

College English
Classified Fast Reading

高职高专
英语分类快速阅读

100 篇

何东 主编

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何 东 主编

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前 言

阅读是高职高专英语学习的重要内容,也是最有效的学习方法和手段之一。阅读能力是高职高专学生通过英语学习而必须掌握的一项重要技能。

目前,各高职高专院校选用的英语教材形形色色。然而,无论使用什么教材,都存在一个共同的问题——英语语言输入量十分有限。克拉申(Krashen, 1982)认为,第二语言习得有赖于为学习者提供“可理解输入”(comprehensible input)。第二语言接触量越大,语言流利程度越高。阅读技能随着阅读量的加大而提高。学习者如果接触不到“可理解输入”,其语言发展就会受到阻碍。因此,仅靠教材的语言输入量,学生要想学好英语几乎是不可能的。正是在这种理念的指引下,我们才下决心编辑一本适合于高职高专学生的英语阅读书籍,以满足他们的英语学习需要。

本书以“实用为主,够用为度”为主要的编写原则。为加大高职高专学生的课外阅读量,提高阅读速度和阅读理解能力,扩大词汇量,拓宽知识面,本书精心选编百篇英语短文,兼具科学性、趣味性、可读性和知识性,内容浅显易懂,覆盖面广。

为满足不同专业学生跨领域获取知识的需要,本书涵盖了十个模块(详情请参阅“内容提要”)。每个模块收集精美文章10篇。每篇文章后面配有简单的词汇表和注释,并设计不同形式的练习题,且在书后给出练习参考答案,以帮助读者自我检测。

百篇文章的难度在一定范围内波动(编者坚持这一选材原则),既可满足不同英文阅读水平的读者的需要,也可让同一学生接触不同难度、不同风格的英文文章,锻炼学生应对各种阅读材料的适应能力。学生在使用本书学习时,我们有以下建议:如遇到难度较大的文章,要敢于知难而进,硬着头皮去读——读得多了,词汇量大了,能力强了,自然也就不觉得那么难了;如遇到难度较小的文章,也不要轻视它——殊不知,用简单的语言表达复杂的内容乃是使用语言的最高境界,况且,英美国家一般人平常使用的词汇不也就是那两三千核心词汇吗!另外需要说明的是,本书文章取材于各种正规英文网站、书刊,并且在文后都注明了出处,以示对作者的尊重。

本书在策划、编写和出版过程中,得到了复旦大学出版社外语分社社长杜

荣根教授、林森编辑以及仇文平先生、陈丽英女士等的大力支持和帮助,在此我代表全体编者向他们表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平所限,书中难免有所谬误,恳请读者和同行予以批评指正。

何 东

2009 年 8 月 于广东南海

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Animal, Plant & Human Being

1. 动物 · 植物 · 人类

Text 1

Who Needs Seeds? The Secret of Seedless Fruits

Mario Ritter

We often think of agriculture as planting seeds and harvesting crops. But many crops do not come from seeds. Many kinds of trees and plants are grown from pieces cut from existing trees and plants. This is called *grafting*.

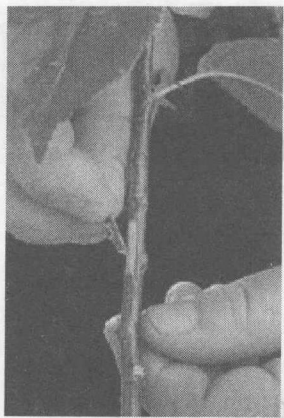
Farmers cut branches or young growths, called *buds*, from one plant and place them on a related kind of plant. The branch or bud that is grafted is called a *scion*. The plant that accepts the graft is called the *root stock*.

Over time, the parts from the two plants grow together. The grafted plant begins to produce the leaves and fruit of the scion, not the root stock.

A graft can be cut in several ways. A *cleft* graft, for example, requires a scion with several buds on it. The bottom of the scion is cut in the shape of the letter V. A place is cut in the root stock to accept the scion. The scion is then *securely* placed into the cut on the root stock. Material called a growth medium is put on the *joint* to keep it wet and help the growth.

Grafting can join scions with *desirable* qualities to root stock that is strong and resists disease and insects. Smaller trees can be grafted with older scions. The American Environmental Protection Agency says grafting can reduce the need to use *pesticides* on crops. The E.P.A. found that grafting stronger plants cost less than using *chemicals*. Also, poisons can be dangerous to people and the environment.

Agriculture could not exist as we know it without grafting.¹ Many fruits and *nuts* have been improved through this method. Some common fruit trees such as



sweet cherries and McIntosh apples² have to be grafted.

Bing cherries, for example, are one of the most popular kinds of cherries. But a Bing cherry tree is not grown from seed. Branches that produce Bing cherries must be grafted onto root stock. All sweet cherries on the market are grown this way.

And then there are seedless fruits like *navel oranges* and *seedless watermelons*. Have you ever wondered how farmers grow them? The answer is: through grafting.

The grapefruit tree is another plant that depends on grafting to *reproduce*. Grapes, apples, pears and also flowers can be improved through grafting. *In an age of high-technology agriculture*, grafting is a low-technology method that remains extremely important.³

(From <http://www.unsv.com/voanews/specialenglish>, 405 words)

Glossary

graft /grɑ:ft/ v.	嫁接, 接枝, 移植(皮肤等); 读取
n.	嫁接, (皮肤等的)移植, (接枝用的)嫩枝
bud /bʌd/ n.	芽, 蓓蕾
vi.	发芽, 萌芽
scion /'saɪən/ n.	幼芽; 子孙
root stock	嫁接苗砧木
cleft /kleft/ a.	劈开的
n.	裂缝, 隙口
securely /sɪ'kjʊəli/ ad.	安心地, 安全地
joint /dʒɔɪnt/ n.	接缝, 接合处, 接合点, 关节
a.	共同的, 联合的, 连接的, 合办的
desirable /dɪ'zairəbl/ a.	值得要的, 合意的, 令人想要的
pesticide /'pestɪsaɪd/ n.	杀虫剂
chemical /'kemɪkəl/ n.	化学制品, 化学药品
a.	化学的
nut /nʌt/ n.	坚果; 螺母; 螺帽; 难解的问题

navel orange	脐橙
seedless watermelon	无籽西瓜
reproduce /ˌriːprəˈdjuːs/ v.	繁殖, 再生; 复制; 使…在脑海中重现
in an age of	在…年代

Notes

1. Agriculture could not exist as we know it without grafting: as we know it 这里用作插入语, 对整句话做一些附加的说明, 也可置于句首。
2. McIntosh /ˈmækɪntɒʃ/ apple: 麦金托什红苹果(一种皮薄汁多带有香味的苹果)
3. In an age of high-technology agriculture, grafting is a low-technology method that remains extremely important: In the times when advanced technologies are applied in agriculture, grafting is very important though it is a method of low technology.

Exercises

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- () 1. The shape of the bottom of the scion is V.
- () 2. All crops do not come from seeds.
- () 3. Over time, the grafted plant begins to produce the root stock.
- () 4. Fruits such as sweet cherry, McIntosh apple, navel oranges and water-melons have to be grafted.
- () 5. Grafting has greatly improved agriculture but it is costly.

Text 2

Dinosaur: "Fearfully Great Lizard"

Gloria Chang

About 230 million years ago, a new group of *reptiles* appeared on the Earth.

They were *gigantic* and they were small, ranging in size from a 737 *airliner* to a chicken. They were *plant-eaters*, they were *meat-eaters*, and the last of them disappeared about 65 million years ago. That's about all that *paleontologists* can agree upon. Everything we know about these extinct creatures, scientists deduce from their *fossil remain* — at least the ones that have been *uncovered*. So, that leaves a lot for heated debate and new interpretations. And much disagreement.

But we can make a few conclusions. The earliest dinosaurs, *Herrerasaurus* and *Eoraptor*, found in Argentina, have been dated to be 227.8 million years old.¹ “The fact that *Herrerasaurus* was already a fully developed dinosaur indicates that there must have been dinosaurs before that,” says Hans-Dieter Sues, vice-president of collections and research at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.² The earliest dinosaurs were also *bipedal* and *walked upright*. As a group, the dinosaurs grew bigger *over time*. “Almost all of the really big dinosaurs are either Late Jurassic or Cretaceous in age,”³ explains Sues.

The dinosaurs were *land-dwelling* reptiles that lived through three time periods during the Mesozoic Era: Triassic (248 to 206 million years ago); Jurassic (206 to 144 million years ago); and Cretaceous (144 to 65 million years ago).⁴ Different *species* lived and died during different periods while others may have spanned the entire Mesozoic Era.⁵ Were they *endothermic* or *exothermic*? That is, did they *generate* their body heat *internally* like most birds and *mammals*, or did their body temperatures *fluctuate* dependent on the environment, like most living reptiles? That depends on the dinosaur and perhaps even on a given situation — were they resting or hunting? “The ones that *evolved* into birds are most certainly warm-blooded in a strict sense,” explains Sues. “But if the really large ones, like *sauropod* dinosaurs, had been warm-blooded in a *mammalian* or bird-like *fashion*, they would have had a huge *physiological* problem of getting rid of *excess* body heat because they were living in a warm climate. Those animals just couldn't *dump* all the heat.” Many, if not the majority of dinosaurs, says Sues, had fairly advanced *thermal regulation systems*. “We know that they grew very quickly from the *histology* (*microscopic* study) of dinosaur bones. And that's something you can only do if they are more advanced. Present-day cold-blooded reptiles like crocodiles grow slowly.”

And the name “dinosaur”? That came from the Greek words *deinos* and *sau-*

ros, which meant “fearfully great lizard”.

(From <http://www.exn.ca/dinosaurs/story.asp>, April 7, 2000, 450 words)

Glossary

reptile /'reptail/ *n.*

a.

gigantic /dʒaɪ'gæntɪk/ *a.*

airliner /'eəlaɪnə/ *n.*

plant-eater /plɑːnt'i:tə/ *n.*

meat-eater /mi:t'i:tə/ *n.*

paleontologist /'pælɪn'tɒlədʒɪst/ *n.*

fossil remain

uncover /ʌn'kʌvə/ *vt.*

vi.

bipedal /'baɪ,pedəl, baɪ'pe-/ *n.*

a.

walk upright

over time

land-dwelling /lænd'dwelɪŋ/ *a.*

species /'spiːʃɪz/ *n.*

endothermic /'endəʊ'θɜːmɪk/ *a.*

exothermic /'eksəʊ'θɜːmɪk/ *a.*

generate /'dʒenə'reɪt/ *vt.*

internally /ɪn'tənəli/ *ad.*

mammal /'mæməl/ *n.*

fluctuate /'flʌktʃueɪt/ *vi.*

vt.

evolve into

sauropod /'səʊ'rəpəd/ *n.*

a.

mammalian /mæ'merljən/ *a.*

fashion /'fæʃən/ *n.*

爬行动物; 卑鄙的人

爬行的, 爬行类的; 卑鄙的

巨人般的, 巨大的

定期班机, 客机

素食动物

肉食动物

古生物学者

化石

揭开, 揭露

揭示

两足动物

两足动物的

直立行走

随着时间的推移

陆生的

物种

[动] 温血的; 吸热(性)的

冷血的; 发热的, 放出热量的

产生, 发生

在内, 在中

哺乳动物

变动, 波动, 涨落

使动摇, 使波动, 使起伏

进化成, 发展成

蜥脚类动物

蜥脚类动物的

哺乳动物的

样子, 方式, 流行, 风尚, 时样

physiological /ˈfɪzɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ a.	生理学的, 生理学上的
excess /ɪk'ses, 'eksəs/ a.	过度的, 额外的
n.	过度, 剩余, 无节制, 超过, 超额
dump /dʌmp/ vt.	倾倒(垃圾), 倾卸
n.	堆存处
thermal regulation systems	保暖调节系统
histology /hɪs'tɒlədʒɪ/ n.	组织学
microscopic /maɪkrə'skɒpɪk/ a.	用显微镜可见的, 精微的

Notes

1. *Herrerasaurus* and *Eoraptor*, found in Argentina, have been dated to be 227.8 million years old: 1989 年 11 月, 阿根廷科学家在安第斯山脚下发现了据称是世界上最早的两只恐龙——艾雷拉龙(*Herrerasaurus*)和始盗龙(*Eoraptor*)——的化石。
2. the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto: 安大略省皇家博物馆, 坐落于多伦多市中心, 里面有多间永久陈列展厅, 是集世界文化和自然历史为一体的综合性博物馆。
3. Almost all of the really big dinosaurs are either Late Jurassic or Cretaceous in age: 几乎所有体形庞大的恐龙都要么生于侏罗纪晚期, 要么生于白垩纪。
4. the Mesozoic Era: Triassic (248 to 206 million years ago); Jurassic (206 to 144 million years ago); and Cretaceous (144 to 65 million years ago): (Mesozoic Era) 从距今约 2.5 亿年至距今约 6 500 万年, 其名称是由英国地质学家 J·菲利普斯于 1841 年首先提出来的, 用以表示这个时代的生物具有古生代和新生代之间的中间性质。从老至新中生代包括三叠纪(Triassic)、侏罗纪(Jurassic)和白垩纪(Cretaceous)。中生代末发生了白垩纪灭绝事件, 50% 的生物灭绝, 其中包括所有的恐龙。
5. ...while others may have spanned the entire Mesozoic Era;... but the other species might have lived through the whole Mesozoic Era.但其他种类的恐龙生存于整个中生代。这里的“may have spanned”是虚拟语气, 表示推测。

Exercises

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- () 1. Dinosaurs evolved from big lizards.
- () 2. The size of different species of dinosaurs varied greatly.
- () 3. Dinosaurs walked on hands and knees to drag the heavy body.
- () 4. Herrerasaurus and Eoraptor found in Argentina were the first dinosaurs that lived on earth.
- () 5. The large dinosaurs like sauropod dinosaurs must be warm-blooded because they lived in warm climate.

Text 3

Don't Cry, Guys

Christian O'Connell

There are two things men should be afraid of admitting. One is that they are bad drivers, and the second that is they enjoy a good cry *now and again*.

I went to the cinema the other day and saw *Spider-Man 3*. Something about the Sandman character¹ made me feel sorry for him. Maybe the fact underneath that lowlife hood — Frankenstein's monster — was a father trying to help his sick kid.² Yes, he was *emboldened* with superpowers but still he cut a tragic figure³ throughout the film, and at one point I found myself *choking up*. Big, *snotty* man tears came, and it felt good.

I got home and told my wife, expecting her to *throw herself at* me for showing my sensitive side. Do you know what she did? She just laughed at me.

Flicking through women's magazines you'll find countless articles asking, "How sensitive is your man?" They want us to be more *emotional*, but they don't know what to do when a man starts *blubbing*. Why is it that even in these *open-minded times* crying men are *taboo*?

Whatever people say in public, in private they think that males who cry are to

be avoided because they aren't dependable. Trusty, reliable things don't break into sobs.⁴ Dogs, for example, don't cry. And even if they could they wouldn't, for fear of showing their weak side. In dog world, showing weakness means being *reviled* by the rest of the *pack*. If your dog knew you were a *bawler* he'd start to *take liberties* right away — such as eating food straight from the fridge, sleeping on your side of the bed, maybe even trying to take your wife.

Yes, if you cry in front of your dog you might as well just give him *the deeds to the house*. And while we're talking *zoology*, I should add that you never see lions, tigers or bears cry. Even as their *habitats* are wiped out they're saying, "Yeah? Bring it on if you think you're hard enough."

And lastly, your father never cried. I estimate more than 90% of men have never seen their dads cry. And rightly so. Dads are supposed to be rock hard.⁵ My dad accidentally cut most of his *index finger* off, but he didn't even *moan* about it.

If you ever witnessed your father crying it's probably because he wasn't your real dad. That's why he was crying — it was the shame of being a *cuckold*.

There are a couple of exceptions, however. It is permissible to let it all out at the following sporting events: seeing England *crash out of* the World Cup (tears of sadness), watching the national *cricket* team (tears of *humiliation*), and the annual *spectacle* of Tim Henman self-destructing at Wimbledon (tears of laughter). Rocky is also an exception, and only those with *stone hearts* could fail to be moved to tears at cinema's saddest death, that of Apollo Creed.

Guys, don't cry!

(From *The Sunday Times*, June 17, 2007, 520 words)

Glossary

now and again

偶尔, 有时

embolden /ɪm'bəʊldən/ v.

使大胆, 使有勇气

choke up

(因悲伤、生气) 哽噎

snotty /'snɒtɪ/ a.

流鼻涕的, 下贱的

throw oneself at

冲向...

flick through

浏览

emotional /ɪ'məʊʃənl/ a.

富有情感的, 情绪的

blub /blʌb/vi.	哭
vt.	哭着说出
n.	一阵哭泣
open-minded times	开明时代
taboo /tə'bu:/n.	(宗教)禁忌, 避讳
a.	禁忌的, 忌讳的
vt.	禁忌, 禁止
revile /rɪ'vaɪl/v.	辱骂, 斥责
pack /pæk/n.	兽群; 一起跑并一起追捕猎物的一群动物
n.	一群; 一副; 包裹; 背包; 包装
bawler /bɔ:lə/ v.	放声痛哭的人
take liberties	行使特权
the deeds to the house	房契
zoology /zəʊ'ɒlədʒi/n.	动物学
habitat /'hæbɪtæt/n.	(动植物的)生活环境, 产地, 栖息地, 居留地, 自生地, 聚集处
index finger	食指
moan /məʊn/ vi.	发出呻吟声; 抱怨; 哀悼
vt.	呻吟
n.	呻吟; 哀悼; 呼啸
cuckold /'kʌkəld/ n.	有不贞妻子的男人
crash out of	被剔出, 彻底失败
cricket /'krɪkɪt/ n.	板球; 蟋蟀
humiliation /hju:,mɪlɪ'eɪʃən/ n.	羞辱, 蒙耻
spectacle /'spektəkl/ n.	公开展示, 展览物
stone hearts	铁石心肠

Notes

1. Sandman character: 沙人,《蜘蛛侠3》中的反面角色之一,身份比较神秘。因女儿得病,他不得不去抢钱而不小心把彼得(蜘蛛侠)的伯父杀害了。他从监狱逃脱,进入进行美军核试验的无人地区,遭到辐射,从而拥有了自由控制沙

子的能力, 不仅身体可分解成多堆沙子, 还能变化出沙锤和蜘蛛侠对抗。

2. Maybe the fact underneath that lowlife hood — Frankenstein's monster — was a father trying to help his sick kid: hood 是 hoodlum “恶棍、流氓”的缩写形式; lowlife 意为 a person of low social status or moral character “下层人、卑鄙的人”; lowlife hood 意为“卑鄙的恶棍”; Frankenstein 指“人形怪物”和“脱离创造者的控制并最终毁灭其创造者的媒介”; Frankenstein's monster 意为 a monster having the appearance of a man “人形的怪物”。本句意为“也许隐藏在那个卑鄙的恶棍——人形怪物(沙人)——背后的事实是一个父亲为尽力去拯救生病的女儿(而作恶多端)”。
3. cut a tragic figure: cut a figure 意为 successfully act out a role in a movie or on the stage “成功地演出一个角色”; 该短语的意思是演员成功地塑造了一个悲剧角色。
4. Trusty, reliable things don't break into sobs: It is an figurative expression which means “Tough man don't cry.” 这是一种比喻手法, 意思是“坚强的男人不哭”。
5. be rock hard: be as hard as rock “像石头一样坚硬”。

Exercises

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- () 1. The author found the movie *Spider-Man 3* moving and he bursted into a hearty cry. The author's wife showed her mercy to him and hugged him.
- () 2. Nowadays most people don't trust men who cry a lot.
- () 3. The author mentioned 2 times of crying experience.
- () 4. Dogs, tiger and lions don't cry.
- () 5. The national cricket team in the author's country plays badly.

Text 4

Five Miracle Treatments Headed Your Way

David Ewing Duncan

200-year-old people? E-mails sent by *brain waves*? The author of a new book