

• 高级中学选修课教材 •

GAOJI ZHONGXUE XUANXIUKE JIAOCAI

英语阅读训练

第三册

(供高中三年级全学年选用)

Reading Practice

Senior III

人民教育出版社外语室英语组编



人民教育出版社

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FOR

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林燮新数学中题高

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出版说明

为了更好地贯彻国家的教育方针，在使学生全面打好基础的前提下，发展他们的兴趣和特长，增强适应社会生活和生产的能力，解决当前普通高中存在的文理分科，学生知识结构不尽合理，学生课业负担过重，不利于全面提高学生素质的问题，国家教委颁布了《现行普通高中教学计划的调整意见》。

这个《调整意见》规定学科课程采取必修课与选修课两种形式，同时指出，普通高中开设两种不同形式的选修课。一种是高中三年级开设的分科性选修课，另一种是高中一、二年级开设的单科性选修课。

为满足各地实施《调整意见》的需要，我社编辑出版了部分选修课教材供各地选用。这些选修课教材主要是供高中一、二年级开设单科性选修课用的。包括语文、数学、外语等学科，还包括计算机、环境教育、职业指导等学科内容。从内容上看，这些选修课教材基本上可以分为以下两种类型：(1)与必修课相关的选修课教材，内容是必修课内容的拓宽和加深，如《文言文选读》、《简易逻辑和平面向量》。(2)与必修课联系不太密切，但对学生今后发展很有用的知识性或综合性选修课教材，如《环境教育》、《程序设计》、《职业指导》等。

为了编好这些选修课教材，我社组织了由长期从事教

材编写的专业人员和具有丰富教学经验的教师以及有关专业的专家、学者组成编写队伍。其中有些教材经过几年来的教学实践，取得了良好的效果，受到师生的欢迎。

为适应教学需要，我社还将继续组织编辑出版一些选修课教材以及与其配套的教学参考书。为了使选修课教材更加完善与充实，热诚欢迎广大教师、学生和关心教育的各界人士提出宝贵意见。

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编者说明

《全日制中学英语教学大纲》(修订本)中指出:“要提高学生阅读英语的能力,单纯通过教科书中的课文教学是远远不够的,还要按年级和学生的具体情况,有计划地指导学生在课外阅读一定数量的读物。”《高级中学英语阅读训练》这套读物就是按照教学大纲的要求,专为配合《高级中学课本英语》第一、二、三册编写的同步阅读材料,分为三册,分别供高中一、二、三年级学生选用。

这套读物第一册共计36篇,第二册32篇,第三册24篇。每篇长度,第一册大部分为300—500个词,第二册400—600个词,第三册500—700个词。短文大都选自英美出版的英语教材和读物,个别的作了改写,以适应教学的需要。每篇短文后都编有帮助学生检查其理解程度的练习。要求学生在阅读时高度集中注意力,一篇短文应一口气读完。读完后,立即做后面的练习,但做练习时一定不要回头再去看短文。做好以后,再和书后所附的答案核对。如答对的题数达到总题数的70%以上,可算基本上达到了要求。

每篇短文后都标明了该篇的约计词数。学生在阅读时最好记下所费的时间,然后算出平均每分钟阅读的词数。这样做,可以鞭策自己在阅读时专心致志,努力提高阅读速度。

各册中的生词,均按字母顺序列表附于书后,便于查阅。

每篇短文的生词率为2—3%(个别科普文章略高)。凡是学生根据已学的构词法知识应该能够认识的派生词、复合词或兼类词,都不算生词。不重要的专有名词,都未列入词汇表,对其中读音有困难的,就在短文中该词的后面加注国际音标。学生在阅读短文时,最好不要每遇一个生词就去查阅词汇表,要尽可能通过上下文猜出某些词的词义。坚持这样做,不仅可以加快阅读速度,而且可以提高阅读理解能力。

本册英语阅读训练由董蔚君编写。责任编辑是胡文静。

由于编者水平有限,编写时间匆促,本书难免存在缺点和错误,希望读者批评指正。

1992年4月 高翔

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1 The Sinking of the Titanic (I)

More than seventy years have now passed since the *Titanic* went to the bottom of the Atlantic on its first crossing. Many people of the time believed that nothing on earth could sink this great ship. It was man's complete answer to the storms of the sea. It was the wonder of the world.

The *Queen Elizabeth* ([i'lizəbəθ]) of today is 985 feet long, but the *Titanic* of seventy years ago was not much shorter. It was 852.5 feet long. It could carry 1,054 people in the first-class, 510 in the second-class, and 1,022 in the third-class. There were also 860 officers and men to work the ship. The powerful engines were in two engine-rooms separated from each other by a steel wall.

The ship had six different parts, separated by steel doors. If a hole was made in its side, that part could be shut off from the rest. When the steel doors were closed, the sea could not reach any other part of the ship. For this reason and for others, it was firmly believed that the *Titanic* was the safest ship on the sea.

The ship was fitted with wireless, another wonder

of the time. It was about ten years since Marconi had sent the first wireless signal across the Atlantic, and now numbers of ships used it every day. Therefore the master of the *Titanic* could call for help at any time. It did not seem possible that it would ever sink. But if it did, wireless signals would soon bring other ships to pick up anyone in the sea.

Electric lights lit up the great ship. Electric lifts carried people up and down. The great public rooms were like those in a fine hotel. Science had provided everything that an officer and an engineer could want.

The *Titanic* left Southampton, England, in April 1912 and sailed for Cherbourg and New York. There were rich people on board; it was thought to be a great honour to be allowed to sail in this wonder of the sea. It is said that the richest men in the ship together owned property worth £120,000,000. Mr Thomas Andrews (['tɒməs 'ændru:z]), the man who planned the ship, was also on board.

The night of 14th April was very cold. There was no moon, and hardly any wind. Captain Smith was sorry about the wind, because it helps sailors who are watching for icebergs. If the wind is blowing, the noise that the waves of the sea make against an iceberg can be heard. This tells the watching men to take care. But if

there is no wind, there is very little noise.

The *Titanic* was now in the part of the Atlantic in which icebergs cause trouble. Icebergs come from the north when the ice there breaks up, and they move on the water towards the south. Ice is hard enough to cut holes in steel, and cannot easily be seen at night.

The wireless officer of the *Titanic*, J. G. Phillips (['filips]), had received signals telling him that ice was not far away, and he knew very well that icebergs can send big ships to the bottom of the sea. Most of these important signals were passed on to the officers; but one was not. It was a signal from another ship reporting icebergs in front of the *Titanic*.

When it arrived, phillips was hard at work. Many of the travellers had sent news or information or orders by wireless during the day to their friends in England or America. Wireless was a fairly new thing, and they were rich men. Phillips was now doing his best to finish off all this work. He was so busy that he did not report the ice immediately. The signal lay on his table, half forgotten.

The ship's officers knew that icebergs were not far away. Although wireless signals had been received from other ships about them, the *Titanic* continued on its course as usual. No changes were made; but two men,

Fleet and Lee, were told especially to watch for icebergs. It seems to have been a clear night at first, but later it was not very easy to see far across the sea.

(To be continued)

(Approximately 700 words)

Comprehension Exercise

In the brackets before each sentence, write a tick (✓) if the sentence is true according to the passage, and write a cross (×) if it is false:

- () 1. The *Titanic* sank to the bottom of the Atlantic on its first crossing over seventy years ago.
- () 2. The *Titanic* could carry about two thousand passengers.
- () 3. The crew of the ship was made up of 860 officers and men.
- () 4. The six different parts of the ship could be shut off from each other by steel doors.
- () 5. People could hardly believe that the ship was the safest on the sea.
- () 6. The master of the *Titanic* could call for help at any time because the ship was fitted with wireless.

- () 7. Marconi had sent the first wireless signal across the Atlantic about ten years before the *Titanic* was built.
- () 8. The *Titanic* left England for France and the United States in April 1912.
- () 9. People thought it a great honour to be allowed to sail in the *Titanic* on its first voyage.
- () 10. The *Titanic* was planned by Mr Thomas Andrews.
- () 11. The night of 14th April was cold, dark and windy.
- () 12. The wind helps sailors who are watching for icebergs, because, if there is wind, the noise that the waves of the sea make against an iceberg can be heard.
- () 13. The *Titanic* was now in the part of the Pacific in which there are lots of icebergs.
- () 14. Icebergs come from the north and move on the water towards the south.
- () 15. The wireless officer of the *Titanic* had passed on all the important signals except one to the officers.
- () 16. The signal the wireless officer forgot to pass on to the officers was from the *Queen*

Elizabeth reporting icebergs in front of the
Titanic.

2 The Sinking of the Titanic (II)

It was not often the practice for big ships to go slowly near icebergs. This surprising fact was the result of the need to arrive at the right moment. These ships were treated like fast trains; they left at the right time, and they were expected to arrive at the right time. The shipping companies did not like the captains of ships that were late.

Sometimes ships struck icebergs but were able to reach port. Very often chance saved a ship, which just missed an iceberg. But ships were increasing in size, and the newest ships could travel faster than the older ones. If a ship moves very quickly through the night, its chance of striking an iceberg is higher than if it moves slowly. This fact was especially important for the *Titanic*, which was one of the fastest ships on the sea.

The two men who were watching for icebergs, Fleet and Lee, suddenly saw something dark just in front of the ship. They immediately rang the ship's bell, and Lee telephoned to the officer of the watch to report the iceberg.

The necessary orders were given at once, though it is impossible to stop a great ship immediately, especially if it is moving at about twenty-five miles an hour. But the officer did his best. The engines were stopped and then started again to pull the ship backwards. The steel doors were closed. The ship was turned away from its straight course. But it was all too late. Too late!

The ship struck the iceberg with its side while it was still moving forwards. It struck the ice again with another part of its side. In a few moments six great holes were made in the steel. Water rushed in, not in one place but in separate places covering three hundred feet. The steel doors were therefore useless.

Captain Smith soon understood that nothing could save his ship. At a quarter past twelve in the early morning he ordered the wireless officer to send out the ship's position and the letters CQD. This is the call for help which is understood by men of all nations. It told the world that the *Titanic* was sinking. The impossible was happening.

At first the people on board did not believe that the ship was sinking. They had been told that it could not sink, but they understood the truth when the captain gave the order to prepare the boats. Women and children were ordered into the boats first, but some wives