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英语阅读 (一一)

组编 / 全国高等教育自学考试指导委员会
主编 / 张奎武

全国高等教育自学考试指定教材
英语专业 (基础科段)

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英语阅读(二)

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组编前言

当您开始阅读本书时,人类已经迈入了二十一世纪。

这是一个变幻难测的世纪,这是一个催人奋进的时代。科学技术飞速发展,知识更替日新月异。希望、困惑、机遇、挑战,随时随地都有可能出现在每一个社会成员的生活之中。抓住机遇,寻求发展,迎接挑战,适应变化的制胜法宝就是学习——依靠自己学习、终生学习。

作为我国高等教育组成部分的自学考试,其职责就是在高等教育这个水平上倡导自学、鼓励自学、帮助自学、推动自学,为每一个自学者铺就成才之路。组织编写供读者学习的教材就是履行这个职责的重要环节。毫无疑问,这种教材应当适合自学,应当有利于学习者掌握、了解新知识、新信息,有利于学习者增强创新意识、培养实践能力、形成自学能力,也有利于学习者学以致用、解决实际工作中所遇到的问题。具有如此特点的书,我们虽然沿用了“教材”这个概念,但它与那种仅供教师讲、学生听,教师不讲、学生不懂,以“教”为中心的教科书相比,已经在内容安排、形式体例、行文风格等方面都大不相同了。希望读者对此有所了解,以便从一开始就树立起依靠自己学习的坚定信念,不断探索适合自己的学习方法,充分利用已有的知识基础和实际工作经验,最大限度地发挥自己的潜能达到学习的目标。

欢迎读者提出意见和建议。

祝每一位读者自学成功。

全国高等教育自学考试指导委员会

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UNIT 1

ANIMAL EDUCATION

1 Animals perform many useful and entertaining jobs. Dogs are particularly valuable in guiding the blind, protecting property, finding lost people, and hunting criminals. Horses are used in guarding herds, carrying men in lands where there are no roads, and helping farmers work their land. Pigeons have long been used to carry messages. Wild animals from the jungles, forests and seas are very popular performers in circuses and moving pictures. People realize that, although animals may not have the same intelligence as human beings, they are smart enough to learn certain things.

2 The first thing a dog is taught is to obey. It should not take too long for him to learn commands. Simple orders, such as "sit", "lie down", "stay there", and "come here", can even be taught by a child.

3 Training a dog to be a watchdog often produces unexpected results. Some dogs quickly learn the difference between unwanted people and friends. This is because their masters welcome friends and invite them into their houses. However, some dogs will always attack the postman who comes to deliver letters. One explanation for this behavior is that, although the postman comes to the house often, he never enters the house. Therefore, the dog thinks the postman is someone who is not wanted, but keeps coming back anyway.

4 Masters of dogs who attack postmen can easily show the dog that the postman is a friend and that the dog does not need to treat him as

an unwanted person. A dog is quite ready to do what his master wishes. And a dog is always happy when he is praised for understanding correctly

5 Dogs can be taught to obey commands when the sound of a word is connected with a certain act. Two important factors in teaching a dog to obey commands are: using the same word each time for the same act, and teaching only one act at a time. Dogs can learn not only to sit, lie down, come, and stay in place when their masters go away, but also to jump, carry, and fetch.

6 After a dog learns to carry an object, he can learn to bring something back from a distance. A stick can be thrown far away, and the dog enjoys running after it, and searching for it until he finds it. After a lot of practice, the dog can retrieve a stick (or other object) even when he has not seen it thrown. To teach a dog this skill, the master makes a simple trail by walking some distance in a straight line. Then he leaves the stick at the end of the trail. The dog learns to follow the straight line at first. Then, later, he learns to follow more irregular lines. Eventually, he can learn to follow an odor instead of looking for an object. With this skill he can be very useful in tracking down lost people or criminals.

7 Dogs are extremely useful as companions for blind people. When a dog has been properly trained, he will always lead his blind master in the right direction and keep him out of danger. For example, seeing-eye dogs learn never to cross a busy road when cars are coming, even if their masters command them to do so.

8 Horses are also able to learn many things. Horses that are used for guard or police duty must learn never to be frightened of noises, traffic, and other disturbances. Racing horses are able to run much faster than other horses, but they are also quite high strung. Therefore, it is necessary for those people who train them to be very pa-

tient and understanding.

9 Pigeons have a natural instinct to return home, even if they are very far away and the trip is hard or dangerous. Men utilize this homing instinct to send messages on small pieces of paper which are fastened to the pigeons' backs or legs. In war time, pigeons have been known to fly as fast as 75 miles an hour and to cover distances of 500 to 600 miles. These homing pigeons begin their training when they are about four weeks old. After a few weeks they can begin flying and carrying messages. If all goes well, their flying career lasts about four years.

10 Animals can learn to do many things that, while not necessarily useful, are very amusing to watch. In circuses, animals are taught to do the tricks that are most compatible to their physical and temperamental make-up. Lions and tigers can be taught to leap and spring gracefully when told to do so, or to stay in place on command. Elephants learn to walk in line, to stand on their hind legs, to lie on their sides, and to stand on their heads. They can also learn to dance.

11 Another trainer had an elephant and a tiger. After many weeks of living in the same cage, the two animals became accustomed to each other. Then the tiger was taught to jump on the elephant's back. Both animals became so interested in the act (as well as the praise and food they received after the act) that they forgot they were natural enemies. Later a lion was added to the act. This also took a lot of patient training. However, when the three animals grew accustomed to each other they made a most successful circus act.

12 The moving pictures and television can use trained animals too. Some animals, such as skunks and foxes, are easy to film. All you have to do is to make a trail in front of the camera by dragging something that smells good to the animals over the ground. Big animals, such as lions and tigers, can be photographed as they bound happily

back to their families and dinner. If a movie actor is nearby, the well-trained animal will pay no attention to him. However, the audience may imagine that the actor escaped a terrible death by the skin of his teeth.

GLOSSARY

- behavior [bi'heivjə] *n.* way of acting 行为
- bound [baund] *v.* leap 跳跃
- cage [keidʒ] *n.* a place where birds or animals are kept 笼子
- camera ['kæməɾə] *n.* an instrument to take pictures 照相机
- companion [kəm'pænjən] *n.* a person or animal that spends time with another 同伴, 伙伴
- compatible [kəm'pætəbl] *a.* suitable 适合的
- cover ['kʌvə] *vt.* travel a certain distance 行过(路程)
- criminal ['kriminl] *n.* a man who has broken the law 罪犯, 犯人
- deliver [di'livə] *v.* hand over 传递
- disturbance [dis'tɜ:bəns] *n.* things that distract one's mind 打扰, 干扰
- entertaining [entə'teiniŋ] *a.* amusing 有趣的
- escape [is'keip] *v.* avoid 逃脱; 避免
- factor ['fæktə] *n.* a particular side 方面
- fasten ['fɑ:sn] *v.* fix firmly 扎牢, 系牢
- hind [haind] *a.* of the back part 后面的, 在后的
- instinct [in'stiŋkt] *n.* tendency without training 天性
- intelligence [in'telidʒəns] *n.* ability to learn and understand 智力
- jungle ['dʒʌŋgl] *n.* a tropical forest too thick to walk through easily 丛林
- odor ['əudə] *n.* smell 气味
- particularly [pə'tikjuləli] *ad.* especially 尤其
- perform [pə'fɔ:m] *v.* do 从事; 做

photograph ['fəʊtəgrɑ:f] *v.* take pictures (为…)拍照
physical ['fɪzɪkəl] *a.* of or concerning the body 身体的
popular ['pɒpjələ] *a.* well liked 受欢迎的
property ['prɒpəti] *n.* things that are owned 财产
retrieve [ri'tri:v] *v.* bring back 取回, 带回
spring [sprɪŋ] *vi.* jump suddenly from the ground 跳, 跃
temperamental [ˌtempərə'mentl] *a.* of nature 性情的
track [træk] (down) *v.* find after search 追踪; 追捕
traffic ['træfɪk] *n.* the movement of people or cars, trucks, etc. 交通
trail [treɪl] *n.* path across rough country 小道; 路径
unexpected [ˌʌnɪks'pektɪd] *a.* never thought to happen 想不到的
utilize ['ju:taɪz] *v.* make use of 利用
circus ['sɜ:kəs] *n.* 马戏团

NOTES

1. Horses are used in guarding herds, carrying men in lands where there are no roads, and helping farmers work their land. ——马用来保护畜群, 在无路的地带驮人, 还可以帮农民种地。work 原意为“工作”, 此处指耕种。
2. After a lot of practice, the dog can retrieve a stick (or other object) even when he has not seen it thrown. ——经过大量训练之后, 狗即使没有看见棍子(或其他东西)被扔出去, 仍可以把它找回来。
3. With this skill he can be very useful in tracking down lost people or criminals. ——有了这一本领, 它在寻找失踪的人或追寻罪犯方面很有用处。skill 原意为“技能”, 此处转译为“本领”。
4. For example, seeing-eye dogs learn never to cross a busy road when cars are coming, even if their masters command them to do so. ——例如, 盲人领路狗学会在车辆快开过来时决不横跨繁忙的马路, 即使主人命令它们这样做, 它们也决不会的。seeing-eye dogs 意为“盲人领路狗”。这种狗犹如盲人的眼睛, 给盲人引

路, 由此得名。

5. However, the audience may imagine that the actor escaped a terrible death by the skin of his teeth. —— 不过, 观众可能会认为这位演员是虎口脱险, 幸免惨死的。

EXERCISES

Vocabulary

- I. Find single words in the article which have roughly the meanings given below (Note the numbers in the brackets. They refer to the numbers of paragraphs in the article.):

1. _____ (1) things that are owned
2. _____ (1) a group of persons and animals who travel from one place to another to give shows
3. _____ (3) way of acting
4. _____ (5) do what one is asked to do
5. _____ (6) find and bring back
6. _____ (7) a person or animal that spends time with another
7. _____ (9) make use of
8. _____ (10) jump suddenly from the ground
9. _____ (11) a place where birds or animals are kept
10. _____ (12) pulling

- II. Match the words given under A with the meanings given under B:

A	B
1. jungle	a. a man who has broken the law
2. unexpected	b. fix firmly
3. popular	c. of the back part
4. attack	d. amusing
5. ready	e. never thought to happen
6. retrieve	f. bring back

6. Horses that are used for guard or police duty must learn never to be frightened of noises, traffic and other disturbances.
- a. things that distract one's mind b. disasters
c. things that draw attention d. fears
7. Pigeons have a natural instinct to return home, even if they are far away and the trip is hard or dangerous.
- a. tendency without training b. habit
c. manner d. consciousness
8. In circuses, animals are taught to do the tricks that are most compatible to their physical and temperamental make-up.
- a. favourable b. suitable
c. contradictory d. contrary
9. After many weeks of living in the same cage, the two animals became accustomed to each other.
- a. tired b. indifferent
c. used d. popular
10. Big animals, such as lions and tigers, can be photographed as they bound happily back to their families and dinner.
- a. taken pictures of b. imagined
c. seen clearly d. painted

Comprehension

I. Mark the following statements true (T) or false (F) according to the article;

1. Dogs, horses and pigeons are very popular performers in circuses and moving pictures.
2. Some animals are smart enough to learn certain things because they are as intelligent as human beings.
3. Usually a dog learns commands with much difficulty.

4. If the masters of dogs show the dogs that the postmen are friends, the dogs may not attack them next time they come to deliver letters.
5. Teaching a dog two things to do each time is a good practice.
6. Seeing-eye dogs are very faithful to their masters and can serve as companions for blind people.
7. Compared with other horses, racing horses run faster but are easier to be nervous.
8. If we want to train an animal in a circus we must know its physical and temperamental make-up.
9. The three animals — the tiger, the lion and the elephant have been trained to perform together well without much difficulty.
10. Some films and televisions can use wild animals such as tigers and lions.

II. Answer the following questions by choosing the best alternative (a, b or c) under each. Think carefully and, if necessary, refer back to the article before you make your choice:

1. The first thing a dog needs to learn in order to be trained is
 - a. to know wanted men and unwanted men.
 - b. to obey orders.
 - c. to learn how to please his master.
2. "Some dogs quickly learn the difference between unwanted people and friends." This sentence shows that
 - a. some dogs have a very good memory.
 - b. some dogs can obey orders.
 - c. some dogs don't like unwanted people.
3. A dog can find out lost people or criminals with the help of
 - a. its sharp eyes.
 - b. its keen nose.

- c. its good memory.
4. The best information we can get from paragraph 7 is that
- a. dogs sometimes have to disobey their masters.
 - b. in order to be faithful to their masters dogs must always obey their masters.
 - c. dogs are extremely useful for blind people, and if well trained, a dog will always help his blind master in right direction and out of danger.
5. Paragraphs 2 to 7 tell us
- a. how a dog is trained and what a trained dog can do for us.
 - b. how a dog is trained.
 - c. what a trained dog can do for us.
6. A dog can be said to be
- a. intelligent.
 - b. faithful.
 - c. both a and b.
7. "Animals can learn to do many things that, while not necessarily useful, are very amusing to watch." This sentence introduces
- a. Paragraph 10.
 - b. Paragraphs 10 and 11.
 - c. Paragraphs 10, 11 and 12.
8. The best information Paragraph 11 provides is that
- a. some animals can perform together well after patient training although they are natural enemies.
 - b. although some animals are natural enemies, they can get accustomed to each other.
 - c. natural enemies can never be trained to perform together.
9. From the information given in Paragraph 12, decide which statement is true: