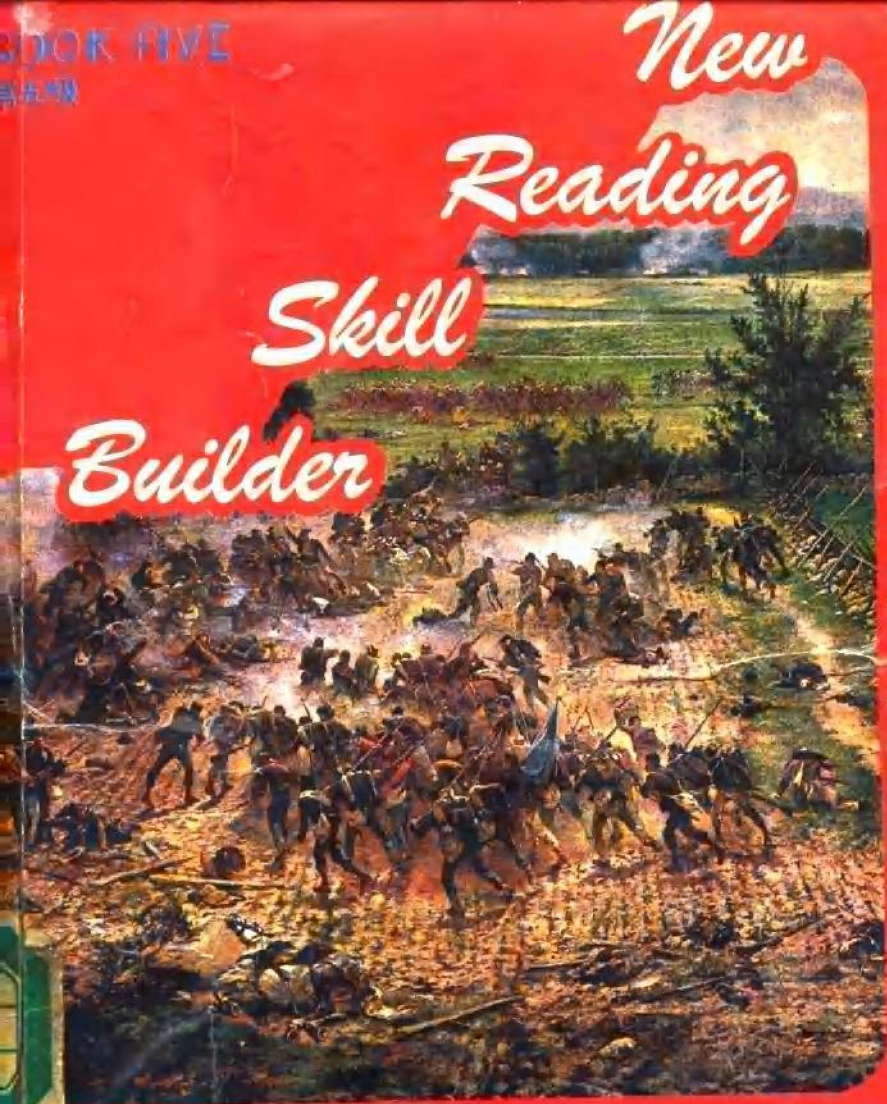


BOOK FIVE
第五册

New
Reading

Skill

Builder



新编循序渐进美国英语

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING
AND RESEARCH PRESS

外语教学与研究出版社

New Reading

Skill Builder

新编循序渐进美国英语

BOOK FIVE, PART ONE

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**New Reading
Skill Builder**
新编循序渐进美国英语

第五级

王春丽译注

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夏祖奎审校

外语教学与研究出版社

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许国璋教授为本书做了高度概括

七	大	特	色
照	片	图	画
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难	词	注	释
参	考	译	文
练	习	答	案
循	序	渐	进
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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,引人入胜。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《“乔治和龙”旅馆的鬼魂》,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)的第五级。本级分为三个部分,译注者为王春丽,由夏祖奎教授审校。

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New Reading

Skill Builder

新编循序渐进美国英语

BOOK FIVE, PART ONE

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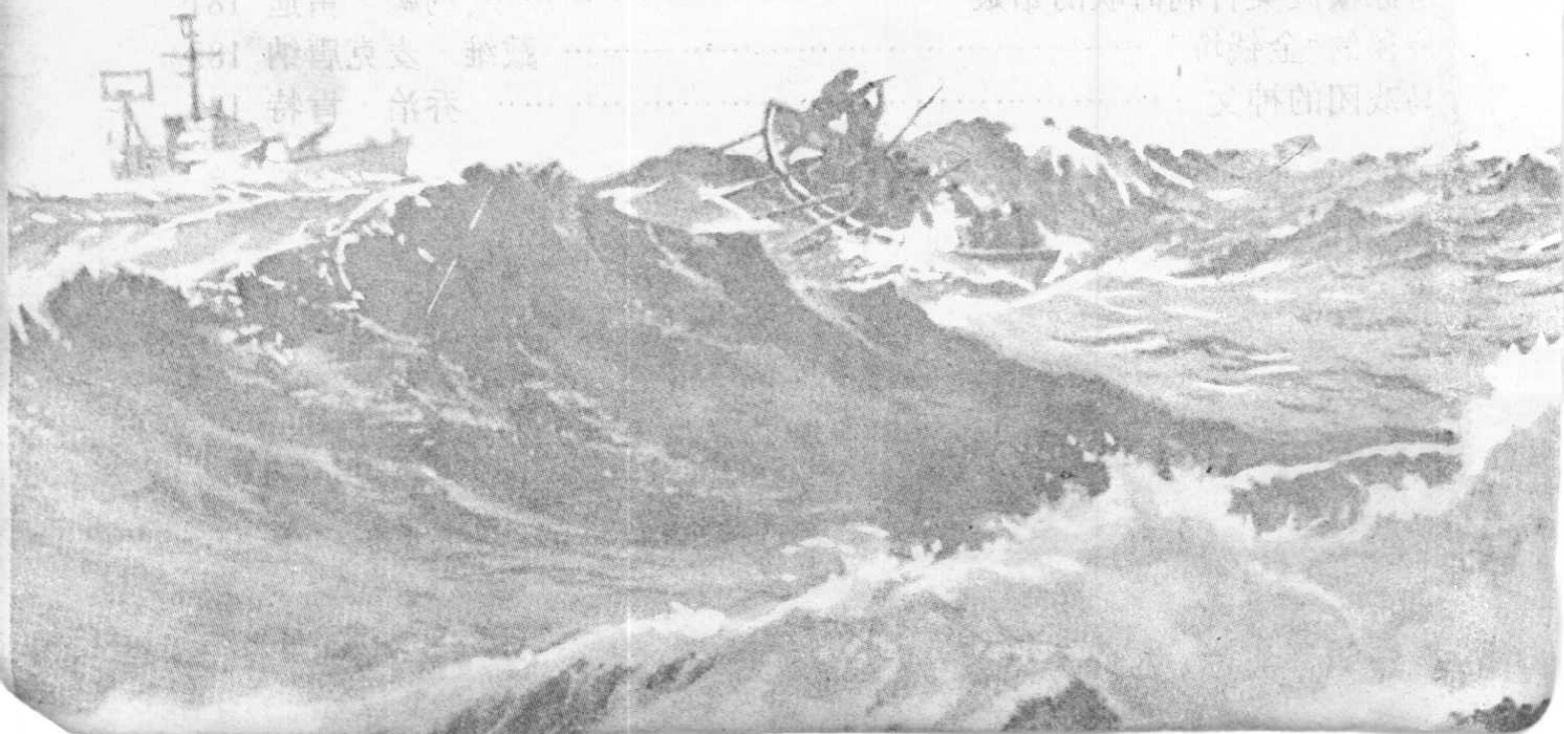
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Decision at Sea

John J. Cadigan, Lt. Comdr., U.S. Coast Guard

The red distress flare shot up from the sinking ship, the *Smith Voyager*. Every man aboard our Coast Guard cutter, the *Rockaway*, knew that time had run out. We had been circling the crippled freighter *Voyager* for seven long hours that stormy day, waiting for the 35-foot waves to ease up. But now the crewmen remaining aboard the *Voyager* had to be rescued. And quickly.

The 439-foot ship was being hopelessly beaten by the sea. With each roll she took in more water. The last life raft had broken away, and darkness would fall in half an hour. We could wait no longer.



The SOS from the *Voyager* had reached us the afternoon before. On patrol 300 miles away, we immediately speeded toward her position. Another vessel had picked up 34 survivors, but the *Voyager's* captain and three crewmen had stayed aboard. They had hoped the storm would die down and they could save the ship. But the storm didn't die down. And saving those four men was our job.

The weather couldn't have been worse. The winds were roaring. The waves were like watery mountains. There was only one way to save the four men on the *Voyager*. We must pick them up in a small boat.

Commanding the rescue boat was my assignment. Two boats were ready. The 26-foot pulling boat, which has to be rowed, needs a crew of 12 men. The equally long powerboat has a mighty engine to do much of the work and needs only four men. I went to our skipper, Captain McGarity, expecting him to decide which boat to use.

He didn't. "Which boat do

you want to take?" he asked.

I thought hard and, for better or worse, made up my mind. With a pulling boat, the lives of 12 men would be in danger. But if we used the powerboat, an engine failure could mean disaster. The bits of wreckage could easily snarl our propeller. And if a man went overboard, he might never be heard above the engine's roar.

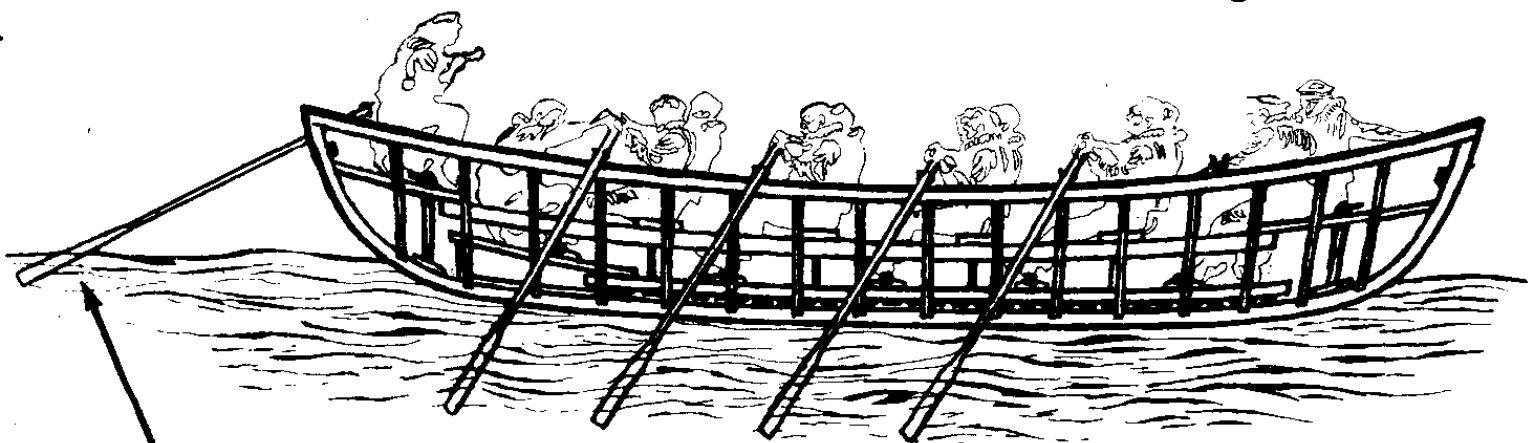
The captain repeated his question, "Which boat do you want to take?"

"The pulling boat, sir," I said.

Captain McGarity gave me a long look. Then he snapped, "Okay. Go ahead."

The pulling boat's crew lined up before me. My heart sank! Some of the men didn't weigh more than 135 pounds. Others looked too young to be in service. And, because we had had so much bad weather on this trip, the crew had never worked together in a rescue boat.

We said little as the cutter rolled and plunged to drop us 500 yards from the *Voyager*. Every man felt fear, but we

U.S. Coast Guard 26-foot pulling boat

STEERING OAR

tried not to show it. One of the oarsmen joked, "Is it too late to quit? I kept forgetting to take my name off the volunteer list."

"The exercise will do you good," said another seaman.

It took ten minutes to reach the wreck. The oarsmen strained at the two rows of oars. Usually, one man can handle the sweep oar which acts as the rudder and steers the boat. But in these wild seas both the "extra" man and I had to grip the sweep oar. We struggled to keep the boat from swinging sideways, because one wave could flood our boat in a second.

Cautiously, we worked our way up to the *Voyager*. We had

to get as close as possible to the survivors, but we dared not move too close. As the *Voyager* rolled down, we could be sucked over the deck. Then we would be smashed to splinters as she rolled up again. Or we could get caught under the 20-foot waterfalls that plunged off the decks with each roll.

As the wreck drifted closer to us, we could see the captain and the three crewmen clinging to the rails. I threw out a floatable line. The survivors jumped into the water and grabbed hold, but there was no time to pull them aboard. The last two men on the line looked dangerously close to being washed back onto the crashing decks of the *Voyager*.

"Let's get out of here!" I shouted. Now the most important moments were upon us. The men bent over the oars. I held the sweep oar with one hand. With my other hand, I clung to the rescue line, because I'd had no time to tie it to the seat of the boat.

The men rowed hard — but nothing happened. The drag of the survivors and the pull of the seas seemed to nail us to that one spot.

Why, why, I thought, didn't Captain McGarity tell me to take the powerboat?

"Harder!" I shouted. As the men strained, I could see drops of blood oozing between their fingers. But their struggle wasn't enough. The wreck was drifting down on us. *If that's all the strength you've got, I thought, we're all through.*

"Give, give!" I yelled. I was praying for something more than muscle.

We were rolling so wildly that I couldn't see when it began to happen. But, suddenly, as if by a miracle, the wreck was

no closer. And then we began inching away.

"Keep it up — keep it up. We're not out of trouble yet!"

Then, all at once, we were. We were free of that sinking monster of a ship.

The pull of the rescue line on my hand became unbearable. It cut into my fingers. My arm felt unhinged at the socket. I was losing the struggle to keep hold of the line. "They're pulling me out of the boat!" I yelled.

The "extra" man leaped toward me. He jammed the line down hard on the edge of the boat. Unwinding the rope from my hand, I hitched it around a seat. And the oarsmen never missed a stroke.

Then a funny thing happened. Someone started to sing. It was the first man on the rescue line. And his favorite song at that moment was "Cruising Down the River on a Sunday Afternoon." The words came joyously and bravely through the howling wind. What a strange scene it was — 12 men in the boat, four men hanging onto the

U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO