

新世纪高等教育
时代英语教材系列

大学英语 快速阅读

2

总主编 宣 安

College English Fast Reading



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大学英语快速阅读

第二册

——分项主题 逐级进阶

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前言

随着大学英语教学改革为进一步深入，教育部高等教育司颁发的《大学英语课程教学要求》对阅读能力提出更新的要求，期望大学生的英语能力能够满足新时期国家和社会对人才培养的需要，继而适应国际竞争的需要。

《大学英语课程教学要求》对英语阅读能力要求有明确的描述。一般要求为在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时，阅读速度达到每分钟100词。能就阅读材料进行略读和寻读，能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料，能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。掌握较高要求的阅读理解能力，在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度适中的材料时，阅读速度达到每分钟120词。能阅读所学专业的综述性文献，并能正确理解中心大意，抓住主要事实和有关细节。

《大学英语快速阅读》就是为了满足在校大学生提高快速阅读能力的要求，并针对学生特点而编写的训练教材。全部四册教材按主题分项为生活、旅游、教育、文化等内容，学生可根据个人情况选择主题；文章长度由短至长，适合学生逐级进阶的学习过程。文章选材涉及人文社会、政治经济、教育科技、体育娱乐，具有真实性、新颖性、知识性和趣味性，为英语学习者提供各种英语表达的范例。读者可以欣赏地道的英语文章，扩大词汇量和知识面，在进一步提高阅读能力的同时，也可提高写作能力。每篇文章后面的试题形式多样，题量也有过渡，题目的设计包含大学英语四级考试新题型的快速阅读的判断題、多项选择题和填空题等类型。

《大学英语快速阅读》由上海交通大学大学英语部总主编，上海交通大学一年级和二年级学生对全部四册书内容进行了试用，同学们提出了非常好的建议，在此表示感谢。

《大学英语快速阅读》的编者皆为热爱英语教学的一线大学英语教师，由于时间仓促，水平有限，缺点在所难免。我们诚挚地希望读者提出批评和建议，以便进一步改进和完善。

编者

2008年6月于上海

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Unit 1 Way of Life

Passage 1

快速阅读自测

建议时间：一般要求 4' 53" 较高要求 4' 4"

实际时间： 正确答数：

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-6, mark Y (YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage, mark N (NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage, and mark NG (NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

Writers Take Away Spiderman's Wife

US COMIC book heroes often have superpowers. But one might be surprised to learn that the artists who draw them have special abilities too: They can rewrite comic book history whenever they please.

After 21 years of marriage, comic book character Peter Parker (known as Spiderman) is single again. Last month, the writers of the Marvel Comics' Spiderman series wrote his marriage to redhead Mary Jane Watson out of the story. In *Amazing Spiderman* #545, Peter and Mary Jane agreed to trade all memory of their marriage to save the life of another character from a bad guy.

The dramatic twist in the decades-long story offended many fans. But US comic book experts argue that sometimes such changes are justified. Over the years, plots and character histories in long-running US series have been refreshed to make characters more culturally relevant and to fix

logical problems in the narrative.

"We knew it would be a very controversial thing to do," Joe Quesada, Marvel's editor-in-chief, told *USA Today*. "Ultimately, we have to do this to keep this character fresh for this generation and generations to come."

US comic book artists have long faced the challenge of keeping their art form relevant. For instance, during the 1930s and 1940s, superheroes looked like humans in colorful *pajamas* (宽松服装). Now, superheroes take on more shocking proportions.

US comics have also begun distancing themselves from American foreign policy in recent years. Captain America, for instance, aided the Allies in their fight against Germany's Adolf Hitler in World War II. Since 9/11, however, the superhero seems less willing to take sides.

Comics and terrorism

"Part of the problem is the conflict itself," the *Guardian's* Ned Beauman explained in a blog post. "There is too much anxiety about the Iraq war's aims and methods. No one wants to see Captain America take orders from Donald Rumsfeld, former US Defense Secretary. And no one wants to see him accidentally bomb a wedding party."

He adds that terrorism does not really fit inside the world of comics: "Quite a few superheroes are powerful *telepaths* (心灵感应), yet apparently none of them can find Osama Bin Laden. Terrorism makes superheroes look ridiculous."

Keeping it real

How comic book heroes have been changed to keep up with the times:

Superman: Created in 1938, Superman was totally improved in 1986. The current Man of Steel never had a career as Superboy, and, as Clark

Kent, he has been married to Lois Lane since 1996.

Iron Man: Created in 1963, Iron Man built his *armor* (盔甲) after being injured in Vietnam, later updated to the Gulf War. Most recently, the series has been updated so that his injuries came while fighting in Afghanistan.

Batman: Created in 1939, Batman has partnered with three characters named Robin. The first, Dick Grayson, is now Nightwing. The third, Tim Drake, was introduced in 1989. The second Robin, Jason Todd, was killed by the Joker but has since returned.

(Words: 488)

1. In *Amazing Spiderman* #545, the hero and his wife agreed to give their marriage in exchange for the life of another character. ()
2. According to Joe Quesada, Marvel's editor-in-chief, although the dramatic change in the decades-long story aroused controversy among people, they had to update the character Spiderman, or many would not like it any more. ()
3. One of the challenges US comic book artists have long faced is that they should always make the comic characters be of superpowers and physically attractive. ()
4. Nowadays, it has been the tendency that what happens in US comics does not follow American foreign policy by the superhero not supporting one side against the other. ()
5. It is said by the *Guardian's* Ned Beauman that compared with the terrorist, Osama Bin Laden, the superheroes in comics are less powerful. ()
6. The role of Iron Man created in 1963 has been involved in several wars, such as, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the war in Afghanistan. ()

Passage 2

快速阅读自测

建议时间：一般要求 5' 2" 较高要求 4' 11"

实际时间： 正确答数：

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-6, mark Y (YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage, mark N (NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage, mark NG (NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

Driving in Britain

The minimum legal driving age is expected to rise to 18 as part of reforms to cut the number of deaths caused on Britain's roads by young drivers. Ministers are to propose a 12-month training period for new drivers, in effect preventing 17-year-olds from holding a full license.

A consultation paper, to be published this autumn, will also suggest a zero alcohol limit for newly-qualified drivers of all ages for a year after they pass the test. New drivers found behind the wheel with alcohol in their blood would be forced to retake their test. Motorway driving may also be restricted to more experienced drivers.

The Government is, however, to reject proposals to ban young drivers from *ferrying* (运送) their friends as it is deemed "unworkable".

Research by the Department for Transport (DfT) suggests that a 12-month learning period would save up to 1,000 deaths and serious injuries and up to 7,000 *casualties* (人员伤亡) a year. Young male drivers

are the biggest cause of death of young women in Britain. Almost one in two drivers killed at night is under 25. MPs on the Transport Select Committee last month urged the Government to consider raising the minimum legal driving age. The proposal has the backing of campaigners and insurers.

The Association of British Insurers told MPs that 50,000 17-year-olds pass the driving test with less than six months' driving experience every year. "If the learning period takes place in the spring and summer months, many of these drivers may obtain a full license having never driven in ice or snow, or even in the dark," a spokesman said.

Britain is one of very few EU countries to allow 17-year-olds to hold a full driving license. Ministers considered raising the minimum age five years ago but backed down because of concerns that it would hit the rural economy. Around 70 per cent of 17-year-old motorists drive themselves to work.

The increase in the school leaving age to 18 will undermine the economic objection, however. The case for change has also been underlined by evidence showing that, while general accident rates are falling, those among new drivers are increasing. Crashes involving drivers under 25 killed more than 1,000 people last year. No fewer than 27 per cent of teenage male drivers are involved in a collision in their first year.

Jim Fitzpatrick, the roads minister, said: "We want to send a message to our young people that passing your test and driving is not just a bit of fun. It carries responsibilities."

A senior figure at the DfT told *The Times* that ministers believed the case for a 12-month learning period and restrictions on alcohol limits and motorway driving for new drivers had been made. The changes would have to apply to motorcycles to prevent teens switching from four wheels to

two.

The Driving Standards Agency is finalizing the details of a consultation document containing the proposals to be launched this October.

(Words: 490)

1. New drivers in Britain are required to take a 12-month driving training so that 17-year-olds are stopped from getting a driving license, the purpose of which is to decrease car accidents caused by new drivers. ()
2. If new drivers are found driving drunk they are required to take a driving test again. ()
3. Young male drivers are also the biggest cause of death of elder people in Britain. ()
4. Every year 50,000 17-year-olds spend less than six months learning to pass the driving test, so most of them may have never driven in winter or even in the dark before getting a driving license. ()
5. Five years ago British ministers thought of raising the minimum driving age to be 18, but it was delayed since many people hold the idea that it will prevent the rural economy from developing as 70 per cent of 17-year-olds there drive themselves to work. ()
6. The new rules for new drivers, such as, a 12-month learning period, a zero alcohol limits and restrictions on motorway driving, have been made, which also apply to motorcyclists. ()

Passage 3

快速阅读自测

建议时间：一般要求 5' 29" 较高要求 4' 35"

实际时间： 正确答数：

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-6, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Driving: American Way of Life

Meet Mitsuaki. He recently arrived in the United States to enter university. He wants to do well in his studies and adjust to the new culture. But Mitsuaki has a problem. It's not his roommates. It's not his school fees. It's not even his English ability. Mitsuaki's problem is that he doesn't have a car. And in America, that really makes him a foreigner. Mitsuaki has already discovered a basic fact of American culture: Driving is a way of life.

It's not that there's no public transportation in America. Many cities have taxis, buses and subways to help commuters get to and from work. Some large universities even have buses to take students to classes across campus. But most people find it much more convenient to drive, even if they do have to deal with traffic. Nowadays busy families often have more than one vehicle. Many people view their car as a status symbol. But no matter their social status, people without wheels feel tied down.

When Mitsuaki first arrived, he was amazed at how young many

American drivers there were. Young people in America often get their driver's license around age 16 by passing a written test and a driving test. In many cases, before they can get their license, they have to take a driver education course. This course gives students hands-on practice with driving. It also helps to reduce the high cost of insurance. For teenagers, being able to drive — and in some cases, having their own car — is a big deal. It gives them a sense of power and freedom. Many young Americans consider a driver's license a right, not a privilege. It's rare to find an American teenager without one.

Mitsuaki finally decides that he needs a car. His host family helps him find a good used car to buy. But before he gets his license and starts driving, he has to understand that the American style of driving is defensive, not offensive. He also needs to learn some of the basic rules of the road that good drivers follow.

10 *Commandments* (戒律) of Good Driving in America:

1. Yield to vehicles which have the right of way.
2. Don't cut in front of other vehicles.
3. Drive within the speed limit.
4. Obey all road signs and police officers.
5. Pull over to the side of the road when you hear a siren.
6. Stop completely at red lights and stop signs.
7. Yield to pedestrians (walkers) in crosswalks.
8. Park only in a designated parking space.
9. Use your turn signals when turning or changing lanes.
10. Don't drink and drive.

As a car owner, Mitsuaki has the responsibility of maintaining his

car. He knows that regular maintenance checkups can help to prevent many serious problems. But no matter how careful the maintenance, all vehicles need to be repaired sometimes. Many Americans take their cars to a garage for maintenance and repairs. Others like to work on their own vehicles. Not Mitsuaki. He decides that being a student is enough work for him.

Driving is to Americans what flying is to birds. It's almost part of their nature. For many Americans, being behind the wheel is like their natural *habitat* (生活环境). But if they don't drive carefully, they can become an endangered species.

(Words: 549)

1. Shortly after he arrived in the United States to enter university Mitsuaki found a truth in the new culture, that is, _____.
2. It is popular that young people around age 16 in America try to pass a written test and a driving test in order to _____.
3. For American teenagers, it is a great event in their life to be able to drive and even to have their own car since it gives them _____.
4. According to one of the 10 Commandments of Good Driving in America, "Use your turn signals when _____".
5. Having his own car, Mitsuaki understands that it is the responsibility to maintain his car regularly as maintenance checkups are effective in preventing _____.
6. Driving is part of American's nature, in other words, driving is to Americans what _____.

Passage 4

快速阅读自测

建议时间：一般要求 4' 48" 较高要求 4'

实际时间： 正确答数：

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-6, mark Y (YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage, mark N (NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage, and mark NG (NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage. For questions 7-8, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

For Some Women, Success Has a Price

In an episode of *Sex and the City* (欲望都市), Miranda goes speed-dating, only to discover that her law career is a turn-off to the guys. When she says she's a flight attendant, however, suddenly she becomes an object of their fantasies.

This story is just fiction, but a recent survey suggests that its *premise* (前提) might be on target.

Ray Fisman, a Columbia University economics professor, conducted a two-year study on Americans' dating preferences. He ran a speed-dating experiment at a local bar near campus.

"Men preferred women whom they rated as smarter, but only up to a point," Fisman told *The New York Times*. "It turns out that men avoided women whom they perceived to be smarter than themselves. The same held true for measures of career ambition: A woman could be ambitious, just not