



COWIN 英语百科阅读

Cowin 英语教育丛书编写组 编写
北京出版社

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序

学习外语要掌握听说读写四项技能,听和读是接受性技能,说和写是产出性技能。从交际教学法来说,学外语就是为了交际,通过掌握实际应用的能力,能说会写。要做到这一点,便要多听多读,因此听说读写是互补的,缺一不可的。其次,当代语言教学理论的实践,强调学习与习得兼顾。前者在宏观上通过老师在教室内进行,配有固定的教材;在微观上指导老师改进课堂教学方法,以学生为中心,多让学生参与,可取得更好的教学效果。惟独在习得方面,尽管在理论上谁都明白让学生在自然真实条件下,无意识地、轻轻松松地接触英语,但很少有人为学生创造习得的环境和物质条件,形成自流。

从目前国内的出版市场上看,所提供的一些听力和阅读材料,多半是供成人用的,或是直接从国外引进的教材,不能引起国内广大青少年的兴趣,不能满足他们的要求。其次,某些编书者把听和读分开,听力教材和阅读教材分流,这不利于接受性技能的综合培养。现北京出版社出版了《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》将听和读两者通盘考虑,可谓英明之举。如文库的一个品种《美国之音特别节目听读》以听为主,同时提供文字材料,而另一品种《Ladybird 英语听读》以读为主,同时配有磁带。

《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》的第二个优点是,这些课外学习材料针对性明确,面向中学生的需要。它非常注意趣味性和可读性。如《中学英语轻松阅读》有学生们

所喜欢的寓言、诗歌、故事、幻想、传说等内容,也把学生引入蜘蛛、黑猩猩、狮子、小狗、小猫等动物世界。

《文库》注意将英语学习和文化知识的传授结合起来,使学生在学习英语过程中同时增长文化知识,或者在接受文化知识的不知不觉过程中习得了英语。如《美国之音特别节目听读》介绍了西方国家的“愚人节”、“劳动节”等文化习俗,以及美国拳王阿里在体育运动上的成就和政治上的正义感等。《Ladybird 英语听读》让学生接触到英美国家的优秀儿童文学,如《格列佛游记》、《金银岛》、《艾丽丝漫游奇境》等名著。《Cowin 英语百科阅读》的内容有对英语学习的指导、英国的衰落、英国剑桥和牛津两所名大学的掌故、美国的穷富差距、体育音乐等。《中学英语轻松阅读》和《Cowin 英语百科阅读》还收入计算机千年虫、克隆技术、航天、健康长寿等现代科技知识。

由于中学生涵盖从初一到高三的不同年龄段,《文库》的优势是提供难易度不同的品种,供读者酌情选用。有的是初中生的理想材料,如《美国之音特别节目听读》;有的适合高中生,如《Cowin 英语百科阅读》;而《中学英语轻松阅读》共6册,分别与初中和高中相对应。

教育部英语课程标准研制组起草的《国家英语课程标准(义务教育阶段)》的讨论稿曾规定,在阅读方面除正规教材外,应引导学生进行课外阅读,如英语标准第3级应达到10万字的阅读量。《蓝鹦鹉中学英语听读文库》将与广大中学生读者携手,共同向这个目标迈进。

胡壮麟

2000年7月13日于

北京大学畅春园

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The Great Pyramid

大金字塔



The kings of ancient Egypt planned strong tombs to keep their bodies safe after death and to hold their treasures.¹ Huge stone pyramids were built over these tombs. There are over 80 known pyramids in Egypt, but the Great Pyramid is the largest of all.

The Great Pyramid was built thousands of years ago for a king called Khufu. It is located² on the west bank of the Nile River not far from Cairo. In fact,³ all the pyramids along the Nile are on its west bank. The ancient Egyptians compared the rising of the sun to the beginning of life and the setting of the sun to the end of life.⁴ This is why their dead were buried on the west bank of the Nile.

It's very hard to know just how big the Great Pyramid is. It has over 2,300,000 blocks of stone. These huge stone blocks weigh an average of⁵ two and a half tons each, as much as a small car. Some even weigh fifteen tons. Without machinery, the ancient Egyptians cut and moved and lifted each of these stones. Many of the blocks came from the east bank of the Nile, and they were taken across the river in boats at flood time. It took more than 100,000 slaves twenty years to build the Great Pyramid.⁶



1 The Great Pyramid is over 450 feet high today, and it is once higher. Its base covered thirteen acres. Each of the sides of the pyramid is 755 feet long⁷, or about twenty minutes to walk all the way around the pyramid.

Every king wanted his tomb to be the best. But Khufu did better than the others all. The surface of his pyramid used to shine with white limestone, and its top came to a sharp point. Inside, the body of Khufu rested in a great stone coffin. His body was kept to last forever, and many treasures were buried with him.

Now after many years, the shining surface is worn away, and men have taken some of the huge stone blocks to build other things. Thieves have stolen the treasures, and they have stolen the body of Khufu himself.

Today, the sides of the Great Pyramid are no longer⁸ white. The limestone is gone.⁹ The huge stones are made seen and you can climb them, like steps, to the top. When you have reached the top, you can see for miles about you. You can see the smaller pyramids and the Sphinx¹⁰, the great stone statue of the lion with a human head. To the west you can see the Libyan Desert, and to the east you can see the green Nile Valley and the modern city of Cairo.

(460 words)

New Words and Phrases:

1. ancient [ˈeɪnfənt] *adj* 远古的, 旧的



2. tomb	[tu:m]	n.	坟墓
3. the Nile River			尼罗河
4. Cairo			开罗
5. compare	[kəm'peə]	v.	比较
6. block	[blɒk]	n.	石块; 街区
7. lift	[lɪft]	v.	提高, 举起
8. flood	[flʌd]	n.	洪水
9. Khufu			胡夫
10. surface	['sɜ:fɜ:s]	n.	表面, 外表
11. limestone	['laɪmstəʊn]	n.	石灰石
12. coffin	['kɒfɪn]	n.	棺材
13. bury	['berɪ]	v.	埋葬
14. thief	[θi:f]	n.	小偷, 窃贼
15. statue	['stætju:]	n.	雕像

Notes:

1. The kings of ancient Egypt planned strong tombs to keep their bodies safe after death and to hold their treasures. 古埃及的法老们想在死后有坚固的坟墓来安全地保存他们的尸体和财宝。
2. It is located... “located” 是动词 “locate” 的过去分词形式, 在句中作形容词。 “locate” 经常以 “be located” 形式出现, 表状态, 意为 “位于” 或 “坐落在”。 The tall building with the white roof is located in the west of the city. 那栋有白色屋顶的高层建筑位于城市的西部。
3. in fact, ... 事实上, 实际上…… I don't know what



his name is. In fact, I have never met him before. 我不知道他的名字，事实上我以前从未遇见过他。

4. ...compared the rising of the sun to the beginning of life and the setting of the sun to the end of life. ……把太阳升起比作生命的开始，把太阳落下比作生命的结束。“compare”可与介词“to”或“with”连用。“compare ... to ...”意为“把……比作”，通常指一事物与另一事物相似。The singer compares his love to a red rose. 歌唱家把他的爱比作红玫瑰。“compare... with...”意为“与……相比”或“比得上，能相比”，通常指研究两事物的异同之处。In today's class, we will compare American poems with Chinese poems. 今天这节课，我们要就美国诗歌和中国诗歌进行比较。
5. an average of 平均标准，一般水平 These rooms can hold an average of 500 people each. 这些房间平均每间能容纳 500 人。
6. It took more than 100,000 slaves twenty years to build the Great Pyramid. 十几万奴隶，用 20 年的时间建成了大金字塔。“to take somebody ... (time) to do something”意为“某人花时间做某事”，主语为形式主语“it”。It will take me three months to learn how to drive a car. 我要花三个月时间学会如何开车。
7. ... 450 feet high ... 755 feet long ... …… 450 英尺高……755 英尺长…… “数字 + 计量单位（复数形式） + 形容词”是英语中描述长、宽、高等的固定表达形式。如：300 meters deep 300 米深，15 feet long 15 英尺长。



8. no longer 不再 The old man cried that he could no longer bear that young man. 那个老人喊道他再也不能忍受那个年轻人了。
9. The limestone is gone. 石灰石不存在了。“be gone”表示一种状态，意为“不在了”，“离去了”，“gone”是过去分词作表语。
10. the Sphinx 斯芬克司，狮身人面像 古埃及有翼的狮身女怪。传说她向路人出谜语，答不出谜底的人一律处死。

Exercises:

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Where is the Great Pyramid located? Why are all the pyramids on the west bank of the Nile?
2. How long does it take us to walk all the way around the pyramid?

II. Judge whether the following statements are true or false:

1. It took more than 100,000 slaves to build the Great Pyramid.
2. All the pyramids along the Nile are on the east side.
3. The sides of the Great Pyramid are no longer white.
4. The ancient Egyptians compared the setting of the sun to the beginning of life.



The Grand Canyon

大峡谷

Have you heard of a famous place “the Grand Canyon”? Have you ever been there? Do you know which country it lies in? Read this article. You will have a wonderful feeling of it.

People from all over the world go to see the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon is the most spectacular (very unusual) canyon in the world. It is a deep gorge, over 200 miles long, cut by the Colorado River in northern Arizona. It is a mile deep and from 4 to 18 miles across at the top, and it covers an area of 1,000 square miles.¹

There are several ways to see the Grand Canyon. Some people fly out from Phoenix or Las Vegas for a one-day trip. Some go on short hiking trips². Others hike all the way from the North Rim to the South Rim, camping at night along the way. But most people go by mule-back across the canyon, riding a mule down to the Colorado River and back up to the other rim. This gives them a view of the canyon from the “top down” and from the “bottom up.” Every view is different, and every one is beautiful.

The Bakers have just returned from a trip to the Grand Canyon. If you asked them which they liked best, the “down



look” or the “up look,” they would probably say “Both.” The Bakers made the trip on mule-back with John Begay. John Begay knows the Grand Canyon well.

The group started in the early morning when the sun was just coming up and John Begay rode ahead. After him in line³ came Mr. Baker, Mrs. Baker, Kathy, and her brother Ken. The mules moved slowly and with sure feet⁴. As the Bakers went down further into the canyon, the rocks above took on⁵ different shapes, and their color changed with every change from sunshine to shadow.

At night the Bakers camped in the canyon, and the next day they reached the top of the other rim. “It has been a fine and wonderful trip,” Mr. Baker said. “I think everyone should see the Grand Canyon.” John Begay smiled: “I have been trying to get you here for years,” he said, “I knew you would like it.”

(380 words)

New Words and Phrases:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. the Grand Canyon | 大峡谷 |
| 2. spectacular [spek'tækjʊlə] <i>adj.</i> | 引人入胜的, 壮观的 |
| 3. gorge [gɔ:dʒ] <i>n.</i> | 山峡, 峡谷 |
| 4. the Colorado | 科罗拉多 |
| 5. northern Arizona | 北亚利桑那州 |
| 6. Phoenix | 凤凰城(美国西海岸城市) |



7. Las Vegas			拉斯维加斯
8. camp	[kæmp]	v.	露营, 扎营
9. mule	['mju:l]	n.	骡子
10. rim	[rim]	n.	边缘
11. shadow	['ʃædəʊ]	n.	阴影

Notes:

1. ...it covers an area of 1,000 square miles.其所占面积1,000平方英里。
2. hiking trips 徒步旅行
3. in line 排成一行, 或成一线 They stood in line. 他们站成了一条线。
4. sure feet 稳定的步子
5. took on (原形 take on) 呈现 (面貌, 表情) His face takes on a strange expression. 他的脸上露出一种奇怪的表情。

Exercises:

I. Judge whether the following statements are true or false:

1. The Grand Canyon covers an area of 1,000 square miles in southern Arizona.
2. The Bakers made the trip by horses and mules.
3. The rocks in the canyon were colorful and they took on different shapes.

II. Answer the following questions:

1. Why is the Grand Canyon the most unusual one in the



world?

2. How many people made the trip into the canyon?

III. Arrange these events in the order of Baker's trip through the canyon:

- A. They camped at night in the canyon.
- B. John Begay rode ahead.
- C. They reached the top of the other rim.
- D. They started at sunrise.



The Acropolis of Athens

雅典卫城

The ancient Greeks used to build parts of their cities on hills. Hills were easy to defend against¹ the enemy. The Greeks called this kind of hill-city an acropolis. The name means “high city” in Greek. The most famous acropolis is in Athens.

If you were standing today on the Acropolis of Athens, you could see the modern city below you² and the blue Mediterranean not far away. On the Acropolis itself you could see the ruins of some of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

At first the Greeks built the Acropolis for protection from their enemies. But gradually they began to use it for religious purposes. On the Acropolis they began to build temples to their gods and goddesses. On the temples and in the temples can be found some of the finest sculpture and carving of all time. There were temples on the Acropolis before 500 B.C., but many of them were destroyed in wars with the Persians. Most of the remaining temples were built during the Golden Age of Athens, about 450 B.C. During that time Pericles was the best-known³ ruler of Athens.

The most impressive building on the Acropolis is the



Parthenon. The Parthenon is a temple of white marble. Its beautiful pillars support a heavy marble roof. Inside, there once was a great gold and ivory statue of Athena, the goddess of wisdom. Wisdom was very important to the Greeks of ancient Athens. During the Golden Age the ceiling of the Parthenon was painted red, gold, and blue. The tops of the pillars were painted red, and the building was decorated with⁴ beautiful marble statues of Greek gods and goddesses.

Over the years much of the beauty of the Parthenon was destroyed by war. The Turks ruled Greece in the seventeenth century and used the Parthenon to store gunpowder. When the city of Athens was attacked by the Venetian army, this gunpowder exploded. The explosion destroyed the center of the Parthenon and ruined the building. Today most of the marble statues have disappeared. Many of the marble pillars lie on the ground, and the great marble roof has fallen.

Recently the Greek government had part of the great temple rebuilt.⁵ At night white and colored lights shine on the marble ruins, and the words of Pericles come from microphones on the Acropolis. Sometimes the words are in Greek, and sometimes they are in French or English. When you watch the lights on the marble ruins and listen to the words of Pericles, you can almost believe that you are living in Athens during the Golden Age. (436 words)

