



全国高等农业院校教材
全国高等农业院校教学指导委员会审定

大学英语阅读理解教程

第一册

叶邵宁 蔡明 主编



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前 言

我国进入 WTO 后,同世界各国的科技交流与合作将更加深入和广泛,同时经济全球化进程的加快也将使中国在日趋激烈的世界性竞争当中面临严峻的挑战。面临挑战,要有充分的准备,特别要加强对人才的培养。目前我国迫切需要既具有较强的专业知识,又具有较强的英语语言知识和语言技能的高级复合型人才。作为多年在大学英语教学第一线工作的教师,我们深感肩上责任的重大。通过总结多年从教经验和整理多年积累的素材,我们编写了这套《大学英语阅读理解教程》,旨在帮助学生提高阅读理解能力及语言表达能力。本教程依据大学英语教学大纲及考试大纲的具体要求,以巩固、充实基础知识为出发点,从词汇入手,由低到高逐步提高学生的阅读能力及语言运用能力,并参照大学英语考试委员会 1996 年 8 月公布的《全国大学英语四、六级考试新题型》的规定,加入了新题型的操练内容,以使学生熟知新题型的测试内容及形式。这套教程分为四册,所选文章的难易度均按照大学英语水平一至四级的要求,由浅入深选材组织,文章的内容力求多样、新颖、有趣,同时具有时代感。

本册为这套教程的第一册,由两个部分组成。第一部分为“如何处理阅读中所遇到的生词”,这部分介绍了多种识别和掌握生词的方法与技巧,其中例句内容有趣、通俗易懂,便于记忆、理解和运用,同时每种方法都附有贴切的练习,以便学生运用和巩固所学方法,培养良好的学习和掌握新词汇的习惯,进而学会如何处理阅读中的生词并不断扩大词汇量,最终扫除阅读中的障碍,达到顺利阅读的目的。第二部分为“单元练习”,这部分共 10 个单元,每单元 3 篇短文,每篇短文均配有练习和答案。在领会和掌握了第一部分内容的基础上,学生可通过这部分的练习来检测自己是否能灵活运用所学到的方法与技巧。

本书在编写中,编者参考了许多国内有关的书籍,在此表示感谢。由于编写时间较仓促,水平有限,书中难免有疏漏及错误之处,恳请读者指正。

编 者

2002 年 8 月

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第一部分 如何处理阅读中遇到的生词

人们在阅读英语文章时常常会遇到不认识或不熟悉的单词和短语。如果遇到生词就查字典，必然会减慢阅读的速度，同时也会打断读者的思路，影响对文章理解的连贯性。而且，时断时续的阅读必然影响阅读的质量和效率。其实，在阅读过程中，有时不必知道个别生词的确切含义，只要了解其大概意思即可继续往下读，未必会影响对整句话或段落的理解。那么有什么办法使读者既能保持一定的阅读速度，又能不翻字典而猜测到生词的大致含义呢？主要通过两个途径来解决：一是根据上下文线索（context clue）推断生词或短语的意义；二是利用英语的构词（word-formation）知识来推断词义。

第一章 根据上下文线索推断生词或短语的意义

通过生词或短语所在句子的语法关系和上下文的线索来推断词义是提高阅读效率的重要手段之一。下面通过实例来介绍根据上下文推断生词词义的方法。

1. 根据定义 (definition) 推断词义

有时候, 文章的作者为了让读者理解文中某个词或术语, 可能会利用系动词或提示词对该词下定义或利用其他方式作进一步解释。

(1) 通过系动词 to be 下定义

例如: A *trademark* is a brand that has been given legal protection.

如果 trademark 是个生词, 系动词 be 后面就是这个词的定义。该词词义为“商标”。

(2) 通过标点符号, 如逗号 (,), 冒号 (:), 破折号 (—), 引号 (“ ”)、括号 (()) 等, 以及提示词 or, i. e. (that is), in other word, refer to, to be called, to be defined as 等引出同位语或加以解释。

例如:

1) The *IQ scores* (measures of intelligence) of a group of undergraduate college students were very high during a *hurricane* or other kind of storm.

2) Some people in India do not eat meat or fish at all, they are called *vegetarians*.

例句 1) 中括号内容是对 *IQ scores* 的解释, 因此得出其意思是“智力测试得分”。*hurricane* 的意思由 or 后面引出的同位语中可猜测到是狂风中的一种, 确切的词义是“飓风”。

例句 2) 说“印度有些人根本不吃鱼和肉, 他们被叫做 *vegetarians*”, 很显然可以推断出该词的意思是“素食者”。

(3) 通过定语从句加以解释

文章中的定语从句常常用来对上文中提到的单词或短语加以说明。例如：

The set of books is for children. The first book of the *sequence*, which is one of the most popular series of children's stories, is a group of stories about the inhabitants of a village.

假如 *sequence* 是生词，可以从修饰该词的定语从句“最受欢迎的童话故事丛书之一”中找到与它同义的词 *series*，因此可以推断 *sequence* 的意思是“丛书”或“系列图书”。

2. 根据同义词、近义词 (synonym) 推断词义

在阅读时经常会发现，作者为了避免重复用同一个词，往往会选用词性不同的词或短语来叙述同一件事。因此，阅读时可以通过上下文寻找某个生词的同义词或近义词，从而推断生词的含义。例如：

1) As yet I have spoken to no one, nor did anybody seem to take notice of me; I stood lonely enough, but to that feeling of *isolation* I was accustomed.

2) The members of the family were so angry that I decided to stay away from the house until dinner. Their *rage* truly frightened me.

例句 1) 中的 *isolation* 与上句的 *lonely* 词性不同，但却表达同一个意思：“孤独”。

例句 2) 中的 *rage* 与上句中的 *angry* 虽然词性也不同，但很明显是表达同一个意思：“生气”。

3. 根据反义词 (antonym) 推断词义

常见的表示相反或者相对的提示词有：but, while, whereas, however, yet, otherwise, although, even though, instead, on the contrary, on the other hand, nevertheless 等。利用提示词，运用逻辑推理，可以很快推断句中生词或短语的含义。例如：

1) Lucy manages money *judiciously* while I do unwisely.

2) Although the patient is usually *morose*, she seemed happy today.

3) Unlike her *taciturn* husband, she talks a lot.

例句 1) 中的 *while* 表示一种对比关系，*judiciously* 与 *unwisely* 成对比，因此可以确定 *judiciously* 的含义是“wisely (明智的)”。

例句 2) 中的 *although* 表示转折关系，从逻辑关系可推断 *morose* 是 *happy*

的反义词，意思是“unhappy（抑郁的）”。

例句3)中的 *taciturn* 和 *talks a lot* 通过 *unlike* 形成对比，由此可以推断 *taciturn* 的意思是“沉默寡言的”。

4. 根据经验和常识 (experience and common knowledge) 推断词义

在阅读中，有时我们可以根据自身的生活经验和普通常识，通过逻辑推理来推断生词的词义。例如：

- 1) Children are usually *inquisitive* about things around them.
- 2) Sometimes the tension produced by our fear is so great that we cannot suppress it. At such times we need to *discharge* the tension by laughing or crying.

例句1)中的 *inquisitive* 如果是生词，根据常识，不难推断其含义是“好奇的”，因为小孩对周围的事通常都会感到好奇的。

例句2)中 *discharge* 的意思可以从上下文的线索，再加上自身的生活经验得以确定，意思是“解除，消除”。因为在生活中，哭或笑常常是解除紧张情绪的表现。

5. 根据上下文的因果 (cause and effect) 关系推断词义

常见的表现因果关系的提示词：*as a result*, *because*, *due to*, *in order to*, *so that*, *so*, *thus*, *therefore* 等。通过提示词所表达的因果关系进行推理，句中生词或短语的意义就不难推断了。例如：

- 1) He didn't focus the camera well. As a result, the picture is *blurry*.
- 2) She rushed out of the store so fast that she bumped *smack* into a big woman with a lot of packages and almost got knocked over.

例句1)中先说“他照相时没有聚焦好”。可想而知，照出来的相片会是什么结果，因此可以推断 *blurry* 的含义是“模糊的，不清晰的”。

例句2)中 *almost got knocked over* (几乎倒下) 说明了她 *bumped into* (撞到) 的程度有多大，因此可以推断 *smack* 的意思是“猛烈地”。

6. 根据上下文的例子 (example) 推断词义

常见的引出例子的提示词：*for example*, *for instance*, *examples include*, *such as*, *like*, *say*, *including*, *illustrate* 等。有时作者会用举例来解释或说明某个词，通过对所举例子的理解，可推断出生词的含义。例如：

- 1) After a day's hunting, Johnson is *ravenous*. Yesterday, for example, he

ate two bowls of soup, salad, a large chicken, and a piece of chocolate cake before he was finally satisfied.

- 2) Mike must be very *affluent*. He wears expensive clothes and jewelry, drives a Rolls-Royce convertible, and owns a \$1,750,000 house in Beverly Hills.

假使此两例中的 *ravenous* 和 *affluent* 都是生词，但其含义完全可以从下文加以说明的具体事例中得到推断，*ravenous* 的含义是“饥饿”，*affluent* 的含义是“富有”。

通过文章的上下文来推断词义是一种重要的阅读技能之一，我们要在阅读过程中有意识地培养这种技能。掌握这种技能不仅有利于提高阅读速度，而且有助于理解阅读材料和扩大词汇量。

Exercise I

A. With the help of the context clues, decide the meaning of the italicized word in each of the following sentences.

1. As self-acceptance grows, shyness naturally *diminishes*.

The word “diminishes” means 减小

2. Although he really did not want to open the mysterious drawer again, his curiosity *compelled* him to take one last look.

The word “compelled” means 迫使

3. Cartoon movies are produced by taking pictures of thousands of drawings. This kind of movies is called an *animation*.

The word “animation” means 动画片

4. *Solar* energy is energy from the sun.

The word “solar” means 太阳的

5. Jane is *indecisive*, that is, she can't make up her mind.

The word “indecisive” means 犹豫不决的

6. There are four parts, or *components*, in a simple stereo system.

The word “components” means 部分

7. Mike's uncle is a *roamer*, an incurable wanderer who never could stay in one place.

The word “roamer” means 流浪者

8. Thin people might feel *depressed* during cold weather. Overweight people, on

the other hand, may feel unhappy in hot summer months.

The word "depressed" means 不快乐, 抑郁的

9. The cost of a college education is *skyrocketing*. Since tuition costs are rapidly rising, many students must take jobs to help meet expenses.

The word "skyrocketing" means 快速增长

10. While I love the play, my husband *loathes* it.

The word "loathes" means 不喜欢

11. We decided to *persevere* rather than give up.

The word "persevere" means 坚持

12. She is studying *glaucoma* and other disease of the eye.

The word "glaucoma" means 青光眼

13. The *collision* of the two cars caused a lot of damage to both.

The word "collision" means 碰撞

14. Dr. Lear tried to *alleviate* Mary's fear by explaining the operation to her.

The word "alleviate" means 减轻

15. He was a *green-worker* and needed a lot of training.

The word "green-worker" means 没有工作经验的工人

16. I noticed her blue eyes immediately. They were her most *salient* feature.

The word "salient" means 明显的

17. I will use *diagrams* — pictures or drawings — to explain the new machine.

The word "diagrams" means 图解

18. *Extroverted* persons, who enjoy parties and meeting new people, are less likely to be victims of depression.

The word "extroverted" means 性格外向的

19. This is a group of *microentrepreneurs*... i. e., people who own and run their own small business.

The word "microentrepreneurs" means 小企业家

20. Select any of these *periodicals*, such as Times, Newsweek, Reader's Digest or The New Yorker.

The word "periodicals" means 期刊

21. The price of the shirt was *excessive*. In other words, it cost too much.

The word "excessive" means 过度的

22. Jack's answer to the question was *ambiguous*, while Peter's answer was clear.

- The word "ambiguous" means _____
23. A *cardiologist* is a doctor who specializes in heart diseases.
The word "cardiologist" means _____
24. It was so *cozy* by the fire that we hated to go out into the cold.
The word "cozy" means _____
25. I usually feel *drowsy* after lunch, so I am in the habit of sleeping for an hour every afternoon.
The word "drowsy" means _____
26. Unlike her *gregarious* sister, Jenny is a shy, unsociable person who does not like going to parties or making new friends.
The word "gregarious" means _____
27. Some of the birds *migrate* to the south when winter comes.
The word "migrate" means _____
28. "Give me clear suggestions when you criticize my work", said the trainee.
"Vague words do not help me improve my work."
The word "vague" means _____
29. The thief was *apprehended*, but the man who had helped him had disappeared.
The word "apprehended" means _____
30. The king *manifested* his pleasure with a hearty laugh.
The word "manifested" means _____
31. Although her way of living suggests that she is *miserly*, her contributions to the "Project Hope" show that she is generous.
The word "miserly" means _____
32. I enjoy talking about my work at home, while my husband *resents* touching upon the topic on work.
The word "resents" means _____
33. Jack was *thrilled* to find out that he had won a special award for his work.
The word "thrilled" means _____
34. A consumer chooses one brand of *detergent*, pays for it, and leaves. Why does he pick that specific kind of soap?
The word "detergent" means _____
35. These days, many products are nearly *identical* to one another in quality and price. If they are almost the same, what makes us buy one brand instead of

another?

The word "identical" means _____

36. Doctors believe that smoking cigarettes is harmful to your health, they also regard drinking as *detrimental*.

The word "detrimental" means _____

37. Grandparents are always more *indulgent* of children than parents. For that reason, our children always enjoy their vacations on their grandparents' farm.

The word "indulgent" means _____

38. There are times when one needs to be surrounded by people, and there are times when one needs *solitude*.

The word "solitude" means _____

39. Harry felt that the situation was hopeless, and the *futility* of his efforts bothered him a great deal.

The word "futility" means _____

40. Some groups of scientists are trying to *devise* systems that would allow us to use solar energy. If they can invent a functional system, perhaps we can become less dependent on fossil fuels such as oil and coal.

The word "devise" means _____

41. The football player was *penalized* for unnecessary roughness and the punishment was a good lesson for him.

The word "penalized" means _____

42. He was very easy to get angry and once he destroyed everything in his house in a *fury*.

The word "fury" means _____

43. The punishment seemed very *harsh* for such a harmless joke. I can't see the point in such strictness.

The word "harsh" means _____

44. Few composers have been so *idolized* during their lifetime as was Edward Mar Dowell. Of course, people worshiped him for a good reason.

The word "idolized" means _____

45. In many nations there are two financial extremes, from *penury* to great wealth.

The word "penury" means _____

46. It is better to be *reflective* about problems than to be thoughtless.