

大学生英语阅读系列丛书

HUMAN & ENVIRONMENT

人与环境

任林静 主编



Human & Environment



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使 用 说 明

很多前辈学者的成功经验表明，大量阅读英文书籍是从根本上提高英文水平的必由之路。大量的课外阅读能帮助学生巩固课上所学的语言知识，并扩大词汇量；大量的课外阅读能帮助学生提高理解能力，加快阅读速度；大量的课外阅读能开阔学生的眼界，使学生更多地了解英语国家的文化。更重要的是，只有通过大量的阅读才能逐步形成语感。总之，量的积累能导致质的飞跃。大阅读量对提高英语水平所起的作用是精读课和做试题都无法取代的。为了满足广大学生和英语爱好者学习的需要，我们编写了这套系列阅读丛书。

本系列丛书针对非英语专业大学学生的需要编写而成。既可为他们提供课外阅读的资料，又可为他们进入专业阅读阶段的学习打下基础。还可以供社会上其他中级水平的英语学习者自学之用。本着既富趣味性，又兼顾知识面的原则，本丛书第一批共推出八册，题目分别为：体育大世界，特殊的历史时刻，人与环境，法庭内外，媒体文萃，文化与交际，世界政坛焦点漫谈，经济文选等。每册书中既有该领域的奇闻轶事及趣谈供读者赏析，又有初步的理论与专业术语供读者学习。按专业分类选编的目的旨在提高每册书中同一领域单词的复现率，有利于读者扩充词汇，并能满足综合性大学各专业学生及社会上各行业读者学习专业外语的不同选择。

我们编写本阅读系列丛书的意图是引导读者既学习语言又学习阅读技巧。为此，本丛书以学习理论为指导，安排全书的编写

体例。

首先，目录为英汉对照，使读者对每册书的内容一目了然。

其次，每篇文章之前设导读语，提示该篇主题或要点，引导读者阅读之前对阅读内容进行预测，在阅读过程中验证所做出的推断，养成积极思维的良好阅读习惯。这一习惯的养成对于提高阅读理解能力和阅读速度，起着至关重要的作用。

第三，本丛书在词汇控制方面别具特色。既控制生词量，又指导学生掌握使用字典的分寸。各分册以大学英语教学大纲词表为准，将四级以外的单词控制在千分之七左右。对于超出四级的单词，作如下处理：凡是根据理解的需要必须懂的生词，均以斜体标出，并收入书后的词表，方便读者查阅；凡是不影响全文理解或者不构成重要信息的生词，以及根据上下文的提示或构词法知识可以猜出的生词，则不做斜体处理，亦不收入词表。遇到这类生词，读者应先设法猜测词义，猜不出时尽可以忽略，不必费时费力查字典。这种安排旨在向读者传递这样一个信息，即：培养阅读能力的关键是学会针对不同的阅读目的采取不同的阅读方法。课外阅读属于泛读，目的是获取信息，重在扩大阅读量，不必依照精读课的习惯字字推敲，因而也不必频繁地放下书本去查字典，因为那样不仅会影响阅读速度、打断阅读时的雅兴，而且字字斟酌费时费力，所查出的词义又不可能全部记住，造成事倍功半的结果。

第四，为了体现泛读与精读方法上的不同之处，本丛书中每篇文章后只附少量阅读理解题目，提示应掌握的文章要点与理解重点，引导读者注重扩大阅读量，而不必过分追究细节。

以阅读与学习理论指导阅读丛书编写工作的作法尚属尝试。由于我们水平有限，编写中难免有失误与疏漏之处，敬请读者与英语界前辈及同仁批评指正。

本丛书由中国人民大学外语系英语阅读系列丛书编写组编

写。编委会成员有：主编：李守京教授，顾问：罗舜泉教授，编委（按姓氏笔划顺序）：王晓露副教授，田育英副教授，任林静副教授，吴红云副教授，张卫平教授，张勇先副教授，和赵艳萍副教授。编写过程中，得到中国人民大学外语系大学英语教研室和研究生英语教研室的大力支持，外语系郭欣同志承担了部分录入工作，特此鸣谢。

英语阅读系列丛书编委会

1999 年春，于北京

前 言

森林、陆地、海洋、湖泊、动物、植被组成了我们美丽的、人类赖以生存的地球。然而，人口的巨增、工业化生产的扩大、城市的膨胀使我们的地球资源日益减少，有些甚至面临枯竭的危险。人类不断向空气中排放二氧化碳所造成的温室效应使地球的气候逐渐变暖，太平洋的水温不断上升，厄尔尼诺现象打乱了全球的气候状态。我国也受到了厄尔尼诺的影响，今年长江、嫩江流域由于暴雨而形成了严重的洪涝灾害，除了自然原因以外，这次水灾与生态长期以来遭到人为的破坏有直接关系，它向我们敲响了警钟：不保护我们的自然环境，就等于扼杀我们自己。

全世界越来越意识到环保的重要性。1992年6月联合国里约地球峰会，就环境与发展通过了一系列具有深远意义的决议。1997年6月在纽约，联合国再次召开环发特别联大，回顾五年来的进展，因此会议又称为“里约+5”（Rio+5）。来自160多个国家的政要以及数十个国际组织的领导人出席了这一国际社会高级别的盛会。1997年12月，176个工业大国及发展中国家在日本京都签定了《联合国气候变化框架公约》，针对不同国家规定了不同的温室气体排放量标准。

本书除第一篇、第二篇和第三篇外，其他全部取材于近一、二年内欧美的杂志及新闻广播媒体，内容涉及环保问题的各个方面：动植物、水源、垃圾、污染等等。所选文章皆反映了全球范围内的环保热点问题，贴近生活，内容新，信息量大，且不乏趣味性，文字流畅，通俗易懂。本书每篇文章都配有导读（pre-

reading)、理解提问 (comprehension questions) 和简要的注释 (notes), 书后附有生词表 (glossary), 以便读者自学。导读以斜体关键词或主题句形式出现, 目的在于活跃读者的思维, 帮助读者预测文章的内容。理解问题的设置是考查读者的阅读理解能力。每篇文章注释的重点是难理解的句子、词组和专业名词。所有超出大学英语教学大纲 (文理科本科用) 4, 500 词级 (即 I 级) 的词均以斜体出现, 被列入书后的生词表 (个别派生词未列)。每篇文章的篇幅从 1, 000 字到 2, 000 字不等, 其中环发特别联大讲演稿特选了世界卫生组织、联合国教科文组织、联合国环境署及我国国务委员宋健在联合国特别联大会议上的演讲稿。本书所有的文章皆取自于原文, 未做任何改动, 因此可读性强。

此书如能使读者在领略英文的同时增强自身的环保意识便是编者编写此书的最大心愿。

由于时间仓促, 书中不当之处, 恳请读者批评指正。

编者

1999 年春

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1. Man and the Environment

人 与 环 境

ecosystem aquarium ecologist
oxygen carbon dioxide nitrogen
bacteria lead

Although the world is large, man is able to live in only a small part of it. The atmosphere is only about eleven kilometers thick. The soil that supplies us with food is only about fifteen centimeters thick and man can live on only about one eighth of the world's surface. In the past two hundred years man has greatly changed his environment. Water has been given to deserts. Roads have been built across deserts and through forests. Cities have grown to an astonishing size. Many scientists, however, are not happy about what modern man is doing to his environment. They think that man may not find life pleasant in the world of the future. Some think that he may not be able to live in it at all.

In recent years scientists have begun to study the environment and what man is doing to it. Any closed world in which life exists is called an "ecosystem¹". An aquarium² containing fish, water plants and so on is an ecosystem. The world, too, is a large ecosystem in

which plants, animals, insects and humans all depend on one another in some way. The people who study ecosystems are called *ecologists*.

There are two great cycles, as they are called, that make life on earth possible. One is the cycle that keeps up our oxygen supply. When we breathe in we use up the oxygen in the air. Carbon dioxide³ is produced and is breathed out. Trees and plants breathe in the carbon dioxide we produce. They then give out oxygen. This oxygen returns to the atmosphere and the cycle repeats.

The other cycle is the nitrogen⁴ cycle. A large part of the air consists of nitrogen gas. This nitrogen gas joins with other substances to form nitrates⁵. The nitrates are taken in by plants. Animals then eat these plants. Their wastes return some of the nitrogen compounds to the soil. Later bacteria break down these compounds. Simple nitrogen compounds are formed as well as free nitrogen gas. The simple compounds are used up by plants again. The gas returns to the atmosphere.

Thus, it is a curious fact that life on earth depends on living things, on plants and animals. Can man destroy these cycles? Some ecologists are afraid that if he is not careful in the future, he may destroy them. For instance, with the great growth of population and industry the last of the world's great forests are being cut down. This is happening to the great forests of the Amazon⁶ and of Indonesia. Crops are taking the place of trees. Crops do not produce as much oxygen as trees. Trees also gather water, hold the precious soil together and keep the atmosphere cool. In the sea the oxygen making plants are being killed by the ^{is it} wastes and dirt that man is pouring into it. Even in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, Thor

Heyerdahl, the traveler, saw oil floating everywhere around him. If man continues to do these things, will he destroy the life-giving cycle? Will the human race slowly die from lack of oxygen?

Modern man pours a lot of nitrates into the rivers, lakes and seas. These come from the fertilizers used for crops and from the human wastes of the world's growing population. In a lake, for example, these nitrates cause a great growth in plant life. Soon there are too many plants and they start to die. *Bacteria* eat the dead plants. Then soon there are too many bacteria. They use up the oxygen in the water. In time all the oxygen in the water is gone. The bacteria, plants and fish all die. The lake is now dead; no life will grow in it. Parts of the great lakes, Michigan and Ontario, have died like this. Ecologists are worried that seas such as the Baltic, the Caspian and the Mediterranean⁷ may one day die.

Some scientists fear that the earth may quite suddenly become colder. Dust from deserts, from the burning of wastes, from factories and from high flying jet planes is pouring into the atmosphere. They say that thirty-four tonnes of dirt fall each month on every square kilometer around Osaka and Tokyo⁸. All this is making our atmosphere less transparent and is causing more cloud. This is making the temperature drop. The fear is that the world may have to face another ice age.

Other scientists, however, are afraid that the world may become too hot for human life. The earth receives heat from the sun. Much of this heat goes out into space again or is cooled by trees and plants. The earth now has fewer and fewer trees and the big cities, roads and *airstrips* take in more heat. Besides this, man is adding heat to the atmosphere; heat from factories, from power plants and

especially, from cars. Man is also pouring much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and this has the effect of preventing heat from escaping out again into space. Even a rise of only five degrees in the earth's temperature would cause many problems. Much of the ice at the poles would melt and the sea would rise. Cities, such as London and Singapore, might be under water. People might not be able to live in the world's tropics because they would be far too hot. Scientists say that changes like this could take place in fifty to a hundred years.

In modern industry many substances are used which have been found to do great harm to man. One of these is ⁵²lead. In the United States of America, cars put a million tonnes of lead into the atmosphere every year. This gets into the soil, into plants and into human bodies. Lead causes damage to the brain and eventually death. There are also the radio - active materials, such as strontium⁹ 90, that have been put into the atmosphere by man's experiments with atomic devices. These materials do much damage to man.

However, some people are not frightened by the future. One person has a plan by which the world could support 21, 000 million people in another hundred years. He says that the earth's surface should be divided into three parts. Half the surface should be without people and covered with trees. Another forty per cent should be for industry and the growing of food. The rest would be covered by a great city along the shores of the oceans, rivers and lakes. In this city most of the world's population would live.

There are signs of hope that man will be able to go on living on earth. In 1972 a meeting was held in Stockholm¹⁰. At this meeting most of the world's nations showed that they were worried about what man was doing to his environment. Two of their most impor-

tant decisions were: to form a new United Nations body to study and to try to solve the problems of the environment; and to form a body called "earthwatch" to measure and prevent pollution in the air, on land and at sea.

Let us hope that in the world of tomorrow man will learn to take care of his environment. Let us hope that he will not continue to destroy it carelessly, as he seems to be doing today.

Notes:

1. ecosystem: 生态系统。
2. aquarium: 养鱼池, 水族馆。
3. carbon dioxide: [化] 二氧化碳。
4. nitrogen: [化] 氮。
5. nitrate: [化] 硝酸盐, 硝酸钾。
6. the Amazon: 亚马逊河 (南美洲大河)。
7. the Baltic, the Caspian and the Mediterranean: 波罗的海、里海和地中海。
8. Osaka and Tokyo: 大阪和东京。
9. strontium: 锶。
10. Stockholm: 斯德哥尔摩 (瑞典首都)。

Comprehension Questions:

1. What do ecologists study?
2. What are the two great cycles that make life on earth possible?
3. What is an ecosystem?
4. Why do some scientists worry that the earth may become too cold or too hot one day?
5. Are all the people frightened by the future of the earth?

2. Weather

天 气

downpour frost hurricane typhoon
humidity meteorologist
weather balloon glacier predict

Weather is something which affects all of us. We may be affected in small ways: for example, we are ready to go to the office and suddenly a big black cloud moves over the sun and a heavy downpour of rain starts; we have to change our plans and hastily put on raincoats and hats and look for our umbrellas. But we may also be affected in big ways. An unusually severe frost in a region where the winter is normally mild and frost-free can mean financial ruin for some farmers and even threaten a nation's whole economy. A severe frost like this ruined the coffee crop in Brazil a couple of years ago. Not only did Brazil's economy suffer, but much of the world had to give up their favourite drink or else pay two or three times as much for it. Perhaps if we could predict such unusual weather we could also protect ourselves and our crops from damage.

Loss of life is the most terrible effect of extremes of weather. Bangladesh¹, on the delta of the Ganges,² is a country which experi-