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宇航出版社



英语阅读
练习丛书

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第一册

The Series of English
Reading Practice

Book 1

徐士秀 曾玉文 李琦瑛 编著

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内 容 简 介

本书选自美国原著《Progressive Reading Series》1~8册中的前三册中的26篇。语言规范、流畅、文字简洁易懂、内容丰富、涉及面广。此书的特点是从各方面介绍了美国概况,可使读者,尤其是将要留学美国的大学生、访问学者及工作人员熟悉美国情况。包括生活、教育、政治、地理等等。例如,书中介绍美国国土、气候、一些州名的由来,美国社会问题(青年问题、妇女问题),教育(儿童教育、青年教育、残疾人教育),美国国会,科普知识,人物介绍等等。体裁多样,除散文外还有书信及对话。对一些词汇的产生背景,如 Car Pool (汽车合伙使用)作了解释。正文之外,每课配有练习2~3个,可加深对课文的理解,巩固语法知识,培养知识的运用能力。可以说是题材广泛、体裁多样、图文并茂、语言地道,读了此书既可学到英语,又可了解美国概况。

英语阅读练习丛书

第 一 册

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The Climate of the United States

The United States has many different kinds of climate. On the west coast, the temperature changes very little between summer and winter, but the north central states have a very different kind of climate. In those states, people wear light clothing during the summer, and they need heavy wool or fur clothing in the winter.

In the southwest, the climate is pleasantly warm during the winter, but the summer is unpleasantly hot.

In the eastern part of the United States, summer temperatures are very different from winter temperatures. Summers are usually hot, and winters are usually cold. Spring temperatures are comfortably warm, and fall temperatures are pleasantly cool.

Years ago, people in the cold parts of the United States did not often get fresh vegetables and fresh fruits during the winter. Today, however, trucks and trains carry fruits and vegetables very quickly to all parts of the United States. In this way, Americans "send their climates" to people in other states.

Exercises

A. Find the answers to the following questions in the reading.

1. Is there much difference between summer and winter on the west coast?

2. What is the climate in the southwest?
 3. How do people in the cold parts of the U.S. get fresh fruits and vegetables in the winter?
 4. Are summer and winter temperatures the same or different in the eastern part of the United States?
 5. Is the climate of the north central states like the climate of the eastern part of the United States?
- B. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences using very, usually, or quickly.
1. The temperature changes _____ little between summer and winter.
 2. In the eastern part of the United States, summers are _____ hot, and winters are _____ cold.
 3. The north central states have a _____ different kind of climate.
 4. Trucks and trains carry fruits and vegetables _____ to all parts of the United States.
- C. The four seasons of the United States are, spring (March, April, May), summer (June, July, August), fall (September, October, November), and winter (December, January, February). Write a few sentences about the climate of your country using sentences like the ones in the reading.

Notes:

1. coast [kəʊst] n. 海岸
the west coast 西海岸
2. clothing ['kləʊðɪŋ] n. 衣服

wear light clothing 穿的衣服薄 (少)

need heavy wool [wul] or fur [fə:] clothing

需要厚毛料衣服或皮衣服

3. comfortably [ˈkʌmfəʔəbli] a. 舒适的

Spring temperatures are comfortably warm.

春天的气温温暖宜人。

4. pleasantly [ˈplezntli] ad. 令人愉快地, 舒适地,

合意地

..., and fall temperatures are pleasantly cool.

秋天的气温凉爽宜人。

The Size of the United States

Visitors to the United States are often surprised to learn the distance from the east coast to the west coast. It is more than 3,500 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean on the east coast to the Pacific Ocean on the west. A jet plane crosses the continental United States in about five hours, but a traveler in a fast railroad train needs more than forty-eight hours to cross the country.

The new state of Hawaii is very far from the states on the east coast of the continent. Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean. It is more than 3,000 kilometers from Hawaii to the mainland of the United States.

Exercises

A. What are the distances between the important cities in your country?

Example, It is _____ kilometers from my city to the capital.

B. Are the following statements true or false according to the reading? If a statement is false, what is the correct information?

1. It is more than 5,000 kilometers from the east coast of the United States to the west coast.
2. It is more than 7,000 kilometers from Hawaii to the east coast.
3. A jet plane crosses the continental United States in about three hours.
4. Hawaii is in the Atlantic Ocean.

Honolulu, Hawaii



5. It is more than 3,000 kilometers from the mainland of the United States to Hawaii.
6. Hawaii is near the states on the east coast of the continent.

Notes:

1. Atlantic [ə'liæntik] a. 大西洋的
the Atlantic Ocean 大西洋
2. Pacific [pə'sifik] a. 太平洋的
the Pacific Ocean 太平洋
3. Hawaii [ha:'waii:] n. 夏威夷

Schools in the U.S.A

In the United States, boys and girls start school when they are five years old. In some states they must stay in school until they are sixteen. Most students are seventeen or eighteen years old when they graduate from secondary school. Another name for secondary school is high school.

Most children go to public elementary and secondary schools. The parents of public school pupils do not have to pay directly for their children's education because tax money supports the public schools. If a child attends a private school, his parents pay the school for the child's education.

Today about half of the high school graduates go on to colleges and universities. Some colleges and universities receive tax money from the government. A student at a state university does not have to pay very

much if his parents live in that state. Private colleges and universities are expensive, however. Almost half of the college students in the United States work while they are studying. When a student's family is not rich, he has to earn money for part of his college expenses.

Exercises

A. Find the sentences in the reading that have nearly the same meaning as the sentences below.

1. About fifty percent of secondary school graduates attend a college or university.
2. Nearly half of all college students have part-time jobs while they are in school.
3. In the United States, children start school at five.
4. It costs a lot of money to attend a private university or college.
5. In some states, students cannot leave school until they are sixteen years old.

B. Match each word in column 2 with the word in column 1 that means the opposite.

Column 1

- a) public
- b) expensive
- c) rich
- d) earn

Column 2

- a) cheap
- b) poor
- c) spend
- d) private

C. Are the following statements true or false according to the reading?

If a statement is false, what is the correct infor-

mation?

1. In the United States, boys and girls start school when they are seven years^{old}.
2. Most children go to public schools.
3. State universities cost less if the students' parents live in that state.
4. Very few high school graduates go on to colleges and universities.
5. Students are usually seventeen or eighteen when they graduate from high school.
6. The parents of public school children have to pay for their children's education.

Notes:

1. graduate ['græljueit] vi. 毕业, ~ from 毕业于
['græljuit] n. 毕业生
2. elementary [eli'men ə:ri] a. 初级的
~ school 小学
3. secondary ['sel ən'ɔ:ri] a. 中级的
~ school (or high school) 中学
4. public ['pablik] a. 公立的, 公众的
5. private ['praɪvɪt] a. 私人的
6. tax [tæ'ks] n. 税
7. earn [ə:n] vt. 赚, 挣得 ~ money 挣钱

How Did the States Get Their Names?

People who visit the United States sometimes wonder how the states got their names. Some of the most

interesting names came from American Indian languages. For example, Illinois was named for the Indians who used to live in that part of the country. In their language, Illinois means "Brave Men." Connecticut means "At the Long River-Mouth" in the language of the Indians who used to live there.

Twenty-five of the states have Indian names, but other names were taken from different languages. Georgia and Pennsylvania have names which were taken from the Latin language. Florida and Colorado were named by Spanish people. States like New Hampshire and New Jersey were named for places in England.

The two newest states have names which did not come from any of those languages. Hawaii got its name from a word in the Hawaiian language which means "Homeland." Alaska was named by the Russians, from whom Alaska was bought in 1867.

Exercises

- A. Are the following statements true or false according to the information in the reading? If a statement is false, what is the correct information?
1. Illinois was named for the French who used to live in that part of the country.
 2. Half of the states have Indian names.
 3. Georgia and Pennsylvania were taken from the Latin language.
 4. Illinois means "Brave Men" in the language of the Indians who used to live there.
 5. Florida and Colorado were named by the Spa-

nish.

6. Hawaii and Alaska are the two newest states.
7. Alaska was bought from the Russians in 1967.
8. Hawaii means "Homeland" in the Hawaiian language.
9. New Hampshire and New Jersey were named for places in England.

B. Do you sometimes wonder how or why something happened? Ask some questions beginning with I wonder why or I wonder how.

C. Change the sentences below from active to passive sentences.

Example, Americans took the names of the states from different languages.

The name of the states were taken from different languages.

1. We named New Hampshire and New Jersey for places in England.
2. We bought Alaska from the Russians in 1867.
3. The Russians named Alaska.
4. Many people from other countries visit the United States.

Notes:

1. Illinois [ili'noi] or [ili'noiz] n. 伊利诺斯〔美国州名〕
2. Connecticut [kə'netikət] n. 康涅狄克〔美国州名〕
3. Georgia ['dʒɔ: dʒə] n. 佐治亚〔美国州名〕
4. Pennsylvania [pensil'veinjə] n. 宾夕法尼亚〔美国州名〕

名]

5. Latin ['lætɪn] a. 拉丁的 n. 拉丁语
6. Florida ['flɒrɪdə] n. 佛罗里达 [美国州名]
7. Colorado [kə'ɒlə'rɪ:də] n. 科罗拉多 [美国州名]
8. Spanish ['spænɪʃ] a. 西班牙的
9. New Hampshire [nju(:)'hæmpʃə] 新罕布什尔 [美国州名]
10. New Jersey [nju(:)'dʒə:zi] 新泽西 [美国州名]
11. Hawaiian [hə:'waɪiən] a. 夏威夷的
n. 夏威夷人
12. Homeland ['həʊmlænd] n. 祖国
13. Alaska [ə'læskə] n. 阿拉斯加 [美国州名]
14. Russian ['rʌʃən] n. 俄国人

American Youth

Millions of words have been written about young people in the United States. There are reasons for this great interest in the ideas, feelings, and actions of youth.

Today there are about seven million Americans in colleges and universities. Young persons under twenty-five make up nearly half of the American population. Many of these will soon be in charge of the nation. Naturally their ideas are important to everyone in the country, and it is necessary for older people to understand what they think and feel.

College students today have strong opinions about right and wrong. They are deeply interested in making a better life for all people, especially for those who have not been given a fair chance before now. They see

much that is wrong in the lives of their parents. It is hard for them to see what is right and good in the older ways. As a result, there is often trouble in American families. Your country may be meeting such problems, too.

Exercises

A. Which one of the following words does not belong with the others?

opinions feelings thoughts
ideas chances

B. Answer the following questions about the reading.

1. What is necessary for older people to understand?
2. What is hard for young people to see?
3. How many people are there in colleges and universities?
4. According to the reading, whose ideas are important and why are they important?

C. What are some things that are hard for you to do? What is necessary or important for you to do? Make sentences beginning with such phrases as "It is hard for me..." "It is important for me to..." "It is necessary for us to..."

D. Can you think of another way of saying each of the underlined words in the sentences below?

1. Young persons under twenty-five make up nearly half of the American population.
2. Naturally their ideas are important to everyone in the country.

3. They are deeply interested in making a better life for all people.
4. They see much that is wrong in the lives of their parents.

Notes:

1. millions of 无数的, 许许多多的
2. feeling ['fi: liŋ] n. 感情, 情感
3. action ['ækʃən] n. 行动
4. under ['ʌndə] prep. 在...以下
young persons under twenty-five 在二十五岁以下的年青人
5. in charge [ɪŋˈtʃɑ:ʒ] 主管, 掌管
be in charge of the nation 管理国家
6. fair [feə] a. 相当好的, 尚好的
a~chance 相当好的机会
7. in the old ways 以较旧的方式
8. as a result 结果
9. They see much that is wrong in the lives of their parents.

这句much为名词, that后引出定语从句, 说明名词much, lives为life的复数

他们看到他们父母的一生中有许多事做得不恰当。

A Child Who Could Not See, Hear, or Speak

For the first nineteen months of her life, Helen Keller was like other pretty, happy babies in every way. Then a sudden illness destroyed her sight and hearing. Because she could not hear what other people were say-