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# New Reading Skill Builder

## 新编循序渐进美国英语

BOOK FOW A

第二级

汪 颖译注 夏祖奎审校

外语教学与研究出版社

## 许国璋教授为本书做了高度概括

七照图难参练循七大照图难译文案进形色画图释文案进册

## 前 言

过去两年中,我们通过各种方式,向英语教师、学者专家和书店经理进行了广泛的意见调查。调查围绕这样一个中心题目:什么样的书最能帮助我们的青少年学生扎实而顺利地学到有用的英语?

调查的结论是:八十、九十年代的青少年学生,是新一代的读者,他们需要的英语教材和读物,至少要满足以下四项要求:

内容新颖 新读者不再满足于古老的寓言神话,传奇故事之类的传统篇子,他们要求富于现代生活气息的东西。

知识充实 新读者希望外语能和本族语一样成为获得新知识的工具,帮助他们认识世界,开阔视野。

饶有趣味 有趣味才能长久保持克服学习困难的劲头。现实性和知识性是引起兴趣的关键,但同时还要讲求表现形式的生动活泼,曲折有致,幽默风趣。

循序渐进 由浅入深,从易到难,才能把学习困难减少到最低限度, 也可以保证学得扎实,一步一个脚印。

根据上述要求,我们选定美国读者文摘社出版的《新编循序渐进英文读本》(New Reading Skill Builder)作为蓝本,编译成这一套《新编循序渐进美国英语》,奉献给我国的广大青少年读者。

全套书按内容和语言的深浅共分为七级:

第一级又分为四个部分,第二到第七级每级各有三个部分。

大致上第一到第三级、第四到第六级、第七级分别相当于初级、中级、高级三个阶段。

各级课文篇数如下:

第一级 36 篇

第四级 51 篇

第七级 60 篇

第二级 52 篇

第五级 58 篇

第三级 48 篇

第六级 55 篇

总计 360 篇。课文的平均长度和深度逐级递增。同级各部分的难度 大体相近,可以通读各部分,也可以选读一二部分。

所有课文都是选自美国《读者文摘》(Reader's Digest)杂志历年发表过的文章,经过改写或改编而成的,就连第一、第二两级的最浅近的课文,也是根据该刊文章的故事或思想编写的。

《读者文摘》是世界上很有影响的文摘刊物,所发表的文章都是从大量美国书刊中筛选出来的。作品取舍的标准强调现实性、知识性,趣味性。《新编循序渐进英文读本》编者又根据教学要求作了进一步的筛选和改编,并按照由浅入深的原则进行编排,再配上练习和录音,使其适合学习英语,特别

是培养阅读技能的需要。

为了便利我国英语学习者使用,我们在每课之后加上课文的词汇注释和参考译文。这些注释和译文是供参考和备检查的,学生应当把主要力量和注意力投放在课文上面。

绝大部分课文后面都附有练习,其中有读音、拼法、词汇、语法练习,也有检查领会、启发思考、训练表述等性质的练习。除了要求自由发挥的题目之外,都加上了答案,供读者核对自检。从第 4 级起,在要求正确领会内容之外,还要求阅读达到一定的速度。课文之末标出全文词数,以便读者看时间计算自己的阅读速度。

这套书的一个重要特色是书中印有大量生动传神和说明问题的插图, 有照片、图画,也有图解、地图等,对形象而真切地领会课文大有帮助。

但是这套书的中心材料,是经过精心编选的课文,现代性、知识性、趣味性、渐进性主要体现在课文上。

课文的语言自然、地道、生动,是学习现代美国英语的绝好材料。这种语言又是用来表现有用、有益、有趣的内容的。

各级课文题材之广泛,超过一般英语教本,有奇观胜景、珍禽异兽、民情风俗、名人事迹、劳动生产、饮食起居、体育游艺、科技知识、幽默小品等,可以说是面面俱到。反映的主要是美国的人、地、事、物,但也涉及五大洲其它地方的风土人情。讲述的主要是当代的新鲜事物,但也穿插少许一二百年,甚至一二千年前的历史故事。

不论什么地域,什么时代,所讲的事情都是青少年读者所喜闻乐见的。讲到动物,不论野生家养,不像寓言中能作人言的禽兽,而是活灵活现的生物,习性奇特有趣,有的仿佛能解人意,通人性;虽然不提什么寓意教训,却总含点哲理,引人深思。讲到遇险人员英勇自救,或是救援人员奋力抢救,不仅情节紧张,扣人心弦,他们所表现的无畏和智慧,尤其能深深打动读者的心。书中介绍的体坛明星和艺林高手,不仅技艺超绝令人赞叹,他们刻苦训练修养的精神和急公好义的美德也是值得钦佩的。

有许多课文写探险冒险和发现发明的故事,对于青少年读者无疑具有极大的吸引力。读了不仅可以满足他们求知的欲望,还可以培养积极进取的精神,锻炼坚定沉着的性格,激发发明创造的冲动。

科学技术知识在书中占有很大的比重。各级都介绍了许多科学常识和现代技术的新发展,例如天气预测,太阳的奥秘,味觉和听力,色盲者的体验,电视机的诞生,火山爆发,海底世界,新式农业机械,各种飞行器,宇宙航行,红外照相,激光技术,建筑新法,等等。大多写得深入浅出,引人人胜。有一篇关于天外来客的科幻故事,对地球环境污染作了辛辣的讽刺和严肃的警告。

虽然不少课文带有神奇色彩,但绝少讲到神仙鬼怪。有一些讲奇遇巧合,虽然出乎意料之外,仍在情理之中;尽管查无实据,却也事出有因。例如《尼斯湖怪》,《坟场小路》之类便是。只有一篇《旅店白衣少女》,叙述一个痴心女子的悲剧,是真正讲鬼的,但也讲得凄惋动人。

头一二级的课文,尽管受词汇、语法的限制,也都清新可读,富有情趣。例如第一级里的《鲨鱼》一文,短短二百多个词,写人鲨之间的一场恶斗,紧张惊险,使读者捏一把汗。随着语言程度的提高,以后各级的课文,内容越来越有深度。那怕讲的是身边琐事,日常细节,也总有一些深意,值得玩味。

不用说,课文的内容都是代表美国人的观点,他们看待事物跟我们常常有所不同。但是学习美国英语,不论从过程讲,还是从目的讲,都要了解美国人是怎样看待这个世界的。通过书中的课文,可以约略窥见美国人的生活方式、思想感情、价值观念,以及美国的社会现状和问题。

总之,认真学习这套书,不仅可以学到现代美国英语,同时还可以学到现代科学技术和社会文化知识,收到既学得语言又增长知识的良效。唯有这样,才能做到听读则"耳聪目明","心领神会",说写则"言之有物","意到笔随"。我们希望这套《新编循序渐进美国英语》能带领读者步入广阔的英语世界,神游奇妙的现代知识世界。

本册书是全套书(共七级)的第二级。本级分为三个部分,译注者为汪颖,由夏祖奎教授审校。

## New Reading Skill Builder

## 循序渐进美国英语

BOOK TWO, PART ONE

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Circus Girl

Key Words: job, excited, circus lot, everyone, owned, parade, lifted

Bob took Kitty ever to a big elephant.

Kitty was going to be a circus girl. It was her first day on her new job. How excited she was!

She looked all around the circus lot. Everyone was at work. Boys were washing the elephants. A man was feeding the lions. Men were training dogs to do tricks. Girls were jumping on and off horses.

Kitty was a little afraid. What was her job going to be?

At last she saw Mr. North. He owned the circus. "What am I to do in your circus?" Kitty asked.

"First you must learn to ride in the parade," Mr. North said. "Everyone here is in the big parade."

Then he said to a man standing near, "Bob, show Kitty how to ride an elephant."

"All right," Bob said. "Come with me."

Bob took Kitty over to a big elephant. "This is Jo-Jo," he said. "You can ride her."

Kitty looked at Jo-Jo. "How big she is!" Kitty thought.

"You will not fall off," said Bob. "Jo-Jo has a big head."

Jo-Jo put her head down. Kitty sat on it. Then Jo-Jo lifted her head. Kitty fell off! "That was a good try for the first time,"

CIRCUS GIRL 7

said Bob. "Now, you will have to try again."

Kitty tried again. The elephant put her head down. Kitty sat on it. The elephant put her head up. Again Kitty fell off!

Bob laughed. "Do you need an elephant with a bigger head?" he asked.

"No," said Kitty. "This time I will not fall off."

So Kitty tried once more. She sat on Jo-Jo's head. Jo-Jo lifted her head. And this time Kitty stayed on!

"How high up I am!" she called down to Bob. "I like it up here."

"You look like a real circus girl," said Bob. He made Jo-Jo put her head down. Kitty got off.

"Is that all I have to do?" asked Kitty.

"Oh, no," Bob answered. "You have to ride an elephant. Today, all you have done is sit on Jo-Jo's head. You must learn to stay



on while Jo-Jo walks. In the circus, you do things over and over till you do them well."

"What else will I learn to do?" asked Kitty.

"Tomorrow you begin learning to ride a horse," said Bob. "Soon you will ride standing up!"

"I am glad I started with Jo-Jo," said Kitty. "Now I am not afraid to ride anything! And I love horses."

"It's hard work to be a circus girl," said Bob, smiling.

Kitty answered, "Yes, but it's fun!"



#### TALK THIS OVER

- 1. Why was Kitty glad she started with Jo-Jo?
- 2. Why did Kitty like the hard work? and wan a yrms

#### the right ending. One line is drawn forAd TSRI 2'YTTIN

What did Kitty learn? Put a / before your answer.

Make sentences. Draw a line from each beginning to

On her first day, Kitty learned to

... ride a horse.

.... sit on an elephant's head.

Standing up. she will .qu gnibnate shines.

Best Score: 1 VM

My Score: . ....

Kitty will be

Best Score: 3

#### KITTY LOOKS AROUND

What did Kitty see when she first looked around the circus lot? Draw a line under each thing she saw. You will need to draw three lines.

#### Kitty saw

a big parade.

boys washing elephants.

a man feeding lions.

a man rowing a boat.

girls jumping on and off horses.

**Best Score: 3** 

My Score: . . . .

#### KITTY'S NEW JOB

Make sentences. Draw a line from each beginning to the right ending. One line is drawn for you.

Beginnings	Endings
Kitty wants to be	to ride Jo-Jo.
Kitty will be	ride a horse.
Kitty will learn	a circus girl.
Standing up, she will	in the parade.

Best Score: 3 My Score: . . . .