

高级英语精读系列之一

编著

外语教学与研究出版社

《新概念英语》第四册精读

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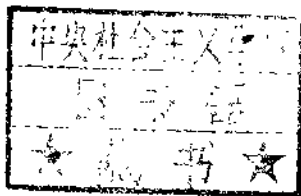
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# 《新概念英语》第四册精读

(上)

王学兴 编著



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## 出 版 说 明

《高级英语精读系列》是供高级英语读者提高阅读与理解英语水平的自学丛书。《系列》拟分十册，由王学兴主编。内容选自国内流行的国外高级英语教材。《系列》着重对课文中的高级英语水平点进行详细的解释，力图帮助读者正确地理解、吸收、运用这些水平点，迅速而有效地提高阅读与理解水平。

《系列》是一种大胆的尝试，欢迎读者提出宝贵的意见。

## 前 言

如何提高我国高级英语读者的阅读与理解水平是一个值得探讨的问题。编者认为，高级英语水平是由相当大量的高级英语水平点所组成。读者通过大量的阅读，能够理解、吸收并运用这些水平点，他们的阅读与理解水平就能迅速而有效地提高。高级英语精读系列《新概念英语精读》等就是为了探讨这一问题而编写的。本书课文取自英国著名英语教材设计家 L. G. 亚历山大编写、英国朗曼出版公司 1967 年出版的《新概念英语》(New Concept English) 第四册《流利英语》(Fluency in English)。

《新概念英语精读》主要内容由以下几个部分组成：

- (一) 课文；
- (二) 生词与短语；
- (三) 课文精解。

课文精解主要包括：

- (1) 译文；
- (2) 疑难句法现象分析；
- (3) 疑难单词与短语的双解与用法举例；
- (4) 必要的背景知识。

编写这类教材，是一种尝试，不足之处，希望广大读者批评指正。

王 学 兴

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# Lesson 1

## Text

We can read of things that happened 5,000 years ago in the Near East, where people first learned to write. But there are some parts of the world where even now people cannot write. The only way that they can preserve their history is to recount it as sagas—legends handed down from one generation of story-tellers to another. These legends are useful because they can tell us something about migrations of people who lived long ago, but none could write down what they did. Anthropologists wondered where the remote ancestors of the Polynesian peoples now living in the Pacific Islands came from. The sagas of these people explain that some of them came from Indonesia about 2,000 years ago.

But the first people who were like ourselves lived so long ago that even their sagas, if they had any, are forgotten. So archaeologists have neither history nor legends to help them to find out where the first 'modern men' came from.

Fortunately, however, ancient men made tools of stone, especially flint, because this is easier to shape than other kinds. They may also have used wood and skins, but these have rotted away. Stone does not decay, and so the tools of long ago have

remained when even the bones of the men who made them have disappeared without trace.

ROBIN PLACE *Finding Fossil Man*

## I . New Words and Expressions

1. read of (从书报上) 读到, 看到
2. preserve *vt.* 保存, 保藏; 防腐
3. recount *vt.* 详细叙述, 描述
4. saga *n.* 英雄传奇; 长篇的详细叙述
5. legend *n.* 传说; 传奇; 传奇文学
6. hand down (尤指上代往下) 传
7. anthropologist *n.* 人类学者
8. archaeologist *n.* 考古学家
9. flint *n.* 燧石
10. rot away 烂掉了
11. decay *vi.* 腐烂, 腐朽
12. trace *n.* 痕迹; 踪迹; 足迹; 遗迹
13. without trace 无影无踪

## II . Detailed Study of the Text

1. We can read of things that happened 5,000 years ago in the Near East, where people first learned to write.  
在远东, 人们最早使用文字记事, 所以即使上溯到五千年前那里发生的事, 我们照样能知道。



- 1) read of; to receive information concerning (something) through printed material; 从阅读文字材料中获悉, 读到;

I read of his death in yesterday's newspaper.

我是从昨天报纸上知道他的逝世消息的。

I have read of people living several weeks on nothing but a glass of water a day.

我曾经从书报上看到过, 有人一连几个星期只靠一杯水维持生命。

注意 read of 和 read about 的区别。

read of 与 read about 有时可以通用。例如:

We've read about/of your remarkable escape.

我看到了有关你顺利逃跑的消息。

但是 read of 与 read about 用法有差别。主要有三点:

- (1) read about 主要用于表示阅读关于……的细节 (read the details concerning), 而 read of 主要着重是从书报上获悉的 (learn of through a printed source)。例如:

Did you read about that accident in the Hight Street?  
有关高街发生的那起事件的详细情况你看过没有?

For our home work we have to read about the Industrial Revolution.

我们的家庭作业是仔细阅读有关工业革命的情况。

- (2) 时态:

read about 常可用进行时态。例如:

I was reading about the theft of a valuable collection

of postage stamps.

我正在阅读一起集邮珍藏的盗窃案。

而 read of 虽然用进行时不是不可能的，但却很罕见。

(3) read about 可用 all 修饰，表示强调。例如：

You can read all about it in this book.

看这本书你就可以了解有关此事的详细情况。

而 read of 则不能用 all 来修饰。

2) the Near East: 通常指西南亚(South Western Asia)、东北非(Northeastern Africa) 诸国所在地区，有时也指巴尔干诸国(the Balkans) 所在地区。

2. But there are some parts of the world where even now people cannot write.

但是世界上有些地区至今还不会写字。

注意“there be”结构中所含的定语从句的译法。

“there be”结构中所含的定语从句在翻译时常用熔合法，即把 there be + 主语部分译作句子的主语，而把定语从句部分译作谓语。例如：

There's something (that) you don't know.

有些事你不知道。

3. The only way that they can preserve their history is to recount it as sagas — legends handed down from one generation of story-tellers to another.

他们保持历史的唯一办法是把历史当作传奇故事来讲述。通过讲故事的人代代相传，成了传说。

1) recount: 此处作“详细讲述”(to tell in detail)、  
“叙述”(to narrate)解。

He thoroughly enjoyed recounting his adventure to the newspaper reporters.

他非常喜欢向新闻记者滔滔不绝地讲述他的冒险经历。

- 2) **saga**: 此处指“长篇传奇故事”(any long, involved story or narrative, often one dealing with colorful or adventurous deeds)。

- 3) **legend**: 此处指“传奇”(an old story handed down from the past which many people have believed to be historical)。

There are many legends about the exploits of Robin Hood.

有许多关于罗宾汉的英勇事迹的传说。

- 4) **handed down from one generation of story-tellers to another**: 过去分词短语作定语, 修饰 legends。

**hand down**: 传……传下来(to give or leave to people who are younger or come later)。

This custom has been handed down since the 18th century.

这一风俗是从18世纪传下来的。

This ring has been handed down in my family.

这只戒指是我家传给我的。

4. **These legends are useful because they can tell us something about migrations of people who lived long ago, but none could write down what they did.**

这些传说很有用, 因为它们能使我们了解一些有关古代人们迁居的情况, 但是他们没有人能用文字把他们的事

迹记载下来。

none 的用法应该注意两点：

- 1) none 如果指的是可数名词，其相应的谓语动词可以用单数形式，也可以用复数形式。例如：

None of the drivers has/have turned up.

司机们一个都没有来。

None of the telephone is/are working.

没有一个电话是好使的。

None of my friends ever come(s) to see me.

没有一个朋友来看过我。

none 指不可数名词时，其相应的谓语动词用单数形式：

None of that money on the table is mine.

桌子上的钱都不是我的。

- 2) none of 也可以用来表示否定的强调。试比较：

{ I didn't like that music. 我不喜欢那种音乐。

{ I liked none of that music. 我一点也不喜欢那种音乐。

5. Anthropologists wondered where the remote ancestors of the Polynesian peoples now living in the Pacific Islands came from.

人类学家们以前不知道现在生活在太平洋岛屿上的玻里尼亚人的远古祖先来自何方。

Polynesian peoples;

Polynesia; 玻里尼亚位于大洋洲 (Oceania) 东部，包括法属玻里尼亚 (French Polynesia)，夏威夷群岛 (the Hawaiian Islands)，萨摩亚群岛 (Samoa)，汤加群岛

(Tonga), 莱恩群岛 (the Line), 库克群岛 (Cook), 菲尼克斯群岛 (Phoenix), 埃利斯群岛 (Ellice Islands), 复活节岛 (Easter Island)。

6. The sagas of these people explain that some of them came from Indonesia about 2,000 years ago.

有关玻里尼亚人的传说说明了他们之中有些人是在大约2000年前来自印度尼西亚的。

7. But the first people who were like ourselves lived so long ago that even their sagas, if they had any, are forgotten. 但是最初的、象我们那样的人所生活的年代毕竟太久远了, 就连他们的传说, 即使有的话, 也被人们遗忘了。 if they had any; even if they had any sagas

8. So archaeologists have neither history nor legends to help them to find out where the first "modern men" came from. 因此考古学家们既无历史也无传说可以依据来弄清楚最早的“现代人”究竟来自何处。

9. Fortunately, however, ancient men made tools of stone, especially flint, because this is easier to shape than other kinds.

然而幸运的是, 古代人制造石头工具, 特别是制造了燧石工具, 因为石头比其他东西更易成形。

10. They may also have used wood and skins, but these have rotted away.

他们也可能曾使用过木头和兽皮, 但是这些东西已经腐烂了。

- 1) "may + have done sth.";

may 或 might + 完成式, 表示对过去发生的某件事

的猜测。例如：

“Polly’s very late.” — “She may have missed her train.”

“波莉这么晚还没有回来。”——“她可能误了火车。”

I think I may have annoyed Aunt Mary.

我想我可能惹恼了玛丽姑母。

What do you think that noise was? — It might have been a cat.

你认为那是什么声音？——可能是只猫。

- 2) rot away, 烂掉了 (to disappear by decay);

The old dog’s teeth have all rotted away and he can’t bite.

那条老狗的牙齿都掉没了，不能咬东西了。

The wood of the stairs has rotted away in places;  
be careful where you tread.

这楼梯的木头有些地方腐烂了；小心你踩的地方。

11. Stone does not decay, and so the tools of long ago have remained when even the bones of the men who made them have disappeared without trace.

石头是不会腐烂的，因而很久以前制造的石具保存下来了，尽管制造这些工具的人连他们的尸骨也已荡然无存了。

trace; a mark or sign left by something; 痕迹；踪迹；

There were traces of egg on the plate.

盘上还有鸡蛋的痕迹。

Traces of the struggle could be seen on the ground.

地上可以看见搏斗的痕迹。

There's still no trace of the missing child.

那个失踪了的孩子到现在还没有一点儿线索。

He has disappeared without (a) trace. (= completely).

他已销声匿迹了。

## Lesson 2

### Text

Why, you may wonder, should spiders be our friends? Because they destroy so many insects, and insects include some of the greatest enemies of the human race. Insects would make it impossible for us to live in the world; they would devour all our crops and kill our flocks and herds, if it were not for the protection we get from insect-eating animals. We owe a lot to the birds and beasts who eat insects but all of them put together kill only a fraction of the number destroyed by spiders. Moreover, unlike some of the other insect eaters, spiders never do the least harm to us or our belongings.

Spiders are not insects, as many people think, nor even nearly related to them. One can tell the difference almost at a glance for a spider always has eight legs and an insect never more than six.

How many spiders are engaged in this work on our behalf? One authority on spiders made a census of the spiders in a grass field in the south of England, and he estimated that there were more than 2,250,000 in one acre; that is something like 6,000,000 spiders of different kinds on a football pitch. Spiders are busy for at least half the year in killing



insects. It is impossible to make more than the wildest guess at how many they kill, but they are hungry creatures, not content with only three meals a day. It has been estimated that the weight of all the insects destroyed by spiders in Britain in one year would be greater than the total weight of all the human beings in the country.

T. H. GILLESPIE *Spare that Spider* from *The Listener*

## I. New Words and Expressions

1. spider *n.* 蜘蛛
2. race *n.* 种族
3. devour *vt.* 贪婪地吃, 吞食
4. flock *n.* 鸟群; 兽群; 羊群
5. herd *n.* 兽群 (尤指牛群)
6. owe to 受到……的恩惠, 感激
7. put together 合计
8. fraction *n.* 小块, 小部分
9. do harm to 对……有害
10. belongings *n.* (个人所有的) 动产, 财物 (非指土地、建筑物等)
11. on one's behalf 代表某人, 为了某人的利益
12. be engaged in 从事于
13. authority *n.* 权威; 权威著作
14. census *n.* 普查, 户口调查, 人口普查
15. estimate *vt.* 估计
16. acre *n.* 英亩