

英语晨读系列

轻松 30 分

(初级、中级本)

王京 陈艳 萧辉 朱泽生

西安交通大学出版社

内容简介

本书是“英语晨读系列”丛书第一册，精选了各类文章 67 篇。

本书体裁多样、题材广泛，旨在帮助广大英语爱好者，通过 30 分钟轻松愉快的晨读，改进语音、语调，强化英语学习效果。同时，在朗读的过程中扩大词汇量，提高阅读能力，拓展知识面。书中所选文章既有紧跟时代步伐的最新时事文萃，也有脍炙人口的经典名篇，还有感人至深的小故事、令人捧腹的小幽默，以及文字优美的小散文。通过学习本书，读者可在听、说、读、写诸方面均有收益。本书还配制了磁带，由英美教师朗读，有助于读者欣赏和模仿。

本书适用于高等院校一、二年级学生和有一定基础的广大初级、中级英语爱好者使用。

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编者的话

经过一段时间的充分酝酿和准备,我们的“英语晨读系列丛书”终于和大家见面了。这套丛书共有《轻松30分》、《超越30分》、《激情30分》和《流畅30分》四本。第一本浅显易懂,读起来轻松活泼,叫做《轻松30分》,适合于大学一、二年级的学生阅读。第二本较第一本无论是在词汇量和语言的难易度上都有一定的提高,读者需努力才能上一个台阶,因此,叫做《超越30分》,适合于大学二、三年级的学生阅读。读者在读完了第一、第二本后,词汇量已经扩大了许多,也积累了一定的语感,这时读者已经可以充满激情地朗读了,第三本我们称做《激情30分》。到第四本,读者已在英语学习上取得了长足的进步,其英语的听、说、读、写能力接近流畅自如的程度,所以第四本叫做《流畅30分》。在清晨30分钟里,您可晓畅自如地穿行在英语世界的广阔天地中,采撷芬芳,咀嚼英华,分享知识带给我们的快慰。

我们摒弃英语学习中的枯燥单调,寓教于乐,寓庄于谐,让同学们在轻松愉悦的语言氛围中耳濡目染,循序渐进,逐步提高,超越自我,达到潇洒自如、激情流畅的理想境界,以适应当今世界日益发展的社会、经济、科技和文化的迫切需要。

本丛书构思巧妙,设计新颖,选材广泛,语言地道,融知识性、趣味性于一炉,让你一见钟情,爱不释手。

那么,我们这套丛书有什么特色呢?

首先,在构思上我们设定了“导言”、“生词”、“正文”和“注解”

四个部分。“导言”画龙点睛,提纲挈领,就像一根无形的细线牵动着你的心弦,使你欲罢不能,一睹为快,一读难忘。“正文”精挑细选、择优拔萃,涵盖当今社会的上上下下、方方面面,恐龙、电脑、科幻、体育、罪案、政坛……无不囊括在内,让你足不出户,尽享其中。“生词”和“注解”相辅相成,互为比照,为你理解原文提供了可靠有力的保证。

其次,本丛书在选材方面难度过渡的合理性、节奏性和科学性,使四本书之间既相对独立,又互为关联,尽量避免大起大落、难易失衡的现象,不会让同学们有莫名其妙、如坠云雾的错位感。

其三,本丛书图文并茂,时代感强,使你有一种“会当凌绝顶,一览众山小”的投入感,我们相信你将会从中呼吸到课本之外的一丝清新、纯情和浪漫,增加一份学习英语的自信和勇气。

其四,本丛书除编印精美的文字材料外,还有相互配套的同步录音磁带。为此,我们专门聘请外籍专家朗读配音。

由于水平有限,其中肯定有不少难尽人意之处,因此我们恳请大家不吝赐教,以便我们再版时作进一步修订,使其更加完美,走进更多读者的心田。

编者

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1. Collect Call from Las Vegas

来自赌城的电话

赌城拉斯维加斯——一个充满诱惑的地方。多少人去那里寻找发财的捷径，又有多少人梦断他乡。

New Words and Expressions :

1. collect [kə'lekt] a. (电话、电报等)受话人(或收报人)付费的
2. seep [si:p] v. 渗入
3. incredulously [in'kred ul'sli] ad. 不相信地 ;怀疑地
4. anniversary [ˌæniɜ: 7ri] n. 周年纪念 ;周年纪念日
5. insurance [in's 7 7ns] n. 保险 ;保险契约 ;保险业
6. to be entitled to 给.....的权利

There comes a time in every man's life when ,if he is in Las Vegas alone , he has to call his wife — collect. The moment came earlier for me than I expected , and the call went something like this.

“ Hello , dear , ” I said. “ I 'm calling from Las Vegas. ”

“ I know where you 're calling from , ” she said , the bitterness seeping through the receiver. “ What did you do last night ? ”

“ I had a date with a show girl¹ , ” I told her.

“ Don 't lie to me. You were gambling. ”

“ Just a little. Nothing much. ”

“ How much did you lose ? ”

“ I love you , ” I told her.

“ I said how much did you lose ? ”

“ I didn 't call to talk about that. I called to talk about the children. ”

“ What about the children ? ” she wanted to know.

“ Why do they have to go to college when they grow up ? Lots of children don 't go to college and turn out to be wonderful parents. ”

“ You didn 't lose their college money ? ” she screamed.

“ Only their junior and senior years. ”

“ What else did you lose ? ”

“ Where are you standing now ?”

“ In our bedroom ,” she replied.

“ Please don ’t say ‘ our ’ bedroom any more. ”

“ You didn ’t lose the house ?” she asked incredulously.

“ Just parts of it. I kept title to² the basement and the garage. ”

I could hear sobbing on the other end of the line.

“ Now , wait a minute , dear. You said the house was too big for us anyway and you would prefer something smaller. Think of it as a lucky break³. Dear , are you there ?”

“ Yes , I ’m here. ”

“ Do me a favor. You know that gold necklace with the pearls I bought you for our anniversary ?”

“ You lost that ?”

“ Of course not. Do you think I would do something that low ?”

“ Well , what about the necklace ?”

“ I want you to go out and lose it somewhere so we can collect the insurance on it. We ’ll get a much better price than if we try to sell it. ”

“ I could kill you ,” she said.

“ Don ’t. It would be a mistake. ”

“ You mean you lost your life insurance , too ?”

“ They told me a man who plays the way I do will live forever⁴. ”

“ Well , at least you didn ’t lose my fur coat. ”

I didn ’t say anything.

“ You did lose my fur coat ?”

“ Who wears a fur coat in Washington ?” I replied.

“ When are you coming home ?”

“ That ’s what I called about. There ’s a Greyhound bus leaving

for Washington at three this afternoon , and if you send me the money I left you for food I 'll be on it. ”

“ And what are we going to eat until you get here ?”

“ Call up the Department of Agriculture. According to the law we 're entitled to participate in their surplus food program. ”

Notes :

1. show girl :夜总会中的歌女或舞女
2. kept title to 对.....拥有所有权
3. a lucky break 好运气 好机会
4. They told me a man who plays the way I do will live forever. 这句话实际上等于承认输掉了人寿保险。

2. The Royal Romance Riddle

浪漫的谜语

美丽的公主甘愿抛弃一切财富,只为得到幸福的生活。
小小的谜语使有情人终成眷属。

New Words and Expressions :

1. exclaim [ik3skleim] v. 呼喊, 惊叫, 大声地说
2. intelligent [in'telid37nt] a. 聪明的, 理智的
3. stump [st4mp] v. 难住, 不能回答

Once upon a time, there was a small kingdom named Bergonia. The king and queen had a daughter, Princess Wilma. Six months after Wilma's 21st birthday, her parents talked with her about a knotty problem.

"You will soon be 22, Wilma," said the queen. "You should be married already. That is the custom for princess in Bergonia. I got married when I was 21, and your grandmother. . ."

"I know, mother, I know," said Wilma. "I don't want to go against the grain¹, but I can't get married. I haven't met the right man yet."

"You haven't?" exclaimed the king. "There must be someone in our neck of the woods². What about those three fine young princes you've been dating? They would all like to marry you. Choose one of them, put down roots³ and live happily ever after."

"Those guys?" exclaimed Wilma. "I know I've dated them a few times, but I really think I'm barking up the wrong tree⁴."

"Whatever do you mean?" asked the queen. "Oh, they're all such woodenheads," said Wilma. "All they can talk about is fast cars and movies. I want to marry someone with some brains."

"Whatever for?" asked the queen. "I didn't, and look — I've been

quite happy for over 25 years !” “ Maybe I shouldn ’t marry a prince. Princes are boring. Maybe I should marry a common person. That would be interesting and exciting. ”

“ Don ’t you dare !” cried the queen. “ You don ’t know what you ’re saying ! You ’re just a babe in the woods⁵ when it comes to men. ”

“ Hush , Dear !” said the king to his wife. “ We must help her understand that she ’ll be up a tree⁶ if she marries a commoner. ” Then to his daughter he said , “ Listen , Wilma. The common people are poor. If you married one , you would be poor , too. You would have to work hard , just like they do , to live. Money doesn ’t grow on tree⁷ , you know. ”

“ I don ’t mind , father ,” said Wilma. “ Oh please , help me find a man with a good mind. ” The king and queen whispered together for some time. Then they turned to Wilma. “ We ’ve decided to go out on a limb⁸ , dear ,” said the queen. “ We want you to be happy. We will help you meet someone who ’s intelligent , even if he ’s not a prince. ”

“ Oh , wonderful !” exclaimed Wilma. “ How will we find him ?” “ I ’ve an idea ,” said the king. “ We will publish a riddle throughout the kingdom. If any young man is smart enough to solve the riddle , then we will invite him to the palace for dinner. The rest is up to you. ”

“ Thank you , father !” cried Wilma. “ This will be as easy as falling off a log⁹. ” “ Don ’t be so sure ,” warned the queen. “ We are not out of the woods yet. ” A week later , every young man in the kingdom was trying to solve the royal riddle. It went like this : “ Although I ’m hard-hearted , I ’m helpful to man. I don ’t live in sea , sky or sand. I drink with my feet. And I don ’t ever sleep , for if I