

高教自学考试学习丛书

英语 泛读

第二册

EXTENSIVE READING

福建人民出版社

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(试用本)

英语泛读

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陈开俊 陈普编写 郑锡安审阅

福建人民出版社
福州
一九八六年

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学习外语，最基本的一个途径是尽可能大量地接触所学语种的口语和书面语。从我们当前情况来说，缺少外语环境，没有条件多与英美人士交谈，英语影片、英语广播也还不够普及，唯一简易可行的接触外语的方法就是大量阅读。然而，多年来的外语教学都着重于精读，忽视泛读，甚至只有精读，没有泛读。我们认为成年人学外语，精读是必要的，尤其在起始阶段。但是当掌握了一定的语法规音知识和最基本的词汇之后，就必须开展泛读，因为精读的量不可能很大，一本精读教材，一般只有十几二十篇短文，四本（一般用两年时间学完）也只有七八十篇，一共还不到四万字，语言复盖面十分狭窄有限。任何一种语言，内容都极其丰富多样，决非几十篇文字能包罗得了的。再说，精读课的基础知识也必须通过大量的语言实践才能加深理解，并通过反复实践得到巩固。通过泛读，还可以增大词汇量，扩大知识面。正因为如此，近年来，泛读逐渐受到重视，有些语言学者及教师还做了一些有益的研究实验，阐明了泛读的重要性。

要进行泛读，必须有一套适用的学习材料，目前不但自学者缺少泛读教材，就是一些全日制高校也感到教材匮乏。筹备自学考试以来，我们遍寻学习材料。所见教材一则十分零散，二则数量不够，不敷需要。有鉴于此，我们约请福建师大外语系的七位同志，编写了这一套泛读材料。全套共四本，共收约 200 篇读物，内容涉及政治述评、特写报导、人

物传记、神话、寓言、故事、科普小品、科幻故事、史地常识、英美习俗等方面，每篇读物后配有注释和若干练习，各册自成单元，附有若干自我测试题，书末附有习题参考答案。第一册至第三册，完全适用于专科水平的读者，第四册的一部分课文较深，作为提高部分，用以满足程度较高的读者的要求。由于许多文章没有注明原出处，为统一起见，这套读物的所有文章一律不注明出处。

王庆西、宋顺龄、陈开俊、陈维振、庄陶、林本椿、陈普等七位同志在繁重的教学工作之余，短期内编写了这四册读物，并由郑锡安同志审阅，我们特此致谢。

因时间短促，编写不免有错漏之处，请读者提出意见，以利修订。

福建高等教育自学考试英语专业主考校

福建师范大学外语系英语自学考试指导组

一九八四年九月

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1. Ali Baba^① and the Forty Thieves

Have you ever heard the story of Ali Baba? He lived many years ago in a country called Persia^②. He was a poor man. Every day he took his three horses to a wood to collect firewood. He sold the wood for a few cents.

One day, when he was in the wood, he saw forty men on horses. He climbed a tree and hid. The men looked like thieves. They were carrying heavy bags of gold. They stopped in front of a big rock and the Captain said, 'Open Sesame^③!'. Sesame was a magic word. A door opened in the rock. The men took the gold inside and the door shut.

Ali Baba waited for a long time. Then the men came out and rode away. The door shut. Ali Baba climbed down and went to the rock. 'Open Sesame!' he said. The door opened and he went inside. The place was full of golden coins and jewels.

'These men are not honest,' said Ali Baba. 'They are thieves. They have stolen these coins and jewels.'

He filled some bags with coins and put them

on his horses. He said, 'Shut Sesame!' and the door shut.

He quickly took the gold home to his wife.

'Look at all this gold,' he said. 'There is a very large amount. We cannot count it. We must weigh it. Go to my brother Cassim and borrow his scales to weigh the gold.'

When Ali Baba's wife asked for the scales, Cassim's wife thought,

'Why does she want the scales? What does she want to weigh? I will put some butter on the bottom of the scales.'

Ali Baba's wife took the scales home and weighed the gold. Then Ali Baba dug a hole in the ground and buried it. His wife took the scales back to Cassim's wife. There was a piece of gold sticking to the bottom of the scales. When Cassim's wife saw this, she showed her husband.

He went at once to Ali Baba and asked him about the gold. Ali Baba told him about the door in the rock and the magic word.

Cassim felt excited when he heard about the gold. He quietly took ten horses and put big boxes on their backs. When he reached the door in the rock, he said, 'Open Sesame!' and the door opened. Cassim went inside and filled his boxes with gold and jewels. Then he tried to get out. But he

forgot the magic word because he was excited. He could not get out.

Later the thieves came back. When they saw Cassim, they felt very angry and they killed him. Then they went away.

That night Ali Baba went to look for Cassim. When he found him, he felt very sad. He took Cassim's body home on his horse, and buried him in the morning.

That day the thieves went back. They could not find Cassim's body. 'Who has taken the body?' they said. 'Someone knows our secret. We must find him and kill him.'

Two days later, the Captain sent two of the thieves to the town.

'Did anyone die two days ago?' they asked.

'Yes,' one man said. 'Cassim died two days ago. Ali Baba brought him home on his horse and buried him.'

'Aha!' said the thieves. 'Now we have found the man who knows our secret. We will put a cross on the door of Ali Baba's house. Then we will go and get our Captain. He will kill Ali Baba.'

When Ali Baba's servant saw the cross on the door, she was frightened. 'Someone wants to hurt my master,' she thought. 'I will put a cross on every door in the town.'

That night the Captain and the thieves came to the town to kill Ali Baba. They could not find his house because there was a cross on every house. The Captain was very angry.

The next day the Captain went to the town. He found Ali Baba's house. Then he went back to the thieves. He told them to get twenty horses. He put two big oil jars on each horse and made the thieves climb into the oil jars. Then they all set off.

When they arrived at Ali Baba's house, the Captain said, 'I am a traveller. I have travelled a long distance today. May I stay here for one night?'

'Certainly,' said Ali Baba, for he did not know he was the Captain.

They put the oil jars outside and went inside to have something to eat. When they were eating, the lamp went out.

'Get some oil for the lamp,' Ali Baba told his servant.

She went outside and took the lid off the top of the first jar. There was no oil inside. There was a thief!

'I have been in here since six o'clock,' the thief said. 'Is it time to kill Ali Baba yet, Captain?'

'Not yet,' said the servant, in a voice like the Captain's.

She went to the other thirty-nine jars. There was a thief in each one! She put some oil in a kettle and made it boiling hot. Then she poured some boiling oil into each jar and killed all the thieves.

The next morning the Captain came to let the thieves out. When he saw all the dead thieves, he ran away.

The servant told Ali Baba, who was very pleased. He gave her a bag of gold.

Notes

1. Ali Baba 阿里巴巴 (人名)
2. Persia 波斯 (现称伊朗)
3. Open Sesame! 开门咒; 秘诀。sesame 原意为芝麻
4. scale 天平盘, (pl.) 秤, 天平

Exercises

Write T in front of each sentence, which is true according to the story. Write F if it is not true.

1. Ali Baba was a rich man who lived in Persia.
2. When Ali Baba saw the thieves, they were riding horses.
3. The door opened when the Captain said the magic word.
4. Ali Baba forgot the magic word.

5. The Captain and his men were honest.
6. Ali Baba took all the gold coins and jewels home.
7. Ali Baba wanted some scales to weigh the gold.
8. A jewel stuck to the bottom of the scales.
9. Cassim forgot the magic word because he was excited.
10. Cassim was sad when Ali Baba found him.
11. The Captain sent two men to the town a few days later.
12. The two men went to Ali Baba's house to kill Ali Baba.
13. They went to kill Ali Baba because he knew their secret.
14. They put a tick on the door of Ali Baba's house.
15. Ali Baba himself saw the mark on the door and was frightened.
16. Ali Baba's servant was very clever so she put a cross on every door in the town.
17. The Captain was very angry because there was a cross on every house.
18. The Captain took less than twenty horses and jars.
19. The servant went to get some oil because the lamp stopped burning.
20. When the servant went outside and took the lid off the top of the first jar, she was surprised at it because there was a thief inside instead of oil.
21. She poured boiling oil into the jar because there was a thief in each jar.
22. When Ali Baba saw all the dead thieves, he ran away.

23. Ali Baba gave the servant a bag of gold in honour of her.

2. The Little Match Girl^①

It was terribly cold, it snowed and was already almost dark, and evening came on, the last evening of the year. In the cold and gloom, a poor little girl, bare-headed and barefoot, was walking through the streets. When she left her own house she certainly had had slippers on^②, but of what use were they? They were very big slippers, and her mother had used them till then, so big were they. The little maid lost them as she slipped across the road, where two carriages were rattling by terribly fast. One slipper was not to be found again, and a boy had seized the other, and run away with it. He thought he could use it very well as a cradle^③, some day when he had children of his own. So now the little girl went with her little naked feet, which were quite red and blue with the cold. In an old apron she carried a number of matches, and a bundle of them in her hand. No one had bought anything from her all day, and no one had given her a farthing^④.

Shivering with cold and hunger, she crept along,

a picture of misery, poor little girl! The snow-
flakes covered her long fair hair, which fell in
pretty curls over her neck, but she did not think
of that now. In all the windows lights were shini-
ng, and there was a glorious smell of roast goose®,
for it was New Year's Eve. Yes, she thought of
that! In a corner formed by two houses, one of which
projected over the other, she sat down, cowering®.
She had drawn up her little feet, but she was still
cold, and she did not dare to go home, for she had
sold no matches, and did not bring a farthing of
money. From her father she would certainly receive
a beating, and besides, it was cold at home, for
they had nothing over them but a roof through
which the wind whistled, though the largest rents®
had been stopped with straw and rags. Her little hands were almost numbed® with the
cold. Ah! a match might do her good®, if she
could only draw one from the bundle, and rub it
against the wall, and warm her hands at it. She
drew one out. R-r-atch®! How it sputtered and
burned! It was a warm, bright flame, like a little
candle, when she held her hands over it, it was a
wonderful little light. It really seemed to the little
girl as if she sat before a great polished stove,
with bright brass feet and a brass cover. How the

fire burned! How comfortable it was! But the little flame went out, the stove vanished, and she had only the remains of the burned match in her hand.

A second was rubbed against the wall. It burned up, and when the light fell upon the wall it became transparent like a thin veil, and she could see through it into the room. On the table a snow-white cloth was spread, upon it stood a shining dinner service, the roast goose smoked gloriously, stuffed with apples and dried plums. And what was still more splendid to see, the goose hopped down from the dish, and waddled along the floor, with a knife and fork in its breast, to the little girl. Then the match went out, and only the thick, damp, cold wall was before her. She lighted another match. Then she was sitting under a beautiful Christmas tree, it was greater and more ornamental than the one she had seen through the glass door at the rich merchant's. Thousands of candles burned upon the green branches, and coloured pictures like those in the print shops looked down upon them. The little girl stretched forth her hand toward them, then the match went out. The Christmas lights mounted higher. She saw them now as stars in the sky, one of them fell down, forming a long line of fire.

"Now some one is dying," thought the little

girl, for her old grandmother, the only person who had loved her, and who was now dead, had told her that when a star fell down a soul mounted up to God.

She rubbed another match against the wall, it became bright again, and in the brightness the old grandmother stood clear and shining mild and lovely.

"Grandmother!" cried the child. "Oh! take me with you! I know you will go when the match is burned out. You will vanish like the warm fire, the warm food, and the great glorious Christmas tree!"

And she hastily rubbed the whole bundle of matches, for she wished to hold her grandmother fast. And the matches burned with such a glow that it became brighter than in the middle of the day; grandmother had never been so large or so beautiful. She took the little girl in her arms, and both flew in brightness and joy above the earth, very, very high, and up there was neither cold, nor hunger, nor care—they were with God!

But in the corner, leaning against the wall, sat the poor girl with red cheeks and smiling mouth, frozen to death on the last evening of the Old Year. The New Year's sun rose upon a little corpse! The child sat there, stiff and cold, with the