



cowin

英语百科阅读

Cowin英语教育丛书编写组 编写
北京出版社

南极探险



Real English



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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

ACU30/04

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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North America

北美洲

Most of North America is divided among three nations: Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Borders between countries are never decided upon easily, and such was the case with those in North America. The boundary between Canada and the United States was settled upon in 1783, following the Revolutionary War¹, and by treaties in 1818, 1842, and 1846. Today, relations between the two countries are close and friendly. The frontier between them is the longest undefended border in the world, 5,525 miles (8,891.38 kilometers).

The boundary between the United States and Mexico was agreed upon only after the bitter Mexican War² of 1846 to 1848, and by treaties and purchases of land.

The United States is the giant among the three countries. It has less land than Canada, but has more than nine times as many people. And it has more than three times the population of Mexico. With its vast stores of raw materials and its industrial know-how, enormous quantities of goods — cars, steel, food, and clothing — pour out of the industrial northeast to the country itself and to the rest of the world.³



1 When the Americans revolted against British rule in 1775, the Canadians remained loyal to the crown⁴. Today, they recognize Queen Elizabeth II⁵ as official head of state. Nevertheless, Canada is self-ruling. Although a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations⁶, it has its own parliament and prime minister. Canada, too, is rich in natural resources. It is one of the most prosperous countries in the world.

The way of life of people in Canada and the United States is very much alike. Quite different is the way of life in Mexico.

Mexicans can trace their beginnings back to both the highly developed Indian civilizations and the Spanish conquerors. Links to Spain are present in the country's many churches and palaces, which are like those of sixteenth century Spain. Customs in Mexico, especially in the cities, are in many ways like those of Spain.

Of all the Spanish-speaking countries, Mexico has the most people — more than Argentina, Chile, and Columbia combined⁷ — many more than Spain itself. It carries much weight among the Spanish-speaking nations of the world.⁸ Important deposits of oil have been found in Mexico in recent years. With oil scarce and expensive, Mexico's future looks highly promising.

Greenland⁹, the largest island in the world, is considered part of North America. So are the islands of the



Caribbean¹⁰, sometimes called the West Indies. These sunny islands have a colorful past, and stories still are told of Spanish galleons loaded with silver and gold, and of French and British pirates.

English is the main language of North America, spoken by most Americans and Canadians. About a quarter of Canada's people speak French. Spanish and Indian tongues are spoken in Mexico. Spanish, English, French, Dutch, and several other languages are spoken in the West Indies.

European explorers who visited North America once called it the New World. It was indeed "new" to them. In some ways it still is new — or at least young. Cities which thrived before the arrival of Columbus¹¹ have disappeared. Today North American cities are all more or less like those of Europe. All have come into being only since the year 1500.

(580 words)

New Words and Phrases:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------|--------|
| 1. treaty | ['tri:tɪ] | n. | 条约 |
| 2. frontier | ['frʌntjə] | n. | 边境; 国境 |
| 3. undefended | [ˌʌndɪ'fendɪd] | adj. | 未被防守的 |
| 4. purchase | ['pɜ:tʃəs] | n. | 购买 |
| 5. revolt | [rɪ'vəʊlt] | v. | 反抗 |
| 6. nevertheless | [ˌnevəðə'les] | conj. | 然而; 不过 |



7. self-ruling ['self 'ru:lɪŋ] *adj.* 自治的
8. parliament ['pɑ:ləmənt] *n.* 议会
9. prime minister 总理; 首相
10. prosperous ['prɒspərəs] *adj.* 繁荣的
11. trace [treɪs] *v.* 追溯
12. civilization [ˌsɪvɪlaɪ'zeɪʃən] *n.* 文明; 文化
13. conqueror ['kɒŋkərə] *n.* 征服者
14. deposit [dɪ'pɒzɪt] *n.* 矿床; 沉积
15. promising ['prɒmɪsɪŋ] *adj.* 有前途的; 有希望的
16. galleon ['gæljən] *n.* 西班牙大帆船
17. pirate ['paɪərɪt] *n.* 海盗; 掠夺者
18. thrive [θraɪv] *v.* 繁荣

Notes:

1. the Revolutionary War 美国独立战争 于 1775—1783 年期间在北美大陆爆发。
2. Mexican War 墨西哥战争 指 1846—1848 年期间美国对墨西哥发动的侵略战争。
3. With its vast stores of raw materials and its industrial know-how, enormous quantities of goods — cars, steel, food, and clothing — pour out of the industrial northeast to the country itself and to the rest of the world. 由于它原材料丰富、工业技能发达, 极大数量的商品(轿车、钢、食品和服装)从工业化的东北方向本国和世界其他区域。
4. the crown crown 的本意是王冠, 这里指英国君王或王国政府。



5. Queen Elizabeth II 伊丽莎白女王二世
6. The British Commonwealth of Nations 英联邦
7. ...more than Argentina, Chile, and Columbia combined.比阿根廷、智利和哥伦比亚的总人口还要多。
8. It carries much weight among the Spanish-speaking nations of the world. 它在世界上说西班牙语国家中占很大比重。
9. Greenland 格陵兰岛 系世界第一大岛，位于北冰洋同大西洋之间，属丹麦。
10. The islands of the Caribbean 加勒比海诸岛
11. Columbus 哥伦布 (1451—1506) 意大利航海家，1492 年发现新大陆美洲。

Exercises:

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What is North America mainly composed of?
2. Why is the United States the giant in North America?
3. Who is recognized as official head of Canada?
4. Is the way of life of people in Mexico like that in the United States and Canada?
5. Which language is the main language of North America?

II. Fill in each blank with appropriate figures suggested in the text:

The boundary between Canada and the United States was settled upon in 1, with a length of 2 kilo-



1 metres. The boundary between the United States and Mexico was agreed upon after the Mexico War of 3 to 4. The United States has more than 5 times the population of Canada, and more than 6 times that of Mexico.

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

1. The United States gained independence from Britain in 1775.
2. Canada is the most prosperous country in the world.
3. Mexico has a bright future because of its important deposits of oil.
4. Most Americans and Canadians speak English, but Spanish and Indian tongues are popular in Mexico.
5. Most North American cities have come into being since 1500.



Cambridge¹ and Oxford²

剑桥与牛津

Cambridge and Oxford, England's two oldest university cities, may be quiet places of study. But they are also full of excitement and variety for language learners.

During its 800-year history, Cambridge University has had a reputation for maintaining the highest academic standards. But, in spite of its beautiful buildings and busy atmosphere, it has also earned the reputation for being a slightly cold and austere place.

Cambridge is located in the flat country of the East Anglia region, about 80 km north of London, and there is not much to shelter the city from cold winter winds that are said to blow in from Siberia.³

There is not a great deal Cambridge can do about its climate, but in recent years a lot has been done to make the city a more modern and exciting place to live and study in. Today visitors and language learners will find much more to do and see than just beautiful and ancient architecture.

One reason for the change is the fact that the city is now much more than simply a place of learning. In recent decades, it has become a centre for new hi-tech industries and the success of these companies has created new jobs and



attracted more professional people to the city. As a result, new shops, restaurants, bars and nightclubs have opened to meet the growing demand created by these new and wealthy customers.

Language schools are taking advantage of the new spirit of enterprise, and English for Business learners can find courses which include visits to local companies where they can do work experience.

Oxford University is made up of a collection of many different colleges and institutions, each with its own history and characteristics. It's home to a wide variety of nationalities and ethnic groups.⁴ So to language learners, one of the most popular social events is a night out at one of the town's Latin American dance clubs. After a day spent learning English and absorbing the ancient atmosphere of the university, learners can samba⁵ the night away.

The city also has a thriving Asian community. So there is a mouth-watering selection of Asian restaurants serving curries, as well as shops stocked with exotic vegetables and fruits.⁶

The city has attracted such a diverse population partly because of the university, but also because it is an important industrial centre — it's famous for car manufacturing. But, in spite of large industrial areas, the old of the city centre has remained surprisingly unspoilt.⁷

Many learners are surprised to find that the city is free



from the usual high-rise modern buildings. From the centre of Oxford, they can see green hills in the distance, and this adds to the feeling that they are in a small and friendly town and not just another big modern city.

Oxford has developed some imaginative initiatives for language learners. One is a local radio station which broadcasts news and information for learners. They can visit the station to get experience in radio production. Or, they can meet university students in pubs and clubs or at one of the many campus sports facilities which are open to language learners.

(540 words)

New Words and Phrases:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. reputation | [ˌrepju'teɪʃən] | <i>n.</i> | 名声; 声望 |
| 2. maintain | [men'teɪn] | <i>v.</i> | 维持; 保持 |
| 3. academic | [ˌækə'demɪk] | <i>adj.</i> | 学术的 |
| 4. standard | [ˈstændəd] | <i>n.</i> | 水准 |
| 5. austere | [ɒs'tiə] | <i>adj.</i> | 严肃的 |
| 6. climate | [ˈklaɪmɪt] | <i>n.</i> | 气候 |
| 7. decade | [ˈdekeɪd] | <i>n.</i> | 十年 |
| 8. hi-tech | [ˈhaɪ'tek] | <i>adj.</i> | 高科技的 |
| 9. professional | [prə'feʃənl] | <i>adj.</i> | 专业的; 职业性的 |
| 10. nightclub | [ˈnaɪtklʌb] | <i>n.</i> | 夜总会 |
| 11. take advantage of | | | 利用 |



12. spirit of enterprise 事业心
13. characteristic [ˌkærɪktəˈrɪstɪk] *n.* 特征
14. thriving [ˈθraɪvɪŋ] *adj.* 繁荣的
15. community [kəˈmjʊnɪti] *n.* 团体; 社区
16. diverse [daɪˈvɜːs] *adj.* 多种多样的
17. manufacture [ˌmænjuˈfæktʃə] *v.* 制造
18. high-rise [ˈhaɪˈraɪz] *adj.* 有多层楼房并装有电梯的
19. initiative [ɪˈnɪʃɪətɪv] *n.* 积极性
20. facility [fəˈsɪlɪti] *n.* [常用复数] 设备

Notes:

1. Cambridge 剑桥 英国城市, 为剑桥大学所在地。
2. Oxford 牛津 英国城市, 为牛津大学所在地。
3. Cambridge is located in the flat country of the East Anglia region, about 80 km north of London, and there is not much to shelter the city from cold winter winds that are said to blow in from Siberia. 剑桥位于伦敦以北 80 公里的东英吉利区平原上。没有什么可以为该市挡住据说是从西伯利亚刮来的寒冷的冬风。
4. It's home to a wide variety of nationalities and ethnic groups. 它是多种民族和少数民族的家园。
5. Samba 桑巴 一种源于巴西民间舞的交谊舞。此处作动词用, 意为“跳桑巴舞”。
6. So there is a mouth-watering selection of Asian restaurants serving curries, as well as shops stocked with exotic vegetables and fruits. 因此那儿有许多供应美味

