

新世纪高等教育
时代英语教材系列

大学英语 快速阅读

1

总主编 宣 安

College English Fast Reading



华东师范大学出版社

大学英语快速阅读

第一册

——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、难度略低的材料时，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题、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 People

Passage 1

快速阅读自测

建议时间：一般要求 4' 9" 较高要求 3' 27"

实际时间： 正确答数：

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-5, 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.

IBM & Iron-Willed Watson

"Tonight we're completing a four-month worldwide tribute to the most admired man in our company. In truth I believe he's the most admired businessman in the world. But more importantly I am presenting a man who has done more for preserving and building the dignity of the individual in American industry than any other man in history — Mr. Thomas Watson."

This glowing tribute by his son at IBM's 40th anniversary in 1954 celebrated Thomas Watson's status as international business legend. How he reached that great summit is an extraordinary rags-to-riches story. Thomas Watson senior was born in 1874. He grew up in terrible poverty. The young Watson was determined to be more successful than his overbearing, violently-tempered father. When he was 18 he took to the road seeing some hope of escape in the life of a traveling salesman. The

reality failed to match his expectations.

In 1895 after three years of hardship, Watson was saved. Aged 21 he was offered a job at National Cash Registers — at the time one of the most aggressive and expansionist businesses in America. It was run by John Patterson, Watson's first great mentor. He would exert a lasting influence on both Watson the man and businessman. At NCR Watson was reborn: he was intelligent, *subservient* (卑躬屈节的) and nakedly ambitious. Watson became a rising star. A decade later, Watson, Patterson and others were found guilty of underpricing, payoffs, bribery and *sabotage* (蓄意破坏). Watson refused to accept his crimes; he wrote, "I have not done anything that I am in the least ashamed of." Then out of the blue, his great mentor and friend fired him. These two traumatic events would mark Watson for life.

By now there was another great influence in Watson's life — at the height of the trial, he married Janette Kettridge. Her stern *Presbyterian* (长老教会的) values would help temper the ruthless commercialism he'd absorbed at NCR.

The opportunity he was waiting for came in 1914, Watson was made general manager of CTR, the Computing, Tabulating and Recording Company. Watson re-branded the company with a name that embodied his vision of the future, International Business Machines — and so in 1924 IBM was born.

Legendary salesman, visionary entrepreneur and colossus of capitalism, Watson helped lay the foundations of the information age. He was driven by one consuming ambition: to build a new model of corporation, one that would conquer the world and create an immortal IBM. Within IBM, Watson created a corporate ethos that reflected his own values and beliefs.

(Words:415)

1. Thomas Watson is important to his contribution to building the dignity of the individual in American industry. ()
2. Thomas Watson was lucky enough to become a traveling salesman as he hoped when he was 18. ()
3. John Patterson was an influential figure in Watson's life and career. ()
4. The brand IBM indicates its creator's vision of the future. ()
5. Watson could be seen as one of the founders of the information age. ()

Passage 2

快速阅读自测

建议时间：一般要求 3' 28" 较高要求 2' 53"

实际时间： 正确答案数：

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-5, 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.

Ang Lee with Oscar Win

TAIPEI, Taiwan China — Residents of this leaf-shaped island of 23 million people exulted Monday — Sunday night in Hollywood — as its native son Ang Lee won the Oscar for best Director for his gay romance "Brokeback Mountain".

Expectations had been high in the run-up to the ceremony half a world away, with office workers taking time off to watch live television broadcasts, and newspapers displaying Lee's photographs across their front pages.

Lee's brother, Lee Kang, and mother, Yang Si-chuang, 81, watched the ceremony from Lee Kang's small TV production and film distribution office in Taipei, together with dozens of local and international media.

When the best director's award was announced, Lee Kang sprang up and pumped his fist into the air and Yang applauded enthusiastically. "It's

great to win the award," Yang said. "I am really happy. I hope he pays attention to his health." Yang expressed regret that her husband, Lee Sheng, who died in 2004, was not alive to see his son's triumph.

Taiwan's ERA Cable News station said Lee's victory was "the glory of Chinese all over the world". Its news *crawl* (爬行字幕) called him "the Best Chinese Director, the first in Asia".

Lee's triumph marked a stunning proof for someone who failed his college entrance exams twice — a stinging blow for the son of a high-school principal who was expected to get ahead in Taiwan's supercharged academic atmosphere.

Instead he was *relegated* (降级指派到) to a place at the National Arts School, then a lightly regarded vocational school.

But at the NAS Lee discovered the passion for the stage and film that paved the way for his successful Hollywood career.

Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" triumph was not his first Oscar win. His kung fu film "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," won the Oscar for best foreign film, best score, best *cinematography* (摄影) and best art direction in 2001.

Now a great source of pride to his native island, pictures of Lee fill the halls of his secondary school in the southern city of Tainan. Also, a giant Lee's poster adorns the movie theater where he used to watch films as a child.

(Words:346)

1. "Brokeback Mountain" won Ang Lee the Oscar for best director for his gay romance. ()
2. Lee Kang, Ang Lee's brother was extremely excited when the director's

award was announced. ()

3. The failure over his college entrance exams twice never disturbed Ang Lee. ()
4. Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" was relatively a more successful triumph than his "Crouching Tiger, Hidden dragon". ()
5. His native island presents its pride greatly in the halls of his secondary school in the southern city of Tainan. ()

Passage 3

快速阅读自测

建议时间：一般要求 4' 5" 较高要求 3' 24"

实际时间： 正确答数：

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-5, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Admiral Richard E. Byrd

In 1928, Admiral Richard E. Byrd embarked on an expedition to be the first to fly over the South Pole. To the American public, Byrd had gained a reputation as an aviation pioneer and an explorer of extreme lands. He'd been credited in 1926 with being the first to fly over the North Pole, accompanied by pilot Floyd Bennett. Byrd and a crew of 42 men sailed aboard at New York and landed at an area known as the Ross Ice Shelf. They carried provisions for 15 months and set up a base they christened "Little America". Antarctica is the coldest continent on the earth, with an average temperature of minus 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the interior. In this frigid land, day and night don't exist. In late September, day breaks over the land and the sun gradually rises until it hits its *apex* (顶点) around December 21st, then begins to set. From late March on, the continent experiences perpetual night. To survive this extreme climate, Byrd's crew took their cues from natives of the Arctic. They wore *parkas* (北极地区穿的带风帽的皮外衣), pants and boots made from reindeer hide. Byrd himself was partial to his pair of polar bear pants.

In the late 1920s, most of Antarctica remained unexplored. And Byrd aimed to fill in the large tracks of unknown on the map by flying over the manless plains. His exploration claimed large tracks of Antarctica for the United States. On November 28th, 1929, they set off for the main goal of the South Pole in a heavily-laden, 4-trimotor aeroplane, the Floyd Bennett, a *homage* (敬意) to his deceased co-pilot and friend. Being so close to the South Pole, their compasses were useless, so they relied on a sun compass for direction. They flew across the Ross Ice Shelf and into mountain ranges. At times the forceful air currents tossed the plane like a cork; weight was always a concern: the lighter the plane, the higher it could fly. At one point, they threw overboard 300 pounds of food, and numerous fuel containers to clear an 11,000-foot mountain pass. Just after midnight, they reached the South Pole, where Byrd dropped a small American flag, and they returned to the base. They spent about 19 hours on the trip and incredibly with no *mishaps* (灾祸). Throughout his life, the continent had a hold on Admiral Byrd. In the following decades, he would make 4 more expeditions to the region in the name of Science and Exploration.

(Words:409)

1. The American public knows Byrd as an aviation pioneer and an explorer of _____.
2. From late March the continent experiences _____.
3. His exploration claimed large tracks of the Antarctic by flying over the _____.
4. A sun compass was what they used for _____.
5. It took Admiral Richard E. Byrd 19 hours on the return trip without any _____.

Passage 4

快速阅读自测

建议时间：一般要求 4' 51" 较高要求 4' 2"

实际时间： 正确答案：

Directions: Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-4, 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 5-6, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Everlasting Spring

Short but full of energy for her age, Mrs. Chennault had been invited to give a speech at Tongji University at the opening ceremony of a women's studies research centre in Shanghai.

She started the speech with a popular Chinese song, sung in a slightly rough voice, "I stand alone on the stage and hear the applause, I can't help my tears. So many failures and so much waiting, I tell myself to endure..."

"To be a woman is really not easy!" she said, once she had finished singing.

People might take that as a slight *overstatement* (言过其实) if it came from any other woman. But coming from Mrs. Chennault, it is fact.

She was already the first female reporter of the Central News Agency by the age of 20. Married to General Claire Chennault, commander of

the US 14th Air Force, she was the first Chinese-American to work in the White House, where she worked with eight presidents. In 1972 she was selected as one of the 70 most influential people in the US. She has also written 53 books.

Woman's trouble

But behind these incredible achievements, Mrs. Chennault, whose Chinese name is Chen Xiangmei, said her life had not been easy.

"To be a woman, no matter whether in China or in the US, you have to do more and sacrifice more than others. Even if I worked four hours longer than others every day, I still suffered repeated setbacks just because I am a woman."

In 1944 when she got her first job as a reporter, she decided to make journalism her profession. But what frustrated her was that people cared less about her work and more about her family background.

In 1980 she returned to the Chinese mainland for the first time since the revolution in 1949, personally invited by Deng Xiaoping, who held a banquet in her honor in the Great Hall of the People during the Spring Festival. "Deng said there is only one Chen Xiangmei in the world, but there are hundreds of senators," she recalled.

Mrs. Chennault

Her marriage with Claire Lee Chennault still seems to be her most cherished source of memories.

US General Chennault organized over 100 young pilots to help train the Chinese air force in World War II. Chen went to interview him in Yunnan Province, an event that marked the beginning of their love story.

After the War of Resistance against Japan (1937-45), the young reporter was dispatched to work in Shanghai. The general also set up an