

根据最新《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》编写

全国重点高校权威专家联合编写 大学一、二、三年级学生阅读推荐教材

英语阅读突破书系

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掌握词汇

4200

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世界图书出版公司

英语阅读突破书系

——掌握词汇 4200

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世界图书出版公司

西安·北京·广州·上海

FIN21 / 05

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

掌握词汇 4200/白小兰编。—西安:世界图书出版
西安公司,2000.8

(英语阅读突破书系)

ISBN 7-5062-4538-8

I.掌… II.白… III.英语-词汇 IV.H313

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2000)第 38761 号

英语阅读突破书系

——掌握词汇 4200

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主 编 白小兰
丛书策划 唐娟莉
责任编辑

出版发行 世界图书出版西安公司
地 址 西安市南大街 17 号 邮编 710001
电 话 029-7279676 7233647(发行部)
029-7234767(总编室)
传 真 029-7279675
E-mail wmcxian@public.xa.sn.cn
经 销 各地新华书店
印 刷 陕西新世纪印刷厂印刷
开 本 1/16
印 张 14.75
字 数 270 千字
印 数 5001-8000 册

版 次 2001 年 2 月第 1 版 2001 年 3 月第 2 次印刷
书 号 ISBN 7-5062-4538-8/H·263
定 价 19.00 元

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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。

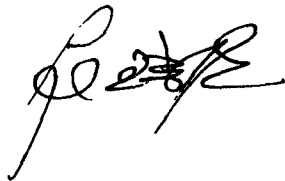
21 世纪是一个国际化、网络化的时代,知识的传播和信息的交流将会更加迅速。因此,作为这些活动的载体——语言,也就显得尤为重要,特别是英语的重要性不言而喻,全世界 70% 以上的出版物均使用英语。改革开放以来,“英语热”持续升温。不过要学好英语谈何容易!怎样学好英语,怎样能够在有限的时间内提高学习效率,广大英语工作者一直在探索行之有效的方法。英语词汇历来是困扰广大学习者的一大难题,只有积累了一定数量的词汇,才能进行训练和提高听、说、读、写、译等基本技能。而词汇的积累主要依靠大量的阅读。由世界图书出版西安公司组织、全国四所高等院校权威专家联合编写的这套《英语阅读突破书系》在此方面作了有益的尝试。全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



2000 年 9 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

2000年9月

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Unit 1



Text I

The Frontiersmen

拓疆者

直到今天,美国人仍然对边疆(frontier)迷恋不已,原因在于边疆曾对塑造美国人的价值观念起过至关重要的作用。现在,让我们一起看看拓疆者的生活吧。



Pre-reading Questions

1. Survey the reading. Read the title. What do you think the subject of this reading will be?
2. Look at the picture, what are your impressions of the frontiersmen?
3. What spirits you think the frontiersmen need possess?

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

(1) Where the last settlement ended and the wilderness began, where the edge of civilization met the beginning of savagery, this was the frontier line¹. Here at the farthest clearing, land was either free or very cheap. Here where the wilderness came right up to your door you could start life all over again.

(2) And that is what happened. To the frontier line came the dissatisfied, the indentured (契约的) servants², the adventure-lovers, the ambitious who saw no chance to rise in the older settlement. To the frontier, too, came the newer immigrants, hungry for a piece of land of their own. In the older settlements land was expensive and the best land had already been taken up, but here at the farthest edge on the frontier line, good cheap land was obtainable. Thousands of newly arrived Germans and Scotch-



Irish went into the back country (偏僻的农村地区, 边远地区) of Pennsylvania, down the valley into the neighboring colonies of Virginia, Maryland, and the Carolinas. On February 15, 1751, Gabriel Johnson, Governor of North Carolina, wrote to the secretary of the Board of Trade³, "Inhabitants flock in here daily, mostly from Pennsylvania and other parts of America, who are overstocked with people and some directly from Europe, they commonly seat themselves towards the west, and have got near the mountains⁴."

(3) Massachusetts men moved to the back country of New York or Connecticut, and Connecticut men moved into Pennsylvania. America was on the move. Restless, roving (流浪的) men took their whole families and moved west to the frontier. It was a "promise land⁵" for the oppressed, the down-trodden (被压迫的), the poor. Land—that was the key to independence and wealth. These people were land hungry⁶.

(4) As more and more people came, the frontier line kept moving westward. The Indian found the line creeping up on him, pushing him farther and farther back. The fur trader left the edge of the settlements and followed the Indian trails to the wilderness. The white hunter and trapper did the same. With these people the Indian had no quarrel except when they cheated him in a trade—which they often did. They carried on the same work he did; they did not destroy his home. But as the edge of the farming settlements moved on and on, the Indian saw his trees cut down and his wilderness home replaced by the white man's clearing. This had been going on long enough for him to understand that farming and hunting could not go on in the same place together, that as the white farmer moved in, he, the hunter, had to move out. The Indian knew this and fought every step of the settlers' advance.

(5) The frontier line was bloodstained. The stockades (栅栏) around the houses in the older settlements could fall into ruins. The rifle of the frontiersman was always within easy reach. His wife and children, both boys and girls, must not stray too far from the house; they must learn very early to pay attention to slight noises. No matter what they were doing—building or planting or playing—their ears must be ever alert. Indian attacks were sudden, still, and swift, and the penalty for carelessness or unpreparedness was a horrible death.

(6) Life at the frontier was dangerous and hard. There were none of the soft refinements (优雅, 讲究) of civilization. It was life in the raw, fighting savages, chopping down trees, planting corn, making furniture—work, hard work and lots of it. This pioneer life made you tough, if you lived. Only the strongest did live. And here there could be no class rule—one man was as good as another⁷. Rich man and poor man were on the same terms (地位). Here a man was successful according to what he himself did, not for what his father or grandfather was. The frontiersman faced hard work all the time; he had to tackle and conquer difficult obstacles at every turn. He succeeded, and carried his head high. He grew independent. The frontiersman heartily believed that "a fool can put on his own coat better than a wise man can do it for him⁸." Having mastered the wilderness, the frontiersman was not now ready to take orders from any upper class. He would be his own boss⁹.



Notes

1. the frontier: 边疆。美国历史上的边疆指殖民地和荒野的西部接界地区,以后逐步向西扩张。settlement 此处指殖民地,拓居地。
2. indentured servants: 契约奴。英国在北美殖民地的白奴。由于欧洲穷人无钱付旅费迁往美洲,许多人和船主或某公司签订合同,免费运往北美,自己卖身为奴,为主人在北美干活五到七年。在此期间这些契约奴无任何自由。期满后他仍获得自由,并能获得一份土地。后来黑奴输入后,契约奴逐渐消亡。
3. the Board of Trade: 贸易局。1619年,英国政府为控制北美殖民地的贸易和制造业的发展而成立的一个统治机构。
4. mountains 此处指 the Appalachian Mountains 阿巴拉契亚山脉,位于北美东部,从加拿大的魁北克省一直延伸到美国的阿拉巴马州,全长二千四百多公里。
5. a "promised land": "希望之乡"。来自《圣经》。上帝赐给犹太人始祖亚伯拉罕的一块地方,即迦南。这里是把美国比作理想之国。
6. These people were land hungry: 这些人渴望获得土地。(在欧洲,土地是财富和地位的象征。因此,从欧洲来的移民一到新大陆后,首要的愿望就是获取土地。正是这种愿望,驱使他们不断向西部迁移。)
7. here there could be no class rule: 在这里,实行阶级统治是不可能的。(边疆地区由于流动性大,地区广阔,财源丰富,但生活条件艰苦,人人必须劳动,因此自由平等的观念比其他地区强烈,阶级的界限也不像老区那样明显。)
8. "a fool can put on his own coat better than a wise man can do it for him": "傻瓜知道他自己穿比智者给他穿要自由得多。"(边疆农民有很强的自力更生的思想。一切都自己自由独立完成,不愿受人控制。)
9. He would be his own boss: 他要当自己的主人。



Exercises

I . One of the statements best states the main idea of each paragraph. Circle the letter of that item.

1. The main idea of paragraph 1:
 - A. At the farthest clearing, land was either free or very cheap.
 - B. What was the frontier line? On the frontier line, people could start life all over again.
 - C. The frontier line was where the wilderness came right up to your door.
2. The main idea of paragraph 2:
 - A. The people, who wanted to lead a better life and were hungry for a piece of land of their own came to the frontier.
 - B. At the farthest edge on the frontier line, good cheap land was obtainable.
 - C. In the older settlements, land was expensive and the best land had already been taken up.
3. The main idea of paragraph 3:

- A. People were land hungry.
 - B. The frontier was a “promised land” for the oppressed, the downtrodden, the poor.
 - C. Land was the key to independence and wealth.
4. The main idea of paragraph 4:
- A. As more and more people came, the frontier line kept moving westward, and the Indian fought every step of the settlers’ advance.
 - B. The frontier line pushed the Indian farther and farther back.
 - C. The Indian’s wilderness home was replaced by the white man’s clearing.
5. The main idea of paragraph 5:
- A. Indian attacks were sudden, still, and swift.
 - B. The frontiersmen should be always alert.
 - C. The frontier line was bloodstained.
6. The main idea of paragraph 6:
- A. A man was successful according to what he himself did.
 - B. Life at the frontier was dangerous and hard, but the frontiersmen can be their own boss.
 - C. The pioneer life made people tough and only the strongest did live.

II . Read the following groups of sentences carefully and tell the different meanings of the italicized word in each group.

1. follow

- ① He *followed* me like a shadow.
- ② *Follow* this road, until you come to the City Hall; then turn to the right.
- ③ My teacher spoke English so fast that I couldn’t *follow* him.

2. tough

- ① Only *toughest* soldiers were chosen for the mission(任务)。
- ② The meat was too *tough* for me.
- ③ This is a *tough* problem.

3. term

- ① Most universities have a fall *term* and a spring *term*.
- ② It’s difficult to understand technical *terms*.
- ③ We’re on good *terms* with each other.

4. flock

- ① People *flocked* to the square.
- ② A *flock* of wild geese pass here each fall.
- ③ Visitors came in *flocks* to see the new bridge.

III . Circle A. , B. , C. whichever seems closest in meaning to the italicized word or best completes the sentence.

- 1. A baby usually *creeps* before it walks.

- A. climbs B. slides C. crawls
2. Bats can sense ____ in their path.
A. obstacles B. fences C. hinders
3. I had to pay the *penalty* for the wrong decision I made.
A. reward B. punishment C. suffering
4. Man can ____ nature.
A. overcome B. conquer C. defeat
5. Playing cards *takes up* too much time.
A. occupy B. hold C. seize
6. The tree was *chopped down*.
A. cut out B. cut down C. cut away

IV. Read the following paragraph. Some words have been taken out. Please put the missing words in to finish the paragraph.

Trappers, hunters, and traders made the journey to the coast ____ (殖民地; 定居点) (1). They sent messages back home to their friends about the fine ____ (土壤) (2) and beautiful ____ (气候) (3) of California and Oregon. ____ (不安定的) (4) settlers on the edge of the Great Plains, where there was little rainfall and no timber, were very much ____ (5) in reports of faraway California and Oregon. There on the Pacific slope it seemed there was rain again, trees ____ (6), familiar farm land again. The American passion (热情) for m ____ (7) was in their veins. Discontented farmers on the Atlantic ____ (沿海) (8) listened eagerly ____ (9) wondrous tales of far-off California. Missionaries (传教士) thought it was their ____ (责任) (10) to go to Oregon and make Christians of the Indians there. It didn't seem to matter to these homeseekers that there ____ (11) before them a five-months' journey over two thousand miles of plain, mountain, desert, and mountain again—they were ____ (12) to California and Oregon.



Text 1

The Impact of the American Frontier

美国边疆的“冲击”

美国的边疆曾对塑造美国人民的价值观念起过重要的作用,那么持续了两个多世纪的拓疆进程是如何帮助塑造了美国的价值观念呢?



Pre-reading Questions

1. What does the American frontier refer to?
2. Why is there *nostalgia* for the American frontier days? Is there anything similar to the frontier experience in China?
3. What qualities should a true hero have? What qualities do heroes in movies and TV shows in China have? Who are some of your own personal heroes? Why do you admire and respect these people?

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(1) Although the American civilization took over and replaced the frontier over a century ago, the heritage of the frontier is still evident in the United States today¹. Many people are still fascinated by the frontier because it has been particularly important in shaping American values. When Ronald Reagan was President in the 1980s, he liked to recall the image of life on the frontier. He was often photographed on his western ranch (牧场)—chopping wood or riding his horse, and wearing his cowboy hat. For many years, the frontier experience was romanticized in popular movies and television shows that featured (以……为特色) cowboy heroes fighting Indian villains (恶棍; 流氓). Little attention was given to the tragic story of what really happened to the Native Americans. Today, most Americans are more aware of the darker side of the settling of the continent, when thousands of Native American Indians were killed, their lands were taken, and much of their culture was destroyed.

(2) The frontier experience began when the first colonists settled on the east coast of the continent in the 1600s. It ended about 1890 when the last western lands were settled.

(3) The American frontier consisted of the relatively unsettled regions of the United States, usually

found in the western part of the country. Here, both land and life were more rugged² and primitive than in the more settled eastern part. As one frontier area was settled, people began moving farther west into the next unsettled area, sweeping aside the Native Americans as they went. By settling one frontier area after another, Americans moved across an entire continent, 2,700 miles wide. They came to believe that it was their destiny to control all the land, and eventually they did. The Native Americans were given small portions of land called reservations to control, but the United States government broke many promises and created much misery for the Indian nations.

(4) Recently, Americans have come to a more balanced view of the settling of the West. However, many Americans still see many aspects of the frontier, its people and their beliefs, as good, inspiring examples of traditional American values in their original and purest form. How did the frontier movement, which lasted more than two centuries, help to shape these basic American values?

(5) To be sure, the frontier provided many inspiring examples of hard work as forests were turned into towns, and towns into large cities. The competitive race for success was rarely more colorful or adventurous than on the western frontier. The rush for gold in California, for silver in Montana, and for fertile land in all the western territories provided endless stories of high adventure. When it was announced that almost two million acres of good land in Oklahoma would be opened for settlement in April 1889, thousands of settlers gathered on the border waiting for the exact time to be announced. When it was, they literally (确实地; 真正地) raced into the territory in wagons and on horseback to claim the best land they could find for themselves.

(6) Although daily life on the frontier was usually less dramatic than the frontier adventure stories would lead one to believe, even the ordinary daily life of frontier men and women exemplified (是……的例证) national values in a form that seemed purer to many Americans than the life of those living in the more settled, more cultivated eastern United States.

(7) Individualism, self-reliance, and equality of opportunity have perhaps been the values most closely associated with the frontier heritage (遗产) of America. Throughout their history, Americans have tended to view the frontier settler as the model of the free individual. This is probably because there was less control over the individual on the frontier than anywhere else in the United States. There were few laws and few established social or political institutions to confine (限制) people living on the frontier. In the United States, where freedom from outside social controls has traditionally been valued, the frontier has been idealized, and it still serves as a basis for a nostalgic (怀旧的) view of the early United States, a simpler time that was lost when the country became urbanized and more complex.



Notes

1. the heritage of the frontier is still evident in the United States today: heritage 意为遗产; 遗迹。这句话是指边疆的痕迹对于现代美国社会的影响依然存在。
2. rugged: 用来描述土地, 意思是崎岖不平; 多岩石的 (rocky)。用来指生活, 意思是严峻的; 艰难的 (tough)。