

Readings for Fun

with comprehension practice

英文趣味閱讀測驗

3

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序 言

「學習英文有聲讀本」第一、二級出版以來，深獲各界好評，許多讀者來信，鼓勵我們多出這類有趣易學的書籍，並建議加上習題，以幫助讀者測驗閱讀的成效，這就是「英文趣味閱讀測驗」(Readings for Fun)誕生的經過。

這是一本訓練閱讀的專書，主要特色包括：

- ◆ 輕薄短小，趣味橫溢——本書所選文章，用字淺顯，精巧迷你，不到五分鐘就能讀完一篇。內容幽默風趣，您會忍不住一篇接一篇地讀下去，馬上獲得成就感，建立自信心。
- ♥ 取材廣泛，編排明朗——本書涵括：解頤短文、生活小品、奇風異俗、名人軼聞……包羅萬象，不勝枚舉；配合簡單清爽的版面編排、詳盡的注解和流暢的翻譯，使您的閱讀成為一種享受。
- ♣ 啟發式習題，激發閱讀潛力——本書每篇都附有精選習題，可測驗您的理解力 (comprehension)，幫助您掌握文章重點，突破閱讀盲點 (blind spot)！
- ◆ 由淺入深，漸入佳境——本書共分三級，只要您具備基本的英文程度，就能隨著本書，逐步進入多彩多姿的閱讀領域，體會漸入佳境的奇妙感受。

本書雖經多次審慎校閱，惟恐尚有疏失之處，切盼各界先進不吝批評指正。

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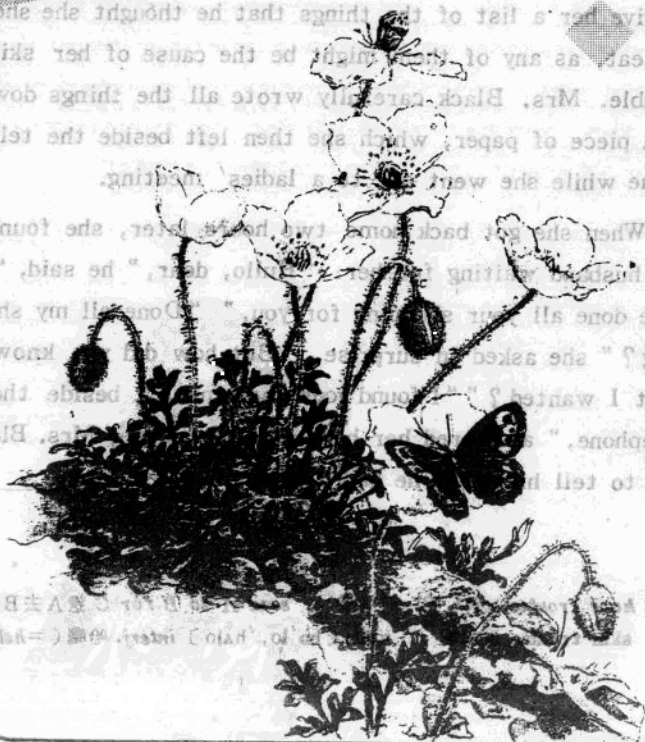
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To see a world in a grain of sand
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour.

William Blake



1

The Shopping List



Mrs. Black was having a lot of trouble with her skin, so she went to her doctor about it. He sent her to the local hospital for some tests, and telephoned her the next morning to give her a list of the things that he thought she should not eat, as any of them might be the cause of her skin trouble. Mrs. Black carefully wrote all the things down on a piece of paper, which she then left beside the telephone while she went out to a ladies' meeting.

When she got back home two hours later, she found her husband waiting for her. "Hullo, dear," he said, "I have done all your shopping for you." "Done all my shopping?" she asked in surprise. "But how did you know what I wanted?" "I found your shopping list beside the telephone," answered her husband. Of course, Mrs. Black had to tell him that he had bought all the things _____.

** *have trouble with* 因~而煩惱 *send A to B for C* 送A去B做C
skin trouble 皮膚病 *hullo* [hə'lo, 'halo] *interj.* 哈囉 (=hello)

◆ Comprehension ◆

1. Which of the following best completes the last sentence ?

- (A) she really liked to eat
- (B) that were much too expensive
- (C) the doctor did not allow her to eat
- (D) her husband really liked to eat

2. Mrs. Black went to the local hospital _____.

- (A) to be examined by her doctor
- (B) for some tests
- (C) for treatment of her skin trouble
- (D) because her husband suggested it

3. Mrs. Black made a list of _____.

- (A) foods her doctor said not to eat
- (B) telephone numbers she often dialed
- (C) the results of her skin tests
- (D) foods she wanted her husband to buy

4. Mr. Black's attempt to help his wife with the shopping _____.

- (A) made her very pleased
- (B) was actually very helpful
- (C) made her feel guilty
- (D) was unsuccessful

** treatment ['trɪtmənt] n. 治療

guilty ['ɡɪltɪ] adj. 心虛的；自覺有罪的

2

The Fight



Late one night, Nasreddin was woken up by two men fighting in the street. As Nasreddin loved nothing better than to watch a fight, he opened his window and looked out, but when they saw him watching them, they went round the corner of the house. Nasreddin did not want to miss anything, but, as it was a cold night, he wrapped himself in a blanket before he went out.

The two men were still shouting and struggling. Nasreddin went closer to them, but as soon as he was within reach, they seized his blanket and ran away. Nasreddin was too old to run after them, so he could do nothing but go sadly back to bed.

"Well," said his wife. "_____"

"It seems that they were fighting about my blanket," answered Nasreddin, "because as soon as they got it, their quarrel ended."

** wrap [ræp] *v.* 包；裹 blanket ['blæŋkɪt] *n.* 毛毯

struggle ['strʌgl] *vi.* 搏鬥 within reach 在手可以達到的地方

◆ Comprehension ◆

1. Which sentence best fits in the blank?

- (A) Where have you been tonight?
- (B) What were they fighting about?
- (C) You seem very cold and sad.
- (D) Hurry up and come to bed.

2. Nasreddin was woken up by _____.

- (A) his wife
- (B) the fight
- (C) a rooster
- (D) his alarm clock

3. The two men were probably _____.

- (A) angry with each other
- (B) angry with Nasreddin
- (C) only pretending to fight
- (D) the friends of Nasreddin

4. From this story it seems that _____.

- (A) Nasreddin was somewhat foolish
- (B) Nasreddin was afraid of fighting
- (C) fighting is dangerous
- (D) Nasreddin was angry with his wife

** run after 追 quarrel [ˈkwɔrəl] n. 争吵

rooster [ˈrustə] n. 公雞

pretend [priˈtend] v. 假裝

somewhat [ˈsʌmhwat] adv. 稍微；有點

3

Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket



A friend of mine, once noticing the haphazard way in which I kept paper money in my various pockets, much of it lost among a medley of letters and other documents in my breast pocket, said to me: "You have no sense about money. You don't know how to keep it," and presented me with a note-case, when I was on the eve of going abroad. I put all my paper money into the note-case, feeling that I was a practical man at last. Within a week, unfortunately, a still more practical pick-pocket managed to get hold of the note-case and robbed me of a far larger sum than any pickpocket had ever succeeded in taking from me in my more unpractical days.

- ** haphazard [ˌhæpˈhæzəd] *adj.* 隨便的 paper money 紙鈔
 medley [ˈmedli] *n.* 混雜 document [ˈdɒkjəmənt] *n.* 文件
 present A with B 贈送 A (人) B (物)
 note-case [ˈnɒt,keɪs] *n.* 皮夾子
 practical [ˈpræktɪkl] *adj.* 講求實際的

◆ Comprehension ◆

1. The writer's friend gave him _____.

- (A) some money
- (B) a kind of purse
- (C) an important letter
- (D) some documents

2. The writer was given a present _____.

- (A) while he was travelling
- (B) because he asked for one
- (C) before he went abroad
- (D) after he returned from abroad

3. The note-case was taken by _____.

- (A) the bank
- (B) a thief
- (C) the government
- (D) the friend

4. The writer was better off _____.

- (A) with the note-case
- (B) without money
- (C) after the theft
- (D) being unpractical

** pickpocket ['pɪk, pəkɪt] n. 扒手 get hold of 獲得
be better off 處境更好

4

Ignorance Is Bliss



It would seem obvious that a sharp-sighted hen would be much better off than a short-sighted hen, for good vision is better than poor vision. But this may not always be so.

Some grain is placed behind a wiregrating and a hen is placed in front of the grating. The sharp-sighted hen sees the grain at once and goes directly towards it. She is stopped by the grating, but so clear and beckoning is the sight of the grain that she spends all her time trying

•• bliss [blɪs] *n.* 福氣

sharp-sighted [ˈʃɑ:pˈsaɪtɪd] *adj.* 視覺敏銳的 (↔ short-sighted 近視的)

be better off 境遇更好

vision [ˈvɪʒən] *n.* 視力

wiregrating [ˈwaɪəˌɡreɪtɪŋ] *n.* 鐵絲網

beckon [ˈbekən] *v.* 招手

get through 通過

take advantage of 利用

fruitless [ˈfruːtlɪs] *adj.* 徒勞的

It never rains but it pours. 一下雨就是傾盆而降。

The early bird catches the worm. 早起的鳥兒有蟲吃。

◆ Comprehension ◆

1. Which of the following best completes the last sentence?

- (A) to get rid of the grain
- (B) to find the grain
- (C) to get through the grating
- (D) to take advantage of a short-sighted hen

2. The main idea of the paragraph is _____.

- (A) how stupid a short-sighted hen is
- (B) how a hen gets grain
- (C) the disadvantage of a sharp-sighted hen
- (D) the disadvantage of a short-sighted hen

3. Which is true, according to the paragraph?

- (A) A hen is usually sharp-sighted.
- (B) A hen knows how to get the grain behind a wire-grating.
- (C) Even a sharp-sighted hen fails to see the grain nearby.
- (D) Sometimes sharp-sighted hens make fruitless efforts.

4. Which proverb is supported by the story?

- (A) Everything comes to those who wait.
- (B) It never rains but it pours.
- (C) The early bird catches the worm.
- (D) Knowledge sometimes causes unnecessary troubles.

5

A Clever Solution



The manager of a small building company was very surprised to get a bill for two white mice which one of his workmen had bought. He asked the workman why he had had the bill sent to the company.

"Well," the workman answered, "you remember the house we were repairing? We had to put some new electric wiring through a pipe thirty feet long and about an inch across which had four big bends in it. None of us could think how to do this until I had a good idea. I went and bought two white mice, one male and the other female. Then I tied a thread to the male mouse, while Bill held the female mouse at the other end. When the male mouse heard the female mouse's squeaks, he rushed along the pipe to help her. As he ran through the pipe he pulled the thread behind him. It was then quite easy for us to tie one end of the thread to the electric wires and pull them through the pipe."

The manager paid the bill for the white mice.