

每日 15 分钟
15 Minutes a Day

英语早读 (2)
English Morning Reading (2)
(初二水平)
(For Junior Two)

华荐宇 编著

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前 言

一日之际在于晨,早上头脑清醒,记忆力强盛,最容易自然吸收知识。因此,长期以来人们早已摸索到了通过早读学习英语这种行之有效的方法。每天早晨读一点,只要持之以恒,必将得益无穷。

我们编写《每日 15 分钟英语早读》正是为了给 学生提供难易适中、题材丰富、语言地道的早读选篇。这些选篇是本书编者从二十余年外语教学大量积累的资料中精心筛选,并经过仔细编译和加注而成的。这些选篇语言浅显,内容活泼精彩,有些富有知识性,有些幽默风趣,且每一篇都适于诵读,朗朗上口,易于理解,也易学易记。

《每日 15 分钟英语早读》最好与磁带相配使用,每天早晨听一遍,读一遍,听读(跟读)一遍,共三遍,每遍一般 5 分钟左右,总共 15 分钟,第二天重复。全书 25 篇读完后,必须从头开始再循环一遍。学习外语需要不断反复,才能熟练,才能更好地理解和运用所学的语言。如果您能按照这本书的编写要求进行,每日所花时间不多,定会有事半功倍的效果。您不但能在潜移默化中学习词汇、句型,还能培养语感,并掌握正确的语音、语调。

除了提供精彩有趣的选篇外,《每日 15 分钟英语早读》的特点是:每个选篇前都有“内容提示”,扼要地介绍一下故事内容,这样可以简化阅读难度,提高兴趣;在篇后的“难点注释”中,我们同样力求简明,点到为止,既帮助读者克服语言困难,解释语言现象,又主要让学习者在上下文的语境中自己体会灵活的语言应用,选篇都附有

参考译文 ,帮助学习者借助母语来检验自己的理解能力。

总之 ,我们希望这本《每日 15 分钟英语早读》能时常陪伴您 ,成为您的好伙伴 ,在学习上助您一臂之力 ,同时也为您的生活带来快乐。

本书录音磁带由上海外语音像出版社出版发行。

编 者

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Trouble for Nothing (1)

[内容提示]

一名警察得到了一小笔意外的财产 , 希望改变自己生活的轨迹 , 开始一种不同的生活。

[词汇准备]

trouble 麻烦	bank 银行	alone 独自
through 穿过	shopkeeper 店主	shut 关闭
at last 最终	too 太	lose 失去
hotel 旅馆	believe 相信	country 乡村

[早读文篇]

Harold Rudd was a policeman for many years. He liked the life. But when his brother died and left him some money , he was ready to try another kind of work. His wife Freda wanted him to do this.

“ It isn't a lot of money , ” Harold said to Freda. “ But we've been able to save some , too.¹ With my brother's money and the money in the bank we can buy a small shop. ”

Harold wanted very much to buy a shop. As a po-

liceman he walked alone through the streets at night , and often saw a shop and thought “ A shopkeeper has a good life. He doesn’t have to work at night. He doesn’t work hard at all. He stands in his shop all day and sells things. He shuts his shop and goes to bed. He isn’t afraid of thieves because there are policemen like me to take care of his shop at night. ”

Yes , on cold nights Harold often thought about a shopkeeper’s life. Now at last he had the money to buy a small shop. But Freda did not want to do this.

“ A shopkeeper has a good life , ” she said. “ But what do we know about this work ? There are small shops everywhere. There are too many of them. We may lose all our money. Do you want to be a policeman again ? Now a small hotel ... that’s another matter.² I know something about hotels. ”

Before she married Harold and became a policeman’s wife , Freda worked in hotels in many parts of the country.

“ I understand the work of a hotel , ” she said to Harold. “ Believe me , you can make a lot of money in this way³ if you get the right hotel. We’ll have to work hard , but in ten years’ time⁴ we’ll be able to sell the hotel. After that we can live without working. ”

Which did they buy , a shop or a hotel ? Freda was a strong woman , so they bought a hotel.

It took them a long time⁵ to find the right place. They had to look everywhere for many months. They

wanted a hotel in the country , but not too far from a town. They did not want a hotel that was too big.

Every day they looked in the newspaper. They saw people who sold hotels and big houses. Then they went to see the best of these hotels. Some were too big , some were too small. Some were old and dirty. The owners of these hotels did not ask for much money. But Harold and Freda wanted a nice , clean hotel.

At last they found the kind of hotel they wanted. They fell in love with it at once. The owner , who was old , was glad to sell it to two people like Harold and Freda. The hotel was pretty , with white walls. There were trees on all sides. Inside there were ten bedrooms.

Freda could keep these clean with the help of one woman. And the hotel was not very far from London.

Harold and Freda bought it at once and after some time went to live there. They were happy in their new home. They did not make a lot of money but they were happy.

People came from London in their cars to have dinner. Freda made good dinners so a lot of people began to come. But not many wanted to stay for the night.⁶

“ We must get new beds , ” said Harold. “ Our beds are old and hard. You cannot sleep well at night. I’ll write to one or two people in London who sell beds for hotels. I’ll ask them to come and see me. ”

一 场 虚 惊(一)

哈罗德·拉德当了很多年警察。他喜欢当警察的生活。但是当他哥哥去世 ,给他留下一笔钱后 ,他准备尝试一下另外的职业。他的妻子弗雷达希望他这样做。

“ 钱不算很多 ,”哈罗德对弗雷达说 ; “ 但我们也已经省下了一些。用我哥哥的和在银行里的钱 ,我们可以买一家小店铺。”

哈罗德非常想买下一家小铺子。作为警察他夜间独自穿街走巷时常想 : “ 当店主生活不错。他不必夜晚出来工作。他根本不需要费力干活 ,整天站在店里 ,卖卖东西。店门一关 ,他就可以去睡觉。他不用害怕盗贼 ,因为有像我这样的警察在晚上看护着他的商店。”

的确 ,在寒冷的夜晚哈罗德常常想起店主的生活。而现在他终于有钱可以买一家小店了。但是弗雷达不想走这条路。

“ 店主的生活是不错 ,”她说 ; “ 但对这份职业我们知道多少 ? 到处都是小铺子 ,小商店已经太多了。我们可能会把所有钱都赔了。那时你是不是再想当警察 ? 要是开家小旅馆……那就不同了。”

在她与哈罗德结婚成为警察的妻子前 ,弗雷达在国内许多地方的旅馆里工作过。

“ 我了解旅馆的工作 ,”她对哈罗德说。 “ 相信我 ,如果旅馆选好 ,你可以从中赚很多钱。我们要卖力地干 ,在十年时间里我们可以再把旅馆卖出去。从此 ,我们不用工作生

活就有保障了。”

他们到底买什么 :商店还是旅馆? 弗雷达是个强硬的女人。于是 ,他们买了家旅馆。

他们花了很长时间才找到合适的地方。几个月来 ,他们四出寻找。他们要一家在乡村的旅店 ,但又不能离城镇太远。旅馆太大他们也不能要。

他们每天看报纸。他们找到有出售旅馆或大房子的人 ,然后挑出最好的去看一看。有些太大 ,有些太小。还有些房子又旧又脏。这些店主要价不高 ,但是哈罗德和弗雷达想要的是条件好、干净的旅馆。

最后 ,他们找到了他们想要的那种旅店。他们马上对它产生了爱意。旅馆主人年岁已大 ,很高兴能把旅馆卖给像哈罗德和弗雷达这样两个人。旅店很美 ,墙面雪白 ,四周是树 ,里面有十间客房。只要找一个女帮手 ,弗雷达就可以保持这些房间的清洁。而且 ,这家旅店离伦敦不远。

哈罗德和弗雷达立刻买下旅店 ,过不久便搬了进去。他们在新居十分快活。他们挣的钱并不多 ,但感到愉快。人们开车从伦敦过来吃饭。弗雷达厨艺不错 ,因此很多人开始前来光顾。但没有多少人想在这里住夜。

“我们得买新床 ,”哈罗德说。“我们的床太旧太硬 ,晚上睡不舒服。我要给一两家专门卖床给旅馆的商家写信 ,请他们过来见我。”

[难点注释]

1. We've been able to save some , too :我们也已攒下一些。
we've = we have ; we have been able to :我们已经能 , be able to 的完成时 ,表示已完成 ; some 指钱 , 一些钱。
2. Now a small hotel ... that's another matter :而一家小旅馆

.....那就不同了。now 没有实义 ,用于改变口气。如 :Now that's right. 哎 ,这样就对了。matter :事 ;another matter :另一回事。

3. make a lot of money in this way :以这样的方法挣很多钱。in this way :以这种方法。如 :Do it in this way. 这样做。
4. in ten years' time :在 10 年时间里。in 表示“ 多少时间过后 ”。如 :He'll be back in ten minutes. 他 10 分钟后回来。
5. It took them a long time :他们花了很长时间。表示“ 花去多少时间 ”英语中习惯用“ It takes + 某人 + 多少时间 ”的表达法。如 :It takes me an hour to get there. 我花了一小时才到那儿。又如 :It took me a long time to learn. 我花了很长时间才学会。
6. stay for the night 过夜。

Trouble for Nothing (2)

[内容提示]

哈罗德夫妇买下了一家理想的小旅馆。生意虽不红火,但他们心满意足。可是天有不测风云,厄运很快降临。

[词汇准备]

as 当.....的时候	mark 记号	ground 地上
piece 片	wood 木头	note 笔记
so 于是	Oxford 牛津	quickly 快速地
news 消息,新闻	even 甚至	sorry 抱歉的
laugh 笑	unkind 不客气	

[早读文篇]

Then one morning as Harold looked out of the window, he saw some men in one of the fields near the hotel. Two men were making marks on the ground. When these two men made marks, two more men put pieces of wood in the ground. There was another man who stood near the workmen and wrote some notes in a little book. He was making the other men work.

Harold called Freda.

“ Come and look at these men , ” he said. “ They’re working very hard in that field over there. What are they doing ? Can you see ? ”

“ It’s too far to see from here , ” his wife said. “ Go out and talk to them. They may want something to eat when they’ve finished their work. ”

Freda was always thinking about the hotel.

So Harold went into the field. He went up to the man who was making notes in his little book.²

“ Good morning , ” said Harold. “ You’re all working very hard. ”

The man said good morning but not very nicely. He did not look at Harold and did not stop writing.

“ What’s all this work for ? ”⁸ asked Harold , “ if I may ask. Are you going to build in this field ? ”

“ If you must know , ” said the man , looking at Harold for the first time , “ we’re going to build a road through this field. ”

“ A big road ? ” asked Harold.

“ Yes , a big one , ” said the man. “ It will go from London to Oxford. More and more people want to come this way in their cars so we have to build it quickly. ”

“ A big new road ! More and more cars ! This is good news , ” thought Harold. He was thinking too about all the people in those cars who wanted something to eat. About all the people who wanted a bed to

sleep in for the night before they got to London.

“ I must go and tell Freda at once ,” Harold thought. “ She will be happy. We’ll have to make the hotel bigger. But we’ll soon be rich. I can even buy a car !”

“ That white building over there ,” said the man. He was looking at Harold’s hotel. “ What is it ? A hotel ?”

“ That’s right ,” said Harold. “ It’s ... ” He was going to tell the man : “ It’s my hotel. ”

“ Who owns it ?” asked the man. “ Do you know ?”

“ It’s my hotel ,” said Harold , still very happy.

“ Oh , I’m sorry to hear that ,” said the man.

“ Sorry ? But why ?” asked Harold. “ I’ll make a lot of money when you build this new road. ”

The man laughed in an unkind way.

“ You will not make money from that hotel ,” he said. “ You see , this road has to go through your hotel.⁵ In six months’ time your hotel will not be there any more. This new road will be there. ”

[参考译文]

一 场 虚 惊(二)

然而一天早上 ,哈罗德朝窗外望去 ,看到一些人聚集在旅馆附近的一块地里。其中两个人在地上划标记。这两个人在划标记时 ,另两人把木桩插入地上。还有另外一个人

站在这些工人旁边，在一本小本子上做记录。他指挥其他人工作。

哈罗德把弗雷达叫过来。

“你来看这些人，”他说，“他们在那边地里工作得很卖力。他们在干什么？你看得出来吗？”

“这里太远了看不清，”他妻子说，“到外面去，与他们谈谈。他们干完活也许想吃点什么。”

弗雷达总是想着旅馆。

于是哈罗德走到了地里。他走到在小本子上做记录的人跟前。

“早上好，”哈罗德说，“你们辛苦了。”

那个人也说了声早上好，但并不十分友好。他没有抬头看哈罗德，也没停笔。

“你们干的是什么呢？”哈罗德问，“如果我可以问的话。你们在这块地上要搞建筑？”

“如果你非要知道的话，”那个人第一次看了看哈罗德说，“我们要修一条路，穿过这块地。”

“一条大路？”哈罗德问。

“对，很大，”那人说，“从伦敦通到牛津。越来越多的人要驾车走这条线路，所以我们要很快把路建好。”

“一条新的大路！越来越多的汽车！这是好消息，”哈罗德心里思忖道。他还想到所有坐车的人会要吃东西，想到所有到达伦敦前要一张床铺过夜的人。

“我要马上回去告诉弗雷达，”哈罗德想，“她一定会高兴的。我们得把旅馆搞大。但我们很快就会有钱了。我甚至可以买一辆汽车！”

“那边那幢白色的建筑，”那个人看着哈罗德的旅馆，说，“它是什么？一家旅馆？”

“没错，”哈罗德说，“就是……”他想跟那个男人说：“就是我的旅馆。”

“谁是旅店主人？”那人问。“你知道吗？”

“这是我的旅店，”哈罗德说，心里仍然十分高兴。

“哦，那真是不幸，”那人说。

“不幸？为什么？”哈罗德问。“你们建了这条新路后，我可以赚很多钱。”

那个人不太善意地笑了。

“从那家旅馆你赚不到钱，”他说，“知道吗，这条路必须穿过你的旅馆。六个月以后那儿就没有你的旅馆了。那地方就成了这条新路。”

[难点注释]

1. It's too far to see from here :这儿太远看不清。too ... to 表示“太……而不能”。如 :It's too hot to work. 太热了，没法工作。又如 :The book is too difficult to read. 书太难了，读不懂。
2. He went up to the man who was making notes in his little book :他走近那个在小本上做笔记的男人。went up 表示接近，走近。who ... 带出的定语从句修饰 the man，正在小本上做笔记的人。文中还有一句 :all the people ... who wanted something to eat. 所有想要吃东西的人。
3. What's all this work for :所有这工作都为了什么？for :为了。如 :They work for money. 他们为钱而工作。变成疑问句 :What do they work for ?他们为了什么而工作？
4. That white building over there :那边的白色建筑。over 表示有一段距离；over there :远处，那边。如 :Look at the children over there. 看那边的孩子们。
5. You see ,this road has to go through your hotel :你要知道，