Stokes imagined Osce swooping through the sky.

The first time he strapped Osce into the harness, he roped the bird to a beam in a Dollywood barn to make certain he wouldn't thrash loose and fall. For 25 minutes Osce calmly looked around and seemed to like hanging there. Encouraged, Stokes got into his own padded harness, then connected himself and the bird to the same beam. They hung together peacefully.

One warm February afternoon in 1996, Stokes decided to make a trial run in his 33-foot-wide, 50-pound glider made of aluminum and heavyweight nylon. He positioned the glider on the bed of a friend's truck and climbed into it next to Osce. Slowly the friend drove around a Dollywood parking lot. Osce seemed content.

"When are you going to take off?" someone shouted.

"Not today," Stokes answered. *But soon*, he thought.

Before he could fly with Osce, though, Stokes needed the approval of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bald eagle is a threatened species, but the flights were going to be filmed for an educational program, so the government gave the go-ahead.

Stokes immediately made arrangements at Lookout Mountain Flight Park near Trenton. To get into the air, instead of running down a hill or leaping off a mountain, Stokes would start out prone in the flying position, hanging from the glider. An ultralight airplane would take them up.

At 7 a. m. on April 24, 1996, the sun was just rising above the mountain. "The air is smooth as glass," pilot Neal Harris said. Stokes zipped up his harness, checked the emergency parachute and got into position. Then Cecere put Osce in the harness, checking to make sure the bird was secure.

When Stokes signaled they were ready for takeoff, Harris revived the motor and started rolling down the field. The ultralight took off immediately, towing the hang glider. Osce rustled in his harness, shaking his claws—clearly, the motion and altitude change startled him. Stokes considered returning to the ground, but as the meadow slowly dropped away, Osce settled down.

At 2 000 feet, Stokes released the towline. He and Osce were alone, gliding on the wind like eagles.

In the freedom and silence, Osce swiveled his head all over. He gazed up at the bright morning sun, then down at the green patchwork of trees and fields. When a pair of red-tailed hawks flew below, Osce riveted his eyes on them. After 13 years of watching other birds from the ground, the eagle was back where he belonged.

Notes

1. **Arkansas (Ark.)**: 阿肯色州
2. **Tennessee (Tenn.)**: 田纳西州
3. **Missouri (Miss.)**: 密苏里州

Vocabulary

game wild animals which are hunted or fished for food, esp.
at a certain season as a sport

warden an official who helps to see that certain laws are
obeyed

curator the person in charge of a library, museum, etc.

pathetic pitiable; wretched

burlap 粗麻布

talon a sharp powerful curved nail on the feet of some hunting
birds, used for seizing animals for food

humerus the bone in the top half of the arm

poacher a person who catches or shoots animals without per-
mission

veterinarian a trained animal doctor

antibiotic 抗生素

gangrene 坏疽

amputate to remove surgically; to cut off

extinction the complete disappearance of a species

glide to fly in a sort of plane which has no engine but follows
movements of the air currents

brehtaking very exciting; very unusual

perch a branch, rod, etc. where birds rest (of a bird) to
come to rest from flying

nub a small part which remains when a large part has been worn away

spiral to rise or fall in a winding way

relentless persistent; unyielding

cradle to hold; to embrace

manipulate to handle or control something skillfully

somersault to do a jump or rolling backward or forward in which the feet go over the head before the body returns upright

stump the remaining part of a limb which has been cut off

flinch to move backward when shocked by pain, or in fear of something unpleasant

pierce to make a hole by using a pointed instrument

donor a person who gives or presents

sanctuary a place of protection or safety from harm

vulture 秃鹫

falcon 猎鹰

pouch a small bag

swoop to descend sharply, esp. in attack

go-ahead permission to go

prone (of a person or a position) stretched out flat on a surface with the face and front part of the body downward

parachute 降落伞

tow to pull along by a rope or a chain

swivel to move round; to pivot

Exercises

I . Reading Comprehension

1. Why did Douglass cut off Osce's wing?