

外语等级考试教材

ABC 英语 (4) 教材

# 21 世纪

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冯娅 余国强 陆穗 张涛/编著





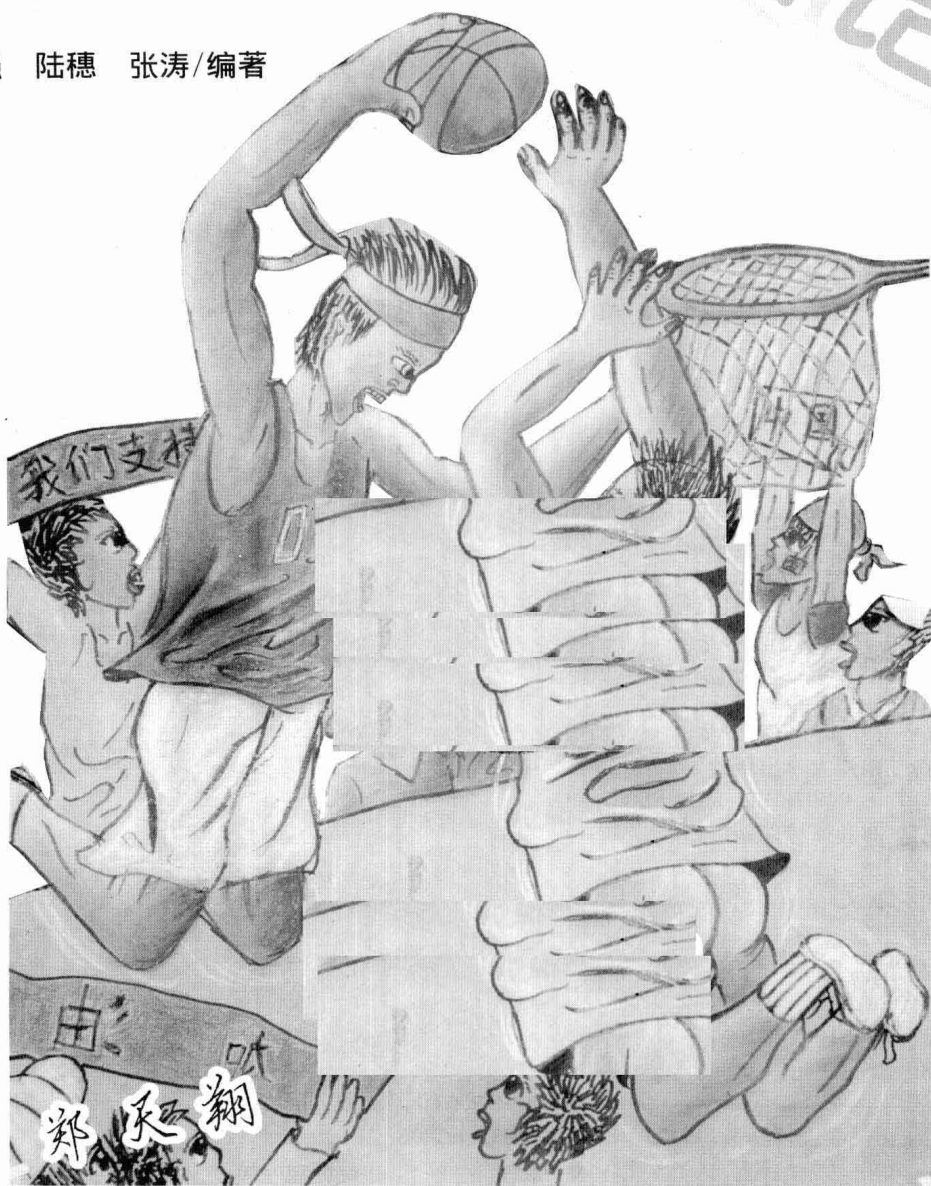
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# 前言

21 世纪是知识经济、高科技产业、信息网络化和经济全球化的时代。外语是学习科学文化知识,获取各种信息,进行国际交流的重要工具,是 21 世纪必须具备的基本技能。因此,当少年儿童学习英语的时候,可利用其语感和语言模仿能力,通过听、说、读、写的训练,帮助他们在国际音标、语音语调、书写习惯和日常用语的运用等方面打下良好的英语基础。

编者积多年对少儿英语教学的研究,根据《少儿英语等级考试大纲的标准》,充分考虑了少年儿童在心理、智力和兴趣等方面的特点,并遵循英语语言自身的规律编成此书。

本丛书内容贴近生活,既有知识性,又有趣味性,易为少年儿童接受。书中的图画色彩鲜艳、形象逼真、生动活泼;文字由浅入深,既有单词、短语、句型、对话、短文,还有英语歌曲,便于少年儿童循序渐进地学习和模仿。

本丛书配有外籍教师录制的教学磁带(语音文件),语音语调标准、优美、流畅;发音清晰,语速适中。

本丛书共四册,第一册为少儿英语一级考试教材,第二册为少儿英语二级考试教材,第三册为少儿英语三级考试教材,第四册为少儿英语四级考试教材。每册教学时间约需 80 学时,每次教学时间不宜太长,要注意精讲多练,形式多样,生动活泼。

本丛书是中小学英语和各类少年儿童英语学习班教材,还可用作少年儿童自学英语读本。

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英语等级考试教材编委会  
2011 年 1 月 10 日



## 使用说明

本书为《21 世纪 ABC 英语》第四册,旨在引导中学生在学习课文及复习课的基础上,加强听、说、读、写能力的培养。

全书共有 5 个单元,每单元分为 5 课。其中,前 4 课围绕 4 个不同的主题设置课文,分为正课文(Text A) 和副课文(Text B);第 5 课为复习课,涵盖了前 4 课的主题,分别有听、说、读、写等多方面的语言操练。

### 1. 正课文 (Text A)

这部分由正课文、词汇表、课文注释和练习组成。其中,练习部分主要包括课文理解 (Comprehension) 和词汇句型 (Vocabulary and Structure) 练习。这一部分能有效地扩大学生的词汇量,提高学生的阅读能力。

### 2. 副课文 (Text B)

这部分由副课文、阅读理解练习和回答问题(或写作)组成,分对巩固和提高学生的阅读理解及写作能力至关重要。

### 3. 复习课主要有以下内容:

#### (1) Time for listening

该部分训练学生根据所听短文内容捕捉信息的能力,要求学生根据指令完成练习。

#### (2) Time for reading

该部分加大了阅读量,是学生经过前面 4 篇正、副课文的学习和操练后,对相关主题和内容已掌握的前提下进行的巩固和提高练习。

#### (3) Time for speaking

学生在熟悉短文的基础上复述故事,可提高口语表达能力。



#### (4) Happy English

该部分是英语学习中的一颗“开心果”，能让学生在幽默笑话中获取知识。

#### (5) Everyday English

该部分包括简练、精辟的常用语，学生在其日常生活中可以灵活运用。

本书最后所附的试题“Test Yourself”，可供教师进行模拟考试，也可供学生自我测试。

教师可以根据学生的具体情况，灵活安排教学内容，副课文（Text B）可作为自学课文，以培养学生的自学能力。第四册的语音文件可登陆四川大学出版社网站（<http://www.scupress.com.cn>）免费下载。

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# Unit One

## Lesson 1 Nature

### Text A

Life on earth depends on the sun. Day after day we see its light and feel its warmth, but we do not often consider their origin. Yet there are many remarkable things about the sun. <sup>1</sup> One is its distance from the earth. This is about ninety-three million miles. A journey of this distance, even if it could be made, would take several hundred years even in the fastest rocket. <sup>2</sup>

The sun makes us feel hot, <sup>3</sup> even at a distance of ninety-three million miles. This is not surprising. The temperature on the sun is about ten thousand degrees Fahrenheit. But we receive only a small part of this heat. The total heat of the sun could melt a column of ice two and a quarter miles thick <sup>4</sup> and ninety-three million miles high in one second.

The brightness of the sun is equally astonishing. As we said earlier, we receive only a very small part of the sun's heat. We also receive only a very small part of its light. This is sufficient for the growth of trees and plants, and for the existence of living creatures on earth. Too much heat and light would destroy the balance of life. The heat and light from the sun come in just the right quantities for life on earth.

### ► Words and expressions:

**depend on** *v.* rely on 依靠, 依赖

**origin** *n.* beginning, source 来源, 起源

**remarkable** *a.* great, wonderful 了不起的, 精彩的

**temperature** *n.* heat, warmth 温度

**Fahrenheit** *n.* a scale for measuring temperature 华氏度

**total** *a.* entire, whole 总的

**column** *n.* beam, pile (大)块, 团

**sufficient** *a.* adequate, enough, plenty 足够的, 充足的

**creature** *n.* being, living thing 生物



**destroy** *v.* damage, harm, spoil 损坏, 破坏

**balance** *n.* stability, steadiness 平衡, 稳定

**quantity** *n.* amount, number, sum, volume 数量

### ► Notes on the text:

1. Yet there are many remarkable things about the sun. “关于太阳有着许许多多精彩的故事。”该句中“there are”结构是用来说明人、物的存在。

2. ...even if it could be made, (it) would take several hundred years even in the fastest rocket. “即使能行, 就是乘坐最快的火箭也需要几百年才能到达。”这句话中的“even if it could be made... (it) would take...”是虚拟语气对将来的假设。

3. ...makes us feel... “使我们感到……”在句中“make”以及“let”, “have”等使役动词后面跟不带“to”的动词不定式作宾语补足语。

4. two and a quarter miles thick 2.25 英里厚的

### ► Choose the best answers for the following:

#### Comprehension

- What is the passage mainly about?
  - The life on the earth.
  - The distance of the sun from us.
  - Many great things about the sun.
  - The temperature of the sun.
- How far is the earth away from the sun?
  - About 93 million miles.
  - About 930 million miles.
  - About 193 million miles.
  - About 93 billion miles.
- What's the temperature on the sun?
  - Not mentioned.
  - 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - 10,000 degrees Centigrade.
  - Over 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?
  - The sun's light comes from billions of miles away.
  - Most of the sun's heat and light are received on earth.
  - The distance of the sun is the same as that of the earth.
  - Without the correct balance of heat and light, life on earth would not be possible.
- Why do we need the sun?
  - For the growth of trees and plants.
  - For people on earth.



C. For the existence of living creatures on earth.

D. For the growth of trees and plants, and for the existence of living creatures on earth.

## Vocabulary and structure

6. Whether to success or fail \_\_\_\_\_ on our hard work.  
A. depends                      B. will depend                      C. calls                      D. will call
7. The spring is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the lake.  
A. distance                      B. creature                      C. origin                      D. balance
8. The boy got off his \_\_\_\_\_ and fell down from his bicycle.  
A. column                      B. quantity                      C. temperature                      D. balance
9. What makes you \_\_\_\_\_ that?  
A. to ask                      B. asking                      C. ask                      D. ask for
10. Even we \_\_\_\_\_ fail again we wouldn't lose heart.  
A. shall                      B. will                      C. would                      D. could

## Text B

Trees are useful to man in three very important ways: they provide him wood and other products; they give him shade (树荫); and they help to prevent drought (干旱) and floods.

Unfortunately, in many parts of the world, man has not realized that the third of these services is the most important. In his eagerness (渴望) to draw quick profit (获利) from the trees, he has cut them down in large numbers (大批量).

Two thousand years ago, a rich and powerful country cut down its trees to build warships (战舰), with which to gain itself an empire. It gained the empire, but without its trees, its soil became bare and poor. When the empire fell to pieces (土崩瓦解), the country found itself faced by floods and starvation.

Even where a government realizes the importance of a plentiful supply of trees, it is difficult sometimes to make the people realize this. They cut down the trees but are too careless to plant and look after new trees. So, unless the government has a good system of control, or can educate the people, the forests slowly disappear.

This does not only mean that there will be fewer trees. The results are even more serious: for where there are trees, their roots break the soil up, allowing the rain to sink in, and also **bind** the soil. This prevents the soil from being washed away. But where there are no trees, the rain falls on hard ground and flows away (流失) on the



surface (表层), and this causes floods and the rain carries away the rich topsoil (表土) in which crops grow. When all the topsoil is gone, nothing remains but worthless (毫无价值的) desert.

## ➤ I. Reading comprehension:

- Trees are useful to man mainly in three ways, the most important of which is that they can \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. keep him from the hot sunshine  
 B. enable him to build warships  
 C. make him draw quick profit from them  
 D. protect him from droughts and floods
- It's a great pity that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. man is only interested in building empires  
 B. man is eager to profit from trees  
 C. man hasn't realized the importance of trees to him  
 D. man hasn't found out that he has lost all trees
- Sooner or later the forests will disappear \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. unless a country has a plenty supply of trees  
 B. unless people stop cutting down their trees  
 C. unless all people are taught the importance of planting trees  
 D. unless the government punishes those who cut trees instead of planting them
- The word "bind" in Paragraph 5 means "\_\_\_\_\_".  
 A. to wash away  
 B. to make wet  
 C. to make stay together  
 D. to improve
- When there is a heavy rain, trees can help to prevent floods, as they can \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. keep rain from falling down to soft ground  
 B. cause the soil to allow rainwater to sink in  
 C. prevent the soil from being washed away  
 D. make the topsoil stick together

## ➤ II. Questions and answers:

- In what ways do you think trees are useful to man in our life?
- How did a rich and powerful country once build its empire?
- What can a government do to prevent drought and floods?
- What will the results be if we just cut down trees without planting new ones?
- Can we do something to protect our environment? And how?



# Unit One

## Lesson 2 Life

### Text A

When a housewife wants to turn her bedroom around to face the sun,<sup>1</sup> she can do it at the press of a button. A New Zealand<sup>2</sup> inventor recently perfected the world's first prefabricated revolving house. The inventor, Peter Lester, has protected his idea by taking out a patent on it.<sup>3</sup>

The first home built to his design is in Rotorua, New Zealand.<sup>4</sup> The cost of the model is close to that of an ordinary home with the same floor space—1,800 square feet. The main house revolves like a wheel above the basement, which remains stationary.<sup>5</sup> The plastic roof is semitransparent<sup>6</sup> and softens the light. Roof blinds in each room are controlled by an electronic system.

The revolving house will be suitable in any climate. In hot zones the home can turn to a shady side for coolness, or it can rotate, at one revolution every four minutes, to catch as much breeze as possible.<sup>7</sup>

### Words and expressions:

**press** *n.* push 按, 推

**perfect** *v.* better 使完善

**prefabricate** *v.* make the parts before they are put together 预制

**patent** *n.* inventor's exclusive right, licence 专利(权)

**design** *n.* plan 设计

**model** *n.* pattern 模型

**space** *n.* area, room 空间, 余地

**revolve** *v.* turn around, go around, rotate 旋转

**basement** *n.* underground room 地下室

**stationary** *a.* motionless, still 不动的, 静止的

**blind** *n.* cover, shade; screen; curtain 遮光物; 百叶窗; 窗帘

**zone** *n.* region, area 地带, 区域





breeze *n.* gentle wind 微风, 和风

### ► Notes on the text:

1. to face the sun 面向太阳
2. New Zealand 新西兰 (大洋洲国家)
3. ...taking out a patent on it 以此申请专利
4. The first home built to his design is in Rotorua, New Zealand. “以他的设计建造的第一座房屋是在新西兰的罗托路亚。”句中的“built to his design”是过去分词短语作定语修饰“home”。
5. ...which remains stationary...句中的“remain”作连系动词后接形容词表示主语保持某种特征或状态。类似的还有“keep”, “stay”, “sit”, “stand”, “continue”等动词。
6. semitransparent 半透明的; “semi-”前缀, 表示“半”。如: semicentury (半个世纪), semicircle (半圆), semidiameter (半径)。
7. as ... as possible 尽可能……

### ► Choose the best answers for the following:

#### Comprehension

1. Compared with an ordinary home of the same size, the cost of the model home is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. much less      B. about the same      C. slightly higher      D. much higher
2. The feature mentioned in the article that may be found in an ordinary house is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a stationary kitchen  
B. a stationary basement  
C. an electronically controlled heating system  
D. an air-conditioning system
3. The article describes the effect on light of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. plastic roof      B. plate-glass windows  
C. French doors      D. air shafts
4. The article implies that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the plastic roof allows full sunlight to pass through  
B. an electronic system controls roof blinds  
C. the purpose of the electronic system is to control the amount of light entering  
D. electronic systems often go out of order
5. The time given for one revolution of the house is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. three minutes      B. four minutes      C. six minutes      D. ten minutes



## Vocabulary and structure

6. He went to America to \_\_\_\_\_ his English.  
A. take out      B. press      C. perfect      D. learn
7. The bus remains \_\_\_\_\_, there must be something wrong.  
A. stationary      B. suitable      C. shady      D. quiet
8. If you park your car in a no parking \_\_\_\_\_, a traffic policeman will soon find it.  
A. space      B. zone      C. basement      D. square
9. The experience \_\_\_\_\_ in the practice will be of great value to us.  
A. gaining      B. gained      C. gain      D. be gained
10. As the saying goes, "\_\_\_\_\_ dogs seldom bite."  
A. Bark      B. Barks      C. Barked      D. Barking

## Text B

Almost every family buys at least (至少) one copy of a newspaper every day. Some people subscribe to (订阅) as many as two or three different newspapers. But why do people read newspapers?

Five hundred years ago, news of important happenings—battles lost or won, kings or rulers overthrown or killed—took months and even years to travel from one country to another. The news passed by word of mouth and was never accurate (准确的, 精确的). Today we can read in our newspapers of important events that occur in faraway countries on the same day they happen.

**Apart from** supplying news from all over the world, newspapers give us a lot of other useful information. There are weather reports, radio, television and film guides, book reviews (书评), stories, and of course, advertisements. There are all sorts of advertisements. The bigger ones are put in by large companies to bring attention to (引起注意) their products. They pay the newspapers thousands of dollars for the advertising space (广告栏目), but it is worth the money for news of their products goes into almost every home in the country. For those who produce newspapers, advertisements are also very important. Money earned from advertisements makes it possible for them to sell their newspapers at a low price and still make a profit (赚钱).

Newspapers often have information on gardening, cookery and fashion (园艺、烹饪和时装), as well as a small but very popular section on jokes (幽默) and cartoons (漫画).

## I. Reading comprehension:

- Which of the following is NOT the reason why people buy newspapers?
  - Newspapers provide useful information.
  - Newspapers provide relaxation.
  - Newspapers provide information on fashion.
  - Newspapers provide book reviews.
- According to this passage, the news passed by word of mouth five hundred years ago was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - inaccurate
  - interesting
  - amazing
  - boring
- The phrase "Apart from" in Para. 3 could be best replaced by "\_\_\_\_\_".
  - Different from
  - Besides
  - Except
  - Further
- Advertisements are important for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - companies and newspaper owners
  - companies and newspaper readers
  - families
  - none of the above
- The section on jokes and cartoons is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - read only by children
  - not helpful
  - of no value
  - read by many

## II. Questions and answers:

- How important are newspapers in our daily life?
- Why do we read newspapers?
- How can those who produce newspapers sell their papers at a low price and still make a profit?
- Why are the bigger advertisements put in newspapers by large companies?
- What else can we often get from newspapers?



# Unit One

## Lesson 3 Animals

### Text A

In many countries today, laws protect wildlife. In India the need for such protection was realized centuries ago.

About 300 B. C. an Indian writer described forests that were somewhat like national parks today. <sup>1</sup> The killing of game beasts was carefully supervised. Some animals were fully protected. Within the forest, nobody was allowed to cut timber, burn wood for charcoal, or trap animals for their furs. Animals that became dangerous to human visitors were trapped or killed outside the park, so that other animals would not become uneasy. <sup>2</sup>

The need for wildlife protection is greater now than ever before. <sup>3</sup> About a thousand species of animals are in danger of extinction, and the rate at which they are being destroyed has increased. With mammals, for instance, the rate of extinction is now about one species every year; from 1 A. D. to 1800, the rate was about one species every fifty years. Everywhere, men are trying to solve the problem of preserving wildlife while caring for the world's growing population.

### ► Words and expressions:

**wildlife** *n.* animals and other living things that live in the wild 野生动物

**realize** *v.* understand 意识到, 认识到

**supervise** *v.* manage; oversee 管理; 监视

**timber** *n.* wood 木材, 木料

**charcoal** *n.* black substance used as fuel 木炭

**trap** *v.* capture by a trick 诱捕

**uneasy** *a.* worried, upset 不安的, 担心的

**species** *n.* division of genus 物种

**extinction** *n.* death, destruction 灭绝, 绝种

**preserve** *v.* protect 保护

