

AN ENGLISH READING COURSE FOR COMPREHENSION & SPEED

高等学校教材



北京师范学院 韩志先 贺慧声 吴京汭 主编

4

英语阅读教程



Higher Education Press

**An English Reading Course
for Comprehension & Speed 4**

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高等教育出版社

内 容 提 要

本书为《英语阅读教程》第四册，包括10单元，40篇课文。课文内容多为人物传记、历史故事、文艺小说、各地风情、科普知识等。课文长度为1100—1400词之间，词汇难度在5000基本词之内。

本书的编排体例与前三册基本相同。在“学习阅读技能”部分中，本书着重介绍了略读和跳读并配有各种形式的阅读材料，以期学生能通过本套泛读课本的学习，综合运用多种阅读技巧，最终达到快速阅读、充分理解、获得信息的目的。

书后附有参考答案。

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编者说明

《英语阅读教程》第四册可供大专及师范院校英语本科二年级下学期或相当于这个水平的其他专业的学生使用。本书仍以单元编排为基本形式。全书共 10 个单元, 40 篇课文。内容包括: 短篇故事、文学传记、自然科学知识和其他论述性文章。题材广泛; 体裁有戏剧、小说(节选)、散文等。

本书在前三册的基础上, 在课文的长度和难度及其他方面均有新的要求: 课文长度为 1100—1400 词, 词汇难度在基本词 5000 词范围内; 阅读技巧着重介绍跳读和略读的运用; 测试文章长度增加到 180—220 词, 要求学生的阅读速度应达到每分钟 90—100 词, 理解正确率不低于 80%。

参加本书编写工作的有陈洪、杨阳、王小平、王伟等同志。我院英语专家谢德夫妇对全书进行了审校。

编者

1989 年 8 月

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Unit I Texts 1 — 4

1A READING FOR COMPREHENSION AND SPEED

1.1 READING GUIDE TO TEXT 1

(a) Look up the following words in your dictionary. Try to find their proper meanings in the context.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1) recreational (6) | 5) acoustical (16) |
| 2) intensity (8) | acoustics (17) |
| 3) reduction (14) | 6) version (16) |
| 4) adaptation (14) | 7) din (16) |
| | 8) clang (16) |

Special Terms:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1) all-terrain vehicle (6) | 陆地万能车辆 |
| 2) supersonic aircraft (7) | 超音速飞机 |
| 3) decibel (8) | 分贝 (测量音强的单位) |
| 4) logarithmic (9) | 对数的 |
| 5) electroencephalograph (14) | 脑电图纪录 |
| 6) air compressor (16) | 空气压缩机 |

(b) Glance over the text quickly ONCE and see if you can answer the following questions.

- 1) What does the title of the text suggest?
- 2) How does noise affect our health?
- 3) Can people do something for a quieter environment?

1.2 TEXT

IN SEARCH OF SILENCE

DIRECTIONS: Read the text well enough so that you can answer questions about it. When you finish reading, write down your reading time on the SCOREBOARD.

- 1 Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, of noisy New York City, were making plans to buy a weekend retreat in the nearby Pocono Mountains. The Poconos are one of the most beautiful areas in the eastern United States. "It will be so quiet there," Mrs. Cunningham said to a friend who already owned a house in the same area.
- 2 "Not when it snows," he replied. "Last weekend a snowmobile woke me up at six o'clock in the morning."
- 3 Mrs. Cunningham frowned. "A snowmobile?"



- 4 "Yes. A snowmobile sounds like a chain saw. And it can go anywhere."
- 5 The average city dweller is already contending with the unwanted sounds of horns, engines, jackhammers, helicopters, sirens, jets, and stereos. When he retreats to the country, he faces yet another attack on his peace and quiet. He may even be adding to the noise himself with a snowmobile or a motorboat.
- 6 What if there's no snow or water around? Some manufacturers are now making "all-terrain" recreational vehicles. They are just as noisy as snowmobiles and far noisier. They operate the year round.
- 7 Even if you travel into the wilderness where snowmobiles, motorboats, and all-terrain vehicles can't follow you, noise is still with you. You hear the deep hollow roar of supersonic aircraft. The supersonic aircraft drag with them a sound wave of fifty miles wide as they fly across the sky faster than the speed of sound.
- 8 Even without the roaring sound, the noise around us is definitely rising. Unwanted sounds are said to be doubling every decade. Some scientists think street noise alone rises about a decibel a year, a decibel being the standard measure of intensity, or pressure, of sound waves on the ear.
- 9 The decibel scale for human beings runs from 0 to about 130. It is logarithmic, not arithmetic. This means that when a noisy new machine, let's say, is installed in a factory, the increase in sound level from 110 to 116 decibels actually doubles the noise factor. A change from 130 to 150 decibels means a tenfold increase.
- 10 A decibel rating of 130 is at what scientists call "the threshold of pain" — it actually hurts to hear it. A jet takeoff at close range is estimated at 150 decibels. A loud band usually reaches 120 decibels. So does a chain saw. A motorcycle hits about 90 decibels. An automobile speeding up is about 85 decibels.
- 11 All right, you say, it's getting noisier. So what? We'll just have to get used to it, won't we? You're wrong — unless you want to lose much of your hearing. Almost all medical men who have studied noise agree that loss of hearing can and does result from long exposure to noise at a rating of 85 decibels or higher. As you might expect, those most in danger from such long exposure are workers in industries where loud noise is almost a constant part of the environment. Such industries include construction, metal stamping and forging, many kinds of manufacturing, and aviation. People who are exposed to very loud music are also affected.
- 12 But the danger is not confined to workers in noisy environments. Loss of hearing because of noise may affect almost everyone in an industrialized society. A New York professor of ear surgery

compared the hearing capacity of people living in cities in Germany, Egypt, and the United States with that of the Mobaan, an African people who live in an almost noise-free environment. He found that the hearing capacity of all groups studied was much the same up to the age of thirty. After that age, a slow decline began among city dwellers. With each additional ten years of life, the difference became more pronounced. At age seventy-five only 5 percent of people in the cities could hear 14,000 cycles per second, compared with 53 percent of the Mobaan.

- 13 Loss of hearing resulting from loud noise is bad enough, but some scientists fear our noisy environment plays a wider role in our physical and mental well-being.
- 14 Even moderate noise seems to disturb sleep. In a recent experiment, a Canadian researcher took electroencephalograph readings of sleeping subjects hearing tape recordings of traffic noises in the 40 to 70 decibel range. He found that most subjects woke at the 70-decibel level. Others, however, only moved from a deep sleep to a shallow level of sleep. Exposure to noise at a constant 65-decibel level for twelve successive nights brought only a slight reduction in the number-of awakenings, but no real adaptation to the noise.
- 15 Noise can affect the quality of work. "But I can work better where it's noisy," you may say. "And I always study with the television on. Is that bad?" It depends on the task. A psychologist at Cambridge University in England has found that repetitive or foretold tasks are not affected by noise. Noise even improves the performance of people who are bored or sleepy. But in a noisy environment the kind of work that needs constant alertness over long periods does make worse.
- 16 Some industrial firms have begun to insist that workers exposed to prolonged noise wear acoustical plugs or muffs for their ears. Meanwhile more farsighted manufacturers, sensing that there will soon be additional laws about noise, are developing quieter machines. Silent versions of some of the noisier equipment to the environmental din already exist. There is a quiet train, a less noisy jackhammer, a wrapped up air compressor, and even a silent can for rubbish. The new garbage can has bands of sound-absorbing material, a coated bottom, and rubber legs. It produces a dull sound rather than the loud clanging sound that has awakened countless city dwellers.
- 17 The only trouble with quiet hardware and machines is that they cost more. For this reason, few individuals or companies will switch of their own accord. One leading acoustics expert believes that scientific device can suppress any noise scientific device has produced in the first place — if society is willing to pay the price. But the use of quieter equipment will probably have to be enforced by laws.
- 18 How will these laws be brought into being? People like you and me must begin to complain, write, join. Most people put up with noise only because they don't realize something can be done about it. Once they know that a quiet environment is possible, they may start to demand it.

(1052 words)

Now, enter your reading time and reading speed (words per minute) on the SCOREBOARD.

SCOREBOARD

		Number Correct	
Reading Time	_____	Comprehension	_____
	Minutes Seconds	Cloze Test	_____
Reading Speed	_____	Vocabulary	_____
Words per Minute			

1.3 COMPREHENSION

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions without looking back at the text. Choose the best answer to each question. Work carefully; try to earn a score of 10 correct.

- 1) The introduction illustrates that
 - A. cities are noisier now than they were in the past.
 - B. the noise problem has spread to rural areas.
 - C. all-terrain vehicles can go anywhere.
- 2) The rising noise level is due mainly to
 - A. the increased use of machines of all kinds.
 - B. an increase in population.
 - C. a disregard for existing laws about noise.
- 3) According to paragraphs 10 and 11, both a jet takeoff and a loud band reach decibel ratings that are above the
 - A. threshold of pain.
 - B. hearing capacity of most people.
 - C. level at which the hearing may be damaged.
- 4) A comparison study of hearing capacity showed that
 - A. the Mobaan are a noisy people.
 - B. factory workers may become deaf as a result of noise.
 - C. noise may affect the hearing of most city dwellers.
- 5) Sleeping subjects hearing noise at 70 decibels
 - A. moved away from the tape recorder.
 - B. awoke or changed their level of sleep.
 - C. gradually became accustomed to it.
- 6) Noise would probably hinder the performance of a person
 - A. doing difficult mathematics problems.
 - B. performing one operation on a conveyor belt.
 - C. painting a wall.
- 7) The development of quieter machines and hardware shows that the problem of noise
 - A. has been solved.
 - B. can be solved.
 - C. will never be solved.
- 8) Quieter equipment would likely be widely used if
 - A. it worked as well as noisier equipment.
 - B. its use were enforced by law.
 - C. it were more expensive.
- 9) Noise control is the responsibility of
 - A. scientists and people in government.
 - B. the average citizen in our society.
 - C. Both A and B.
- 10) According to the writer, the laws regarding quiet equipment can be brought into being if people
 - A. are willing to pay for it.
 - B. realize that a quiet environment is possible.
 - C. unite and demand for them.

Now, correct your answers and count the number you got right. Enter the number on the SCOREBOARD.

1.4 CLOZE TEST

DIRECTIONS: Fill in each of the following blanks either with a word con-

cerning the subject-matter or with a word necessary to complete the sentence structure. Try to use words in the text. A score of 16 correct is good.

Nowadays it seems _____ 1 _____ for us to find a place of real peace and quiet. Even if we _____ 2 _____ into the wilderness, noise is still with us. Some scientists say _____ 3 _____ sounds are doubling every decade.

Almost all medical men who have studied noise agree _____ 4 _____ loss of _____ 5 _____ can and does result from long exposure to noise at certain level _____ 6 _____ higher. But the danger is not confined to workers in noisy environments. An experiment _____ 7 _____ a New York professor of ear surgery indicates that people in _____ 8 _____ industrialized society suffer _____ 9 _____ from noise than those of "an almost noise-free _____ 10 _____" in Africa.

More experiments show that a _____ 11 _____ environment plays a wider role in our physical _____ 12 _____ mental well-being. Not _____ 13 _____ does noise affect the quality of work, but it disturbs our _____ 14 _____. This results in the development of quiet hardware and machines _____ 15 _____ as a quiet train, a less noisy jackhammer.

But these machines are _____ 16 _____ expensive that few individuals and companies are _____ 17 _____ to manufacture them. To solve the problem, the author suggests, we should make _____ 18 _____ to guarantee the use of quieter equipment. Only _____ 19 _____ people join in the struggle against noise, can we hope _____ 20 _____ a better environment.

Now, check your answers and see how many words you filled in correctly.

Count the number of correct answers and enter it on the SCOREBOARD.

1.5 VOCABULARY

(a) Often you can tell the meaning of a word from other words and ideas in the story.

DIRECTIONS: In the paragraph (number given) find the word that best fits the meaning below. Write the word.

- 1) set up for use (9) _____
- 2) ability; power (12) _____
- 3) of middle degree (14) _____
- 4) following in order (14) _____
- 5) continued (16) _____
- 6) added; more (16) _____
- 7) caused to be carried out effectively (17) _____

(b) A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

DIRECTIONS: Look back at the paragraph and see how the word in *italics* is used. Decide which of the three meanings below fits best. Write A, B, or C.

6 Unit One

8) *average* (5)

- A. ordinary
- B. standard
- C. amount

9) *contend* (5)

- A. argue
- B. claim
- C. struggle

10) *mental* (13)

- A. of the mind

B. illness

C. mad.

11) *accord* (17)

- A. agreement
- B. willingness to act
- C. treaty

12) *suppress* (17)

- A. keep secret
- B. exclude from consciousness
- C. prevent from appearing

Now, check your answers and see how many you got right. Count the number of correct answers and enter it on the SCOREBOARD.

2.1 READING GUIDE TO TEXT 2

(a) Look up the following words in your dictionary. Try to find their proper meanings in the context.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1) lore (1) | 5) excavation (9) |
| 2) evasive (6) | 6) meantime (11) |
| 3) panicked (7) | in the meantime (11) |
| 4) chimney (9) | |

Proper Nouns:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| 1) Boy Scout (1) | 童子军 |
| 2) Malta (2) | (欧)马耳他 |
| 3) Mediterranean (2) | 地中海 |
| 4) Royal Navy (4) | (英国)皇家空军 |

(b) Glance over the text quickly ONCE and see if you can answer the following questions.

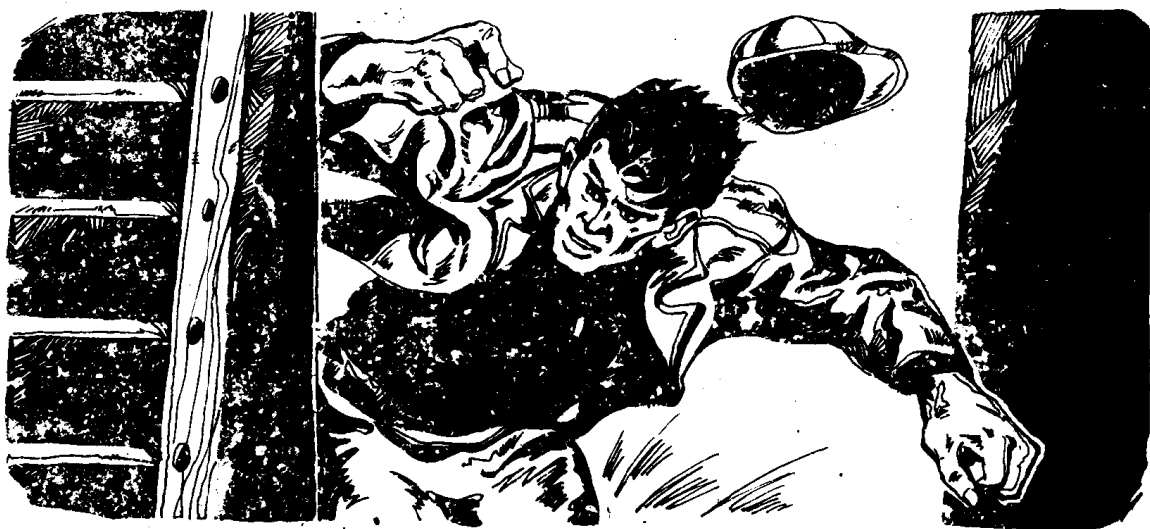
- 1) What did Robert Baden-Powell do before he became a spy?
- 2) How did Baden-Powell accomplish his mission in Germany?
- 3) When was the Boy Scout movement founded and what was the basis of its teaching?

2.2 TEXT

ROBERT BADEN-POWELL, SECRET AGENT

DIRECTIONS: Read the text well enough so that you can answer questions about it. When you finish reading, write down your reading time on the SCOREBOARD.

- 1 For nearly half a century Lord Robert Baden-Powell has been known throughout the world as the founder of the Boy Scout movement. And though all scouts will know that Baden-Powell brought to scouting much of the lore of tracking, camping, and living from the land that he learned as a young soldier in India and South Africa, it may come as a surprise to some that this great Englishman was once a spy.
- 2 Baden-Powell had planned that when he left Charterhouse, his school, in 1876, he would go to Oxford University. But when the time came he changed his mind. He decided to join the army instead. For fourteen years Baden-Powell enjoyed the many changes of scene that came his way as a military scout. Barely a year went by that he was not on the move. In 1890 he was military secretary for Malta, and the following year he was appointed intelligence officer for the Mediterranean area. It was at this point that he ceased to be a soldier and became a spy. Few spies have been better equipped for the work of espionage than was Robert Baden-Powell. His service as a military scout made it possible for him to "read" a country as few agents without special training could do. Baden-Powell was such a success as a spy in the Mediterranean that he was given missions in other parts of Europe.
- 3 At the beginning of 1915, about six months after the outbreak of World War I, Baden-Powell published a book called *My Adventures as a Spy*. Probably because it was wartime, he did not give a detailed account of his activities as a secret agent. Indeed, the book is more like a manual for spies, in which he has illustrated what a spy should know by practical examples taken from his own experiences.



4 One of these experiences began with a rumor that reached London some time before the outbreak of World War I. In a German port a new powerhouse was being built in the dock area. This indicated that a new dry dock was going to be constructed. Because it was known that Germany was increasing the building of warships in order to make its navy larger and stronger than the Royal Navy, the location of a new dry dock could be significant. So Baden-Powell was sent to the port to find out exactly what was happening.

5 He arrived at the docks early in the morning just as the gates were being opened. Carts carrying building materials were waiting outside the gates. At the entrance Baden-Powell stopped and stared through into the docks, just as any curious person might do. He had paused only some seconds when the policeman at the gates roughly ordered him to move on.

6 If he was going to find anything useful, he decided, he would have to get into the docks. When one of the carts began to move forward, Baden-Powell walked with it on the side farthest from the policeman, who thus could not see him. Approaching the new building, he saw another policeman in front of him. In taking evasive action he was seen by the first policeman, who shouted at him and began to run toward him. Baden-Powell pretended not to notice anything until he turned a corner; then he began to run as fast as he could.

7 Just around the corner a ladder was leaning against a scaffold, and Baden-Powell began to climb it. He was only halfway up when the policemen arrived on the scene. Many other men might have panicked and climbed more quickly up the ladder. Baden-Powell did not do this; he froze where he was. He was only fifteen feet or so above the ground and not more than twenty yards from the policemen. But they did not see him. They looked all around and inspected the inside of the framework of the building. One of the policemen even passed directly under the ladder. Presently, completely puzzled, they went away.

8 As soon as they were out of sight, Baden-Powell mounted the ladder and reached the roof. The first thing he did was look for a way of escape in case the policemen should decide to come up to the roof. He found a short ladder, and although it would not reach the ground it led to the next stage down. It would do, for there were various scaffold poles handy.

9 With his line of retreat secured, he began his inspection. In a few moments, from the type of chimneys and the shape of the buildings, he confirmed that the rumors British intelligence had heard were true. Perched high above the dockyard, he could see the excavations for what could only be a new dry dock.

10 With his compass he quickly took bearings so that the exact site of the powerhouse and dry

dock could be traced out accurately later on a large-scale map.

- 11 In the meantime the two policemen were discussing Baden-Powell's disappearance. Baden-Powell could hear them talking at the foot of the ladder. This meant they had left the entrance to the docks unguarded. It was an opportunity he dared not let slip. Using the short ladder, he worked his way round the platform on the far side of the building, slid down a scaffold pole to the ground, and a few minutes later was safely outside the docks.
- 12 This story provides useful advice for a spy who might one day be pursued. He should search for a hiding place above the line of vision of his pursuers. Very, very few people look above their normal line of vision when they are looking for someone.
- 13 Baden-Powell did his spying in peacetime. By the time war broke out in 1914 he had retired from active service and founded the Boy Scout movement, which spread rapidly throughout the world. The basis of the movement's teaching was the knowledge its founder had gained as a military scout and spy.

(1012 words)

Now, enter your reading time and reading speed (words per minute) on the SCOREBOARD.

SCOREBOARD

		Number Correct	
Reading Time	_____	Comprehension	_____
	Minutes Seconds	Cloze Test	_____
Reading Speed	_____	Vocabulary	_____
Words per Minute			

2.3 COMPREHENSION

DIRECTIONS: Answer these questions without looking back at the text. Choose the best answer to each question. Work carefully; try to earn a score of 10 correct.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1) Lord Baden-Powell's name is world-famous because he was</p> <p>A. the author of <i>My Adventures as a Spy</i>.</p> <p><u>B.</u> the founder of the Boy Scout movement.</p> <p>C. a military secretary in Malta.</p> | <p>3) At the dockyard, Baden-Powell was unable to</p> <p>A. avoid being noticed.</p> <p>B. understand what the policeman said.</p> <p><u>C.</u> get beyond the dock gates.</p> |
| <p>2) His mission in Germany was to</p> <p>A. count the number of German warships.</p> <p>B. destroy a newly built dry dock.</p> <p>C. discover the truth behind a rumor.</p> | <p>4) His actions on the ladder indicate that he</p> <p>A. could remain calm in dangerous situations.</p> <p>B. panicked as easily as many other men.</p> <p><u>C.</u> was paralyzed with fear.</p> |

- 5) For would-be spies, the most practical lesson to be learned from Baden-Powell's actions on the roof is to
 A. carry a large-scale map.
 B. ensure an escape route.
 C. rest when danger is removed.
- 6) Like most pursuers, the policemen made the mistake of
 A. separating to search for Baden-Powell.
 B. calling loudly to each other.
 C. neglecting to look up.
- 7) The author's purpose in this story was to
 A. give some little-known information about Baden-Powell.
 B. describe the founding and development of the Boy Scout movement.
 C. emphasize the contribution spies make in wartime.
- 8) Baden-Powell's spying activities took place before his
 A. career as a soldier.
 B. retirement from active service.
 C. appointment as military secretary.
- 9) The author does not give the
 A. reason Baden-Powell was a good spy.
 B. name of the German port.
 C. use Baden-Powell made of his compass.
- 10) The teaching of the Boy Scout movement is based on its founder's
 A. experiences gained as a spy in Germany.
 B. activities practised as a military scout in Malta.
 C. Both A and B.

Now, correct your answers and count the number you got right. Enter the number on the SCOREBOARD.

2.4 CLOZE TEST

DIRECTIONS: Fill in each of the following blanks either with a word concerning the subject-matter or with a word necessary to complete the sentence structure. Try to use words in the text. A score of 16 correct is good.

Once Baden-Powell was sent to Germany to find out if it was true that a dry dock was _____ 1 _____ built. Baden-Powell arrived at the port _____ 2 _____ as the gates were being opened and carts carrying building materials were _____ 3 _____ to enter. Stopping _____ 4 _____ the entrance, he stared through into the docks as _____ 5 _____ he were only curious. But soon he was _____ 6 _____ to move on. As he was trying to sneak into the _____ 7 _____, a policeman shouted at him and began to run _____ 8 _____ him. Baden-Powell pretended not to _____ 9 _____ anything _____ 10 _____ he turned a corner; then he began to run as fast as he could.

Seeing a ladder _____ 11 _____ against a scaffold, he began to climb it. He was only about fifteen feet above the ground _____ 12 _____ the policemen arrived on the _____ 13 _____. Baden-Powell froze _____ 14 _____ he was. The policemen did not see him, and one of them even passed directly under the ladder _____ 15 _____ seeing him.