

全 日 制 普 通 高 级 中 学

英语泛读

第一册(上)

EXTENSIVE READING
FOR SEFC 1A



人民教育出版社

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全日制普通高级中学

英语泛读

第一册（上）

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前 言

高中英语教学大纲(试验修订版)规定,高中学生的阅读量“除教材内容外,课外阅读量应达到10万字以上”(一级目标)。二级目标“课外阅读量应达到20万字左右”。同时,大纲还提出:教师要有计划地指导学生掌握科学、有效的阅读方法和技巧;指导他们使用词典、语法等工具书及各种英语教育教学资源,鼓励他们在阅读中根据上下文猜测词义等,使他们逐步获得较强的独立阅读能力,为他们继续学习和发展奠定坚实的基础。

外语阅读的困难往往来自三个方面,一是语言的困难,二是阅读技巧的困难,另外还有文化背景知识的困难。这套泛读丛书就是为帮助学生解决这三个方面的问题而编写的。

语言的困难包括语法结构和词汇用法。虽然目前高考阅读试题中生词较少,但由于单词往往有几种甚至几十种意思。因此,一个词的词义只有在具体的前后文当中,才能确定。所以,词义的转换与搭配仍是阅读理解的障碍。

阅读还涉及阅读技巧的运用,如找出中心思想、推断文章中没有直接说明的意思、确定作者的语气等等。这些阅读的技能虽然学生在汉语学习中也接触过,却仍然需要在阅读外语时进行训练。本丛书循序渐进,有系统地介绍涉及阅读技能方面的各种微技能,经过三年的阅读训练,可使学生获得较好的阅读能力。

文化背景知识是阅读的无形障碍。中国英语学习者听力和阅读的主要困难不仅是语言本身,往往涉及文化背景知识。由于不了解英语国家的文化背景,因此很难做出判断。因此,高中英语大纲提出:阅读是理解和吸收语言信息的最重要手段,如能给学生提供更为丰富的教育教学资源,有助于他们开阔视野、丰富语言知识、扩大词汇量和了解英语国家的社会及文化等。

本泛读读本的内容除了高中英语教学大纲所要求的人物传记、寓言故事、活动记述、社会文化、文史知识、科普小品等材料以外,还增添了名人轶事、高科技发展、濒危动物、突发事件、文化和文学名著等内容;还包括高中学生所关心的一系列问题,如希望工程、流行音乐等等。

阅读理解题型参照国内外多种新题型并根据阅读策略以及中学生学习特点编成。学生通过阅读能把握所读材料的主要事实、中心思想、主要逻辑线索和时间空间顺序,能根据上下文理解作者的态度、观点和文段的寓意;能根据已知事实推断文段的隐含意义。教师可以根据文段后面的理解题,引导学生进行讨论和写作。

参加编写的人员包括国外多年从事中学教学的教育专家和国内富有教师培训经验的教师。本系列丛书适用于高中学生和水平相当的英语学习爱好者。本系列丛书配有相应的录音磁带供读者选用。

在此次修订中,我们又根据修订版高中英语教材的话题与内容更换了若干篇文章,因此,本书可以作为与课堂教学同步的补充阅读材料。

编 者

2003年6月

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Before you read ...

- 1 What are some of the things you expect your friends to do for you? What are some of the things you are prepared to do for them?
- 2 Describe things you are *not* prepared to do for friends or to tolerate (忍受, 容忍).
- 3 Write a short profile (简介) of a friend who is important to you.

Dear Ayi,

1 How are you these days? You must be very busy, I'll bet you get lots of letters from guys like me. I promise to make mine short. My name is Wang Zhuokun and my hometown is Xiamen. Have you been here before? It is a lovely seaport. O.K., back to my subject.

2 Last month I met an American boy from California. He calls himself Peter Shi but his Chinese name is Shi Wei. He is two years younger than me and goes to a junior high school in San Diego. He was staying with some of his relatives in my hometown for the school year. His great-grandfather left Fujian Province in the 1920s to seek a better life in America. I was surprised to find out that Peter doesn't speak any Mandarin Chinese although his parents speak it fluently. I asked him why and he told me it wasn't necessary. In his school no one speaks Chinese and the school does not offer Chinese as a foreign language. He didn't seem to care about that. When we visited my home to have lunch he couldn't even hold the chopsticks very well! Can you imagine?

3 Well, I should get to the point. Peter introduced me to his sister, Joan. She is a pretty girl about my age and very smart. I liked her right away. Peter invited me to dinner with his aunt and uncle and, of course, his sister. I tried not to look at her too much but I wanted to. After lunch, Peter left me alone with Joan for a few minutes. I could see she liked me too. Several weeks later I talked to her in the school **canteen** (小卖部) and

asked her if we could see a film. She said, sure, why not, and we went to see a movie that weekend. While we were waiting in line to buy the tickets one of my classmates, He Chunli, saw us together. She seemed very surprised since I had never had a date with a girl before. I didn't hear anything about it for another week. Then last Thursday I was eating in the canteen and I noticed some girls at another table were staring at me in an ugly way. Peter could see I was curious and told me they were spreading rumors about Joan and me. Some girls were saying that I only liked Chinese girls from America. I told Peter that was nonsense and that I had more important things to do than worry about **stuff** (东西) like that.

4 I can see my letter isn't so short after all. Sorry about that. O.K., so here is the rest of the story. Another week went by without trouble. Then I **overheard** (无意中听到) one of the girls whispering something to Peter that made me very angry. She told Peter that the only reason I became his friend was so I could meet his sister. She said that it was *guanxi* and nothing more. Her words made me angry but I didn't say anything to her. I've noticed that lately Peter doesn't spend as much time with me and even Joan finds excuses not to see me after school. I talked to my kind English teacher, Hu Xiaoyu, and she tried her best to make me feel better, but I still want your advice. Ayi, what should I do?

Your miserable reader,
John Zhuokun

Dear John,

5 It's really terrible what those girls did to you. It wasn't right, that's for sure, and I don't blame you for feeling angry. Unfortunately, you can't stop a rumor once it starts. It's like a fire in dry grass. Most people who like to tell this kind of **gossip** (闲话) are not just talking because they like talking. In other words, this rumor isn't just some yakety-yak, or nonsense talk. It isn't silly or joking; it's meant to hurt someone. Unfortunately,

even if you put a stop to the rumor, some of your classmates will go on believing that the rumor is true. They won't forget it. That's what is so cruel about this kind of gossip. Your classmates may accept your explanation but they will always look at you in a slightly different, unkind way. You can put out the fire, but the grass will still be burned.

6 So what should you do? I **recommend** (建议) that you have a long talk with Peter in some quiet place, away from all the others. Tell him how much his friendship means to you and how sorry you feel for the trouble it has caused him and his sister. If he is a true friend, he will listen and believe what you say. You may not need to say anything at all; your true feelings may be known to him already. But ask him. You may just need to give him some time to think about the problem. Indeed, you may need to give yourself some time, too. Then you can both sit down and have a heart-to-heart talk. As for Joan, she may be wondering what to think to. However, my guess is that she will only need to hear a few gentle words of **reassurance** (宽心). As another old saying goes, "Actions always speak louder than words." Over time, the way you treat her and her brother can defeat the rumor. You must believe me when I say that.

7 Right now, you must be trying to figure out what made these girls behave this way? Most of us share in gossip once in a while. It's natural: we are social creatures who like to imagine what others do in their private lives. It is difficult to keep secrets even when we promise that we will. Benjamin Franklin, the American humorist and writer, once said, "Three can keep a secret if two are dead." In some cultures, privacy is less valued than in others. Of course, that doesn't give people the excuse to be cruel to one another. There is a big difference between harmless gossip and hurtful gossip. Unfortunately, **innocent** (没有恶意的) whispers often become evil **accusations** (指控). Remember, that people who like to spread rumors are selfish: they want to be the center of attention. They like the feeling of being in control of a situation. But they don't know how to earn real respect. Second, those who always like to listen to gossip must have a boring life. You should feel sorry for all of them.

8 Now I realize you may still want to approach these bad girls and express your anger and concern. But don't bother; it's a waste of time. A line in the song, "The Boxer", by Simon and Garfunkel, explains why better than I can: a man hears what he

wants to hear and **disregards** (不管) the rest. Let go of your anger and put your energy into positive things, like finding a way to build a relationship with Joan that no amount of gossip can **ruin** (毁灭). I'm sure she's a nice and sensible girl. If she respects you, it will be easy to **regain** (重获) her trust.

Good luck. Write back and tell me how it goes.

Your Ayi

A: Questions for "Yakety Yak"

1. Reread the first paragraph of John's letter to Ayi carefully. Is he trying to be funny OR is he funny without trying to be? How do you know?
2. Does John dislike the fact that Peter doesn't use his full Chinese name? Please explain.
3. What three reasons does John give for liking Joan?
4. True or False or Don't Know: The girls in the canteen are not pretty.
5. Why are the girls angry at John? Please explain.
6. True or False: John gets worried about things very easily.
7. In what way did John's teacher, Hu Xiaoyu, try to help him?
8. Which of the following phrases best describes John's tone in the last paragraph:
 - a. very fearful about what will happen next
 - b. desperate for Ayi's help
 - c. calm and unbothered by the situation
 - d. amused because the rumor is a bad joke
 - e. only a little curious about what Ayi's opinion
 - f. confused about what to do and hoping Ayi can help
9. To make her point clearer to John, Ayi compares rumors to fire in dry grass. We call this an analogy. Can you think of another analogy to describe rumors and what they do to people? Share your idea with your classmates.
10. True or False: Ayi dislikes all people who gossip.
11. In the last paragraph of Ayi's reply to John she quotes a line from a song by Paul

Simon: a man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest. What do you think he means? How might his message help us to deal with gossip? Please explain.

B: Analyze ideas and relationships.

1. In paragraph 2, "I asked him why and he told me **it** wasn't necessary." **It** refers to:
 - a. speaking Mandarin Chinese.
 - b. learning Mandarin Chinese at school.
 - c. speaking Mandarin Chinese with his parents.
2. In paragraph 3, "I didn't hear anything about **it** for another week." **It** refers to:
 - a. John's going out with Joan
 - b. the rumor about Joan and John
 - c. the film Joan and John saw
3. According to paragraph 3, when did John hear about the rumors about Joan and him?
 - a. The week after Joan and John went to the cinema.
 - b. The week before John wrote to Ayi for advice.
 - c. Two weeks after John and Joan's date.
4. In paragraph 6 "... how sorry you feel the trouble **it** has caused him and his sister." **It** refers to:
 - a. the trouble.
 - b. the rumor.
 - c. the friendship.
5. Which of the following explanation is closest in meaning to the saying, "**Actions always speak louder than words.**"
 - a. When people talk about their actions, they always speak louder.
 - b. People always trust others behaviors rather than their written words.
 - c. What people have done is often more reliable than what he has said.
6. Ayi quotes Benjamin Franklin's saying "**Three can keep a secret if two are dead**" as an example to tell John that:
 - a. There are no secrets in the world.
 - b. It is hard for us to keep secrets.

- c. Secrets can be kept only to one person.
7. In Ayi's opinion, the rumor about John and Joan is a _____ one
- a. harmless
 - b. innocent
 - c. hurtful
8. In her reply to John's problem, Ayi suggests him that he:
- a. tell those bad girls about his anger.
 - b. talk to Peter and Joan about his true feelings.
 - c. punish those who spread rumors and those who listen to rumors.

C. Interpret words and phrases.

1. Well, I should **get to the point**.
- a. begin to tell a story
 - b. arrive at a certain place
 - c. speak about the main part
2. She seemed very surprised since I had never **had a date with** a girl before.
- a. gone out with someone of the opposite sex
 - b. been engaged
 - c. been interested in
3. Then you can both sit down and have a **heart-to-heart** talk.
- a. secret
 - b. sincere
 - c. private
4. **Over time**, the way you treat her and her brother can defeat the rumor.
- a. after some time
 - b. finally
 - c. step by step
5. Right now, you must be trying to **figure out** what made these girls behave this way.
- a. work out
 - b. think hard about

- c. understand by thinking
- 6. Now I realize you may still want to **approach** these bad girls and express your anger and concern.
 - a. walk near to
 - b. talk with
 - c. fight with
- 7. **Let go of** your anger and put your energy into positive things...
 - a. forget
 - b. get rid of
 - c. stop holding
- 8. I'm sure she's a nice and **sensible** girl.
 - a. simple
 - b. wise
 - c. sensitive

1 Most American high school students can hardly wait for it to arrive. It is like a small gift, but you cannot wrap it in pretty paper. It lasts only a short time — only three days. After it is over, final exams await them but students try to enjoy every waking minute of this special holiday called **Memorial Day** (阵亡将士纪念日). Why is that? This holiday marks the unofficial beginning of summer. In a week or two, the students will be out of school. They can forget their lessons and have fun again.



2 Memorial Day is always celebrated the last Monday in

May. In fact, it is now called “the Memorial Day Weekend.” When Americans wish each other “a good weekend,” they are talking about Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday. On this particular weekend families usually get together with aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins, and grandparents. They typically meet at someone’s house and cook outside in what is called the “backyard.” The husband and some of the other men will “start the **grill** (烧烤),” which means to make coals in an open oven very hot to cook meat. This preparation can take several hours. Favorite meats to be grilled include hamburger and hot dogs, but often chicken, and pork or beef ribs. Often the only vegetables served are a fresh salad and something called corn-on-the-cob. Americans prefer cold dishes when the weather is hot. Lettuce is rarely cooked, but washed and eaten cold with tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, and salad dressing. Another popular salad is made of cooked potatoes and vinegar or **mayonnaise** (蛋黄酱). Ears of corn are cooked in boiling water and then dipped in melted butter. Salt is **sprinkled** (撒), or put, on the corn. The corn is crisp, or hard, and sweet. It is a favorite food throughout the summer. Later, a big watermelon will be served. Sometimes the watermelon has been kept in a “frig,” or refrigerator, to chill it. It is cut into big slices and eaten without the

seeds. In the backyard, children play games of hide-and-seek and badminton, or watch the “grown-ups,” or adults, while they play horseshoes. A horseshoe is a heavy iron thing which is used like a shoe on a horse’s feet. You stand about thirty feet, or ten meters, away from a pole and throw the horseshoe. You hope to hit the pole, which makes it ring, or get as close to the pole as possible. A “ringer” is a horseshoe that stays wrapped around the pole. Another popular game that everyone enjoys is “**croquet** (槌球游戏).” In this game you use a “**mallet** (木槌),” or long thick wooden stick, to hit a big, heavy wooden ball through “**hoops** (铁箍),” which are pieces of metal wire.

3 After a big lunch or early supper, family members might go to a nearby park to play a game of “**softball** (垒球).” This is baseball played with a bigger, softer ball. The rules are mostly the same but sometimes someone will “make up the rules as they go along.” This means they will decide the rule only when it is finally needed. No one really cares who wins; it’s all for fun. If the families do not meet at someone’s home, they may decide to have a “picnic” in a park instead. In the park, children can climb trees, or play American-style football. It is a sport similar to British **rugby** (橄榄球运动) but when girls and boys, and women and men play it, they usually just touch the person who is holding the football. They seldom “tackle,” or push them to the ground. Often teams are very small, maybe a few players on each side. Again, the purpose is not to compete but have good, healthy fun.

4 In the evening, after the food and games, families will either “bid farewell,” or say good-bye to one another and go home, or go inside to sit on the “porch” to chat about what is happening in their lives. They may make plans for the next holiday or simply sit and gaze at the moon and stars.

5 With so much relaxation, you might wonder what is being remembered, since it is called Memorial Day. Like other important holidays in America, the serious purpose is often forgotten. Some Americans have never known the purpose. In 1866, in a village in the State of New York, a **pharmacist** (药商) named Henry C. Welles thought it would be fitting to decorate the graves of soldiers to honor them. These soldiers had given their lives in the Civil War between the southern and northern states. In that terrible war, the South fought to keep slavery and its own way of life. Welles and his neighbors were

northerners, or “Yankees,” who opposed the southerners, or “Rebels.” But he believed that the soldiers on both sides should be remembered and it was called Decoration Day. In 1882 the name was changed to Memorial Day but the South did not celebrate it until after the First World War. In 1971, the government made it a **federal** (联邦的) holiday and it now honored the men and women who had fought in all the nation’s wars.

6 Some Americans show great respect for this holiday. They are called “veterans,” or men and women who have served their country in the military. Those who have not served are called “patriots.” They also love their country very much. Together they will pay a visit to a cemetery where soldiers are buried. One such special place is called The Cemetery of the Pacific. It is located in Honolulu, Hawaii in what is left of a **volcanic crater** (火山口) known as Puowaina, which means “hill of **sacrifice** (献祭).” Thousands upon thousands of men who fought against the Japanese in the Second World War are buried here. They include men who were killed at Pearl Harbor and many other battles. It is their “final resting place.” If one visits this cemetery he or she can have a good view of the whole city of Honolulu and the blue ocean beyond. On the north side of the cemetery is a small **chapel** (小教堂) where old comrades and friends of the soldiers sometimes come to pray or softly sing. Outside, trees and bushes, and beautiful tropical flowers and plants seem to listen to their whispers. It is so peaceful you can almost hear the beat of your own heart.

7 Don’t you agree that all nations should remember the men and women who have died for them? Each nation may have its different way to honor these soldiers. But the most important thing is that we are thankful for what they have done to let us enjoy our lives today.

A: Questions for “Memories and Watermelous”

1. Memorial Day is described as the “unofficial beginning of summer.” What do you suppose that means? Give your opinion.
2. Do American high school students go to school on Saturdays? Be sure to read again the first and second paragraph of the article before you try to answer this question.

3. What is a backyard? Name three things a person can do in a backyard.
4. Are horses used in the game of horseshoes? How do you know?
5. The rules for softball and football are changed when families play them? Can you take a guess why this is done?
6. Do most families sleep at their relatives' homes during the Memorial Day Weekend, according to the article?
7. What is the author's attitude toward Memorial Day? How does he think it should be celebrated?
8. All veterans are patriots but not all patriots are veterans. Can you explain why?
9. How does the author make you feel when he describes a visit to The Cemetery of the Pacific?

B: Analyze ideas and relationships

1. In paragraph 1, "Most American high school students can hardly wait for it to arrive." It refers to :
 - a. a small gift.
 - b. pretty paper.
 - c. Memorial Day.
2. According to paragraph 2, when will a big watermelon be served in a barbecue?
 - a. Before grilled meat.
 - b. After grilled meat and a salad.
 - c. After grilled meat but before a salad.
3. In paragraph 2, what game is it that children seldom play? The game is:
 - a. hide-and-seek.
 - b. horseshoe.
 - c. croquet.
4. Two examples of people having fun in paragraph 3 are:
 - a. baseball and rugby.
 - b. softball and football.
 - c. softball and rugby.