“十二五”普通高等教育本科国家级规划教材

新视角大学英语系列

New View College English

新视角大学英语

阅读教程 4

总主编　崔　敏　杨建木

总主审　张绍杰　高　瑛

复旦大學出版社

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第四册

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前言

本教程共4册，每学期一册，每册由10个单元组成，每个单元包括4篇文章。

本教程在内容选择上融入了经济、外贸、体育、教育、历史、地理、日常生活以及社会问题等方面的知识，更加注意文、理、工、农、医等各科的通用性，力求给学生打好语言基础。

选文配有多项选择题、填词题，以测试学生对课文的理解能力。阅读主要着眼于培养学生的阅读速度，强调在单位时间内获取所需信息的能力，因此阅读材料的难度均略浅于相应的综合英语教程的课文。篇幅跨度在200—1 000词，生词量力求控制在2%左右。阅读的全部教学活动都要求在课内进行。每单元进行两次，每次使用两篇文章，阅读后即做练习。

本教程旨在培养学生正确的阅读习惯，提高学生的阅读能力。为保证语言文字的规范化，课文全部选自英美原著，但有少量删改。选材力求多样性、知识性和趣味性。

本教程由东北师范大学张绍杰教授和高瑛教授任总主审，由吉林大学崔敏教授和东北师范大学人文学院杨建木教授任总主编。本册主编各负责编写5万字，副主编各负责编写3万字。

在此书的编写过程中，我们参考了有关书籍，得到多方支持，在此一并表示感谢。由于时间有限，在编写过程中难免有疏漏之处，恳请读者批评指教。

编者

2015年6月

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Unit One

Passage 1

Directions: *In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.*

If you're ___1___ about how much water you really need, I'm not surprised. Conflicting advice(反驳意见) in ___2___ headlines appears to contradict the old "8-a-day" advice we all grew up with. Is it necessary to chug down eight glasses of water ___3___, or is this recommendation exaggerated and out of date?

We've heard for years that eight glasses of water daily is the ___4___ necessary to keep healthy. Your weight loss and health ___5___ on it. Drink the minimum and see clearer skin, better sleep, better sex, improved vision. We're warned of impending dehydration(脱水,极度口渴) without at least eight glasses. But, the tide has turned, away from liquid nutrition(营养) ___6___ examining your daily diet, including what you eat, as well as what you drink.

The answer is you need what you need! If it's summer, you need more. If you're exercising, you need more. If you're a "normal" sedentary(不爱活动的) ___7___, who's not perspiring, and not exercising more than 15 - 20 minutes daily, Dr. Heinz Valtin of Dartmouth Medical School says you need no more than four glasses of water daily. Most beverages can be ___8___ as part of your daily fluid intake. Although the World Health Organization ___9___ that everyone drink a minimum of two liters of water daily, or about eight cups, the old "8 × 8" rule is ___10___ on studies performed on people under extraordinary circumstances; including soldiers at high

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altitude(海拔高度) and hospitalized patients — what you and I need is different.

[A] counted	[F] minimum	[K] statements
[B] refused	[G] focused	[L] person
[C] toward	[H] confused	[M] depend
[D] maximum	[I] recent	[N] recently
[E] based	[J] recommends	[O] daily

Passage 2

Directions: *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. You may choose a paragraph more than once.*

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

[A] We often don't notice it, but artificial intelligence (AI) is all around us. It is present in computer games, in the cruise control in our cars and the servers that route our email. In June 2002, a robot called Gaak gave an alarming demonstration of its independence. It made a dash for freedom from an exhibit at the Magna science centre in Rotherham. Gaak crept along a barrier until it found a gap and squeezed through. Having left the building, it reached Magna's exit by the Ml motorway before it was discovered.

[B] So, can a machine behave like a person? This question underlies artificial intelligence, the study of intelligent behavior in machines. In the 1980s, AI research focused on creating machines that could solve problems and reason like humans. One of the most difficult problems in artificial intelligence is that of consciousness. A consciousness gives us feelings and makes us aware of our own existence. But scientists have found it difficult getting robots to carry out even the simplest of cognitive tasks. Creating a self-aware robot with real feelings is a significant challenge faced by scientists hoping to imitate human intelligence in a machine. Since the early 1990s, researchers have concentrated on developing smaller, independent robots instead of trying to recreate human intelligence. The

model for many of these machines is insect intelligence, which is — in its own way — very sophisticated.

[C] When it is completed in late 2004, the world's most powerful computer will be ASCI Purple, built by IBM. It is expected to carry out 100 trillion operations per second (or 100 teraflops). A supercomputer with double this processing power is expected within the next two years. It is being built to replace ASCI White — formerly the world's most powerful computer — which occupies a space the size of two basketball courts at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in Livermore, California. A spokesman for IBM said that ASCI Purple was approaching the processing power of the human brain. But some scientists believe our brains can carry out around 10,000 trillion operations per second. HAL, the supercomputer that rebels against its human handlers in the film *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) is a bold reference to IBM. The letters H, A and L, precede I, B and M in the alphabet.

[D] In 1950, mathematician Alan Turing devised a test to identify whether a machine displayed intelligence. In the Turing Test, two people (A and B) sit in a closed room, while an interrogator(询问者) (C) sits outside. Person A tries to fool the interrogator about their gender, while person B tries to assist the interrogator in their identification. Turing suggested a machine take the place of person A. If the machine consistently fooled the human interrogator, it was likely to be intelligent.

[E] The possible dangers posed by intelligent machines have inspired countless science fiction films. In *The Terminator* (1984), a computer network attacks the human race in order to achieve control. This network then manufactures intelligent robots called "Terminators" which it programs to destroy human survivors. In *The Matrix* (1999) and *The Matrix Reloaded* (2003), a machine enslaves humanity, using people as batteries to power its mainframe. Steven Spielberg's

AI: *Artificial Intelligence* (2002) paints a more sympathetic view of artificial life, depicting sensitive robots that are abused by brutal, selfish human masters.

[F] One place where artificial intelligence has found a natural home is in the development of computer games. AI in computer games is becoming increasingly sophisticated as consumer appetites for better, faster, more challenging games grows. In games, AI is often present in the opponents you play against, or in allies or other team members.

[G] In 1997, then world chess champion Garry Kasparov played against IBM's Deep Blue supercomputer — and lost. After six games, the mighty Kasparov lost 2.5 to 3.5 to the silicon upstart. In February 2003, Kasparov saved some credibility for humanity by drawing against the Israeli-built supercomputer Deep Junior. Kasparov went on to draw 2-2 against U.S. company X3D Technologies' supercomputer X3D Fritz in November 2003, proving that the human brain can keep up with the latest developments in computing (at least in chess).

[H] Despite these entertaining applications, the original point of AI research was to create machines that could understand us. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), scientists have designed a robot called Kismet that can have realistic conversations with people. Kismet is capable of seven different facial expressions and can vary the tone of its voice. It also adjusts its gaze and the direction of its head towards the person it is speaking to. Scientists at HP have designed an electronic DJ. The "hpDJ" selects beats and baselines from its memory bank and mixes them. Its makers say it could be made to react to the mood of clubbers. At the University of Texas, Dallas, researchers have designed a lifelike human face capable of 28 facial movements, including smiling, sneering, furrowing its brow and arching its eyebrows. It could be used to put a human face to the artificial brains of the future.

[I] A computer program developed at Brandeis University in Massachusetts has learnt

how to design and build bridges, cranes and tables all by itself. It reinvented support structures such as the cantilever and the triangle without prior knowledge of them. Credit card companies use a computer program called The Falcon to detect card fraud. The Falcon works by constantly updating a profile of how customers use their credit cards. It then looks for uncharacteristic patterns of credit card use in the data. A robotic head built by a Scottish robotics company can determine a woman's attractiveness. It works by examining faces to determine how "feminine" or "masculine" they are. It doesn't work in reverse because men's appeal is supposedly not based as much on looks. Perhaps jokingly, researchers say it could be put to use as an artificial receptionist. Robots designed for the consumer market and employing very basic forms of AI have become increasingly popular in recent years. Sony's Aibo robot dog behaves like a puppy when it is first activated. But it "learns" new behavior as it spends more time with its human owner. A software program called FACES could stop mid-air collisions between planes. When tested in a flight simulator(模拟器), the software prevented a pile-up between 35 planes sharing airspace.

[J] Over the coming century, breakthroughs in nanotechnology, the science of ultra-small machines constructed at the molecular level, may help us build more sophisticated machines that are more compact. We may also see breakthroughs from scientists who are experimenting with connecting biological cells to silicon circuits — a phenomenon called wetware.

_____ 11. Kismet is a special robot that can demonstrate some kind of social skills.

_____ 12. Increasingly sophisticated AI is demanded for the development of more challenging computer games.

_____ 13. It is the consciousness that the most difficult part of artificial intelligence lies in.

_____ 14. Credit card fraud can be detected with the help of a computer program called The Falcon.

_____ 15. Many scientific movies took artificial intelligent as their subject, posing its potential dangers.

_____ 16. The phenomenon of wetware refers to connecting biological cells to silicon circuits.

_____ 17. Even if we don't know it, the technology of artificial intelligence can be found everywhere, ranging from computer games to the servers that route our email.

_____ 18. In the early 1990s, the research of artificial intelligence had been replaced by the development of smaller, independent robots.

_____ 19. Some scientists believed that the processing power of ASCI Purple is still far behind from that of human beings.

_____ 20. The Turing Test was intended to show whether a machine was intelligent.

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