

8年级

上册

初中英语 新阅读

大连市基础教育课程教材发展中心 编



ENGLISH
READINGS
UPDATE



大连理工大学出版社

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8年级 (上)



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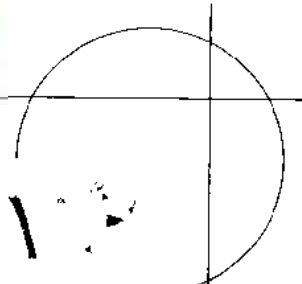
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致小读者



亲爱的同学们：

你们好！当你打开这本印制精美的图书时，你的新朋友——新心兔，就会伴随你的左右了。他给我们大家带来了一份珍贵的礼物——《初中英语新阅读》！

“英语阅读？多么令人头痛的事呀！”你也许会说。可是我们的好朋友新心兔为我们带来的却是一种快乐的体验。新心兔是一个乐观、好学、风趣、机智的朋友，在阅读过程中，你可以和他一起走南闯北，见识各种各样的人和事。

读万卷书，行万里路。你打开本书，每读一个话题就是开始了一个全新的旅程。在这里，我们可以聆听别人的心声、体验成长的苦乐、研究奇趣的自然、探讨社会的难题、学习幽默的智巧、领略诗歌的意境。同学们不要去注意英语本身，而是要把英语作为阅读的工具，并在其中体验什么叫生活，什么叫乐趣。

在阅读本书的过程中，请你千万不要着急，有的时候你可能会看不懂，没关系，只要你跟着我们的提示和新心兔一起大胆探索、大胆猜测，注重总体结构而不过于纠缠不必要的细节，以玩为主线，阅读为辅助，当你读完本书时，你会惊喜地发现你的英语水平自然而然地提高了。

“跟着玩就能读好英语？”也许你会产生疑问。是的！英语就是从丰富多彩的生活中提炼出来的，所以，请你尽情地畅游在阅读的欢乐之中吧！愿新心兔成为你最好的朋友！

编者

2003年7月



UNIT 1

CAMPUS LIFE

欢乐校园 1

UNIT 2

LEARN ENGLISH

洋话连篇 4

UNIT 3

FAMOUS PERSONS

天才之路 8

UNIT 4

CUSTOMS

风俗人情 13

UNIT 5

FESTIVALS

节日风采 17

UNIT 6

CULTURE

文化差异 22



UNIT 7

CITY LIFE

都市瞭望 25

UNIT 8

TO BE HEALTHY

养生之道 30

UNIT 9

ANIMALS

人类之友 34



UNIT 10

SAVE THE EARTH

拯救地球 38

UNIT 11

ARTISTIC CREATION

创作之源 42

UNIT 12

NUMBER

数来数去 46

UNIT 13

INTERESTING SPORTS

运动拾趣 51





UNIT 14

THE UNIVERSE

神奇空间 56

UNIT 15

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

环球掠影 60

UNIT 16

WEATHER

呼风唤雨 65

UNIT 17

THE INTERNET

网络写真 70

UNIT 18

TECHNOLOGY

科技时空 76

UNIT 19

INFORMATION AGES

信息时代 80

UNIT 20

AMUSEMENT

娱乐在线 85





CAMPUS LIFE

欢乐校园

I'm a student in Animal School. I'm receiving the new students on the first day of the new term.



American Schools

American schools begin in September after a long summer holiday. There are two terms in a school year.

The first term is from September to January, and the second is from February to June. Most American children begin to go to school when they are five years old. Most students are seventeen years old when they finish high school.

High school students take only four or five subjects each term. They usually go to the same class every day, and they have homework for every class. After class, they do many interesting things.

After high school, many students go to college. They can go to a small one or a large one. They usually have to give a lot of money. So many college students work after class to get money for their studies.



ENGLISH READINGS UPDATE

New words

- high school 中学
- subject ['sʌbdʒɪkt] n. 学科

Exercises

- Our new _____ begins in September. All my teachers and friends come back to school.
- Which _____ do you like best? — English.
- Did you _____ enough money _____ the new house?
— Yes, I bought it last week.

(Keys: 1. term 2. subject 3. get, for)

My School Life

I'm an American student. At my school, you can have a lot of activities. If you are interested in drama, you can try out for the fall plays, winter musical or take part in other games. There are also many sports. There are men's and women's soccer, basketball, men's tennis, football, women's volleyball, and so on.

We also need to volunteer outside of school. Once a week, we take a bus to a retirement home, a hospital or some other places to give the old people any help they want.

Parents are also with their children in school activities sometimes. For sports, we always have a Parents' Night game, where parents are thanked for their help. We give a flower or balloon to each parent from each student player. Parents also come to the plays, concerts or competitions their children are in.



UNIT

1

CAMPUS LIFE

2

New words

- ① activity [æk'tiviti] n. (尤指娱乐或兴趣方面的)活动
- ② drama ['drɑ:mə] n. 剧本, 戏剧
- ③ musical ['mju:zikl] adj. 音乐的, 器乐的
- ④ volunteer [ˌvɒlən'tiə] v. 自动提供(服务), 自告奋勇; n. 志愿者
- ⑤ retirement [ri'taɪəmənt] n. 退休
- ⑥ competition [ˌkɒmpɪ'tɪʃən] n. 比赛, 竞赛



More Than Fifty Miles an Hour

Jack had a small red car, and he always drove very fast. This was all right when he was out in the countryside, but in towns and big cities driving fast was very dangerous, so there was always a speed limit. In Jack's country it was fifty miles an hour. One day Jack was driving his small red car through a town when a young policeman stopped him and said, "You are driving at more than fifty miles an hour, Sir. Please give me your name and address." Jack looked at the young policeman carefully for a few seconds and then said to him, "But I started my journey less than an hour ago!"



UNIT 1 CAMPUS LIFE

Proverbs:

1. A word spoken is past recalling. 一言既出, 驷马难追。
2. A year's plan starts with spring. 一年之计在于春。
3. A young idler, an old beggar. 少壮不努力, 老大徒伤悲。





LEARN ENGLISH

洋话连篇

If you want to have the normative (地道的) English, you should read this text carefully.



English Can Be Strange

Have you ever heard someone speak a language that you couldn't understand? Perhaps it is French. But it could have been English!

UNIT

2

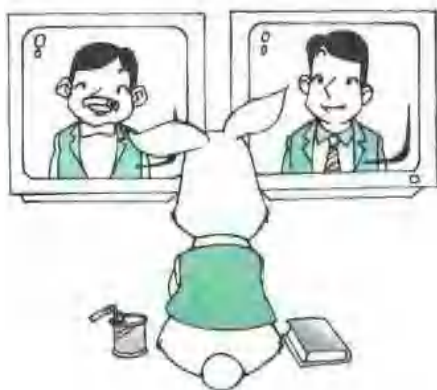
LEARN ENGLISH

At times, English can sound as different as another language. It is spoken by one out of ten people in the world. Yet, there are many differences between "the Queen's English" and American English.

In England, "the Queen's English" is the way radio and TV announcers say words. When the doctor asks you to say "Ah"; you are using the sound that the English use in the words "bath" and "dance".

Words can have different meanings, too. English children go to a "sweets shop". American children would visit a candy store. They watch "telly". Americans watch TV. The English go to "the flicks" while we go to the movies.

If you go to England, can you understand the language?



New words

- ▷ as ...as... 像……一样
- ▷ one out of ten people 十个人中有一个
- ▷ the Queen's English 标准英语
- ▷ announcer [ə'naʊnsə] n. 广播员, 播音员
- ▷ correct [kə'rekt] adj. 正确的, 对的
- ▷ bath [bɑ:θ] n. 洗澡
- ▷ telly ['teli] n. 电视
- ▷ flick [flik] n. 电影

Notes to the text

- ▷ But it could have been English!
但这完全可能是英语! 情态动词+完成时表示对过去的猜测。
- ▷ Yet, there are many differences between "the Queen's English" and American English.
然而在标准英语和美国英语之间存在着很大的差异。

Exercises

1. She doesn't run _____ as me.
A. so faster B. as fast C. as fastly D. so fastest
2. What's the _____ of this?
A. mean B. means C. meaning D. meaningful

(Keys: 1.B 2.C)

Questions:

1. Can you say something about the difference between "the Queen's English" and American English?
2. What do you think of English?





English

Many people think English is spoken only in countries such as the USA, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland and Canada. However, English is spoken all over the world. It is the main language in over 60 countries.

English today is very different from the English spoken long long ago. It is the result of approximately 1,500 years of development. Interestingly, the origins of modern English are not in England itself, but in southern Denmark and northern Germany. By the twelfth century, the language had changed so much that people could not read writings of the year 700. And today, we can't understand either of these forms of English without a special dictionary. The history of English has three parts—Old English (before the year 1,150), Middle English (up till 1,500) and Modern English (1,500 to now).

The biggest difference between Old, Middle and Modern English is in vocabulary. Thousands of new words have come into the language. Many of them are from French.

Another important change is pronunciation. No one really knows why, but English pronunciation has changed so much that there are almost no words said the same way today as in Old English.



New words

- ▷ main [meɪn] adj. 主要的, 首要的
- ▷ result [rɪ'zʌlt] n. 结果, 效果
- ▷ approximately [ə,prɒksɪ'metlɪ] adv. 大约, 大概
- ▷ development [dɪ'veləpmənt] n. 发展, 开发
- ▷ origin ['ɒrɪdʒɪn] n. 开端, 来源

- ▷ century ['sentʃəri] n. 世纪
- ▷ special ['speʃəl] adj. 特殊的, 专门的
- ▷ modern ['mɒdən] adj. 现代的, 近代的
- ▷ vocabulary [və'kæbjʊləri] n. 词汇, 词汇量
- ▷ pronunciation [prəˌnʌnsi'eɪʃən] n. 发音

Questions:

1. Is English today as same as the English spoken long long ago?
2. What's the biggest difference between Old, Middle and Modern English?



Long Hair

John liked to keep his hair very long. Some of his friends thought that it looked like a girl's hair, but they never made jokes (开玩笑) about it, because John was a big, strong young man, and he did not think jokes about his hair funny.

John always went to the barber's twice a month to have hair cut and washed. One day the barber said to him, "Now why don't you let me cut most of your hair off and make your head tidy? Nobody can recognize (认出) you if I do that, I am sure."

John said nothing for a few seconds, then he said, "Perhaps you are right, but I am sure that nobody can recognize you if you do that to my hair."





FAMOUS PERSONS

天才之路

Do you know about Edison or Marx? They are both famous persons! Now, let's see whom I want to introduce to you today.



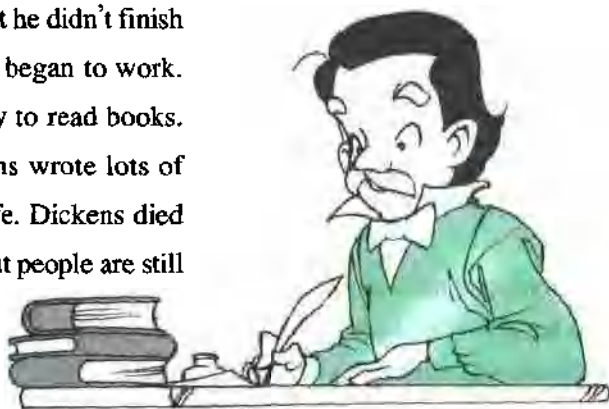
A

Dickens

Dickens, one of the greatest English writers, was born in 1812 in one of the small towns of England.

When Dickens was nine years old, the family moved to London. There were several younger children in the family. Their life was hard, so Dickens couldn't go to school.

He didn't go to school until his father came out of prison. At that time, he was already twelve years old. But he didn't finish school. Two years later, he began to work. He often went to the library to read books. He read a lot. Then Dickens wrote lots of novels and stories all his life. Dickens died over a hundred years ago, but people are still studying his books with great interest.



UNIT

3

FAMOUS PERSONS

8

New words

- ▷ several ['severəl] adj. 几个的, 数个的
- ▷ until [ən'til] prep. 直到
- ▷ prison ['prizn] n. 监狱
- ▷ novel ['nɒvəl] n. 小说
- ▷ interest ['intrɪst] n. 兴趣, 好奇

Notes to the text

- ▷ He didn't go to school until his father came out of prison.
直到他父亲出狱, 他才上学。

Exercises

1. He can eat _____ bananas. He often eats _____.
A. lots of, a lot of B. a lot of, a lot C. a lot, a lot D. a lot, lots of
2. He is one of the _____ singers in China.
A. most famous B. famousest C. the famous D. famousest
3. I have no _____ in his words.
A. interesting B. interested C. interest D. interests

(Keys: 1. B 2. A 3. C)

Questions:

1. Have you ever read the books written by Dickens? Can you name some of them?
2. What do you think of the hard life? Is it good or bad for one's success?





Helen Keller

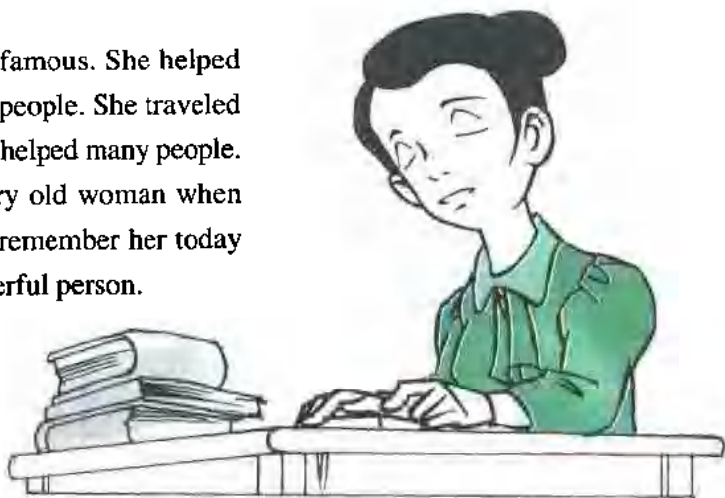
Helen Keller lived in the USA. She was a great woman. When she was a baby, she got very sick and nearly died. After many weeks, the doctor said, "She is better, but now she can't see and can't hear." Her mother and father were very sad.

After a few years, things got worse. There was no way for Helen to speak to other people. She heard nothing. She saw nothing. She didn't understand anything.

Luckily Helen was not someone who gave up easily. Soon she began to explore the world by using her other senses. She followed her mother wherever she went. She touched and smelled everything she came across. She even learnt to recognize people by feeling their faces or their clothes. Then one day, a teacher came to live with Helen and her family. The teacher helped Helen learn words. Helen was a bright child and soon she learned to spell her first word. She was blind and deaf, but she found a way to see and hear. When she was older, she went to college. While she was at college she wrote "The Story of My Life".

Helen was very famous. She helped many blind and deaf people. She traveled around the world and helped many people.

Helen was a very old woman when she died. The world remember her today as a brave and wonderful person.



UNIT

FAMOUS PERSONS 3