

中学英语 序列助读

41

English Readers Series
(For Middle School)

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中学英语序列助读

北京四中外语组 译 注

原子能出版社

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前 言

北京四中外语组的老师们，在教学实践中感到，有针对性地补充一些阅读材料，对于学生巩固课内所学、增进阅读兴趣、培养阅读能力、扩大知识领域和今后的深造都是极其重要的。因此，他们根据自己的经验和体会，编选了这本书。

本书按初二到高三的年级序列，紧密配合教材，由浅入深地进行编排。保证课内知识的重复率，不加重学生负担。超出相应年级教材的生词量限制在3%左右。

本书选材注意突出“时代性”、“知识性”和“趣味性”。随着时代的前进，英语也在不断发展，因此本书着重选编了近代和当代的作品。此外还有脍炙人口的名著、幽默小品，反映英美概况和风土人情的短文；还有介绍作家、科学家、革命家的故事，以及指导学生学习方法的文章。

本书共选文60篇，每篇都附有注释和中文译文。由于译文是供学生参考的，所以放在书的后半部分。

本书可作为中学生英语课辅助读物，也可供中学英语教师 and 自学者阅读。

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初中二年级

1. HUMOROUS STORIES

(1)

Clerk in post office, after weighing^① letter:
“That letter’s too heavy. You’ll have to put another stamp on it”.

Man: “What’s the good^② of that? If I put another stamp on it, that will only make it heavier, won’t it?”

(2)

An inspector of schools was visiting an English class one day. Some of the students were having difficulty in the correct placing^③ of the letters *i* and *e* in such words as^④ “receive,” “relief,” “believe,” and “ceiling.” Finally the inspector said, “Students, I can give you a rule which I always follow and which never fails.^⑤” The students were very interested. Even the teacher seemed eager to learn^⑥ this important rule.

The inspector continued: “It is simply this. Write the *i* and the *e* exactly alike and then put the dot in the middle over them.”

(3)

"What are you doing, my dear?" said a mother to her small four-year-old daughter.

"I'm writing a letter to Helen," the little girl answered.

"But dear," said the mother, "you don't know how to write."

The little girl continued to make marks on the paper with her pencil and answered: "Well, Helen doesn't know how to read, so it doesn't make any difference.⑦"

注 释

① weighing ['weɪɪŋ] 是由动词 weigh 加-ing 而构成的, 意思是“称重量”。

② good n. 好处

③ have difficulty in... 在……方面有困难。

placing ['pleɪsɪŋ] 是由动词 place 加-ing 构成的, 意思是安放。

④ such (words) as... 象……一类的(单词)

⑤ which I always follow 是定语从句, 修饰名词 rule

⑥ be eager to learn 急切想学

⑦ don't make any difference 没有什么关系

2. OUR NEW SECRETARY①

The telephone rang and our new secretary, Miss Simpson, answered it.

"May I speak to Mr Calder, please?" a voice said.

"Who is speaking please②?" Miss Simpson asked.

"It's Alan Bright," the voice said.

Miss Simpson put her hand over the mouthpiece③ and spoke to Mr Calder.

"It's Mr Alan Bright, sir," she said. "He wants to speak to you." "What④, again!" Mr Calder exclaimed⑤, "He wants to sell us those new typewriters⑥, doesn't he?"

"Yes, sir," Miss Simpson said. "He called⑦ yesterday."

"And he rang up five times last week. We don't need new typewriters. I told him that yesterday," Mr Calder said.

"What shall I say, sir?" Miss Simpson asked.

"Say that I'm not in my office," Mr Calder said crossly⑧.

Miss Simpson spoke into the receiver⑨. "Mr

Bright," she said, "I'm afraid you can't speak to Mr Calder now. Mr Calder says that he's not in his office."

注 释

- ① secretary ['sekritri] n. 秘书, 书记
- ② Who is speaking please? 请问您是哪一位? (这是接电话的用语)
- ③ mouthpiece ['mauθpi:s] n. 指电话的送话器部分; 收话器叫 receiver
- ④ what int. (表示惊讶、气愤等) 什么
- ⑤ exclaim [iks'kleim] vi. & vt. (由于惊讶、痛苦、愤怒、高兴等而) 呼喊; 惊叫; 大声说话
- ⑥ typewriter ['taip,raitə] n. 打字机. 打字员叫 typist.
- ⑦ call vi. 打电话. call 与 ring up 同义.
- ⑧ crossly ['krosli] adv. 怒气冲冲地
- ⑨ Miss simpson spoke into the receiver. 辛普森小姐冲着电话听筒说话。(考尔德发火, 秘书已慌了手脚, 竟手捂着话筒冲着听筒说起话来)。

3. EASY TO DRIVE

A crowd of people① were standing in the street. They were looking at a new car. The car was outside a showroom②. It was a new model③ and

many people wanted to see it. A salesman noticed the crowd and came into the street.

"It's a beautiful model, isn't it?" the salesman said.

"It certainly is," a man agreed. "Is it automatic④?"

"Oh yes," the salesman answered proudly. "There aren't any gears in this car⑤. You press your foot down and drive away. It's very easy to drive. Even a woman can drive it without any difficulty⑥."

"I didn't like that remark⑦," a woman said.

"I'm sorry, madam," the salesman answered. "I didn't notice you. Anyway, I was only joking".

"Give us a demonstration⑧" the woman said. "Drive a few yards⑨."

The salesman smiled with pleasure⑩. He got into the car and started the engine. Then he pressed a button⑪ and the car suddenly went backwards. There was a loud crash⑫ and the car went through the window of the showroom.

注 释

① a crowd of people 一群人

② showroom ['ʃɔ:rum] n. 陈列室, 展览室

③ model ['mɒd l] n. (汽车、机器等) 式样, 型号

④ automatic [ɔ:tə'mætik] a. 自动的

⑤ There aren't any gears in this car. 这种车没有变速装置。gears, 变速装置, 即通常说的“档”。无变速装置的汽车较新型, 由油门大小自控速度的变化。

⑥ without any difficulty 毫不困难地

⑦ remark [ri'ma:k] n. 评论

⑧ demonstration [demonstreɪʃ(ə)n] n. 示范, 表演

⑨ yard [j'a:d] n. 码(英美长度单位, = 3呎 = 0.914米)

⑩ with pleasure 高兴地

⑪ press a button 揿按钮

press [pres] vt. 压, 按, 揿

button ['bʌtn] n. (电铃等的)按钮(开关)

⑫ crash [kræʃ] n. 撞击声, 爆裂声

4. A TALE FROM INDIA

Once upon a time an elephant and a monkey had a quarrel.

The elephant was proud because he was so strong. "Look how big and strong I am!" he said. "I can pull a tree down, can you?"

Now the monkey was proud because he was so quick. "Look how fast I can run and climb!" he said. "Can you climb a tree?"

At last they went to a wise old owl. "We cannot agree," they said. "Tell us what you think

about it. Which is better—to be strong, or to be quick?”

The owl said to them, “Do just as I tell you, and then I shall find out which is better. Do you see that great fruit tree across the river? Go and pick the fruit and bring it to me.”

So the elephant and the monkey went to the river, but the water was swift and the monkey was afraid.

“Get on my back,” said the elephant proudly. “I shall carry you. I am big and strong, and I am not afraid to swim across a swift river.”

Soon they get to the other bank. There stood the tree. It was so tall that the fruit hung high above them.

The elephant tried to^① break the tree down^②, but it was too strong. He tried to reach the fruit with his trunk, but it was too high.

“Wait a minute^③, I can climb,” said the monkey proudly. He ran quickly up the tree, and threw the rich, ripe fruit to the ground. The elephant put it in his big mouth.

Then they crossed the river again, and gave the owl some of the fruit they had picked. “Now,” they said, “which is better—to be strong, or to be quick?”

"Can anyone tell which is better?" asked the owl. "Neither of you could get the fruit alone. It took both the elephant's strength and the monkey's quickness to get it."

注 释

- ① try to 设法, 试图
- ② break down 打破, 毁掉, 这里是拔掉的意思。
- ③ wait a minute 等一会儿

5. THE FIRST MONEY MARK TWIN EARNED

Mark Twain was asked one day if he could remember the first money he ever earned.

He thought a long time before answering, and then said, "Yes, it was at school. I can remember everything about it. Schoolboys in those days did not respect their teachers and did not take good care of school property. They often damaged their desks. There was a rule in our school that any boy who damaged his desk with a pencil or a knife would be beaten in front of the whole school, or would have to pay five dollars.