

**Exercises
in
Reading
Comprehension**

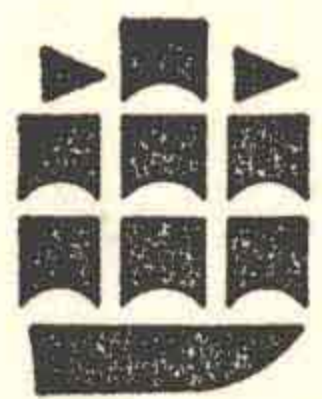
Edited by

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LONGMAN

Exercises in Reading Comprehension

Edited by
E.L. Tibbitts



Longman

Longman Group Limited
London

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First published 1974
Sixth impression 1978

ISBN 0 582 55231 1

Printed in Singapore by
Singapore Offset Printing Pte. Ltd.

Introduction

Who is this book intended for?

For students of varying standards from an intermediate to a lower advanced stage, in preparation for courses of higher education.

The same structures are treated in passages and exercises at three levels of difficulty. This is, therefore, a class text, not only for revision and development of reading skills with classes of students of roughly similar attainment, but is also well suited to classes in which individual standards of students may vary quite considerably.

What is its purpose?

To give students help in learning to read English books easily and with full understanding.

What does it contain?

a) Reading passages on a range of topics including biography, education, history, science and aspects of social life, using the common vocabulary of these topics and the common structures of written English.

b) Exercises to reinforce the material studied in the reading passages and to give training both in comprehension and in correct writing (the related skill to reading).

What help is given with vocabulary?

Words which may be new to students or of special importance to them are printed in italics to call attention to them. If a word is used in more than one meaning, it is printed in italics the first time it occurs in each new meaning.

It is suggested that teachers might give specific help to students in learning to use dictionaries, a skill which is essential in advanced reading. Students might be asked to look up the meanings of words new to them, the teacher making certain afterwards that the correct meanings for the context have been ascertained.

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Section 1

Structural Items: Present of *be* and *have* | *there is, there are* | *can*
(1C only)

1A *The Pacific Ocean*

The Pacific is the largest and deepest *ocean* in the world. *Around* it there are the east coasts of Asia and Australasia and the west coast of the American *continent*. There are oceans to the north and south of the Pacific. To the north there is the Arctic Ocean. To the south there is the Antarctic Ocean, also known as the Southern Ocean.

The greatest *breadth* of the Pacific Ocean is about 10,000 miles, and its greatest *length* is 7,000 miles. It has an *area* of about 63,600,000 *square miles*, and its greatest known *depth* is $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

1. Find words in the passage that can complete these sentences:
 - a) The Mediterranean is a sea, but the Pacific is an _____.
 - b) Our swimming bath is a hundred feet long, fifty feet wide and six feet deep at its deepest point; its _____ is a hundred feet, its _____ is fifty feet and its greatest _____ is six feet.
 - c) The *forest* is ten miles long and five miles wide, so it has an _____ of fifty square _____.
 - d) There are six _____: Africa, America, Australasia, Antarctica, Asia and Europe.
 - e) 'John was in the middle, and the other boys were standing _____ him.'
2. Answer these questions:
 - a) What is the Pacific?
 - b) Is it the largest and deepest ocean in the world?
 - c) What is its greatest breadth?
 - d) What is its area?
 - e) What coasts are there to the west of the Pacific?
 - f) What coast is there to the east of it?
 - g) Is the Arctic Ocean to the north or to the south of the Pacific?
 - h) What is the Antarctic Ocean sometimes known as?
 - i) What is the greatest depth of the Pacific Ocean?
 - j) How many continents are there around it?

3. Answer *yes* or *no* to each question:

- a) Is the Mediterranean an ocean?
- b) Is the Pacific Ocean larger than the Arctic Ocean?
- c) Is the greatest breadth of the Pacific about 20,000 miles?
- d) Is it about 10,000 miles?
- e) Is the length of the Pacific greater than its breadth?
- f) Are there the coasts of three continents around the Pacific?
- g) Is Asia an ocean?
- h) Is America a continent?
- i) Are there oceans to the north and south of the Pacific?
- j) Is the Arctic also known as the Southern Ocean?

4. Complete these sentences with *there*; *is*, *are*; or *the*:

- a) _____ Pacific _____ largest ocean in _____ world.
- b) _____ Antarctic Ocean is also known as _____ Southern Ocean.
- c) _____ greatest known depth of _____ Pacific is $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles.
- d) To _____ south of the Pacific _____ is _____ Southern Ocean.
- e) Around the Pacific _____ the coasts of Asia, Australasia and America.

1B *The Lion*

The lion is called the king of beasts. Lions are found living *wild* in the grasslands of Africa. They *hunt* smaller animals and *feed* on them. There are no wild lions in Europe, but there are *captive* lions in European *zoos*.

The *male* lion is a beautiful animal. Round his head he has a ring of long hair called a mane. When the lion is young, the hair of his mane is yellow. When he is old, the hair is sometimes black. The *female* lion, or *lioness*, does not have a mane.

Lions are *dangerous* animals. A lion can kill a man.

1. Find words in the passage to complete these sentences:

- a) A _____ is a dangerous animal.
- b) The animals in a zoo are not free; they are _____.
- c) A man is _____ and a woman is _____.
- d) A female lion is called a _____.
- e) Fire can be very _____ if it is not used carefully.
- f) The hair round the male lion's head is called a _____.
- g) Old lions sometimes have _____ manes.

2. Answer these questions:

- a) What is the lion called?
- b) What do lions feed on?
- c) Are there wild lions in Africa?
- d) Are the lions in Europe free or captive?
- e) Do female lions have manes?

3. Are these statements right or wrong?

- a) Lions in zoos hunt other animals.
- b) There are wild lions in the grasslands of Africa.
- c) The male lion is called a lioness.
- d) All lions have manes.
- e) A young lion has black hair in its mane.

4. Complete each sentence with the right word from this list: *there; is, are; has; a, an; the*:

- a) Are ____ wild lions in Europe?
- b) ____ male lion is ____ beautiful animal.
- c) ____ hair round his head ____ called ____ mane.
- d) When ____ lion is young, his mane ____ yellow.
- e) ____ old lion sometimes ____ a black mane.

1C Secondary Schools

Secondary schools are schools for boys and girls from eleven to nineteen years old. There are secondary schools of one kind or another in all countries, with classes of all *grades* up to university entrance.

European countries **often** have *separate* secondary schools for boys and for girls, but there are also *co-educational schools* or *mixed schools* for both boys and girls together. Some are *day schools* but others are *boarding schools*. The *pupils* of day schools live at home, but the pupils of boarding schools live in *hostels* at their schools. They go home only for the *holidays*.

Clever students from *primary schools* can get *scholarships* to many of the best secondary schools. There is usually a special scholarship examination for pupils in the highest classes of the primary schools.

In Asia and Africa, as well as in Europe and America, there are *facilities* for the study of Science as well as of Arts subjects. The schools have *well-equipped science laboratories*. In these, students

can study Physics, Chemistry and Biology. There are also classes in *practical* subjects like Woodwork and Metalwork and, for the girls, Domestic Science.

An important part of a school is the *library* for the use of students, especially those in university entrance classes. It has books of many kinds, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries and other *works of reference*, as well as *fiction*, newspapers and magazines for general reading.

In some schools there are not enough laboratories for all the classes during the usual school hours. *Senior* students in these schools sometimes have their practical laboratory work in late afternoon *sessions*, when the other students have gone home.

All schools try to *provide* large school playgrounds or playing fields where students can play games such as football, basketball, hockey or cricket. The very best players in some countries learn to play these games at their secondary schools.

1. Find words in the passage to complete these sentences:
 - a) Children go to secondary schools from ____ schools.
 - b) A ____ school has both boys and girls as pupils.
 - c) A ____ school is a school where the students live except when they go home for the ____.
 - d) Clever students can get ____ to some secondary schools to help to pay for their education.
 - e) An ____ is a ____ book, and we can find in it information about many things.
 - f) A story is not true; it is a work of ____.
 - g) We do our practical science work in a ____.
 - h) The ____ students are the students in the top classes.

2. Write these sentences again to show the meaning of the words in italics, making any changes that you think necessary:

Example: There are *facilities* for the study of Science subjects.

Answer: The schools provide all the things that the students need to study Science subjects.

- a) Some pupils attend *co-educational schools*.
 - b) My sister is at a *boarding school*.
 - c) The schools have *well-equipped* science laboratories.
 - d) There are classes in *practical* subjects.
 - e) A dictionary is a *work of reference*.
3. Put the missing words in this conversation. (You will find them all in the passage.)

TOM: What kind of school was your first school?

MARY: It was a ____ school. I got a scholarship from it to a ____ school when I was eleven.

TOM: I go to a secondary school as well. It's a ____ school, so I go home every day after classes.

MARY: Is it a ____ school?

TOM: No. We only have boys at our school.

MARY: Well, I don't go to a day school, I go to a ____ school. I only go home for the ____.

TOM: Are there both boys and girls at your school?

MARY: Yes, it's a ____ school. We live in ____ when we are at school. There are ____ hostels for the girls and the boys, but we go into the same classes.

TOM: I like ____ subjects like Woodwork. Do girls have any ____ classes?

MARY: Oh yes, we have practical work in the science ____ just like the boys, and we have a special subject for girls called ____.

4. Are these statements right or wrong?

- a) All secondary schools are co-educational.
- b) Some schools have not enough laboratories for all their science classes.
- c) Domestic Science is a special subject for boys.
- d) Students at boarding schools go home every day after classes.
- e) Secondary schools usually have playing fields for their students.
- f) Most of the best day schools have hostels.
- g) There are facilities for the study of Science in very many secondary schools.
- h) The best players of games like football or basketball always learn to play them at secondary schools.
- i) Only students in university entrance classes find their school libraries useful.
- j) Woodwork and Metalwork are practical subjects.

5. Answer these questions:

- a) Is your school co-educational?
- b) Are there primary classes in your school?
- c) Does your school have any classes in the afternoons?
- d) Can you study practical subjects in your school?
- e) Which school subject do you like best? Why?
- f) Are you a boarder or a day student?
- g) Can you play football or hockey?
- h) How many times a week do you have science lessons?
- i) What Arts subjects do you study?
- j) What kind of fiction do you like reading?

6. i) Fill the blanks with *for* or *to*:

- a) We go ____ the laboratory ____ our science practicals.
- b) I went ____ the library ____ a magazine.
- c) Our school is a school ____ boys.
- d) We have special classrooms ____ practical subjects.
- e) We go ____ the sports field ____ games.

ii) Fill the blanks with *so* or *but*:

- a) I have an umbrella, ____ I can go out in the rain.
- b) I have a car ____ no driving licence, ____ I cannot take it on the road.
- c) You are late, ____ you must hurry.
- d) That school is a girls' school, ____ there are no boys in it.
- e) Classes have finished ____ the students have gone home, ____ they will come back tomorrow.

7. Some of the words in the paragraph below are out of place. Write the paragraph again with the words in their proper places:

Our school has a well-equipped playing field where students can do practical work in cricket and Chemistry. It has a laboratory full of Physics and works of reference. There is also a large library where students play games like fiction and football.

8. Write five sentences, using a different one of these phrases in each sentence:

as well as, of one kind or another, of many kinds, for the use of, such as

9. Fill the blanks with *a, an* or *the* where necessary:

- a) There are ____ islands in ____ Pacific Ocean.
- b) Australia is ____ island.
- c) Australia is ____ biggest island in ____ Pacific.
- d) ____ world is round. It is one of ____ planets.
- e) There are ____ hundred centimetres in ____ metre.

Section 2

Structural Items: As for Section 1, plus *cannot* / *has to*, *have to* (2C only)
relative clauses with *who* and *that* (2C only)

2A The Glow-Worm

The *glow-worm* is an *insect*. *In spite of* its name it is not really a *worm* but a member of the *beetle* family. It is coloured dark brown on the back and pink *underneath*. There are two spots of bright red on each *division* of its body. At night there is a green light in its tail.

The glow-worm hunts a very small kind of *snail* for food. The glow-worm's method of attack is interesting. It can make the snail unconscious and then feed on it. But the glow-worm cannot really eat. It can only drink. It has to change its food into a drink. It can drink by changing the *solid* food into a thin *liquid*.

1. Find words in the passage that will complete these sentences:
 - a) A glow-worm is really a kind of _____.
 - b) It is an insect with a light in its _____.
 - c) An _____ has six legs.
 - d) 'The laboratory was too small, so the class did its practical work in two _____.'
 - e) The glow-worm and the lion _____ other creatures for food.
 - f) 'Your _____ of working is not very practical.'
 - g) 'He hit his head on the wall as he fell, and was _____ for about a minute.'
 - h) 'The enemy made an _____ on the fort but could not capture it.'
 - i) Water is a _____ and so is oil.
 - j) When water freezes it turns into a _____ substance called ice.
2. Choose the right words to complete each sentence from the three choices given in brackets:
 - a) The glow-worm is a (snail, beetle, wild animal).
 - b) In the tail of the glow-worm there is a (red, pink, green) light.
 - c) All insects have (six legs, red spots on their bodies, yellow manes).

- d) The glow-worm feeds on (flies, earth-worms, a kind of small snail).
 - e) Glow-worms live on (solid food, water, solid substances that they turn into liquids).
 - f) The back of the glow-worm is coloured (dark brown, light green, pink).
 - g) The glow-worm has divisions in its (head, body, tail).
 - h) When water freezes it becomes (oily, liquid, solid).
3. Put *a* or *an* before these words:
insect, library, animal, island, zoo, area, mile, continent, hour, encyclopedia

2B *The Sun's Family*

Planets are not *stars*. They have no light of their own. They can only *reflect* the sun's light.

There are nine planets in the sun's family of planets. They are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The sun's family is called the *solar system*.

Mercury is the smallest planet of the solar system. Venus is a beautiful planet. It has a soft light. It is often called the 'evening star' and sometimes it is also called the 'morning star', although of course it is not really a star.

Mars has a bright red light. Are there people on Mars? Perhaps we can find out now, with our modern *space rockets*. Jupiter is the next planet. It is a *giant* planet, and its light is very bright. Saturn has a lot of rings around it, and Jupiter has four moons. Uranus, too, has four moons around it. Earth and Neptune have only one moon each. A moon is a *satellite*.

1. Find words in the passage that can complete these sentences:
 - a) The sun has light of its own and so do the _____, but a _____ has no light of its own.
 - b) A mirror can _____ light.
 - c) The group of planets around the sun is called the _____.
 - d) 'The _____ tree rose high above the other trees in the forest.'
 - e) The moons are _____ of the planets.

2. Are these statements right or wrong?

- a) Planets are stars.
- b) Planets have light of their own.
- c) Planets reflect the moon's light.
- d) The sun's family is called the solar system.
- e) Jupiter's light is very bright.
- f) Mercury is a giant planet.
- g) We have found life on Mars.
- h) The earth has one moon.
- i) Neptune and Uranus have four moons each.
- j) A planet is also known as a satellite.

3. Make the sentences in Question 2 into questions.

4. Complete this paragraph with words from the passage:

Planets _____ sun's light. There are _____ planets in the solar system. _____ is _____ smallest planet. _____ is a beautiful planet with a _____ light. It is often called the _____ or the _____. _____ is _____ very big planet. Mars has a bright _____ light, and Saturn has a lot of _____ around it.

2C Universities

Students working for their first *degree* at a university are called *undergraduates*. When they take their degree we say that they *graduate*, and then they are called *graduates*. If they continue studying at university after they have graduated, they are called *post-graduates*.

Full-time university students spend all their time studying. They have no other *employment*. Their course usually lasts for three or four years. Medical students have to follow a course lasting for six or seven years. Then they graduate as doctors. In Britain, full-time university students have three *terms* of about ten weeks in each year. During these terms they go to *lectures* or they study by themselves. Many students become members of *academic* societies and sports clubs and take part in their *activities*. Between the university terms they have *vacations* (or holiday periods). Their vacations are long, but of course they can use them to study at home.

Some universities, like Oxford and Cambridge in England, are *residential*. This means that during the university terms the students live in a university college or hostel or in *lodgings* chosen from an

official list. The university and college buildings are often very old, and amongst them are fine examples of ancient *architecture*.

Other universities are *non-residential*. Some of the students at these universities can live in a university hostel, but many live at home or in lodgings and have to travel daily to their lectures. Large cities often have universities of this kind. Sometimes the students have to spend quite a lot of time on their journeys, so they cannot join in student activities as easily as students in residential universities can.

Full-time students are also called *internal* students, because they spend all their time at university. There are also *external* students who cannot attend the university full-time but who are studying for its examinations. They are *part-time* students. They have to do other work during the day, usually to *earn their living*, and they study in the evening.

External students are often older than full-time internal students. Sometimes they can attend lectures in the evening, but many of them have to study by *correspondence*. They write at home the work that is *set* by their *tutors*. Then they have to *post* this work to their tutors, and the tutors post corrections and advice back to them.

In some countries, 'Universities of the Air' can now help students to *gain* degrees. After special lectures on radio or television, these students too have to send set work for correction by correspondence. However, for a few weeks each year they can attend special vacation courses at universities.

For admission to any degree course, a student has to pass *qualifying* examinations. In Britain there are not enough places for every secondary school student, so these examinations are *competitive*. This means that only the students with the highest marks can gain admission. However a few older people are able to gain admission without the full *qualifications*, if the university thinks that they are suitable *candidates*.

1. Find words in the passage to complete these sentences:
 - a) A university student is called an _____ when he first enters the university.
 - b) If he passes all his examinations, the student gets a _____.
 - c) A _____ student spends all his time studying at the university.
 - d) The teachers at university are called lecturers, because they give _____ to the students.
 - e) University holidays are also known as _____.
 - f) An _____ society holds meetings for members interested in a particular university subject.

- g) When a student pays money to live in another person's house we say he is living in ____ .
- h) An ____ student lives in the university during the university terms.
- i) In a ____ examination, only the very best students can pass.
- j) A ____ for ____ to a university normally has to have full ____ from his examinations.

2. Write these sentences again to show the meaning of the words in italics, making any necessary changes:

Example: Some universities are *residential*.

Answer: The students live in some universities during the university terms.

- a) Some universities have fine examples of ancient *architecture*.
- b) Most undergraduates are *full-time students*.
- c) Students can take part in the *activities* of clubs and societies.

3. Are these statements right or wrong? If they are wrong, say why:

- a) All students stay at university for three or four years.
- b) Residential students are external students.
- c) Some students live in university colleges or hostels.
- d) They spend most of their vacations attending lectures.
- e) The buildings at Oxford and Cambridge are all fine examples of ancient architecture.
- f) There are academic societies and sports clubs at the Universities of the Air.
- g) All students in large cities are residential students.
- h) Students can study for degrees by correspondence.
- i) The universities have places for all secondary school pupils.
- j) Some students can be admitted to universities even if they do not have the full entrance qualifications.

4. Fill the blanks with *a* or *the* :

- a) A residential student lives in ____ room in ____ college or hostel.
- b) ____ members of ____ residential university can easily join sports clubs.
- c) Part-time students earn their living during ____ day and study in ____ evening.
- d) Students can get ____ university degree in ____ number of ways.
- e) Is it ____ good thing or ____ bad thing to join ____ student society or club?

5. Fill the blanks with *is*, *are*, *has*, *have* or *can* :

In a university, people ____ study many different subjects, but there ____ other activities too. Universities ____ academic societies and

students ____ easily join sports clubs. There ____ a *debating society* for all students, where members discuss *motions* and *vote* for or against them, and each student with a special interest ____ join a club. Most students ____ members of one or more societies or clubs. There ____ every opportunity at university for each student to ____ a happy as well as a useful life.

6. Give the words that these phrases explain:

- a) go on a journey
- b) a student working for his or her first degree
- c) the science of *designing* buildings
- d) a student who lives in a university
- e) not the same
- f) a qualification gained at a university
- g) a society where speakers make speeches for and against a particular motion
- h) a course whose students send their work by post to their tutors
- i) a place where residential students live
- j) a person trying to get a university place

7. Make correct statements by finding the phrases in Column (2) that match those in Column (1):

<i>Column (1)</i>	<i>Column (2)</i>
a) Older students	are sometimes accepted without qualifications.
b) The Universities of the Air	have fine old buildings.
c) Part-time students	all become doctors when they graduate.
d) Part-time students attend lectures	for six or seven years.
e) Medical students	earn their living during the day.
f) Medical students follow courses	in the evening.
g) Many secondary school pupils	live in their universities.
h) Residential students	cannot get university places.
i) Some residential universities	give courses by radio and television.

8. The words *internal* and *non-residential* are the opposites of *external* and *residential*. Give opposites for these words:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| a) common | e) suitable |
| b) usual | f) popular |
| c) part-time | g) unfriendly |
| d) older | h) ill-equipped |