

英语阅读丛书

READING
LABORATORY

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前 言

《英语阅读丛书》(《SRA READING LABORATORY》)

是我院英语专家给我们推荐的一种训练阅读能力的材料。

现在选印的是Ⅱ_b和Ⅳ_a两套。Ⅱ_b中有九种不同水平的材料(一种水平一个颜色),每一种水平计有16篇文章。供美国初级和高级中学学生使用。Ⅳ_a中有七种水平,每一种水平有20篇文章,供中学高年级直至大学一、二年级使用。这些阅读材料题材广泛,内容丰富,包括科普、历史、生活等,知识性强,故事性强。文章的水平是通过计算机选定的,由浅入深,循序渐进。

每篇阅读材料(Power Builder)有两类练习:

1. How well did you read? 练习的目的是检查学生对该文的理解,并通过上下文来分析词义。

2. Learn about words 练习的目的是训练读者在同义词,反义词,同形异义词,惯用法以及形象比喻等方面的技能,同时还系统地介绍和加深语言知识,并提高学生使用结构的能力。

每一种水平都附有相应的阅读速度检查材料(Rate Builder)和练习,要求学生在一定时间内作完,以便检查学生的阅读速度和回答问题的能力。此外,我们加了中文注释。

一九八〇年三月

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POWER BUILDER

POWER BUILDER 1

A BOY AND HIS FATHER BECOME

PARTNERS

by Ralph Moody

1 I like all kinds of chocolate. Best of all, though, I like bitter baking chocolate¹. Mother had bought a bar of it, and somehow I couldn't stop thinking about it.

2 I Was helping Father on the winnower. It was right then I got the idea. I could whack a chunk off the end of that bar of chocolate. Mother would be sure to miss it², but before she had any idea who had done it, I could confess I'd taken it. Probably I would not even get a spanking.

3 I Waited until Mother was out feeding the chickens. Then I told Father I thought I'd go in for a drink of water. I got the bar down, but I heard Mother coming just when I had the knife ready to whack. So I slipped the chocolate into the front of my shirt and left quickly. Before I went back to help Father, I went to the barn

and hid the chocolate there.

4 All the rest of the afternoon, I didn't like to look at Father. Every time³ he spoke it made me jump. My hands began shaking so much that he asked me what was the matter. I told him it was just that my hands were cold. I knew he didn't believe me, and every time he looked my way my heart started pounding. I didn't want the chocolate anymore. I just wanted a chance to put it back without being caught.

5 On the way out for the cows, I calmed down a little and could think better. I told myself that I hadn't really stolen the whole bar of chocolate, because I meant to take only a little piece. That's as much as I would have taken, too, if Mother hadn't come along when she did⁴. If I put back the whole bar, I wouldn't have done anything wrong at all.

6 I nearly decided to put it all back. But just thinking so much about chocolate made my tongue almost taste the smooth bitterness of it. I got thinking that if I sliced about half an inch off the end with a sharp knife. Mother might never notice it.

7 I was nearly out to where the cows were when I remembered what Father had said once--some of the family money was mine because I had helped to earn it. Why wouldn't it be all right to figure the bar of chocolate had been bought with my own money? That seemed

to fix everything.⁵

8 But by the time I had the cows headed home, I had begun to worry again. We were nearly to the railroad tracks when I decided to leave the whole matter to the Lord.⁶ I picked up a dried soapweed stalk with seed-pods on it and decided I would throw it up into the air and take my orders from the way it landed⁷. If it pointed west, I'd take the whole bar back. If it pointed south, I'd take half an inch off the end. If it pointed east, I'd bought the bar with my own money and it wouldn't be stealing to keep it.⁸

9 I swung the pod stalk as high as I could. When it came down, it pointed mostly westbut a little south.

10 That night I couldn't sleep. I kept trying to remember how much that stalk had really been pointing to the south. At last I got up, slipped out into the yard, and took the ax from the chopping block.⁹ Then I went into the barn and got the chocolate. I took it outside and laid it on the lower rail of the corral fence. The moon gave enough light for me to see what I was doing.

11 Just as I was starting to cut, Father said: "Son!"

12 I couldn't think of a thing to say. I grabbed up the bar of chocolate and hid it next to¹⁰ my chest before I turned around. Father picked me up by the shoulder straps of my overalls and took me over to the woodpile. I didn't know anybody could spank as hard as he did!

- 13 Then he stood me on my feet and asked if I thought I had deserved it. He said it wasn't so much that I'd taken the chocolate, but that I'd tried to hide it from him.
- 14 "Son," he said, "I know you help to earn the family money. We might say the chocolate was yours in the first place. You could have had it if you'd asked for it, but I won't have you being sneaky about things. Now, do you want to keep your money separate from mine—or are we partners?"
- 15 I never knew till then how much I wanted my money to go in with Father's. When I went to sleep my hand was still hurting—from where he squeezed it when we shook hands.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Did you understand the reasons?

1. The boy took the whole bar of chocolate because he was
 - A too hungry to resist
 - B sure he was doing right
 - C surprised by his mother
2. After he had taken the chocolate, the boy's hands shook because he
 - A was cold
 - B felt guilty

C was tired

3. The boy felt that some of the family grocery money might be his because
 - A he had helped with the farm work
 - B his father owed him some money
 - C he had given money to his mother to hold.

Did you read carefully?

4. The boy decided that if the stalk pointed south he would
 - A keep the whole bar
 - B slice half an inch off the end of the bar
 - C return the whole bar
5. The boy lay awake thinking about how
 - A angry his father would be
 - B wrong it was to take the chocolate
 - C much he wanted some chocolate

Can you draw the right conclusions?

6. The father probably learned that the boy had done something wrong by
 - A finding the chocolate in the barn
 - B watching the boy throughout the day
 - C noticing that the chocolate was missing
7. The boy finally realized that his parents
 - A wanted all the family to share the family money
 - B felt he was too young to handle money
 - C wanted to pay him higher wages

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

- A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the paragraph that means

1. consider; imagine(7)
2. moved quietly (10)
3. enclosure for cattle; pen (10)
4. underhanded; cowardly (14)
5. apart (14)
6. pressed hard (15)

- B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Read the three meanings for each word. Look back to the paragraph to see how the word is used in the story. Then choose the correct meaning and write the letter that stands before it.

7. miss (2)

A fail to see

B notice the absence of

C escape; avoid

8. chance (4)

A risk

B opportunity

C accident

9. matter (8)

A importance

B substance

C thing; affair

10. stalk (8)

A plant stem

B proud, stiff walk

C hidden pursuit of game

11. chest (12)

A box with a lid

B piece of furniture with drawers

C part of the body enclosed by ribs

C. The letters *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u* are vowels. Long vowels say their names. Long vowels are found in words like

āpe ēage īce ōpen ūniform

Short vowels do not say their names. Short vowels are found in words like

ăpple ělephant ĭnk ɔx ŭncle

When an accented syllable ends in a vowel, the vowel sound is usually long. When an accented syllable ends in a consonant, the vowel sound is usually short.

Directions: Look at the accented syllable in each word. Decide whether the vowel in the accented syllable is long or short. Write long or short.

12. pro'gram

13. hand'some

14. mu'sic
15. thank' ful
16. sci' ence
17. sub mit'

D. ch sh wh th

Usually, when these consonants come together in a word you do not sound each one. You join them to make a new sound.

Directions: One of these letter combinations has been left out of each word. Decide which letter combination is missing and write the whole word.

18. —oose
19. —ought
20. rea—
21. —isper
22. —ould
23. hu—es
24. clut—
25. —ird

E. jump—jumps, jumped, jumping

You can add *s*, *es*, *ed*, or *ing* to a base word like *jump*. Sometimes you double the final consonant when you add these endings.

trip + ed = tripped

rub + ing = rubbing

The final consonant is often doubled when there is a

single vowel just before the consonant.

Directions: Add the ending to each base word and write the new word.

26. thump +ing

27. drop +ed

28. boom +ing

29. join +s

30. push +es

31. lean +ed

32. foam +ed

33. hit +ing

NOTES

1. bitter baking chocolate 不加糖作糕点的巧克力。
2. Miss = realize 发现遗失。
3. Everytime = whenever 每当 (引出状语从句)。
4. hadn't come, would have come 都是虚拟语气 (表示与事实相反的动作)。
5. That seemed to fix everything 一切也就是理所当然了。
6. Lord 上帝。
7. take my orders...Landed 按草梗落地的方向行事。
8. If it...stealing to keep it 若草梗指向东方, 那就是用我自己的钱买的, 也算不上是偷来的了。
9. chopping block 砍物的木墩。
10. next to 紧贴着

POWER BUILDER 2

Traveling in the Jungle

by Armstrong Sperry

1 Jungle country¹ is not friendly to man, but it is possible to survive there. You must have the right equipment and you must know a few important things about woodcraft². Then your chances of staying alive are very good.

2 No one should go into the jungle without the right equipment. You need lightweight clothing, a good sheath knife or machete,³ and a compass. Fishhooks and a line, a rifle and ammunition, matches in a waterproof container, and a poncho⁴ are necessary too. So is a mosquito net to protect the head.

3 In the jungle you can get hopelessly lost within five minutes after leaving a known landmark. That is why you should always carry a compass. In open country⁵, during the day, you can tell which way to go by studying the sun. At night the stars are sure guides to direction. But in most places the jungle rooftop is so thick that

it is impossible to see the sun or the stars. Again and again you must check your position by the compass.

4 Keep alert. Watch the ground in front of you carefully. Stop and listen now and again. Avoid haste, and rest often. In a place that is hot and humid, the person who sets a fast pace⁶ will soon become tired. A steady, even pace is wisest in the long run.

5 If you lose your way, don't panic. Try to decide how long it has been since you were sure of your position. Mark the spot where you are with blazes on a tree. Put them on four sides of the tree, so that you will be able to see them from any direction. Then you can begin retracing your steps, knowing that you can always find the spot from which you started. Except in an emergency, never try to travel through the jungle at night.

6 Whenever possible, it is wise to follow streams and rivers that are going in your general direction. This may cause you many extra miles of travel. But in the end it will save time and energy. Nothing is more exhausting than hacking a trail cross-country through unbroken jungle.⁷

7 If a river is broad and deep and has no rapids, rafting is the best means of travel. Bamboo grows along the banks of many jungle streams. Since it is hollow and extremely strong, it makes a perfect raft.

8 If possible, stay away from high ridges when you are traveling through jungle country. They are often covered

with rattans. Rattans are climbing palms. They have sharp thorns that rip and tear at your clothing. Even with a sharp machete, it is almost impossible to hack a path through rattans without getting completely entangled in them.

9 Mosquitoes, ticks, and leeches will be with you all the time. The only defense against them is to wear the right kind of clothing. You should never wear shorts in the jungle. Your trousers must be lightweight and long. The cuffs should be tucked into your boot tops.

10 Finding water that is safe to drink can be a problem. Many streams and rivers carry germs that can be deadly to man. Streams found near native villages are always dangerous, even if they are clear and fresh-looking. Such water must always be boiled before you drink it.

11 Luckily, the jungle has many kinds of plants and vines that give water. The big rough-barked vines called lianas⁸ are one of the best sources of water. A section several feet long should give you more than a pint of clear water. Water from almost all plants is pure enough to drink. But stay away from vines that have bitter or milky sap.

12 Many jungle plants also provide food. Before you go into the jungle, learn to recognize the varieties of plants that can be eaten. If you haven't had a chance to do this, watch what kinds of fruits and nuts the birds and monkeys choose. Such food is almost always safe for a man to eat.

- 13 When you are seeking meat, rivers and streams are the best places to hunt. You do not need to be familiar with the many different kinds of birds and mammals. You can eat any of them.
- 14 Animals that do not eat plants eat each other. When you see an animal in the jungle, you can be sure that its source of food is some-where close by. That source may mean for you the difference between going to sleep well fed or hungry.
- 15 Surviving in the jungle is a science. The jungle peoples have become perfect in this science, and you can too. Learn as much as you can about what to expect in the jungle. Make sure you have the right equipment. Then no part of the jungle will seem completely unfriendly or frightening. In fact, you will be able to "live off" it for a long time.

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

What does the writer think?

1. For keeping alive in the jungle, the right equipment is
 - A more important than a knowledge of woodcraft
 - B less important than a knowledge of woodcraft
 - C just as important as a knowledge of woodcraft
2. For checking your position in the jungle you should rely on

- A known landmarks
- B the sun and stars
- C a compass

3. In moving through the jungle you should

- A set a fairly rapid pace
- B retrace your steps from time to time
- C stop and rest often

Can you draw the right conclusion?

4. The author probably advises against traveling at night because

- A one tends to move too slowly at night
- B it is difficult to check your position then
- C emergencies occur most frequently at night

What were the facts?

5. Following streams and rivers will help you to

- A save many extra miles of travel
- B avoid crossing unbroken stretches of jungle
- C have a constant source of drinking water

6. Rattans are climbing palms that

- A make excellent rafts
- B give water
- C have sharp thorns

7. The best way to be sure of having enough food in the jungle is to