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赖世雄 吴纪维 ◎著 插图有声版

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提高英语阅读能力、扩大词汇量最好的办法就是在兴趣中学习。如果你觉得学习外语是一种乐趣的话,你就会有极大的动力和热情。这正是我们撰写此套阅读系列的初衷。这套书所选的精彩文章和精致美图定会让你爱不释手。

该阅读系列分为中级和高中两个级别。每个级别包括精心撰写的 **80** 篇文章。本套从书最大的特色是·

- 1. 选材新奇有趣。选材包罗万象,与时俱进,读完之后你会有一种不识庐山真面目的感觉,真心感叹世界之妙。
- 2. 文章行云流水。我们的文章完全没有从各大报刊杂志截取,而是我本人带领专业外籍老师精心原创,绝对地道流畅,是你学习写作的上佳范本。
- 3. 插图精美时尚。一般的阅读理解文章均是满篇的文字,读起来难免乏味苍白。而我们为每一篇文章均配了多幅插图,通过形象的方式同时开启你的左右脑,让你的理解更深刻。
- **4.** 题型多样严谨。我们每篇文章配有阅读理解选择题、单词填空题以及完形填空题,涵盖了英语考试的主流题型,用一种快乐的方式春风化雨般提高解题能力。
- 5. 朗读地道纯正。可免费下载由外籍老师录制的纯正朗读音频。根据级别的不同,初中阅读的语速略慢于高中阅读,读者可通过朗读音频锻炼听力并练就纯正发音。

就高中阅读而言,每篇文章为 300-400 词左右,题材包括文化艺术、各地风情、旅行、趣味新知、环境问题等,每篇文章配三个选择题测验你的阅读成果。此外全书还另外配有 20 套复习测验题,包括单项选择和完形填空。此外,我们对每篇文章均配有详细的汉语翻译、巨细无遗的词汇详解、语法点拨以及试题答案。让你的词汇量无限拓展,解题能力节节升高。

简言之,此套阅读丛书旨在用一种全新而有趣的方式,让你在快乐中阅读英语,在提高英语能力的同时扩大知识面。两全其美之事,何乐而不为呢?

新年 2 P2 于台北学管辖

Preface

The best way to build your English reading and vocabulary skills is in an interesting, informative and entertaining way. When studying a foreign language is fun, people are much more motivated to make progress in it. That is the belief of the writers, editors and designers who created *Reading Comprehension Practice*. Both levels of the book series feature fascinating articles and beautiful pictures designed to inspire readers.

Levels 1 & 2 of Reading Comprehension Practice each contain 80 articles that are divided into eight categories. For this book, Level 2, the titles for the various sections are: Art & Culture; Local Discovery; Just So You Know; Innovations; Sports & Leisure; Features; Travel; and Environmental Issues. Level 2 is written for students at a preintermediate to intermediate level, with longer articles (250-300 words each) and more challenging vocabulary and grammar than what is found in Level 1. Every article comes with three multiple choice questions to test reading comprehension. In addition, there are a total of 20 sets of review exercises at the back of each book. Using a fill-in-the-blank format with multiple choices, each review exercise is designed to be a test for four articles contained in Reading Comprehension Practice.

In the two books, students will find a large amount of useful information to assist them in understanding the vocabulary presented in the articles. Vocabulary definitions, tips on phrases and grammar points, translations of the readings and answer keys are all part of the content of the books.

MP3 recordings that feature native English speakers reading the articles can be downloaded for free. As you might expect, the reading speed for the Level 2 book is faster than that for the Level 1 book. Students can use the recordings to benefit both their listening and pronunciation skills.

In short, Reading Comprehension Practice is a two-book series designed to boost reading and vocabulary skills in English in an informative, entertaining way. The books can be used either for group classes or self-study. Either way, the articles in them provide readers with the necessary tools to effectively boost their reading comprehension ability.

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Unit Best in the World

Guinness World Records is full of facts that you might not have thought were even possible.

hardly needs an introduction. Now named *Guinness World Records*, the book has sold over 115 million copies and has been translated² into 26 languages. Every year, readers are excited to catch up on³ all the amazing new records that people have set⁴. Many readers, in fact, get excited enough to try to set their own records. The book receives over 40,000 record claims from over 80 countries every year. For many people all over the world, setting a record seems like a great way to make their mark⁵.

The origins⁶ of *Guinness World Records* date back to⁷ 1951. A British man, Sir Hugh Beaver, went out on a hunting trip with some friends. The then⁸ managing director⁹ of the Guinness Brewery¹⁰ got into an argument¹¹ over which game bird¹², the golden plover¹³ or the grouse¹⁴, was the fastest in Europe. No consensus¹⁵ was reached, and when the trip was over, they all went in search of¹⁶ the answer. However, none of the reference¹⁷ books Béaver checked had a definitive¹⁸ answer.

It didn't stop there for Beaver as he hit upon¹⁹ a great idea. Beaver knew that a book filled with²⁰ facts about world records would be of great use to the public. The first edition²¹ came out²² on August 27, 1955 and was an instant success. Now Guinness World Records is a part of our culture. However, what makes so many people obsessed²³ with breaking records²⁴, even for things that seem totally

ridiculous²⁵? Some record-breakers say that they're trying to show that people can do anything as long as²⁶ they believe in²⁷ themselves.



Questions

- 1. What is the main idea in the first paragraph of the article?
 - (A) Guinness World Records is sold in less than 80 countries.
 - (B) Guinness World Records changed its name twice to break the record.
 - (C) Guinness World Records has a record for 30,000 things.
 - (D) Guinness World Records is very popular worldwide.
- 2. What gave Sir Hugh Beaver the idea for Guinness World Records?
 - (A) He wanted to settle an argument with his friends.
 - (B) He wanted to make the records he broke public.
 - (C) He wanted to find out all the facts about game birds.
 - (D) He wanted to know how many world records he and his friends could break.
- **3.** What is NOT true about *The Guinness Book of World Records?*
 - (A) It hardly needs an introduction.
 - (B) It is popular all over the world.
 - (C) None of the records seem surprising or ridiculous.
 - (D) The first edition was published on August 27, 1955.





Unit

02

A Turn of Luck

From Disney characters to Hello Kitty, people are crazy about gashapon¹ machines.



alf a dozen people crowd around a block of vending machines², the brightly colored pictures of the machines' contents on display³ in the setting autumn sun. "How cute!" cries one teenage girl as her friend opens the plastic container revealing a detailed figurine⁴ of a Japanese cartoon character. Though the toy weighs less than 50 grams, to the girl it feels as if she's won a small jackpot⁵ just by a turn of the dial. Countless times per day, from Taipei to Tokyo, this scene is repeated. Thousands upon thousands of⁶ dollars are spent as collectors and people with a weakness for miniaturized⁷ toys take a chance⁸ when they blindly purchase gashapon toys.

Compared to 9 regular toy vending machines, gashapon machines feature higher

quality items made of materials that can stand the test of time¹⁰. Many of these pieces are based on popular characters from animation¹¹ and comic books as well as Disney creations, but can also include inch-high versions of some pop stars and the ubiquitous¹² Hello





Kitty. Prices for gashapon can range from \$30 and creep upwards to \$200. Since the toys are often sold in sets, crazed collectors may even pay thousands of dollars to complete a set of the intricately ¹³ designed toys.

In many respects, gashapon is similar to 14 gambling. Fans place a bet 15 by inserting 16 their coin and with a turn of luck and a flick 17 of the

wrist, they may or may not win the coveted 18 prize.



Questions

- 1. What is the primary purpose of this article?
 - (A) To discourage consumers from ¹⁹ buying gashapon toys.
 - (B) To make people aware of 20 the dangers of gambling.
 - (C) To give information about a popular trend.
 - (D) To teach enthusiasts how to collect a complete set of the toys.
- 2. Which of the following wouldn't wind up²¹ in a gashapon machine?
 - (A) A sugar-filled chocolate Hello Kitty.
 - (B) A plastic version of a well-known comic book character.
 - (C) Cute inch-high figurines of Jay Chou.
 - (D) Durable 22 replicas 23 of the Little Mermaid and Sleeping Beauty.
- 3. Why can gashapon be compared to gambling?
 - (A) You always know what you're going to get when you play.
 - (B) It is only through practice and determination that you'll win.
 - (C) It is impossible to predict which one you'll get.
 - (D) The price of gambling is much higher in Japan.