

大学英语阅读系列教材

College English
Fast Reading

王 轮 主编

大学 英语

快速阅读

(第3册)



华中科技大学出版社
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前 言

2005年初,教育部对大学英语四、六级考试进行了重大改革,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80~100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,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3册)》由15个单元、45篇文章组成,其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,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,我们对部分文章内容进行了适当删改。

本套教材不仅适用于包括独立学院在内的高校大学生,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6月

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Unit 1 Genetic Story



Passage 1

DNA Test on Criminal Investigations

Length of text: 388 words

Target time: _____ minutes

Target speed: 80 wpm

Starting at: _____

Finishing at: _____

Time taken: _____

Reading speed: _____

Comprehension score: _____

- 1 A controversy erupted in the scientific community in early 1998 over the use of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) fingerprinting in criminal investigations. DNA fingerprinting was introduced in 1987 as a method to identify individuals based on a pattern seen in their DNA, the molecule (分子) of which genes are made. DNA is present in every cell of the body except red blood cells. DNA fingerprinting has been used successfully in various ways, such as to determine paternity where it is not clear who the father of a particular child is. However, it is in the area of criminal investigations that DNA fingerprinting has potentially powerful and controversial uses.
- 2 DNA fingerprinting and other DNA analysis techniques have revolutionized criminal investigations by giving investigators powerful new tools in the attempt to prove guilt, not just establish innocence. When used in criminal investigations, a DNA fingerprint pattern from a suspect is compared with a DNA fingerprint pattern obtained from such material as

hairs or blood found at the scene of a crime. A match between the two DNA samples can be used as evidence to convict a suspect.

3 The controversy in 1998 stemmed from a report published in December 1991 by population geneticists Richard C. Lewontin of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and Daniel L. Hartl called into question the methods to calculate how likely it is that a match between two DNA fingerprints might occur by chance alone. In particular, they argued that the current method cannot properly determine the likelihood that two DNA samples will match because they came from the same individual rather than simply from two different individuals who are members of the same ethnic group. Lewontin and Hartl called for better surveys of DNA patterns methods are adequate.

4 In response to their criticisms, population geneticists Ranajit Chakraborty of the University of Texas in Dallas and Kenneth K. Kid of Yale University in New Haven, Conn., argued that enough data are already available to show that the methods currently being used are adequate. In January 1998, however, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and laboratories that conduct DNA tests announced that they would collect additional DNA samples from various ethnic groups in an attempt to resolve some of these questions. And, in April, a National Academy of Sciences called for strict standards and system of accreditation (委托) for DNA testing laboratories.

(<http://www.examda.com/cet6/Guide/20061214/110728177.html>)

Comprehension Exercises

- Before DNA fingerprinting is used, suspects _____.
 - would have to leave their fingerprints for further investigations
 - would have to submit evidence for their innocence
 - could easily escape conviction of guilt
 - could be convicted of guilt as well
- According to the passage, we cannot find one's DNA from his _____.

- A. hair B. teeth C. nail D. red blood cells

3. In paragraph 1, word "paternity" is closed in meaning of _____.
A. the relationship between parteners
B. the relationship between father and child
C. the relationship between mother and child
D. the relationship between grand-parents and their descendants
4. DNA fingerprinting can be unreliable when _____.
A. the methods used for blood-cell calculation are not accurate
B. two different individuals of the same ethnic group may have the same DNA fingerprinting pattern
C. a match is between the fingerprints that happens to be left by belong to two different individuals
D. two different individuals leave two DNA samples
5. The controversy aroused in _____ stemmed from a report published in _____.
A. 1987, 1991 B. 1991, 1998
C. 1998, 1991 D. January 1998, December 1991
6. To geneticists like Lewontin and Hartl, the current method _____.
A. is not so convincing as to exclude the likelihood that two DNA samples can never come from two individuals
B. is arguable because two individuals of the same ethnic group are likely to have the same DNA pattern
C. is not based on adequate scientific theory of genetics
D. is theoretically contradictory to what they have been studying
7. The attitude of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Laboratories shows that _____.
A. the sufficient data are yet to be collected from various ethnic groups to confirm the unlikelihood of two DNA samples coming from two individuals
B. the sufficient data of DNA samples should be collected to confirm that only DNA samples from the same person can match
C. the sufficient data are yet to be collected from various ethnic groups to determine the likelihood of two different DNA samples coming from the same person

- D. additional samples from various ethnic groups should be collected to determine that two DNA samples are unlikely to come from the same person
8. National Academy of Sciences holds the stance that _____.
 A. the DNA testing should be systematized
 B. only authorized laboratories can conduct DNA testing
 C. the academy only is authorized to work out standards for testing
 D. the academy has the right to accredit laboratories for DNA testing
9. _____ attempted to solve the problem referred in the controversy.
 A. Richard C. Lewontin
 B. Ranajit Chakraborty
 C. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and laboratories
 D. National Academy of Sciences
10. In the last paragraph, we can figure out that in _____ a National Academy of Sciences called for strict standards and system of accreditation for DNA testing laboratories.
 A. January, 1998
 B. December, 1991
 C. 1987
 D. April, 1998

Passage 2

Racket

Length of text: 386 words Target time: _____ minutes
 Target speed: 80 wpm Starting at: _____
 Finishing at: _____ Time taken: _____
 Reading speed: _____ Comprehension score: _____

- 1 Racket, din, clamor, noise, whatever you want to call it, unwanted sound is America's most widespread nuisance. But noise is more than just

a nuisance. It constitutes a real and present danger to people's health. Day and night, at home, at work, and at play, noise can produce serious physical and psychological stress. No one is immune to this stress. Though we seem to adjust to noise by ignoring it, the ear, in fact, never closes and the body still responds—sometimes with extreme tension, as to a strange sound in the night.

- 2 The annoyance we feel when faced with noise is the most common outward symptom of the stress building up inside us. Indeed, because irritability is so apparent, legislators have made public annoyance the basis of many noise abatement programs. The more subtle and more serious health hazards associated with stress caused by noise traditionally have been given much less attention. Nevertheless, when we are annoyed or made irritable by noise, we should consider these symptoms fair warning that other things may be happening to us, some of which may be damaging to our health.
- 3 Of the many health hazards to noise, hearing loss is the most clearly observable and measurable by health professionals. The other hazards are harder to pin down. For many of us, there may be a risk that exposure to the stress of noise increases susceptibility to disease and infection. The more susceptible among us may experience noise as a complicating factor in heart problems and other diseases. Noise that causes annoyance and irritability in healthy persons may have serious consequences for those already ill in mind or body.
- 4 Noise affects us throughout our lives. For example, there are indications of effects on the unborn child when mothers are exposed to industrial and environmental noise. During infancy and childhood, youngsters exposed to high noise levels may have trouble falling asleep and obtaining necessary amounts of rest.
- 5 Why, then, is there not greater alarm about these dangers? Perhaps it

is because the link between noise and many disabilities or diseases has not yet been conclusively demonstrated. Perhaps it is because we tend to dismiss annoyance as a price to pay for living in the modern world. It may also be because we still think of hearing loss as only an occupational hazard.

(<http://www.tesoon.com/english/htm/847.htm>)

Comprehension Exercises

1. The word "racket" in the first paragraph means _____.
 - A. a bat
 - B. an illegal way
 - C. a human's voice
 - D. a loud noise
2. In paragraph 1, the phrase "immune to" means _____.
 - A. unaffected by
 - B. hurt by
 - C. unlikely to be seen by
 - D. unknown by
3. According to the passage, which one is NOT true?
 - A. Noise becomes a great problem in America.
 - B. People cannot avoid hearing noise everywhere.
 - C. Our body could adjust itself to ignore the effect of noise.
 - D. Our ear can prevent noise from entering our body by closing itself.
4. The author's attitude toward noise can best be described as _____.
 - A. unrealistic
 - B. traditional
 - C. concerned
 - D. hysterical
5. Which of the following best states the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Noise is a major problem whose importance is known to most people.
 - B. Although noise can be annoying, it is not a major problem.
 - C. Noise is a major problem but has not yet been recognized like that.
 - D. Noise is a major problem about which nothing can be done.
6. The author condemns noise essentially because it _____.
 - A. is detrimental to environment
 - B. can make people irritable
 - C. is a nuisance
 - D. is a danger to people's health
7. Legislators have made public annoyance the basis of many noise abatement programs mainly because of _____.
 - A. sight illness
 - B. apparent irritability

- C. bones disease
D. mental enjoyment
8. Noise will cause people ill with _____.
A. heart problems
B. hearing loss
C. mental disease
D. All of the above.
9. The effect of noise will affect us _____.
A. throughout our lives
B. just a few years
C. definitely during the infancy and teenage
D. after we were born
10. The author would probably consider the research on the effects of noise on people to be _____.
A. unimportant B. impossible C. a waste of money D. essential

Passage 3

Role of Inheritance

Length of text: 378 words

Target time: _____ minutes

Target speed: 80 wpm

Starting at: _____

Finishing at: _____

Time taken: _____

Reading speed: _____

Comprehension score: _____

- 1 What we know of prenatal (出生前的) development makes all the attempt made by a mother to mold the character of her unborn child by studying poetry, art, or mathematics during pregnancy seem utterly impossible. How could such extremely complex influences pass from the mother to the child? There is no connection between their nervous systems. Even the blood vessels of mother and child do not join directly. An emotional shock to the mother will affect her child, because it changes the activity of her glands(腺体) and so the chemistry in her blood. Any chemical change in the mother's blood will affect the child for better or worse. But we

cannot see how a mathematics or poetic genius can be dissolved in blood, and produce a similar liking or genius in the child.

2 In our discussion of instincts we saw that there was reason to believe that whatever we inherit must be of some very simple sort rather than any complicated or very definite kind of behavior. It is certain that no one inherits a knowledge of mathematics. It may be, however, that children inherit more or less of a rather general ability that we may call intelligence. If very intelligent children become deeply interested in mathematics, they will probably make a success of that study.

3 As for musical ability, it may be that what is inherited is an especially sensitive ear, a peculiar structure of the hands or the vocal organs connections between nerves and muscles that make it comparatively easy to learn the movements a musician must execute, and particularly vigorous emotions. If these factors are all organized around music, the child may become a musician. The same factors, in other circumstances, might be organized about some other center of interest. The rich emotional equipment might find expression in poetry. The capable fingers might develop skill in surgery. It is not the knowledge of music that is inherited, then nor even the love of it, but a certain bodily structure that makes it comparatively easy to acquire musical knowledge and skill. Whether that ability will be directed toward music or some other undertaking may be decided entirely by forces in the environment in which a child grows up.

(南方学习网 <http://sl.iciba.com/images/thread/88/bd/88bd437b91cf64df707262b-925c42d0a.doc>)

Comprehension Exercises

1. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. Some mothers try to influence their unborn children by studying art and other subjects during their pregnancy.
- B. It is utterly impossible for us to learn anything about prenatal development.
- C. The blood vessels of mother and child do not join directly.

- D. There is no connection between mother's nervous systems and her unborn child's.
2. A mother will affect her unborn baby on condition that _____.
A. she is emotionally shocked
B. she has a good knowledge of genetics
C. she takes part in all kinds of activities
D. she sticks to studying
3. What is the real factor that a mother affects her unborn baby?
A. The emotional shock on her.
B. The activity of her glands.
C. The change of the chemistry in her blood.
D. All of the above.
4. According to the passage, a child may inherit _____.
A. everything from his mother
B. a knowledge of mathematics
C. a rather general ability that we call intelligence
D. his mother's musical ability
5. As for musical ability, what is inherited is _____ between nerves and muscles that make it comparatively easy to learn the movements a musician must execute.
A. an especially sensitive ear
B. a peculiar structure of the hands
C. the vocal organs connections
D. All of the above.
6. If a child inherits something from his mother, such as an especially sensitive ear, a peculiar structure of the hands or of the vocal organs, he will _____.
A. surely become a musician
B. most likely become a poet
C. possibly become a teacher
D. become a musician on condition that all these factors are organized around music
7. If the child mentioned in above question is interested in medicine, according to the essay, he would become _____.

- A. a musician B. a surgeon C. a poet D. a singer
8. In this passage, the author wants to argue that _____.
- A. a child can inherit intelligence from his mother not a definite ability
- B. mother could decide her unborn baby to be a musician during her pregnancy
- C. inheritance and educational environment are both essential to a child's future
- D. inherited ability can help a child when he is studying a certain skill
9. Whether the inherited ability can be directed toward music or some other undertaking may be decided entirely _____.
- A. by forces in the environment in which a child grows up
- B. by his mother's demand before his birth
- C. by the chemistry within his mother's blood
- D. by his own will
10. From this passage, we can form the conclusion that a genius is made by _____.
- A. a successful prenatal development
- B. an inherited ability in a certain educational environment
- C. a natural ability
- D. only a specific education

Unit 2

Transportation



Passage 1

American Cars in Germany

Length of text: 360 words

Target time: _____ minutes

Target speed: 80 wpm

Starting at: _____

Finishing at: _____

Time taken: _____

Reading speed: _____

Comprehension score: _____

- 1 Improbable as it may seem, an increasing number of Germans are giving up their elegant Mercedeses, sleek BMWs and ferociously (非常之极) fast Porsches and getting behind the wheels of imported American models—from plush Cadillacs to more prosaic (乏味的, 沉闷的) Fords. Unlike the cars produced by Detroit's European subsidiaries, these cars are as American as apple pie and watery beer. Thanks to a favorable exchange rate, they are more affordable than ever. Last year Germans bought 12 477 new U.S.-built cars; sales are expected to double this year.
- 2 Like blue jeans, this buy-American fad (时尚) appeals to Germans from all walks of life. Once regarded as faulty, flashy, gas-guzzling (耗油的) Goliaths, American autos are—thanks in large measure to foreign competition—more stylish and reliable than in the years past. Tugged, off-road vehicles like the four-wheel drive Jeep Cherokee are now the hot wheels to drive among Germany's thirty—something set. Owners and

aficionados (狂热爱好者) of American-made cars also boast their cars are cheaper to maintain.

- 3 But that's not the main reason German motorists are choosing U.S. imports—It's their price. Even after the cost of overseas shipping is included, American-made cars offer more value and deluxe features for less money than German models. A Chrysler LeBaron convertible (敞篷车) sells for 35 000 marks; a BMW 320i convertible, by comparison, commands 10 000 marks more. And U.S. autos come with standard equipment—electric windows, automatic locks and sun roofs—that's available only as expensive options on German models.
- 4 Owning an American car in Germany is not for everybody. But the worst headaches come from the German bureaucracy. Johann Erben, a Greiburg dental lab technician, purchased a LeBaron convertible during a U.S. trip in November, and has yet to drive it one kilometer. First, he waited months for the proper registration documents to arrive; then he spent more than 1 000 marks to have it comply with German regulations. Even so, safety inspectors refused to approve it until he changed the headlights and windows to European Community standards. "There I was with my supermodern, \$ 20 000 car and unable to get it through inspection," Erben recalled.

(http://hongdou2.gxnews.com.cn/forumview.asp?td=0&topic_id=1870923)

Comprehension Exercises

1. Detroit's European subsidiaries _____.
 - A. produce the same models as Detroit supplies in the U.S. market
 - B. provide cars of European styles
 - C. produce cars that are thought to be un-American by Germans
 - D. could hardly meet the demand for American cars last year
2. The buy-American fad that appeals to Germans most seems to be _____.
 - A. blue jeans
 - B. apple pie
 - C. U.S.-made cars
 - D. watery beer