

New Reading
Skill Builder

循序渐进美国英语

BOOK THREE, PART THREE

CONTENTS

Ride a Bucking Bronco	4
Slow Down — Radar	12
All Together Now!	18
Never Take an Elephant Out to Lunch	23
School on Stilts	32
Boxed In!	43
Cat with a Phone Number	49
Hearing Magic	56
Copter 30—C to the Rescue	64
Big Ben of London	74
Mr. Tweedy	80
A Champion Fights Back	89
Stuck on Cactus	96
The Animal That Shoots Back	104
Daffy Drivers	113
Skipper Didn't Give Up	123

目录

骑跳跃的劣马	129
减速——前有雷达	131
全体合唱, 开始!	132
千万不要请大象外出吃午餐	134
支柱上的学校	136
困在箱里	140
带电话号码的猫	142
听觉魔术	144
直升机 30-C 前往救援	146
伦敦大本钟	149
特威迪先生	151
一位冠军的抗争	154
被仙人掌刺中了	156
会反击的动物	158
愚笨的司机们	161
斯基珀不服输	164

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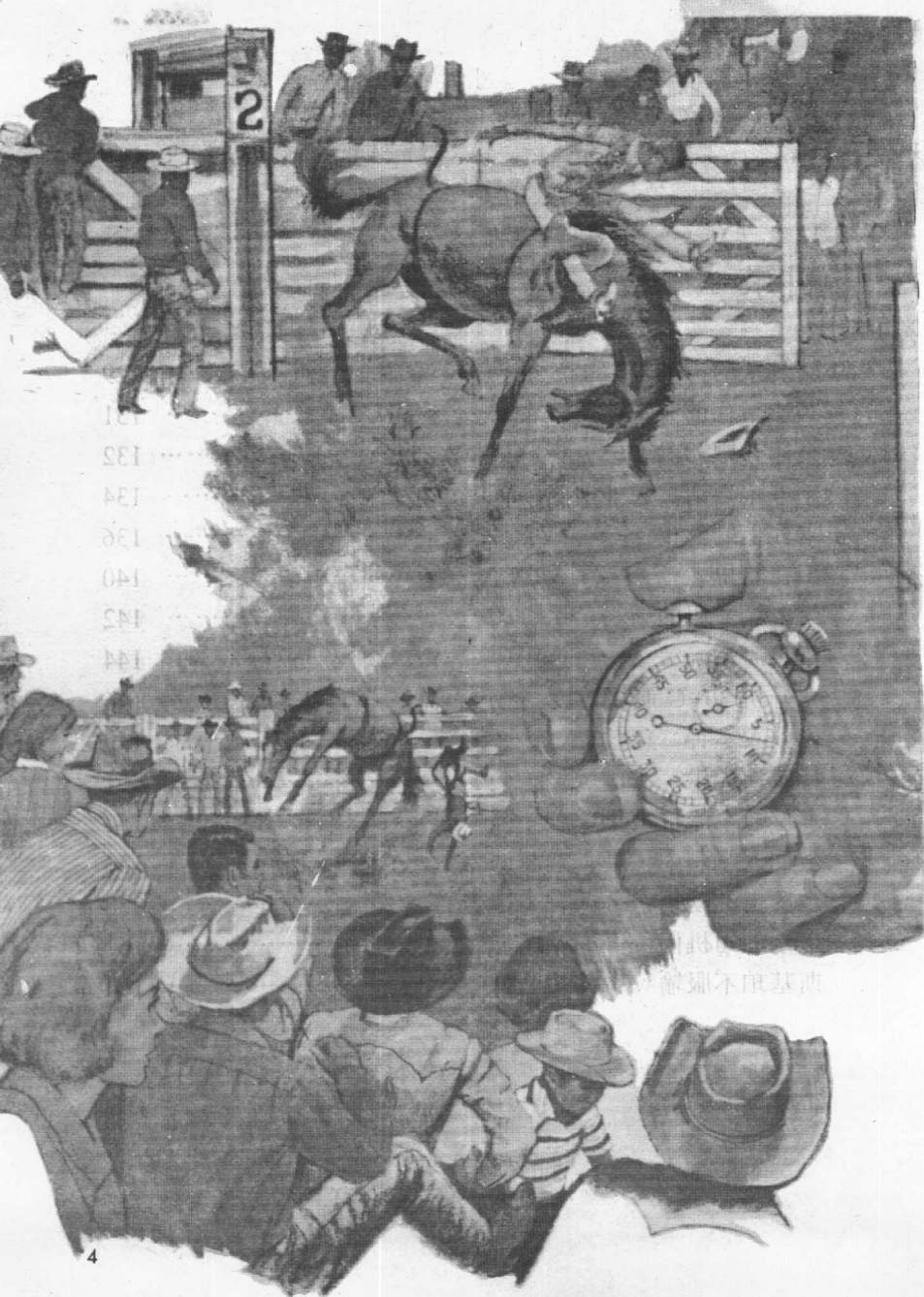
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波基館本館

Key Words:
bronco, buck, rule,
chute, spurs



Ride a Bucking Bronco

My friend Jerry had told me a lot about bronco riding. But I had never seen him on a bronco. Then one day he said, "I'm going to ride tomorrow, Linda. Do you want to come to the show?"

"Yes," I said. "I want to see what it's like."

Jerry met me before the show began. "Wish me luck, Linda," he said.

"But why?" I asked. "I know you're a good rider."

"I'll tell you why," he said. "I'm riding Wild Lady. That bronco is a wild one, all right. And she is mean. All the cowboys are afraid of her. She really bucks. You should see her jump and kick and spin. And I have to stay on her for eight seconds. That's one of the rules, you know."

Eight seconds may seem like a very short time. But it's a long time to stay on a bucking bronco. All of a sudden I was afraid for Jerry. But all I said was, "Good luck, Jerry."

I found my seat and looked around. I saw Jerry down at his chute, getting ready. He would be the third rider. I would watch the others. But I would be thinking of Jerry.

The first bronco came out of his chute. The rider looked good. His spurs were in the right place. That is one of the rules of bronco

riding. When the rider leaves the chute, he has to have his feet high on the side of the horse. The cowboy was holding on with only one hand. That is another rule of bronco riding.

The cowboy looked good—but not for long. The horse jumped. And off went the rider!

The next cowboy stayed on his horse all right. He was hanging on with only one hand. But once, just once, his other hand brushed against the horse. The cowboy had broken a rule. His ride didn't count.

Now it was Jerry's turn. And Jerry would be riding Wild Lady! I watched Jerry in the chute.

Jerry dropped down on the horse's back. He was ready to go. "Outside!" he called.

The gate of the chute opened. And then—nothing. Wild Lady didn't move. What was the matter? I held my breath.

Suddenly Wild Lady leaped out like a tiger. She jumped—with all four feet off the

ground. She was quick. Still I could see Jerry's spurs. He had them in the right place.

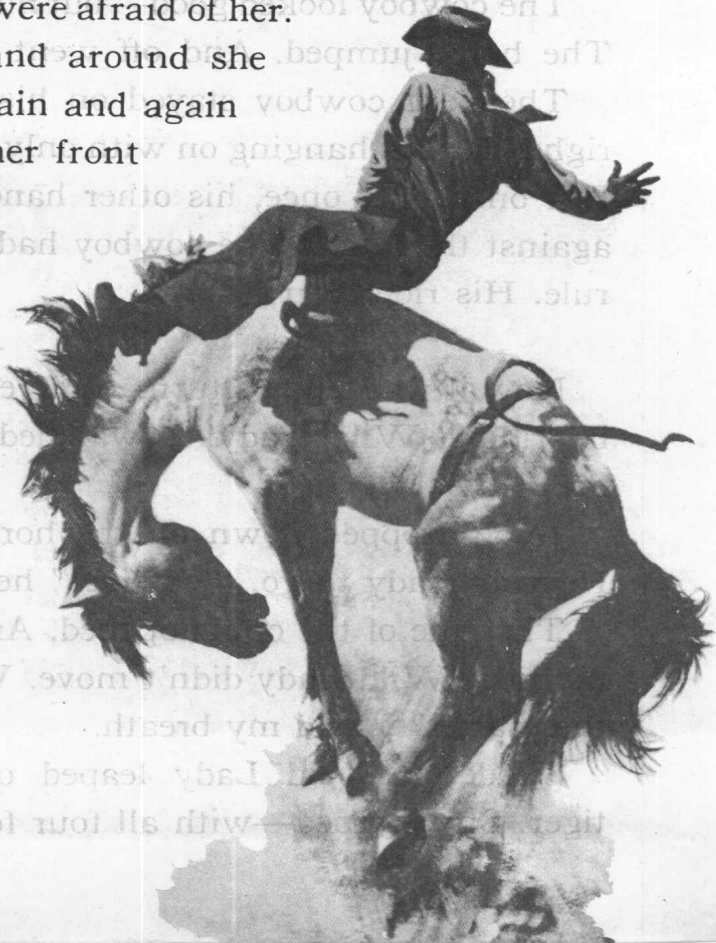
Again Wild Lady jumped, kicking and turning. Then she began a bucking spin.

Now I knew why all the cowboys were afraid of her.

Around and around she

went. Again and again

she dug her front



legs into the ground and kicked up behind. Jerry's neck snapped back each time the horse bucked.

Now Wild Lady was spinning fast—so fast that Jerry looked like part of her. Once I saw Jerry bounce up high, off to one side. "That's it!" I thought. But no! He was still riding.

I was trying to count off the seconds with my fingers. But I lost track. I dug my nails into my hands until it hurt. Wild Lady jumped higher and higher.

Again the horse threw Jerry in the air. The people around me stood up. I couldn't see what was happening. But I heard. *Thump!* That was Jerry landing on the horse's back.

Everybody cheered. And they were still cheering when the whistle blew. It was all over. Jerry had stayed on that wild horse for eight long seconds.

Now I had seen Jerry ride. I don't know how he felt while he was on that bronco.

But I know how I felt watching him. That eight seconds was a long time for Jerry. It was a long time for me too!

I. TAKE TIME TO TALK

1. How long is eight seconds? Use a watch or clock to find out. Why was eight seconds a long time for Jerry? For Linda?
2. Would you like to be a bronco rider? Tell why you think as you do.

II. BRONCO RIDING—SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

Put a ✓ before each of the things the story tells about bronco riding. You will need six ✓'s.

-1. The riders wear spurs.
-2. The cowboys ride one at a time.
-3. The rider gets on the bronco inside the chute.
-4. The bronco must jump over the gate.
-5. When the rider leaves the chute, his feet must be high up on the horse.
-6. The rider can hold on to the bronco with only one hand.
-7. The bronco must buck three times.

....8. The rider has to stay on the bronco for eight seconds.

....9. The rider blows a whistle when he needs help.

Best Score: 6

My Score:

III. REMEMBER LINDA AND JERRY'S STORY

Underline the right ending for each sentence.

1. Linda came to the show to
 watch Jerry ride.
 learn how to ride a bronco.
2. Jerry wanted Linda to wish him luck because
 he had never been on a bronco before.
 he was going to ride Wild Lady.
3. Jerry had to ride a horse that
 he had never heard about.
 all the cowboys were afraid of.
4. Linda probably learned the rules of bronco riding
 from
 talking with Jerry.
 reading the newspaper the next day.

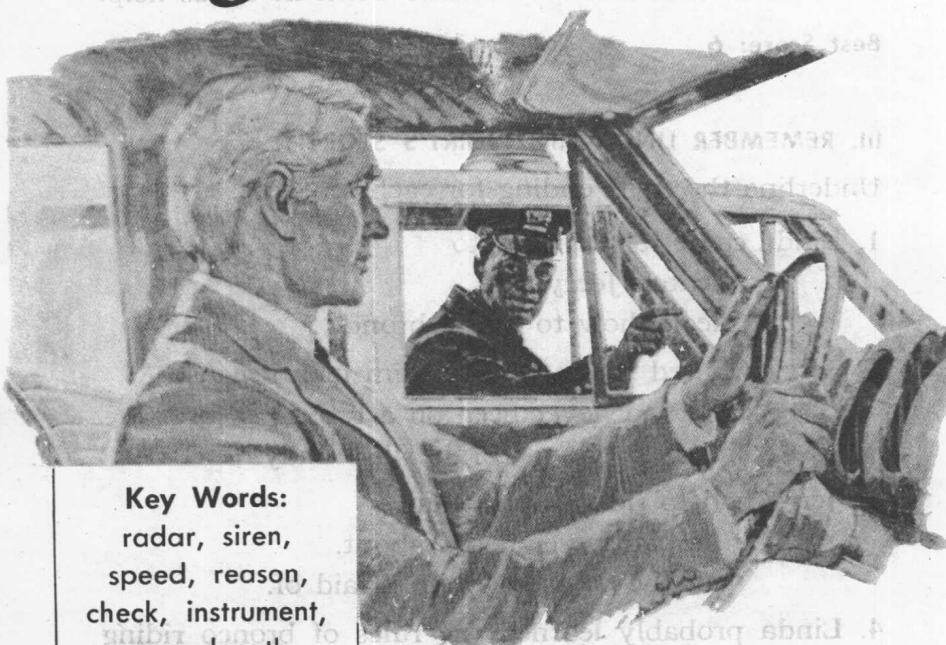
Best Score: 4

My Score:

All Best Scores: 10

All My Scores:

SLOW-DOWN-RADAR



Key Words:
radar, siren,
speed, reason,
check, instrument,
wave length

Whir-r-r! Whir-r-r! Whir-r-r! A police siren! And a flashing red light! The police car was after me!

I pulled my station wagon over to the side of the road. The police car stopped too. And

I got my first ticket—for speeding.

“You were going 62 miles an hour,” the policeman said.

“I didn’t think I was going that fast,” I answered.

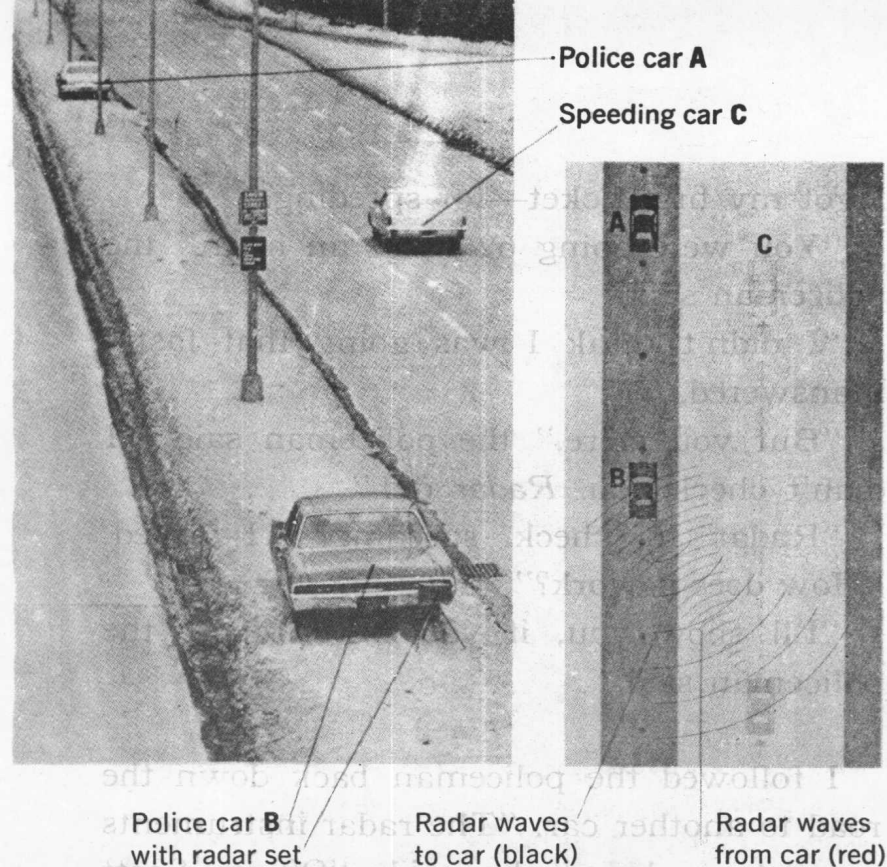
“But you were,” the policeman said. “I didn’t check you. *Radar* did.”

“Radar to check speeding?” I asked. “How does it work?”

“I’ll show you, if you have time,” the policeman said.

I followed the policeman back down the road to another car. “The radar instruments are set up here,” he said. “Officer Scott is the radar man.”

Officer Scott pointed to an instrument. “This instrument is aimed at cars coming this way. It sends out radio waves. When the radio waves hit a car, they bounce back to the instrument. But they bounce back at a different wave length. The wave length is shorter. The faster the car is moving, the



shorter the wave length.”

Then Officer Scott showed me a second instrument. “This does the arithmetic,” he said. “It shows how fast a car is moving. It showed 62 when the radar checked you. I called the police car parked up the road. I said that the station wagon was doing 62.”