

英语阅读测试系列丛书

英语中级读物篇

李 莉 编著

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前言

学习外语,听、说、读、写四种基本技能互相促进,互相制约,这已是人所共知的事实。但同时必须指出:阅读是所有这些技能的基础。因此,提高阅读理解能力是极其重要的。没有大量深入地阅读各种材料的基础,不但阅读能力难以提高,而且提高其它基本技能也是不可能的。

《英语中级读物篇》正是为了给读者提供更多更好的阅读材料而编写的,以满足读者提高阅读能力的需求。

本书编选 60 篇文章。选材广泛,内容丰富,并且富有趣味性和幽默感,寓教于乐。每篇文章后附有生词表、练习及答案。适合高中、大学低年级学生及已具有初级阅读能力的广大自学者使用。

参加本书编写的人员有:张悦东、刘梦姣、张让芬、李晓晴、Cathy Lee、Jasmine Li 等。南开大学附中外语组英语高级教师许丽萍老师提出许多宝贵意见和建议,并提供了有关的参考资料。

由于编者水平所限,不当之处在所难免,希望广大读者批评指正。

编者

1998 年 9 月
于南开大学

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1. NO BILL

When an English traveller was to return home from Sweden, he found that he had only enough money left to get a ticket back to England. He decided that as it was only a two days voyage he could get home without eating anything. So he bought a ticket with the little money he had left and went on board the ship.

He closed his ears to the sound of the lunch bell, and when dinner time came, he refused to go down to the dining room, saying that he did not feel well.

The following day he did not get up until breakfast was over, pretending that he had overslept. At lunch time, too, he kept out of the way. By dinner time, however, he was extremely hungry. "I can't stand this any longer," he said to himself. "I must have something to eat." At the dinner table he ate everything put in front of him. When he was quite satisfied, he felt stronger and called the waiter.

"Bring me the bill," he said to the waiter.

"The bill?" said the waiter in surprise.

"Yes," answered the traveller.

"There isn't any bill here," said the waiter. "On this ship meals are always included in the ticket."

Words and Expressions

Sweden /'swi:dən/ *n.*

be to

voyage /'vɔɪdʒ/ *n.*

go on board

dining room

pretend /pri'tend/ *v.*

keep out of

oversleep /'ouvə'sli:p/ *v.*

extremely /iks'tri:mli/ *adv.*

waiter /'weɪtə/ *n.*

bill /bil/ *n.*

include /in'klud/ *v.*

瑞典

(计划)将要

旅行

上飞机(汽车、轮船等)

食堂, 饭厅

假装

避开

睡过时间

特别, 极其

餐厅服务员

账单

包括

Exercises

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What did the English traveller find before he was to return home from Sweden?
2. What did the English traveller decide to do then?
3. What did he do before he went on board the ship?
4. Why did he close his ears to the sound of the lunch bell?
5. Why was there no bill for meals on the ship?

II. Choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) in the following:

1. The English traveller pretended not to be hungry because

A. it was a short voyage

B. there was no food served on the ship

C. he had no money left for food

- D. nobody was allowed to eat on the ship
2. The waiter told the traveller that there was no bill because _____
- A. meals were on all ships
 - B. he only had one meal
 - C. meals could be paid for later
 - D. he had paid for the meals when he bought the ticket
3. The word "bill" in "Bring me the bill." means _____
- A. written statement of money owed for goods or services supplied
 - B. the part of a bird with which to feed itself
 - C. a menu that everybody can refer to
 - D. a banknote that the mint(造币厂) has just produced
4. The traveller did not have lunch the first day because _____
- A. he was not hungry
 - B. he had had too much for breakfast
 - C. he did not like the food on the ship
 - D. he did not have enough money
5. "I can't stand this any longer." This statement means the traveller _____
- A. cannot stand up because of hunger
 - B. cannot stay there any longer
 - C. could not go on a voyage
 - D. could not wait to have something to eat

Translation

当一位英国旅行者决定要从瑞典回国的时候,他发现剩下的

钱只够买船票的。他决定不吃东西可以回到家里,因为只有两天的航程。这样,他用所剩的钱买了一张票就上了船。

他捂住耳朵不听午饭的铃声。晚饭时间到了,他拒绝下去到餐厅吃饭。他说他感觉不舒服。

第二天早饭过后他才起床,谎称他睡过头了。午饭时间,他也躲着不吃东西。可是,到了晚饭时间,他饿极了。“我再也忍受不了啦,”他自言自语道,“我必须吃点东西。”在餐桌旁,他把所有摆在他面前的东西全吃光了。当他吃得很满意后,他感到有劲了,然后叫服务员。

“给我拿付款单来。”他对服务员说。

“付款单?”服务员惊奇地说。

“对。”旅客答道。

“这儿没有付款单,”服务员说,“在我们船上,船票总是包括饭费的。”

Key

I.

1. He found that he had only enough money left to get a ticket back to England.
2. He decided that he could get home without eating anything as it was only a two days' voyage.
3. He bought a ticket with the little money he had left.
4. He had no money to buy anything to eat. So he pretended not to know anything about the meal.
5. Meals were always included in the ticket.

II.

1. C 2. D 3. A 4. D 5. D

2. THE FAT CAT

Just before giving a great party at his large garden, a fat cat had his swimming pool filled with poisonous snakes. He called the guests together and announced. "To anyone brave enough to swim across this pool, I will give the choice of a thousand acres of my oil fields, 10,000 head of cattle or my daughter's hand in marriage."

No sooner were his words spoken than a young man jumped in, swam across the pool and climbed out — not harmed but breathless. "Congratulations!" the fat cat greeted him. "Do you want my oil fields?"

"No!" said the guest.

"The 10,000 head of cattle?"

"No!" the young man shouted.

"Well, how about my daughter?"

"No!"

"You must want something," said the surprised owner.

"I just want to know the name of the fellow who pushed me in!"

Words and Expressions

swimming pool

游泳池

poisonous /'poɪzənəs/ adj.

有毒的

guest /gest/ <i>n.</i>	客人
announce /ə'nauns/ <i>v.</i>	宣布
acre /'eikə/ <i>n.</i>	英亩
cattle /'kætl/ <i>n.</i>	牛
marriage /'mæridʒ/ <i>n.</i>	婚姻, 结婚
no sooner ... than	一……就
harm /hɑ:m/ <i>v.</i>	有害, 伤害
breathless /'breθlis/ <i>adj.</i>	喘不上气, 上气不接下气
congratulations /kəŋgrætju'leɪfənz/ <i>n.</i>	祝贺
greet /gri:t/ <i>v.</i>	问候, 打招呼
owner /'aʊnə/ <i>n.</i>	主人, 拥有者

Exercises

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What did the fat cat do before he gave a great party at his large garden?
2. What did he announce to the guests?
3. What happened immediately after the fat cat finished speaking?
4. What did the fat cat do to the young man when the latter climbed out?
5. What did the young man want from the fat cat?

II. Choose the best answer (A, B, C or D) in the following:

1. The young man jumped into the swimming pool _____.
 A. to show that he was brave
 B. to get the snakes out of it
 C. to win the prize

- D. with no intention to do so
2. What was the fat cat's purpose to have his swimming pool filled with poisonous smokes?
- A. To show that he was wealthy.
 - B. To find out which of the guests would be the bravest.
 - C. To make the party attractive.
 - D. To frighten the guests.
3. How would the young man feel when he climbed out of the pool?
- A. he was happy to win the prize.
 - B. He was frightened to death.
 - C. He was angry for being pushed into the pool.
 - D. He wanted to thank the person who pushed him into the pool.
4. What is a fat cat in English?
- A. A foolish but wealthy one.
 - B. A bad egg.
 - C. A crazy one.
 - D. A rich and important one.
5. When he climbed out of the pool, the young man was not harmed by _____
- A. the pool
 - B. the water
 - C. any of the snakes.
 - D. anything hard on the bottom of the pool

Translation

一位富豪在自己的大花园设宴之前,让人把他的游泳池里放

满了毒蛇。他把客人召集在一起宣布说：“谁若有勇气从池塘这边游到那边，我就让他挑选一样东西送给他：一千英亩油田或一万头牛，或者和我的女儿结婚。”

他的话刚说完，一位年轻人就跳了进去，从这边游到那边，然后爬出游泳池，倒也没有受伤，只是有点气短。“祝贺你！”这位富豪恭维说。

“你要我的油田吗？”

“不要！”年轻的客人答道。

“一万头牛？”

“不要！”年轻人叫喊道。

“那么，我的女儿如何？”

“不要！”

“你一定得要点东西。”感到惊讶的主人说。

“我只想知道把我推下去的那个家伙的名字！”

Key

1. 1. He had his swimming pool filled with poisonous snakes.
2. He announced to the guests that he would give the choice of a thousand acres of his oil fields, 10,000 head of cattle, or his daughter's hand in marriage, to anyone brave enough to swim across the pool.
3. A young man jumped in, swam across the pool and climbed out.
4. He greeted him, saying "Congratulations!"
5. He wanted nothing but the name of the fellow who had pushed him into the pool.

I. 1. D 2. B 3. C 4. D 5. C

3. A HUNDRED DOLLARS

One day, I went to stay at a Detroit hotel. I didn't want to carry too much money with me, so I asked the desk clerk to put a hundred-dollar bill in the safe for me.

The next morning, however, the clerk said he knew nothing about my money. Since I couldn't prove that I had given the man the money, there was nothing I could do but go to the nearest lawyer.

The lawyer asked me to return to the hotel with him and give another hundred-dollar bill to the clerk. These I did. An hour later, I went back to the desk and asked for my money. Since I had the lawyer as an eye-witness to the second hundred-dollar bill, the clerk could not say he knew nothing about it.

Another hour later, I put the second part of the lawyer's plan into action. This time both the lawyer and I went to the hotel. I asked for the hundred-dollar bill once again, and when the clerk insisted he had already given it to me, I denied it.

The lawyer said to him; "I saw this gentleman give you a hundred dollars. If you don't hand it over immediately, I'll be forced to call the police." The clerk realized he had been tricked, so he gave me back the first hundred-dollar bill.

"I don't know how to thank you enough for getting my mon-

ey back," I said to the lawyer.

The lawyer replied, "Oh, don't thank me; that will be a hundred dollars, please."

Words and Expressions

desk /desk/ <i>n.</i>	接待处
clerk /kla:k/ <i>n.</i>	职员
safe /seif/ <i>n.</i>	保险柜
prove /pru:v/ <i>v.</i>	证明
lawyer /'lɔ:jə/ <i>n.</i>	律师
eye-witness /'ai,witnis/ <i>n.</i>	见证人
know nothing about	一无所知
insist /in'sist/ <i>v.</i>	坚持
deny /di'nai/ <i>n.</i>	否认
hand over	递给
immediately /i'mi:diətli/ <i>adv.</i>	立即, 立刻
realize /'ri:əlaiz/ <i>v.</i>	意识到
trick /trick/ <i>v.</i>	欺骗
get back	要回
reply /ri'plai/ <i>vi.</i>	回答

Y

Exercises

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the narrator (讲故事的人) ask the desk clerk to put a hundred-dollar bill in the safe for him?
2. What did the clerk say about the bill the next morning?
3. Who did the narrator have to ask for help?
4. What was the second part of the lawyer's plan?

5. Did the narrator get back his first hundred-dollar bill?

I. Choose the best answer (A,B,C or D) in the following:

1. Why did the narrator go to the hotel?

A. To put a hundred-dollar bill there.

B. To find a lawyer there.

C. To get a lot of money there.

D. To stay there for the night.

2. The clerk was _____

A. clever

B. willing to help

C. afraid of the narrator

D. dishonest

3. The clerk gave the first hundred-dollar bill to the narrator in the end because _____

A. he was afraid of the narrator

B. he had already known the lawyer's plan

C. he wanted to cheat the narrator

D. he did not want to get into trouble with the police

4. Which of the following statement is true?

A. The lawyer laughed when the narrator got both of his bills.

B. The narrator did not get both bills back.

C. The lawyer asked the narrator for a hundred dollars as a reward.

D. The narrator thanked the lawyer and did not give him any money.

5. Which of the following statement is not true?