

新课标英语 4~8 级适用

中学英语趣味阅读

INTERESTING ENGLISH READINGS
IN A SCHOOL

吴伟志 刘小亦 编著

L. W. Theodore [美] 田雅媛 审校

吴伟志 彭世春 绘图

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前 言

我们在教学实施过程中,经常碰到这样的情形:每逢讲到一篇读来朗朗上口而又妙趣横生的阅读文章,课堂气氛总是显得格外活跃。同学们在掩面微笑或是捧腹大笑的同时,以一种轻松愉快的心境捕捉文章中的主要信息,从而加强了对于语言点、语法点的理解与吸收。于是,在平时所进行的若干次考练题里,我们有意识地组织一些带有趣味性的考题。其中的“阅读理解”一项,总要设置一两段趣味阅读。看到同学们一边做题,一边露出一副忍俊不禁的样子,确实使人感到欣慰。他们似乎不是在做题,而是在尽情地享受着学习中的无限乐趣。

兴趣是最好的老师——这几乎成了一条真理。问题是,如何去激发、引导和培养学生的学习兴趣?

本书根据《全日制中学英语教学大纲》有关阅读方面的要求,以激发兴趣为基本出发点,编选出幽默、笑话、寓言、科普等共 188 个篇目。旨在“给学生提供更为丰富的教育教学资源,有助于他们开阔视野、丰富语言知识、扩大词汇量和了解英语国家的社会及文化等”。

本书共分为两个部分。第一部分(1~89 篇)每篇均配有简笔画,以帮助更好地理解文意;每篇后面设置 5 道判断题(True or False),以检测是否能根据材料所提供的信息,正确判断词、短语、句子的字面意思及深层含义。第二部分(90~188 篇)不再配有简笔画,主要是通过第一部分的过渡,逐步开始适应仅凭文字、语句、段落的思维形式来进行思考。每篇后面设置 5 道选择题(Multiple Choice),以检测是否能根据材料所提供的信息,掌握所读材料的主旨和大意,以及用以说明主旨和大意的事实和细节。既理解具

体的事实,又理解抽象的概念,并能把握全篇的文脉,即句与句、段与段之间的关系,并能进行推理和判断。部分应该掌握的生词、短语已用黑体字突出。书末附有参考译文和答案。

本书适用于新课标英语 4~8 级并尽可能地照顾到各个层面的学生群体。对于那些英语阅读能力暂时还不够理想而又极力企求在较短的时间内迅速提高的学生,本书可以为之开启一扇阅读之门。对于那些英语阅读能力尚可而又亟待进一步提高的学生,本书可以为之开阔视野,并使之始终处于有效的学习之中。通过边阅读边思考进行自我监控,建立合理的认知结构,使知识网络化,从而逐步形成、具备可持续发展的学习能力。

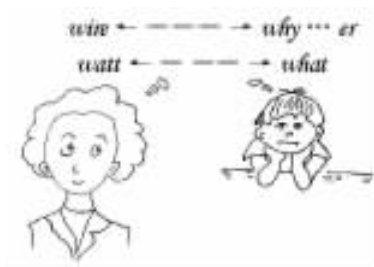
孔子曰:“知之者不如好之者,好之者不如乐之者。”但愿我们人人成为学习英语的“乐之者”。

编 著 者

2004 年 7 月 22 日

PART I

1



Teacher: What **is** usually **used** as a conductor of electricity?

Student: Why... er...

Teacher: Correct, wire. And now tell me the unit of electrical power.

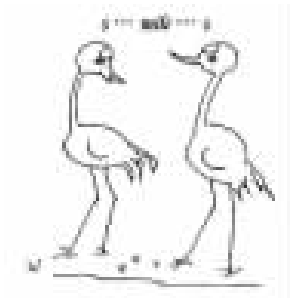
Student: The what?

Teacher: Yes. The watt. You're very clever.

True or False

- () 1. Wire is used as a conductor of electricity.
- () 2. The student's answer is right.
- () 3. The teacher says "correct" or "yes" because "why... er" and "wire", "what" and "watt" are the same pronunciation.
- () 4. The student really knows the teacher's answer.
- () 5. The student is really clever.

2



A: Which is **the longest** word in the English language?

B: I don't know. Would you like to tell me what it is?

A: It's "smiles".

B: That isn't very long. Only six letters.

A: But there is a mile between the first and the last letters.

True or False

- ()6. The word “smiles” means “微笑” in Chinese.
 ()7. There are two s's in the word “smiles”.
 ()8. Between the two s's there is a mile long.
 ()9. Between the two s's there is a word “mile”.
 ()10. The word “mile” is behind the two s's.

3

Teacher: Merry, why don't you wash your face? I can see what you had for breakfast this morning.

Merry: What was it?

Teacher: Eggs.

Merry: Wrong, teacher. That was yesterday.



True or False

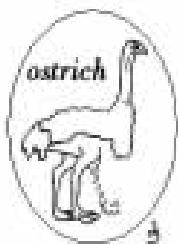
- ()11. Merry had eggs for breakfast this morning.
 ()12. The teacher had eggs for breakfast this morning.
 ()13. Merry had eggs for breakfast yesterday.
 ()14. Merry had breakfast with her teacher this morning.
 ()15. Merry had breakfast with her teacher yesterday.

4

Little Smith came home from school with a new book under his arm.

Smith: It's a **prize**, mother.

Mother: A prize? What for, dear?



Smith: For zoology. Teacher asked me how many legs an ostrich has and I said three.

Mother: But an ostrich has only two legs.

Smith: I know it now. But all the pupils said four, so mine was **the closest**.

True or False

()16. An ostrich has two legs.

()17. An ostrich has three legs.

()18. Little Smith's answer was the closest, so it was right.

()19. Little Smith's answer was the closest but wrong.

()20. The teacher gave him a prize and an ostrich.

5

Teacher: Didn't Henry help you do this sum?

$$3 + 4 - 5 = ?$$



Student: No.

Teacher: **Are you sure** he didn't help you?

Student: No, he didn't help me. He did it all.

True or False

()21. The student can do this sum.

()22. The student can not do this sum.

()23. Henry can do this sum.

()24. The student and Henry did this sum together.

- ()25. The teacher had asked Henry to help the student to do this sum.

6

Mother: It's too late, darling .

Stop watching TV or
you'll **be late for** school
tomorrow morning.

Son: If you keep watching it,
mamma, you'll be late for
work, too.



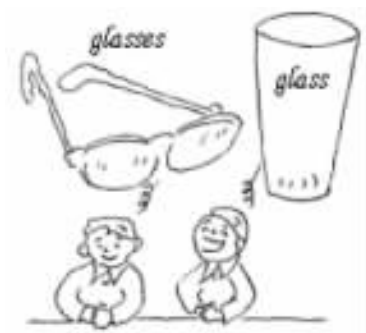
Mother: But I can ask for a sick leave if I can't get up early to-morrow.

Son: And I can ask for leave, too. Because my mother is ill and I must **take good care of** her.

True or False

- ()26. The mother says "Stop watching TV or you won't be late for school tomorrow morning" .
- ()27. The son says "If you keep watching TV, you'll be late for class, too".
- ()28. The mother wants to watch TV and the son doesn't want to.
- ()29. The son wants to watch TV and the mother doesn't want to.
- ()30. The mother and the son both want to keep watching TV very much.

7



A: My grandfather lived to be nearly ninety and never used glasses.

B: Well, **lots of** people prefer to drink from a bottle.

True or False

() 31. In what A says, “glasses” means “眼镜” in Chinese.

() 32. B thinks that “glasses” which A says means “玻璃杯”.

() 33. B’s understanding is right.

() 34. B’s understanding is wrong.

() 35. From this passage, we can know A’s grandfather preferred to drink from a bottle than with glasses.

8

At the age of 15, Lynn decided to leave home and join a theater company.

Mother: A son of mine on the stage? It’s a disgrace! What if the neighbors find out?

Son: I’ll change my name.

Mother: Change your name! If you’re successful? How will the neighbors know it’s my son?

True or False

() 36. Lynn decided to leave home and join a theater company. Her mother thought it glorious.



- () 37. Lynn had a good idea that he would change his age.
- () 38. From this passage, we can know Lynn's mother doesn't want her son to be an actor.
- () 39. From this passage, we can know Lynn's mother is a woman with bad temper.
- () 40. From this passage, we can know Lynn's mother is a woman with vanity.

9



Percy can't swim. One day he **fell into** a river. A boy **jumped into** the river and pulled him out.

Percy's wife: That boy **saved your life**. Shouldn't we give him a pound?

Percy: I was half dead when he pulled me out. Give him 50 pence.

True or False

- () 41. That boy saved Percy's wife.
- () 42. That boy saved Percy's life.
- () 43. Percy's wife gave the boy a pound.
- () 44. Percy gave the boy 50 pounds.
- () 45. Percy's wife intended to offer the boy a pound but Percy himself insisted on giving the boy half a pound.

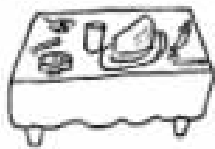
10

Zhao Qi **has** milk **for breakfast**. Wang Dong has bread for breakfast. Wu Ying has rice for breakfast. Wei Fang has the same breakfast as Wang Dong.

What does Wei Fang have for her breakfast?

True or False

- () 46. Milk.
 () 47. Bread.
 () 48. Rice.
 () 49. Sandwich.
 () 50. Fruit.



11

John has one brother and one sister. John **is shorter than** his sister but taller than his brother. His father is taller than both he and his sister. His mother is shorter than his brother.

Who is the tallest in the family and who is the shortest?



True or False

- () 51. The tallest is Father, and the shortest is John's brother.
 () 52. The tallest is Mother, and the shortest is Father.
 () 53. The tallest is Father, and the shortest is Mother.
 () 54. The tallest is John's brother and the shortest is John's sister.

- ()55. John's mother is no taller than John's brother in the family.

12

Jack **runs faster than** Tom .
Tom runs faster than Mike, and
John runs as fast as Tom.

Who runs fastest ? Who runs
slowest ?

True or False

- ()56. Mike, the fastest; Jack, the slowest.
()57. Jack, the fastest; Tom, the slowest.
()58. Jack, the fastest; Mike, the slowest.
()59. Tom, the fastest; Mike, the slowest.
()60. Tom, the fastest; Jack, the slowest.



13

Liu Ying is a nice girl . She
helps people **after school** . She
does one thing for others every
day. She cleans the yard for Aunt
Zhou on Tuesday. She helps Xiao
Ming with his lessons two days a
week. She fetches milk for Aunt
Wang's baby on Monday and
Thursday. On Saturday afternoon she goes to **the Children's Palace**.



On what days of the week does she help Xiao Ming with his
lessons ?

True or False

- ()61. Sunday and Monday.
 ()62. Tuesday and Wednesday.
 ()63. Thursday and Friday.
 ()64. Wednesday and Friday.
 ()65. Tuesday and Thursday.

14

There are nine letters in the word. **The first letter** is c. The last one is m. And there are two s's and two o's in it.

We sit and study in it. What is it?

True or False

- ()66. Communism.
 ()67. Meeting-room.
 ()68. Room-mate.
 ()69. Classroom.
 ()70. Class-meeting.



15

They are of many beautiful colors: red, yellow, **pink**, blue, orange and white. Some of them **smell** very sweet. You can see lots of them in spring and summer. When autumn comes, they become fewer and fewer. In winter you can hardly find them in the fields. Then they come back again with spring.

What are they?



True or False

- ()71. Water.
- ()72. Flowers.
- ()73. Cloud.
- ()74. Grass.
- ()75. Plastic flowers.

16

Now here is a kind of fruit. Its name has six letters. The second, fourth and sixth letters are the same—they are the first letter **in the alphabet**, and the first letter is the second letter of the alphabet.

The fruit can only grow in the south. It's long and looks like the new moon. It's yellow outside and white inside. It's sweet and very good to eat.

What kind of fruit is it?

True or False

- ()76. Apple.
- ()77. Banana.
- ()78. Orange.
- ()79. Pear.
- ()80. Peach.



17

We are babies of a big family. We live in lakes, rivers and seas. When it's hot, we **go up into** the sky. When it's cold, we come down again. We help plants grow fast. We keep man and animal alive.

What are we?

True or False

- ()81. Lights.
 ()82. Stars.
 ()83. Water drops.
 ()84. Rain drops.
 ()85. Rainbow.



18

They are not our parents, but they are as kind to us as our parents. They help us to learn many things and learn how to **be useful to** the people when we grow up.

What are they?

True or False

- ()86. Our parents.
 ()87. Our brothers.
 ()88. Our teachers.
 ()89. Our sisters.
 ()90. Our classmates.



19



Zhang Hua, Wu Dong and Li Ming **ran a race** from their school to a hill. When Wu Dong got there, the sun was almost behind the hill. When Zhang Hua got there, stars had come out. When Li

Ming got there, the sun was still over his head.

Who was the first to get to the hill and who was the last ?

True or False

- ()91. Li Ming was the first, and Zhang Hua was the last.
- ()92. Zhang Hua was the first, and Li Ming was the last.
- ()93. Wu Dong was the first, and Zhang Hua was the last.
- ()94. Li Ming was the first, and Wu Dong was the last.
- ()95. Wu Dong was the first, and Li Ming was the last.

20

There are three men on a train. Mr A speaks English and Chinese. Mr B speaks French and English. Mr C can only talk with Mr A.

What language does Mr C speak ?

True or False

- ()96. English and Chinese.
- ()97. French and English.
- ()98. English and Japanese.
- ()99. Chinese.
- ()100. English.



21

They do not talk but they tell us stories and give us **knowledge**. They are made of paper. Some of them are big and some are small. Some of them are thick and some are thin. The more we know them, the wiser we'll be.

Do you know what they are ?