

英语阶梯阅读丛书

英语阶梯阅读

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主 编 杨 冰 付 颖

副主编 梁淑君 舒林栋

张秀丽 康 陆 张 楠

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邮编 : 110004

电话 : 024—83687331 (市场部) 83680267 (社务室)

传真 : 024—83680180 (市场部) 83680265 (社务室)

E-mail : neuph @ neupress.com

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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 1》，共设 12 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

Friendship

Passage A

As I am now a senior high school student, I have a great many friends, but there is one I prize above all the rest. I made him acquaintance when I began to go to school. He has been my constant companion ever since.

Though he is serious in appearance, he has never failed to be interesting. Often he is clever, sometimes even merry and gay. He is the most knowledgeable friend a person could have. He knows virtually every language of the world, all events of the history, and words of all great poets and philosophers. As a kind benefactor, he is admired and enjoyed by everyone who makes his acquaintance.

To me, he has been a great teacher as well as a friend. He first taught me the secrets of my own language and then those

of others. With these keys, he showed us how to unlock all arts and sciences of man.

My friend is endlessly patient. Dull though I may be, I can return to him again and again. He is always ready to teach me. When I am bored, he entertains me. When I am dispirited, he lifts me up. When I am lonely, he keeps my company. He is not only a friend to me but to millions around the world. Shall I tell you his name? His name is "Reading".

1. Who is my great friend according to the passage?
A. A teacher. B. An acquaintance.
C. Reading. D. A benefactor.
2. The friend is not _____ at all according to the passage.
A. serious B. knowledgeable
C. patient D. dull
3. He has been a great friend ever since the writer _____.
A. went to high school B. went to school
C. first felt bored D. was first dispirited
4. What is the writer's predominant attitude towards to his friend?
A. Praising. B. Serious.
C. Thankful. D. Liking.

Passage B

Making friends is a skill like most skills. It improves with practice. If you want to meet people and make friends, you

must be willing to take some action. You must first go where there are people. You won't make friends staying home alone.

Join a club or a group, talking with those who like the same things as you do is much easier. Or join someone in some activity.

Many people are nervous when talking to new people. After all, meeting strangers means facing the unknown. And it's human nature to feel a bit uncomfortable about the unknown. We imagine other people are judging us, finding us too tall or too short, too this or too that. But don't forget that they must be feeling the same way. Try to accept yourself as you are, and try to put the other person at ease. You'll both feel more comfortable.

Try to act self-confident even if you don't feel that way. When you enter a room full of strangers, such as a new classroom, walk tall and straight, look directly at other people and smile.

If you see someone you'd like to speak to, say something. Don't wait for the other person to start a conversation.

Just meeting someone new does not mean that you will make friends with that person, friendship is based on mutual liking and "give and take". It takes time and effort to develop.

1. The best topic of the passage may be _____.
A. friendship B. making friends
C. meeting new people D. facing the unknown
2. You cannot make friends if you _____.
A. take some action B. go to the people

- C. avoid meeting people D. join a club
3. You can make friends if you _____ .
- A. understand mutually
B. meet more unknown people
C. talk and smile to people more
D. give too much to people
4. Which of the following statements is NOT right ?
- A. Making friends needs practicing.
B. Making friends needs to be more active in getting in touch with people.
C. When meeting someone, make him feel nice and easy.
D. Before making friends with someone, judge him if he's too this or too that.

Passage C

Everyone can hardly manage to live without friendship. As we all know, in our life, all of us are sure to meet with all kinds of hardships, such as illness, accidents and other disasters. If we have no friend to help us out of these difficulties, we can hardly get to a new start. Everyone needs support in feeling, yet your family members can't always give you so much support because of all kinds of reasons. At this time, a true friend is very important. When you have made great progress in your work and made your mark, you need a friend to share your pleasure. On the other hand, when you suffer a terrible loss in life, you need a friend to listen to you and open your heart to

him. Of course, everyone has to die, and when you are dying, how you wish your friend to understand you and help your folks !

Since friendship is so important, we should try to make some true friends. How to find friends? A friend should first be true, pure, kind, friendly, enthusiastic and of course stress feeling and like to help others. If you can find a person with the same belief and interest, it is surely much better. Remember when you have found an ideal person to be your friend, it doesn't mean he or she will be your friend. You should open your heart, feeling and wish to him or her to gain his or her heart and feeling. When you have got a good friend, please remember that friends should try to help and support each other. When your friend has done something which doesn't satisfy you so much, you should try to understand him. When your friend has done something wrong, you should try to forgive him. If so, your friend will be deeply thankful to you for your forgiveness. Your life will prove your most valuable possession is your friend.

- You need a friend when you face _____ .
A. joys B. sorrows
C. either joys or sorrows D. both joys and sorrows
- What kind of friend is the best friend ?
A. The friend with the same work with you.
B. The friend with the same amount of money with you.
C. The friend with the same belief and interest with you.
D. The friend with the same social position with you.

3. When you find an ideal friend, you should open your _____ to him or her to gain his or hers.
- A. money B. heart, feeling and wish
- C. knowledge D. wish
4. When your friend has done something which is not so suitable, you should try to _____ him.
- A. understand and forgive B. discuss with
- C. accept D. argue with

Passage D

Dear Editor,

I have a friend, a girl who treats me like her own brother. She always brings me snacks and buys me things I want. However, the more she gives me, the worse I feel. I don't want to accept these things but I don't want to hurt her. I know that friendship and love can't be bought. What should I do?

Victor

Dear Victor,

It seems to me that this girl likes you very much and is trying to get you to like her in return. She hopes to please you with these presents. You should talk to her and tell her that she does not need to give you any things. Tell her that you feel bad when she gives you things, but remember to be gentle with her because she might be sensitive to what you said.

If she does want to be your girlfriend, you need to tell her

very carefully that you just want to be friends. If you are kind and don't hurt her, she will change and you will be just good friends again soon. One good way to deal with this might be to tell her it is bad that she spends money on you and she should save it for herself.

1. Victor is a/an _____.
A. editor
B. boy
C. girl
D. teacher
2. The editor advises Victor to _____.
A. get her to like him
B. remember her to her family
C. tell her gently what he feels
D. save money for her
3. The following are right EXCEPT _____.
A. the girl always brings Victor snacks
B. there is a possibility that she does want to be his girl friend
C. Victor just wants to be good friends with the girl
D. one good way to deal with this is that she still saves money for him
4. What would be the best title for the text?
A. The More She Gives Me, the Worse I Feel.
B. Don't Want to Hurt Her.
C. Friendship and Love Can't Be Bought.
D. One Good Way to Deal with This.

Passage E

Let's face it. As much as you care your friends, you probably don't always get along with them. Sometimes you might even start hitting each other. Usually, it ends with a laugh, and you play together again the next day. "Through play, youngsters of all ages learn the rules of social conduct," says Magic Beck, an American expert on animal behavior. Beck has spent years studying similarities between play behavior in animals and people.

By studying how animals interact with each other, especially during play, Beck and other researchers hope to explain how people learn to play fair. It is the most important thing.

Beck says play is a serious business. Some studies even suggest that playing more leads to bigger brains that are better at reasoning and learning. Through play, animals discover limits, such as how hard they can hit one another before their playmates get upset. And they learn how to apologize, forgive, and trust each other, just like children do.

Beck has been studying wolves and dogs for more than 15 years. "Animals have to negotiate fairness," Beck says. As another way to maintain fair play, Beck has found animals sometimes try not to hit or bite, especially when they are playing with a weaker partner. Other times, two animals change their roles. The weak act strong, and the strong act weak. "For social animals, learning to cooperate and work

Passage F

Once upon a time there was a monster. He was very ugly and had no friends. No one wanted to talk to him. Even other monsters thought he was ugly.

He lived alone and was very unhappy because he was so lonely.

“I wish I had a friend,” he said to himself every day, “One friend would be enough for someone to talk to.”

He wrote a letter to a magazine which gave people advice.

“Dear Editor,” he wrote, “I am an ugly monster. How can I find a friend?”

“Dear Monster,” the editor replied, “Advertise for a friend in this magazine.” The monster wrote an advertisement.

“A monster wants a friend, male or female. I have two heads, four arms, six legs and three tails. I have one blue eye, one green eye and one brown eye. Smoke comes out of my nose. But I am really a kind monster and will be a good friend to someone. If you would like to meet me, please stand outside Blake’s Store at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 7th. Write to Mr.A., Box 45, Everybody’s Magazine.”

A few days later, he went to the magazine.

“Do you have any letters for Box 45?” he asked.

The clerk looked in Box 45.

“Yes, there is one,” she said, and gave it to him.

The monster opened the letter, and read, “Dear Monster,

I think a person's character is more important than his appearance. I will wait outside Blake's Store on Friday. Please carry a flower so that I will recognize you. Yours sincerely, Miss Alice Thwaite."

1. Why was the monster unhappy?
A. He had no friend. B. He was ugly.
C. He had two heads. D. He had three tails.
2. What did the monster advertise for?
A. A magazine. B. A friend.
C. An editor. D. A male or female monster.
3. How did the monster describe himself in the advertisement?
A. Angry. B. Lonely.
C. Kind. D. Good-looking.
4. What was strange about Miss Thwaite's letter?
A. She was not interested in people's appearance.
B. She wanted to meet the monster.
C. She needed a flower to recognize him.
D. It was the only reply.

Where there is life there's hope.

留得青山在不怕没柴烧。

Unit 2

English around the World

Passage A

While 375 million people around the globe use English as their mother tongue, the number of people using it as a second language has already been well over that figure.

It is said that by the end of 2000, one billion people could use English to communicate with others, including both native speakers and non-native speakers.

“The rise and fall of a language is closely connected with that country’s economic strength and development potential.” Rhodri Jones, the English 2000 manager of the ELT group of the British Council said.

An expert who has given many lectures on the future of English said the economic boost in Asia would raise the positions of the Chinese and Hindi languages. Therefore, the