

A Way to Successful Reading

大 学 英 语 阅 读

第一册

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内 容 简 介

本书是根据现今大学生的水平和大学英语的教学要求,由北方交通大学部分英语教师编写的适合普通理工科院校学生使用的大学英语阅读辅助材料。丛书共四册,第一、二册各 15 单元,适合大学一年级使用,内容注重休闲阅读,选材注重知识性、趣味性、情节性强的小故事、小说。第三、四册各 12 单元,适合大学二年级使用。第三册注重介绍词法,根据上下文和构词法猜测词义,对多义词的词义的判断;第四册注重介绍长难句的理解,寻找篇章主题,读懂作者言下之意,领会作者的态度等等。本书为第一册,适合普通理工科院校一年级学生英语阅读使用。

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前 言

阅读是掌握语言知识、打好语言基础、获取信息的重要渠道。我国大学生走上工作岗位后所需要的主要语言技能是阅读能力。因此,《大学英语教学大纲》始终注重阅读能力的培养。从语言学习的规律来看,英语应用能力的提高是建立在大量的语言输入,尤其是大量的阅读的基础之上的。在多年的教学中我们深刻地体会到,仅仅依靠主教材的课文,难以达到“在大量的语言输入基础上提高英语应用能力”的目的。根据现今大学生的水平和大学英语的教学要求,我们迫切需要一套适合普通理工科院校学生使用的大学英语阅读辅助材料,这是本套教材的编写初衷。

《大学英语阅读》共四册,第一、二册各 15 单元,每单元阅读量为 5 000~6 000 词,适合大学一年级使用。由于学生刚进入大学,各方面都处于适应阶段,这两册注重休闲阅读,选材以知识性、趣味性、情节性强的短文、小故事、小说为主,配合恰当的注释,扫清学生阅读中的障碍,适量的练习加深学生对文章的理解,加强他们对词汇的掌握,以达到通过大量的语言输入加强语感和语言实际运用能力的目的。

第三、四册各 12 单元,每单元含 4 篇与大学英语三级、四级要求长度、难度相当的短文,其中前 3 篇短文后各设 5 道选择题,第 4 篇短文后设 5 个简答题,每篇短文中各有一句话需要学生译成中文。后两册的前半部分配有阅读技巧介绍。第三册注重介绍词法,根据上下文和构词法猜测词义,对多义词的词义的判断等;第四册注重介绍长难句的理解,寻找篇章主题,读懂作者言下之意,领会作者的态度等等。通过这两册的训练,学生们将较大幅度地提高英语阅读能力,并能更好地把握大学英语四级考试的阅读理解题型。

本书为《大学英语阅读》第一册,由北方交通大学人文学院左映娟主编,参加编写的有北方交通大学人文学院左映娟、李京平、周红红、胡志先、马玉玲、王小娟、张聪敏、郑叶青、刘艳秋、戴丽萍等老师。

编 者

2001. 6.

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Unit 1

I . The Climate(气候) of the United States

The United States has many different kinds of climate. On the west coast(海岸), the temperature(气温) changes very little between summer and winter, but the north central (中部的) states have a very different kind of climate. In those states, people wear light clothing during the summer, and they need heavy wool(羊毛) or fur(皮) clothing in the winter.

In the southwest, the climate is pleasantly warm during the winter. But the summer is unpleasantly hot.

In the eastern part of the United States, summer temperatures are very different from winter temperatures. Summers are usually hot, and winters are usually cold. Spring temperatures are comfortably (舒适地) warm, and fall (秋天) temperatures are pleasantly cool.

Years ago, people in the cold parts of the United States did not often get fresh vegetables and fresh fruits during the winter. Today, however, trucks and trains carry fruits and vegetables very quickly to all parts of the United States. In this way, Americans 'send their climates' to people in other states.

Exercise 1: Which of the following is the best description of the climate in north central states ?

- A. The climate is pleasantly warm during the winter.
- B. Spring temperatures are comfortably warm, and fall temperatures are pleasantly cool.
- C. Summers are usually warm, and winters are usually cold.
- D. The temperature changes very little between summer and winter.

Exercises 2: The four seasons of the United States are: spring (March, April, May), summer (June, July, August), fall (September, October, November), and winter (December, January, February). Write a few sentences about the climate of your country using sentences like the ones in the reading.

II . Funny Bunny(小兔子) Money (有趣的兔子钱)

'I wish I had some money,' said Jeff, 'I wish I had three dollars.'

'What for ?' asked Uncle Fred.

'I want to buy a present for Mother,' Jeff said, 'Her birthday is right after Easter(复活节). I saw a pretty pin in Mr. Gate's store. But it costs three dollars.'

'Why not get two rabbits ?' Uncle Fred asked, 'Then you can sell baby rabbits.'

‘But how can I get two rabbits?’ asked Jeff, ‘I don’t have any money.’

‘I will give you a job,’ said Uncle Fred, ‘When you do it, I will give you two rabbits. Will you feed and water them? Will you keep the cage clean?’

‘Oh, yes.’ said Jeff.

‘All right, Jeff,’ said Uncle Fred, ‘You may help me clean my yard. You may begin right now.’

Jeff was happy. ‘Thank you. Thank you, Uncle Fred!’ he said.

Jeff helped Uncle Fred for three days. Then Uncle Fred gave him two rabbits. They were in a big cage.

Jeff called the rabbits Mopsy and Popsy*. He took good care of them.

How hard it was to wait for baby rabbits! Every morning, Jeff ran to look in the cage. And then one morning—there they were! Five baby rabbits!

Now Jeff had to take care of seven rabbits! But he was happy to watch the baby rabbits grow.

Then one day Jeff sold a baby rabbit for fifty cents. The next day he sold two more. At last he sold the other baby rabbits. Now Jeff had two dollars and fifty cents. He needed fifty cents more right away. But he had no more baby rabbits to sell. What could he do?

Jeff took the two dollars and fifty cents to Mr. Gate. ‘I want to buy that pretty pin for Mother,’ he said, ‘I can’t pay all the money now. But I will get the other fifty cents some way.’

‘All right,’ said Mr. Gate, ‘I will save the pin and put it in a birthday box.’

The day after Easter, Jeff went to see Mr. Gate. ‘Here is the fifty cents,’ Jeff said.

‘How did you get it?’ Mr. Gate asked.

‘I sold rabbit tracks.’ said Jeff.

Mr. Gate looked puzzled. Jeff smiled. ‘The day before Easter, there was snow,’ he said, ‘The snow made me think of Easter Bunny** tracks. I asked Mrs. Smith if she wanted to buy bunny tracks. They would make an Easter present for her little boy.’

‘She said she would give me ten cents to let Mopsy walk around her yard. Four more mothers wanted Mopsy’s tracks, too. So I got fifty cents from the five mothers.’

‘That night I took Mopsy into the five yards. Easter morning the children thought the Easter Bunny had visited them.’

Mr. Gate laughed. ‘What a nice Easter Present!’ he said, ‘But it’s a funny way to make money.’

‘Yes, it’s funny bunny money,’ said Jeff, ‘But this present for Mother isn’t funny! I think it is pretty.’

‘Your mother will think so, too,’ said Mr. Gate, ‘It will make her very happy.’

Notes:

* Mopsy, Popsy 莫普西,波普西(有‘妈’、‘爸’之意).

** Easter Bunny 复活节兔子(复活节时美俗以兔子形状的玩具、糖果等作礼物给孩子).

Exercise 3: How did Jeff manage to get the money ?

- A. By working for Uncle Fred.
- B. By selling baby rabbit.
- C. By selling rabbit tracks.
- D. Both B and C.

Exercise 4: Have you ever bought a present for your mother ? What was it and how did you get it ?

Ⅲ. The Frog-Prince (青蛙王子)

In the good old times, when wishes often came true, there lived a King whose daughters were all beautiful, but the youngest was so beautiful that the sun himself, who had seen so much beauty, wondered at her every time he kissed her face.

Close to the King's castle was a dark forest, and in the forest under an old lime(菩提树) tree was a well; here on warm days the royal (皇家的) child used to come and sit on the bank by the cool water. When she was bored(厌烦) she took a golden ball, threw it in the air and caught it again, and that was her favorite amusement(娱乐).

It happened once that the Princess(公主)'s golden ball, instead of falling into the little hands she held out to catch it, rolled along the ground into the water. The child followed the ball with her eyes, but it disappeared, and the well was deep, so deep that you couldn't see the bottom. Then she began to cry, and cried louder and louder, as if nothing could comfort her; and as she cried someone called out, 'Why, Princess, what's the matter ? You cry loudly enough to move a stone to pity.' She looked round to see where the voice came from, and found a frog poking(伸) his fat, ugly head out of the water.

'Ah ! is it you, old water-splasher(跳水家) ?' she said, 'I am crying because my golden ball has fallen into the well.'

'Well, don't cry any more,' answered the frog, 'I can help you. What will you give me if I fetch your toy for you ?'

'Anything you like, dear frog,' she said, 'my clothes, my pearls(珍珠) and precious stones(宝石), or even the gold coronet(小皇冠) I wear.'

The frog answered:

'Your clothes, your pearls, your precious stones, your gold coronet—I don't want any of them; but if you'll love me and let me be your companion(伙伴) and playmate, sit by you at the table, eat off your little gold plate, drink out of your little goblet(高脚杯) and sleep in your little bed; if you'll promise all this, I'll dive(潜) down and get your golden ball.'

'very well,' she said. 'I'll promise anything you like if you'll only bring back my ball.' She thought to herself, 'What nonsense(废话) the foolish frog talks ! He can only sit in the water and croak(呱呱地叫) to other frogs, and can't be the companion of any human being.'

So the frog lowered(低下) his head and sank. In a little while he rose to the surface

with the ball in his mouth, and threw it on the grass. The Princess was so delighted at seeing her pretty plaything again that she picked it up and ran off.

‘Stop ! stop !’ shouted the frog, ‘take me with you; I can’t run so fast.’

But it was no use; croak as loud as he would, she took no notice and ran home, where she soon forgot all about the poor frog, who was obliged to(只好) descend(沉) into his well again.

The next day, when the Princess had just sat down to table with the King and all the court(朝廷大臣), and was eating off her little gold plate, splish, splash, splish, splash (扑通) was heard, and something hopped (跳) up the marble(大理石) stairs, knocked at the door, and called, ‘Youngest Princess, let me in !’ She ran to the door to see who was outside, and as she opened it she saw the frog seated there. She slammed (砰地关上) the door violently(猛地) and hurried back to her place in a great fright(害怕). The King observed(注意到) that her heart was beating quickly, and said:

‘Child, why are you frightened ? Is there a giant(巨人) at the door coming to carry you off ?’

‘Oh, no,’ she answered, ‘it isn’t a giant, but a nasty(讨厌的) frog.’

‘What does the frog want with you ?’

‘Oh, dear father, yesterday, when I was in the forest playing by the well my golden ball fell into the water. And because I cried so loudly, the frog fetched it for me, and because he asked me, I promised he should be my companion, but I never thought he could come so far out of his water. Now he is outside, and wants to come in here.’ Meanwhile there was another knock at the door, and a voice called:

‘Open the door, my Princess, dear,

Open the door to thy(你的) true love here !

Remember the promise you yesterday made.

By the deep well cool in the lime tree’s shade(荫).’

Then the King said, ‘You must not break your promise, so go and let him in.’

She went and opened the door, and the frog hopped in, followed her to her chair, and called out, ‘Lift me up to you.’

She shuddered(发抖), but the King ordered her to do as she was asked. The frog was not content with(满足于) being on the chair, and wanted to get onto the table. When there he said, ‘Push your little gold plate nearer, so that we may eat together.’ The Princess did so, but it was easy to see that she did not like it. The frog ate with relish(津津有味), but she could hardly take any. At last he said, ‘I have eaten till I am satisfied. Now I am tired; take me to your little room, have your silk bed turned down, and we will lie down and go to sleep.’

The Princess began to cry at the thought of the cold frog whom she daren’t touch sleeping in her pretty, clean bed.

The King grew angry with her and said, ‘Those who have helped us in our need are not to be despised(蔑视) afterwards.’

So she lifted the frog with two fingers, carried him upstairs, and put him down in a corner. But when she was in bed he crept(爬) to the bedside, and said, ‘I am tired, I want to go to bed too. Lift me up, please, or I’ll tell your father.’ Then she really fly into a passion (气极了), took him up and flung(扔) him with all her might(力量) against the wall.

‘Now you can go to sleep if you like, you nasty, ugly frog.’

But when he fell to the ground he was not a frog any longer, but a Prince with beautiful, smiling eyes, and, according to her father’s wishes, he became her dear companion and playmate. He told her how he had been bewitched(施魔法) by a wicked(邪恶的) old witch(巫婆), and no one had the power to release(释放) him from the well but the little Princess, and tomorrow they would travel back to his kingdom(王国) together. They fell asleep, and when the sun was up the next morning, a carriage(马车) with eight white horses drew up at the door. Behind the horses stood the servant of the young Prince, the faithful(忠实的) Henry, who had been so grieved(悲痛) when his master was turned into a frog that he had put three bands of iron(三道铁箍) round his heart to prevent its breaking from sorrow and grief.

The carriage was to take the young Prince back to his own kingdom, and the faithful Henry helped in his master and the Princess, and seated himself behind again. They hadn’t gone far before they heard a crack(爆裂声) as if something were breaking. Again, and yet again, a crack was heard on the road, and each time the royal couple thought something in the carriage had burst, but it was only the iron bands springing(崩裂) from Henry’s heart, because he was so overjoyed at his master’s happiness.

Exercise 5: Learn the following words or phrases in this story, and choose the proper one to complete each of the sentences below.

amusement comfort nonsense be content with
companion faithful be obliged to fly into a passion

- 1) Big cities have theatres, films, football matches, and many other _____.
- 2) Nothing can _____ Jean after her mother’s death.
- 3) One of my old classmates became my constant _____.
- 4) John seems _____ his present life. One can never hear any complaint from him.
- 5) The dog is _____ and obedient to his master.
- 6) She left out three words when she copied the sentence and the result was _____.
- 7) He _____ leave after an unpleasant quarrel with the general manager.
- 8) She tends to _____ if you contradict her.

Exercise 6: What does this fable(寓言) try to tell us besides the plot (情节)? Write out your opinion.

IV. ROBINSON CRUSOE(鲁滨逊漂流记)

I GO TO SEA

I was born in the year 1632, in the city of York(约克郡), of a good family. At a very early age I wanted to go to sea. My father was a wise man, and he begged me not to do so. For a time I decided not to think of it any more. But one day in the city of Hull(赫尔市) I met a friend who was going to sea on his father's ship. He asked me to go with him. Then, without asking my father, without asking God's blessing(祝福), without any thought of the result, I went on board the ship.

THE SHIP IS LOST(失事) IN THE STORM

On the same day we left Hull, meaning(打算) to go to the African coast. We guided the ship as if we were going to the island of Fernando (费尔南多). Then we passed to the east of that island. After a few days there came a fearful (可怕的) storm. The wind and the waves threw the ship this way and that for twelve days. The ship was badly broken and a lot of water was coming in. Then one of our men, early in the morning, cried out, 'Land !' Just after that, the ship ran on to some sand. The waves came over the ship, and we knew that very soon it would be broken to pieces. We had a small boat on board: we let the boat down into the water, and got into it. When we had gone some distance in the boat, a great wave came from behind. 'Oh God !' we cried and we were all thrown into the water.

I AM THROWN UP ON THE LAND

A great wave took me and carried me on towards the shore: it left me on the land, badly hurt. I was very weak, but I got up on my feet and ran up to a dry place and lay there more dead than alive. After a time I was sick(恶心) and threw up(吐) a great deal of sea water which had got into my stomach. Then I wanted to rest; but I dared not sleep on the ground for fear of being eaten by wild beasts(野兽).

So I climbed up into a tree, and remained there until morning. I was sure that all my friends had been killed and I alone had been saved. I was very tired and I quickly fell asleep.

I GO OUT TO THE SHIP

When I woke, it was day. The sea was quiet, and the ship lay less than a kilometre from the shore. I had with me nothing—no food, nor anything with which I might get food. So I decided to go out to the ship to see what useful things I might find there. I took off my clothes and swam to the ship. I climbed through a hole in the side. The lower part was full of water, but the other parts were dry.

BRINGING THINGS FROM THE SHIP

I found four large pieces of board and tied them together to make a raft(木筏). Then I put on this raft all the things that I might need from the ship. I took a large box of food, an axe(斧) and other things for cutting and shaping wood, seven guns and plenty of powder for the guns, pens and paper, some books, also needles(针) and the few clothes that I could find. I took a small sail and fixed it in my raft. I then sailed towards the shore. When I came near the shore, the front of the raft went up on to the sand, and all my goods began to fall off the end of the raft which was still in the water. I just saved them and held them back. After a lot of hard work I tied the things down, so that my hands were now free to work on the front of the raft into a little river. There I got all my goods safely on to the land.

I AM ON AN ISLAND

My next work was to look at the country, and to find a proper place for a hut(小屋) to store my goods in and keep them safe. There was a hill not more than two kilometres away. There were other hills, but it seemed to be the highest. I took my gun, and walked to the top of the hill. There I saw with great sadness that I was on an island. The sea was on all sides of me; there was no land to be seen, except two small islands about fourteen kilometres away to the west. I couldn't see any fields or huts on my island, nor anything to show that there were men on it. I saw plenty of birds, but I did not know their kinds, nor which were fit to eat. On my way back I shot at a great bird. I believe that this was the first gun that had ever been fired on the island. At the sound, great numbers of birds of hundreds of sorts flew up, making loud noises of crying and calling.

I MAKE A HOUSE TO LIVE IN

Still looking for a place for my hut, I found a level place on the side of a hill. There was a cave in the side of the hill at the back of this level place, but this cave was small and did not go far into the rock. I brought the sail from my raft and made a tent on the level ground. Then I drew a half-circle round the tent. In the days that followed, I cut down young trees and made a strong fence round this half-circle. The fence was nearly two metres high, made of posts(柱子) with sharp points at the top. Then I began to cut away the rock, so as to make the cave larger; and I put the earth and stones inside the fence, so that it raised the ground by about half a metre.

FINISHING THE HOUSE

In this way I had two rooms: my tent in which I would live, and the cave as a store-room. There was no door in the fence, but I made a rough ladder with steps to go over the top. and, when

I was in, I lifted the ladder over after me. So I was completely (完全) shut in and quite safe.

I then brought all the goods that I had taken from the ship, and put them in my store-room.

After I had been on the island about ten or twelve days, I thought that I should need some way of marking the days. So I set up a tall thick post, and cut on it in big letters:

I COME ON SHORE HERE ON MAY 30, 1659

Each day I cut a small mark on the side of this post. Every seventh mark was larger than the others, meaning a new week. After thirty or thirty-one marks I made a line, meaning a new month.

SOME NECESSARY THINGS

I now began making some things that I needed most. I greatly needed a chair and a table—without them I couldn't write or eat properly. Because I hadn't the proper things for making them, these cost me a great deal of hard work and trouble. For example, when I wanted a board, I had no other way except to cut down a tree, and cut away the round part of the tree on each side with my axe. In this way I could make only one board out of a tree. But I had plenty of time, so I didn't mind.

I made a table and a chair, and I fixed boards all along one side of my store-room; on these I put all my stores and goods in order. Then I had everything ready at hand (近在手边), and it was a great pleasure to me to see all my goods in order, and to find that I had such a stock of them.

I MAKE A LAMP

I didn't know what to do for light in the evening. So, as soon as it was dark, I was forced to go to bed. I might have made a good light with bees' wax(蜡), but I had no bees' wax. All I could do was this: whenever I killed and ate any animal, I set the fat on one side. I made a little cup of earth, dried in the sun, which I filled with the fat. With this I made a lamp. This gave me light, though not a clear good light.

DISCOVERING MORE OF THE ISLAND

I had now been in this unhappy island for more than ten months. Having now made for myself a safe place to live in, I had a great desire to discover more about the rest of the island. I went up the little stream(溪流) where I had first brought my raft on shore. On the bank of this stream I found grassy plains(草原) in which sugar(甘蔗) was growing—but wild and not perfect. As I went farther up the stream, these plains ended, and there were more trees. Here I found very many kinds of fruit. I gathered a lot of this fruit because I had thought of a good use for it—that is, to dry it in the sun and keep it with my store of food.

‘HOME’ AGAIN

I slept that night in a tree. On the next day I travelled on and came to an opening in the

hills, where the country fell away to the west. Here the country appeared so fresh, so green and so full of flowers, that it looked like a planted garden, and I thought with some pleasure that I was king and lord(领主) of all this island. Having spent three days on this journey, I came ‘home’—as I must now call my tent. I took with me the fruit which I had gathered; but before I got there, many kinds were bad. I set out the rest to dry in the sun, and after some days I found that they had dried perfectly.

THE RAINS

During this month there were heavy rains, so that I could not go out from my tent. For this reason it was not easy to get food.

I did go out twice. The first time, I killed an animal, and on the last day of the rain I caught a large fish. For the rest of the rainy season I ate my dried fruit, and food that I had taken from the ship.

During this time I worked at making my store-room larger. I also made baskets for carrying the earth out of the store-room and to keep food in.

I had no pots (except two very small ones) to hold any liquid(液体). I hadn’t a pot in which to boil anything, except one which I had taken from the ship—and that was too big.

I MAKE POTS

I looked all over the island, and at last I discovered a kind of clay(粘土) of which a pot might be made. It would make the reader laugh at me if I told what strange, ugly things I made, how many of the pots fell in and how many fell out, how many broke and fell to pieces. I worked very hard, but I couldn’t make more than two large ugly things—I can’t call them ‘jars’(罐子)—in about two months’ labour. But I made several little pots and cups, and these I was about to make better. I set wood all round the pots that I had made, and kept up a fire outside and on the top, till the pots were red with the heat. After five or six hours I began to let the fire go down slowly. I watched my pots all night, so that the fire might not go down too quickly. In the morning I had three very good—I won’t say ‘beautiful’—pots, and two jars, all quite strong and useful.

No joy at so little a thing was ever equal to mine, when I found that I had made a pot which would bear the fire. I could not wait till they were cold, but I set one on the fire again with some water to boil some food for me.

I GROW SOME CORN(小麦)

when I first came on the island, I was looking through my things, and I found a little bag. This bag had once held corn for feeding the hens on the ship; but the mice(老鼠们) had found the bag, and had eaten a lot of the corn, and had made the rest of it dirty. I wanted to use the bag for something else, so I threw out the grain and dirt(尘土) from the bag on one side of my house.

It was a little before the great rains when I threw this dirt away, and I hadn’t thought about it again. But about a month after that, I saw some green plants growing up out of the

ground, after a few more weeks I saw corn forming on the plants. I was greatly surprised, not knowing how it had come there. I went all over that part of the island to see if there was some corn anywhere else; but I found none. Then I remembered cleaning the bag of hen-food. I saved that corn, and planted it again as seed. So, saving the grain each time and using it as seed, in time I had a good field of corn, enough to make bread for myself.

I WANT A BOAT

All this time I had been thinking of the islands that I had seen on the other side. I thought that if I could reach those islands, I might find a way of going farther, and perhaps even get home to England again. This made me think whether it was not possible to make a boat for myself—a boat like the ones the Indians make, cut out of a tree. I thought that I might cut out the centre of the tree with my axe, or burn it out with fire, so as to make a boat of it. But I forgot one thing: that I had no one to help me move the boat, when it was made, into the water.

MAKING A BOAT

I went to work on this boat more like a fool than any man ever did. I pleased myself with the plan, without ever deciding whether I was able to complete it. The trouble of getting it into the water came into my mind, but I gave myself this foolish answer to the question: ‘Let me first make the boat; I am sure I shall find some way or other to move it when it is done.’

So I cut down a great tree. It was 1.8 metres across at the lower part, and 1.5 metres at the top before it went out into branches. It was twenty days cutting through it at the bottom, and fourteen more days cutting away the branches. After this it took me a month to make it into the shape of a boat outside and three months more to cut out the inside. In the end I had made a very fine boat, big enough to carry ten men—big enough to carry me and all my goods.

I CAN'T GET MY BOAT INTO THE WATER

When I had finished this work, I was delighted with it. I just had to get it into the water. It lay about one hundred metres from the water; but the ground went up hill at first. So I decided to cut through the hill in order to make a road; but, when I had done that, things were no better; I couldn't move the boat at all.

Then I decided to bring the water up to the boat, since I couldn't take the boat to the water.

So I began this work. But when I began to make plans and thought how deep a hole I must make, and how broad(宽), and how much earth must be thrown out, I found that it must be ten or twelve years before I could finish it. So at last, though with great sadness, I gave up the work.

I FIND THE MARK OF A MAN'S FOOT

It happened one day about noon after I had been on the island for several years. I was going along the shore, and I was greatly surprised to see the mark of a man's foot in the sand. I stood there like one who has seen a giant or some fearful thing. I listened; I looked round me; I couldn't hear anything or see anything. I went up the shore and down the shore, but I could see no mark except that one. I went to it again to see if it mightn't be a dream; but there it was, the perfect mark of every part of a foot. I couldn't think how it came there

I went home to my tent looking behind me at every two or three steps, thinking that every plant and tree at a distance was a man. (to be continued)

Exercises 7: Choose the best answer to the following questions:

- 1) Where did Robinson Crusoe spend his first night on the island?
A. on the shore B. in a tree
C. in a cave D. in a tent
- 2) How did Robinson Crusoe keep safe in his house?
A. by making a fence B. by enlarging a cave
C. by making a ladder D. by drawing a half-circle
- 3) What did he use to make a lamp?
A. oil B. bee's wax C. animal fat D. earth
- 4) What do we know about Robinson's 'pots'?
A. They could bear the heat of fire, and thus can be used for cooking.
B. They didn't bring great joy for Robinson.
C. They were beautiful and useful.
D. They were delicate and easy to break.
- 5) About how many days did it take for Robinson to make a boat?
A. 20 B. 14 C. 30 D. 154

Exercise 8: Read the following puzzle carefully and see if you can solve it.

The Walk

A man lived at the edge of a forest which was like a big circle. One day he took a walk around the forest. He went in a clockwise(顺时针) direction, all around the forest, and returned to his house. He found that it took him eighty minutes to walk around the forest without stopping. Several days later, he again took a walk around the forest, but this time he started in the opposite (相反的) direction. However, walking just as fast as before, and without stopping, he found that the trip took him one hour and twenty minutes this time. Can you explain why?

Unit 2

I . Schools in the United States

In the United States, boys and girls start school when they are five years old. In some states they must stay in school until they are sixteen. Most students are seventeen or eighteen years old when they graduate from secondary school. Another name for secondary school is high school(中学).

Most children go to public elementary and secondary schools (公立小学、中学). The parents of public school pupils do not have to pay directly(直接地) for their children's education because tax (税) money supports(维持) the public schools. If a child attends a private school, his parents pay the school for the child's education.

Today about half of the high school graduates go on to colleges and universities. Some colleges and universities receive tax money from the government. A student at a state university does not have to pay very much if his parents live in that state. Private colleges and universities are expensive, however. Almost half of the college students in the United States work while they are studying. When a student's family is not rich, he has to earn (赚) money for part of his college expenses (费用).

Exercise 1: Use sentences you've learned from the text to describe schools in China.

- 1) In China, boys and girls start school when _____.
- 2) They must stay in school until _____.
- 3) Today about half of the high school graduates go on to _____.
- 4) A student at a university _____.

II . The Open University

There must be a great many people who, either for lack (缺乏) of opportunity(机会) or of their own choice, did not go to university and who, at a certain point in their lives, regretted this gap(空白) in their education.

At this stage(时期) few people could go to university even if they wanted to, since they could not afford (抽出) the time off work; they had their families to support or, if they were women, they had to stay at home in order to look after the children.

With the opening of the Open University in January 1971, people in Britain are now able to take a university degree (学位) despite (尽管) these difficulties, for the courses (课程) are especially designed so that you can study at home.

However, you must have access to (有) a radio and a television set, for part of your course consists of two weekly programmes. One of them is broadcast(播放) on the radio and

the other on television, and they each lasts (持续) twenty-five minutes.

A tutor is assigned (指定) to each student in the subject he has chosen once he has enrolled(注册)for his degree. He sends the tutor his written work for correction (批改), and he meets him at the special study centres where group discussions are held once a week.

You have to do six courses so as to obtain(获得) a degree in any subject and they each take a year to complete, but the number of courses you take in a year will vary(变化) according to the amount of time you can allow for study.

If you take two courses a year, you will be studying for three years, or alternatively(两者择一地), if you take only one course a year, your degree will take six years to complete.

The new university has not been in operation (实施) long enough to prove its success as a venture(投资), but it obviously opens up the possibility of a university education to a much wider section(阶层) of the population(人口) than has hitherto (迄今) received it.

This is true not only for Britain, but for many other countries in the world, and in particular (尤其) the developing countries, where the demand for education at all levels is much greater than the supply (供应).

Of course, television and radio have already been used in those countries for the purposes of education, but at present the programmes are only designed to supplement(补充) material in the classroom, whereas(而) if the broadcasting media(媒体) were used for full-time courses of study, they could provide the means for a much more rapid expansion in the field of education.

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences with the words or phrases given.

regret	afford	supplement	consist of
assign	despite	operation	have access to

- 1) Thanks to the success of the business, we can _____ a holiday this year.
- 2) My ex-husband(前夫) _____ the children at weekends.
- 3) I've been _____ the job of guiding the new students around the campus.
- 4) The United Kingdom _____ Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 5) Demand for these cars is high, _____ their high price.
- 6) When does the new law come into _____ ?
- 7) Later on, I _____ my decision not to take the job.
- 8) She _____ her regular income by doing a bit of teaching in the evenings.

III. Hero, My Hero !

My dog, Hero, isn't afraid of most things. He isn't afraid of cars or acts. He isn't afraid of dogs bigger than he is. But he is afraid of one thing. The vacuum cleaner (真空吸尘器) !