

高等学校教材

英语 泛读教程

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上海外语教育出版社

高等学校通用教材

大学基础阶段

英语泛读教程

第三册

曾青千 陈道芳 编
胡斐佩 王炳炎

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编者的话

(一)本教程是高等学校英语专业基础阶段的课内阅读教材，它的编写指导思想是：通过课内大量阅读实践，提高学生英语阅读理解能力；培养学生细微观察语言、分析归纳、假设判断、推理论证等逻辑思维能力；训练阅读技巧，提高阅读速度；扩大学生认知词汇量，增加学生文化背景知识。本书不包括快速阅读材料及有关速读技巧的训练。

(二)本教程分四册，近100万字，供英语专业基础阶段第一至第四级使用，即每学期一册。每册分为20个单元，每周一个单元，略有余裕，由教师根据实际授课时间自由取舍。

(三)本教程的选材原则是：(1)由浅入深、从易到难，最后达到《高等学校英语专业基础阶段教学大纲》所规定的阶段终点阅读要求。鉴于各地区、各院校新生入学水平不一，第一、二册对难度作了适当控制，选用了较多的浅易材料，并以反映一般生活的故事、小说题材为主，非故事性题材为辅，以便于培养学生阅读兴趣和通过口、笔头活动配合其他各项语言技能的发展。从第三册开始，逐步提高难度，扩大题材范围，以适应阅读理解能力发展的需要。为便于教学双方掌握有关阅读水平的要求，本书选用了《大纲》所开列的阅读难度标准篇目，如第二级结束时的“The Story of My Life”和第四级结束时的“The Moon Is Down”。(2)坚持思想标准、语言标准和文化标准的统一。本书所选材料既要求思想

内容健康，引人向上，又力求语言文字规范、题材广泛、内容新颖，以便于学生在思想上获得教益的同时，尽量扩大语言接触面，并增加对所学语言国家社会文化背景的了解。为此，本教程除保留了一些多年实践证明教学效果较好的传统篇目（如 *The £ 1,000,000 Bank-Note, An Inspector Calls* 等）外，还选用了一些反映80年代美英国家社会情况的材料（如 *Iacocca, One against the Plague* 等）。

（四）为便于组织课堂教学，本教程在编写体例上每单元由课文、注释、理解点（Comprehension Points）和练习四个部分组成。

课文：每单元长度为7000—8000字，通常由一篇完整的材料组成，最多不超过三篇；长篇连用，一般不超过三单元。学生对课文应阅读两遍，第一遍用快速进行预读（preview），要求对所读材料的主题及文章结构具有概略了解；第二遍用正常速度（average reading speed）逐句阅读，进一步了解所读材料的中心大意、抓住主要情节或论点，并根据所读材料进行推理分析，领会作者真实意图，同时完成一定量的笔头作业。

注释：注释包括少量单词、短语和部分难句的注释以及有关背景知识和重要作者的介绍。第一、二册的注释以中文为主，第三册以后增加英文注释比例。少数生词和语言难点未加注释，是为了培养学生查阅工具书的习惯和独立解决问题的能力，也是为了便于教师课堂检查和讲解。

理解点：每单元根据具体内容列出了数量不等的理解点。这些理解点包括了语言和内容两个方面的理解问题，其目的在于培养学生细致观察语言的能力和引导学生分析判断、深入理解作者意图。它既可作为学生独立阅读时的阅读指导提

纲 (Guide to Reading), 也可作为教师课堂检查的依据, 教师可根据学生理解上的共同问题, 讲解有关阅读技巧。每题括号中的数字分别表示页码和行数。

练习: 练习的形式有三种, 即正误判断题、多项选择题和综合性问答题。练习的内容包括检查学生对课文大意、中心思想、基本观点、基本事实、具体论点以及语言的含蓄意义等方面的理解情况。从第三册开始, 通过多项选择题的形式增加了一些词汇理解练习, 以期引导学生扩大词汇知识。上述各项练习, 既可由教师在课堂上进行口头检查, 也可指定为学生阅读过程中的笔头作业。

本书的编写得到了中国英语教学研究会中南地区分会和中国人民解放军外国语学院的大力支持以及试用单位的热情鼓励, 谨此致谢。

编者 1988年2月
于中国人民解放军外国语学院

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Unit One

THE £ 1,000,000 BANK-NOTE

(adapted)

Mark Twain¹

When I was twenty-seven years old, I was a mine-owner's clerk in San Francisco. I was alone in the world and had nothing to depend upon.

On Saturdays, my time was my own after lunch, and I was accustomed to^a spend it on a little boat on the bay. One day, I went too far, and was carried out to sea. When it was getting dark and hope was about gone, I was picked up by a cargo ship which was on its way to London. The sailors were very friendly to me. They made me work on the ship as a common sailor so that I could live and eat with them without paying anything. It was a long journey. When I got to London, my clothes were ragged, and I had only a dollar in my pocket. This money lasted me twenty-four hours. During the next twenty-four, I went without food.

About ten o'clock the following morning, hungry and tired, I was walking aimlessly on the street, when a child threw a piece of cake on the ground. I stopped, of course, and anxiously stared at it. My mouth watered for it, my stomach

urged me to reach down for it. But every time I made a move to get it, some passing eye seemed to have discovered my purpose, and of course I kept myself back and looked indifferent³ as if I hadn't been thinking about the cake at all. This same thing kept happening and happening, and I could not get the cake. I was just getting desperate enough to brave⁴ all the shame and to snatch it, when a window behind me was raised, and a gentleman spoke out of it, saying:

"Step in here, please."

I was admitted by a colorfully-dressed servant. After closing the door, he turned back and said, without looking at me:

"Allow me to lead the way, sir."

I was led into a splendid room, where a couple of old gentlemen were sitting. They sent away the servant and made me sit down. They had just finished their breakfast, and the food left on the table made my mouth water, but as I was not asked to eat it, I had to take my eyes off it and try to look as if I were not at all interested in it.

Now, I must tell you something that I did not know about at that time, but you have to know now in order to have a better understanding of the situation I was in. The two gentlemen were brothers. They had been having a rather hot argument a couple of days before, and had ended by agreeing to decide it by a bet, which is the English way of settling everything.

You will remember that the Bank of England⁵ once issued

two notes of a million pounds each, to be used for a special purpose connected with some business with a foreign country. For some reason or other only one of these had been used and cancelled; the other one was still kept in the safe⁶ of the Bank. Well, the brothers happened to get to wondering what might be the result if that million-pound bank-note should fall in the hand of an honest and intelligent stranger who was alone in London, without a friend, with no money but that million-pound note and no way to account for how he had got it. Brother A said he would starve to death; Brother B said he wouldn't. Brother A said he couldn't offer it at a bank or anywhere else, because he would be arrested on the spot. Brother B said the man would live thirty days, anyway, and keep out of prison, too. So they went on disputing till they agreed to bet twenty thousand pounds. Brother B then went down to the Bank and bought that note. Just like an English man, you see. Then he wrote a letter and put the million-pound note in an envelope with it. Then the two brothers sat at the window a whole day, watching for the right man to give it to.

They saw many people pass by. Some were honest but not intelligent enough; some were intelligent but not honest enough; some were both honest and intelligent but not poor enough, or, if poor enough, were not strangers. There was always some shortcoming till I came along. They both agreed I was the very man they had expected, so they elected me. That was why I had been called in.

Now, they began to ask me questions about myself, and very soon they had my story. Finally they told me they would like me to do something for them. I said I was sincerely glad and asked what it was. Then one of them handed me an envelope and said I would find the explanation inside. I was going to open it but he said:

"No, take it to your place and look it over carefully. Don't be in such a hurry."

So I had to put it in my pocket, and left them, feeling quite hurt to be made part of what was apparently some kind of a joke and yet I had to do what they asked of me, not being in a position to refuse rich and strong folk like them.

I would have picked up the cake now, and eaten it before all the world, but it was gone. So I became more angry with those two old brothers. As soon as I walked down the street, I opened the envelope and found that it contained a bank-note! My opinion of those two old gentlemen changed at once. I did not lose a moment. I put the letter and the money in my pocket and ran into the nearest eating-house. Well, how I enjoyed myself! When at last I couldn't eat any more, I took out my money and unfolded it, took a look at it and nearly fainted. One million pounds—five millions of dollars! Why, it made my head swim.

I must have sat there motionless and looking at the note as much as a full minute before I recovered from the shock. The first thing I noticed, then, was the landlord. His mouth was wide open; his eyes were on the note; he looked as if he could

not move hand or foot. I gave him the note and said carelessly:

"Give me the change, please."

Then he was restored to his normal condition, and made a thousand apologies for not being able to change it. I could never get him to touch it. He wanted to look at it, and kept on looking at it, he could not see enough of it, but he was so much afraid to touch it as if it were something too sacred for a poor common hand to handle. I said:

"I'm sorry if it is an inconvenience, but I haven't anything else. Please change it."

But he said it wasn't any matter; he was perfectly willing to wait till another time when I came again. I said I might not come to his place again; but he said it was of no consequence at all, he could wait, and moreover I could have anything I wanted and pay him any time I chose. He said he could trust a gentleman as rich as I was, and he thought it an honour that I should have come to his little eating-house and played such a little joke on him.

Then he bowed me all the way to the door, and I started straight for the two old brothers to correct the mistake. I was pretty nervous, in fact badly frightened, though of course I was not to blame but I expected they would get very angry with me, instead of blaming their own carelessness as they should, when they found they had given a stranger a million-pound note when they thought it was a one-pound one. As I

got near the house, I was surprised to find that the door was closed and all was quiet. This made me feel better; I was sure the mistake was not discovered yet. I rang. The same servant appeared. I asked for those gentlemen.

"They are gone."

"Gone? Gone where?"

"To the Continent", I suppose."

"Which way — by what route?"

"I can't say, sir,"

"When will they be back?"

"In a month, they said,"

"A month! Oh, too bad! Give me some idea of how to get a word to them.* It's a matter of great importance."

"I can't, indeed, I've no idea where they have gone, sir."

"Then I must see some member of the family."

"Family is away too; been abroad months—in India or some other place, I think."

"Man, there has been a great mistake made. They'll be back before night. Will you tell them I've been here and that I'll keep coming till it's made right, and they needn't be afraid?"

"I'll tell them if they come back, but I am not expecting them. They said you would be here in an hour and ask to see them for something important, but I must tell you it's all right. You needn't be afraid. They'll be back on time and expect you."

So I had to give it up and go away. What a riddle it all was! They would be here "on time." What could that mean?

Oh, the letter would explain, maybe. I had forgotten the letter; I got it out and read it. This is what it said:

"You are an intelligent and honest man, as one may see by your face. In this envelope you'll find a sum of money. It is lent to you for thirty days. Come back to us at the end of that time. I have a bet on you. If I win it, you shall have any position in my power to give."

I hadn't the least idea what the bet was, nor whether harm or good was meant me. I went to a park and sat down to try to think it out, and to consider what I had best do.

At the end of an hour, my consideration boiled down to^o this:

Maybe those men mean me well, maybe they mean me ill: no way to decide that — let it go. They have got a bet, a game, a scheme or an experiment on me; no way to determine what it is — let it go. The rest of the matter is what to do with the note. If I ask the Bank of England to help me to find the owner of the note and return it to him, they'll do it for they know him. But they'll surely ask me how I have got it. Whether I tell them the truth or not, they will never believe me and they will have me arrested on the spot. If I bank it anywhere or borrow money on it, the result will be the same. I have got to carry this burden around until those men come back, whether I want to or not. The note is useless to me, as useless as a piece of waste-paper, yet I must take care of it and watch over it. I could not give it away, even if I should try, neither honest citizen nor highwayman would accept it

or dare to have anything to do with it. Those brothers are safe. Even if I lose the note, or burn it, they are still safe, because they can stop payment and they will not lose a cent of it. But now, I have to suffer till the time when they come back, and my only comfort and hope is that position I am promised if I help win the bet. I should like to get that position. Men of their sort have position in their power to give and it is worth having.

I got to thinking a good deal about my future position. My hopes began to rise high. Without doubt, the salary would be large. It would begin in a month; after that I should be all right. Pretty soon I was feeling better. By this time I was walking aimlessly in the street again. When I went past a tailor's shop I had a desire to get rid of the rags on me. Could I afford it? No, I had nothing in the world but a million pounds. So I forced myself to go on by. But soon I found myself standing before the shop again, I must have passed that shop back and forth six times during my mental struggle. At last, I decided to go in. I asked if they had any cheap ready-made clothes. The fellow I spoke to nodded his head towards another fellow, and gave me no answer. I went to the indicated fellow, and he indicated another fellow with his head, and no words. I went to him, and he said:

"Just a moment."

I waited till he was through with his work. Then he took me into a back room and from a pile of rejected clothes, he selected an old-fashioned suit for me. I put it on, not at all

caring whether it became me. I was anxious to have it as long as it was new. I said:

"It would be very kind of you if you could wait some days for the money. I haven't any small change about me."

The fellow examined me from top to bottom with his eyes and said with a cold smile:

"Oh, you haven't? Well, of course, I didn't expect it. I'd only expect gentlemen like you to carry large change."

"My friend, you shouldn't judge a stranger always by the clothes he wears. I'm quite able to pay for this suit; I simply didn't wish to put you to the trouble of changing a large note."

He changed his tone a little at that, and said, still with something of an air:¹⁰

"I didn't mean any particular harm, but as long as business is concerned, I might say it is not quite your affair to jump to the conclusion that we couldn't change the note that you might happen to carry. On the contrary, we can."

I handed the note to him and said:

"Oh, so much the better."

He received it with a smile, and then in the act of his taking a look at the note, this smile froze solid. He stood there holding the note, unable to speak or move. The shop-owner hurried over to see what was the matter, and asked:

"Well, what's the trouble?"

I said: "There isn't any trouble. I'm waiting for my change."