

N 新概念英语

阅读理解补充材料

谢瑞康 - 张雪蒙 编
上海科学技术出版社



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新 概 念 英 语

——阅读理解补充材料(二)

*The Reading Comprehension Materials
for Teaching and Learning New Concept
English (Book II)*

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前 言

近年来,编者在教学《New Concept English》(新概念英语)的过程中,结合学员实际,配合课文,选用了部分阅读理解材料,以便学员在增进听、说能力的同时,阅读能力也能得以提高。几年来,在上海外国语学院夜大学部分教师的教学实践中,收到了显著的效果,得到了广大学员的欢迎。

本书共分两部份,可供学习《新概念英语》第一册 (First Thing First) 和第二册 (Practice and Progress) 的学员使用。第一部份有60篇材料,内容较浅,也极为适合初中学生阅读;第二部份共有50篇材料,可供具有中等英语水平的高中学生、大学低年级学生使用。在选材时,编者认真参考了我国中学及理工科大学的英语教学大纲,既注意到了所选材料的难度,也注意到了所选题材的广度,对这些材料的知识性、趣味性及语言的规范性都作了较全面的考虑。这百余篇材料中有许多脍炙人口的西方轶事、名人小传和风趣幽默的故事。为了使读者熟悉各种风格、体裁的文章,也适当选了一部分的科学知识小品、史地知识及短小的议论文。每篇材料配有插图并作注释,编排了 Comprehension practice 这一项目。书后附有答案,以供读者作阅读后的自我测试。

本书插图由天呈、秋宝两位同志完成,徐美琳同志也做了不少工作,在此表示感谢。

由于编者水平有限,谬误之处,尚望读者在使用时不吝指正。

编 者

一九八八年十二月于上海

Contents

1. A Witty Speech	1
2. A Free Hair-cut	6
3. A Clever Manager	11
4. A Butcher or a Surgeon	15
5. A Free Flight	20
6. A Railway Incident	26
7. A Frenchman in New York	32
8. The Stolen Watch	38
9. Potato and Tobacco	43
10. A Christmas Present	48
11. A Miracle on the Stage	52
12. Television Advertisements in U.S.A.	57
13. The Landlord—Mr. Zunzer	62
14. The Quiet Escape	69
15. Benjamin Franklin and Lightning Rod	72
16. Doctor Goldsmith	77
17. "The Easiest Thing"	82
18. The Wise Man Diogenes	87
19. William Tell	93
20. The Brave Three Hundred	99
21. Arnold Winkelried	105
22. The Sword of Damocles	109
23. Robin Hood	115
24. The Endless Tale	123

25. Grace Darling	130
26. Antonio Canova	136
27. Androclus and the Lion.....	143
28. Three Questions and Three Answers	152
29. Whittington and His Cat.....	160
30. Mignon	172
31. Two Presents	181
32. Joe Hill.....	192
33. William Shakespeare	198
34. The Younger Years of Charles Dickens	202
35. Twelfth Night.....	206
36. The Great Fire of London	209
37. Malaria and Quinine	213
38. Are Dolphins Able to Talk	218
39. Looking for Bargains	221
40. Control Your Hi-Fi, Please.	225
41. Riding a Bicycle	228
42. Riding a Motorbike	231
43. Important or Not	236
44. Boredom Button.....	240
45. The Torture of Exams	244
46. Fountain Pens and Ballpoint Pens	247
47. Science	251
48. Libraries in Britain.....	256
49. The History of Balls	260
50. Men's Change in Manners.....	264

1. A Witty Speech

Few other nations
are so much interested
in horse-racing as the
English. The famous
races near Ascot are held
every year and followed
by sport fans all over
England. The king (or
queen) also attends them and presents the winner
with a gold cup. The name of the lucky winner of
the Ascot cup is pronounced by every one like that
of a great hero.



It happened once, however, that the gold cup was stolen a few days before the race! The police searched for it all over the country, but could not find it.

Just at that time, Mark Twain arrived in England. He was invited by an English Literary Society to be present at a dinner given in his honour. After dinner the President of the society rose to propose a toast to Mark Twain's health and praise in every way the talent of the famous American. Mark Twain in his reply started his speech with the following words:

"Gentlemen, I thank you for the great honour

you have done me, though I very much doubt whether
all your countrymen join you in your warm welcome.
When I arrived at Dover yesterday, and set my foot
in 'Merry old England', the first thing I saw was a
newspaper poster and on it, to my great surprise,
I read two headings printed in big red letters:

Mark Twain Arrives!

Ascot Cup Stolen!

These two announcements stood so closely together, that it really seemed, gentlemen, as if some people in this country were sure that my arrival had something to do with the disappearance of the gold cup!"

This witty speech of the famous American author was met with a shout of laughter.

Notes

1. Few other nations are so much interested in horse-racing as the English. 很少有其它国家的国民像英国人那样对赛马如此感到兴趣。
2. sport fans 运动爱好者
3. present the winner with a gold cup 向胜者颁发奖杯
4. The name of the lucky winner of the Ascot cup is pronounced by every one like that of a great hero. 幸运的Ascot杯获得者的名字,被大家当作大英雄来称颂。

5. an English Literary Society 一个英国文学团体
6. to be present at a dinner given in his honour
出席为他举办的一个宴会
7. rose to propose a toast to Mark Twain's health
站起身来提议为马克·吐温的健康干杯
8. praise in every way the talent of the famous
American 对这位著名美国人士的文才大加颂扬
9. the great honour you have done me 你们所给予
我的极大的荣誉
10. whether all your countrymen join you in your
warm welcome 是否你们所有的国民对我都如此热情
欢迎
11. I read two headings printed in big red letters:
我看到二条套红的大字标题:
12. my arrival had something to do with the disap-
pearance of the gold cup 我的到达跟金杯的失踪
有关

Exercises

1. Decide whether the following sentences are true or false:

1. Only the English people like horse-racing.
2. The races near Ascot are very famous.
3. The winner of the races can get a gold cup.
4. The winners are all great heroes.
5. Once the gold cup was stolen just a few days
before the race.

6. It so happened that Mark Twain arrived in England just then.
7. He wanted to watch the races, too.
8. People warmly welcomed him and gave a dinner in his honour.
9. Mark Twain was sure that many people in England didn't welcome him.
10. They even suspected he had stolen the gold cup.
11. Mark Twain wanted to make a speech to clear himself up.
12. Mark Twain's speech was very successful because it was full of wits.

II. Make the following nouns into adjectives.

1. hero; 2. gold; 3. nation; 4. honour;
5. doubt.

III. Change the following verbs into nouns:

1. arrive; 2. invite; 3. propose;
4. laugh; 5. disappear.

IV. Comprehension practice:

1. Where are the famous races held every year?
2. Who also attends them?
3. What happened to the gold cup once?
4. Who arrived in England just then?
5. By whom was he invited?
6. What did he read on a newspaper poster?
7. Why was he met with a shout of laughter

when he ended his speech?

2. A Free Hair-cut



A barber was in his shop, busily cutting a man's hair, when a handsome young stranger came in. He had a small boy with him. They sat down together and waited until the barber had finished. Then the young man told the barber

to shave him and to cut the small boy's hair.

The barber said, "Do you want me to cut the boy's hair first, or to shave you?"

"Oh, shave me," said the young man. "Then I'll go down the road and have a glass of wine while you're cutting the boy's hair."

The young man sat down in the barber's chair, and the barber began to shave him.

When he had finished, the young man got up and said, "I'll go down the road now and have my wine while you're cutting the boy's hair."

"All right, but don't take long," the barber warned him. The young man went out, the small boy obediently sat down in the barber's chair, and the barber began to cut his hair.

• • •

As he had said, he soon finished, and then the boy sat down and waited. At the end of half an hour, when the young man had still not come back, the barber said to the boy. "It is a pity that your daddy's taking such a long time. Where is he likely to be now?"

"I can't guess," answered the small boy "and that man wasn't my daddy. I've never seen him before in my life. I was playing in the street this morning, and he came up to me and asked me whether I'd like to have my hair cut without having to pay anything. I said I would, because my hair was rather long, so he brought me here."

Notes

1. a free hair-cut 免费理发
2. waited until the barber had finished 一直等到那理发师把头理好
3. Do you want me to cut the boy's hair first, or to shave you? 您要我先给那孩子理发, 还是先给您修脸?
4. Then I'll go down the road and have a glass of wine while you're cutting the boy's hair. 然后, 趁你给孩子理发, 我要到路那头去喝杯酒。
5. Where is he likely to be now? 现在他可能在哪里呢?
6. asked me whether I'd like to have my hair cut

without having to pay anything 问我要不要不
付钱去理发

Exercises

I. Choose the best item to complete the following each sentence:

1. A barber is a person who _____.
a. cuts men's hair; b. dresses women's hair;
c. helps men shave; d. (a) and (c).
2. A handsome young man must be _____.
a. beautiful; b. good-looking;
c. pretty; d. ugly.
3. A stranger is a person _____.
a. you often meet; b. who is very strange;
c. you don't know; d. who often does strange things.
4. The young man wanted the barber to shave him first, because _____.
a. he wanted to have a glass of wine while the barber was cutting the boy's hair;
b. he wanted to have a free hair-cut;
c. he knew the boy was obedient and was willing to wait;
d. he knew the barber would shave his beard quickly.
5. As the young man was leaving, the barber

warned him not to take long, because _____.

- a. the barber had known he would never come back;
- b. the barber was afraid that he wouldn't come back;
- c. the barber was afraid that he wouldn't come back early;
- d. the barber was afraid that the boy was not his own child.

6. The young man left the barber's shop, the barber began to cut the boy's hair. He thought that _____.

- a. the boy must be the young man's son;
- b. the boy must be very obedient;
- c. the young man must come back very late;
- d. the young man must be a strange man.

7. At the end of half an hour, the young man had not come back, he must _____.

- a. have lost his way; b. have run away;
- c. have drunk too much;
- d. have forgot the boy.

8. The small boy couldn't tell where the man was, because _____.

- a. he wanted a free hair-cut;
 - b. he had never known the man before;
 - c. he wanted to help the young man;
 - d. he was afraid of the young man.
- • •

II. What words in the passage mean the opposites of the following:

1. long; 2. unfinished; 3. big; 4. old;
5. last; 6. disobediently; 7. short;
8. ugly.

III. Comprehension practice:

1. Who came in when the barber was cutting a man's hair?
2. What did the young man ask the barber to do?
3. What did the young man do when he had finished?
4. What did the barber warn the young man?
5. Did the young man come back?
6. How did the young man find the little boy?

3. A Clever Manager

Very few people
were coming to eat at
the White Rose Restaurant,
and its owner did
not know what to do.
The food in his restaurant was cheap and good, but nobody seemed to want to eat there.



Then he did something that changed all that,
and in a few weeks his restaurant was always full
of men with their lady friends. Whenever a gentleman
came in with a lady, a smiling waiter gave each of
them a beautiful menu. The menus looked exactly
the same on the outside, but there was an important
difference inside. The menu that the waiter gave
to the men gave the correct price for each dish and
each bottle of wine, while the menu that he gave to
the lady gave a much higher price! So when the man
calmly ordered dish after dish and wine after wine,
the lady thought he was much more generous
than he really was!