

N 新世纪英语丛书
New Century English

CET **4**

大学英语

4 级考试 710分

阅读与简答

主编 © 刘宇慧 张俊梅



华东理工大学出版社
EAST CHINA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRESS

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主 编 / 刘宇慧 张俊梅

策划编辑 / 王耀峰(samwyf@sohu.com)

责任编辑 / 李清奇

责任校对 / 李 晔

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内容提要

本书根据《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本)和《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)对阅读的要求以及大学英语教材的难易度编写而成。全书分为两大部分,第一部分为阅读技巧简介;第二部分为阅读实践,包括 150 篇阅读文章,分成 30 个单元,每单元包括 5 篇阅读文章,其中,1 篇快速阅读理解、1 篇篇章词汇理解、2 篇篇章阅读理解、1 篇篇章问答,每篇文章后有阅读练习题和问答练习题,每单元后有难点(包括词汇、搭配、语法结构)注释以及练习题答案解析。

本书内容详实,编排合理,注释与解析深入浅出,有助于读者阅读能力及英语水平的全面提高。

本书适用于准备参加全国大学英语 4 级考试的考生以及同等水平的读者学习使用。

前言

《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)强调培养学生的英语听说能力,以及读写译等英语综合应用能力,其中听说培养的是口头交流能力,读写译培养的是书面交流能力。读、写、译三项能力中,阅读是基础。只有通过大量的阅读,不断地输入与积累,才有可能不断提高写和译的能力。因此,在掌握了一定词汇量的基础上,阅读就成了提高英语书面交流能力的关键。本书旨在帮助和促进读者阅读能力及英语水平的全面提高。

本书具有以下特点:

选材广泛,可读性强 书中文章多选自国内外各类英语刊物、专著、同等水平的英文教材等资料。题材广泛,包括社会、文化、日常生活知识、人物传记等社会科学领域和科普常识、地理等自然科学领域的知识内容;体裁多样,包括叙事、描述、议论、说明文等形式,为读者提供具有可读性与趣味性的读物。

紧扣大纲,针对性强 本书所选的文章在语言和内容上的难易度以及每篇文章和每个单元的阅读量符合大纲的要求;练习题的编写既考虑到了对文章有关细节和主要事实的理解,更注重对理解文章的主旨及作者的观点和态度的考查;阅读技巧部分也是从以上几个方面入手,并把重点放在了概括中心思想、预见、推理和推论方面,有助于培养学生理解文章深层意义的能力。

配有解析,指导性强 每单元后有难点(包括词汇、搭配、语法结构)注释以及练习题答案解析,有助于读者充分理解文章内容,并在提高阅读理解能力的同时扩大词汇量、巩固语法知识、全面提高英语水平;这种编排也便于读者自学、自测。

另外,每单元的5篇阅读文章(包括1篇简答)和练习题编排在一起,其后是文章注释和练习题答案解析。这种编排有助于读者计时阅读以及教师课堂测验使用(1篇快速阅读理解需15分钟、1篇篇章词汇理解和2篇篇章阅读理解需25分钟、1篇篇章问答需15分钟,每单元阅读时间共需55分钟)。

本书编写工作由刘宇慧、张俊梅主持,参加编写工作的还有张俊英、孔延红、张玉娟、梁梅红、郭玮、周江源、邢芳、殷红梅。全书由刘宇慧、张俊梅统编、修改、补充、定稿,张俊英、孔延红、张玉娟协助校对与修改工作,在编写过程中,我们参阅了大量的文献、杂志、教材等,得到了许多专家和同仁的支持与帮助,使我们受益匪浅。在此表示衷心感谢。

由于编者水平有限,书中谬误疏漏之处在所难免,望广大读者及同行专家批评指正。

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第一部分 阅读与简答技巧简介

要提高阅读能力,首先要学好基本的语言知识,不断扩大词汇量,熟练掌握特殊语言现象、惯用法等;同时,大量的阅读实践也是必不可少的,只有在大量的阅读实践中,才能培养语感,不断扩大知识面。此外,正确的阅读方法与技巧也不失为提高阅读能力的有效辅助手段。

一、掌握正确阅读方法,摒弃不良阅读习惯,提高阅读速度

要达到一定的阅读速度,平时训练就应该模拟考试,在规定时间内完成一定的阅读量,反复练习阅读技巧,养成熟练的解题习惯。因此,平时做题时就应采取正确的阅读方法,摒弃不良阅读习惯。

1. 正确阅读方法

1) 成组视读

成组视读是以“意群”(有意义的语法结构)为单位,一组单词一组单词地阅读,这样避免了逐词阅读,大大提高了阅读速度。

2) 略读

略读是指跳过细节,跳过不重要的描述与例子,进行快速阅读,以求抓住文章梗概。这种方法的主要目的是通过略读,了解所读材料的体裁、结构和逻辑关系,了解文章的大意和主旨。为了更好地抓住全文的中心思想,略读时要留心文章中某些反复出现的词语,这些往往与文章的主题有关。还应特别注意文章的开始段和结束段以及每一段的段首句和结尾句,这些往往是对文章内容最好的概括。

3) 查读

查读是用眼睛快速扫视,以最快的速度找到你所要的信息。使用这种方法时,首先弄清你要寻找什么信息,然后,估测一下它大概会以什么形式在什么地方出现,达到目的后,就不要再接着往下读,以节约时间。例如:你了解事件发生的时间、地点,你就得留心查阅日期、地点;你如果了解谁做了什么事,就要留心查阅人名。

4) 细读

细读即阅读时,先浏览全文,然后再根据需要,在特定范围内逐句阅读,特别对关键词句要仔细推敲,以便对其有较深刻、较准确的理解和把握。不仅要理解其字面意思,而且要通过判断和推理,弄清文章中“字里行间”所隐含的意思。在细读中,对生词,可根据上下文或背景知识等来推测其意义;对难以看懂的长句,可借助语法手段对其加以分析,以达到透彻的理解。

5) 计时阅读

计时阅读,是指平时进行一定时间的快速阅读,阅读时记住起止时间,再计算一下本次的阅读速度(每分钟所读词数),这样,就有明确的时间观念,每次读完之后对自己的阅读速度有所了解,经过一段时间刻苦

训练,一定会达到满意的阅读速度。

2. 不良阅读习惯

1) 频繁复读

有些读者担心忘掉已读的内容,读完了一句要读下一句时,又回过头重读一遍上一句,这样循环前进,频繁复读,大大降低了阅读速度。克服这种毛病的方法是:充分相信自己能记住已读过的内容,一直往下读完全文。

2) 出声阅读

另一种常见的不良阅读习惯,是在阅读时读出声来,有时还边读边摇头晃脑。有时尽管声音很小,近乎喃喃自语,也是不可取的。出声阅读使阅读速度受到很大限制。为了克服这种不良阅读习惯,一种方法是在嘴唇之间叼一支铅笔,嘴唇动作时,铅笔就会掉下来,保持铅笔不掉,就能克服这一习惯;另一方法是用手指触摸颈部声带部位,如果觉察不到声带的振动,就是克服了出声阅读的习惯。

3) 心读

这是一种广泛的、较难克服的不良阅读习惯。因为心读时,觉察不到嘴唇、舌头或声带的活动,只存在一种说话的内在形式,就像电影或电视中的字幕在脑海中浮现出来一样。这种毛病与初学英语时必须经过逐字、逐句大声朗读方能把课文和单词记住有关。要克服这一毛病,必须大大提高阅读速度,因为速度很快时,你就无暇顾及心读了。

4) 读速太慢

有些人习惯于一个词一个词地阅读,而不能将词连成词组按意群连贯地进行阅读。有人认为读得越慢,记得越牢,理解也越好。其实不然,读得太慢,不易引起大脑皮层高度兴奋,精力不易高度集中。如果拘泥于个别词的理解与记忆,往往会“见木不见林”,忽视对文章的大意及个别重要细节的理解。反之,保持一定的阅读速度则会加强对全篇大意和细节的理解与记忆。

5) 边读边译

在阅读过程中进行翻译(心译),是直接影响阅读速度的重要原因之一。有的读者一面阅读英文句子,脑海里马上浮现出相应的中文句子。这种习惯可能与平时一边阅读英语,一边查阅中文译文的习惯有关。用这种方式进行阅读无疑要耗费过多的时间与精力,必然大大降低阅读速度。要提高阅读速度,我们就得克服在快速阅读时进行心译的不良习惯,学会用英文进行思维,将原文直接吸收和消化。

二、运用不同的阅读方法达到不同的阅读目的

阅读的最终目的是为了获取信息,有效地利用不同的阅读方法获取不同的信息,对于达到不同的阅读目的,可起到事半功倍的效果。

1. 略读概括主题思想

概括主题思想可用“略读”或“浏览总结”法,即:跳过细节,把阅读重点放在与中心思想有关的关键词、句子上。阅读时应注意以下三点:

(1) 首先要学会识别文章中那些最根本、最有概括性的信息。这种信息应能归纳和概括文中其他信息所具有的共性。

(2) 主题思想应能恰如其分地概括文中所阐述的内容。面不能太窄,即:不足以概括全部内容;但是面也不能太宽,即:包含了文中没有阐述的内容。

(3) 一段文章的中心思想常常由主题句表达。主题句常常位于段首或段尾处,间或出现在段落中间。同样,一篇文章的中心思想也常常在开始段或结尾段点出。因此在阅读中,要特别注意文章的开头及结尾。在阅读理解测试中,常见的用于考查对主题思想的掌握的题型有:

1) 要求概括主题思想

这类问题要求考生理解文章的主题思想。一般来说,这类文章中都有概括主题思想的主题句或主题段以及说明主题句或主题段的细节。例如:

2000 年 1 月试题第二篇文章:

Believe it or not, optical *illusion* (错觉) can cut highway crashes.

Japan is a case in point. It has reduced automobile crashes on some roads by nearly 75 percent using a simple optical illusion. Bent stripes, called *chevrons* (人字形), painted on the roads make drivers think that they are driving faster than they really are, and thus drivers slow down.

Now the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety in Washington D. C. is planning to repeat Japan's success. Starting next year, the foundation will paint chevrons and other patterns of stripes on selected roads around the country to test how well the patterns reduce highway crashes.

Excessive speed plays a major role in as much as one fifth of all fatal traffic accidents, according to the foundation. To help reduce those accidents, the foundation will conduct its tests in areas where speed-related hazards are the greatest — curves, exit slopes, traffic circles, and bridges.

Some studies suggest that straight, horizontal bars painted across roads can initially cut the average speed of drivers in half. However, traffic often returns to full speed within months as drivers become used to seeing the painted bars.

Chevrons, scientists say, not only give drivers the impression that they are driving faster than they really are but also make a lane appear to be narrower. The result is a longer lasting reduction in highway speed and the number of traffic accidents.

▲ The passage mainly discusses ____.

- A) a new way of highway speed control
- B) a new pattern for painting highways
- C) a new approach to training drivers
- D) a new type of optical illusion

解析 该文第一段就道出了主题,即“视觉错觉可以减少高速公路上的车祸”。在接下来的几段中,作者具体讨论了如何在高速公路上用不同的视觉错觉图形来减少车祸的发生,其中人字形图形效果最好。因此正确答案为 A。

2) 要求归纳文章的主题或中心思想

与第一类问题不同的是,这一类文章没有明显的主题句,因此,理解文章的主题或中心思想有赖于对文章中的信息进行高度的综合和概括。例如:

2001 年 1 月试题第四篇文章:

In 1993, New York State ordered stores to charge a deposit on *beverage* (饮料) containers. Within a year, consumers had returned millions of aluminum cans and glass and plastic bottles. Plenty of companies were eager to accept the aluminum and glass as raw materials for new products, but because few could figure out what to do with the plastic, much of it would be buried

in *landfills* (垃圾填埋场). The problem was not limited to New York. Unfortunately, there were too few uses for second-hand plastic.

Today, one out of five plastic soda bottles is *recycled* (回收利用) in the United States. The reason for the change is that now there are dozens of companies across the country buying discarded plastic soda bottles and turning them into fence posts, paint brushes, etc.

As the New York experience shows, recycling involves more than simply separating valuable materials from the rest of the rubbish. A discard remains a discard until somebody figures out how to give it a second life — and until economic arrangements exist to give that second life value. Without adequate markets to absorb materials collected for recycling, throwaways actually depress prices for used materials.

Shrinking landfill space, and rising costs for burying rubbish are forcing local governments to look more closely at recycling. In many areas, the East Coast especially, recycling is already the least expensive waste-management option. For every ton of waste recycled, a city avoids paying for its disposal, which, in parts of New York, amounts to savings of more than \$100 per ton. Recycling also stimulates the local economy by creating jobs and trims the pollution control and energy costs of industries that make recycled products by giving them a more refined raw material.

▲ It can be concluded from the passage that _____.

- A) rubbish is a potential remedy for the shortage of raw materials
- B) local governments in the U. S. can expect big profits from recycling
- C) recycling is to be recommended both economically and environmentally
- D) landfills will still be widely used for waste disposal

解析 根据第一段,虽然饮料罐得到回收利用,但存在的问题是塑料瓶仍然被埋入垃圾填埋场;根据第二、三段,如今部分的塑料瓶得以回收利用,是因为存在着消化废旧物品的市场,一些公司愿意回购废旧塑料瓶并将它们回收利用;如果废旧物品得不到回收利用,就会压制废旧物品的价格;根据第四段,随着垃圾填埋场面积的逐步缩小以及垃圾填埋费用的增加,地方政府越来越重视回收利用,而且回收利用可以节约费用、振兴经济。从以上各段可以归纳出以下的结论:废物的回收利用有利于经济发展和环境保护。因此正确答案为 C。

3) 要求给出文章标题

这一类问题要求用文章的标题形式来表达文章的中心思想。和上一类问题不同的是,这一类问题是将命题进行浓缩,也就是说问题的选项包含了对主题进行某种判断,纳入了某种观点和立场。例如:

2000 年 6 月试题第三篇文章:

Americans are proud of their variety and individuality, yet they love and respect few things more than a uniform, whether it is the uniform of an elevator operator or the uniform of a five-star general. Why are uniforms so popular in the United States?

Among the arguments for uniforms, one of the first is that in the eyes of most people they look more professional than *civilian* (百姓的) clothes. People have become conditioned to expect superior quality from a man who wears a uniform. The television repairman who wears a uniform tends to inspire more trust than one who appears in civilian clothes. Faith in the skill of a garage mechanic is increased by a uniform. What easier way is there for a nurse, a policeman, a barber, or a waiter to lose professional identity than to step out of uniform?

Uniforms also have many practical benefits. They save on other clothes. They save on

laundry bills. They are *tax-deductible* (可减税的). They are often more comfortable and more durable than civilian clothes.

Primary among the arguments against uniforms is their lack of variety and the consequent loss of individuality experienced by people who must wear them. Though there are many types of uniforms, the wearer of any particular type is generally stuck with it, without change, until retirement. When people look alike, they tend to think, speak, and act similarly, on the job at least.

Uniforms also give rise to some practical problems. Though they are long-lasting, often their initial expense is greater than the cost of civilian clothes. Some uniforms are also expensive to maintain, requiring professional dry cleaning rather than the home laundering possible with many types of civilian clothes.

▲ The best title for this passage would be _____.

- A) Uniforms and Society
- B) The Importance of Wearing a Uniform
- C) Practical Benefits of Wearing a Uniform
- D) Advantages and Disadvantages of Uniform

解析 该题的主题是工作服,但作者的笔墨涉及了工作服的外延。解题的关键在于理解各段落的主题句。第二、三段的主题句归纳了工作服的优点,但第四、五段的主题句则归纳了工作服的缺点。如果只根据第二、三段的内容来做出判断,就不免会以偏概全,落入选项 B 所设下的陷阱。因此正确答案为 D。

4) 要求理解作者的目的和意图

这一类问题要求理解作者的目的和意图。例如:

2001 年 6 月试题第二篇文章:

Sport is not only physically challenging, but it can also be mentally challenging. Criticism from coaches, parents, and other teammates, as well as pressure to win can create an excessive amount of anxiety or stress for young *athletes* (运动员). Stress can be physical, emotional, or psychological and research has indicated that it can lead to burnout. Burnout has been described as dropping or quitting of an activity that was at one time enjoyable.

The early years of development are critical years for learning about oneself. The sport setting is one where valuable experiences can take place. Young athletes can, for example, learn how to cooperate with others, make friends, and gain other social skills that will be used throughout their lives. Coaches and parents should be aware, at all times, their feedback to youngsters can greatly affect their children. Youngsters may take their parents' and coaches' criticisms to heart and find a *flaw* (缺陷) in themselves.

Coaches and parents should also be cautious that youth sport participation does not become work for children. The outcome of the game should not be more important than the process of learning the sport and other life lessons. In today's youth sport setting, young athletes may be worrying more about who will win instead of enjoying themselves and the sport. Following a game many parents and coaches focus on the outcome and find fault with youngsters' performances. Positive reinforcement should be provided regardless of the outcome. Research indicates that positive reinforcement motivates and has a greater effect on learning than criticism. Again, criticism can create high levels of stress, which can lead to burnout.

- ▲ The author's purpose in writing the passage is _____.
 A) to teach young athletes how to avoid burnout
 B) to persuade young children not to worry about criticism
 C) to stress the importance of positive reinforcement to children
 D) to discuss the skill of combining criticism with encouragement

解析 在第一段中作者首先提出一个问题,即年轻运动员由于受到教练、家长和队友的批评而感到精神压抑,从而有可能导致精神完全崩溃。接着在第二、三段,作者讨论了解决这一问题的方法,即运动员从小就应该有一个良好的环境,这其中包括教练和家长应该给运动员更多的正面鼓励。在最后一段,作者用几个 should 来强调正面鼓励的重要性。因此正确答案为 C。

2. 细读全文或部分内容进行判断和推理

对篇章的理解涉及语义学和语用学的范畴。语义学研究的是语言结构,即语句本身的意义;语用学研究的是信息结构,是对语言运用进行整体研究,反映话语和环境的关系,也可以说语用学研究的对象是超出语句本身意义范围的意义。根据以上原则,对一篇文章的理解应该是分层次的,即表层意义、深层意义以及外延意义。表层意义即字面意义,是可以直接从阅读文章中得到的信息。然而,语言所表达的内容常常超过其字面意义。在许多文章中,作者对所论述的问题的观点、态度、语气、情绪以及问题的结论不是直接表述出来,而是通过大量的有说服力的论证、事实或细节反映出来。要获取这种信息,需要读者读懂字里行间的意义(to read between the lines)。这是对文章深层意义的理解。可以说,阅读是读者与作者之间进行的书面交际,一篇好文章会对读者产生影响,引起读者的反应。这种影响和反应也是双向的,读者对文章的深层意义理解得越透彻,文章对读者产生的影响和反应越大。而读者对文章及作者的背景或与此相关的内容产生兴趣,有了继续阅读的动力,从而扩大了这方面的知识面,这应该说是对外延意义的理解。

对文章深层意义和外延意义的理解均需要掌握逻辑判断和推理的方法。判断是对文章中所阐述的事实或细节按照逻辑发展的规律进行分析和概括,并以此为依据得出结论;推理是以已知的事实为依据,来获取未知的信息。因此,利用判断和推理的方法,根据事物发展的自然规律以及语言本身的内在联系,可以从一定的文字符号中获取尽可能多的信息。

在阅读中训练判断和推理能力时,应注意以下几点:

- (1) 在阅读中,要善于利用文章中明确表示的内容,进行正确的推理,以此为基础挖掘作者的隐含意思。
- (2) 有时作者先介绍了某一种观点,却接着在后面提出了相反的观点。因此,要正确判断作者的态度或观点,必须将上下文联系起来看。要注意文章中所陈述的内容并非都代表了作者的观点。
- (3) 有时作者通过使用词汇的手段,暗示了自己对文中某一具体问题所持的态度和观点。这时要特别注意文中所用词汇的特点,弄清作者的态度是赞成还是反对,是肯定还是否定。
- (4) 如果要理解某句或某段的含蓄意义,必须在文中找到所涉及的关键词语,仔细阅读,吃透意思,并以此为依据,进行判断和推理。如果需要进行推理判断的内容涉及全文,则必须在理解全文中心思想、掌握全文逻辑发展过程的基础上,进行正确的推理判断。
- (5) 做这类阅读理解题时,要认真审题,注意分析、对比,排除干扰项。特别要注意原文中的意思在题目中的表达形式,准确理解题目的意思和要求。

在阅读理解测试中,判断和推理题型的常见形式有:

1) 言外之意题

这类问题要求通过文章的表层意义,借助常识或上下文逻辑关系来推断无法直接得到的、具有深层含义的某种结论。该类问题的句式通常是:

- It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
 It is implied in the passage that _____.

The author suggests that _____.

2000 年 1 月试题第三篇文章中的一段:

At one time, trains were the only practical way to cross the vast areas of the west. Trains were fast, very luxurious, and quite convenient compared to other forms of transportation existing at the time. However, times change and the automobile became America's standard of convenience. Also, air travel had easily established itself as the fastest method of traveling great distances.

▲ It can be inferred from the passage that the drop in Amtrak ridership was due to the fact that _____.

- A) trains were not suitable for short distance passenger transportation
- B) trains were not the fastest and most convenient form of transportation
- C) trains were not as fast and convenient as they used to be
- D) trains could not compete with planes in terms of luxury and convenience

解析 该题要求推断美国铁路公司客源下降的原因。虽然作者没有对此加以直接陈述,但却提到汽车的便利和飞机的速度。因此正确答案为 B。

有时,有些推断题并不用上面的句式,但出题者仍然要求考生用推断的方法来解决。例如:

2001 年 6 月试题第一篇文章第三段中:

Meanwhile, if you want to buy a cheap house with an uncertain future, apply to a house agent in one of the threatened areas on the south coast of England. You can get a house for a knockdown price but it may turn out to be a knockdown home.

▲ According to the author, when buying a house along the south coast of England, people should _____.

- A) take the quality of the house into consideration
- B) guard against being cheated by the house agent
- C) examine the house carefully before making a decision
- D) be aware of the potential danger involved

解析 作者没有直接说应该买什么样的房子,但通过最后一句(你可以用十分便宜的价格买一座房子,但那也许是一座危房),作者暗示了买房时应该注意的问题。因此正确答案为 D。

2) 理解作者态度题

在日常生活中,人们可以通过手势、语调、脸部表情等来表露自己的态度,同样,解决该类问题要求注意把握作者的措词、阐述问题的角度和倾向以及文章中能够表露作者态度和情感的修饰性词语。要把握作者对某一问题所持的态度,理解作者对某一问题是主观还是客观,是支持、反对还是中立,是高兴还是愤怒,是幽默还是讽刺等。如果所涉及的是作者对某个问题的态度,题干中的关键词用 attitude;如果涉及的是通篇的基调,关键词用 tone。例如:

2002 年 1 月试题第一篇文章第二、三段:

The motorcar will undoubtedly change significantly over the next 30 years. It should become smaller, safer, and more economical, and should not be powered by the gasoline engine. The car of the future should be far more pollution-free than present types.

Regardless of its power source, the auto in the future will still be the main problem in urban traffic congestion (拥挤). One proposed solution to this problem is the automated highway system.

▲ What is the author's attitude toward the future of autos?

A) Enthusiastic.

B) Pessimistic.

C) Optimistic.

D) Cautious.

解析 在上面第一段中,作者认为未来的汽车会发生很大的变化,例如汽车的驱动不再依靠汽油。值得注意的是,作者用 undoubtedly、significantly、should 等词来表达自己的对未来汽车变化所持的肯定态度。在第二段,作者认为未来汽车仍然要克服交通拥挤的问题,并提出了解决这一问题的方法。选项 A 夸大了作者对未来汽车的信心,因为在作者看来,未来汽车不是十全十美的,还有问题需要解决。因此正确答案为 C。

2000 年 1 月试题第一篇文章:

Unless we spend money to spot and prevent *asteroids* (小行星) now, one might crash into Earth and destroy life as we know it, say some scientists.

Asteroids are bigger versions of the *meteoroids* (流星) that race across the night sky. Most orbit the sun far from Earth and don't threaten us. But there are also thousands of asteroids whose orbits put them on a collision course with Earth.

Buy \$50 million worth of new telescopes right now. Then spend \$10 million a year for the next 25 years to locate most of the space rocks. By the time we spot a fatal one, scientists say, we'll have a way to change its course.

Some scientists favor pushing asteroids off course with nuclear weapons. But the cost wouldn't be cheap.

Is it worth it? Two things experts consider when judging any risk are: 1) How likely the event is; and 2) How bad the consequences are if the event occurs. Experts think an asteroid big enough to destroy lots of life might strike Earth once every 500,000 years. Sounds pretty rare — but if one did fall, it would be the end of the world. "If we don't take care of these big asteroids, they'll take care of us," says one scientist. "It's that simple."

The cure, though, might be worse than the disease. Do we really want fleets of nuclear weapons sitting around on Earth? "The world has less to fear from *doomsday* (毁灭性的) rocks than from a great nuclear fleet set against them," said a New York Time article.

▲ Which of the following best describes the author's tone in this passage?

A) Optimistic.

B) Critical.

C) Objective.

D) Arbitrary.

解析 在这篇文章中,作者没有留下自己的一丝痕迹,也就是说,作者对陨石有可能撞击地球没有表露自己的看法。整篇文章作者大量引述他人的话,使用了 say some scientists, scientists say, Some scientists favor, Experts think, says one scientist, said a New York Time article 等客观报道的结构。因此正确答案为 C。

3) 是非判断题

是非判断题也是常见的测试题型之一。这类题主要是问“什么是真实(... true?)的”,或“什么是不真实(... not true / false?)的”,其特点是:对文章中具体的事实和依据进行提问,确定或证实某一种说法是否真实。其内容可能涉及整篇文章,也可能只涉及文章的一部分。所以,在做这类题时,首先应弄清楚题目的要求和涉及面。进行正确的判断是解答这类题的出发点,应找出问句中的关键词语,从而找到答案所在的段和句。在此基础上,再力求明确整体和局部、局部和局部间的关系和概念,根据有关方面的信息做出正确的选择。

一般说来,做这类题的技巧是推断和排除手法相结合,尤其是回答“哪种说法是不真实的”这种问题时,排除掉真实的信息即得出正确的答案。例如:

2002 年 6 月第三篇文章:

It is hard to track the blue whale, the ocean's largest creature, which has almost been killed off by commercial whaling and is now listed as an endangered species. Attaching radio devices to it is difficult, and visual sightings are too unreliable to give real insight into its behavior.

So biologists were delighted early this year when, with the help of the Navy, they were able to track a particular blue whale for 43 days, monitoring its sounds. This was possible because of the Navy's formerly top-secret system of underwater listening devices spanning the oceans.

Tracking whales is but one example of an exciting new world just opening to civilian scientists after the cold war as the Navy starts to share and partly uncover its global network of underwater listening system built over the decades to track the ships of potential enemies.

Earth scientists announced at a news conference recently that they had used the system for closely monitoring a deep-sea volcanic *eruption* (爆发) for the first time and that they plan similar studies.

Other scientists have proposed to use the network for tracking ocean currents and measuring changes in ocean and global temperatures.

The speed of sound in water is roughly one mile a second — slower than through land but faster than through air. What is most important, different layers of ocean water can act as channels for sounds, focusing them in the same way a *stethoscope* (听诊器) does when it carries faint noises from a patient's chest to a doctor's ear. This focusing is the main reason that even relatively weak sounds in the ocean, especially low-frequency ones, can often travel thousands of miles.

▲ Which of the following is true about the U. S. Navy underwater listening network?

- A) It is now partly accessible to civilian scientists.
- B) It has been replaced by a more advanced system.
- C) It became useless to the military after the cold war.
- D) It is indispensable in protecting endangered species.

解析 本题属是非判断题。根据第三段(在冷战后,海军开始把几十年来建立的水下监听系统部分作为民用,而这一系统本来是用于追踪潜伏的敌舰船的,用这个系统来追踪蓝鲸不过是科学家把军事系统转为民用的新领域的一个例子而已。)题干加选项 A 与本句意思吻合。通读全文,其他几个选项信息都不对。因此正确答案为 A。

3. 查读有关内容,猜测词义或寻找特定细节

词义及细节这类信息,常常可从文章中直接找到,属于表层意义上的理解,比较容易。但在猜测词义时,应注意有些词在特定的语言环境中产生的不同于本义的特定含义。要猜出这类词的词义,也需要对文章的内容作深层理解。

做阅读理解细节题时,需注意的是,问题的表述常常不是采用文章中的原话,而是用同义词语进行提问。因此做题时,首先要认真审题,读懂问题。然后,根据所涉及的问题,快速扫视到文章中相应的部分,找到与问题相关的关键词或短语,在确信理解了原文的基础上,来确定答案。

词义和细节题主要有以下几类:

1) 词义题

当遇到生词时,理解会发生障碍,这就好像完整的意思形成了一个缺口。这时要根据上下文的信息以及常识来确定该词的特定含义,使其能够弥补缺口,使意思完整,然后选择四个选项中和该特定含义最接近

的一个。例如：

2000 年 6 月试题第四篇文章第二段：

Social support cushions stress in a number of ways. First, friends, relatives, and co-workers may let us know that they value us. Our self-respect is strengthened when we feel accepted by others despite our faults and difficulties. Second, other people often provide us with informational support. They help us to define and understand our problems and find solutions to them. Third, we typically find social companionship supportive. Engaging in leisure-time activities with others helps us to meet our social needs while at the same time *distracting* (转移……注意力) us from our worries and troubles. Finally, other people may give us instrumental support — financial aid, material resources, and needed services — that reduces stress by helping us resolve and cope with our problems.

▲ Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word “cushions”?

- A) Adds up to. B) Does away with.
C) Lessens the effect of. D) Lays the foundation for.

解析 该段第一句是主题句，其余部分是说明该主题句的细节，细节从四个方面说明了他人的关心和帮助可以减轻精神压力。因此正确答案为 C。

2) 复述题

这一类题是把文章中的内容通过不同的词语或结构重新表达出来。例如：

2002 年 1 月试题第四篇文章中有这样一句话：

Data show that Americans are struggling with problems unheard of in the 1950s, such as classroom violence and a high rate of births to unmarried mothers.

▲ In the 1950s, classroom violence _____.

- A) was something unheard of B) was by no means a rare occurrence
C) attracted a lot of public attention D) began to appear in analysts' data

解析 该句意思是说，有数据表明，美国人正面临着在 20 世纪 50 年代从未听说过的问题，如教室暴力，未婚妈妈中的高分娩率等。题干加选项 A 通过语言的重新组织复述了文章中的这句话。

有时复述题依赖对某个词、词组或句法的理解。例如：

2002 年 1 月试题第二篇文章的部分内容是：

People who take part in hunting think of it as a sport; they wear a special uniform of red coats and white trousers, and follow strict codes of behavior. But owning a horse and hunting regularly is expensive, so most hunters are wealthy.

▲ What is special about fox hunting in Britain?

- A) It involves the use of a deadly poison.
B) It is a costly event which rarely occurs.
C) The hunters have set rules to follow.
D) The hunters have to go through strict training.

解析 该题的关键在于理解短语 codes of behavior (行为准则)，并把它和选项 C 中的 set rules 相对应。

3) 因果题

该类题出现频率很高，几乎每篇文章都有两三道这样的题。解决这类题关键在于理解句子内部以及上下文之间存在的因果关系。例如：

2001 年 1 月试题第三篇文章有这样一句话：

Back in the days when energy was cheap, home builders didn't worry much about unsealed cracks.

▲ Why were cracks in old houses not a big concern?

- A) Because indoor cleanness was not emphasized.
- B) Because energy used to be inexpensive.
- C) Because environmental protection was given top priority.
- D) Because they were technically unavoidable.

解析 该句虽然没有显性的因果连接词,但还是能够看出该句内部的因果关系,即廉价的能源使房屋建造者对房屋的缝隙不很在乎。因此正确答案为 B。

1999 年 6 月试题第四篇文章中的一段：

In the ancient world, as is today, most boys played with some kinds of toys and most girls with another. In societies where social roles are rigidly determined, boys pattern their play after the activities of their fathers and girls after the tasks of their mothers. This is true because boys and girls are being prepared, even in play, to step into the roles and responsibilities of the adult world.

▲ The reason why the toys most boys play with are different from those that girls play with is that _____.

- A) their social roles are rigidly determined
- B) most boys would like to follow their fathers' professions
- C) boys like to play with their fathers while girls with their mothers
- D) they like challenging activities

解析 该题要求理解该段上下文之间的因果关系。第二、三句解释了第一句中的现象,即男孩和女孩有不同的玩具是因为他们生活在社会责任分工十分严谨的社会里,他们的玩耍是为他们将来承担大人的职责和义务在做准备。因此正确答案为 A。

4) 例证题

言而有据是写作应该遵守的原则,而且例证法是英语文章展开论述的主要模式之一。因此,理解例证的方法、内容和目的是阅读的一个重要内容。例如：

2001 年 6 月试题第四篇文章第二段：

The importance of the product life cycle to marketers is this: Different stages in the product life cycle call for different strategies. The goal is to extend product life so that sales and profits do not decline. One strategy is called market modification. It means that marketing managers look for new users and market sections. Did you know, for example, that the backpacks that so many students carry today were originally designed for the military?

▲ The author mentions the example of "backpacks" to show the importance of _____.

- A) increasing usage among students
- B) exploring new market sections
- C) pleasing the young as well as the old
- D) serving both military and civil needs

解析 该题要求理解例证的目的。该段主要谈的是关于延长产品寿命的一种方法——市场转换法,即将某一市场的产品投放到另一市场,从而延长产品的寿命。背包原来是军用品,但现在成为学生广泛使用