

第2册

English Reading

英语阅读

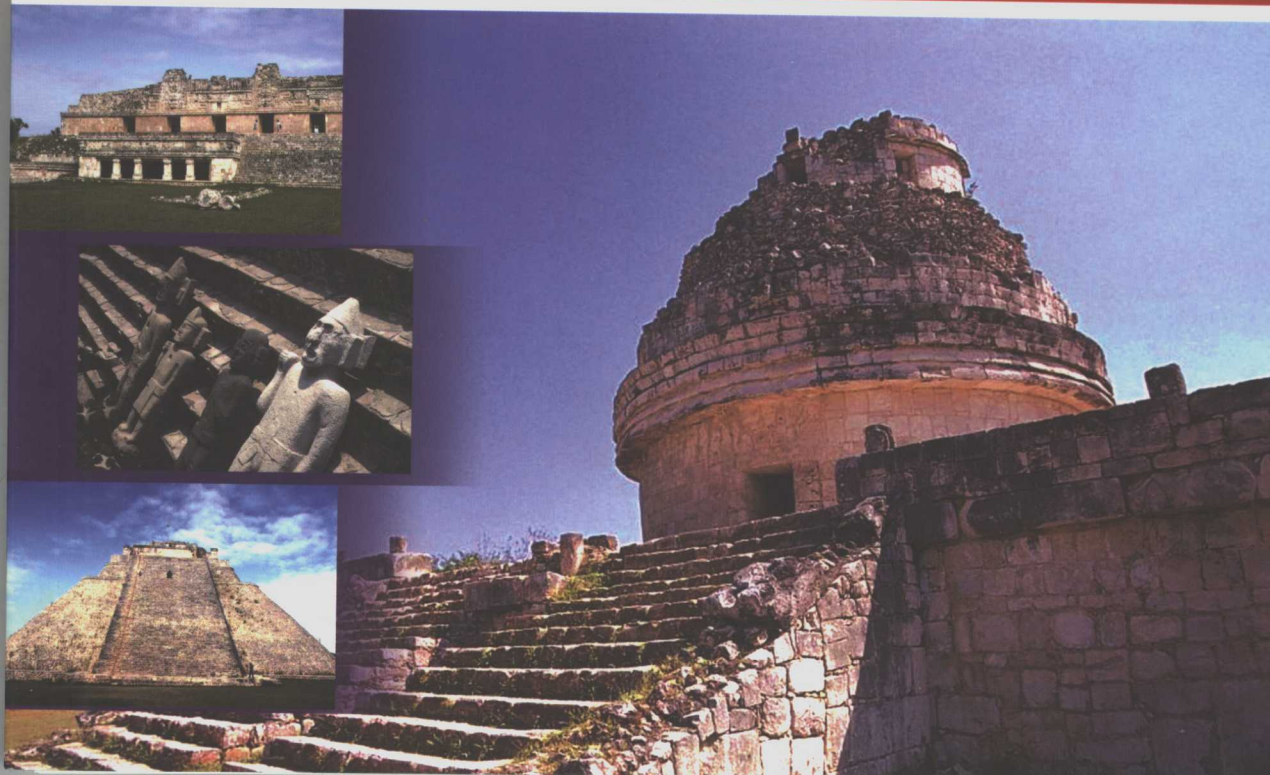
文化、技巧与实践

Cultures, Skills and Practices

主编 李清平 黄永安

湖南人民出版社

W O R L D



广州航海高等专科学校资助项目



English Reading

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文化、技巧与实践

Cultures, Skills and Practices

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前 言

在外语教学中，阅读是一门很重要的课程，这种重要性大致体现在以下三个方面。第一，在外语环境中，阅读是获取输入的主要途径，有时甚至是惟一途径。而输入是学好外语的先决条件。第二，阅读是外语学习中的一项基本技能，其中的许多微技巧是要通过教才能学会的。第三，阅读理解能力是外语语言能力的-一个重要方面，因而，一般水平测试都把阅读理解当作很重要的一个方面来进行检测。

外语阅读在外语教学中如此重要，但“读什么”和“如何读”一直是人们争执不下的问题。综观现行的阅读教材，一般的做法都是搜集一些原创文章，然后编一些练习题。这样做至少忽视了两点。一是阅读理论和技巧的介绍不系统，二是目标文章的选择具有很大的随意性。努力克服这两个缺陷正是我们这套教材的特色。

这套教材是为英语专业基础阶段的学生编写的。但由于该教材对阅读理论和技巧有较详细和系统地介绍，它也可供非英语专业的学生、参加自学考试的人员、和其他英语爱好者使用。全套教材分四册，一年级使用一、二册，二年级使用三、四册。课文选材的基本主题是东西方文化，因此该教材又可以作为跨文化交际的入门读本来使用。在文化这一主题的统领下，尽可能选择各种体裁的文章，以增强学习者对不同类型语篇之间的互通。现将教材的编排布局介绍如下。

1. 主题名言 每个单元覆盖一个主题，用一句名人名言来概括。学习者可以就此名言进行讨论，以拓宽自己的视野和提高自己的认识水平。

2. 阅读技巧 我们知道，阅读是一个解码语篇的过程，这种解码有时在单词层面上进行，有时在句子层面上进行，有时在语篇层面上进行。每个单元就阅读技巧的一个方面进行论述并辅以例句。老师可在课堂上进行补充说明，自学者





可仔细阅读这一部分，并将所阐述的阅读技巧应用到每个单元的阅读实践中去。

3. 课前测试 每个单元由四篇课文组成，每篇课文由 Text A 和 Text B 两部分组成。课前测试是根据 Text A 设计的，目的是检测学习者在具体语境中猜词的能力。建议学习者进行自我测试，看这种词义识别能力是否在不断提高。词义识别的自动化是阅读理解能力的非常重要的一个方面。

4. Text A 这是每一课的正课文，要求从细节和总体上都把握。比较难的背景知识在课后都有注释，每一课后都编有阅读理解题（包括多项选择、正误判断和完型填空），要求学习者自己先做，然后再看后面的参考答案。

5. Text B 这是副课文，话题与 Text A 大致相关。没有注释，练习题包括多项选择和正误判断。在课堂上，这也可以作为快速阅读练习材料来使用。

6. 谚语两则 每一课书后都有谚语两则，学习者可以从中体会英语民族的智慧和人生哲学，也可以尝试找出汉语相应的谚语表达方式，以增强跨文化交际的自愿和自觉。

教材编写是一项复杂的系统工程，而全部课文贯穿同一主题，并穿插阅读理论和技巧的介绍，犹如带着镣铐起舞。感谢中南大学外国语学院英语系的同学在教材试用过程中提出的宝贵意见。感谢广州航海高等专科学校出版基金的大力资助。更应该感谢湖南人民出版社，他们的严谨和高效使得这套教材能够在保证质量的前提下，在最短的时间里面世。

由于编者的水平有限，书中有可能还存在这样或那样的不妥之处，希望使用者能不吝赐教，以便我们的工作能不断完善，从而让更多的英语学习者最大程度的获益。

主 编

2006 年 7 月

Unit Five Cultures

Reading Skills Word Skills(V)--Word Analysis(III).....	01
Lesson Seventeen.....	03
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	03
Text A The Lost World of the Maya.....	04
Text B Maya Civilization.....	11
Lesson Eighteen.....	14
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	14
Text A The Story of the Bible.....	15
Text B The Story of Noah's Ark.....	23
Lesson Nineteen.....	24
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	24
Text A Yoga.....	26
Text B Yoga and Ayurveda: Children of the Vedic Teaching.....	32
Lesson Twenty.....	35
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	35
Text A Age of Pyramids.....	36
Text B Pyramids.....	41

Unit Six Human Civilization

Reading skills: Sentence Skills: Types of Difficulties (I).....	45
---	----

英语阅读：文化、技巧与实践(第二册)

Lesson Twenty-one.....	47
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	47
Text A People of the Pleistocene Epoch in Eastern Asia.....	48
Text B Rituals in Primitive Religion.....	53
 Lesson Twenty-two.....	 56
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	56
Text A Food Preservation.....	57
Text B European Agrarian Society: Manorialism.....	61
 Lesson Twenty-three.....	 64
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	64
Text A The Transport Infrastructure: Canals and Roads.....	66
Text B The "Protestant Work Ethic".....	70
 Lesson Twenty-four.....	 74
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	74
Text A A Brief History of the Internet.....	75
Text B On line Fraud.....	81

Unit Seven Political Systems

Reading Skills Sentence Skills ---Types of Difficulties(II).....	85
 Lesson Twenty-five.....	 87
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	87
Text A The American Presidency.....	88
Text B Bureaucracy.....	95
 Lesson Twenty-six.....	 98
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	98

英语阅读：文化、技巧与实践(第二册)

Text A Who Rules in America.....	99
Text B Characteristics of Federalism.....	104
Lesson Twenty-seven.....	107
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	107
Text A The Decline of Royal Power.....	109
Text B The War and the Royal Family.....	114
Lesson Twenty-eight.....	118
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	118
Text A The American Republican Party.....	119
Text B The Origins of Revolutionary Warfare.....	126

Unit Eight Famous Speeches

Reading Skills Sentence Skills---Types of Difficulties(III).....	130
Lesson Twenty-nine.....	132
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	132
Text A John F. Kennedy, Excerpt from "Address on Civil Rights".....	133
Text B Inaugural Address of John F. Kennedy.....	139
Lesson Thirty.....	144
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	144
Text A Boutros Boutros-Ghali, "A Need for Full Awareness of Planet's Fragility".....	145
Text B A Speech on the Eleventh Global Biodiversity Forum.....	150
Lesson Thirty-one.....	155
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	155
Text A The Poet and the World.....	157
Text B Ralph Waldo Emerson Commemorates the Centennial of Robert B.....	165

英语阅读：文化、技巧与实践(第二册)

Lesson Thirty-two.....	169
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	169
Text A Noah Webster's Declaration of Linguistic Independence.....	170
Text B National Identity, Language, and Nationalism.....	177
References.....	182

Unit Eight Famous Speeches

Reading Skills - Sentence Skills - Types of Difficulties (II).....	130
Lesson Twenty-nine.....	132
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	132
Text A John F. Kennedy's "Address on Civil Rights".....	133
Text B Kennedy's Address of John F. Kennedy.....	139
Lesson Thirty.....	144
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	144
Text A Thomas Jefferson's "A Declaration of Independence".....	145
Text B A speech on the Elizabethan Period.....	150
Lesson Thirty-one.....	152
Preliminary Vocabulary Test.....	152
Text A The Post and the War.....	157
Text B Ralph Waldo Emerson's "The American Scholar".....	162

Unit

5

Cultures

Quote: "The acquiring of culture is the development of an avid hunger for knowledge and beauty."

Author: Jesse Bennett, 1769-1842, American Physician
Jesse Bennett, 1769-1842, American Physician

Reading Skills

Word Skills (V)—Word Analysis (III)

The following table presents some of the most commonly used suffixes.

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
(forms adjectives)		
able, -ible, -ble	that can be	negligible; respectable
-al, -ic	related to	historic; fatal
-ary	being	customary; imaginary
-ate	having	legitimate; fortunate
-ful	full of	respectful; joyful
-ial	related to	commercial; presidential
-ish	having the (bad) qualities of	girlish; foolish
-ive	tending to; functioning to	connective; talkative
-ized	deliberately-given qualities	mechanized; authorized
-less	without	merciless; homeless
-like	having the (good) qualities of	childlike; womanlike
-proof	not affected by	soundproof; foolproof
-ridden	suffering from the effects of	guilt-ridden; mosquito-ridden
-some	causing; producing	quarrelsome; troublesome

续下表

接上表

-y (forms nouns)	having; affected by	windy; noisy
-age	action, result, state, etc. of	breakage; shrinkage
-ance	action, state, quality of	appearance; brilliance
-dom	condition of being	freedom; boredom
-ee	receiver of an action	trainee; employee
-er, -or	doer of an action	singer, actor
-hood	condition or period of being	falsehood; boyhood
-ics	science or skill	linguistics; aeronautics
-ism	practice, way, or beliefs of	heroism; socialism
-ist	follower of; person who	Buddhist; violinist
-ity	condition or quality of	stupidity; legality
-ment	act or result of an action	movement; enjoyment
-ness	condition or quality	kindness; loudness
-ous, -ious,	having the qualities of	jealous; glorious
-phobia	great dislike/fear	hydrophobia; Anglophobia
-ship	condition or skill of	partnership; workmanship
-tion, -ation, -sion (forms verbs)	state (action) of; condition	friction; realization; invasion
-ate	make; cause	intimidate; saturate
-ify	make or become	purify; simplify
-ize	make or become	mechanize; popularize
(forms adverbs)		
-ward(s)	in the direction of	homeward; southward
-wise	in the manner of; like	clockwise; crabwise

III. How powerful is word analysis in reading?

Contextual clues often do not provide us with an exact definition, and neither does word analysis. Sometimes these tools may even be misleading, because we might not know whether the root is of Latin, Greek, Anglo-Saxon, or some other origin; also, we might not know the boundary between the root and the affixes.

Example 1: recede.

The prefix “re-” here means “back,” thus the meaning: go back. If you thought the prefix means “again,” as it does sometimes, then the word meaning would be “go



again,” which is wrong.

Example 2: repeat

The prefix “re-” here means “again,” thus the meaning: say or do the same thing again.

Example 3: democratic

Here “-dem(o)-” means “people”, thus the meaning: of the people. If you regarded “de-” as a prefix, you would never decipher (译解) the meaning of the word.

Example 4: demarcate

Here “de-” (not “dem-”) is a prefix meaning “down,” thus the meaning of the word: put a mark down.

Example 5: manipulate

Here “man-” doesn't mean “man”; it is a stem meaning “hand,” thus the meaning of the word: handle.

Despite all this, contextual clues and word analysis are powerful weapons in tackling word meanings in reading. In actual reading process, the two skills, especially when used together, can improve reading efficiency greatly.

Lesson Seventeen

Preliminary Vocabulary Test

In each of the following sentences, there is one word taken from the text. Choose, from A, B, C, D listed below the sentence, the item that is closest in meaning to the italicized word .

1. They finally *exposed* the plot of the traitors to the public.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| A. undo | B. disclose |
| C. explain | D. expound |

2. A *canopy* of leaves shades the avenue leading to the University.

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| A. number | B. quantity |
| C. carpet | D. covering |

3. The *undulating* hills in the region are so enchanting that visitors are always reluctant to leave.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| A. wave-like | B. uneven |
| C. protruding | D. unduly |

4. A group of men arrived with spades to *excavate* the buried Roman villa.



A. destroy

B. demolish

C. dig

D. extricate

5. The robbers broke into John's apartment and *looted* all of his belongings.

A. hold

B. occupy

C. plunder

D. possess

6. Some people in the country are still living at a *subsistence* level.

A. substance

B. starvation

C. sustenance

D. existence

7. I can't *decipher* what is inscribed on the pillar.

A. make out

B. make for

C. make after

D. make up

8. There has been a *staggering* increase in crime recently.

A. stagnant

B. amazing

C. gradual

D. swift

9. One small error in fighting the flood *precipitated* the disaster.

A. bring about

B. hasten

C. result in

D. aggravate

10. The committee should take an *egalitarian* attitude to voting.

A. egoistic

B. egotistic

C. equal

D. positive

Text



The Lost World of the Maya

Archaeologists may have only scratched the surface

From the dizzying top of Temple IV, dense jungle canopy spreads to the horizon in every direction, rolling in the wind like the surface of the ocean.

Some 215 feet below lies Tikal, the greatest of the Mayan cities, much of it still buried by trees and vines (蔓藤) that have swallowed Temple IV up to the base of its crowning platform. The ruined roof combs of Tikal's huge temples and palaces rise island-like above the undulating canopy, mute monuments of a long-lost civilization.

Generations of archaeologists have worked to excavate (开凿) this vast city since a Spanish governor rediscovered it in 1848. They're still at work today, clearing trees and vines from nearby temples, searching for clues to how the ancient Maya lived and what caused them to abandon their great cities six centuries before the Spanish conquest. New inscriptions, villages, even entire cities are being discovered every year, creating great excitement among archaeologists.

The latest and most stirring find was announced September 8th, 2000: the discovery of a nearly intact (未受损的) 170-room palace buried at Cancuen, a remote site seventy miles south of Tikal. The palace — a three-story complex built around eleven courtyards — is the largest Mayan palace ever discovered. It's so large, in fact, that previous expeditions to Cancuen mistook it for a great jungle-covered hill.

"It's a very exciting time in Maya archaeology," says Arthur Demarest of Vanderbilt University^①, who discovered the Cancuen palace. "If you're working in Egypt, it's a big deal to find the tomb of Ramses'^② second cousin or something like that. But in the Yucat, we can still find the whole cities, kingdoms, and dynasties."

Over the past decade, archaeologists have discovered numerous new sites, transforming our understanding of classic Mayan civilization. But their expeditions are becoming a race against time, as increasingly sophisticated looting operations raid Mayan ruins for valuable artifacts, stealing important clues before they can be evaluated.

Looting more profitable than farming

A large proportion of the stolen artifacts are believed to make their way to the United States and Europe via Cancun, Mexico, according to George Thompson, head of the government Department of Archaeology in neighboring Belize. "It's a huge market and very well developed," he says. "Because of television and the internet, more people are realizing the true value of these artifacts, and looting is a lot more profitable than subsistence farming."

Despite this, scholarly understanding of ancient Maya has been growing rapidly over the past 20 years. Scientists have deciphered Mayan inscriptions, revealing records of many royal dynasties and the wars they fought with one another.

Researchers have also learned that the Maya developed an advanced civilization as early as 400 BC, seven centuries earlier than had been previously thought. At their peak, between AD 600 and 800, the Maya built enormous monumental cities like Tikal and may have numbered in the millions. Most of the great cities were abandoned between 800 and 900. For the past century and a half, archaeologists have been trying to figure out why.



"There are as many theories about the Maya collapse as there are Maya archaeologists," says Norman Hammond of Boston University. "But we've moved away from single-cause explanations. We no longer believe that it was due entirely to warfare or internal revolt or soil exhaustion. Whatever happened was very complex."

At Tikal, the collapse appears to have occurred over many decades. Christopher Jones of the University of Pennsylvania thinks Tikal was weakened by the shifting of trade from inland rivers and trails it controlled to maritime routes dominated by rivals on the coast of what is now southern Mexico. Drought, warfare, and environmental degradation may slowly have finished it off.

Forty miles to the east in what is now Belize®, the small city of Xunantunich lost three-quarters of its population during the ninth century, but struggled on for another one hundred years. "There's no evidence of warfare or mass graves," says Richard Leventhal of the University of California at Los Angeles. "Their social and political system seems to have slowly fallen apart and led to a shift in birth and death rates." The city appears to have just slowly withered away.

What to make of a city abandoned swiftly?

Working at La Milpa in northwestern Belize, Dr. Hammond found evidence that the city was in the midst of a massive expansion project when its inhabitants suddenly left. Some terraces were abandoned within a day of completion, as were quarries stockpiled with finished altars and construction blocks. "Something really serious happened," he says. "It's as if the entire city was abandoned very swiftly."

Hammond thinks the Maya may have been victims of their own success. Some estimates put the Mayan population in the lowland jungles at a staggering 200 people per square kilometer. "Just before the collapse, there are more Maya around than ever before, and they're packed into cities that are larger, more numerous, and more closely spaced," he says. "The slightest added stress could have precipitated a catastrophic spiral of collapse."

But the collapse was not total. Smaller towns and cities continued to thrive in what is now northern Belize and southern Mexico. Marilyn Masson of the State University of New York at Albany has been digging in the ruins of several small villages in northern Belize that appear to have thrived in the centuries after the collapse of the lowland cities.

There she's found evidence of a more egalitarian society, one without divine rulers where ordinary villagers owned valuable jade and obsidian items. "Their settlements aren't as big or centralized, but they were prosperous and involved in an international network of trade that



spread across the region,” she says.

Masson says the post-classical Maya appears to have continued prospering right up until the Spanish Conquest. “When the Spanish came, they saw twenty-five-foot-wide seagoing canoes laden with trade goods moving in and out of the Bay of Honduras,” she says. “Part of the Maya world never collapsed at all.”

Notes

① Vanderbilt University: a university in Nashville, Tennessee, USA, which comprises 10 schools, a public policy institute, a distinguished medical center and The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center.

② Ramses: One measure of ancient Egypt's prosperity is the amount of temple-building the kings could afford to carry out, and on that basis the reign of Ramses II is the most notable in Egyptian history, even making allowance for its great length. His success in temple-building combined with his prowess (本领, 英勇) in war led Egyptologists of the nineteenth century to dub him “the Great,” and that, in effect, is how his subjects viewed him, even after his death; to them he was the king par excellence. Nine kings of the twentieth dynasty called themselves by his name; even in the period of decline that followed, it was an honour to be able to claim descent from him, and his subjects called him by the affectionate moniker “Sese.”

③ Belize: For much of its history, Belize has been a wild place, attractive to the adventurous and the hardy — pirates, loggers, and settlers who could carve a place to live from the forbidding jungle. It was only a matter of time until adventurous eco-travelers found this corner of Central America. Today, Belize has become a rising star among those seeking active and educational vacations. They go to see its vast expanses of rain forest, its rich collection of birds and animals, its long stretch of coral reef and its plentiful Maya ruins.

Exercises

I. Multiple Choice

Complete each of the following sentences by choosing one of the items from A, B, C, D listed below in conformity with the meanings of the text.

1. According to the first two paragraphs, _____ are the representative sites of Maya.

A. temples and palaces

B. mute monuments



- C. Temple IV & Tikal D. undulating canopy
2. The continuing discovery of numerous new sites shows that our understanding of classic Mayan civilization is _____.
 A. correct B. impartial
 C. reasonable D. limited
3. A large proportion of stolen Maya artifacts have gone to the United States and Europe because _____.
 A. the transport is easier
 B. in Mexico, dealing in artifacts is more profitable than farming
 C. people there better understand the value of Mayan artifacts
 D. the Mexican authorities welcome the looting
4. The Maya civilization collapsed possibly as a result of _____.
 A. warfare B. soil exhaustion
 C. the shifting of trade D. all the above
5. We know from the text that most of the Maya lived in the _____, which may also be the reason for the collapse.
 A. cities B. countryside
 C. suburbs D. jungles

II. True or False

There are five statements below. Tell whether they are true or false in accordance with the meanings of the text.

1. On September 8th, 2000, it was announced that Spanish archaeologists had discovered the largest Mayan palace ever found buried at Cancun.
2. According to the text, the Maya developed an advanced civilization as early as 400 BC, including numerous big cities, but they abandoned them after more than one thousand years.
3. The small city of Xunantunich slowly declined while the city of La Milpa was suddenly deserted. Little is known about the reasons so far.
4. The article tells us that the Maya civilization totally collapsed because of the Spanish conquest.
5. There is evidence that the Maya enjoyed social equality, economic prosperity, and brisk trade.

III. Cloze Test

Below the following article, there are 25 words or phrases in the box. Choose the best

