

大学英语阅读系列教材

College English
Fast Reading

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大学英语

快速阅读

(第1册)



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前 言

在 2005 年初教育部关于大学英语四、六级考试的重大改革中, 阅读部分增加了快速阅读新题型, 比重增至 35%。同时, 《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》对阅读理解(Reading Comprehension)能力提出了较高的要求, 其中, 快速阅读部分要求在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时, 阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词, 能基本读懂国内外英文报刊及常见应用文体的材料, 能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。为了适应上述要求, 提高在校生及广大青年读者的英语阅读理解能力, 开阔阅读视野, 全面提高语言的综合应用水平, 从而为大学英语四级考试取得较好成绩打下坚实的基础, 我们编写了这套《大学英语快速阅读》教材。

《大学英语快速阅读(第 1 册)》由 16 个单元 48 篇文章组成, 内容和难度紧扣最新《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》对快速阅读的各项具体要求。选材注重信息性、趣味性和实用性, 题材广泛, 内容丰富, 涉及文化习俗、婚姻爱情、信息技术、科学教育、社会焦点等各个方面。我们希望通过这套教材的学习可以帮助学生提高英语阅读理解能力、运用语言结构和词汇的能力、分析判断和逻辑推理的能力以及迅速捕捉信息的能力。为了适合教学目的, 我们对部分文章内容进行了适当的删改。

本套教材不仅适用于包括独立学院在内的高校学生, 也适用于广大中级英语自学者、自考生及参加全国英语等级考试的读者。

由于我们的经验不足, 水平有限, 疏漏之处在所难免, 诚望广大读者和同仁不吝指正。

编者

2007 年 4 月

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Unit 1 Study



Passage 1

Secrets of "A" Students

Length of Text: 330 words Target Time: ____ minutes Target Speed: ____ wpm
Starting at: _____ Finishing at: _____ Time Taken: _____
Reading Speed: _____ Comprehension Score: _____

1 Alex, now a first-year student in natural sciences at Cambridge, played football for his school in Manchester and directed the school production of a play but he left school with five A's. How do "A" students like this do it? Brains aren't the only answer. Hard work isn't the whole story either. Some of these high-achieving students actually put in fewer hours than their lower-scoring classmates. The students at the top of the class get there by mastering a few basic techniques that others can easily learn. Here, according to education experts and students themselves, are the secrets of "A" students.

2 Concentrate! Top students allow no interruptions of their study time. Once the books are open, phone calls go unanswered, TV unwatched and newspapers unread. "This doesn't mean ignoring important things in your life," Amanda explains. "It means planning your study time so that you can concentrate. If I'm worried about a sick friend, I call her before I start my homework. Then when I sit down to study, I can really focus."

- 3 Organize your materials. At school, Tom played basketball. "I was too busy to waste time looking for a pencil or a missing notebook. I kept everything just where I could get my hands on it," he says.
- 4 Organize your time. When a teacher set a long essay, Alex would spend a couple of days reading round the subject and making notes, then he'd do a rough draft and write up the essay. He would aim to finish a couple of days before the assignment was due so that if it took longer than expected, he'd still meet the deadline.
- 5 Learn how to read. "The best course I ever took," says an Oklahoma student, "was speed reading. I not only increased my words per minute but also learned to look at a book's table of contents and picture first. Then, when I began to read, I had a sense of the material and I retained a lot more." To him, the secret of good reading is to be an active reader—one who keeps asking questions that lead to a full understanding of the material being read.

Comprehension Exercises

1. "A" students mean _____.
A. the most clever students
B. high-scoring students
C. lower-scoring students
D. any ordinary student
2. Which of the following is TRUE according to the first paragraph?
A. The best students are not necessarily those who work the hardest.
B. Intelligence is the key to getting good grades.
C. Students needn't work hard.
D. Taking part in too many social activities will affect the grades of college students.
3. Why could some students who put in fewer hours than others achieve better at studies?
A. Because they have wider interests.
B. Because they are cleverer than others.
C. Because they use some special and useful methods for study.

- D. None of the above.
4. The word "concentrate" (Para. 2) has the similar meaning of _____.
A. ignore B. focus C. achieve D. assign
5. By saying "If I'm worried about a sick friend, I call her before I start my homework", Amanda wants to tell us _____.
A. she won't let other things to interrupt her during her study time
B. she is kind to her friends
C. she pays more attention to study than to her friends
D. she is good at organizing her time
6. Why does Tom "keep everything just where I could get my hands on it"?
A. Because more time could be saved.
B. Because he plays basketball and is busy.
C. Because that's his habit.
D. Because this can improve his grades.
7. When assigned a long essay to write, Alex would _____.
A. start a couple of days before the deadline and then finish her homework in a hurry
B. spend several days preparing and finish her homework on time in a well-organized order
C. not finish her homework on time if it took longer time than expected
D. always turn to the teacher for help so that she can finish it on time
8. The word "retained" (last Para.) in this passage means _____.
A. held B. forgot C. lost D. missed
9. Which of the following is NOT true?
A. Top students don't watch TV as often as lower-score students do.
B. Top students are often good at organizing their time.
C. Top students learn how to improve their study efficiency.
D. Top students are often good at concentrating on their study.
10. The secret of good reading is _____.
A. to read every word with care
B. to keep asking yourself questions necessary for understanding
C. to skip a book's table of contents and picture
D. to read the material aloud

Passage 2

What Schools Will Be Like in 2050 ?

Length of Text: 312 words Target Time: ____ minutes Target Speed: ____ wpm

Starting at: ____ Finishing at: ____ Time Taken: ____

Reading Speed: ____ Comprehension Score: ____

- 1 What will school be like in 2050, and how will learning change? Bill Gates gave his vision.
- 2 “Suppose that the wireless network is there and you’ve got a very high-speed connection that lets you do not just text but video and audio as well. And suppose that each of the students has, for his own personal use, a tablet PC. You just take a pen and do it on the surface of the device. If you scribble notes on something, you can shoot it over to your friends and have their look at it. It’s also for real-time communications. If you call someone up, there’s a little camera. You can see the person, and he can see you. As you are talking about the homework, you can pull up different Web sites. It’s for collaboration, communication, and creativity; it’s along the lines of what the PC is today. And assume in the front of the classroom there is a big screen so you can browse the Internet or the teacher can take the work that students are doing on their tablets and project it up there for people to watch.”
- 3 “There will still be some corpus of material, but no longer be printed on paper. All students need to carry around is their tablet. And you can add your own thing. A teacher could go to the Library of Congress site and get photos and texts and go to other school sites and take and edit and add. The parents can see what the class has studied and what it will be studying in the future. They can even make suggestions to the teacher about things

that they can contribute. So you get this sense of involvement where there is no boundary. There is connected learning, where parents, students and teachers are not isolated from each other the way we are today."

Comprehension Exercises

1. According to the passage, what might be critical to realize the future class learning?
 - A. Development of computer software.
 - B. Improvement of educational concept.
 - C. Development of wireless network.
 - D. Prices of computer.
2. The word "text" (Para. 2) means _____.
 - A. textbook
 - B. write
 - C. see
 - D. hear
3. The words "shoot over" (Para. 2) in this passage refer to _____.
 - A. throw
 - B. send over
 - C. hit
 - D. give away
4. Which is not one of the benefits the future class will bring to the students?
 - A. Collaboration.
 - B. Communication.
 - C. Creativity.
 - D. Rebelling.
5. In the future class learning, the teacher will _____.
 - A. prepare his/her teaching material on paper
 - B. go to some sites and get relevant material, and edit and add
 - C. no longer correct the students' homework
 - D. none of the above
6. In the future class learning, the students can _____.
 - A. discuss their homework with friends without leaving home
 - B. share classmates' work in the classroom through a big screen
 - C. can browse the Internet in the classroom
 - D. All of the above
7. In the future class learning, the parents will _____.
 - A. be easily involved in their children's learning process
 - B. attend their children's classroom personally and discuss matters with the teacher
 - C. contribute money to their children's school
 - D. take the place of the teacher and teach their children at home

8. The word "boundary" (last Para.) in this passage is closest to _____.
A. separation B. limit C. frontier D. area
9. The word "isolated" is closest in meaning to _____.
A. separated B. connected C. attached D. prevented
10. Which of the following is true in the future classroom?
A. Students are allowed to write some notes and throw them to their friends.
B. The students can do whatever they want in the class.
C. Students don't use textbook on paper.
D. Students don't have to be in the classroom.

Passage 3

Methods of Education: East and West

Length of text: 310 words Target Time: ____ minutes Target Speed: ____ wpm
Starting at: _____ Finishing at: _____ Time Taken: _____
Reading Speed: _____ Comprehension Score: _____

- 1 A teacher from Canada recently visited an elementary school in Japan. In one class, she watched 60 young children as they learned to draw a cat. The class teacher drew a big circle on the blackboard, and 60 children copied it on their papers. The teacher drew a smaller circle on top of the first and then put two triangles on top of it; the children continue their cats in exactly the same way. The lesson continued until there were 61 identical cats in the classroom.
- 2 The Canadian teacher was startled by the lesson. The teaching methods and their effects were very different from those in her own country. An art lesson in a Canadian school would lead to a room full of unique pictures, not a series of identical cats. Why? What causes this difference in educational methods?

- 3 In many Western societies, such as the United States or Canada, which are made up of many different nationalities, religious groups and cultural orientations, individualism and independent thinking are highly valued. Teachers emphasize the qualities that make each student special. Students are seldom expected to memorize information; instead, they are encouraged to think for themselves, find answers on their own and come up with individual solutions. At an early age, students learn to form their own ideas and opinions, and to express their ideas in class discussion.
- 4 In Japan, by contrast, the vast majority of people share the same language, history, and culture. Perhaps for this reason, the education system there reflects a belief in group goals and traditions rather than individualism. Japanese schoolchildren often work together and help one another on assignments. In the classroom, the teacher is the main source of knowledge: he or she lectures, and the students listen. There is not much discussion; instead, the students recite rules or information that they have memorized.

Comprehension Exercises

1. What kind of school did the Canadian teacher visit in Japan?
A. A high school. B. A primary school.
C. A junior middle school. D. A college.
2. The word "identical" (Para. 1) in this passage means _____.
A. exactly the same B. quite different
C. similar D. indifferent
3. What startled the Canadian teacher in the class she visited?
A. The large number of students. B. The method of drawing cats.
C. The method of teaching. D. The procedures of drawing cats.
4. The word "startled" (Para. 2) in this passage means _____.
A. surprised B. frightened C. terrified D. delighted
5. What would be the result of an art lesson in a Canadian school?
A. A room full of quite different pictures.
B. A series of identical pictures.

- C. A lot of copies of picture from the teacher.
D. None of the above.
6. According to the author, what factors contribute to the high value placed on individualism in North America?
A. The variety of nationalities, religious groups and cultural orientations there.
B. The values reflected by the education system there.
C. The students expressing their own ideas in class discussion.
D. The qualities that their students possess.
7. The word "solution" (Para. 3) in this passage means _____.
A. answer to a problem
B. problem to be solved
C. explanation
D. reason
8. In an American class, the students _____.
A. are expected to memorize the material
B. are encouraged to find answers by themselves
C. are allowed to do everything they want
D. are free from any punishment
9. In a Japanese school, the students _____.
A. work together and help one another on assignments
B. listen to the teacher very often
C. memorize rules or information and recite them
D. all of the above
10. What is the main idea of the passage?
A. Advantages and disadvantages of Eastern and Western education systems.
B. A Canadian teacher's visit to a Japanese school.
C. Discussion on how to teach pupils to draw a cat well.
D. Differences between Japanese educational method and North American's.

Unit 2 Words and Stories



Passage 1

American Expressions Based on Colors

Length of Text: 310 words Target Time: ____ minutes Target Speed: ____ wpm
Starting at: ____ Finishing at: ____ Time Taken: ____
Reading Speed: ____ Comprehension Score: ____

- 1 Every people has its own way of saying things, its own special expressions. Many everyday American expressions are based on colors. Red is a hot color; Americans often use it to express heat. They may say they are red-hot about something unfair, when they are red-hot they are very angry about something. Fast loud music is popular with many people. They may say the music is red hot. Especially the kind called Dixieland Jazz.
- 2 Pink is a lighter kind of red. People sometimes say they are in the pink when they are in good health. The expression was first used in America at the beginning of the 20th century. It probably comes from the fact that many babies are born with a nice pink color that shows that they are in good health.
- 3 Blue is a cool color. The traditional Blues Music in the United States is

the opposite of Red Hot Music. Blues is slow, sad, and sorrowful. Someone who is blue is very sad.

- 4 The color green is natural for trees and grass. But it is an unnatural color for humans. A person who has a sick feeling stomach may say she feels a little green. A passenger on a boat who is feeling very sick from high waves may look very green. Sometimes a person may be upset because he does not have something as nice as a friend has, like a fast new car, that person may say he is green with envy. Some people are green with envy because a friend has more dollars or greenbacks. Dollars are called greenbacks because that is the color of the backside of the paper money.
- 5 The color black is used often in expressions. People describe a day in which everything goes wrong as a black day. The day of a major tragedy is remembered as a black day.

Comprehension Exercises

- When you are very angry, you can say "_____".
A. I am in the pink B. I am red hot
C. I am blue D. I feel a little green
- According to the passage, fast loud music is _____.
A. in the pink B. red hot C. blue D. a little green
- When you are in good health, you can say "_____".
A. I am in the pink B. I am red hot
C. I am blue D. I feel a little green
- When you are very sad, you can say "_____".
A. I am in the pink B. I am red hot
C. I am blue D. I feel a little green
- When you have a stomachache, you can say "_____".
A. I am in the pink B. I am red hot
C. I am blue D. I feel a little green
- When someone on a boat is feeling very sick from high waves, you can say "_____".