Eyes Right

王士先 编 张彦斌 审校

科普英语阅读文选

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内容提要

这是一本科普英语阅读文选，共选入 60 篇英语短文，分为中级阅读、高级阅读和泛读三部分。所选文章紧跟科技发展，内容新、贴合实际，而且涉及的学科非常广泛，文字也力求规范；既能帮助读者提高英语（特别是科普英语）的阅读和翻译的实际能力，又可给予读者一些新鲜有趣的科技信息。为便于阅读，每篇文章均列出生词表，第一、第二部分还附有练习题。

本书可供高中学生以及修读大学英语四级和六级的学生阅读使用，也可供广大科技工作者提高英语水平之用。

前　言

随着 21 世纪的到来和国际互联网的迅速发展以及世界科技文化的广泛交流，英语作为一种国际通用的交流工具，越来越受到重视。广大青少年学习英语的热情有增无减，他们的英语水平有了明显的提高，许多同学的水平已经远远超出了课堂要求。他们不再满足于课本教材，而是迫切需要更多、更广泛的适合他们水平的英语阅读材料，特别是科普方面的阅读材料。为适应广大中学生和大学生的需要，我们选编了这本科普英语阅读文选。

本书中所有文章选自近期的原版杂志或直接选自互联网上的科技新闻报道。内容力求新颖有趣，学科覆盖面力求广泛，文字力求规范，深入浅出，以使广大青少年学生在阅读本书时，既能提高英语水平，同时又可获得一些新的科技信息，扩大视野，为未来的事业打好基础。

本书分为三个部分：第一部分为中级阅读（Intermediate Readings），共 30 篇，每篇篇幅在 300 英语词以下，供修读大学英语四级或相当于四级的学生阅读；第二部分为高级阅读（Advanced Readings），共 20 篇，每篇篇幅在 300～400 英语词，供修读大学英语六级或相当于六级的学生阅读；第三部分为泛读材料(Extensive Readings)，共 10 篇，每篇篇幅在 500 ～800 英语词。第一和第二部分每篇文章后附有两个练习，帮助学生提高阅读技能和翻译技能。第三部分不编练习，只提供注释和生词。

本书可用作中学课外提高班教材，也可供修读大学英

语四级和六级的学生用作课外阅读。对于想要提高英语水平和愿意多接触一些英语科普文章的广大科技工作者，本书也不失为一本值得推荐的参考书。

本书难免有不足之处，欢迎读者批评指正。

编　者

1999 年 12 月

几 点 说 明

关于生词

1. 每篇阅读文章均提供了生词和词组表。词汇表统一放在书后，以促使读者在阅读时先尽量猜测词义，猜不出时才去查阅。第一部分的分课词汇表提供超出《大学英语四级词汇表》（2000 年版）的生词，第二部分的分课词汇表提供超出《大学英语六级词汇表》（2000 年版）的生词，第三部分的分课词汇表提供超出《大学英语词汇表》（包括四级、六级和六级后)的生词。前课出现过的生词以后不再重复注释。
2. 泛读材料部分因文章较长，为便于查找，凡后面有注释的生词和语言点均在该词或语言点右上角注有上标序号如 [1, 2, 3, 4]。
3. 意义比较明显的复合词和派生词原则上不列入生词表，要求读者自行猜测。
4. 本书出现的地名除注明国名的以外均为美国地名，一般只出现城镇名和州名。许多地方州名用缩写，可参考书后《美国各州州名及其缩写表》。
5. 除州名外，其他专有名词如人名和学校、机构名称等一般不列入生词表。
6. 单词有几种读法的，只取常用的一种。
7. 上下文中有英文注释的用斜体表示的专门名词和词组(如 *melatonin*)一般不列入生词表。
8. 凡编入练习要求猜测词义的生词不列入生词表。

9. 有些简单的派生词和合成词不注音标。

关于练习

1. 翻译练习中的黑体字在翻译时要注意其翻译技巧，可能是词义引申，可能是词类转换，也可能需要运用合译或分译等技巧，等等。
2. 多项选择练习只有一种答案；填空练习和问答练习等可以有几种答案，书中只提供一种参考答案。

目　录

PART III EXTENSIVE READINGS

PART I

INTERMEDIATE READINGS

Passage 1

A Chip off the Old Moon

Is it a comet? An asteroid? A spent rocket stage? No. That chunk of rock circling the sun close to the Earth is probably a chip off the moon, astronomers say.

The object, about 50 meters across, was discovered February 10, 1999, by an automated asteroid-hunting linear telescope in New Mexico, *New Scientist* magazine reported.

After six nights of observations, Gareth Williams of the U.S. Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics calculated that it circles the sun every 1.09 years at a distance of just 9 million km beyond Earth's orbit.

Astronomers said such a path is extremely unusual, as comets and asteroids that cross the Earth's orbit normally have

eccentric orbits, the magazine said.

Astronomers said that the new object, between 30 and 50 meters across, is too big to be the final stage of a rocket.

"The most likely explanation is that it's a chip off the Moon," Brian Marsden of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center was quoted as saying.

Astronomers hope to perform an analysis of the mysterious object's composition that could cast light on its origins.

Exercises

Exercise 1 Choose the best answer to fill in the blanks.

1. The passage mainly deals with _____.
   A) a rocket stage B) a comet
   C) an asteroid D) an unidentified space object
2. It can be inferred from the passage that the object is _____.
   A) closer to the sun than the earth
   B) further from the sun than the earth
   A) located between the sun and the moon
   C) located between the earth and the moon
3. From the passage we learn that the object _____.
   A) travels around an eccentric orbit
   B) travels around a round orbit
   C) has about the same orbit as the earth
   D) has its own extraordinary orbit
4. The object has a size _____.

A) much larger than a rocket stage

B) close to an ordinary comet

C) smaller than an asteroid

D) between a comet and an asteroid

5. No conclusion can be reached until _____.

A) more measurements are made

B) its composition is clarified

C) more such objects are found

D) analysis is made of its movements

6. It is most probable that the object is _____.

A) a part separated from the moon

B) another natural satellite of the earth

C) an artificial satellite of the earth

D) a new kind of space station

Exercise 2 Translate the following sentences taken from the passage into Chinese, paying attention to the meaning of the words in bold type.

1. After six nights of observations, Gareth Williams of the U.S. Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics calculated that **it** circles the sun every 1.09 years at a distance of just 9 million km beyond Earth's orbit.

2. Astronomers said such a path is extremely unusual, **as** comets and asteroids that **cross** the Earth's orbit normally have eccentric orbits.

3. Astronomers said that the new object, between 30 and 50 meters **across**, is too big to be the final stage of a rocket.

4. Astronomers hope to perform an analysis of the mysterious object's composition that could **cast light on** its origins.

Passage 2

Why Whales Dive So Deeply

Travelling under the ice in the Arctic Ocean, beluga whales often dive as deep as 900 meters. Why do the whales dive so deeply?

That's what Britain whale researcher Anthony Martin wondered. He thinks he has an answer. Martin says aircraft pilots climb to great altitudes to find emergency landing spots if they're in trouble. The pilots can see great distances that way.

Martin thinks whales do the same thing, only below the surface. As a whale swims under the Arctic ice, it looks for a hole where it can surface to breathe. The whale dives and uses its sense of hearing to detect the sound of lapping water, which indicates that a hole may be nearby.

By diving deeply, the whales greatly increase the area they can listen in. Martin says the whales seem to make a V-shaped dive and spend little time at the bottom. After searching for an opening in the ice, the whale heads back to the surface.

"It all makes sense," says Martin. "There's no proof, of course, but it's a nice theory. "