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前　言

学习任何一门外语均离不开阅读，要准确理解或快速获取信息都需要进行大量的阅读实践。特别是在具备一定基础之后，比如，经过初、高中阶段的学习之后，大部分英语学习者均已具备一定的语法知识，英语词汇一般可在 1,800 个左右。在此基础之上继续提高，按部就班地学一套大学精读教材是最理想的办法。然而，大量接触中级读物也是个必不可少的过程。但是，不少外语学习者，其中主要是大学生，仅注重阅读理解题能答对多少而忽略对读物的准确理解。另有不少自学者，由于没有教师的指导读完一篇短文之后对自己的理解是否确切到位往往心里没底。面对这些问题，我们选编这本《中级百科读物英汉对照 100 篇》以飨读者。

本书精选了百篇阅读理解材料，题材广泛，融知识性与趣味性于一体，涉及政治、文化、历史、地理、风土人情以及科技等方面的内容。具有广泛的适应性。另外，本书所选段落或文章短小精悍，适合于业余或利用小块时间学习。

各篇短文后附有阅读理解单词单选题或问答题及参考答案，供读者进行练习。在做题时可先将参考译文盖住，然后再仔细阅读，以求甚解。这样，经过对书中百篇短文的反复学习，词汇量可提高到 4,000 左右，阅读能力也必将会有较大的提高。

本书参考了近年来中学英语课本中的词汇表，并在短文的排列顺序上经过了难度分析，以遵循循序渐进的原则。但是，在每篇短文中均力求列出超出中学英语词汇范围的生词，这样，读者就可以选择任何一篇短文作为起点。另外，反复重现中级词汇，

有利于这些词汇的掌握。

本书在编者所在大学几届学生中作为辅助读物使用，取得了较好的效果。但是，由于编者水平所限，在编写过程中，难免出现这样或那样的问题，敬请有关专家及广大读者不吝赐教。

编 者

2000.8.

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2 Passage 1

Normally a student must attend a certain number of courses in order to graduate, and each course which he attends gives him a credit which he may count towards a degree. In many American universities the total work for a degree consists of thirty-six courses each lasting for one semester. A typical course consists of three classes per week for fifteen weeks; while attending a university a student will probably attend four or five courses during each semester. Normally a student would expect to take four years attending two semesters each year. It is possible to spread the period of work for the degree over a longer period. It is also possible for a student to move between one university and another during his degree course, though this is not in fact done as a regular practice.

For every course that he follows a student is given a grade, which is recorded, and the record is available for the student to show to prospective employers. All this imposes a constant pressure and strain of work, but in spite of this some students still find time for great activity in student affairs. Elections to positions in student organizations arouse much enthusiasm. The effective work of maintaining discipline is usually performed by students who advise the academic authorities. Any student who is thought to have broken the rules, for example, by cheating has to appear before a student court. With the enormous number of students, the operation of the system does involve a certain amount of activity. A student who has held one of these positions of authority is much respected and it will be of benefit to him later in his career.

一般说来，每个学生必须修完一定数量的课程才能毕业，而所学的每门课程都给一个学分，学分修满便可得到一个学位。在美国许多大学取得一个学位总计需要修完 36 门课程，每门课程开设一个学期。一门典型课程每周授课 3 次，行课 15 周。通常，一个学生每学期可能学 4－5 门课程，通常学 4 年，每年二学期，也可以延长攻读学位的修业时间。学生们也可以在攻读学位课程期间转到其他学校，然而，这并不是常规做法。

学生所学的每门课程都有一个分数，记录在案，等他们就业时可带给雇用方。所有这些就形成一种持续的压力和学业负担，但是，尽管如此，一些学生仍能找到时间从事大量的学生工作。他们对于在学生组织中任职选举热情很高。有效地维护纪律的工作通常由那些向学校负责人提出建议的学生们执行。任何违纪的学生，比如考场违纪，都会被送上学生执法处。由于学生数量众多，该制度的实施确实有大量的工作要做。负有此类责任的学生深受人们尊重，其经历也会给日后的事业带来益处。

4 Passage 1

Questions

1. Normally a student would at least attend _____ classes each week.
   A) 36 B) 12 C) 20 D) 15
2. According to the first paragraph an American student is allowed _____.
   A) to live in a different university
   B) to take a particular course in a different university
   C) to live at home and drive to class
   D) to get two degrees from two different universities
3. American university students are usually under pressure of work because _____.
   A) their academic performance will affect their future careers
   B) they are heavily involved in student affairs
   C) they have to observe university discipline
   D) they want to run for positions of authority
4. Some students are enthusiastic for positions in student organizations probably because _____.
   A) they hate the constant pressure and strain of their study
   B) they will then be able to stay longer in the university
   C) such positions help them get better jobs
   D) such positions are usually well paid
5. The student organizations seem to be effective in _____.
   A) dealing with the academic affairs of the university
   B) ensuring that the students observe university regulations
   C) evaluating students' performance by bringing them before a court
   D) keeping up the students' enthusiasm for social activities

New Words & Expressions

credit **学分**
prospective **预期的,未来的**
impose **施加**
strain **紧张**
enthusiasm **热情**
academic **学校的**
career **事业**

Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

— *Will Du*

教育是个逐步发现自己无知的过程。

——杜兰特

The American Revolution was a citizen's revolution. Ordinary men took a large part in it. One of them was Paul Revere, a silver worker. He lived in Boston many years ago during the time when many people in the British colonies in America felt that they were being used for Britain's gain. They felt that they were being taxed without fair representation in the British government. The people of Boston were especially angry, and additional British troops had been sent there to keep the excited colonists under control. Paul Revere was one of those who believed that the British would soon be on the march against the villages and farms near Boston.

On the night of the eighteenth of April, 1775, Revere rowed across the Charles River to a place opposite Boston where his saddled horse was ready to ride. If the British soldiers came, he was to ride to warn the people. A friend in Boston was hidden near the British troops in a place where he could watch what they did. If they marched by land, he was to hang one lantern high in the tower of the old North Church in Boston where Paul could see it. If they came by sea, he would hang up two lanterns.

Toward morning Revere saw two lights in the tower. The British must be coming by sea! He jumped on his horse and rode through the countryside before dawn in order to warn the farmers and villagers that they must fight at the daybreak. He rode all night and in the morning, by the time the troops arrived, the farmers were hidden all along the roads with their guns loaded. When the British came, the Americans drove them back. These first battles of the American Revolution were fought at Concord and at Lexington, Massachusetts, on April 19, 1775. In 1776 the colonies signed a declaration of independence.

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美国革命是一场平民革命。平民百姓起了很大的作用。其中之一是一位银匠，名叫保罗·里威尔，许多年以前，他住在波士顿。当时，在美洲，英国殖民地的许多人感到英国人在利用他们谋利，并感到英国政府对他们征税却没有让他们在政府中得到公正的代表。对此，波士顿人尤感气愤。另外，英军又在那里增派部队，用以控制那里愤怒的殖民地人。有人认为，英军不久便会朝波士顿附近的村庄和农场进军，保罗·里威尔也料到了这一点。

1775 年 4 月 18 夜晚，里威尔荡舟渡过查尔斯河，来到波士顿对岸的一个地点，在那里他的马整装待发。如果英国士兵一旦到来，他便策马出发，给人们报警。他在波士顿的一位朋友隐蔽在当地英军驻地的附近，可以窥探他们的行动。如果他们陆路进军，他就在波士顿老北教堂的塔里高挂一盏马灯以示保罗，如果他们走水路，他便挂起两盏马灯。

黎明前，里威尔看到了塔里的两个灯光，英国人从海上来了！他纵身上马，奔驰在乡间，赶在黎明前警告村民们必须在拂晓开战。他整整奔波了一夜，等天亮敌人到来时，村民们已在路旁埋伏，枪已上膛，英军一到，美国人便击退了他们。美国革命的初次战斗于 1775 年 4 月 19 日分别在麻萨诸塞的康科德和列克星敦进行。各殖民地于 1776 年签发了独立宣言。

8 Passage 2

Questions

1. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?
   A) To provide information about the childhood of Paul Revere.
   B) To discuss the war between the British and the Americans.
   C) To tell the reader a story about Paul Revere in the American Revolution.
   D) To describe the courage of the farmers and villagers in the American Revolution.
2. Which of the following is true of Paul Revere?
   A) He was very interested in politics.
   B) He got a relative to help him.
   C) He fought the British himself.
   D) He told the people about the coming enemy.
3. All of the following are mentioned in the passage EXCEPT _____.
   A) the American Revolution was a revolt
   B) Paul's friend signaled from a church
   C) the British troops were sent to control the colonists
   D) Paul's friend was serving in the British army
4. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
   A) The British colonies in America were very much aroused
   B) The farmers and villagers were good at fighting their enemy
   C) It was the first battle that Paul Revere had ever taken part in
   D) Paul Revere had a strong sense of pride of being American
5. The author's attitude toward Paul Revere is _____.
   A) amused B) respectful
   C) distant D) serious

New Words & Expressions

citizen **公民**
colony **殖民地**
representation **代表**
colonist **殖民者**
march **进军**
saddle **马鞍**
load **装弹药**

A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm.

— Charles M. Schwalt

要有无限的热情,人可以在几乎任何事情上取得成功。

——施瓦布

10 Passage 3

Do you find getting up in the morning so difficult that it's painful? This might be called laziness, but Dr. Kleitman has a new explanation. He has proved that everyone has a daily energy cycle.

During the hours when you labor through your work you say that you're "hot". That's true. The time of day when you feel most energetic is when your cycle of body temperature is at its peak. For some people the peak comes during the forenoon. For others it comes in the afternoon or evening. No one has discovered why this is so, but it leads to such familiar monologues as: "get up, John! You'll be late for work again!" The possible explanation to the trouble is that John is at his temperature-and-energy peak in the evening. Much family quarrelling ends when husbands and wives realize what these energy cycles mean, and which cycle each member of the family has.

You can't change your energy cycle, but you can learn to make your life fit it better. Habit can help, Dr. Kleitman believes. Maybe you're sleepy in the evening but feel you must stay up late anyway. Counteract your cycle to some extent by habitually staying up later than you want to. If your energy is low in the morning but you have an important job to do early in the day, rise before your usual hour. This won't change your cycle, but you'll get up steam and work better at your low point.

Get off to a slow start, which saves your energy. Get up with a leisurely yawn and stretch. Sit on the edge of the bed for a minute before putting your feet on the floor. Avoid the troublesome search for clean clothes by laying them out the night before. Whenever possible, do routine work in the afternoon and save tasks requiring more energy or concentration for your sharper hours.

你是否感到早上起床困难，甚至感到痛苦？这也许叫做懒惰，但是，克莱德曼医生对此作了崭新的解释。他已证明每人每天都有一个能量循环周期。

在你忙碌于工作时，你会说你很‘热”，这倒是事实。一天之内，你感到精力最为充沛的时间便是你的体温循环高峰期。一些人的高峰期在上午，另一些人的则在下午或晚上。还没有人发现这究竟是为什么，常听人们自言自语地说“约翰，起床吧，不然上班又要迟到啦！”对这一问题，人们可能认为约翰的体温-能量高峰在晚上。当丈夫或妻子意识到能量周期是怎么回事，以及每位家庭成员的能量周期规律时，便会避免许多家庭纠纷。

人们虽然无法改变能量循环，但却可以学着使自己的生活与之适应。克莱德曼大夫认为，习惯可以帮助你。有人在晚上也许想睡觉，但偏偏得熬夜，他就必须逆其能量周期而行，以至于养成比想睡的时间晚些再睡的习惯。如果你的精力在上午处于低潮，而又有重要的工作要做，就应该比往常起得早些。这虽然不能改变你的能量周期，但却能使你振作精神，在低潮状态下较好地工作。

工作刚一开始不要太急，这样可节省能量。起床时先打个哈欠，伸伸懒腰，下地之前要在床边稍坐片刻，为了避免寻找干净衣服的麻烦，晚上就应把它们准备好。只要可能，就把日常事务放到下午，将需要更多精力及注意力的任务放在精力充沛的时间来做。

Questions

1. If a person finds getting up early a problem, most probably _____.
   A) he is a lazy person
   B) he refuses to follow his own energy cycle
   C) he is not sure when his energy is low
   D) he is at his peak in the afternoon or evening
2. Which of the following may lead to family quarrels according to the passage?
   A) Unaware of energy cycle.
   B) Familiar monologues.
   C) A change in a family member's energy cycle.
   D) Attempts to control the energy cycle of the other family members
3. If one wants to work more efficiently at his low point in the morning, he should _____.
   A) change his energy cycle
   B) overcome his laziness
   C) get up earlier than usual
   D) go to bed earlier
4. You are advised to rise with a yawn and stretch because it will _____.
   A) help to keep your energy for the day's work
   B) help you to control your temper early in the day
   C) enable you to concentrate on your routine work
   D) keep your energy cycle under control all day
5. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
   A) Getting off to work with minimum effort helps save one's

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