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麦格劳-希尔

英语阅读

初 中 二 年 级

原 著 / Merrill

中文版主编 / 刘道义

Merrill Reading
Skilltext Series



長 春 出 版 社
CHANGCHUN PUBLISHING HOUSE



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出版说明

阅读是帮助学生提高英语水平最有效的方法。我们一直在寻找一套使学生喜欢的英语阅读读物。由美国著名教育家 Merrill 编著、世界著名教育出版公司麦格劳-希尔出版公司出版的这套中小学生学习英语阅读,以巧妙的编排手法、妙趣横生的阅读文章,在众多英语阅读读物中独占鳌头,销售量达 3500 万册之多,被誉为第一阅读。为提高中小学生的英语水平,培养学生的学习和能力,我们引进了这套英语阅读,并请国内一流的英语专家根据教育部新课程标准进行编译。

该套书具有以下几个突出的特点:

一、这套书以充满童趣的画面,人性化的版式,醒目的标题,生动有趣的文章,优美流畅的文字,对学生有一种魔力,可使学生轻松学英语。真正体现寓教于乐,是地道的素质教育读物。

二、编写水平高。这套书作者谙熟学生的阅读心理,选材注重科学性、知识性、时代性和实用性的统一。内容包括动植物、运动、生活、学校、历史、高科技等,全是学生日常接触、熟悉和喜爱的题材。每书合起来是一个完整的故事,分开来又独立成篇,篇篇生动有趣,令人爱不释手。整套书是一个有机的整体,由浅入深,循序渐进,显示了作者的非凡功底和高超的编写水平。

三、全面提高学生的学习能力和综合素质。在文章中频繁出现学生平时学习中易混的词语、语法、语音等,以巩固所学知识;还加有人物分析、因果关系分析、归纳中心思想、预言结果等,以提高听说读写技能。

四、在保留原书本来面貌的基础上,按照新课程标准,根据中国学生的特点,对每篇文章进行注释和难句释译,补充大量练习,方便学生使用。

五、优秀的评价系统方便老师和家长检查学生的成绩和进步,书后设有测试卷以检查学生的学习成果。

全套书共 9 册。每书自成体系。小学分 4 册,分别为小学三年、四年、五年、六年;中学分 5 册,分别为初中一年、初中二年、初中三年、高中一年、高中二年。

这套畅销全球的英语阅读,以其寓教于乐的教育理念,一流的编写水平,高妙的习题设计,可使学生在快乐中增长知识,提高能力,是中小学生学习英语不可多得的英语读物。

由于我们的能力、学识有限,难免出现疏漏及不妥之处,敬请读者批评指正。

编者
2003 年 8 月



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Cat Bath

Why would a cat hide from its owner?

¹ “Rick, how would you like to help your good friend give Herbie a bath?” Tracy said. “That dumb cat ran into ^① a skunk, ^② and he smells awful!”

² “I’ll be right there,” Rick answered and hung up the phone ^③.

³ When Rick arrived, Tracy said, “Use one hand to hold your nose. You can help me wash Herbie with the other one.” Then she called, “Here, Herbie!” and a green-eyed cat came bounding ^④ out from the den ^⑤.

⁴ “We’d better do this in the basement ^⑥,” Tracy said, “because Herbie just hates W-A-T-E-R.” She carried him down the steps and put him on the floor. Then she dumped some cat shampoo ^⑦ in the sink ^⑧. As soon as Tracy turned the faucet ^⑨ handle, Herbie scrambled ^⑩ across the floor. He jumped into a pile of dirty clothes.

⁵ When Tracy reached in to get him, Herbie ran out of the other side. He dashed up the stairs. “Help me catch him, Rick!” Tracy cried.

⁶ Rick whirled ^⑪ around and ran up the stairs behind Tracy. Rick and Tracy found Herbie hiding next to the refrigerator. Then they chased him into the broom closet.

⁷ “Gotcha!” Tracy said as she caught Herbie. They all headed for ^⑫ the basement.

⁸ “We won’t forget to close the door this time,” Rick said, pulling it shut behind him.

⁹ “Oh, no!” Tracy shouted as she started downstairs. “We forgot something even worse than that!”

¹⁰ There at the foot of the stairs was a huge soap puddle. A stream of water flowed over the sink.

¹¹ “We forgot to turn off the water!” Rick cried, his eyes wide with surprise.

¹² “We’ve got two messes to clean up now,” Tracy moaned. “Let’s get busy!”



- ① run into someone or something 撞上某人或某物
- ② skunk [skʌŋk] n 臭鼬
- ③ hang up the phone 挂掉电话
- ④ bound [baʊnd; baʊnd] v 蹦着跑; 蹿
- ⑤ den [den; den] n 兽穴; 窝
- ⑥ basement ['beɪsmənt; 'besmənt] n 地下室
- ⑦ shampoo [ʃæm'puː; ʃæm'pu] n 洗发水; 香波
- ⑧ sink [sɪŋk] n 洗涤槽
- ⑨ faucet ['fɔːsɪt; 'fɒsɪt] n 龙头
- ⑩ scramble ['skræmbəl] v 攀登; 爬
- ⑪ whirl [wɜːl; hwɜːl] v 眩晕; 使某人某物沿某方向迅速进行
- ⑫ head for something 移向某物, 向某方向前进

Knowing the Words

A. Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. jumping _____ (Par. 3)
2. pipe that water comes out of _____ (Par. 4)
3. ran quickly _____ (Par. 4)
4. turned quickly _____ (Par. 6)
5. a cupboard into the wall of a room _____ (Par. 6)
6. go towards something _____ (Par. 7)

B. Some words sound alike but have different spellings and meanings. Write the word with the correct meaning to complete each sentence below.

1. Those _____ (stares, stairs) lead to the basement.
2. Please _____ (close , clothes) the garage door.

Working with Words

Circle the correct word in () and write it in the blank .

1. Do you get _____ (soup , soap) in your eyes when you wash?
2. They _____ (caught , cat) the butterfly in a net.
3. I'll need a _____ (broom , brim) to clean up this powder.
4. Can you _____ (rich, reach) that bottle of shampoo?

Reading and Thinking

1. Check the answer that tells what the story is mainly about.

- _____ a pile of dirty clothes
_____ a bath for Herbie
_____ two messes

2. Put a check beside something that was probably in Tracy's basement.

- _____ a car
_____ a washing machine

_____ a mailbox

3. Put a check beside the two answers that tell where Herbie hid.

- _____ in the living room
_____ in the pile of dirty clothes
_____ beside the refrigerator

4. Check the answer that why Herbie need a bath.

- _____ It ran into a skunk and smells awful.
_____ It took a shower every day.
_____ The bath will make Tracy happy.

5. Herbie ran away because

- _____ he saw a big mouse.
_____ he just wanted to play with Rick and Tracy.
_____ he was afraid of water.

6. We forgot something even worse means _____

- _____ the faucet handle was still open.
_____ to wash the pile of dirty clothes.
_____ to shut the door.

Expressing Yourself

Read the passage again , choose one of the topics to write about.

1. What did Tracy mean when she said that there were two messes to clean?

2. How do you think Rick and Tracy will clean the basement floor?



Ready to Roll

What could you do with a pair of roller skates that no longer fit?

¹ One Saturday afternoon Tracy and her friend Elsa decided to roller skate to City Park. “Come in and put on your skates,” Tracy said when Elsa arrived at her house. Elsa took off her sneakers and loosened ^① the laces of her skates.

² “Oof!” she grunted ^② as she tried to squeeze her foot into a skate. “Either my skates have shrunk ^③, or my feet have grown! What good is a pair of skates if they don’t fit?”

³ “Hey, I’ve got an idea!” Tracy said. “If Mr. Levi will give us a board from his lumber pile, ^④ we can take your skate wheels off and....”

⁴ “...Build a skateboard!” Elsa broke in. ^⑤ “That’s a great idea!”

⁵ Elsa put on her sneakers, and the two of them hurried down the street to explain their idea to Mr. Levi. Mr. Levi smiled and said, “I’ve got just what you need.” He pulled a board from beneath ^⑥ a pile. “This was part of Skipper’s old doghouse,” he said.

⁶ “Thanks, Mr. Levi!” the girls said. Then they raced back to Tracy’s house.

⁷ Elsa removed her skate wheels with a screwdriver ^⑦. Tracy sanded some splinters ^⑧ off the

board. Then they used nails ^⑨ to make holes for the screws. Once the wheels were attached ^⑩, Elsa was ready to roll. “It fits perfectly,” she said as she put one foot on the skateboard.

⁸ While Tracy put on her skates, Elsa set the skateboard on the sidewalk. Then she placed her left foot on top and pushed with her right. “It works!” Elsa yelled as she traveled down the street. ^⑪

⁹ “Wait for me!” Tracy called.

¹⁰ “You know what I like best about this skateboard?” Elsa said when Tracy caught up. “It will always be a perfect fit, no matter how much my feet grow!”

① loosen [ˈluːsn; lʊsn] v 变松; 放松

② grunt [grʌnt] v 咕噜着或哼哼着说

③ shrink [ʃrɪŋk] v 收缩, 缩小

④ lumber pile 木料堆

⑤ break in 打断(说话)

⑥ beneath [brˈniːθ; brˈniθ] prep 在……下方, 在……底下

⑦ screwdriver [ˈskruːdrɑːvə; ˈskrudrɑːvə] n 螺丝刀

⑧ splinter [ˈsplɪntə(r); ˈsplɪntə] n (木头或金属)的碎片

⑨ nail [neɪl; nel] n 钉子; 指(趾甲)

⑩ attach [əˈtætʃ] v 将某物系、缚、附在另一物上

⑪ travel down the street 沿着街道移动



Knowing the Words

A. Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. tennis shoes _____ (Par.1)
2. made less tight _____ (Par.1)
3. strings used for tying _____ (Par.1)
4. under _____ (Par. 5)
5. tiny pieces of wood _____ (Par.7)

B. Check the meaning that can explain the underlined word in each sentence.

1. Roll the ball across the floor.
A. a kind of bread
B. move by turning
C. a small loaf for one person, filled with stated food.
D. make a long sound
2. Did you hurt your foot?
A. part of the body
B. twelve inches
C. to pay a bill
D. step
3. I have sand in my shoe.
A. to make smooth
B. to plan to believe in its success
C. put sand on
D. tiny bits of stone

Working with Words

An 's at the end of a word may be used to show that something belongs to someone. Add 's to each name below and write the new word in the correct blank.

Mr.Levi Skipper Elsa Tracy

1. _____lumber
2. _____skateboard
3. _____doghouse
4. _____house

Reading and Thinking

A. Number the sentences to show the order in which

things happened.

- () a.Elsa rolled down the street on her skateboard.
- () b.Mr. Levi gave the girls a piece of wood.
- () c.Elsa discovered that her skates didn't fit.
- () d.The girls attached the skate wheels to the board.

B. Choose the best answer.

- () 1. Why Elsa couldn't get her skates on?
A. Her feet had grown.
B. Her skates had shrunk.
C. Her socks were too thick.
D. The skateboard didn't work.
- () 2. What's Mr. Levi like?
A. He's selfish.
B. He is grouchy.
C. He's friendly and helpful.
D. He's shy and greedy.
- () 3. Which one is right?
A. They both had laces.
B. They both had wheels and screws.
C. They both were made of wood.
D. They both had board.
- () 4. What did Elsa think of making a skateboard?
A. She thought that's impossible.
B. She was upset to hear the news.
C. She was angry with the idea.
D. She agreed to make a skateboard.

Expressing Yourself

Read the whole passage carefully again, please use your own words to write how Tracy and Elsa made a skateboard one Saturday afternoon.



Leave It to Rags

Read to find out how Tracy meets her new neighbors.

¹ Tracy watched the moving van turn the corner. “I wonder if the new family will have kids my age,”^① she thought. Tracy sat down in a chair close to the window so she could watch the movers. Suddenly there was a loud crash in the alley^②. Tracy hurried outside to see what was making all the racket^③.

² When she reached the alley, she found an empty garbage can lying on its side. Just then a scared puppy^④ poked^⑤ its head out from behind the can.

³ “Where’d you come from?” Tracy asked. She reached for the tags attached to the dog’s collar. “My name is Rags,” she read, “10 South Street, Oak Hill. That’s nearly a hundred miles from here!” she exclaimed. “I’ll get Mom and Dad to phone your owners,” Tracy said. She picked up the garbage can. Then she took the pup into her backyard and gave him a bowl of water.

⁴ Tracy and Rags were playing with a rubber ball when a boy and girl appeared at the fence. “Hi, my name’s Lindsay, and this is my brother, Dale,” the

girl said. “We’ve just moved here from Oak Hill. It looks as if you found our dog.”

⁵ “Is Rags your dog? That’s great! Now we won’t have to try to track down^⑥ the owners in Oak Hill. I just found him out by the garbage can. He was really scared,” Tracy said.

⁶ “He must have slipped^⑦ out of the door when the movers carried the furniture in, but nobody noticed,” Lindsay said.

⁷ “I guess he couldn’t wait to go exploring,” Tracy chuckled. “My name is Tracy. I’m your new neighbor.”

⁸ “Well, we had hoped to find some friends of our age,” Dale said, “Leave it to Rags to find one for us!”

① I wonder if the new family will have kids of my age.
我想知道新来那家有没有和我一样大的孩子。

② alley [ˈæli] *n* 胡同,小巷

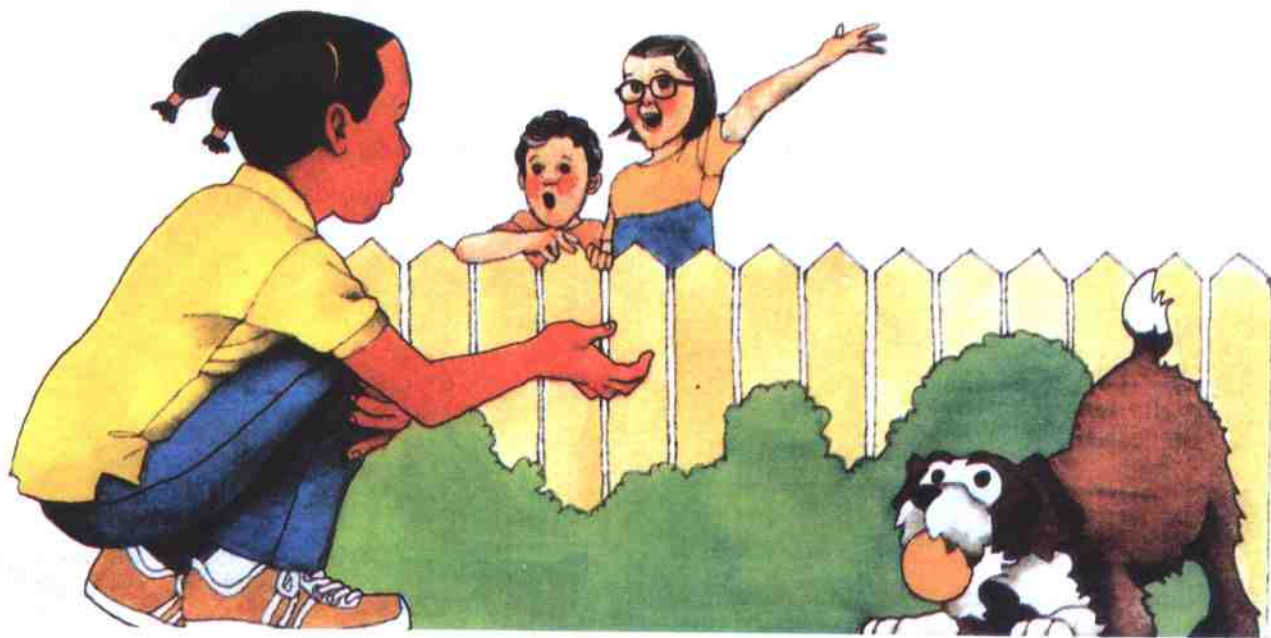
③ racket [ˈrækt] *n* 喧嚷;吵闹

④ puppy(also pup) [ˈpʌpi] *n* 小狗;幼犬

⑤ poke [pəʊk; pɒk] *v* 戳;伸(头等);捉弄

⑥ track down 经过追踪或搜索发现(某人某物)

⑦ slip [slɪp] *v* 溜走



Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

- 1. large truck _____ (Par.1)
- 2. noise _____ (Par.1)
- 3. a young dog _____ (Par.2)
- 4. to stretch out your hand _____ (Par.3)
- 5. to find someone by hunting or seaching _____ (Par.5)

Learning to Study

A table of contents is on one of the first pages in a book. It shows the chapters that are in the book and on what page each one begins. Use the table of contents below to answer the questions.

All about the dogs

Table of contents

Kinds of Dogs.....1

Dogs as Pets.....21

Caring for Your Dog.....30

Feeding Your Dog.....45

- 1. How many chapters are in the book?

- 2. What is the first chapter called?

- 3. On what page does "Dogs as Pets" begin?

Reading and Thinking

A. Choose the right answer.

- ()1. What is the story mainly about?
 - A. meeting new neighbors
 - B. watching movers
 - C. noises in the alley

- ()2. What did you learn about Tracy from the passage?
 - A. She does not like dogs.
 - B. She is a good neighbor.
 - C. She likes to meet people.
- ()3. What does "have kids my age" mean?
 - A. kids in the periods of my life
 - B. have the same period of my time in history
 - C. kids have the same age with me
- ()4. How did Rags come to Tracy's house?
 - A. Dale and Lindsay brought it there.
 - B. He moved quietly out of the door without others' notice.
 - C. It was invited to the house.
- ()5. How far had Lindsay and Dale moved from their old home?
 - A. For a long time.
 - B. They've just moved here.
 - C. After Tracy's family moved here.

B. Write T or F.

- ()1. Dale knocked the garbage can over.
- ()2. Tracy could easily walk to Oak Hill.
- ()3. Tracy thought Rags was lost.
- ()4. Tracy wanted to keep Rags.

Expressing Yourself

Write a paragraph about how Tracy found Rags.

Dinner for Rags

Have you ever worried about something and then found out things were not as bad as they seemed?

¹ Since they had moved, Lindsay and Dale had been quite busy. They had unpacked ^① all of their things and had made lots of new friends.

² Lindsay and Dale were very happy in their new neighborhood. Only one thing troubled them. Even though he seemed to be healthy, Rags had not been eating the food they put out for him each day. Lindsay and Dale tried everything to get him to eat. They bought a different kind of food. ^② They hid treats in the middle of the food. They even pretended ^③ they were going to eat his food if he didn't. But nothing worked.

³ Then Lindsay and Dale went to Tracy about their problem. She listened and thought for a minute. Then she snapped ^④ her fingers, smiled, and said, "Follow me. I think I know what is going on." Tracy led Lindsay and Dale to the house on the corner of the block. There, a few feet in front of them, stood a small tan ^⑤ dog and Rags sharing a bowl of dog food.

⁴ "That is Ruffy," Tracy said, pointing to the tan dog. "He belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Breen." Just then two people came to the back door and started talking to the dogs. Rags wagged ^⑥ his tail and barked as if he were talking to the Breens.

⁵ When Rags saw Lindsay and Dale, he ran over to them. "He just won't stay in our yard when we tell him to," Lindsay said to Mr. and Mrs. Breen. "I don't know how we'll ever get him to obey us."

⁶ Tracy said, "The Breens used to train dogs. Maybe they'll give you some helpful advice."



⁷ "We'll do better than that," Mr. Breen said. "We'll help you train ^⑦ this smart little pup. If you're interested, we can start Monday."

⁸ "That's great!" Lindsay and Dale said eagerly ^⑧. "Thanks!" Then they took Rags home to tell their parents the good news.

① unpack [ˌʌnˈpæk] v 打开(包装)取出,由(某物)中取出

② a different kind of food 一种不同种类的食物

③ pretend [prɪˈtend; priˈtend] v 假装

④ snap [snæp] v (猛)咬

⑤ tan [tæn] n 黄褐色的

⑥ wag [wæg; wæg] v 摆动

⑦ train [treɪn; tren] v 培训,训练(动物)

⑧ eagerly [ˈiːgə(r)li; ˈigə-li] adv 热切地

Knowing the Words

A. Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. worried _____ (Par.2)
2. special things _____ (Par.2)
3. use something together with someone else _____ (Par.3)
4. move from side to side _____ (Par.4)
5. do someone tells you to do _____ (Par.5)
6. teach _____ (Par.6)

B. Match each word from the first list with its abbreviation from the second list .

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| 1. _____ minute | A. ft. |
| 2. _____ Monday | B. min. |
| 3. _____ feet | C. Mon. |

C. Some words are spelled the same but have different meanings. For example, yard can mean “the land around a building” or “thirty-six inches”. Look at the list of words below. For each pair of sentences, one word from the list will correctly complete both. Choose the correct word to fill in the blank for each pair of sentences.

bark bowl can

1. I like to _____ with my friends .
I poured cereal and milk into my favorite _____.
2. Floppy doesn't _____ at people she knows.
The tree _____ was bumpy.
3. Kevin _____ play the piano.
The soup _____ was empty.

Reading and Thinking

Words such as *he*, *she*, *you*, *it*, *we* and *they* are used in place of other words. Read these sentences. *Rags is a puppy . He is owned by Lindsay and Dale.*

Instead of repeating the name *Rags* in the second sentence, *he* is used in the place of *Rags*.

Read each set of sentences below. Fill in each blank.

1. Lindsay told Rags to sit. She used a firm voice.
She stands for _____.
2. Lindsay and Dale are training Rags. They enjoy the work.
They stands for _____.
3. The collar wasn't very heavy. It was made for a puppy.
It stands for _____.

Learning to Study

Number each list of words below in alphabetical order.

1. _____ problem _____ pretend _____ pride
2. _____ happy _____ him _____ house
3. _____ treats _____ tried _____ train
4. _____ ran _____ Rags _____ rain

Expressing Yourself

1. Why Rags was not eating his food home?

2. Do you know how to train dogs? Write down something that you know.

Training Time

Read to find out about a lesson for Rags.

¹ Rags seemed to know that something special was going to happen. He was more playful than usual. ² As the children walked down the block, they could barely ³ hold on to Rags. One minute he tried to run between Dale's legs. The next minute he was trying to run up the steps of a new house.

² The Breens were waiting for Lindsay and Dale when they arrived. They began to tell Lindsay and Dale how they could train Rags. The children listened carefully. "First you will give him a command," ⁴ Mr. Breen told them. "When he obeys, you will reward ⁵ him with praise ⁶ and a pat on the head. When he doesn't obey, you must say no in a firm voice ⁷."

³ Mrs. Breen went on to explain that the first thing they taught the dogs was to sit.

⁴ "That sounds good," Dale said. "We'd like to start with something simple ⁸."

⁵ Lindsay and Dale found out quickly that no trick was going to be simple. They took turns telling Rags to sit. Every time they showed Rags how, he

thought they wanted to play. He would jump up and start to lick ⁹ them. Then he would bark as if to say "Let's have fun!"

⁶ The children were very patient and kept trying. After what seemed like hours, Rags finally caught on. Lindsay and Dale patted Rags on the head. They told him what a smart dog he was. By this time the children were very tired, but Rags was still lively. "What would you like to teach him next?" Mrs. Breen asked.

⁷ "Would it be all right if we went home and rested?" Dale said as he sat down, looking very tired. "I think we're going to need a lot more energy ¹⁰ before we begin the next trick."

⁸ Everyone laughed when Rags jumped into Dale's lap ¹¹ as if begging to play some more.

① more playful than usual 比平时更爱嬉戏

② barely ['beə(r)li; 'berli] adv 几乎没有, 仅仅

③ hold on to sb./sth. 抓住或握住某人

④ give sb. a command 下命令

⑤ reward [rɪ'wɔ:d; rɪ'wɔ:rd] v 奖赏某人; 给某人报酬

⑥ praise [preɪz; prez] n 赞扬; 称赞

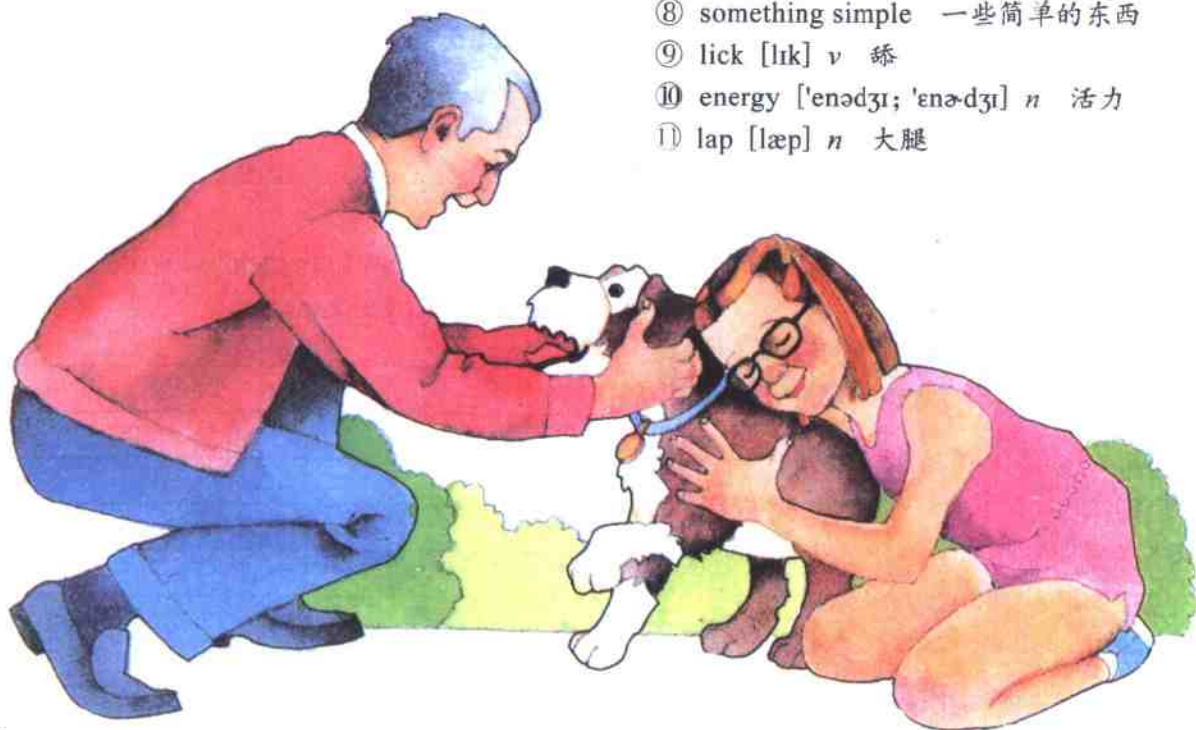
⑦ in a firm voice 以坚定的口吻说

⑧ something simple 一些简单的东西

⑨ lick [lɪk] v 舔

⑩ energy ['enədʒi; 'enə-dʒi] n 活力

⑪ lap [læp] n 大腿



Knowing the Words

A. Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. something nice that is said

_____ (Par. 2)

2. an order _____ (Par. 2)

3. waiting without getting upset _____ (Par. 6)

4. the ability to do a lot without being tired

_____ (Par. 7)

B. Words that mean the same, or nearly the same, are called synonyms. Circle the pair of synonyms in each row.

1. command ask know order

2. firm bright shy smart

Reading and Thinking

Choose the right answer to each question.

() 1. What is the topic of this story?

- A. Getting tired.
- B. A long afternoon.
- C. How to train a dog.
- D. Praise and pat.

() 2. What people need to do when training a puppy?

- A. Give a command and praise the pup.
- B. Yell loudly.
- C. Give up.
- D. Give a different kind of food.

() 3. What did the children do when Rags obeyed their command?

- A. Went home and rested.
- B. Patted on its head and told him what a smart dog it was.
- C. Laughed at Rags.
- D. Tried to run.

() 4. Which of the following sentences is true?

- A. Puppies can talk and dance.
- B. Puppies can bark and be trained.

C. Puppies can understand bird's words.

D. Puppies can laugh and beg.

Learning to Study

At the top of each page in a dictionary are two words in dark print called guide words. They can help you find other words in dictionary. The first guide word tells what the first word is on the page. The second guide word tells what the last word is on the page.

The words in a dictionary are listed in alphabetical order. To find a word, decide if it comes in alphabetical order between the guide words on the page. If it does, the word will be on that page. Check each word that could be found between these guide words.

scatter/scout

1. scramble 2. scrub 3. scent

4. scratch 5. science 6. scissors

Expressing Yourself

Did Rags mean to misbehave? Explain your answer.
