

《大学公共英语学习丛书》

第一册

大学英语 系列读物

北京出版社

大学英语系列读物

ENGLISH READING SERIES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

第 1 册

BOOK I

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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3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70年代和80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。

CF 71/01

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 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 20 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，全套系列读物的词汇量在 165,000 词以上，总词汇量超过 8,000。因此，这套读物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，吴琼教授审核。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

1987年6月

Contents

STAGE ONE

1	Chess.....	3
2	The Cities Where Time Stopped.....	5
3	American English and British English.....	7
4	Good Manners.....	9
5	Water Sport.....	12
6	He Was Told to Stick a Stamp on Himself.....	14
7	A Reply Written by a Doctor.....	16
8	The Will.....	18
9	A Lunatic.....	20
10	I Have Only Just Got Here Myself.....	22
11	Merrylegs.....	24
12	Who Stole the Watch?.....	26
13	Alf Likes to Try.....	28
14	The Fireman.....	30
	A Surprised Taxpayer.....	33
16	Changes.....	35
17	A Human Mistake.....	37
18	The Wedding Dress.....	39
19	To the Stars and Back.....	41
20	Once in a Lifetime.....	44
21	Rare Visitors.....	47

22	Stars	50
23	The Life of a Hunter.....	53
24	A Cupboard or... ..	56
25	The Law Is the Law but.....	59
26	A Name to Remember.....	61
27	The Violinist.....	63
28	The Pest Control Officer.....	66
29	Hidden Passengers.....	69
30	The Trouble from the Cheque.....	72
31	The Bank Clerk.....	75
32	A Traffic Offence.....	78
33	The Traffic Warden.....	81
34	No Parking.....	8
35	I Got My Revenge.....	89
36	A Sense of Direction.....	92
37	A Night of Disturbance.....	95
38	Got Lost.....	98
39	The Greatest Magician	101
40	A Clever Girl.....	104
41	The World Is Your Oyster	107
42	Beware of Bargains.....	111
43	The Death of the World's Biggest Whale.....	115
44	A Break in the Routine.....	119
45	The Grateful Crane.....	122
46	A Curious Case.....	128
47	The Furniture Designer.....	131
48	To Smoke or Not to Smoke?.....	134

49	Trial and Sentence.....	138
50	'Hard Times'.....	141
51	The Opinion Survey.....	144
52	A Dangerous Place.....	147
53	Prince Albert and the Jewel Robbers.....	150
54	The Winter's Snow.....	154
55	Fresh Air.....	159
56	The Twelfth Man.....	163
57	Ah Soon.....	168

STAGE TWO

1	The Beginning of Money.....	175
2	The Purpose of School.....	178
3	Football.....	180
4	Graduation Day.....	182
5	The Farmer.....	186
6	The Dustman.....	188
7	The Postman.....	191
8	The Nutritionist.....	194
9	The Position of Women in Britain Today.....	197
10	The Education of Benjamin Franklin.....	200
11	Libraries.....	205
12	The Librarian.....	207
13	How to Judge a Reference Book.....	210
14	How Do We Learn Best?.....	213
15	Animals Up in the Air.....	216
16	Animals Communicate with Humans.....	219

17	The Great Apes.....	222
18	That Crazy Tower in Pisa.....	22
19	The First Cables.....	23
20	An Unusual Fish.....	23
21	The Mystery of the Lemmings.....	23
22	How Plants and Animals Help Each Other.....	24
23	Carnivorous Plants.....	24
24	Winter Sleep.....	24
25	No Venture, No Gain.....	25
26	The Lady with the Lamp.....	25
27	He Gave Windows to the Blind.....	25
28	The Telephone.....	26
29	Electric Trains.....	268
30	John Hunter: the First Surgeon.....	270
31	Killing Pain (I).....	275
32	Killing Pain (II).....	279
33	Christopher Columbus.....	282
34	Autobiography of a Stream.....	288
35	A Thirsty World.....	291
36	Farming the Sea.....	294
37	Coral Reefs in the Maldives.....	297
38	The Atlantic Ocean.....	300
39	A Trip Across the Pacific.....	304
40	River Rats Save Stream.....	307
41	The Architect.....	311
42	The Pyramids.....	314
43	Watching Ants.....	317

44	Spiders.....	322
45	Insects.....	326
46	Early Birds.....	331
47	A Ship of Ice.....	334
48	Souvenirs of the Past.....	337
49	Harnessing the Sun.....	340
50	Beginning of the Earth.....	343
51	The Beginning of Man.....	348
52	The Moon.....	353
53	The Vacuum.....	359

STAGE ONE

1 Chess¹

Chess must be one of the oldest games in the world. An Arab² traveller in India³ in the year 900 wrote that it was played 'long, long ago'. Chess was probably invented in India, and it has been played everywhere from Japan to Europe since 1400. The name 'chess' is interesting. When one player is attacking the other's king, he says, in English, 'check'⁴. When the king has been caught and cannot move anywhere, he says *'check mate'⁵. These words come from Persian⁶. *'Shah mat' means⁷ 'the king is dead'. That is when the game is over, and one player has won.

Such an old game changes very slowly. The rules have not always been *the same as⁸ they are now. For example, *at one time⁹ the queen could only *move one square at a time¹⁰. Now she is *the strongest piece on the board¹¹. It would be interesting to know why this has happened! Chess takes time and thought, but it is a game for all kinds of people. You don't have to be a champion¹² in order to enjoy it. It is not always played by two people sitting at the same table. *The first time the Americans beat the Russians was in a match played by radio.¹³ Some of the chess masters are able to play

many people at the same time. *The record was when one man played 400 games!¹⁴ It is said that some people play chess *by post.¹⁵ This must make chess the slowest game in the world.

注:

1. 国际象棋
2. Arab ['ærəb] 阿拉伯的; 阿拉伯人
3. India ['indjə] 印度
4. (象棋中) 将(对方的“王”)一军, “将军”
5. “将死”(对方的“王”)
6. Persian ['pɜːʃən] 波斯语
7. 波斯语 “Shah mat” 的意思是……
8. 和……同样的
9. 有一个时期(指过去), 曾经
10. 一次移动一方格
11. 棋盘上最强的棋子 (piece: 棋子; board = chessboard: 棋盘)
12. 冠军
13. 美国人首次击败俄国人是通过无线电进行的通讯比赛。(the American beat ... by radio 是定语从句, 说明 time; time 后略去 when 或 that)
14. 最高纪录是一个人同时下四百场。(或最高纪录是一个人同时和四百个人下棋。)
15. 通过邮寄

2 The Cities Where Time Stopped

Although *the Roman Empire¹ ended 1,500 years ago, people today know a lot about the comfortable way of life that Roman citizens enjoyed. This is because of two insignificant² towns — *Pompeii and Herculaneum³ — that are remembered only because they were near *the volcano Mt. Vesuvius⁴ when it erupted⁵, August 24, *79 A.D.⁶ This eruption buried the two cities in *a thick blanket of ash⁷ that suffocated⁸ every thing alive.

The disaster⁹ was sudden and unexpected. Most people couldn't escape, and those that left were unable to take any of their possessions¹⁰ with them. As a result, the two towns are almost perfectly preserved.¹¹ You can see there entire houses which still contain furniture and have *brilliant-colored paintings¹² on the walls. There are even some unfinished meals still *sitting, on tables.¹³ Houses are so well-preserved *it seems that their inhabitants left only a few minutes ago and might come back again — even after two thousand years.¹⁴

In fact the city was buried so deep that the two towns were completely hidden until about 200 years ago, *when they were rediscovered by accident.¹⁵ Today the ash has been removed and the towns attract thousands of visitors

every year. *The visit can be disturbing though;¹⁶ Pompeii is perhaps too much *like it was,¹⁷ and though it fascinates¹⁸ the modern traveler, August 24, 79 A.D. is a day when no one wanted to be there.

注:

1. 罗马帝国
2. 无关紧要的, 小小的
3. 庞贝及赫尔库纳尼厄姆 (意大利两座古城, 公元 79 年因火山喷发被湮没。)
4. 维苏威火山 (volcano: 火山; Mt. = Mount: 山; Vesuvius [vi'su:vjəs], 在意大利)
5. 喷发
6. 公元 79 年
7. 很厚的一层灰
8. 使……窒息, 把……闷死
9. 灾难, 天灾
10. 财产, 所有物
11. 保存, 保护
12. 色彩鲜艳的画
13. 摆在桌子上
14. seems 后的 that 到 years 为主语从句, it 是形式主语; inhabitants: 居民
15. 那时它们偶然地被再次发现 (when=and then)
16. 然而到此地参观会使人感到不安 (though=however)
17. 象过去那样
18. 强烈地吸引