

英语

无障碍阅读文选

Selected Collection of Nihil Obstat Reading in English

英语无障碍学习法课题组 编



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拿破仑说：

打胜仗要靠三个法宝

Money, money, money

专家们说：

学英语也靠三个法宝

Reading, reading, reading

编者的话

英语老师告诉学生：“要多读英语读物，读多了，才能掌握单词的用法，才能产生语感，提高英语成绩。”新课标要求初、高中生除课本外，都要读 20 万以上单词的读物。阅读在英语学习中的作用，怎么强调都不过分。

但是，学生有自己的苦衷：英语读物要么内容太浅，像个识字课本或儿童读物，一点意思也没有；要么老是碰见生词，不停地查词典，在书上做标记，实在影响情绪，读不了几页就烦了。

家长也有体会：英语读物倒是成摞地给孩子买了，就是没有一本看完的。

要是有一种这样的英语读物就好了：

不管学生学到第几册第几课，阅读这种读物时，文章都是由学过的单词组成的，一个生词也没有。再学一课，单词随着课本增加，读起来还没有生词，语法难点有注释——始终读得懂。

英语原著，都是以英语为母语的人写的。如果为了处理生词而编写成类似识字课本的读物，一定不是地道的英语。

内容要考虑中学生的年龄、知识水平和兴奋点。最好像一份晚报，有新闻，有故事，有笑话，有名人的逸闻趣事，最好还有小说连载，内容一定还有侦破或爱情。

不难设想，这种任何学生都可以做到读起来没有一个生词的读物，会将枯燥的英语学习活动，变成沉浸在小说的故事情节、感受英语笑话的幽默、了解名人趣事、汲取科学知识的一种类似读晚报的轻松阅读活动。只是这份“晚报”是用英语写的，恰好容易读得懂。真有这种读物吗？

确实，要保证学生每学一课，读物内容完全跟着课文走，一个生词也不出现就很困难，何况还要保证这种读物是由英语原著组成。

但是，信息时代没有什么不可以实现。如果通过互联网，将全世界适合中学生阅读的英语材料尽量下载，建立一个庞大的语料库，然后，做一个编辑软件，让计算机算出来哪些文章对一个初中二年级学到第三周的学生恰好没有生词，并不是一件困难的事。这样，编辑人员就可以将适合中学生阅读的、不同体裁的文章，挑选出一定数量的精品，组成一个阅读单元，供这个初二第三周的学生阅读。

这就是《无障碍英语阅读文选》(以下简称《文选》)编写的初衷、思路和方法。

这套《文选》共 5 册。单词进度对照人教版从高一到高三的英语课本。按每单元 25 个生词进度编写。每单元内容包括 3000 个左右单词，总计约 48 万个单词。

《文选》紧扣教材，难度循序渐进，是学生最合适的一种阅读材料。生词率低于 1% 的读物，熟练后每分钟可泛读 120 个以上单词。只有这样的读物，才能在不挤占其他学科时间的情况下，完成新课标要求的阅读任务。

《文选》的编辑思路和方法是前所未有的。也许以前有人这样考虑过，但是，当时没有计算机，没有互联网，这种考虑难以变成现实。可以说，本套《文选》是目前国内第一部真正实现了英语无障碍阅读的助学读物。

虽然读物尽量考虑了中学生的特点，但编辑毕竟不是中学生，因此，如果学生在阅读中发现有什么不合适的地方，有什么建议，恳请及时函告我们，以便修订。

——编者

序

很多教育领域里的问题,如果从心理学角度研究,会有一些新的认识,比如英语学习中的一些问题。

我们经常听到有人这样说:“学英语要有语言环境。”意思是说周围的人用英语交流得多,英语就容易学。

但是,在美国旧金山,很多老华人在美国待了大半辈子,还是一句英语听不懂。为什么呢?从心理学角度看,应该是学习难度超出了他们“心理承受阈限”。人在克服困难时都存在着一个心理承受能力的问题。难度达到一定程度,就产生一个所谓“难度承受阈限”。意思是难到这个程度,学习者由于不断产生挫折感,磨损意志,最终灰心,并放弃解决问题。这些华人一般都是十几岁到美国打工,主要靠在与美国人交往中学习英语。但是,美国成人间交流涉及的词汇、知识不是初学者一下子就容易懂的。这一点我们可以对比一下华人儿童初到美国的情况:与美国儿童交往,涉及的词汇、知识难度很小,即使上街向成人问路,成人也会用儿童听得懂的语言回答,因此,华人儿童几乎没有不是很快就学会英语的。同样是华人成人去向美国人问路,回答得一定很复杂。由于难度大,一些华人就畏惧交流,并最终放弃使用英语,就是说难度已经到了他们的“承受阈限”。虽然每个人的承受阈限不一样,但是这个问题不能不考虑。

说到学英语的英语环境,最好是一个英语学习环境。就是说这个环境一定是循序渐进的、由浅入深的,学习过程的难度水平始终处于学生“心理承受阈限”以下,我们可以从学生阅读英语读物情况来认识这一点。

大家都认为大量阅读英语读物是学习英语的重要手段,但是,很少学生能够阅读下去,多数情况是读不了几页就放弃了。为什么呢?因为很少有阅读难度始终处在学生心理承受阈限以下的读物。英语读物的难度对学生来讲有两种:一是内容难度,即学生现有的知识不足以理解其内容;二是词汇难度,即生词问题。前一个问题比较容易在编写中解决,因此不突出,问题主要出在生词率上。

根据研究,英语读物生词率低于1.5%,不查词典也可以理解内容。超过了这个比例,一般要查词典。到查词典时就开始有了难度。根据试验,生词率造成的阅读难度是以几何基数增加的。即使可以查词典,读懂生词率达到3%的读物,是读懂生词率低于1%的读物花时间的1.8倍;读懂生词率5%的读物要花4.9倍;生词率达到7%,要花8.9倍时间,阅读难度增长幅度要大于生词率增加幅度。

生词率达到3%以上,阅读难度就很明显。达到5%,学生已经很难自觉阅读了。目前多数英语读物很难做到与学生英语学习进度同步,生词率还低于3%。生词率一高,实际是在考验学生心理承受阈限有多高,但要求学生阅读,目的显然不是这个。

教育一是要传道授业解惑,二是要给学生创造一个低难度、低障碍的学习环境。我们不能假定学生都是非常有毅力的、百折不挠的,而是要始终考虑到他们确实存在着难度承受阈限。因此,编写一种与学生学习进度同步的、生词率始终很低的读物,对于学生通过阅读提高英语水平和应试能力,是十分必要的。

读不同生词率的读物,就像中国儿童和成人在美国学英语的情况。中国儿童是在读生词率低于1%的读物,而到旧金山打工的成年华人要读生词率5%甚至7%的读物,当然是前者容易学好英语。

《英语无障碍阅读文选》是向这个方向迈出的重要一步。

孙时进

于复旦大学

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UNIT 1

末位单词: typewriter

1 - A General Pershing's Statue (雕像)

General Pershing was a famous American officer. He was in the American army, and fought in Europe in the First World War.

After he died, some people in his hometown wanted to remember him, so they put up a big statue of him on a horse.

There was a school near the statue, and some of the boys passed it every day on their way home. After a few months, some of them began to say, "Good morning, Pershing," whenever they passed the statue, and soon all the boys at the school were doing this.

One Saturday morning, one of the smallest of these boys was walking to the shops with his mother when he passed the statue. He said "Good morning, Pershing" to it, but then he stopped a while and said to his mother, "I like Pershing very much Ma, but who's that funny rider on his back?"

150 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

What's the underlined sentence meaning?

- A. He doesn't know Pershing is the name of the horse.
- B. He likes the horse very much.
- C. He considers Pershing as a horse.
- D. He knows Pershing very much.

1 - B Use the New Bath

Many years ago an English lady in Africa was invited by an important local chief to

be the first person to use his new bath, that's the first bath in that part of Africa.

The lady went into the bathroom, turned on the taps and got into the nice, warm water. But when she looked up, she was frightened to see an eye watching her through a hole. She got out, dressed a vest and ran outside. She saw an old man there. He was carrying a petrol tin of hot water in one hand and one of cold water in the other, and in front of him were two fillers(漏斗). He didn't seem to be aware that his behavior offended her.

"Why were you watching me in my bath?" the lady asked him with anger.

The man answered politely, "I have to see which tap you turn on, madam, or I don't know whether to pour in hot or cold water."

162 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

Why did the old man look at the woman through the hole?

- A. He wanted to offend the woman.
- B. He just saw her through the hole carelessly.
- C. He just wanted to control the temperature of the water.
- D. He liked the woman.

1 - C The Car Doesn't Listen to Me

Mr. King works in a shop and drives a car for the manager. He drives carefully and can keep calm in time of danger. And he escaped from several accidents. The manager pays him more and he often receives compliments(称赞) from the traffic policemen.

Mr. Baker, one of his friends, works a factory outside the city. It's far from his house and he has to go to work by bus. As the traffic is crowded in the morning, sometimes he's late for the work. His manager warns the young man will be rejected unless he gets to his office on time. He hopes to buy a car, but he hasn't enough money. He decides to buy an old one. He went to the flea(跳蚤) market and at last he chose a beautiful but cheap car. He said he wanted to have a trial drive, the seller agreed. He called Mr. King and asked him to help him.

Mr. King examined the car at first and then drove it away from the car storage. It was five in the morning and there were few cars in the street. At first he drove slowly and it worked well. Then he drove fast. And when he arrived at a crossing, the lights turned red.

He tried to stop it, but he failed and nearly hit an old woman who was crossing the street. A policeman told him to stop, but the car went on until it hit a big tree by the road.

"Didn't you hear me?" the policeman asked with anger.

"Yes, I did, sir," said Mr. King, "since it doesn't listen to me, can it obey you?"

276 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

Why did Mr. King not stop when the traffic light turned red?

- A. He hated the policeman because he was banned by the policeman.
- B. He had something wrong with his ears.
- C. The brake of the car didn't work.
- D. He didn't hear the policeman.

1 - D There Happens to Be a Bear in This Hole

Once upon a time, two young men were spending some time in the country. One day, while taking a walk together, they crossed a large weald(旷野).

"Look out!" one of the young men shouted, because a bull(公牛)suddenly appeared and began to chase them. Certainly they were very scared. They ran at the fastest speed, but the bull kept chasing them. It seemed that there was no possibility to escape.

Finally, one of the men climbed up a tree. The other one jumped into a dusty hole, but soon he came out of it. Immediately the bull chased him back into the hole.

"Stay there," his friend shouted, but soon the man came out again, and again the bull chased him right back. This went on five or six more times.

Finally, the man in the tree got angry and shouted to his friend in the hole, "You fool! Stay in that hole for a while. You were a little too previous. Otherwise, this bull will keep us here all day!"

"That's easy for you to say," the other man said as he jumped one more time back into the hole, "but there happens to be a bear in this hole."

201 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

Why did the man on the ground jump in and then out of the hole time and again?

- A. Because he wanted to make fun of the bull.

- B. Because there was a bear in the whole and the bull chased him behind.
- C. Because he was afraid of the bull.
- D. Because he wanted to climb up to the tree.

1 - E Conversation with Brad—How to Remember New Words

Dear Brad,

I am a high school student, I am 16. I like English very much and I make my mind to learn it well, so that I can make friends all over the world. Now, I am also interested in the customs of other countries. Can you tell me something about Canada? By the way, can you tell me how I can remember the new words clearly? There are so many new words for me that I always forget them.

Dan Ping

Hi Dan Ping,

Let me answer your second question first. Building your vocabulary in English (remembering words) is hard but this idea may help. I told my students to make small pieces of paper, each one about 3×5 cm. Each time they found a new English word they would write it on one of the pieces of paper, and on the other side, they would write it in Chinese. After a while they would have perhaps 30 of these little pieces of paper, in connection with a paper-clip, and they would carry these around in their pocket. When they had the chance they would get out the papers and use them to help remember the new words. They say that if you can use a new word in English correctly in five different sentences you will always remember it. I didn't know whether it just takes practice.

I don't know what to tell you about Canadian customs(风俗)except that they are very different from those in China. That is because the backgrounds of our two countries are very different. For example, we celebrate(庆祝)Christmas, but we do not celebrate the moon festival or May first. We are lucky because many Chinese people now live in Canada, we have the chance to learn more about life and customs in China. Perhaps some day you will be able to visit my country and learn some of our customs for yourself. I hope so.

Best wishes!

Brad

324 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

What can you do according to the passage if you want to remember the words clearly?

- A. You can write the new words on small pieces of paper and carry them around, and then you can remember them at any time.
- B. Just write it on the paper.
- C. Just repeat them day after day.
- D. There is no good way to remember the new words.

1 - F Are Your Friends Like Them?

Why do you remember Hello Kitty, Snoopy and all the other playful animals? What makes you love them? Well, maybe because they're like the people around you. Think about this! You just may find a friend or classmate who is like them. Is he or she?

As sweet as Hello Kitty: She likes to eat cake. She loves to make new friends. She asks friends to her tea parties. She is warm and sunny and will always help you.

As clever as Snoopy: He went to school when he was nine. He learned to use a type-writer in two years! He thinks a lot. He is so clever that you like to be with him.

As sarcastic as Garfield: He sits happily in the seat and says sharp words to you. Sometimes he is not nice. He really dislikes you? He thinks you're a fool? No, in his heart, he loves you. He is a friend with hard words but a warm heart.

As naughty as Mashimaro: He looks like a bad boy. He has sleepy eyes and looks naughty. He always plays tricks. So you get angry with him and don't like him very much. His mind is active and full of ideas. He tries to be big and catch your eye. But, he's still a child.

218 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

1. Why do people like the cartoon animals?

- A. Because they are like the people around them.
- B. Because they are very good.
- C. Because they are clever.
- D. Because they are sweet.

2. How many male cartoon animals are mentioned?

- A. 1.
- B. 2.
- C. 3.
- D. 4.

1 - G Mouse Trap

A slowcoach(笨拙的人) walks into a patent office. He walks up to the patent officer and said, "Hey, I've got a new idea for a mouse trap." (Draws a box on the blackboard.)

"Here's the box." (Draws a hole in the box.) "Here's the hole." (Draws a circle in the bottom of the hole.) "Here's the cheese." (Draws a line across the hole in the box.) "Here's the edge. The mouse sticks his head in the hole to get the cheese, the edge drops on his neck and kills him."

The patent officer looks at the diagram(图表)graph. He finds out that the man is a little slow so he wants to be kind. He explains to the man that he does not think the design is ready to be patented yet. He tells the man, "Please, work on it some more. Perhaps I will be able to patent it another time." The slowcoach says thank you and leaves the office.

One week later the slowcoach shows up again. (Draws the exact same example on the board in exactly the same way.) He says, "This is the box, this is the hole, this is the cheese and this is the wire. The mouse sticks his head in the hole to get the cheese, the wire circle around his neck and kills him."

The patent officer, still manage to be kind, makes the same excuse as before. The slowcoach leaves.

One week later the slowcoach returns. He approaches the same officer and says, (The exact same things.) "Here's the box. Here's the hole." (This time he draws a zigzag(Z字形的) line across the hole and he does not draw a circle for the cheese.) After completing the zigzag line, the slowcoach explained, "And here's the saw edge."

The patent officer notices the design and the fact that there is no cheese. He asks the slowcoach, "Where's the cheese?"

"Ah-ha," says the slowcoach. "That's the point. The mouse sticks his head in the hole and says, 'Where did you put the cheese?'"

339 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

How many times do the people come to the patent office?

- A. Two times.
- B. Only once.
- C. Three times.
- D. Four times.

1 - H In Another Country

It is interesting to visit another country, but there are sometimes problems when we don't know the language very well. It may be difficult to talk with the people there. We may not know how to use the telephone in the country we are visiting. We may not know how to buy the things we need.

In a strange country we might not know where to eat or what to order in a restaurant. It is not easy to decide how much to tip waiters or taxi drivers. When we need help, we might not know how to ask for help. It is not pleasant to have an experience like that.

Mr. Day was a teacher at a school in a big city in the north of England. He usually went to France or Germany for a few weeks during his summer holidays, and he spoke French and German quite well.

But one year Mr. Day said to one of his friends, "I'm going to have a holiday in Athens. But I don't speak Greek, so I'll go to evening classes and have Greek lessons for a month before I go."

He studied very hard for a month, and then his holidays began and he went to Greece.

When he came back a few weeks later, his friend said to him, "Did you have any trouble with your Greek when you were in Athens?"

"No, I didn't have any trouble with it," answered Mr. Day. "But the Greeks did!"

248 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

Why did Mr. Day say the Greeks had trouble?

- A. Because the Greeks couldn't understand him.
- B. Because he couldn't speak Greek.
- C. Because he made some trouble with the Greek.
- D. Because he studied Greek very hard.

1 - I Lost and Found

The next morning, the first visitor to the house next door was Mr. Carmichael, back from Russia. But when he came into the house, his face was sad, Mr. Carrisford knew the answer at once.

“You didn’t find her,” he said.

“I found her,” Mr. Carmichael said. “But it was the wrong girl. Her name is Emily Carew, and she’s much younger than Ralph Crewe’s daughter. I’m very sorry.”

“We must begin again,” said Mr. Carrisford unhappily. “But where? It’s two years now. Two years!”

“Well, she isn’t at a school in Paris. We know that,” Mr. Carmichael said. “Let’s look at schools in England now.”

“Yes,” said Mr. Carrisford. “Yes, we can begin in London. There’s a school next door, Carmichael.”

Perhaps it was the magic again, but at that moment Ram Dass came quietly into the room.

“The little servant-girl from the attic is here,” he said to Mr. Carrisford. “With the monkey. He ran away again last night to her room. Would you like to see her?”

“Yes,” said Mr. Carrisford. “Yes, I would. Bring her in.”

And so Sara came into the room and stood in front of the Indian gentleman. She smiled at him.

“Your monkey came to my room last night,” she said, “and I took him in because it was so cold.”

Mr. Carrisford watched her face with interest. “It was kind of you,” he said.

Sara looked at Ram Dass by the door. “Shall I give him to the lascar?” she asked.

“How do you know he is a lascar?” said Mr. Carrisford.

“Oh, I know lascars,” Sara said. “I was born in India.”

Mr. Carrisford sat up suddenly. “In India?” he said. “But you’re a servant at the school next door.”

“Yes, I am now,” said Sara. “But I wasn’t at first.”

The Indian gentleman looked at Mr. Carmichael, and then Mr. Carmichael looked at Sara.

“What do you mean by ‘at first’, child?” he asked.

“When Father first took me to the school.”

“He died,” said Sara, very quietly. “His friend ran away with all his money, and there was no money for me. There was nobody to take care of me. So Miss Minchin put me in the attic and said I must work for my bread.”

The Indian gentleman moved in his chair. “What was your father’s name?” he said.

“Tell me.”

Sara looked at him sadly. “Ralph Crewe,” she said. “He died in India from a fever, two years ago.”

Mr. Carrisford’s face went very white. “Carmichael,” he whispered, “it is the child — the child!”

That was an exciting day for many people. At first poor Sara did not understand. But Mr. Carmichael talked to her quietly and told her everything — the true story about her father’s friend and the diamond mines, and the two years of looking for Ralph Crewe’s daughter.

“And all the time,” she said later to Mr. Carrisford, when they sat by his fire, “I was in the house next door.”

Tom Carrisford took her hand. “Yes,” he said. “And you’re never going back there. Your home is with me now. I’m going to take care of Ralph’s Little Missus.”

Sara laughed, happily. “And you were the friend, too. All those beautiful things in my attic came from you — you and Ram Dass. Becky and I thought it was magic!”

The Indian gentleman smiled at her. “We were sorry for you,” he said. “Ram Dass can move very quietly, and he carried the things across the roof when you were out. I couldn’t find Ralph’s daughter, but I wanted to help somebody. And then Ram Dass told me about this sad, lonely little servant-girl in the attic next door.”

And so the story ended happily for everybody — but not for Miss Minchin. Sara was very rich now, and Miss Minchin wanted her to come back to the school. She came to see Mr. Carrisford, but he said some very angry things to her, and she went away with a red face.

Becky came to live in Mr. Crawford’s house, too. She was Sara’s servant, and she was very happy. She had a warm room, nice dresses, and good things to eat every day. And she loved Sara very much.

Ermengarde often came to visit Sara. And Sara helped her with her school lessons again. Ermengarde was not clever, but she was a true friend. On that first day in the Indian gentleman’s house, Sara wrote a letter to her, and Ermengarde carried the letter into the schoolroom.

“There were diamond mines,” she told Lavinia and the other girls. “There were! There were millions and millions of diamonds in the mines, and half of them are Sara’s. And they were her diamonds all the time when she was cold and hungry in the attic. And

she was a servant then, and she's a princess now!"

815 words ____ minutes ____ seconds

1. How many years did Mr. Carrisford find Sara?
A. Ten years. B. Two years. C. Five years. D. Many years.
2. Which is FALSE in the following statements?
A. The Indian gentleman spent two years finding Sara.
B. Sara's life was merciful in the two years.
C. Sara's father was murdered by his friend.
D. Sara was a kind girl.

1 - J Those Who Laugh Last, Laugh Best!

Henry Kendal walked into his house, took off his big coat, and sat down. Then he read the letter again:

I want five hundred pounds, and I'll come to your house to get it. You may have four days to get the money ready. Five hundred pounds is not much for a rich man like you. "Why must I pay?" you will ask. I'll tell you the answer. I knew your father. He made banknotes, didn't he? Do you want everyone to know this? I don't think so. I'll tell everyone if you don't pay. So have the money ready when I come. One-pound notes, please, and old notes. Don't tell anyone. Be alone when I come. I don't like the police.

A. B. C

Kendal's face was troubled. He was rich now, but in the old days he was poor. When he was a boy at Camber, his father got into trouble with the police. His father had a small room at the back of the house. He made bad money in this room. He made banknotes, hundreds of them. But the police came to the house one day, and they found some of the notes. They did not find all of them, because his father hid a lot, but they found some and they caught his father. That was the end of the boy's home life. The police took his father away and young Henry left home. Everyone in Camber knew his father, and the boy did not like to stay in the town. He left his mother and ran away. He came to Norton.

At first the boy got some work in a shop. But after some years he found work at the bank. Everyone liked him. He worked hard. He had a happy face. He helped everyone

when he could. He got better and better work at the bank, and now he had the highest place there. A lot of people knew him well and liked him.

His father was dead now, but someone knew about him. What could Kendal do? "If anyone tells people about my father," he thought, "I must leave the bank. That will be the end of my happy life." But Kendal was a fighter. "If life is hard," he thought, "I must fight it. There must be something that I can do. I don't want to tell the police. Is there another way? What shall I do?"

Four nights later, Kendal was sitting at his table at home. He heard the noise of a car far away. It came nearer, but it did not come to the house. The car stopped some way along the road.

The sound of a man's feet came to the door and Kendal went to open it. There was not much light outside. "Kendal?" asked the man who stood there. Kendal could just see a face which was partly covered with a piece of cloth. Two hard eyes looked out through two holes in the cloth.

"Yes," said Kendal. "Are you the man who calls himself A. B. C?"

"Yes. Are you alone?"

"Yes. Come in."

"Walk in front of me," said the man.

Kendal turned, and the man shut the door. Kendal took him into the house. In the light of the room, Kendal could see better. The man was carrying a gun. The man came into the room and turned his head to left and right.

"There's no one here," said Kendal. "You can put that gun away. You're a bigger man than I am. There's a chair by the fire. Sit down." The man sat down in the chair by the fire and put his gun away. His eyes never left Kendal's face, but he laughed.

"So you're going to pay," he said. "You're right. Kendal. It's better. What will people think if I tell them about your father? Will they want you to stay at the bank? I don't think so, and you don't think so." He laughed again.

Kendal walked over to his table. The man's hard eyes under the cloth looked at him. Kendal took out some banknotes. He did not speak. He put the money into the man's hands. The notes were old and dirty.

"Good!" said A. B. C., "the notes are old." He turned them over in his hands, one by one. "Yes," he said. He stood up. "There are five hundred, as I told you. We've had no trouble, and I'm glad, Kendal." He walked to the door of the room and opened it quickly.