

《大学公共英语学习丛书》

第二册

大学英语 系列读物

北京出版社

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ENGLISH READING SERIES
FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

第 二 册

BOOK 2

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内 容 提 要

《大学英语系列读物》是为提高大专院校学生英语阅读能力而编写的。这套读物共分三册，内容包括社会、文化、史地、风土人情、人物传记、科普常识、寓言、故事等。全部素材选自七十年代和八十年代英美原版书刊，具有题材广泛、内容新颖、阅读量大、知识性、趣味性强等特点。编排上由易到难，注释详细，便于阅读。此书在清华大学部分学生中试用，受到欢迎，被认为是训练阅读能力，提高阅读速度的一套较好的泛读材料。

前 言

外语的熟练阅读能力是大学生和一般科技工作者必须具备的基本功之一。国家教委 1985 年制定的《大学英语教学大纲》，要求学生达到每分钟阅读 50~70 词(大体相当于每小时 10—14 页)；而实际工作中往往要求达到每分钟能阅读 100~120 词(相当于每小时 20 页)，并要有较高的准确度，才能称作熟练阅读。但目前不少学生在不同程度上存在着忽视阅读的倾向。据了解，一些出国生在国外学习期间，由于阅读能力跟不上，不仅大量书刊资料看不完，而且影响听、说、写能力的进一步提高。由此可见，阅读能力是与提高听、说、写能力紧密相关的。

《大学英语系列读物》的编写，旨在帮助学生通过大量课外阅读，培养阅读兴趣，扩大词汇量和提高阅读能力。这套读物共分 3 册(每册 2 级，共 6 级)，具有以下特点：

一、材料新颖，全部选自原著。读物的素材大部分摘选自 70 年代至 80 年代英美的原版书籍、报刊，一般都未作删改。

二、词汇丰富，阅读量大。经计算机统计，全套系列读物的阅读量在 165,000 词以上，总词汇量超过 8,000。因此，这套读物既可对大学课本中出现的词汇起到复习巩固作用，又能扩大词汇量。

三、题材广泛，趣味性和知识性强。内容包括社会、文化、史地、故事、寓言、童话、传说、人物传记、风土人情、科普常识、报刊等等。

四、注释详细，便于自学。文章中词汇、语法、词组、习语和

阅读理解上的难点都作了较详细的注释和翻译，读者即使不借助词典，也能阅读。

五、由浅入深，循序渐进。全部文章按难易程度和不同题材分类编排，便于阅读欣赏和积累词汇。

因此，这套读物既可作为大专院校学生的课外读物，也可作为一般科技工作者和业余英语爱好者的自学丛书。

《大学英语系列读物》由李相崇教授(原北京高等院校公共外语教学研究会主任、清华大学外语系主任)审阅，吴琼教授审校。在编写过程中并得到清华大学外语系许多同志的帮助和支持，在此表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限，时间紧迫，缺点错误在所难免，欢迎广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1985年3月

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STAGE ONE

1 *As Others See Us¹

You remember that line of Robert Burns about seeing ourselves as others see us? *I wonder how many of us have suddenly experienced that — have suddenly, as it were, been made to regard ourselves from outside, through the eyes, perhaps, of a foreign friend?² *I am not sure that the experience is wholly to be commended³, but let me give you an example of what I mean.

An African chief⁴, a man whom I had met in his own country in East Africa, came to England for the first time *when he was well past sixty⁵. He had never before left his own country — in which he held a high and responsible post — and he flew over here, *rocketed as it were in a matter of hours⁶ from his own simple and familiar African surroundings to the complex and *shifting crowds⁷ of London. A friend of mine went to call on him the morning after his arrival and asked him how he was and whether he was enjoying himself. The African chief said he was feeling well, but he had had a frightening experience earlier that morning. He had gone, he said, to have a look round the streets and had found himself at Victoria Station. He said, “Naturally I went in to see your trains. I stood near some *iron railings⁸,

by an iron gate, to watch a train come in and it was there that I saw this frightening thing. For, as the train came nearer and nearer to where I was standing, all the doors at one moment swung outward, and, while the train was still moving, a great many men jumped out, quite silently, and they began to run towards me. They carried umbrellas like spears⁸, and their faces were set¹⁰ and unsmiling. I thought something terrible was about to happen, so I ran away.”

*Well, there it is.¹¹ There is the 8.50 or the 9.15, *or whatever your business train may be¹², arriving at a London station. *And there we are¹³, as this elderly African saw us, on his first day among us.

注:

1. Robert Burns [罗伯特·伯恩斯(1759—1796), 苏格兰著名诗人] wrote in the Scottish dialect (苏格兰方言). Paraphrased (意译) into the English dialect, the verse (诗) in which this line occurs would read. ‘I wish some power would give us the gift (才能) of seeing ourselves as others see us. It would free us from many a blunder (大错) and foolish notion (想法, 意见).’
2. 我不知道我们中有多少人突然经历过那种事——即好象是突然地使我们能够从外部, 或许是通过一个外国朋友的眼睛, 来观察我们自己。[as it were (插入语): 好象, 仿佛]
3. 我不能肯定这种经历是否完全值得推荐。(to commend: 推荐, 称赞)
4. 领袖, 元首

5. 在他六十多岁时
6. 仿佛是乘火箭似地在 大约 几小时内就 [a matter of: (表示数量)
大约, 左右, 上下]
7. 不断流动的人群
8. 铁栏杆
9. 长矛
10. 呆板的, 毫无表情的
11. 瞧, 火车来了。
12. 或者是你上班去乘的任何一趟火车
13. 看, 我们就是那个样子!

2 Riddles¹

"What is black and white and read all over?"

If someone asked you that question, what would your answer be? If you heard the question, but didn't see the words, you would probably think that *read* was spelled r-e-d, because red is a color, like black and white. The answer is "a newspaper."

There are riddles in every language. Usually, the fun of a riddle comes from a word that sounds like another word. In English, these words are called homophones². *Read* and *red* are homophones. Other riddles use homographs³. This one uses *foot* (a part of the body) and *foot* (a measure of length).

"Why did the boy's mother knit⁴ his three socks for his birthday?"

"Because he had grown another foot since his last birthday."

Some riddles use words or letters:

"What's the longest word in the English language?"

"Smiles, because there's a mile between the first and last letters."

"When is it correct to say 'I is'?"

"When you say 'I is after H in the alphabet⁵.'"

Other kinds of riddles depend on an unexpected answer for their humor. If you were asked "What is the most important use for cowhide⁶?" you might think about shoes, coats, or other things that are made of leather⁷. You probably wouldn't think of the real answer — **"It holds the cow together."*⁸

Sometimes the answer to a riddle is very logical, but is difficult because the riddle seems to be asking for a different answer.

"A butcher⁹ was six feet tall, had red hair and blue eyes, and *wore size eleven shoes¹⁰. What did he weigh?"

Of course, the answer is "meat." But because all the facts about the butcher tell about his *physical appearance¹¹, you expect the answer to be the weight of his body.

Another riddle with a logical answer is:

"What do people in England call little black cats?"
"Kittens."¹²

Everyone who speaks English knows that little cats are called kittens, but when the question is what they are called in England, we naturally think that they aren't called kittens there. Part of the humor in this riddle comes from the fact that people in England and people in the U. S. often use different words for the same thing.

Here are some riddles for you to enjoy. The answers are given below the passage.

1. What goes up and never goes down?
2. What kind of truck is always a "he" and never a

“she”?

3. What person raises hundreds of people every day?
4. What do you call an invention that allows you to see through a wall?
5. What kind of house weighs the least?
6. What kind of pet¹³ is always found on the floor?
7. What seven letters did the girl say when she locked in the refrigerator and found nothing?
8. How can you spell *very cold* with two letters?
9. What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
10. What has 2 arms, 2 wings, 2 tails, 3 heads, 3 bodies, and 8 legs?

Answers

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. Your age. | 6. A carpet. |
| 2. A mail (male) truck. | 7. O I C U R M T (Oh, I see you are empty.) |
| 3. An elevator operator. | 8. I C (icy) |
| 4. A window. | 9. <i>Short</i> becomes <i>shorter</i> when you add <i>er</i> . |
| 5. A lighthouse. | 10. A man on a horse carrying a chicken. |

注:

1. 谜, 谜语
2. 同音异义词
3. 同形异义词