

大学英语阶梯阅读系列教程

Band 2

郭浩儒 朱国振 主编

English Reading through Newspapers

报刊选读

附注释、练习、答案



田华 选编

北京航空航天大学出版社

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内容简介

本书从 USA Today, The Times, Time, China Daily 等报刊中选材,分 14 个专题单元向读者展示社会生活的方方面面,并能让读者了解和熟悉英文报刊的行文特点。

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前 言

在进入新世纪的时候,大学生们无不在通过各种途径提高英语水平,以使自己拥有一个得心应手的交际工具,在激烈的人才竞争中占据有利位置。强烈的学习欲望应该令人称道,但也容易出现饥不择食、把别人成功的方法不加分析地照搬过来,或是人云亦云,受一些商业广告的诱惑,尝试那些似乎是有效的作法。这样做,其学习成效之低犹如寒流到来,学习愿望也会一下子降到零度。这的确令人十分遗憾。究其原因,恐怕是浮躁的学习心态使然。

语言知识的学习是一个认知过程,语言技能的掌握是一个在大量实践活动中一点一滴积累的过程。指导学习活动的方法只有符合了语言能力形成的规律才会发生作用。既然语言能力的形成是个相对漫长的过程,因而不能将提高英语水平寄希望于什么“捷径”或“速成”上。学好一种语言,非得下苦功不可,学好英语除了要多听、多说外,还要大量阅读。在阅读中,可以巩固课堂里学过的知识;可以扩大眼界;可以实践各种各样的阅读技巧;可以熟悉了解西方文化、社会习俗、风土人情、最新科技动态;可以了解英语各种文体的写作方法……一句话,你可以在轻松自然的状态下吸收语言,获得乐趣。何乐而不为!

在大学阶段,教师的主导作用逐渐转化为指导作用,语言环境和学习材料的重要性相对上升,学习者的能动性将发挥很大的作用。英语教学将从单纯课堂教学的模式,转化为大学英语课堂教学与学生课外自主学习相结合的双渠道模式。北京航空航天大学面向 21 世纪,在双渠道教学模式方面进行了探索和实践,要求学生每月读一本外语书,并且以不同方式进行检查。实践证明这不仅可行,而且得到学生的认同。

基于上述认识,我们组织编写了这套阶梯阅读系列教程。由学生根据个人兴趣爱好选读。由于不是指令性阅读,在很大程度上要靠阅读材料本身能够吸引学生。因此每一级读物有若干本,使学生有选择余地。在每一级读物中,有经典名著的简写本,有英美短篇小说选,有介绍最新科技的科技荟萃,有汇集西方社会热门话题的时文选读。此外,由于课外阅读的目的是巩固扩展语言知识,实践阅读技巧,熟悉了解西方文化,因此我们每四五千字设计了一个练习。练习分为内容理解和语言知识两部分,以主观题为主,题型多样。在适当的时候,有的书还要配上磁带,把文字阅读和有声阅读结合起来。

编 者

1999年6月于北京航空航天大学

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Unit 1 Natural Disaster — Tornado(龙卷风、飓风)

Passage 1

Oklahoma(俄克拉荷马) **surveying tornado devastation**(毁坏、破坏)

OKLAHOMA CITY (Agencies via Xinhua 新华通讯社) — Oklahomans spend another severe day yesterday surveying losses from a devastating series of tornadoes which killed at least 43 people in the US heartland.

Governor Frank Keating, who spent much of Tuesday surveying ripped (撕开、撕裂) and shattered (成为碎片) neighbourhoods around Oklahoma City, was planning visits to several smaller, outlying towns which appeared to have been almost wiped off (清除) the map by Monday's furious (猛烈的) storms.

In Mulhall, to the north, and Bridge Creek, to the east, shocked townsfolk picked their way through the rubble (碎石、瓦砾) of schools, markets, and houses looking for anything to recover. One teacher, surveying what had once been her mathematics classroom, choked (哽咽) back the tears.

In Oklahoma City's hard-hit southern suburbs, police and National Guard troops enforced (执行) an all-night curfew (宵禁) to prevent possible robbing.

Officials feared some storm-struck residents might risk pushing their way through downed live (带电的) power and gas lines in attempts to drag a few last personal possessions from the wreckage (废墟).

Large parts of the suburbs of Del City and Midwest City remained without power after the storms, which tore through the region on Monday evening and made some of the worst damage since

the 1995 truck bomb attack on the Oklahoma City federal building.

Thirty-eight people were confirmed(证实) dead in Oklahoma, down from an earlier estimate(估计) of 40, officials said on Tuesday. Some 669 people suffered injuries.

In Oklahoma City, 1,500 homes were levelled(夷平) by a monster tornado which cut a 30-kilometre-long, 0.8-kilometre-wide area through the city. Damage could cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

In Wichita, Kansas, 257 kilometres to the north, five people were killed by a twister(龙卷风) so violent it threw homes from a trailer(汽车拖着的移动房) park into a nearby lake. The dead included a one-month-old baby boy, officials said.

(*China Daily* Thursday, May 6, 1999)

Passage 2

Killer Tornado Slams(突然袭击) Okla. City

From staff and wire reports

At least four people were reported killed and an unknown number injured when a tornado said to be at least a half-mile wide swept through central Oklahoma Monday.

"There are a few fatalities(死亡人数)," Oklahoma City police dispatcher(调度员) John Zondol said. "It's the worse I've ever seen."

He said at least 400 houses had been destroyed.

"We are getting so many injuries we are just tagging(加标签) them and bringing them in," said Shara Findley, a spokeswoman(发言人) for Hillcrest Health Center in Oklahoma City. She said about 100 people had been brought in.

Forecasters(预报员) said the twister was an F-5, the strongest classification(分类) for tornadoes. It destroyed homes and other

buildings as it moved through southwest Oklahoma City into Moore and then through the Midwest City area.

The tornado was one of several that formed over a five-hour period in the state. Damage was reported after some of the storms, but none was as devastating as the storm that tore through the Oklahoma City urban area.

Gov. Frank Keating authorized(批准) the National Guard to provide assistance.

Police and emergency workers combed(彻底检查) through the debris(瓦砾) as darkness fell, searching for survivors(幸存者). Twisted(扭曲的) and crumpled(弯曲的) cars littered(散置) Interstate(美国州与州之间的) 40 and Interstate 30.

"I was holding on to a woman and her child under an overpass(过街天桥) as the tornado went over us," said J. Pat Carter, an Associated Press photographer. "My pager went up in the tornado. ... It was the most incredible(难以置信的) thing I've ever seen."

In southwest Oklahoma City, Katherine Burch, 74, surveyed the damage after the storm destroyed about half the house in which she has lived for 20 years. She waited the storm out in the bathroom.

"I knew it was coming because I could hear it, and it kept getting closer," Burch said. "I thought, 'Oh my gosh(噢,天啊).' I heard it; the house started shaking and then the big rumble(隆隆声). Glass and everything flew in it."

"It was just demolished(毁坏)," Ruth Seymore said of her home in Moore. "Everything fell in on me."

She said she hid in a closet(壁橱) and was trapped by the debris. "I couldn't get anybody to find me. I kept crying 'Help!'"

The storm earlier produced hail(冰雹) 4½ inches in diameter as it moved near Minco in Grady County, the National Weather Ser-

vice said.

As the severe storms moved out of Oklahoma by late evening, weather forecasters urged residents in the Wichita, Kan., area to prepare for potentially damaging storms.

(USA Today Tuesday, May 4, 1999)

Passage 3

Forty-five Killed in "Tornado Alley(狭道)"

Thousands left homeless amid the suburban rubble, reports Giles Whittell in Oklahoma City

ACROSS central Oklahoma yesterday, shocked survivors picked through the wreckage of entire neighbourhoods wiped out by some of the most powerful tornadoes on record.

Forty-five people were feared dead, with the number expected to rise as rescuers(营救者) continued their search for bodies and thousands of homeless survivors moved into make-shift(临时的) shelters(避难所).

Cars and lorries were hurled(抛) across freeways, railway tracks were uprooted(连根拔起) and rows of houses were reduced to rubble. At least five funnel clouds(漏斗云) blew areas of destruction up to three miles wide in a tornado alley from south of Oklahoma City to as far north as Wichita, Kansas.

"It's like the Oklahoma City bombing all over again," Jim Primble said, surveying the flattened remains of a block of flats that used to be his home. Terrified home-owners put their trust in storm shelters or upturned(翻过来的) baths and were often left with little else.

The worst tornado touched down near Chickasha, 50 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, soon after 5pm on Monday. With

winds of at least 260mph (miles per hour), it moved steadily north-east in a mile-wide path.

By yesterday morning there were 11 confirmed deaths in Bridge Creek, near Oklahoma City. In the city itself eight people died and about 1,000 homes were destroyed. A further 750 houses were levelled in nearby Del City, while in Moore a church choir (唱诗班) room became a temporary mortuary (太平间). Injured survivors stumbled (跌跌撞撞) into hospital from suburbs reduced to cracked wood and piles of carpeting.

Robert Sheppard took his wife, two children and some neighbours into his storm shelter and clung (紧抓) to its wooden door. The tornado ripped it from his hands. "I dove (俯下身) over on top of my wife and kids and just held on to them. There was a tremendous (巨大的) noise and pressure on the ears."

The scene in Moore was one of chaos (混沌) yesterday: rows of houses demolished except for their kitchens, cars dragged into front gardens and every tree stripped (剥去) bare (光光的). In Mr. Sheppard's front garden a sofa swung (晃来晃去) from a tree's branches.

About 150 miles to the north, a separate funnel cloud up to three miles wide hit Wichita later, killing five and injuring at least 100. The southern suburb of Haysville awoke to scenes of devastation. Chad Harris, 19, was cast down a hill in his caravan (篷车) home with eight friends, some of whom are in a critical (危急的) condition.

With gas leaks (泄露) in many areas and at least 80,000 homes without power, a state of emergency was declared (宣布) in Kansas and Oklahoma, clearing the way for National Guard troops and military lorries to help in the search for survivors. "This is the worst storm devastation I have ever heard of," said Oklahoma's Governor,

Frank Keating.

(*The Times* Wednesday, May 5, 1999)

Passage 4

Deadly storms that descend (突袭) like giant spinning (旋转的) skaters

TORNADOS are unpredictable (无法预测的), deadly, and far from fully understood (Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor, writes). They are always linked to thunderstorms, and the most violent (猛烈的), such as those that hit Oklahoma, form in an intense (强烈的) storm known as a supercell (超级气旋).

Those powerful systems develop when winds vary greatly with height, and cool, dry air lies above warm, moist (潮湿的) air about a mile deep. A thin, stable (稳定的) layer separates the two.

If the moist air breaks through that barrier (屏障), it can rise swiftly (快速地). Water vapour carried up by the rising air condenses (凝聚), releasing (释放) hidden heat and warming the air further, so that it is driven yet higher at speeds of up to 150mph, to form a towering thunderhead (高耸的飓风风头).

Normal thunderstorms contain several updraughts (向上气旋) and downdraughts that interfere with each other, but supercells contain no more than one or two, which makes them long-lived and stable. Persistent (持续的) supercells may form a series of mesocyclones (中央气旋), regions of updraught one to three miles in diameter that rotate (旋转) with wind speeds of 50mph or more.

As one mesocyclone decays (衰退) and dies, another is created as the storm moves slowly across country. Those are the breeding grounds (滋生地) of tornados, regions in which the size of the rotating air decreases but its speed rises, like a spinning skater drawing in

her arms. A typical tornado is a hundred feet or so across, lasts less than ten minutes, with wind speeds of less than 110mph. But the most violent can last for more than an hour and generate (产生) winds speeds of more than 200mph. The tornados that caused such destruction in Kansas and Oklahoma were up to one and a half miles wide, with wind speeds of 260 to 320mph. At least one looked like the mushroom cloud (蘑菇云) from a nuclear explosion (原子弹爆炸) rather than a typical twister.

A tornado is always in contact with the ground; those that do not reach the ground are called funnel clouds. Surprisingly, contact with the ground does not slow the vortex (旋风) down very much. It might even be a major cause of tornados. That is because friction (摩擦) with the ground causes rotating air to fall inwards, creating the spinning skater effect.

They can occur anywhere, but are commonest at this time of year, when cool, dry air from the north meets fast, warm, humid winds from the south. The tornado season begins in March in regions bordering (在...边缘) the Gulf of Mexico (墨西哥湾), and moves further north into Kansas, Iowa (依阿华州) and Nebraska (内布拉斯加州) in May and June.

On average (平均起来), 80 people a year die in the United States as a result of tornados, and this century about 20 tornados have caused severe casualties (伤亡), notably (特别地) that of March 18, 1925, that left 689 people dead in Indiana (印第安那州), Illinois (伊利诺州) and Missouri (密苏里州).

(*The Times* Wednesday, May 5, 1999)

Exercise 1

I. Short answer questions

1. Who was going to visit some outlying towns around Oklahoma City?
2. Why were the police and National Guard troops gathered?
3. During the tornadoes, where might people shelter themselves?
4. According to the reports, what was the path of the most severe tornadoes?
5. What size was the area cut by the tornadoes?
6. How fast was the tornadoes?
7. With what did the local people compare the damage caused by the tornadoes?
8. How many people died in Oklahoma tornadoes?
9. What caused the tornadoes in the United States?
10. What months did the tornadoes often happen in the United States?

II. True or false

11. The most devastating storm happened on Tuesday around Oklahoma City.
12. A lot of people tried to save anything valuable from the rubble after the series of tornadoes.
13. Many people died because of the downed live power and gas lines.
14. In the reports, the twister in Oklahoma and the one in Kansas were both presented.
15. The youngest victim (牺牲者) was a one-year-old baby boy.
16. The oldest victim was Katherine Burch, 74 years old.
17. The tornado is formed when the cool, dry air is under the warm, humid air.

18. The reason why supercells are so stable is that the supercells only contain one or two updraughts.
19. The touch with the ground will even help the formation of tornadoes.
20. The worst tornado was the one reported by these passages.

III. Translation from English into Chinese

21. Oklahomans spend another severe day surveying losses from a devastating series of tornadoes.
22. In Muhall, to the north, and Bridge Creek, to the east, shocked townsfolk picked their way through the rubble of schools, markets, and homes, looking for something to recover.
23. Police and emergency workers combed through the debris as darkness fell for survivors.
24. As the severe storms moved out Oklahoma by late evening, weather forecasters urged residents in the Wichita, Kansas area to prepare for potentially damaging storms.
25. Cars and lorries were hurled across freeway, railway tracks were uprooted and rows of houses were reduced to rubble.
26. I dove over on top of my wife and kids and just held on to them.
27. With gas leaks in many areas and at least 80,000 homes without power, a state of emergency was declared in Kansas and Oklahoma.
28. Tornadoes are unpredictable, deadly, and far from fully understood.
29. At least one tornado looked like the mushroom cloud from a nuclear explosion rather than a typical twister.
30. That is because friction with the ground causes rotating air to fall inwards, creating the spinning skater effect.

IV. Translation from Chinese into English

31. 据报,美国已有七十多人死于热浪。(It was reported that ...)
32. 上百所学校、工厂和商店成为瓦砾。(be reduced to)
33. 电话不断干扰我的学习。(interfere with)
34. 警察花了两个月的时间调查这件凶杀案。(spend)
35. 我们的部队正在和敌军接触。(in contact with)
36. 塞缪尔·克莱门斯,也叫做马克·吐温,是一位著名的美国作家。
(known as)
37. 平均起来,每年大约三千学生报考我校。(on average)
38. 每年大约三百万人由于吸烟而死亡。(as a result of)
39. 堪萨斯州的飓风有一英里半宽,风速至少每小时 260 英里。
(up to)
40. 他的名字和一个公共建筑物联系在一起。(be linked with)

V. Filling in the blanks

hard-hit all-night storm-struck five-hour long-lived make-shift

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 41. _____ period | 42. _____ curfew |
| 43. _____ residents | 44. _____ suburbs |
| 45. _____ shelters | 46. _____ tornadoes |

VI. Finding the synonyms

47. rubble
48. destroy
49. rip
50. hurl