

SELECTIONS  
FOR  
EXTENSIVE  
READING

BOOK ONE

# 英语泛读文选

上 册

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## 前 言

《英语泛读文选》(Selections for Extensive Reading)是为理工科院校的大学生选编的一套课外阅读材料。目的在于提高学生的英语阅读能力，扩大其词汇量。全书共计选文七十二篇；编排由浅入深，分成四个单元，上下两册。每篇文章后面配有练习（上册另附英语注释），供读者检查理解能力并巩固基础语法和常用词汇。书后附有答案。

文章主要选自英美近代的书报杂志。本书题材广泛，体裁多样，思想内容健康，知识性、趣味性强；且语言生动活泼，语法现象丰富。

非英语专业的研究生、出国进修生以及具有中等水平的英语自学者阅读此书均能获益。

编写过程中，曾得到外籍教师 Anne Schechter 的热情帮助，在此谨表谢意。

由于编者水平有限，时间仓促，错误在所难免，欢迎读者批评指正。

编 者

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# Unit One

## 1. Language and Travel

It is always interesting to visit another country, especially for those who have never traveled a great deal. Foreign travel can be very educational for anyone, if he is interested enough to make preparations beforehand. Learning the language of the new country would be difficult for the traveler to attempt, but the benefit of such an effort would become obvious immediately after his arrival. It may not seem important to him when he is comfortably situated at home, but knowing how to order a meal or rent a room is essential for the newcomer in a strange country. Without knowing the language, it is very difficult for the stranger to understand the people of the new country and their customs.

Of course, in our small world, it is often possible to find someone who understands our own language, but this is only second-best for the traveler. To be sure, he can see places and things without the use of a language, but places and things are not the heart of any country. To get the greatest benefit from a trip to ano-

ther country, it is indeed important for the visitor to have an understanding of the language.

### Notes,

1. benefit; advantage, good effect
2. situated; in a condition

### Exercises

True or False,

- ( ) 1. Foreign travel is quite interesting for those who seldom visit other countries.
- ( ) 2. Foreign travel can be instructive for any traveler who is interested enough to make preparations in advance.
- ( ) 3. It is essential for a newcomer to know the customs there instead of the language.
- ( ) 4. It is better for the stranger to know the foreign language than to find someone who understands his own language.
- ( ) 5. Learning the language of the new country is no easy job to a traveler, but it pays to do so.
- ( ) 6. It doesn't matter if you do not know how to order a meal or rent a room in a strange country.
- ( ) 7. It is commonly acknowledged that without understanding the language the traveler can see places and things, but they are not sub-

stantial in knowing any country.

- ( ) 8. Understanding the language, the visitor can get the greatest benefit from a trip to another country.

## 2. Churchill and His Speech

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was the British Prime Minister. One day he had to go to the British Broadcasting Corporation (the BBC) to make an important speech to the nation.

An hour before the time of this speech, he stopped a taxi in the street and asked the driver to take him to the BBC; but the taxi-driver, who did not recognize him, said he could not take him anywhere just then because he wanted to go back to his home at the other end of London to hear Churchill make a speech on the radio.

Churchill was so pleased when he heard this answer that he gave the man a pound, which was worth quite a lot in those days.

"All right, get in," said the driver happily, opening the door of the taxi. "I'll take you, and to hell with Churchill and his speech!"

**Note:**

(go) to hell (with): go and be damned

**Exercises**

True or False:

- ( ) 1. One day Churchill had to make an important speech to his people.
- ( ) 2. Now, there was an hour left before Churchill's speech.
- ( ) 3. The taxi-driver refused to take any passengers a whole hour before the speech because he had to hurry home.
- ( ) 4. The driver realized that if he didn't take the man to the BBC, he wouldn't be able to hear the speech.
- ( ) 5. Churchill was glad at the driver's answer and gave him a pound of food.
- ( ) 6. A pound was worth quite a lot when Churchill was in power.
- ( ) 7. Churchill gave the taxi-driver a pound because he appreciated the driver's admiration for his speech very much.
- ( ) 8. The driver changed his mind because he did not care for Churchill's speech as much as for money.

### 3. An Advertisement

Tom saw an advertisement in a newspaper for a beautiful, modern bicycle which cost £54.99, so he went to the shop which had put the advertisement in and asked to see one of their wonderful bicycles.

The shopkeeper was very happy to show one to Tom, who examined it carefully and then, turned to the shopkeeper, saying, "There isn't a lamp on this bicycle, but there was one in the bicycle in your advertisement."

"Yes, sir," answered the shopkeeper, "the lamp isn't included in the price of the bicycle. It's an extra."

"Not included in the price of the bicycle?" Tom said angrily. "But that's not honest. If the lamp's in the advertisement, it should have been included in the price you gave there."

"Well, sir," answered the shopkeeper calmly, "there's also a girl on the bicycle in our advertisement, but we don't supply one of them with the bicycle either."

#### Exercises

True or False,

( ) 1. Tom went to the shop where he saw the

advertisement and asked to see one of the bicycles.

- ( ) 2. Tom read an advertisement for a wonderful bicycle whose price was £54.99.
- ( ) 3. Tom thought such a bike worth buying.
- ( ) 4. Tom put an advertisement in a newspaper to sell a beautiful, modern bicycle.
- ( ) 5. After examination, he got angry because the bicycle shown to him was quite different from that in the advertisement.
- ( ) 6. He became angry because the lamp was an extra.
- ( ) 7. Tom had expected to pay £54.99 for a bike with a lamp on it.
- ( ) 8. The bike cost £54.99 without supplying either the lamp or the girl printed in the advertisement.

#### 4. Vitamins

Milk is the best food for babies. It is good for children and for older people too. It has in it fat, which gives energy, and it has the most important of the materials needed for building up our bodies. Milk makes strong bones and strong teeth, too. It is good for a child to drink two or three glasses of it every day.

Besides, milk has in it most of the vitamins which are needed to keep us healthy. Vitamins are a discovery of this century. A hundred years ago no one knew anything about them.

The vitamins are named by letters of the alphabet. Vitamin A is needed by the eyes. There is Vitamin A in milk, butter and green vegetables. It can be stored by the body.

Vitamin B cannot be stored. It must be supplied all the time by some of the food we eat. The skins of grain of all sorts have Vitamin B in them.

Vitamin C is very important to the body. Without it men's teeth become loose and their arms and legs weak. Lemons, oranges and tomatoes have Vitamin C in them.

Vitamin D is the sun vitamin. We get it in milk and eggs and from sunlight on our skin. There are other vitamins, but these, A, B, C and D, are the most important.

Every person must have air and water and food to keep alive and he must have these vitamins to keep him well.

### Exercises

True or False,

- ( ) 1. Vitamins were discovered in 1900's.
- ( ) 2. Vitamins are as necessary to people as air and water.

- ( ) 3. Milk is rich in vitamins.
- ( ) 4. Milk has in it fat and the most important of bone-building materials, too.
- ( ) 5. It is no good for our teeth to have milk or fruit.
- ( ) 6. We get Vitamin D practically from vegetables.
- ( ) 7. All vitamins can't be stored in our bodies.
- ( ) 8. People have to eat the food with Vitamin B every day, for Vitamin B can't be stored by the body.

## 5. Albert Einstein and His Chauffeur

There is a story about how Albert Einstein was travelling to universities in a chauffeur-driver car, delivering lectures on his theory of relativity. One day while in transit, the chauffeur remarked: "Dr. Einstein, I have heard that lecture 30 times. I know it by heart and bet I could give it myself."

"Well, I'll give the chance," said Einstein. "They don't know me at the next school, so when we get there I'll put on your cap and you introduce yourself as me and give the lecture."

The chauffeur delivered Einstein's lecture flaw-

lessly. When he finished, he started to leave, but one of the professors stopped him and asked a complex question filled with mathematical equations and formulas. The Chauffeur fast thought. "The solution to that problem is so simple," he said, "I'm surprised you have to ask me. In fact, to show you just how simple it is, I'm going to ask my chauffeur to come up here and answer your question."

### Notes:

1. chauffeur [ʃoufə:]; a person employed to drive someone's car
2. deliver lectures; give lectures
3. while in transit; while driving (to the university)

### Exercises

True or False:

- ( ) 1. Einstein usually drove himself to give lectures on his theory of relativity.
- ( ) 2. The chauffeur thought that he knew the lecture so well that he could give it himself.
- ( ) 3. So on their way to the next school Einstein let the driver dress up as Einstein and give the lecture.
- ( ) 4. The driver delivered the lecture unsuccessfully.

- ( ) 5. Recognizing that the lecturer wasn't Einstein himself, one of the professors asked the driver a complex question.
- ( ) 6. When the driver was asked a complex mathematical question, he got too embarrassed to say anything and had to turn to Einstein for help.
- ( ) 7. The chauffeur was a shrewd fellow. He was quick to find a way out of the difficulty.
- ( ) 8. At last the chauffeur said to Einstein that learning a lecture by heart was one thing; grasping the theory was quite another.

## 6. A Woman 'Pilot'

"Help! Help! Help me! The pilot has fainted!" Mrs. Wait shouted on the plane radio. A voice answered. "This is the airport tower. What happened?" Mrs. Wait spoke slowly, "My husband was flying us. Then he fainted! I can fly the plane. But I can't land it." The tower voice said, "Plane is near you. Pilot Corson will help." Next, Mr. Corson's voice came on the radio. "Look, Mrs. Wait. I'm flying next to you." Soon the two planes were over the airport. Mr. Corson spoke loudly, "Listen. Take each

step. It's time to go down." He told Mrs. Wait what to pull and push. She knew she was doing a good job. She saw the runway. But suddenly she zoomed too close to the tower. Mr. Corson yelled, "No! No! Pull up! Get back up! Fast!" The nose of the plane just missed the tower. Mrs. Wait shouted into the radio, "I know what went wrong. Let's try it again." Slowly she flew the plane near the ground. She saw the ambulance. Mr. Corson talked to her, "Okay. Give it some gas. Now! Get above the runway. That's it." The plane hit hard. It bounced. It screeched. It smoked. But— at long last— Mrs. Wait had landed.

### Notes,

1. step; an act, esp. in a set of actions
2. zoom; (of an aircraft) go quickly upward
3. ambulance; motor vehicle for carrying sick or wounded people, esp. to hospital
4. bounce; jump up and down (like a ball)
5. screech; make a very high sharp sound

### Exercises

#### True or False;

- ( ) 1. The airport tower was reported that there was something wrong with the pilot of a plane in the air.
- ( ) 2. The pilot had drunk too much and became

unconscious.

- ( ) 3. The wife of the pilot happened in the same plane. She could fly a plane as well as her husband.
- ( ) 4. The airport asked another plane in the air to help Mrs. Wait land.
- ( ) 5. Mrs. Wait was told that Mr. Corson was flying beside her.
- ( ) 6. Acting on Mr. Corson's instructions, Mrs. Wait was doing well.
- ( ) 7. Suddenly Mrs. Wait's plane touched the tower.
- ( ) 8. Meantime Mr. Corson's plane narrowly missed the tower.
- ( ) 9. Soon the two planes successfully landed.

## 7. A London Fog

It was a very foggy day in London. The fog was so thick that it was impossible to see more than a foot or so. Buses, cars, and taxis were not able to run and were standing by the side of the road. People were trying to find their way about on foot but were losing their way in the fog. Mr. Smith had a very important meeting at the House of the Commons and had to get there, but no one could take him. He