

刘颖 阮宇冰◎编著

# 英语阅读与训练

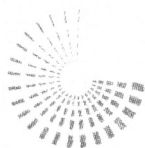
YingYu YueDu Yu XunLian

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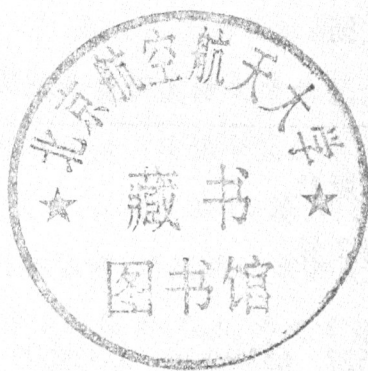
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## 前 言

为了进一步加强英语学习者的语言基本技能训练,扩大阅读面和知识面,增加词汇量,为学习者语言应用能力的提高打好基础,编者结合多年的教学实践和研究编写了这本《英语阅读与训练》,旨在为具有中级以上程度的英语学习者提供一本有较高语言水平、题材广泛的阅读材料,以帮助学生在完成基础阶段学习以后进一步提高阅读和赏析英语文章的能力。书中的阅读材料已在中国传媒大学外国语学院非通用语-英语专业三年级使用多年。

本书收入包括散文、说明文、议论文共15篇,内容涉及文化、信仰、科技、地理、政治、名人传记等。从整体来看,所选的文章都是现当代著名作家的作品。这些作者都有很强的驾驭语言的能力,他们的文章语言生动、幽默,具有强烈的艺术感染力,能极大地调动学生的学习积极性。

此外,每一单元除了课文以外,还包括课后的注释、单词表和练习部分。注释中包括文章作者的介绍,所涉及的背景知识简介,并对课文中出现的语言难点作了解释或提示。为了方便学习者掌握单词,编者特别增添了单词表部分,并给出了音标和英文解释,培养学习者用英语解释词语与句子的能力。练习主要包括对课文的理解和词汇两部分,题型不仅限于选择题和填空,而是多样化。目的就是要培养学习者的理解能力,巩固重点词汇和同义词辨析,并通过扩大词汇量来掌握更多的表达法。最后,有关练习的答案附在全书后面。

本书旨在以阅读课文为主,通过讨论、回答问题等方式,提高准确表达思想和逻辑思维的能力,注重扩大词汇量,通过词汇练习使学习者掌握更多的词语。本书是编者在长期的教学实践中感到有所需要而动手编写的,得到了领



导和同事们的的大力支持,提出了很多宝贵的意见,几经修改和实践才得以出版。由于各方面的原因,书中难免会有错误和不当之处,希望本书的使用者不吝赐教,以便及时订正。

编者

2013年6月于北京

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## **Text 1    The Scientist and the Sensitive Snake**

By Gerald Leach

1. In the dark night of the desert a group of U. S. Air Force scientists is testing a new device for guiding a missile to its target. Designed to seek out the heat of an enemy aircraft engine, it is now going through its paces by tracing the movement of a flashlight waving thirty feet away in the darkness.

2. A hundred yards away, unseen by the men, an equally deadly missile is searching out its prey. Sliding between the stones of the desert, a rattlesnake senses a patch of warmth. Without a sound the snake closes in and strikes for the kill.

3. Those two incidents dramatize one of the newest and most fascinating investigations of modern science. For the simple fact is that the missile's heat seeker, with its few thousand pounds of electronic gadgets, is huge and clumsy compared to the snake's. Although the snake's mechanism is small enough to be packed into a head the size of a walnut, it can detect a change in temperature of one-thousandth of a degree. The men working on the missile finder would dearly love to know how, for no man-made device can equal this.

4. Wherever we look in the animal world we find the same story. Almost anything that man can do, nature has already done better (and in far, far less space). Compare the camera and the eye, the computer and the living brain, the radar set and the bat's echo system. Man can only gasp in awe—and console himself with the fact that whereas he has been at it for a mere thousand years, nature has been perfecting its living gadgets for two thousand million years.

5. It is for the purpose of learning from nature that a new science has grown up. Called bionics, it is a kind of marriage between biology and electronics. Its aim is to find out how animals' apparatus work so that man can copy them for his own use.

6. In some of the older branches of science, the name bionics raises half-smiles and scorn. Perhaps it does seem strange for a modern scientist to study scorpions, toads, blind fish, or spiders. To some, this may sound more like medieval magic than modern science. The list extends to bats, beetles, electric fishes and eels, waltzing mice, ants, locusts, lizards, and a host of others. However, when you look at the things this weird menagerie of creatures can do, the importance of bionics suddenly hits you.

7. Imagine being able to know a friend several miles off by his smell. Male silk moths can do this. Their antennae are so sensitive to the subtle chemical odor of female moths that they can detect their presence by picking up only one molecule of the chemical. Even with their most sensitive apparatus, human chemists cannot approach this perfection.

8. The high-pitched squeak that bats use for navigation is fairly well known. A bat can dart about in a room filled with crisscrossing wires without ever hitting one. This idea has already been copied in a navigation aid for the blind that utilizes sound. Even more delicate than the ear of a bat is the tiny ear of a kind of moth that bats prey on. This moth's ear is tuned in to the bat's ultrasonic squeak so that the moth can escape when it hears a bat in the area. Scientists have attached electrodes to the nerves of the moth's ear in order to produce a half living, half man-made microphone that possesses an unmatched sensitivity.

9. Dolphins and porpoises also navigate by some kind of echo system, and it is almost certain that these animals communicate in some way by sound. By swinging their heads from side to side, for instance, and letting out a series of ultrasonic blips, dolphins can "see" through twenty feet of muddy water and tell if a fish is good for eating. The U. S. Navy, whose own sound-locating apparatus is far less tal-



ented, would give a great deal to learn how the dolphin does this.

10. Studying beetles' eyes has already paid off. A group of scientists in Germany found that a beetle can accurately measure with its eyes the speed of a moving background. After finding out how a beetle accomplishes this, the scientists built a machine that operated on the same principle. This instrument is able to determine the ground speed of moving aircraft with a high degree of accuracy.

11. Perhaps the most remarkable devices, and certainly the most sensitive, belong to the strange family of electric eels and fishes. In the muddy waters of South American rivers these fishes' eyes are of little use to them. Instead of eyes they use extremely accurate electric sense organs. These fishes send a series of blips of electricity into the water around them. By noting how the pattern of electricity in the water changes, they can not only find their way about, but even detect very small objects in the water. They "see" through the use of electrical impulses. This fact can be demonstrated by rubbing a comb through one's hair (to create static electricity) and placing it by an electric fish's tank. The fish will go wild trying to find out what's going on.

12. Electric fish can tell the difference between two glass rods put into their tank inside a porous pot, even though one rod may be as little as a tenth of an inch thicker than the other. In technical terms, this means that they can detect a change in the electric field around them as low as three thousandths of a millionth of a volt per millimeter. In human terms, this would be like being able to tell the difference in the weight of a car made by a tiny fleck of dust settling on its roof.

13. The list of marvelous animal devices is endless. There is the snail with its built-in compass, the bee that navigates by polarized light, the fly that controls its flight by its back wings, which have become a delicate vibrating gyroscope. Man is now trying to copy all of these. Every child is familiar with the ability of birds to cross whole continents and oceans during their migrations. How do they do it—by following some kind of built-in compass, by making use of polarized light, by steering a course by the sun and stars? We do not know, but science has every hope of finding out.

## Notes to the Text

### 1. About the author.

**Gerald Leach** (1933—2004), who has died aged 71, had successful careers first as an outstanding science correspondent and then in research and as an international adviser in the field of environment and development. His proposals for energy conservation in industrial countries and for sustainable development in the third world attracted formidable criticism. They are now widely recognized as blueprints for action.

### 2. ...a rattlesnake senses a patch of warmth. (Para. 2)

...a rattlesnake becomes aware of a patch of warmth through its bodily organs

**3. Man can only gasp in awe. ... and console himself with the fact that whereas he has been at it for a mere thousand years, nature has been perfecting its living gadgets for two thousand million years. (Para. 4)**

Man is extremely surprised and impressed by the wonderful things animals can do ... and gives comfort to himself with the fact that while he has been studying it for only a thousand years, nature has continuously changed its living gadgets and made them much better for two thousand million years.

**4. Called bionics, it is a kind of marriage between biology and electronics. (Para. 5)**

**Bionics** (also known as biomimetics, biognosis, biomimicry, or bionical creativity engineering) is the application of biological methods and systems found in nature to the study and design of engineering systems and modern technology. The word “bionic” was coined by Jack E. Steele in 1958, possibly originating from the Greek word “βίον”, pronounced “bion”, meaning “unit of life” and the suffix -ic, meaning “like” or “in the manner of”, hence “like life”.

### 5. ..., the name bionics raises half-smiles and scorn. (Para. 6)

Some people accept this new science, but some others regard it worthless.

### 6. This moth's ear is tuned in to the bat's ultrasonic squeak ... (Para. 8)

to be tuned in (to): in touch with what is happening or with what people are



thinking or saying

e. g. : Babies are acutely tuned in to the human face and can even recognize basic facial features at birth.

**7. Studying beetles' eyes has already paid off. (Para. 10)**

to pay off: to be successful

e. g. : Wow ! I guess all that hard work paid off !

After many months of laying the groundwork for her book, her hard work paid off.

**8. A group of scientists in Germany found that a beetle can accurately measure with its eyes the speed of a moving background. (Para. 10)**

A group of scientists in Germany found that a beetle can use its eyes to find with accuracy the speed of moving objects not far from the beetle.

**9. They "see" through the use of electrical impulses. (Para. 11)**

electric impulse: an impulse that passes through the synapse electrically

**10. This fact can be demonstrated by rubbing a comb through one's hair (to create static electricity) ... (Para. 11)**

static electricity: an accumulation of electric charge on an insulated body

**11. ... this means that they can detect a change in the electric field around them ... (Para. 12)**

electric field: a region of space characterized by the existence of a force generated by electric charge

**12. There is the snail with its built-in compass, the bee that navigates by polarized light, ... (Para. 13)**

built-in: forming a part of something that cannot be separated from it

polarized light: light in which vibrations of all waves are in the same or parallel planes in optical region

**13. ... but science has every hope of finding out. (Para. 13)**

... but science has all the possible hope to find out.

## Glossary

antennae /æn'teni:/ *n.* one of two long thin parts on an insect's head, that it uses to feel things 触角

apparatus /æpə'reitəs/ *n.* equipment designed to serve a specific function

awe /ɔ:/ *n.* an overwhelming feeling of wonder or admiration

bionics /bai'ɒniks/ *n.* application of biological principals to the study and design of engineering systems (especially electronic systems)

blip /blɪp/ *n.* a radar echo displayed so as to show the position of a reflecting surface

clumsy /'klʌmzi/ *adj.* lacking grace in movement or posture

compass /'kʌmpəs/ *n.* navigational instrument for finding directions

console /kən'səʊl/ *vt.* give moral or emotional strength to

dart /dɑ:t/ *vi.* move along rapidly and lightly

device /di'vaɪs/ *n.* an instrumentality invented for a particular purpose

dramatize /'dræmətaɪz/ *vt.* represent something in a dramatic manner

eel /i:l/ *n.* voracious snakelike marine or freshwater fishes with smooth slimy usually scaleless skin and having a continuous vertical fin but no ventral fins 鳗鱼

electrode /i'lektɹʊd/ *n.* a conductor used to make electrical contact with some part of a circuit

fleck /flek/ *n.* a small fragment of something broken off from the whole

gadget /'gædʒɪt/ *n.* a device or control that is very useful for a particular job

gasp /gɑ:sp, gæsp/ *n.* a short labored intake of breath with the mouth open

gyroscope /'dʒaɪərəskəʊp/ *n.* rotating mechanism in the form of a universally mounted spinning wheel that offers resistance to turns in any direction 陀螺仪

lizard /'lɪzəd/ *n.* relatively long-bodied reptile with usually two pairs of legs and a tapering tail 蜥蜴

mechanism /'mekənɪzəm/ *n.* the technical aspects of doing something

medieval /,medi'i:vəl/ *adj.* relating to or belonging to the Middle Ages  
menagerie /mi'nædʒəri/ *n.* a collection of live animals for study or display  
missile /'misəl/ *n.* a rocket carrying a warhead of conventional or nuclear explosives; may be ballistic or directed by remote control  
molecule /'mɒlikjʊl/ *n.* (physics and chemistry) the simplest structural unit of an element or compound 分子  
porous /'pɔ:rə/ *adj.* full of pores or vessels or holes  
porpoise /'pɔ:pəs/ *n.* any of several small gregarious cetacean mammals having a blunt snout and many teeth 鼠海豚  
rattlesnake /'rætl sneik/ *n.* pit viper with horny segments at the end of the tail that rattle when shaken 响尾蛇  
scorpion /'skɔ:pjən/ *n.* arachnid of warm dry regions having a long segmented tail ending in a venomous sting 蝎子  
squeak /skwi:k/ *n.* a short high-pitched noise  
static /'stætik/ *adj.* not active or moving  
toad /təʊd/ *n.* any of various tailless stout-bodied amphibians with long hind limbs for leaping 蟾蜍  
ultrasonic /,Altrə'sɒnik/ *adj.* having frequencies above those of audible sound  
weird /wiəd/ *adj.* strikingly odd or unusual

### I. How Well Did You Read?

What was the writer's plan?

1. The purpose of this article is to
  - a. stimulate scientific investigation
  - b. explain how animal devices work
  - c. show why bionics is a growing science
2. The writer compares the rattlesnake with a missile in order to
  - a. dramatize the deadliness of the missile
  - b. demonstrate what bionics is



- c. show that nature is wiser than man

**Did you understand the important points?**

3. The goal of bionics is to
  - a. understand how evolution produced animal mechanisms
  - b. apply science to the study of electronics
  - c. duplicate animal processes with man-made machines
4. The usefulness of bionics has been
  - a. demonstrated by some scientists
  - b. universally accepted
  - c. unproved as yet

**Did you remember the important details?**

5. Studying the eye of the beetle has helped scientists to
  - a. produce an aid for the blind
  - b. develop missile detectors
  - c. measure speed of objects
6. Scientists do not yet understand the method by which
  - a. electric eels navigate
  - b. birds cross oceans
  - c. moths detect bats

**How are these things alike?**

7. Dolphins and bats are similar in that they
  - a. navigate by ultrasonic sounds
  - b. have a highly developed sense of sight
  - c. "see" by using electric impulses
8. Devices of animals discussed here serve a purpose similar to that of the human

a. eye

b. skin

c. hair

**Can you draw the right conclusions?**

9. Study of the male silk moth might lead to a new method of

a. detecting poisonous gas

b. locating underground streams

c. manufacturing cloth

10. The military uses of bionics are

a. one reason for developing this science

b. a relatively insignificant matter

c. not referred to in the article

**II. Learn about Words.**

A. Often you can tell the meaning of a word from its context—the words around

it.

**Directions:** Find the word in the paragraph that means

1. invention (1)

2. system whose parts work together (3)

3. comfort (4)

4. collection of animals (6)

5. equipment; machine (7)

6. makes use of (8)

7. too high-pitched for man to hear (8)

8. full of tiny holes (12)

B. A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

**Directions:** Decide which meaning fits the word as it is used in the paragraph.

9. subtle (7)

a. ingenious

- b. hard to understand
- c. faint; indistinct
- 10. fairly (8)
  - a. justly
  - b. moderately
  - c. completely
- 11. certain (9)
  - a. inevitable
  - b. unquestionable
  - c. controlled
- 12. accomplishes (10)
  - a. succeeds in
  - b. completes
  - c. reaches
- 13. principle (10)
  - a. a law of nature
  - b. origin; cause
  - c. rule of conduct

**C.** The suffixes *-ity* and *-ty* add the meaning “quality,” “condition,” or “state of” to the base words with which they are combined.

**Directions:** The words in column II have the suffix *-ity* or *-ty*. Write the word that best fits each definition in column I.

I	II
14. quality of being faithful	unity
15. condition of being lawful	velocity
16. quality of being clear	reality
17. state of being poor	beauty
18. quality of being majestic	poverty
19. state of being united	legality
20. state of being beautiful	clarity
21. quality of speed	majesty
22. quality of being true to life	loyalty

**D. Homonyms** are words that sound alike but have entirely different meanings.

**Directions:** Match each of these six words with its definition.

pear,	pair,	pare
raise,	rays,	raze

- 23. two things that go together
- 24. put into a higher position
- 25. remove the rind or skin from
- 26. tear down to the ground
- 27. soft, juicy fruit
- 28. beams of light

E. An **idiom** is an accepted phrase of expression that does not mean literally what it says. “He flew into a rage” does not mean that he traveled through the air. It means that he had a violent outburst of anger.

**Directions:** The idioms in column II are built on the word *fly*. Write the idiom that best fits each meaning in column I.

I	II
29. financially unsound; not trustworthy	fly in the face of
30. shoot or throw ( at )	fly-by-night
31. defy or oppose openly	fly at
32. attack suddenly; spring at	on the fly
33. while in motion; in a hurry	let fly