

● 基础英语教材系列

中级英语阅读教程

(上)

梁洪玉 张伟明 邓妍妍 编著

ENGLISH

暨南大学出版社

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中级英语阅读教程 (上)

HIGHLIGHTS OF ENGLISH READING COURSE BOOKS

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总 前 言

1994年9月17日，在华南师范大学召开了广东省师范院校英语专业教材编写研讨会。出席会议的除东道主华南师范大学外语系的代表外，还有广州师范学院、湛江师范学院、广州师专、广东教育学院、广州教育学院、韶关教育学院、汕头教育学院、江门教育学院、五邑大学、嘉应大学、广东民族学院等13所院校的代表。与会代表回顾和分析了我省师范院校基础英语教学的历史和现状，并就基础阶段英语专业配套教材编写的必要性、紧迫性和可行性进行了热烈的讨论。全体代表一致认为，随着我国改革开放的发展和社会主义市场经济的建立，社会对高等院校的外语教学要求日益提高。为了适应形势发展的需要和进一步将外语教学改革引向深入，必须对英语基础阶段的教学内容、教学方法，尤其是教材进行改革。正如国家教委颁布的《高等学校英语专业基础阶段英语教学大纲》指出的那样，必须在英语基础知识和基本技能方面对学生进行全面的严格训练，打好语言基础；必须丰富学生的文化背景知识，增强学生对文化差异的敏感性，提高学生逻辑思维能力，打好文化基础。要提高基础阶段的英语教学质量，教材的选择和编写起着举足轻重的作用。因此，极有必要编写一套能体现师范性、具有时代精神和广东特色的配套教材，以保证我省师范院校英语专业培养目标的实现，使外语教学改革始终沿着正确的道路不断向前深入发展。在取得上述共识的基础上，与会代表决定成立“广东省师范院校英语专业基础阶段

配套教材编写委员会”，负责组织有关院校编写辅助性配套教材。现在呈现在读者面前的这套教材便是编写委员会和有关院校的专家教授和编撰人员近年来辛勤劳动的结晶。这套教材包括：

《英语语音实践教程》

《英语视听说教程》

《中级英语阅读教程》

《英语课外阅读文选》

《基础英语语法及训练》

《英语教学法基础》

《英语常用词用法词典》

在编写过程中，编者始终将“实践第一”的原则放在首位，因为任何一种语言，脱离了实践是无法掌握的。此外，编者还着力将科学性、知识性、趣味性、时代性和实践性熔于一炉，使所编教材达到教学大纲对教材的要求。

这套教材之所以能依时与读者见面，除因编撰人员多年不懈努力外，还因暨南大学出版社给予的鼎力支持。可以毫不夸张地说，没有该出版社领导、编辑以及其他工作人员的关怀和帮助，这套教材的出版至今还可能仍是一场幻想。因此我们衷心感谢暨南大学出版社对我省外语教学的一贯支持和在出版这套教材过程中给予我们的鼓励和帮助。

我们还要诚挚感谢华南师范大学外语系系主任徐霖贤教授，因为他对这套教材的编写和出版始终予以极大的支持和关注，提出了许多宝贵意见和建议。另外，中山大学的王宗炎教授和广东外语外贸大学的桂诗春教授对我们的工作也给予极大的支持，提出了许多指导性的意见。在此，我们对王、桂两位教授表示衷心感谢。

教材简介

本教材供高校英语专业二年级及同等水平的学习者使用。教材分上下两册，各含18个单元。每单元由四部分组成：一、词汇，列出该单元应学会的、基础阶段英语教学大纲词汇表四级以上的生词；二、阅读技能，对各种主要技能分别进行说明和训练；三、课文，对阅读理解能力进行综合训练；四、测试材料，供巩固和检测该单元的阅读技能和理解能力使用。

教材1~6单元由韶关教育学院张伟明负责，7~12单元由湛江师范学院邓妍妍负责，13~18单元由华南师范大学梁洪玉负责。

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UNIT ONE

I . VOCABULARY

<i>deposit</i>	沉积	<i>Zeus</i>	宙斯
<i>glacier</i>	冰河	<i>waive</i>	放弃
<i>solution</i>	溶体	<i>spectator</i>	观众
<i>property</i>	特性	<i>sequence</i>	顺序
<i>extinguish</i>	扑灭	<i>gymnastics</i>	体操
<i>alcohol</i>	酒精	<i>discus</i>	铁饼
<i>depressant</i>	镇静剂	<i>javelin</i>	标枪
<i>beverage</i>	饮料	<i>wrestle</i>	摔跤
<i>repellent</i>	防水的	<i>pentathlon</i>	五项全能
<i>draw cord</i>	抽紧绳	<i>sacrificial</i>	献祭的
<i>hood</i>	风帽；兜帽	<i>garland</i>	花环
<i>zipper</i>	拉链	<i>sacred</i>	神圣的
<i>pouch</i>	小袋	<i>pagan</i>	异教的
<i>parole</i>	假释	<i>revive</i>	(使) 复活
<i>convict</i>	判罪	<i>yeast</i>	酵母
<i>supervision</i>	监督	<i>sterilize</i>	消毒
<i>reflect</i>	反映；反射	<i>deteriorate</i>	变坏
<i>athletic</i>	运动的	<i>cork</i>	用软木塞塞住

<i>immerse</i>	浸入	<i>Union Jack</i>	英国国旗
<i>stately</i>	高贵的	<i>unsophisticated</i>	不懂世故的
<i>masculine</i>	男性的	<i>cell</i>	细胞
<i>personification</i>	人格化	<i>physiology</i>	生理学
<i>satire</i>	讽刺作品	<i>autobiography</i>	自传
<i>flattering</i>	讨人欢喜的		
<i>portly</i>	肥胖的；粗壮的		

II . READING SKILLS

Recognizing Topic Nouns

For most passages, the first step in getting the main idea is to determine what single word best describes the person, place, or thing that is central to the author's point. This single word (occasionally it will be a phrase) is called the topic noun. If a paragraph is about horses, for example, the topic noun is "horses". In the following exercise choose the topic noun for each paragraph.

1. Rocks found on the surface of the earth are divided into three classes: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic. Molten material becomes igneous rock when it cools. Sedimentary rocks are formed from materials deposited by glaciers, plants, animals, streams, or winds. Metamorphic rocks are rocks that once were igneous or sedimentary but have changed as a result of pressure, heat, or the deposit of material from solution.

Topic noun _____

2. Water is fairly inexpensive and easy to obtain. This makes it a

good tool for use in fighting many kinds of fires. Its properties as an extinguishing agent should be studied well.

Topic noun _____

3. The kind of alcohol present in drinks (ethyl alcohol) is a strong depressant drug. Its action is very similar to barbiturates and other depressant drugs. Because it is sold legally as a beverage many people forget that it is a drug. In our society, people are conditioned to fear "hard drugs" such as heroin and opium. At the same time they think of drinking alcohol as a socially acceptable thing to do.

Topic noun _____

4. This jacket has a heavy, water-repellent outer shell with a draw cord at the waist. Attached hood also has a draw cord and can be hidden in the zipper pouch in collar. The heavy-duty front zipper has a protective storm flap. Comes in green or blue.

Topic noun _____

5. Parole is an arrangement that allows for the early release of a person convicted of a criminal offense. Following this release the person must obey certain rules and regulations and remain under the supervision of a parole agent.

Topic noun _____

6. Car cards are the advertising messages one sees in the overhead tracks in buses, subways, streetcars, and trains. The size of these cards has been standardized at a height of 11 inches and a width of 28 to 56 inches.

Topic noun _____

7. Like lamb, pork usually comes from young animals and is therefore less variable in quality than beef. U. S. Department

of Agriculture grades for pork reflect only two levels of quality: acceptable and unacceptable.

Topic noun _____

8. At the beginning of the Expressionist movement, we see the work of Van-Gogh. Not at all concerned with producing a copy of what he painted, he used color and form to express his feelings about his subject. He also used broad brushes and palette knives and sometimes squeezed paint directly from the tube in his haste to get his feelings onto the canvas.

Topic noun _____

III . TEXTS

Text A

The Olympic Games

In ancient Greece athletic festivals were very important and had strong religious associations. The Olympian athletic festival, held every four years in honour of Zeus, eventually lost its local character, became first a national event, and then, after the rules against foreign competitors had been waived, international. No one knows exactly how far back the Olympic Games go, but some official records date from 776 B.C.

The Games took place in August on the plain by Mount Olympus. Many thousands of spectators gathered from all parts of Greece, but no married woman was admitted even as a spectator. Slaves, women and dishonoured persons were not allowed to compete. The exact sequence of events was uncertain, but events

included boys' gymnastics, horseracing, field events such as discus and javelin throwing, and the very important foot races. There was also boxing and wrestling and special tests of varied ability such as the pentathlon, the winner of which excelled in running, jumping, discus and javelin throwing, and wrestling.

The evening of the third day was devoted to sacrificial offerings to the heroes of the day; and the fourth day, that of the full moon, was set aside as a holy day.

On the sixth and last day, all the victors were crowned with holy garlands of wild olive from a sacred wood. So great was the honour that the winner of the foot race gave his name to the year of his victory. Although Olympic winners received no prize money, they were, in fact, richly rewarded by their state authorities. The public honour also made the strict discipline of the ten-month training period worthwhile. In spite of the lengthy training, however, runners were known to drop dead from strain at the winning post. How their results compared with modern standards, we unfortunately have no means of telling.

After an uninterrupted history of almost 1,200 years, the Games were abolished in A. D. 394, the Christian era, because of their pagan origin. It was over 1,500 years before there was another such international athletics gathering. The Greek institution was revived in 1896, and the first small meeting took place in Athens. After the 1908 London Olympics, success was reestablished and nations sent their best representatives. In times of peace, the Games have taken place ever since at four-year intervals. In Munich in 1972, competitors from more than 120 countries were watched by huge crowds.

Nowadays, the Games are held in different countries in turn. The host country provides vast facilities, including a stadium, swimming pools and living accommodation, but competing countries pay their own athletes' expenses. Athletic contests are still the main feature, but now many more sports are represented, women compete, the ancient pentathlon, for example, has been modified into a more comprehensive test, and the marathon races, initiated in 1896, are now a celebrated event.

The Olympics start with the arrival in the stadium of a torch, lighted on Mount Olympus by the sun's rays. It is carried by a succession of runners to the stadium. The torch symbolizes the continuation of the ancient Greek athletic ideals, and it burns throughout the Games until the closing ceremony. The well-known Olympic flag, however, is a modern conception: the five interlocking rings symbolize the uniting of all five continents participating in the Games.

Exercise A

Decide which answer best completes the following statements according to the information in the passage.

1. The first Olympic Games took place
 - a. in the seventh century A.D.
 - b. certainly before 700 B.C.
 - c. over three thousand years ago.
 - d. a thousand years ago.
2. In the final stages of the ancient Olympic Games, any competitor had to be
 - a. Greek.
 - b. male.
 - c. unmarried.

- d. neither a slave nor a foreigner.
3. The order of athletic events at the ancient Olympics
- a. has not definitely been established.
 - b. varied according to the full moon.
 - c. was decided by Zeus, in whose honour the Games were held.
 - d. was considered unimportant.
4. During the Games, on the evening before the moon was full,
- a. heroes were sacrificed to Zeus.
 - b. large sums of prize money were distributed to the heroes.
 - c. all the victors were crowned with garlands.
 - d. the heroes were honoured with sacrificial offerings.
5. Competitors had to train
- a. for four years.
 - b. for ten months.
 - c. until they collapsed from exhaustion.
 - d. for periods determined by their state authorities.
6. Modern athletes' results cannot be compared with those of the ancient runners because
- a. details such as times were not recorded in the past.
 - b. they are much better.
 - c. the ancient runners fell down dead.
 - d. the Greeks had no means of telling time.
7. The continuity of the Olympic Games
- a. was broken in the year A. D. 1200.
 - b. has never been broken.
 - c. was interrupted for over 1, 500 years.
 - d. was broken in 1896.
8. Nowadays, the athletes' expenses are paid for

- a. out of the national funds of competing nations.
 - b. out of the prize money of the winners.
 - c. by the athletes themselves.
 - d. by commercial organizations.
9. At the beginning of the Games in the host country
- a. a torch is ignited at sunrise.
 - b. a lighted torch is brought into the stadium.
 - c. relays of runners light their torches in the stadium.
 - d. a torch is ignited by the Greek ambassador.
10. The modern Olympics, compared with the ancient ones, are
- a. inspired by the same ideals.
 - b. completely different in every respect.
 - c. more restricted in the variety of events.
 - d. too much concerned with international rivalry.

Exercise B

Say whether or not the statement is similar in meaning to the sentence from the passage indicated by the line number in brackets.

1. We can ascertain when the Olympic Games first took place because official records date from 776 B. C. (lines 5 - 7)
2. Originally the only permitted competitors were those whose position in society was respected. (lines 11 - 12)
3. Because the ten - month period of training was so strenuous, competitors who did not achieve success felt that their efforts were wasted. (lines 25 - 27)
4. The intensive training gave all runners the strength to withstand even the strain of the great races. (lines 27 - 29)
5. As there is a greater variety of sports nowadays, athletic events

have lost their importance. (lines 44 - 45)

6. The Olympic torch burns throughout the Games to honour today the ancient Greek athletic ideals. (lines 51 - 53)

Text B

Canning Food

Food which is kept too long decays because it is attacked by yeasts, moulds and bacteria. The canning process, however, seals the product in a container so that no infection can reach it, and then it is sterilized by heat. Heat sterilization destroys all infections present in food inside the can. No chemical preservatives are necessary, and properly canned food does not deteriorate during storage.

The principle was discovered in 1809 by a Frenchman called Nicolas Appert. He corked food tightly in wide-necked glass bottles and immersed them in a bath of hot water to drive out the air, then he hammered the corks down to seal the jars hermetically. Appert's discovery was rewarded by the French government because better preserved food supplies were needed for Napoleon's troops on distant campaigns.

By 1814 an English manufacturer had replaced Appert's glass jars with metal containers and was supplying tinned vegetable soup and meat to the British navy. The next scientific improvement, in 1860, was the result of Louis Pasteur's work on sterilization through the application of scientifically controlled heat.

Today vegetables, fish, fruit, meat and beer are canned in enormous quantities. Within three generations the eating habits of