

高等学校试用教材

# *Extensive Reading*

# 泛读 *For Basic English Course*

马钟元

张国英

主编

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河北大学出版社

# 英语基础泛读教程（一）

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# 前 言

《英语基础泛读教程》是受河北省高等学校外语教学研究会委托而编写的，供大专院校英语专业基础阶段使用。本书共四册，约五十万字，每学期使用一册，每册十八个单元左右，每周一单元，每单元包括阅读材料、注释和练习三个部分。每册有练习答案供教师参考。该教材旨在帮助读者扩大词汇量，提高阅读能力，读懂英语国家出版的文学原著、报刊文章、史地和科技等读物。本书一律采用中等难度原文。力求题材、体裁多样化，语言现代化、规范化。

本书在编写过程中，特别注意内容的思想性，确保内容健康、活泼。

由于编者水平有限，缺点错误在所难免，敬请读者批评指正，以便再版时改正。

在编写过程中，得到了河北省教委、河北大学及河北省有关院校外语系的大力支持和帮助，在此一并表示衷心感谢。

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英语泛读教材编写组

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# CONTENTS (BOOK ONE)

## Unit One

- 1. Brother and Sister .....( 1 )
- 2. Twenty-five Minutes to Live .....( 8 )
- Exercises .....( 12 )

## Unit Two

- 3. King Lear .....( 14 )
- Exercises .....( 24 )

## Unit Three

- 4. My Mother Breaks Her Pearls .....( 26 )
- 5. Fair Exchange .....( 35 )
- Exercises .....( 42 )

## Unit Four

- 6. Tom's Joys and Sorrows .....( 44 )
- 7. Who Helped the Convict .....( 56 )
- Exercises .....( 65 )

## Unit Five

- 8. How New York Became America's Largest City .....( 68 )
- 9. The Man Who Planned the City of Washington .....( 70 )
- 10. The Buffalo Dance .....( 72 )
- 11. Greenland .....( 79 )
- Exercises .....( 82 )

## Unit Six

- 12. Simple Habits, Deep Thoughts .....( 86 )
- 13. The Declaration of Independence .....( 90 )
- 14. Alfred Nobel---A Man of Contrasts .....( 96 )
- 15. The Nobel Prizes .....( 98 )
- Exercises .....( 102 )

## Unit Seven

- 16. The Sky Above Us .....( 105 )
- Exercises .....( 115 )

## Unit Eight

- 17. Moneywise .....( 118 )
- Exercises .....( 132 )

## Unit Nine

- 18. A Dream Comes True .....( 135 )

19. How Computers Are Changing Our World .....	(142)
Exercises .....	(145)
<b>Unit Ten</b>	
20. Robert Frost .....	(147)
Exercises .....	(153)
<b>Unit Eleven</b>	
21. The Necklace .....	(156)
22. Steamboat A-comin' .....	(165)
Exercises .....	(171)
<b>Unit Twelve</b>	
23. David Copperfield .....	(173)
Exercises .....	(183)
<b>Unit Thirteen</b>	
24. Thomas Alva Edison .....	(186)
Exercises .....	(195)
<b>Unit Fourteen</b>	
25. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow .....	(197)
Exercises .....	(211)
<b>Unit Fifteen</b>	
26. Vanity Fair .....	(214)
Exercises .....	(225)
<b>Unit Sixteen</b>	
27. Jane Eyre .....	(228)
Exercises .....	(238)
<b>Unit Seventeen</b>	
28. Jane Eyre .....	(240)
Exercises .....	(250)
<b>Unit Eighteen</b>	
29. Jane Eyre .....	(253)
Exercises .....	(262)

## Unit One

### 1. Brother and Sister<sup>1</sup>

Little Brother took his little sister by the hand and said, "Since our mother died we have had no happiness; our step-mother beats us every day, and if we come near her she kicks us away with her foot. Our meals are the hard crusts of bread that are left over; and the little dog under the table is better off<sup>2</sup>, for she often throws it a choice morsel. God pity us, if our mother only knew. Come, we will go forth together into the wide world."

They walked the whole day over meadows, fields, and stony places; and when it rained the little sister said, "Heaven and our hearts are weeping together." In the evening they came to a large forest, and they were so weary with sorrow and hunger and the long walk, that they lay down in a hollow tree and fell asleep.

The next day when they awoke, the sun was already high in the sky, and shone down hot into the tree. Then the brother said, "Sister, I am thirsty; if I knew of a little brook I would go and just take a drink; I think I hear one running." The brother got up and took the little sister by the hand, and they set off to find the brook. But the wicked step-mother was a witch, and had seen how the two children had gone away, and had crept after them secretly, as witches creep, and had bewitched all the brooks in the forest.

Now when they found a little brook leaping brightly over the stones, the brother was going to drink out of it, but the sister heard how it said as it ran, "Who drinks of me will be a tiger, who drinks of me will be a tiger." Then the sister cried, "Pray, dear brother, do not drink, or you will become a wild beast, and tear me to pieces." The brother did not drink, although he was so thirsty, but said, "I will wait for the next spring."

When they came to the next brook the sister heard this also say, "Who drinks of me will be a wolf, who drinks of me will be a wolf." Then the sister cried out, "Pray, dear brother, do not drink, or you will become a wolf, and devour me." The brother did not drink, and said, "I will wait until we come to the next spring, but then I must drink, say what you like, for my thirst is too great."

And when they came to the third brook the sister heard how it said as it ran, "Who drinks of me will be a roebuck, who drinks of me will



be a roebuck. " The sister said : " Oh, I pray you, dear brother, do not drink, or you will become a roebuck, and run away from me. " But the brother had knelt down at once by the brook, and had bent down and drunk some of the water, and as soon as the first drops touched his lips he lay there in the form of a young roebuck.

And now the sister wept over her poor bewitched brother, and the little roe wept also, and sat sorrowfully near to her. But at last the girl said: " Be quiet, dear little roe, I will never, never leave you. "

Then she untied her golden garter and put it round the roebuck's neck, and she plucked rushes and wove them into a soft cord. This she tied to the little animal and led it on, and she walked deeper and deeper into the forest.

And when they had gone a very long way they came at last to a little house, and the girl looked in, and as it was empty, she thought, " We can stay here and live. " Then she sought for leaves and moss to make a soft bed for the roe; and every morning she went out and gathered roots and berries and nuts for herself, and brought tender grass for the roe, who ate out of her hand, and was content and played round about her. In the evening, when the sister was tired, and had said her prayer, she laid her head upon the roebuck's back; that was her pillow, and she slept softly on it. And if only the brother had had his human form it would have been a delightful life<sup>3</sup>.

For some time they were alone like this in the wilderness. But it happened that the king of the country held a great hunt in the forest. Then the blasts of the horns, the barking of dogs, and the merry shouts of the huntsmen rang through the trees, and the roebuck heard all, and was only too anxious to be there<sup>4</sup>. " Oh, " said he to his sister, " Let me be off to the hunt, I cannot bear it any longer "; and he begged so much that at last she agreed. " But, " said she to him, " come back to me in the evening; I must shut my door for fear of the rough huntsmen, so knock and say: ' My little sister, let me in, ' that I may know you; and if you do not say that, I shall not open the door. " Then the young roebuck sprang away; so happy was he and so merry in the open air.

The king and the huntsmen saw the lovely animal, and started after him but they could not catch him, and when they thought that they surely had him, away he sprang through the bushes and vanished. When it was dark he ran to the cottage, knocked, and said: " My little sister, let me in. " Then the door was opened for him, and he jumped in, and rested himself the whole night through upon his soft bed.

The next day the hunt began again, and when the roebuck once more

heard the bugle-horn, and the ho! ho! of the huntsmen, he had no peace, but said: "Sister, let me out, I must be off." His sister opened the door for him, and said: "But you must be here again in the evening and say your pass-word."

When the king and his huntsmen again saw the young roebuck with the golden collar, they all chased him, but he was too quick and nimble for them. This lasted the whole day, but by the evening the huntsmen had surrounded him, and one of them wounded him a little in the foot, so that he limped and ran slowly. Then a hunter crept after him to the cottage and heard how he said: "My little sister, let me in," and saw that the door was opened for him, and was shut again at once. The huntsman took notice of it all, and went to the King and told him what he had seen and heard. Then the King said: "To-morrow we will hunt once more."

The little sister, however, was dreadfully frightened then she saw that her fawn was hurt. She washed the blood off him, laid herbs on the wound, and said: "Go to your bed, dear roe, that you may get well again." But the wound was so slight that the roebuck, next morning, did not feel it any more. And when they again heard the sport outside, he said: "I cannot bear it, I must be there; they shall not find it so easy to catch me." The sister cried, and said: "This time they will kill you, and here I am alone in the forest and forsaken by all the world. I will not let you out." "Then you will have me die of grief," answered the roe; "when I hear the bugle-horns I feel as if I must jump out of my skin." Then the sister could not do otherwise, but open the door for him with a heavy heart, and the roebuck, full of health and joy, bounded into the forest.

When the King saw him, he said to his huntsmen: "Now chase him all day long till night-fall, but take care that no one does him any harm."

As soon as the sun had set, the King said to the huntsman: "Now come and show me the cottage in the wood"; and when he was at the door, he knocked and called out: "Dear little sister, let me in." Then the door opened, and the King walked in, and there stood a maiden more lovely than any he had ever seen. The maiden was frightened when she saw, not her little roe, but a man come in who wore a golden crown upon his head. But the King looked kindly at her, stretched out his hand, and said: "Will you go with me to my palace and be my dear wife?" "Yes, indeed," answered the maiden, "but the little roe must go with me, I cannot leave him." The King said: "It shall stay with you as long as you live, and shall want nothing."<sup>5</sup> Just then he came running in, and the sister again tied him with the cord of rushes, took it in her own hand, and went away

with the King from the cottage.

The King took the lovely maiden upon his horse and carried her to his palace, where the wedding was held with great pomp. She was now the Queen, and they lived for a long time happily together; the roebuck was tended and cherished, and ran about in the palace-garden.

But the wicked step-mother, because of whom the children had gone out into the world, had never thought but that<sup>6</sup> the sister had been torn to pieces by the wild beasts in the wood, and that the brother had been shot for a roebuck by the huntsmen. Now when she heard that they were so happy, and so well off, envy and jealousy rose in her heart and left her no peace, and she thought of nothing but<sup>7</sup> how she could bring them again to misfortune. Her own daughter who was as ugly as night, and had only one eye, reproached her and said: "A Queen! that ought to have been my luck." "Just be quiet," answered the old woman, and comforted her by saying: "When the time comes I shall be ready."

As time went on, the Queen had a pretty little boy, and it happened that the King was out hunting; so the old witch took the form of the chamber-maid, went into the room where the Queen lay, and said to her: "Come, the bath is ready; it will do you good, and give you fresh strength; make haste before it gets cold."

Her daughter also was close by; so they carried the weakly Queen into the bath-room, and put her into the bath; then they shut the door and ran away. But in the bath-room they had made a fire of such terrible heat that the beautiful young Queen was soon suffocated.

When this was done the old woman took her daughter, put a night-cap on her head, and laid her in bed in place of the Queen. She gave her too the shape and the look of the Queen, only she could not make good the lost eye. But in order that the King might not see it, she was to lie on the side on which she had no eye.

In the evening when he came home and heard that he had a son he was heartily glad, and was going to the bed of his dear wife to see how she was. But the old woman quickly called out: "For your life leave the curtains closed; the Queen ought not to see the light yet, and must have rest." The King went away, and did not find out that a false Queen was lying in the bed.

But at midnight, when all slept, the nurse, who was sitting in the nursery by the cradle, and who was the only person awake, saw the door open and the true Queen walk in. She took the child out of the cradle, laid it on her arm, and suckled it. Then she shook up its pillow, laid the child down again, and covered it with the little quilt. And she did not

get the roebuck, but went into the corner where it lay, and stroked its back. Then she went quite silently out of the door again. The next morning the nurse asked the guards whether anyone had come into the palace during the night, but they answered: "No, we have seen no one."

She came thus many nights and never spoke a word; the nurse always saw her, but she did not dare to tell anyone about it.

When some time had passed in this manner, the Queen began to speak in the night, and said,

"How fares my child, how fares my roe?

Twice shall I come, then never more."

The nurse did not answer, but when the Queen had gone again, went to the King and told him all. The King said: "Ah, God! what is this? Tomorrow night I will watch by the child." In the evening he went into the nursery, and at midnight the Queen again appeared and said,

"How fares my child, how fares my roe?

Once will I come, then never more."

And she nursed the child as she was wont to do before she disappeared. The King dared not speak to her, but on the next night he watched again. Then she said,

"How fares my child, how fares my roe?

This time I come, then never more."

Then the King could not restrain himself; he sprang towards her, and said: "You can be none other than<sup>s</sup> my dear wife." She answered: "Yes, I am your dear wife," and at the same moment she received life again, and by God's grace became fresh, rosy, and full of health.<sup>9</sup>

Then she told the King the evil deed which the wicked witch and her daughter had been guilty of towards her. The King ordered both to be led before the judge, and judgment was delivered against them. The daughter was taken into the forest where she was torn to pieces by wild beasts, but the witch was cast into the fire and miserably burnt. And as soon as she was burnt to ashes, the roebuck changed his shape, and received human form again, so the sister and brother lived happily together all their lives.

(From Grimm's Fairy Tales,  
1948, translated from the German  
by Margaret Hunt)

## NOTES

1. 本文是Margaret Hunt 从德语翻译而来, 译自Grimm的“Fairy Tales”。
2. ...the little dog under the table is better off... 桌下的小狗的生活也比我们好。  
be better off; 处境较好, 生活条件比较好, 比较宽裕。类似的词组还有:  
be well off; be bad off.
3. And if only the brother had had his human form, it would have been a delightful life. 要是哥哥能恢复人形, 那生活该是多么愉快呀。  
if only 后面常用过去时或过去完成时, 用来表达强烈的愿望或遗憾。  
又如: If only I had more money, I could buy some new clothes.  
我若有更多的钱就好了, 那我就可以买些新衣服了。
4. and was only too anxious to be there; (他) 实在想到那里去。only too; 非常, 实在。  
句型 only too...to do sth. 与...too...to do sth. 不同。  
又如: I'm only too glad to take a walk with you. 我非常乐意与你一起散步。  
I am too busy to see the film. 我太忙, 不能去看这场电影了。
5. ...and shall want nothing. 他(roe) 什么都不会缺少。(应有尽有)
6. The wicked step-mother...had never thought but that...  
这个恶劣的继母却一直认为……
7. ...and she thought of nothing but...她一心想着……
8. You can be none other than...你不会是别人, 正是……。又如:  
It was none other than the principal. 不是别人, 是校长本人。
9. and at the same moment she received life again, and by God's grace became fresh, rosy and full of health. 与此同时, 他获得了新生。  
托上帝的福, 她变得神采奕奕, 红光满面, 而且非常健壮。

## EXERCISES

### I. MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. As soon as the first drops of water were drunk from the third brook, the brother became a \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. tiger.            b. wolf.            c. roebuck.
2. The sister thought life was not delightful in the little house in the forest mainly because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. she had a step-mother  
b. she had lost a human brother  
c. she was very tired after a day's work
3. \_\_\_\_\_ made the King interested in the cottage.

- a. The beautiful maiden
  - b. The roebuck
  - c. What the roe wore on his neck
4. The old woman wanted to kill the Queen\_\_\_\_\_.
- a. because of the envy and jealousy in her heart
  - b. because the Queen had a pretty little boy
  - c. both a and b
5. \_\_\_\_\_ made the Queen receive life again and the roebuck the human form again,
- a. The King's power
  - b. The nurse's help
  - c. The kindness of the sister and the brother

## II. TRUE OR FALSE:

1. The King was the only person who saved them from the miserable life.
2. The step-mother wanted to kill the Queen in order to take the place.

## III. QUESTIONS:

1. What made the brother become a roe?
2. How did the old woman kill the Queen?
3. What is the moral of the fable?

## 2. Twenty—five Minutes to Live<sup>1</sup>

The feeling of terror hit me when I saw his ugly head in the grass. He was in the trail that passed right beside me and the big rock.

A king cobra is an ugly-looking snake at any time. But when he is excited and is crawling through<sup>2</sup> the grass toward your face, your terror becomes terrific.

Shells from the enemy's guns were bursting around us. I was lying flat behind a big rock. The snake, too, was looking for a safe place. When he saw the rock, he headed straight for it -- and me. I did not move, hoping he would pass by. He didn't.

The cobra's head was within two feet of my face when he saw me. He drew back a little, then lifted his head, ready to strike---

This happened in 1945, when we were taking the Philippines back from the Japs<sup>3</sup>. I was a private in the 112th Regiment<sup>4</sup>. Five of us were a patrol, sent out to find out all we could about the enemy.

We were moving slowly down a grass-covered hill<sup>5</sup> when the Japs opened fire on us. We took cover, figured out their positions as well as possible, and started "home."<sup>6</sup>

We began crawling back up the hill, one man after the other. I was the last man in the line.

The grass there grows knee high. You can hide in grass as high as that. We knew how to do it -- moving up one man at a time -- taking it slow and easy<sup>7</sup>.

I was lying behind this big rock beside the trail, waiting my turn to move up. Suddenly I saw the first man jump to his feet and run to one side. This showed the enemy where we were. I couldn't understand why he did it.

Then the second man in line got up and ran to one side. Right away the third man got up and disappeared to the left of the trail. The next man followed, as if the devil were after him.

The enemy shells were coming then. They were still a little wide of the mark, but they would soon come closer. I cursed my men for showing the enemy where we were.

Then I saw the cobra. He was coming fast, and I knew, of course, why the men had left the trail.

If I lay still, the snake might pass by. If I showed where I was, the

enemy guns would fire on me.

The snake came crawling down the trail toward me. My gun was against the side of the rock. I could cut the snake to pieces with one shot. But it would have told the enemy exactly where I was. I decided to take a chance on the snake's passing me.

A shell landed within thirty feet of the cobra. The grass waved. The ground shook. The snake was startled. He raised his long black body as high as it would go. He swung from side to side, trying to find someone to strike.

He saw the rock then and moved to within two feet of my face. When he saw me, he stopped short.

I prayed to God that the snake would go on.

Then a shell struck a few feet behind him. The shock of it almost knocked him over<sup>8</sup>.

In a flash the big cobra turned and struck blindly at the moving grass. I hoped that he was hit.

But no such luck. He turned and came straight for my rock.

I asked God not to let me move. A cobra's bite is almost always fatal. The person who is bit lives only from twenty to twenty-five minutes, unless he gets first aid<sup>9</sup>.

I was paralyzed with fright.

The cobra slid around the rock and bumped into my right arm. He stopped.

Sweat was rolling down my face. My heart was pounding. He raised his head about four inches off the ground, watching.

Why hadn't I let the Japs kill me!

I thought of grabbing him back of the head, but my gun was in the way<sup>10</sup>. And his movements were like a flash. I could not keep still much longer. I had to do something.

The snake put his head down then and started moving between my elbow and my body. If I could hold out just a few more seconds!

Another shell burst near by. The snake stopped. Part of him was still under my arm. I could feel his body against my leg. He seemed to be trying to get under it. His tail was waving in front of my face.

Suddenly I had the feeling that danger was past. For some unknown reason I thought all I had to do was to let him under my leg. I raised it to let him under.

As I raised my leg I turned my head to look. I was in time to see the cobra sink his fangs into my leg.

I rolled on my back, brought my left foot up and kicked the snake



as hard as I could. He came free of me and rose for another strike. I jerked my legs up, and he struck at the thick side of my shoe. He hung on and chewed.

A cobra has two big fangs and a row of smaller teeth. He holds on with the longer fangs and then chews his venom into you.

With all the strength I had left, I brought my other shoe down on his head. The blow dazed the cobra, and he started striking out blindly. I went backward, like a crab, through the grass. The cobra followed. Being stunned by the blow, he got tangled in the grass.

How I crawled up the hill without getting hit is still a mystery to me. The Japs must have been firing at me. But I don't remember it. The terror in my mind must have shut out everything else<sup>11</sup>.

Reaching the top of the hill I half-crawled, half-rolled down the other side. At last I was safe from Jap guns and safe from the snake. But I had less than twenty-five minutes to live.

Things were like a dream from then on. The patrol had disappeared. Shells were still falling to my left.

How long I walked, I don't know, but the first man I met was a Filipino who could give first aid. I told him what had happened. He did not cut the wound but bound my leg tightly. Then he started to go away, as if he had another job to do. That seemed a little cruel to me, but I guess he thought I was almost dead anyway.

"Which way is Texas?" I called out after him.

He turned and looked at me strangely. Then --- "That way --- I think," he said, pointing.

"If I must die," I said, "I'm going to die trying to get home!"

That may sound crazy, but it was exactly the way I felt about it at the time.

Soon I saw a first-aid building. By the time I reached it, my right leg was as big as my body.

They took me into the main room and made a number of cuts in my leg that let black blood run out. That's all they did. They put me on a bed in a little room by myself.

As I waited there, I heard them whispering that I was dying from a cobra bite. I got sore. It had been twenty minutes since the snake bit me, and I wasn't near dead. I began to have hope.

I got up and walked into the main room. They were surely surprised to see me.

"You put me in there to die," I said. "But I may fool you. Where is the field hospital?"<sup>12</sup>