当代英语阅读进阶(Book Ⅱ)

车轮上的学校

Schoolhouse-on-wheels

• 王黎 高淑玲 闫晓辉



西安电子科技大学出版社

□当代英语阅读进阶(Book II)

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内容简介

《当代英语阅读进阶》是按语言难易程度划分的英语系列阅读丛书,共6册。丛书的目的在于帮助读者通过大量阅读提高英语阅读理解和综合运用能力。丛书共选短文306篇,题材广泛,语言规范,内容生动有趣。第1、1册,第1、N册,第1、N册,第1、H册分别相当于初级、中级和高级阶段,大致适合于中学,大学一、二年级,大学高年级和研究生阶段。

本书是丛书的第 I 册。书中收入有关人文地理、自然环境、文学艺术、卫生保健、异域食趣、神话传说、宗教故事、科技教育等不同题材的短文 60 篇。每篇短文后附有常用、惯用词组,注释,阅读理解问题和参考译文,以便学生自学参考。本书为初级英语阅读,可供高中学生和大学一年级学生以及具有同等水平的英语自学者阅读使用。借助于注释、提问和译文,读者不仅可以提高阅读理解能力,而且可以提高英语写作、口头表达和翻译能力。

编者的话

《当代英语阅读进阶》是一套分级阅读丛书。它的目标在于帮助读者通过大量阅读提高其英语综合运用能力,特别是阅读、写作、口语和翻译能力。这套丛书从以下几个方面促进这一目标的实现:

- 一、给读者提供一个较理想的、真实的语言环境。该书选文题材广泛,内容丰富、反映时代气息。丛书内容涉及人文社会、自然环境、政治经济、文化艺术、体育文娱、医疗保健、高新科技等各个方面,既反映了英语国家的历史传统和文化背景,又包括了当代科学技术的最新发展和应用前景;同时,还适当选入了反映中国传统文化和当代发展的文章。这样就给读者提供了一个和自己的生活、学习、工作和科学研究有密切关系的、比较真实的语言环境,使读者能够在没有心理压力的情况下比较轻松自然地进行阅读,在吸收语言的同时也学习进行中外双向交流所必需的文化背景知识,从而增加读者的阅读兴趣和实际效果。
- 二、给读者提供既地道规范又生动活泼的当代英语。《进阶》取材于英语国家当代有影响的报刊杂志、文学读物、科技报道、商业信函及各种优秀教材;包括了记叙、说明、描写、议论等各种体裁。不仅有较正式的书面语体,还有非正式的口语语体。这样使读者接触到的是富有时代气息的、比较实用的语言形式,从而学到地道规范、恰当得体的当代英语,进而提高对英语的感悟能力、理解能力和表达能力。

三、突出英语常用、惯用词及词组。在英语学习的各个阶段,

- 1 -

若能掌握英语常用词的搭配和使用,将有效地提高英语理解能力和表达能力。基于这一考虑,《进阶》在每篇文章之后,都列出了文章中所出现的全部常用、惯用词组及释义。对于反复出现的词组和习语,也尽量重复列出。全书共列出这样的词语 2 300 余条,其目的在于通过多次重复,增强记忆,使读者能够熟练地掌握最常用词组和习惯用语。

四、课后设问,启发思考,加深理解。《进阶》在每篇文章之后,都编有与文章内容相关的问题。读者通过口头或书面回答这些问题,或回忆文章内容细节,或推断作者观点、态度,或归纳主题思想,从而增强理解,加深记忆,同时也提高了英语思维与表达能力。

五、注释翔实、明晰,译文通顺达意。《进阶》对原文中的难词、难句及所涉及的文化背景知识均做了翔实明确的注释,每篇文章都配有参考译文,译文力求忠实原文,质朴无华,以利读者自学参考。这样不仅有助于提高阅读理解能力,而且通过对照译文,促进翻译能力的提高。

《进阶》共包括 306 篇文章,按其篇幅长短,内容深浅和语言难度分为 6 册。第 I、I 册,第 II、II 册和第 V、II 册分别相当于初级、中级和高级阶段,大致适合于中学,大学一、二年级,大学高年级和研究生阶段的学生和具有同等水平的英语学习者的阅读需要。读者可根据自己的程度选择某一阶段的两册使用。建议最好阅读全书,熟记所有的常用、惯用词语,认真做练习回答问题,这套由浅入深、生动有趣、地道规范的当代英语阅读丛书将会帮助您从整体上提高自己的阅读能力、写作能力、口语表达能力和翻译能力,使自己的英语水平跨上一个新台阶。

愿《进阶》带您走进一个较理想的英语语言环境,为您开辟一

个新的英语世界,帮助您成为既有科学知识,又有较强的英语交际能力的 21 世纪人才。

本书在编写过程中,参阅了大量书刊并选编了其中的一些文章,在此对这些文章的作者表示最衷心的感谢。本书的出版得到 西安电子科技大学出版社的同志,特别是霍小齐同志的热情支持 和帮助,我们表示最诚挚的谢意。

> 编 者 1998年1月 于西北大学

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School house-on-wheels

车轮上的学校

Driving a large truck over mountain roads is not the usual way that a schoolteacher begins her day—especially if she is a preschool teacher. But Mrs. Beth Miller does this five days every week. Her unusual schoolhouse-on-wheels is really a large truck. The back of the truck has been made into a classroom in order to carry the advantages of modern education to remote areas of the state of West Virginia. In many rural areas of this state it is impossible for small children to go to regular schools because of the isolation caused by the many hills and valleys of Appalachians.

The purpose of the schoolhouse-on-wheels project is to develop basic skills and social behavior in children three to five years of age. This is accomplished throught games, exercises, toys, and simple handicrafts. The schoolhouse-on-wheels concept also teaches the young children to recognize 300 to 400 words on the printed page. This is a great advantage in helping the pupils to learn to read when they begin regular school. In its three-year history the project has

helped about 350 children in an area composed of five counties. an area of 20,000 square kilometers⁵.

The schoolhouse-on-wheels is part of the Appalachian Educational Laboratory, a research effort paid for by the federal government. Besides the mobile classroom, other parts of the program include lessons by television and visits to the homes of the students. The technique is very effective, and one teacher can do the work of seven in a traditional educational system. As a result the program costs about 50% less than the regular kindergarten⁶.

All these advantages of the schoolhouse-on-wheels have made both parents and school officials happy. West Virginia plans to increase the program and to include it in the public school system so that more than 4,500 preschool children can have this valuable learning experience.

常用、惯用词组

1. be composed of 由…组成
2. pay for 付款
3. as a result 结果是
4. visit to the homes of the students 对学生进行家访
5. so that 以便…

注 释

- 1. preschool ['pri:sku:l] n. 幼儿园
- 2. rural ['ruərəl] adj. 农村的
- 3. Appalachians [ˌæpəˈleitʃjənz] n. 阿巴拉契亚山脉(北美洲)

Appalachian [ˌæpəˈleitʃiən] adj. 阿巴拉契亚山脉的

- 4. accomplish [əˈkəmpliʃ] v. 完成
- 5. In its ··· square kilometers. 这个句子中两个"an area"表达同一地区,即这一地区由 5 个县组成,面积为 2 万平方公里。
- 6. kindergarten ['kindəˌgaːtn] n. 幼儿园

Comprehension Questions

- 1. How does Mrs. Beth Miller begin her day?
- 2. What is her unusual schoolhouse-on-wheels?
- 3. Why is it impossible for small children in many places of West Virginia to go to regular schools?
- 4. What is the purpose of the schoolhouse-on-wheels?
- 5. How to fulfill the purpose?
- 6. Why do they teach children to recognize 300 to 400 words?
- 7. How long has this project practised?
- 8. What are the other parts of the program?
- 9. How do we know this technique is very effective?
- 10. What does West Virginia plan to do?

参考译文

车轮上的学校

道 常老师们,尤其是幼儿园的老师都不是以开着大卡车行进在 山区公路上开始她们一天的生活的。可是,贝思·米勒太太 一周五天,天天都如此。她那不同寻常的车轮上学校其实是一辆 大卡车,车厢后部被改造成教室。这样就可以把现代教育的优越 性传播到西弗吉尼亚州的偏远地区。这里由于有阿巴拉契亚山脉中的丛丛山峰和峡谷,许多乡村地处偏远,交通不便,使得儿童 们不可能去正规学校上学。

车轮上的学校这一项目的目的是培养 3 至 5 岁儿童的基本技能和社交行为。这一目的是通过游戏、锻炼、玩具和简单手工制作等活动来实现的。车轮上学校的方针也包括教会幼儿认识 300 至 400 个印刷单词,这对于帮助孩子们上正规学校后学习阅读大有好处。这一教育项目实施 3 年来,已经帮助了有 5 个县,2 万平方公里区域中的大约 350 个儿童。

车轮上学校是受联邦政府资助的阿巴拉契亚教育研究所研究项目的一部分。除汽车教室之外,这一项目还包括电视教学及家访。这一方法效果非常好。一个教师完成的工作量相当于传统教育体制下7个教师的工作量。因此,这一项目的费用大约比正规幼儿园少50%。

车轮上学校的这些优点使得家长和学校管理机构人员都很满意。西弗吉尼亚州计划要扩大这一项目并把它纳入公立学校体制中,这样,4500多名学龄前儿童就可以受惠于这种颇有价值的教学方法。

2

Why Do We Celebrate the New Year?

人们为什么要庆贺新年?

ne of the oldest customs1 of mankind is the celebration of the new year. Some people say the Chinese were the first to start it, others believe it was the ancient Germans, and still others claim³ it was the Romans. We know that the Chinese have always had a great festival4 at the time of their new year which comes later than ours. The Chinese new year festival last several days. The ancient Germans established⁵ a new year festival because of the changing seasons. The German winter began about the middle of November. This was the time when they gathered the harvest, because everybody came together at this time for the happy occasion6, and because it meant they would have a period of rest from work afterwards. They would make merry and have a great holiday. Even though it was November, they considered it the beginning of the new year! When the Romans conquered Europe, they changed this time of celebration to the first of January. From then the coming of the new year was a symbol of a new life with new hope for the