

# READING SPE A REA CIRCU IN



(美) W. F. 文松

## 英语 阅读文选

科学技术文献出版社重庆分社

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A READING SPECTRUM

第 六 册

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〔美〕 V.F. 艾伦 编著

李明章 注释

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## 前 言

本注释本原书是美国坦普尔大学弗·弗·艾伦博士专为外国人学习英语而编写的一套系列阅读丛书（一九七四年至一九七八年出齐），适合用作我国高中，大学一、二年级学生及水平相当的同志学习英语的读物。该丛书自八十年代初期起在四川省内外大专院校广泛使用，反映良好。

全书共八册，分初、中、高三级。第一、二、三册为初级，初中毕业即可阅读；第四、五、六册为中级；第七、八册为高级。总词汇范围以三千词为基础。本书语言材料精心编纂，词汇语法严格筛选，课文题材广泛，文体丰富多彩，语言生动活泼；每课课文后还附有词汇、语法等练习；书后附有练习答案和词汇表。这套书的趣味性、知识性与科学性融为一体，做到了循序渐进，引人入胜。读者既可培养阅读能力，扩大词汇量，又可较全面地学习语法，逐步提高使用英语的技能。

为了适应中国人学习英语的特点，本注释本对课文、插图说明及练习中出现的生词、习语、重要的人名地名等专有名词，特别是疑难句和重点语法现象均一一作了适当的注释。

由于注释时间仓促，加之我们水平有限，书中可能有错漏，希望读者提出宝贵意见，俾于今后改进。

注释者

一九八七年一月

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## READING 1

### Why Don't Girls Think Like Boys?

[1] Do you believe that only boys do well in science? Does it seem to you that girls have better vocabularies than boys? <sup>1</sup> In your opinion, <sup>2</sup> are boys better at <sup>3</sup> building things? If your answer to each of those questions is "Yes," you are right, according to an article in *Current Science*.<sup>4</sup> There are exceptions, but here are the facts.

[2] On the average,<sup>5</sup> males score higher on tests that measure mathematical reasoning, mechanical ability, and problem-solving skills. Females show superior ability in tests measuring vocabulary, spelling, and memory. But these differences will probably not always exist. In the future, a person's abilities may not be determined by sex. As one scientist says, "Nothing is impossible for a person to be or do."<sup>6</sup>



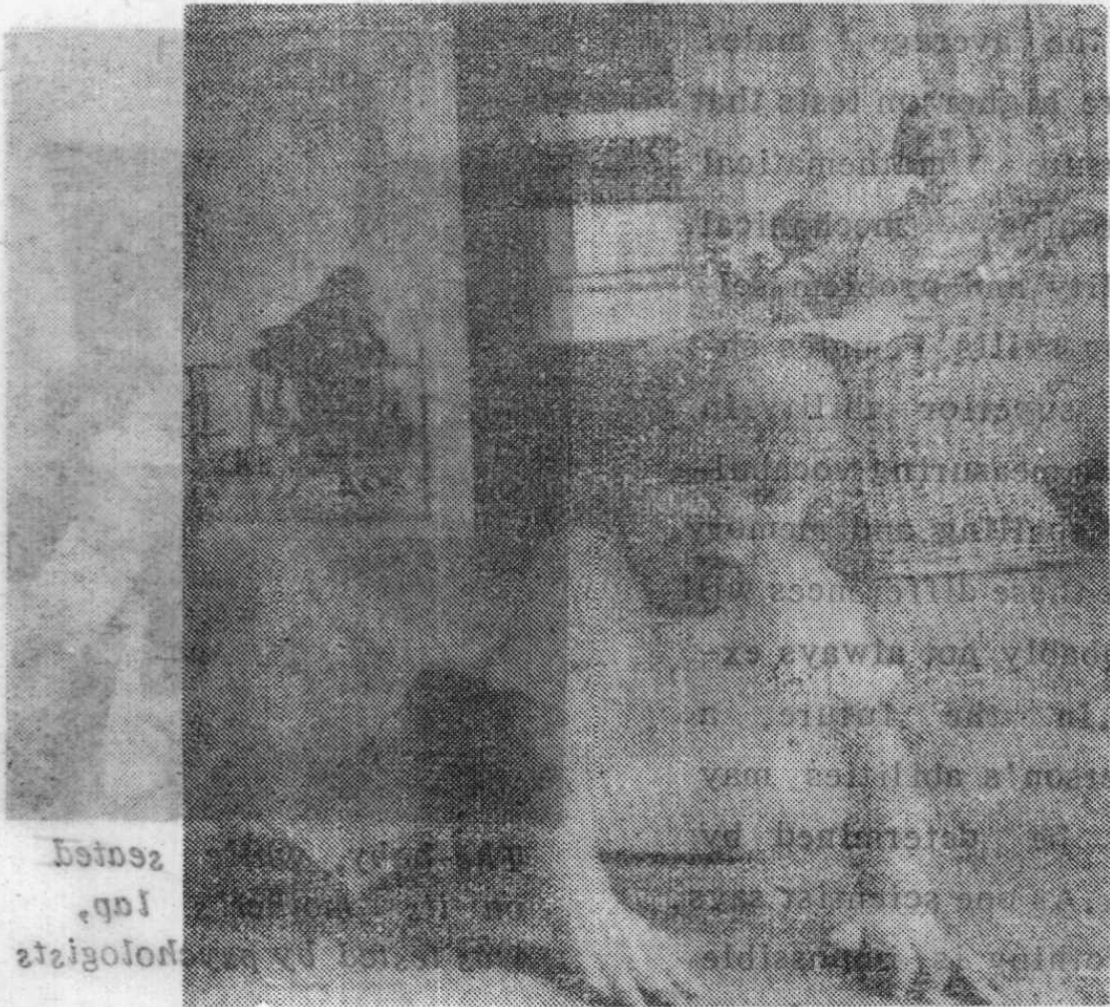
*The baby, while seated on its mother's lap, was tested by psychologists*

[3] In several recent studies, young babies have been observed and tested to discover how different abilities are

developed. A scientific team headed by Jerome Kagan,<sup>7</sup> a psychologist at Harvard University,<sup>8</sup> is studying the thinking ability of children 11½ months old.<sup>9</sup> The test is a simple one. The baby, while seated on its mother's lap, watches a "show" on a small theater stage.

[4] In act 1 of the show, an orange-colored block is lifted from a blue box and moved slowly across the stage. Then it is returned to the box. This is repeated six times. Act 2 is similar, except that the orange block is smaller. Baby boys do not seem to notice the difference in the size of

There are exceptions, but here are the facts.



It was found that mother's train their sons to move away from them and to explore their surroundings



the block, but girls immediately become excited and begin to make noises that sound like language. They seem to be trying to talk.

- [5] It is known that bones, muscles, and nerves develop faster in baby girls. Usually, too, baby girls talk at an earlier age than boys do. Scientists think there is a physical reason<sup>10</sup> for this. They believe that the nerve endings<sup>11</sup> in the left side of the brain develop faster in girls than in boys. And it is this side of the brain that strongly influences an individual's ability to use words, to spell, and to remember things.
- [6] By the time<sup>12</sup> they start to school, therefore, little girls have an advantage that boys do not have. Girls are physically more ready to remember facts, to spell, and to read. These, of course, are skills that are important in elementary school.<sup>13</sup>
- [7] But what have the boys been doing in the years before starting school? They have been developing something called *aggression*. An aggressive person has courage and energy. He feels strong and independent. He is often the first one to start a fight.
- [8] What produces aggression in little boys? It has long been assumed that aggression is caused by male hormones. Scientists today believe that male hormones are only part of the explanation, however. They say aggressiveness in boys is also caused by mothers.
- [9] A team of psychologists discovered this by placing mothers and their one-year-old babies in a room filled with toys. The room had a wall through which the scientists could observe what happened without being seen.<sup>14</sup> They

took notes on everything the mothers and babies did.  
[10] Here is a sample of those notes, taken during the observation of a baby boy and his mother:

"Baby leans against mother. Looks up at her. She speaks to him. She turns him around. He walks away, picks up toy cat. Goes to mother, drops cat, and leans against her. Looks up at her. She turns him around."

[11] From such observations and from conversations with mothers, the scientists learned something about the treatment of baby boys and baby girls. While the mother keeps her daughter close to her, she unconsciously trains her son to move away from her, to develop independence, and to explore his surroundings. She trains him to become aggressive and to be a problem solver.



By the time they start school, little girls have an advantage  
[12] Consequently, it is easy to understand why little girls often perform school tasks<sup>15</sup> more satisfactorily than boys, especially if the task requires sitting still, obeying commands, and accepting the teacher's ideas. A girl may

pass easily through the first few grades.<sup>16</sup> While boys of her age bring home low marks, the girl may easily get good grades. Girls seem to have "better brains" in school. Why, then, do so few girls become great scientists? Why is the most important thinking in adult society done by men?

[13] According to scientists, the answer is aggression. Because boys are aggressive, they refuse to accept other people's solutions; they insist upon solving problems for themselves. Thus, while little girls are getting high marks in school for remembering what the teacher has told them, little boys are learning to think in more independent ways.

[14] In the adult world, the aggressive person is usually the one who gets the big salary,<sup>17</sup> the great responsibility, the powerful job.<sup>18</sup> And since males are trained at an early age to be aggressive, males are more often chosen for key positions.<sup>19</sup>

[15] Many people believe this situation is wrong. They think women could be successful in science and industry if their early training included some "aggression lessons,"—if they were rewarded for independence and problem-solving, as boys are.

[16] Furthermore, some psychologists believe that boys may get too much training in aggression. Perhaps little boys should be permitted to lean more on their mothers. It might make them more gentle. The world needs gentleness as much as aggressive strength.

---

Approximately 390 words



*Males are trained at an early age to be aggressive*

## Notes

1. Does it seem to you that...than boys? 据你看 女孩

掌握词汇是否比男孩更好?

it seems + that-clause (看来, 似乎...) 为主语从句,

it 为先行主语代表这个主语从句放在句首 (也有人认为

它是无人称 it, 作主语, that-clause 是表语从句)。有

时在 it seems 与 that-clause 之间插入 to sb. [据 (某

人) 看, (某人) 认为], 比较:

- (1) It seems that he is ill. 看来他病了。
- (2) It seems to me that we have been neglecting our duty. 我认为我们对职责有所疏忽。
2. in your opinion 依你的看法
  3. better at 更善于 (由good at转变而来)
  4. Current Science 当代科学 (杂志名)
  5. on the average 一般说来
  6. "Nothing is impossible for a person to be or do."  
"没有人干不了的事。"
  7. Jerome Kagan [dʒəˈrəʊmˈkæɡən] 杰拉姆·卡根
  8. Harvard[ˈhɑ:vəd]University n. (美国)哈佛大学
  9. children 11½ months old 十一个月又十五天的婴儿
  10. physical reason 生理上的原因
  11. nerve endings 神经末梢
  12. by the time (+ 时间状语从句) 在...之前, 到...时候
  13. elementary school 小学
  14. The room had a wall...without being seen. 这个房间有一面墙壁, 透过这面墙壁科学家们能够观察到房间里发生的一切而不会被察觉。
  15. school tasks 功课
  16. A girl may pass...first few grades. 女孩子可以轻而易举地通过初年级的几次成绩考试。
  17. big salary 优厚的薪金
  18. powerful job 有权有势的工作
  19. key position 重要职位

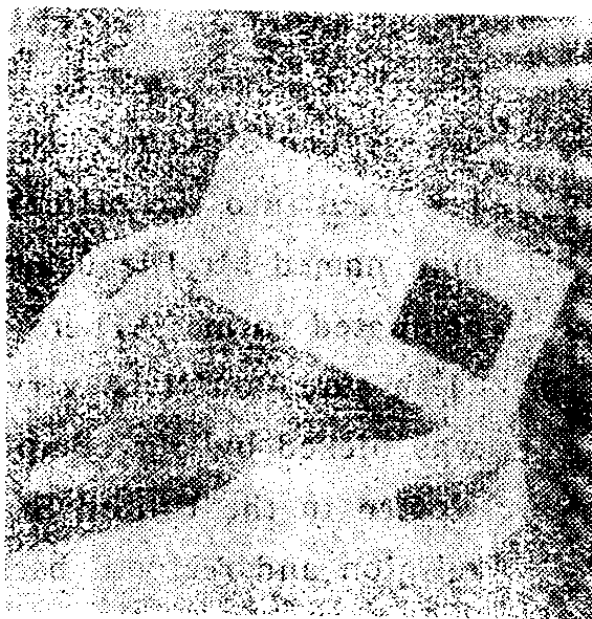
## Exercises

- A. Which of the following statements are true, according to this reading? If a statement is not true, change it to make it true.
1. Girls are better spellers than boys.
  2. Boys do better than girls on tests of memory.
  3. On vocabulary tests, girls do better than boys.
  4. It will probably always be true that a person's abilities will be determined by sex.
  5. In the Kagan experiments, the scientists found that most baby boys noticed the difference in the sizes of the blocks.
  6. Muscles develop faster in baby girls.
  7. The ability to use words is influenced most by the left side of the brain.
  8. Girls are usually more aggressive than boys.
- B. The statements in this reading were based on observation of boys and girls in the United States. Are they equally true of your country? Explain why or why not.
- C. What would be your opinion of giving girls "aggression lessons" and training boys to be more gentle?
- D. Write the first paragraph of this reading, as dictated by your teacher.

## READING 2

### The Perfect Match<sup>1</sup>

- [1] In many parts of the world, a young person's husband or wife is chosen by the person's parents. In the United States, the choice is usually made by the young people themselves. A few people now pay private companies to help them in their search for the right husband or wife.<sup>2</sup> Such a company collects a great deal of information about each



*The information is put on an IBM card*



*The cards are classified by a computer*



man or woman who is interested in marrying and puts the information on a card, which is called an IBM<sup>3</sup> card. All the cards are then classified by a computer, a machine which organizes the cards into groups. The theory is that such a machine can make the best decision about matching the right man with the right woman because machines are not influenced by emotions. The value of this theory is considered in the following short story written by Stephen Makler,<sup>4</sup> a New Jersey high school student.

- [2] I walked into the office and shook hands with a smiling man named Mr. Bleaucher.<sup>5</sup> He was dressed very well, compared to me.<sup>6</sup> There was a pile of papers on his desk.
- [3] "I'm sure you'll be very pleased with her," he said. "She was picked by our computer out of more than ten million women in the United States. We classify them by race, religion, and regional background."
- [4] I sat there interestedly, wishing I had taken a shower before I came.<sup>7</sup> It was a very nice office but the chair wasn't too comfortable.



*IBM computer systems*



*It was a perfect match*

- [5] "And now—" he said. He suddenly opened the door to the next room, and I got a surprise.



- [6] She was pretty. Really, she was pretty.
- [7] "Mr. Walker,<sup>8</sup> this is Miss Alice Dunfield<sup>9</sup> of Laughing Lake,<sup>10</sup> Montana. Miss Dunfield, this is Mr. Franklin Walker of New York."
- [8] "Call me *Frank*. Nobody calls me Franklin," I said. I was a little nervous. "She was pretty, you see."
- [9] Mr. Bleaucher left, and we were able to talk.
- [10] "Hello," I said.
- [11] "Hello," she answered.
- [12] "I'm—I'm very pleased with the choice," I said. I was trying to be careful of<sup>12</sup> my words. Maybe she didn't like being called a choice. "I mean—I'm glad about the way things turned out."<sup>13</sup>
- [13] She smiled. She had a nice smile. Good teeth.
- [14] "Thank you," she said. "So am I." She was nervous, too.
- [15] "I'm thirty-one," I told her.
- [16] "Yes, I know," she said. "It's all on the cards."
- [17] There didn't seem to be anything to add to the conversation. Everything was on the cards, so there wasn't much to talk about.
- [18] "How about children?" she said.
- [19] "Three. Two boys and a girl."
- [20] "That's exactly what I want," she said. "It's written under 'Future Planning.' It's on that page there."
- [21] I suddenly noticed the papers in my hand. On the first page an IBM card had been attached with facts about her. I guessed that the papers she was holding told facts about me. I began looking through the papers I had. She did the same. The turning pages made a lot of noise.<sup>14</sup>
- [22] I read that she liked classical music. (This was in "Prefe-