

英语阶梯阅读丛书

英语阶梯阅读

5

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前言

新世纪需要的是新型人才，因此教育要迎接新的挑战，面向现代化、面向世界、面向未来。英语教学的改革更是刻不容缓。英语语言素质不仅表现在掌握英语语言知识的深度，更表现在灵活运用英语的能力上。听、说、读、写四种技能中，阅读能力的培养一直是英语教学中的重要一环，在各项英语测试中对阅读水平的重视程度也是显而易见的。

如何更快更好地提高学生的阅读水平，从而全面提高其语言应用能力，是值得每一位教学者思考的问题。本着用发展的眼光探索英语教学改革新思路的这样一个出发点，我们编写了这套《英语阶梯阅读丛书》。

丛书是根据 2000 年颁布的《英语教学大纲》的要求，结合作者多年的教学经验精心编写完成的。丛书与新教材同步，伴教伴学，其突出的特点是立足课本，夯实基础，注重语境，强化语篇意识，突出能力培养。丛书不仅具有科学性、创新性，更具有很强的针对性和实用性。

本书为《英语阶梯阅读 5》，共设 16 个单元，每单元

选择的文章风格迥异、内容丰富、形式多样；力求贴近生活，与时俱进。书后给出测试题参考答案。

希望该书能成为教师教学的好帮手，学生学习的好伙伴，在减轻学习负担的同时，为全面实施英语素质教育做出贡献。由于时间仓促，水平有限，书中难免有不尽如人意之处，恳请广大读者不吝赐教。

杨 冰

2005 年 5 月

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Unit 1

That must be a Record

Passage A

People living more than three thousand meters above sea level find it difficult to raise vegetables all year long. People living in the highlands of Peru and Bolivia, for example, cannot grow vegetables outdoors during the months of May through September. It is very cold in the highlands at that time of year. If traditional farming methods are used, vegetables will not survive.

However, there is another way to grow vegetables throughout the year in cold areas. It is a method of gardening developed by a private agency called World Neighbors. The method uses “hot houses” built below ground. A hot house is a building covered with plastic or glass in which vegetables or flowers are grown. The traditional hot house is built above

ground.

The air temperature is cold in the highlands of Peru and Bolivia during the winter. But, the winter sun is hot. So, World Neighbors advise farmers there to build hot houses below ground. The design is simple. The material does not cost much. Here is how World Neighbors say to build it : Dig a hole two and one-half meters wide and six meters long. Make it about two meters deep from the ground down to. Build a wall with a door in one end of the hole. Dig steps from the ground down to the door.

Now, build a wall along the top edge of the hole. Make it above one and a half meters tall. Earth bricks work fine. Build two shorter walls on the ends. These will be uneven ; one side will be as high as the existing wall. The other side will be at ground level. Leave a small opening in each of these sloping walls. This prevents the hot house from becoming too hot. Now, make the roof. Build a wood frame. Cover it with clear plastic. Connect it to the brick walls.

The underground hot house we have described is large enough for two raised vegetable beds. Each is one meter wide and six meters long. Each is seeded and watered just as if it were a garden above ground.

The dirt walls protect the growing plants from the cold. The clear plastic roof permits the sun 's heat to enter. At night, the roof should be covered with straw. This helps prevent cold air from entering. An underground hot house this size will provide enough vegetables for one family. Groups needing more vegetables can make it bigger.

1. If you lived in Peru, you _____.
 - A. should raise the special kinds of vegetables that can endure cold
 - B. could not plant at all
 - C. had to work out some new unusual plans
 - D. would not have many vegetables to eat
2. To our surprise, the “hot houses” invented by World Neighbors are _____.
 - A. covered with a transparent plastic ceiling
 - B. built under ground
 - C. quite small
 - D. hotter than traditional ones
3. The hot house can be kept warm by using _____.
 - A. a big oven
 - B. an electricity heater
 - C. the heat of the earth's interior
 - D. the sun shine
4. The measure to prevent the hot house from becoming too hot is to _____.
 - A. make the roof sloping
 - B. leave holes in the walls
 - C. make the walls sloping
 - D. make the walls shorter than the ground level
5. According to the passage, the method suggested by World Neighbors is _____.
 - A. new and difficult
 - B. uneasy to explain
 - C. at trial step
 - D. simple and practical

Passage B

Fans burst into cheers as China's 44-year effort to reach the World Cup finals was finally fulfilled in Shenyang on October 7, 2001 with a 1:0 winning Oman in the Asian qualifier.

Happy fans throughout the world's most populous country rushed into the night to celebrate the historic victory for which they have waited for decades. Expectations of a Chinese victory against the Oman team were so high that celebrations had been prepared beforehand and started at the stadium immediately following the match. "Today is the most important day in my life," said Zhang Jinquan, a 23-year-old man who has recently graduated from a university in Beijing.

The response contrasted to May 19, 1985, when after hearing that China had failed to get into the World Cup finals, fans went on a rampage and started burning cars and causing fires on the streets of Beijing. While in European countries people have always been aware of football's power to make supporters react in such a strong and passionate way, this was the first time for the Chinese public to see such a response. The May 19 incident had the effect of drawing more fans to the games rather than turning them away.

In recent years more and more people have been drawn to football. The reason that football has become so popular is that anyone can be a supporter. You do not have to take exams to

be a supporter ; you even don't have to be able to play football !

The competitive nature of the game gives fans a sense that they are part of a special social group. With its fierce competition and mass participation, football is unique. It is the world's number one sport. The huge size of the field also gives a chance for the players to be creative and for the spectators to look on fearfully. People can express themselves through football. It's quite easy to learn and play the sport : you need only a ball.

1. China's football team tried to win the Asian qualifier first in _____ .

A. 1994

B. 1957

C. 1985

D. 2001

2. After hearing that China had failed to get into the World Cup finals in 1985, fans in Beijing were _____ .

A. shocked

B. excited

C. mad

D. angry

3. The underlined words "such a response" here refer to _____ .

A. supporters react in such a strong and passionate way

B. China managed to get into the World Cup finals

C. fans went on a rampage and started burning cars and causing fires on the streets of Beijing

D. the May 19 incident had the effect of drawing more fans to the games rather than turning them away

4. Football has been so popular, mainly because _____ .

A. it is quite easy to learn and play

- B. anyone can be a supporter
- C. its competition is very fierce
- D. people can express themselves through football

Passage C

One answer to the questions of the land shortage was suggested by a committee some years ago. A city was to be built at sea, housing 30,000 people.

The suggestion was to build the city like a harbor. The outer wall of the harbor would stand on steel columns resting on the sea bed. Naturally this could only be where the water was fairly shallow. The people would live in flats in the fifty-meter high outer wall. The flats would face inwards, and would be made of concrete and glass. The glass would be specially made and colored to control the heat and strong light from the sun. The planners called this water the lake.

The water inside this man-made harbor would be calm. On it would be floating islands carrying more buildings, hospitals, two theatres, a museum, an art exhibition hall and a church. On one of the islands would be a special plant to take the salt out of water and turn it into fresh water.

People living in the city could move around on small boats driven by electricity, so there would be no air pollution from the burning petrol. There would be platforms outside the main wall for ships bringing supplies. People could also travel to the mainland by motorboat or water plane.

1. What was suggested about the construction of a new city at sea ?
 - A. The city was to be designed together with harbors.
 - B. The walls around the city would be made of steel and glass.
 - C. The buildings of the city would rest on a floating island.
 - D. The people would live in tall buildings surrounded by a wall.
2. How would fresh water be supplied to the city ?
 - A. By treating sea water.
 - B. By getting it from the surrounding island.
 - C. By building a small lake of fresh water inside the city.
 - D. By transporting it from the mainland.
3. The suggestion made by the committee is to solve the problem that _____.
 - A. there is not enough space for building cities on land
 - B. land transportation has become increasingly difficult
 - C. there are too many people on land
 - D. present cities are heavily polluted by cars and other vehicles
4. The purpose of the writer is _____.
 - A. to suggest how a new type of harbors could be built at sea
 - B. to give an account of a new-type city at sea
 - C. to draw people's attention to the problem of air pollution
 - D. to introduce a new way of constructing harbor cities

Passage D

Last Monday, David Nicol, an Australia's top kidney doctor, successfully removed a diseased kidney from a woman. What's so unusual about that? David Nicol was in his office in Australia while the woman lay on an operating table in New Zealand.

What connected them was a technology called remote surgery.

Remote surgery itself is not new. In 2001, a group of doctors in New York, U.S., removed a gall bladder from a patient lying in France. It was the first successful case of remote surgery used on a human across international borders.

Now, Nicol's operation is to be the first one performed on the kidneys.

Nicol used joysticks to direct robotic arms in the New Zealand operating room during the two-hour operation.

The joysticks and the robotic arms are linked by a computer network. Nicol could watch the robots' work while doctors in New Zealand checked the patient and changed the instruments as needed.

"Before this technology, I would have been in the theatre when they were performing the operation," Nicol said.

During remote surgery, the doctor is the one in control. The robots carry out the operation using a complex method.

Doctors have found that a robot is better than a human

surgeon at carrying out this difficult operation even when it is controlled thousands of miles away. Unlike humans, robotic “arms” do not shake when they target a small piece of tissue or organ.

In remote surgery such as the removal of kidney stones, the robotic arm inserts a long special needle into the patient’s body and X-rays guide it to the kidney.

Once the robotic arm has reached the hard kidney stone, the needle gets wider so a tiny telescope can travel down it and look at the organ. Then instruments are used to break up the stone and get rid of the remaining waste.

For doctors, the technology means less stress in the operation room. And for patients, it means for less chance of suffering blood loss or damage to a nearby organ.

However, the remote surgery is not widely used because it’s still very expensive. A remote operation on a gall bladder costs more than \$1 million. A normal operation only costs \$2,000. It will be sometime yet before the price falls and the operation is available to people throughout the world.

1. Why was this kidney operation so unusual ? Because _____ .

- A. remote surgery was introduced into the operation
- B. it was a robot that was carrying out the operation
- C. the patient and the doctor doing the operation were in different countries
- D. it was a successful operation performed on kidneys

2. In this kidney operation who or what was in charge ?

- A. David Nicol.
- B. The robot.

- C. Joysticks. D. The computer network.
3. What does the word “available” mean in last paragraph ?
- A. Free. B. Easy to get.
C. Hard to get. D. Simple enough.
4. From the story, we can see _____ .
- A. doctors and patients have already benefited a lot from remote surgery
B. robots can replace human doctors altogether in remote surgery
C. the technology is sure to bring about a surgical revolution
D. globalization is reaching into all areas of life

Passage E

The baby boy, born at two minutes past midnight Thursday in a Beijing hospital, counted China's 1.3 billionth citizen and the date, January 6, 2005, became the 1.3 Billion Population Day of China.

With 3,600 grams and 52cm, the baby is in good condition. So far, the boy has no name. His mother is Lan Hui in her 31 with the Shell Group of Companies and the boy's father is one staff from Air China.

“I am very happy, and I am the happiest man in the world,” the boy's father said.

Gu Xinlian, Vice-Chairperson of the NPC Standing Committee and President of the ACWF, visited the hospital to see the new coming citizen. Zhang Weiqing, director of

National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPFPC) of China, awarded him the certificate and gifts.

According to the data from National Bureau of Statistics of China, the population in China mainland would reach 1,299,880,000 by the end of 2004, with a daily net increase of 20,800 on average. Based on this statistics, on January 6, this population would top at 1.3 billion. NPFPC had determined in advance that the first baby born in this hospital after midnight would be the symbolic 1.3 billionth Chinese.

On the same day, more than 20,000 other babies were added to China's population list.

The nation's population policy over the past 25 years has contributed to balanced development, delaying the date of the landmark figure by four years.

1. The baby is regarded as China's 1.3 billionth citizen because _____ .

- A. our population was just one less than 1.3 billion before his birth
- B. he was the first baby China had on January 6, 2005
- C. he was lucky enough to be born at the right time and place
- D. he was the healthiest of all born on the same day

2. The baby's birth is worth so much attention because _____ .

- A. 1.3 billion is a landmark figure in China's population statistics
- B. 1.3 billion is a turning point in China's population

growth

- C. The birth symbolizes China's success in family planning
 - D. The birth makes China's population large enough for celebration
3. Which statement is correct according to the statistical data?
- A. In 2004, China had 20,800 babies born on an average day.
 - B. China's population reached 1.3 billion by the end of January 5.
 - C. The exactly 1.3 billionth citizen should be born on January 5.
 - D. China's actual population became over 20,000 large on January 6.

Passage F

Northern Europeans spend a lot of time in their cold and cloudy winters planning their summer holidays. They are proud of their healthy color when they return home after the holiday. But they also know that a certain amount of sunshine is good for their bodies and general health.

In ancient Greece people knew about the healing powers of the sun, but this knowledge was lost. At the end of the nineteenth century, a Danish doctor, Niels Finsen, began to study the effect of sunlight on certain diseases, especially diseases of the skin. He was interested not only in natural sunlight but also in artificially produced rays. Sunlight began to