

最新大学英语

四级常考题型评析

Guide To College English Test-4

张国申 主编

● 供四级考生使用 ●

*Guide To College
English Test-4*



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第一部分 听力

Part I Listening

一、听力试题介绍

大学英语四级考试 (CET-4) 的第一部分考的就是听力理解。这部分的分数比重为 20 分, 占总分的五分之一。就题型而言, 一般包括两小部分, 即 Section A 和 Section B。Section A 共有 10 题, 每题为一问一答的一个小对话, 分别由男女声读出, 考生将根据对话后面的问句在考卷上选择一个切合对话内容的答案。现举例如下 (连同 Directions):

Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear 10 short conversations. At the end of each conversation, a question will be asked about what was said. The conversation and the question will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Example: You will hear:

You will read: A) At the office.

B) In the waiting room.

C) At the airport.

D) In a restaurant.

Sample Answer [A] [B] [C] [D]

From the conversation we know that the two were talking about some work they have to finish in the evening. This is most likely to have taken place at the office. Therefore, A) "At the office" is the best answer. You should choose answer A) on the Answer Sheet and mark it with a single line through the centre.

接着, 你将从磁带上听到:

M: I bought these towels as a gift last week but have just discovered that they are the wrong color. So I want to return them.

W: If you have your receipt, I can give you credit for the purchase. But I can't refund your money.

Q: Where does the conversation take place?

然后, 阅读试卷上对应的选项, 确定正确答案。

- A) In a bank
- B) In a private home
- C) In a department store
- D) In an art supply shop

Section B 一般包括 3 篇不同题材的短文, 每篇约长 150~200 词不等。文章分别由男声或女声匀速不间断地读出, 只读一遍, 每篇后有 2 至 4 个问题, 考生应根据问题选择试卷上的正确答案。例如 (包括 Directions):

Section B

Directions: In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the passage you have just heard.

接着, 你将从磁带上听到:

Passage:

Deer are confirmed vegetarians. But you would never know it by watching the white-tailed deer in an island in Lake Michigan each spring. In the first documented case of its kind, two wildlife biologists, writing in a journal, report that deer have been gulping down a kind of small fish, which die off each spring and summer, washed up on the beach.

It is reported that the average deer ate 235 fish during each of three daily trips to the beach.

The white-tailed deer were introduced to an island in the lake in 1926. The first fish die-offs began in late fifties. It is also said that deer have never be heard to eat meat on a regular basis, although occasional occurrences have been reported. Someone once spotted a deer eating a dead salmon. It is also presumed that deer eat bird, but don't get the opportunity to do it very often.

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the passage you have just heard.

11. According to the talk it is a common sense that...

12. What will be eaten by the white-tailed deer?
 13. When were these white-tailed deer introduced to the island?
 每听到一个问题,要利用中间的停顿阅读试卷上对应的选项,确定正确答案。
11. A) Dears are vegetarians.
 B) Dears are carnivores.
 C) Dears eat raw foods only.
 D) Dears are both vegetarians and carnivores.
12. A) small plants B) small animals
 C) a kind of fish D) a kind of flower
13. A) In 1926 B) In 1826
 C) In 1962 D) In 1862

为了改进全国大学英语四、六级考试,提高考试的力度,使考试对教学有较好的促进作用,全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会宣布从1996年1月的全国大学英语四级考试开始,可能采用几种新的题型有:听写填空,英译汉或简答题。

这就是说,在上述两种听力题型之外,还可能出现听写填空题(Spot Dictation),该题安排在听力理解题之后。试卷上将给出一段200词左右的短文,其中有10个左右的空格。每个空格要求填入一个句子,或者句子的一部分。全文以大学英语教学大纲规定的语速(即每分钟约120词)朗读三遍。第一遍全文朗读,没有停顿,供考生听懂全文内容;第二遍空格后有停顿,要求考生把听到的内容(句子或句子的一部分)填入空格;第三遍同第一遍一样没有停顿,供考生进行核对。这一部分短文的题材、体裁和难度等与听力理解题Section B中的篇章相同。举例如下:

Spot Dictation

Directions: In this section, you will hear a passage of about 120 words three times. The passage is printed on your Answer Sheet with about 50 words missing. First, you will hear the whole passage from the beginning to the end just to get a general idea of it. Then in the second reading, you will hear a signal indicating the beginning of a pause after each sentence, sometimes two sentences or just part of a sentence. During the pause, you must write down the missing words you have just heard in the corresponding space on the Answer Sheet. There is also a different signal indicating the end of the pause. When you hear this signal, you must get ready for what comes next from the recording. You can check what you have written when the passage is read to you once again without the pauses.

In the United States, people appear to be constantly on the move. 1. How often 2 moving vans on the road? 3. Are so many people actually 4 ?

Yes, people in the United States are indeed on the move. 5, about one third of the population 6. Every person who moves 7 for making such a decision. Some people may decide to move 8. Some may wish 9. And some have many other reasons. 10, the amount of movement in this country is substantial.

二、听力应试指导

听力理解题做得好坏对考试的成败有很重要的影响,这是毋庸置疑的。然而,要想听力题做得好,要想具备良好的听力技能,并非一朝一夕之功。根据外语学习的规律,这应该是一个由浅入深,循序渐进的过程。良好的英语听力是多种语言能力的综合产物,它不仅包括听力技巧、语音和语调,同时也涉及语法、逻辑推理、社会背景以及各种科学技术、文化生活常识等。甚至听者本身的心理因素、思维习惯也往往会影响乃至左右听力的效果。当然,透彻地研究试卷,寻找试题的规律,进而采取相应的措施,也是提高考试成绩的一条行之有效的途径。以下笔者准备从这两大方面具体谈谈自己学习外语以及从事四、六级外语教学的一些体会。

1. 听力技能的培养

一般说来,良好的听力技能和听力效果受以下几个方面因素的影响:

词汇量的大小

很难想象一名考生会对夹杂着生词的录音材料有正确的理解,尤其是当该生词是录音材料的关键词(key word)时。通常的情况是,遇到这种题目,考生首先就会失去信心,更无从谈起对材料的正确理解了。例如:

W: I bought this \$ 200 washer at a 25% discount.

M: It's a very good washer. I think that's a real bargain.

Q: How much did the woman pay for the washer?

如果不知道 discount 在此处作“折扣”解,你怎能计算出 washer 的实际价格?
再如:

M: Here is a prescription for some pills. Come back and see me in two weeks.

W: Thank you very much for seeing me.

Q: What's the man's profession?

若不知道 prescription 是“处方”，而 pill 是“药片”，考生又怎么能知道 man 的职业是“医生” (doctor) 呢？

由此可见，词汇量也是英语听力的根本，没有了这个根本，所有的“技巧，诀窍”都只能是空中楼阁。

对语法的正确理解

语法是语言运用和理解的规范。超越了这个规范，则错误在所难免。如：

M: Did you paint the house, Jenny?

W: Tom, I'm awfully sorry. I thought you did it.

Q: Who painted the house?

Choices:

A) Tom B) Jenny C) Both D) Neither

选择了答案 A) 的考生显然没能弄清 I thought you did it 一句中主句谓语动词 thought 的语法意义。再比如：

W: How long will it take you to fix my watch?

M: It shouldn't take longer than a week. I'll call you when it's ready.

Q: How long will the man need?

Choices:

A) more than a week B) less than a week

过去时态在英语口语中使用。过去时态(包括一般过去时和过去完成时)通常用来表示过去一段时间内发生的事件和状态。但在口语中,根据说话者的语调和下文,过去时态还往往用来表示与说话当时的情况相对或相反的状态。比如对一久候方至的赴约者说 I thought you would never come, 意思可以是“你终于来了”。在谈及自己的恋人时说 where had she been! 则可以理解为“相见恨晚”含义,试看以下两题。

1. M: You saw Bob in the dining-hall? He was supposed to be in Los Angeles.

W: Anyway, I thought it was Bob.

Q: What does the woman mean?

2. M: How do you like the film you saw last night?

W: Considering the review it had received, we were expecting a much better film.

Q: What does the man think of the movie?

由于运用了过去时态,第1题中 woman 说 Anyway, I thought it was Bob. 实际上等于说“我(当时)确实认为是 Bob”(尽管现在我知道那个人不是他)。第2题中 We were expecting a much better film 实际是说“这部电影比我们预想的要差得多。”

委婉语(Euphemism)。委婉语是否属于准确意义上的语法范畴,我们姑且不论,但它的大量使用却是英语语言的一大特色。如拒绝时可以说“I'd love to, but I will be engaged at the time”;说某人或某物最好则是“I can't find a better one”或“next to none”;说不喜欢某物则为“I don't like it any better than...”等等。委婉语在丰富英语语言的同时却为中国的学生出了一道听力理解上的难题。在 CET-4 考试中,类似题目也是屡见不鲜。例如:

1. W: Our tea is tasteful while the coffee here has a strong flavour. Which one do you want, sir?

M: They are both excellent. I can't choose one over the other.

Q: What is the man's order?

2. M: Everything is ready now. Who will host the Reception Party?

W: I'm supposed to.

Q: Who will host the Party?

题1中 I can't choose one over the other 实际上是 I will order both 的委婉说法;题2中 I'm supposed to 意即 I will host the Reception Party。如应试者对此没有了解,很容易被引入歧途。

句子的重音和语调

句子的重音和语调通常可以给我们指出句子的关键词(key word)和句子的实际含义。在正常情况下,下列词类在句中往往需要重读:动词、名词、形容词、副词、疑问词、指示代词等。例如: 'Answers to the 'English 'test 'came 'easily to 'everyone except 'Frank。而助动词、情态动词、冠词、介词、连接词等一旦在句中重读了,则说明说话者要么强调该词,要么就是另有含意。如 'Aren't the 'rents here just 'incredible! 此句中强调 be 动词是为了表达说话者强烈的语气。就语调而言,一个句子该采用什么语调,我们已有共识,在此不再赘述,但一个句子一旦采用了非正常语调,则需特别注意它所传达的说话者的态度、意图或感情。因为同样一句话,使用的调型不同,其含意也是不同的。试比较 yes 在下列几个调型中的含意:

降调。表示肯定或同意,并含有“终结谈话”的意思。

A: Will he come tomorrow?

B: Yes (=I'm sure he will come).

升调。表示话尚未说完,有“未尽之词”。

1. A: Excuse me.

B: Yes (=What do you want)?

2. A: Do you know John Smith?

B: Yes (=What is that you want to say about him)?

降升调。表示勉强同意或者持保留态度。

A: I've heard it's a good school.

B: Yes (=I would not completely agree with what you said).

升降调。表示一些强烈的情绪。

1. A: Isn't the view lovely!

B: Yes.

2. A: I think you said it was the best so far.

B: Yes.

可见,语调和重音对于句子含义是有很大影响的。CET-4 历年的考题和训练题中有许多这样的例子,试举数例如下:

1. W: Excuse me! Could you please tell me how to get to the park?

M: There's a park around here?

Q: What does the man's response indicate?

A) The park is nearby.

- B) He doesn't know about the park.
 C) There's no parking here.
 D) He doesn't understand the question.
2. W: David, I must admit that... but I didn't mean to do that.
 M: You broke the glass?
 Q: How does the man feel?
 A) happy B) excited C) furious D) calm

题1中 There's a park around here? 和题2中 You broke the glass? 均属陈述句型, 句尾加了问号, 说明使用了非正常语调(第一句用了升调, 第二句用了升降调), 分别表明了说话者“茫然无措”和“愤怒”的感情, 两题的答案也因此迥异, 分别为B)和C)。

由于四级考生大部分缺少语言体验, 对语调所传递的信息难以有直接的反应, 因此在平时的训练中就多应多加注意、总结, 以免考试中不知所措, 导致丢分。

英美发音习惯

英国音(BrE)和美国音(ArE)在辅音、元音、单词重音、爆破音以及同化音等方面均有较明显的不同, 表现在部分单词上更是如此。如果不对此有相当的了解, 一个本来熟悉的单词在由不同的人发音时, 可能会使考生难以产生快速的反应, 甚至感到陌生, 从而影响考试效果。

以下对英美发音中的一些主要区别作一简略介绍。

辅音方面。字母r无论出现在什么位置, 在美国英语(下略为ArE)中都发卷舌音/r/或/ɹ/。试比较:

	ArE	BrE
write	/raɪt/	/raɪt/
hard	/hɑːd/	/hɑːd/
rare	/rɛr/	/rɛə/
car	/kɑːr/	/kɑː/
recorder	/rɪ'kɔːdə/	/rɪ'kɔdə/

在ArE中, 凡是出现在两个元音之间的吐气清塞音/t/, 一般都快速念为近乎不吐气的浊塞音/d/。试比较:

	ArE	BrE
better	/'bɛdəː/	/'bɛtə/
butter	/'bʌdəː/	/'bʌtə/

city	/ˈsɪdi/	/ˈsɪti/
dated	/ˈdeɪdɪd/	/ˈdeɪtɪt/
water	/ˈwɒdə/	/ˈwɒtə/
pretty	/ˈprɪdi/	/ˈprɪti/
writing	/ˈraɪdɪŋ/	/ˈraɪtɪŋ/

辅音方面的另一个区别是 wh-组合的发音在 ArE 中为 /hw/, 在 BrE 中为 /w/. 如:

	ArE	BrE
which	/hwɪtʃ/	/wɪtʃ/
why	/hwai/	/wai/

元音方面。当字母 a 出现在 -ss, -st, -th, -lf, -eg, -nce 等前面时, ArE 念 /æ/, 而 BrE 念 /ɑ:/, 试比较:

	ArE	BrE
ask	/æsk/	/ɑ:sk/
can't	/kænt/	/kɑ:nt/
half	/hæf/	/hɑ:f/
path	/pæθ/	/pɑ:θ/
last	/læst/	/lɑ:st/
dance	/dæns/	/dɑ:ns/

字母 o 在念短音的单词中时, ArE 发 /a/ BrE 发 /ɒ/ 例如:

	ArE	BrE
got	/gat/	/gɒt/
box	/baks/	/bɒks/
hot	/hat/	/hɒt/
doctor	/ˈdaktə/	/ˈdɒktə/

单词重音方面。ArE 和 BrE 中某些单词之重音不尽相同。试看下列:

	ArE	BrE
address	/ˈædres/	/əˈdres/
adult	/əˈdʌlt/	/ˈædʌlt/
militarily	/ˌmɪliˈterɪli/	/ˌmɪlɪterɪli/
laboratory	/ˈlæbərətɔːri/	/ləˈbɔːrətɪri/
necessarily	/ˌnesəsˈsɛrɪli/	/ˌnesəsərɪli/
advertisement	/ˌædvərˈtaɪzmənt/	/ədˈvɜːtɪsmənt/

在 ArE 中, 非重读音节的元音并不弱化或消失, BrE 则不然。试看下例:

	ArE	BrE
vacation	/veɪ'keɪʃn/	/və'keɪʃn/
dormitory	/'dɔrmətəri/	/'dɔ:mitri/
secretary	/'sekri:teri/	/'sekiritri/

有些单词 ArE 和 BrE 发音不一致则需逐个记忆。举例如下:

	ArE	BrE
either	/'i:ðə/	/'aiðə/
neither	/'ni:ðə/	/'naiðə/
missile	/'misəl/	/'misail/
schedule	/'skedʒul/	/'fedʒul/
textile	/'tekstl/	/'tekstail/
tomato	/tə'meitəu/	/tə'mɑ:təu/
leisure	/'li:ʒə/	/'leʒə/
epoch	/'epək/	/'i:pək/

除此之外, 在 ArE 中, 如果爆破音后接另一个爆破音或破擦音时, 前一个音只做出准备发此音的姿式, 短暂停顿后, 随即发出另一个音。例如 actor 发 /'æktə/ bedtime 发 /'bedaim/ 这种现象叫不完全爆破。如上例中的 /k/ 和 /d/ 两个音。

以上为英美发音的一些主要区别, 如能做到心中有数, 并在实践中注意辨别, 对于适应考试音带的复杂情况, 稳定考试成绩将是大有裨益的。

正确的逻辑推理

一般来说, 听力理解题的两部分, 除 Section B 问题较为直接, 有些问题可以从文章(听力材料)中直接找到答案以外, Section A 中的大部分题目以及 Section B 中的小部分题目的答案是需要根据听力材料做一些简单的推理方能得出的。例如:

1. M: Miss, is there still time for a cup of coffee on this flight?

W: Yes, but you have to drink it fast, because we'll be landing in 10 minutes.

Q: Where did this conversation most probably take place?

2. W: I have to take examination every day next week.

M: I am having one on Monday, another on Tuesday and the other on Friday.

Q: On which days next week will the man have examination?

两题答案均不能从对话中直接得出。但可根据 flight, landing 等词推理出第一题所问地点必与飞机 (plane) 有关; 同时可根据 Monday、Tuesday 和 Friday 等词推出第二题的正确答案。这些单词我们习惯上称之为关键词 (key words)。关键词正如阅读理解中的主题句, 新闻报道中的导语一样, 对于理解全篇的大意有重要作用。我们不可能抓住听力材料中的每一个单词, 关键在于是否听懂了大意。从这个意义上说, 听懂了关键词就等于成功了一半。例如:

W: Nancy complains that she never gets any mail.

M: That's too bad. I'll write here right away.

Q: What would Nancy like to receive?

- Choices: A) A complaint B) A phone call
 C) A letter D) A receipt

本题的 key word 为 mail, 听懂了它则不难确定问题的答案为 C)。

W: How about my food?

M: I'm sorry, ma'am. It must be ready by now.

Q: Where does this conversation take place?

- Choices: A) At a theatre B) At a station
 C) At a post office D) At a restaurant

本题的 key word 为 food, 抓住了该词, 稍加推理便可确定正确答案为 D)。

M: You'd better hurry, Jane. There isn't much time left. The film is to begin at nine.

W: I'm hurrying. We still have half an hour to go anyway.

Q: What time was it when the conversation took place?

- Choices: A) 8:00 B) 8:30
 C) 9:00 D) 9:30

从对话中的 nine 和 "still have half an hour" 等词可清楚地判定正确答案是 B。

由此可知, 正确的逻辑推理是必要的, 但必须以确凿的事实细节为依据, 这个依据就是 key word(s)。

常识的影响

很难想象一个即将参加四级考试的考生会不知道 John Bull 指的是英伦三岛, Uncle Tom 指的是美国, 圣诞节是 12 月 25 日。这些常识是一个中级水平的英语学习者应该掌握的。除此之外的一些知识也应该具备。比如意大利处于欧洲而加拿大却在美洲等等。以一些简单的常识性知识为前提的四级考题也屡见不鲜, 例如:

M: I'd like to buy these four thanksgiving cards. Are they ten cents each?

W: Three of them are, but that smaller one is only a nickel.

Q: How much were the cards together?

Choices: A) \$ 0.40

B) \$ 0.35

C) \$ 40

D) \$ 35

习惯上五美分 (five cents) 称为一个 nickel, 十美分则称为一个 dime, 若无此常识, 怎能判定本题的答案是 B。再如:

W: Where have you been?

M: I have been to all the countries in the Middle East as well as Europe.

Q: Which of the following countries has the man not been to?

Choices: A) Iran

B) England

C) Italy

D) Canada

这实在是一道典型的常识题, 稍具地理知识的人都应知道, 四个选项中只有 D Canada 既非中东 (The Middle East) 也非欧洲 (Europe) 的国家。

以上所述为影响听力技能和效果的几个因素。只要满足了这几个因素的要求, 再加上踏实的练习, 好的听力是不难取得的。除此之外, 考生还必须掌握正确的答题方法, 这也是保证考试效果的一个重要环节。

2. 应试技巧

听力考试总共耗时 20 分钟, 但它有别于其他考试。其他考试可以在某一题上花较多的时间, 而在另一题上花较少的时间, 在时间分配上机动性较强。听力考试则不然, 它必须在限定的时间内答题。这就要求我们不仅要在时间的使用上科学、合理, 还要会挤时间。其次, 听力考试的问题尽管内容各异, 但在总体上还是有规律可循的。下面, 笔者试作具体阐述。

时间安排

据粗略统计, 听力理解题 20 分钟的具体分布如下:

试音, 宣布考试正式开始至带首音乐完毕约 1 分钟。

随后播出 "College English Test, Band Four, Part I, Listening Comprehension, Section A, Directions..." 至 "Question No. 1", 约 1.5 分钟。

Question No. 1~10 题结束, 约 7.5 分钟。

Section B 至该部分 Directions 结束, 约 45 秒 (0.75 分钟)。

Passage One 至 Passage three 结束, 约 9.25 分钟 (9 分 15 秒)。