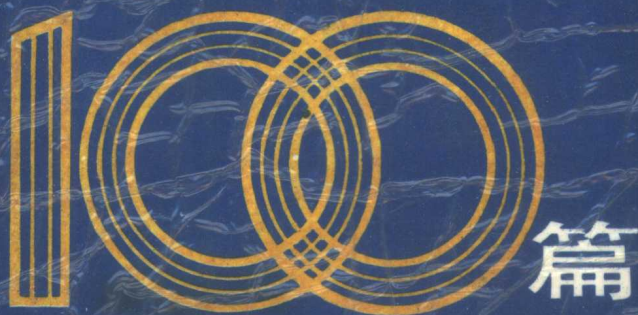


# English 100 Interesting Reading

河北师范大学公共外语教学部 编写组 编

## 英语趣味读物



中国建设出版社

English  
100 Interesting Readings

英语趣味读物100篇

河北师范大学公共外语教学部编写组编

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## 内 容 提 要

“兴趣是最好的老师。”本书鲜明地体现了“趣味性浓”这一特色。书中精选出的百篇文章，或含笑料，或含悬念，读后印象深刻，增强识记效果。本书注意控制语言难度和提高内容深度相结合，内容由浅入深，文章由短及长，符合循序渐进的学习规律；书中配有练习、参考译文，可帮助读者理解文章内容和自我测定检查阅读效果。

本书可供各层次英语学习者阅读，对大学、中学的师生都很适用。它既可用作自学读本，又可作为辅助阅读教材，部分篇章可做快速阅读和听力训练用。

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## 前 言

爱因斯坦说：“兴趣是最好的老师”。布鲁纳认为，“最好的学习动力是对所学材料有内在的兴趣”。学习有兴趣、有吸引力的东西，识记效果倍增，逗人发笑，引人思考的读物，容易为人记忆。本书显明地体现了“趣味性浓”这个特色。本书中的百篇文章，不论长短，都是几经筛选才最后定稿的，篇篇或含笑料，或含悬念，读后印象深刻，令人久久难忘。这无疑会使读者注意力高度集中，把语言形式与思想内容紧密结合起来，从而获得较深刻的印象，取得较好的阅读效果。这对扩大英语词汇量，开阔知识面，培养提高阅读能力有很大的益处。

本书注意控制语言难度与提高内容深度相结合，内容由浅入深，文章由短及长，符合循序渐进的学习规律。这既能使读者从一开始就产生阅读外语的兴趣，又能使读者随着文章的顺序，逐步培养持久地阅读外语习惯。

本书配以练习、参考译文及练习参考答案，可帮助读者理解文章内容和检查阅读效果。本书曾在我校部分班级使用，颇受师生欢迎。此书可供各层次英语学习者阅读，对广大英语教师学生很适用。它既可用作自学读本，又可作为辅助阅读教材，部分篇目还可用作快速阅读及听力训练的片断。

本书是集体劳动的成果。主编：钱霖生、姬生雷。参加编写的还有：程培社、李正栓、王占英、王赤初、逮伯考、鲁永强。提供稿件的有：刘久胜、杨慧兰、娄梅婴、刘竞环、郑寿恺、董英川、郑瑞芳、袁园、胡占双、白建华、田贵森、贾爱军、张瑚、王淑芝、高亦平。

我校公共外语教学部孙志成、张昌柱负责全书的审校，做了大量细致的工作；美籍专家伊娃·里奇特（Eva Richter）审阅了全书的英文文稿和练习；美籍专家罗伯特·伯恩哈特（Robert Burnhard）、英籍专家伊莎贝尔·塔丝克（Isabel Tasker）、以及外语系赵朝珠同志曾审阅本书的部分篇目；外语系副主任董启明同志给予了我们大力支持，在此一并表示谢意。

由于编者水平所限，加之经验不足，书中错漏之处在所难免，敬请读者批评指正。

河北师范大学公共外语教学部编写组

1987年6月

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### 1. The Simple Youth

Eleanor's younger brother Frederick was a simple youth. Once, Eleanor's husband, Babo, went to Africa on a hunting trip accompanied by Frederick. About 3 weeks later, she received a telegram from her brother saying: 'Babo died in hunting a lion.' In great sorrow, Eleanor sent an answer to her brother saying: "Send the dead body home."

Three weeks later, a parcel arrived from Africa in which was the corpse of a lion.

Eleanor sent an urgent telegram back to Frederick: "Lion received. You are wrong. Wanted dead Babo." The next day she received a final telegram from Frederick: "I'm not wrong. Babo and one of my legs are in the abdominal cavity of the lion."

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) Three telegrams were sent in the course of the story. ( F )
- 2) Frederick did not understand his sister's first telegram. ( F )
- 3) Frederick's first telegram left out some important information about himself. ( F ) T
- 4) One of Frederick's legs was eaten by the lion. ( T )
- 5) The story implies that Babo was more intelligent than Frederick. ( F )

## 2. Lightning and Electricity

One day, Mr. Smith, a teacher of Physics in the Eton Middle School, asked his students a question: "What's the difference between the electricity in lightning during a storm and the electricity in the wires at home?"

One of his students named Tom answered immediately: "The lightning in storm clouds is free of charge, but for the electricity in wires my family has to pay a lot of money!"

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

1) Mr. Smith must have been pleased by Tom's answer.

( F )

2) Tom clearly understood electricity. ( F )

3) Tom's understanding of economics was superior to his knowledge of physics. ( T )

4) Tom did not hesitate to show off his knowledge. ( F ) T

5) The story can only be understood by a person with a knowledge of basic physics. ( F ) T

## 3. Studying Geography

Misha is a Russian boy. He is a pupil in Grade 5 and has just begun studying Geography.

One day after supper, Misha's father asked:

"Do you like Geography, Misha?"

"Yes, Dad, I like it very much." Misha said.

"Have you learned about the density of population in different parts in the world?" Misha's father asked.

"Yes, of course, we have," Misha answered.

"Do you know where people are most populous?" Misha's father asked.

## Convince

Misha didn't answer immediately. He thought and thought, and then he burst out:

"People are most populous on the bus on Sunday."

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) The story is told in the present tense. ( T ) F
- 2) This story could only apply to Russia. ( F )
- 3) Misha was forgetful, but clever. ( T )
- 4) The word "populous" means "having a large population". ( T )
- 5) Misha's father was convinced by his answer that he was a good student of geography. ( T ) F

## 4. The Composition Class

The students in the composition class were assigned the task of writing an essay on "the most beautiful thing I ever saw." The student who, of all the members of the class, seemed the least sensitive to beauty, handed in his paper first, with astonishing speed. It was short and to the point. He had written: "The most beautiful thing I ever saw was too beautiful for words."

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) The teacher wanted his students to write about the most beautiful thing they had ever seen. ( T )
- 2) The student who handed in his paper first was one of the most stupid students. ( F )
- 3) A good composition is not necessarily very long but is written to the point. ( T )

- 4) The student who handed in his paper first had written:  
"The most beautiful thing I ever saw was impossible for me to write in words." ( T )

### 5. Son Shine

248 1/2 2/28

Novelist Julian Hawthorne was frequently mistaken for his father, the celebrated author Nathaniel Hawthorne. Once, when Julian was introduced to a woman, she gushed, "Mr. Hawthorne, I just finished reading The Scarlet Letter, and I think it's a masterpiece. I had no idea you were so gifted."

"Oh, that," said Julian with a deprecatory shrug. "That was written when I was only four years old."

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) Julian Hawthorne was often mistaken. ( F ) T
- 2) The woman in the reading read Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter. ( T )
- 3) Three persons were mentioned in this passage. ( T )
- 4) Julian wrote a novel when he was 4 years of age. ( F )
- 5) Julian strongly resembled his father. ( T )

### 6. The Same Mother

Billy and his brother Davy were in the same class. The teacher assigned them to write a composition, "My Mother". Davy wrote one and Billy just copied it.

On the next day the teacher asked Billy, "How is it

that your composition is exactly the same as Davy's?"

"We have the same mother, don't we?" replied Billy.

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) Billy and Davy are classmates. ( T )
- 2) Billy <sup>2</sup>often copied Davy's composition. ( F )
- 3) Billy's explanation to the teacher is reasonable. ( F )
- 4) This story implies that Billy is smarter than Davy. ( F )
- 5) The teacher should have tutorred Billy more. ( F )

### 7. An Awkward Situation

One of the guests turned to a man by his side and criticized the woman who was singing.

"What a terrible voice! Do you know who she is?"

"Yes," was the answer "She's my wife."

"Oh, I beg your pardon. Of course her voice isn't bad, but the song is very bad. I wonder who wrote the awful song?"

"I did." was the answer.

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) The story took place in a concert hall. ( T )
- 2) The two persons who were talking knew each other well. ( F )
- 3) The guest thought that the singer's voice was terrible and the song was awful. ( T )
- 4) The guest found himself in an awkward situation.

- 5) The man by the guest's side agreed with the man's idea.  
( F )

### 8. How Old Is She?

A woman was having some trouble with her heart, so she went to see the doctor. He was a new doctor and did not know her, so he first asked, some questions, and one of them was, "How old are you?"

18 "Well," she answered, "I don't remember, doctor, but I will try to think." She thought for a minute and then said, "Yes, I remember now, doctor. When I married, I was eighteen years old, and my husband was thirty<sup>20</sup>. Now my husband is sixty<sup>20</sup>, I know. And that is twice thirty. So I am twice eighteen. That is thirty-six, isn't it?"

Choose the right answer to complete each of the following:

- 1) This story is designed to be A.
- A. humorous
  - B. mathematical - *math*
  - C. reasonable
  - D. thoughtful
- 2) It is clear that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the doctor should not ask about the woman's age
  - B. the woman is forgetful
  - C. the woman is clever
  - D. the woman made an arithmetical error

### 9. Washington's Reply

George Washington, the first President of the United

States, had a secretary, a young man. One morning the secretary came late and found Washington waiting. He tried to excuse himself by saying that his watch was wrong. Washington replied quietly, "I am afraid that you will have to get another watch, or I another secretary."

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) George Washington had only one secretary. ( T )
- 2) Once the young man was late because his watch was wrong. ( F )
- 3) Washington asked him to change his watch. ( T )
- 4) Washington was angry with the secretary. ( T )
- 5) Washington decided to fire the secretary. ( F )

### 10. Barking Dogs Don't Bite

One day a Frenchman went to visit his English friend. When he came up to his house, a big dog ran out and began to bark at him.

The Frenchman was frightened and stopped. At that moment the Englishman came out and saw his friend. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "Don't you know the proverb 'Barking dogs don't bite?'" "Oh, yes," was the quick answer. "I know the proverb, and you know the proverb, the dog. . . . Does the dog know the proverb?"

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) The Frenchman was not frightened when a big dog ran out and began to bark at him. ( F )
- 2) The dog knows the proverb, "Barking dogs don't bite." ( F )



- 3) The English friend really knows the proverb. ( T )  
 4) In fact barking dogs don't bite. ( F )  
 5) Feeding domestic animals is a hobby of the English.  
 ( T ) 喂的. 养的. 养的

### 11. Do You Know the Number?

One day, the shepherd at the top asked the shepherd at the foot of the mountain to give him one sheep. He said, "If you give me one sheep, my flock will be twice as large as yours." The shepherd at the foot of the mountain answered, "If you give me one, my flock will be the same size as yours."

Write 'T' (true) or 'F' (false) for each of the following statements:

- 1) This story is about a shepherd and his flock. ( F )  
 2) There are two sheep at the top of the mountain.  
 ( F )  
 3) There is one sheep at the bottom of the mountain.  
 ( F )  
 4) The shepherd at the top has seven sheep and the shepherd at the foot of the mountain has five sheep.  
 ( F )  
 5) This story is very short but also hard to understand.  
 ( T )

### 12. Albert Einstein's Overcoat

One day the famous American scientist Albert Einstein came across an old friend of his on a street in New York.