

中学生文库



100 Short English Readings

英语阅读短文百篇



上海教育出版社

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Preface

Throughout the country, the enthusiasm of young people and students for language learning is swelling. To give them some help in their studies of English, we have compiled this book, which consists of short English language articles and stories. They are designed for middle school students or people with a similar level of English proficiency, i.e. with a vocabulary of 1,500 to 2,000 words.

There are, in this book, one hundred short and sweet articles and stories presented in the original. Among them are legends, e.g. *THE CHOICE OF HERCULES*; fairy tales, e.g. *THE CITY MOUSE AND THE COUNTRY MOUSE*, *THE THREE WISHES*; interesting humorous pieces, e.g. *COUNTING PIGS*, *THE KING AND THE MAGICIAN*; writings about notable figures, e.g. *MOZART*, *THE YOUNG NELSON*; non-technical scientific writings, e.g. *THE TELEPHONE*, *CHOCOLATE*, *PENICILLIN*; writings on foreign customs and habits, e.g. *HALLOWEEN*, *A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR*; and selections about biology, geography and history, e.g. *THE BAOBAB TREE*, *CAMELS*, *THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE*, *POMPEII*, *THE TOWER OF LONDON*.

The stories and articles are arranged in order of difficulty, beginning with relatively simple selections and leading to those which are more difficult. Quite a great number of them are easy to read, and so can be used as materials for recitation.

To make the stories and articles easier to understand we have not only provided explanations of new words and expressions, but have explained explicitly the grammatical phenomena as well. Examples are given to further enable readers to both understand the meanings of new words and phrases, and to learn to use them correctly.

All selections contained in this book are taken from textbooks and students' readers published recently in Britain and the U.S.A. The English used is beautiful and idiomatic and the contents active and informative.

Since these stories and articles are widely enjoyed by most readers in Britain and the U.S.A., we hope English language students in our country will also find them very interesting and instructive. Through reading them students will be able to enlarge their general knowledge and at the same time greatly improve their English ability. Certainly they will become more motivated in their English studies.

Due to our limited ability, inappropriate explanations and other possible faults are liable to be found in the book. We sincerely hope to receive comments and criticisms from our readers.

前 言

目前全国广大青少年学习外语的热情高涨。为了帮助他们学习外语，我们搜集了若干比较浅近易懂的英文原文，供具有1,500—2,000词汇量的中学生以及具有相当程度的英语爱好者阅读。

本书共选了短小精悍的原版故事100篇，其中包括神话，如《赫拉克勒斯的选择》；童话《城市老鼠和乡村老鼠》、《三个愿望》；妙趣横生的小幽默《皇帝和魔术师》、《数猪》；世界名人故事《莫扎特》、《纳尔逊将军》；浅近的科技小品《电话》、《巧克力的制作》、《配尼西林》；外国风土人情《美国鬼节》、《圣诞节和新年好》。此外，《猴面包树》、《骆驼》、《美国独立战争》、《庞贝古城》和《伦敦塔》等则为生物、地理、历史诸方面的故事。本书所选短文，由浅入深。不少短文语言流畅上口，适宜用作朗诵材料。

为了便于阅读理解，我们不仅给有关单词和短语作了注释，并且针对短文中出现的语法现象举例作了简要说明，使读者能举一反三。

本书所收短文均选自近年来英国、美国出版的教科书以及学生课外读物，语言生动活泼，文字地道、优美，内容健康、有趣，题材多种多样。这些故事在国外广泛流传，为读者所喜闻乐见。对于我国初学英语的读者，阅读这些故事不仅能提高英语水平，而且还能开阔视野，扩大知识面，增加学习

英语的兴趣。

由于编者水平有限，难免有错误和不当之处，请读者见谅并指正。



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1. Swimming

When I was a boy, I liked swimming very much. One year my two brothers and I spent the summer holidays with my uncle and aunt in their house by the sea.¹ It was only twenty metres from the water.² Every day we put on³ our swimming-shorts before breakfast, ran down to the sea across the sand and jumped in.⁴ From then until late at night,⁵ we were in the sea or on the beach⁶ most of the time. When our aunt rang a bell, we went back to the house for food⁷, but we ate it in our swimming-shorts⁸ and were soon back in the sea again.⁹

The water was warm, the sun shone every day, and on most days there were no waves. In the middle of the day a wind always began to blow, but it was not strong and did not make the sea rough.¹⁰

Three times¹¹ during our holidays we had strong winds. They blew the sand against our legs¹² when we ran down to the sea, and made big waves with white tops.¹³ We were all very good swimmers. We dived through the waves or rode towards the beach on top of them¹⁴ until we were tired and hungry.

【注释】

1. by the sea: 在海边. by: 介词, 靠近……旁边. 2. It was only ... the water: 他们的房子离海仅20米. 此处 it 指 their house. water 原意水, 此处 the water 指海. 3. put on: 穿(戴)上. 例, to put on one's shoes: 穿上鞋子. to put on a hat: 戴上帽子.
4. Every day we ... breakfast, ran ... in: 每天早餐前, 我们穿上游泳裤, 穿过沙滩奔到海边, 就往海里一跳. shorts: 短裤, swimming-shorts: 游泳裤. across: 介词, 和其宾语 the sand 构成介词短语, 在句中作状语. 例, The boy came across the street: 男孩穿过马路来.
5. From then ... at night: 从那时起直到深夜. 此处 until 是介词. 意即: 直到……时候. late at night: 深夜. 但是说, late in the afternoon 下午很晚时, 傍晚. late in the evening: 晚上很晚时. late in autumn: 深秋. 6. in the sea: 在海里. on the beach: 在海滩上. 注意介词 in 和 on 的用法. 类似有: in the river 在河里. on the bank 在岸上. 7. we went back to the house for food: 我们回到屋里去取食品. for 介词, 为了……. 介词短语 for food 在句中作目的状语. 8. but we ate it in our swimming-shorts: 我们就穿着游泳裤吃(东西). in: 介词, 此处作穿着(什么样的衣服)解释. 例, a girl in red: 一个穿着红衣服的女孩. a boy in a blue jacket: 一个穿着蓝上衣的男孩. a man in army uniform: 一个穿着军装的男人. a woman in a tight black dress: 一位穿着黑色紧身连衣裙的妇女. 9. were soon ... again: 很快又回到海里. be back 回来. 例, We were soon back at school: 我们很快回到了学校. 10. make the sea rough: 使海面波涛汹涌. 11. three times: 三次. 此处 time 不作时间解释, 而是“次数”一次, once, 二次, twice, 四次, four times ... 12. They blew ... legs: 风把沙吹到我们的腿上. against: 介词, 撞击, 碰着. 13. and made ... tops: (风)掀起了白色的巨浪. 14. We dived ... of them: 我们在海浪中潜游, 或者乘浪朝海滩游去. rode: ride 的过去式, 乘、骑的意思, 此处作飘浮、航行解. them 指 waves.

2. The Picnic

It was Sunday and the weather was fine, so Mrs Smith said, "Let's go for a picnic.¹" "Oh, yes!" said Mary and John, her two children. Mr Smith said, "Yes, let's go to the woods² and have our picnic there." "Good," said Mrs Smith. "Help me to get the things ready." "All right," said the children. John brought the basket for the food and the bottles for the water; and Mary brought a blanket, while Mother made the sandwiches,³ and Father put water and oil into the car.

Soon everything was ready and they left the house. They drove along small roads⁴ until they came to the woods. Mary put the blanket on the ground, John took the food out of the car, Father made a fire,⁵ and Mother made tea.⁶

"Isn't it beautiful here?" said Mother. "It's very quiet and green. John had a kite, and soon he was running across the grass with it.⁷ "Be careful!" shouted Mother, but it was too late! John fell over the basket of food,⁸ and everything fell out. "Look!" cried Mary. "There are ants in the food!" Yes, there were! There were hundreds of⁹ them. The blanket was on an ants' nest!¹⁰

【注释】

1. go for a picnic: 去野餐. 类似的说法有: go for a walk: 去散步.
2. the woods, 小树林. wood: 木, 树木.
3. while Mother ... sandwiches: 而母亲做三明治(夹心面包). while: 连词, 此处作“而”解. Mother 大写(以及下文中的 Father), 相当于 their mother (their father).
4. They drove along small roads: 他们的车沿着小路开. along: 介词, 靠, 沿着.
5. Father made a fire: 父亲生火. made: make 的过去式.
6. Mother made tea: 母亲沏茶.
7. he was ... with it: 他带着风筝在草地上跑开了.
8. John fell ... food: 约翰摔倒在食品篮上.
9. hundreds of: 数百个. 注意表达两百, 三百等, hundred 决不能用复数形式, 而说: two hundred, three hundred 等等.
10. ants' nest: 蚂蚁窝.

3. Jim's Stomach-ache

Jim went to the doctor this morning. He likes apples very much and yesterday he ate too many green ones,¹ so this morning he had a stomach-ache.² When he came to breakfast he was crying. “What’s the matter,³ Jim?” his mother said. “Why are you crying?” “My stomach hurts, Mother,⁴” he answered, “You ate too many apples yesterday,” she said, “and they were green. Go to Dr. Jones and he will give you some medicine. You know his house.” “Yes, Mother. I’ll go in the bus⁵. And I don’t want any breakfast now.”

Jim got to Dr. Jones’s house⁶ at 9.30, but there were

four other people in the doctor's waiting-room, so Jim didn't see the doctor until about 10 o'clock.⁷ "What's the matter with you, young man?" said Dr. Jones. "I have a stomach-ache," said Jim. "Have you eaten any green apples?" asked the doctor. "Yes, I ate a lot⁸ yesterday," Jim said, and smiled. The doctor smiled too. He wrote on a piece of paper⁹ and said, "Take this to a chemist,¹⁰ and he will give you some medicine." Jim thanked the doctor, went to a chemist and bought the medicine. His stomach-ache was soon better.¹¹

【注释】

1. green ones: 青苹果. green: 绿的, 青的, 此处意思: 未熟, 生(嫩)的. ones 代词, 代替上文的 apples, 以免重复.
2. he had a stomach-ache: 他胃(腹)痛了.
3. What's the matter?: 怎么啦? 出了什么事? 例: What's the matter? You look pale: 你脸色苍白, 怎么了?
4. My stomach hurts, Mother: 妈, 我胃痛(或: 我肚子痛). 此处 Mother 是称呼, 因此大写. hurts: 不及物动词, 作“痛”解.
5. I'll go in the bus: 我坐公共汽车去. 注意此处定冠词 the 的用法. 另一种表达方法是: I'll go by bus. 不加冠词.
6. Dr. Jones's house: 琼斯医生的房子. 注意专有名词 Jones 所有格的表示法和读法. Jones's ['dʒɔnzɪz], 类似的有: James's ['dʒeɪmzɪz], Hans's ['hænzɪz].
7. So Jim didn't see the doctor until about 10 o'clock: 因此吉姆直到十点钟左右才看到医生. not ... until ... 是直到……才……的意思(如果谓语动词所表达的只是短暂的动作, 则必须用这一结构). 例: He did not go to bed until eleven. 他到十一点才上床. I did not leave until he came. 直到他来我才离开.
8. a lot: 许多, 大量.
9. a