

大学英语 阅读与赏析

7

丛书主编：朱慧敏
本册主编：赵平

College English Reading and Appreciation



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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前言

阅读是获取信息的重要手段，大学英语的最主要目标之一就是培养学生“具有较强的阅读能力”。为了帮助学生切实有效地达到这一目的，必须有大量的语言输入(input)。因此，

《大学英语阅读与赏析》系列丛书便应运而生。本书是以国家教育部颁发的《大学英语教学基本要求》为依据，参照大学英语四级考试大纲，为帮助学生有效地掌握各项阅读微技能、达到包括阅读速度在内的有关指标而专门设计编著的。主要供普通高等院校非英语专业的本专科生、研究生及其他英语学习者在课外使用。

本书所提供的阅读素材题材广泛，体裁多样，内容新颖，具有较强的科学性和一定的趣味性，可读性强，力求使读者在提高阅读水平的同时，获得一定的科学知识及文化背景知识。本书旨在通过多种形式的大量阅读练习帮助学生提高阅读能力和阅读速度、克服背景知识贫乏，词汇量少等问题，帮助他们复习和巩固已掌握的学习技能，提高其实际应用英语的能力，达到规定的教学要求。

本书共分四册，每册十六个单元，每个单元含五篇长短不一、内容各异的文章。

考虑到大学英语教学既要对学生进行素质教育，又要帮助他们通过CET考试，因此，本书在练习上采用了CET的新题型，以兼顾到各方面的需要。练习形式包括综合填空、多项选择、英译汉、判断与简短回答问题。

本套系列阅读练习已在江苏科技大学等高校试用多年，应广大读者的要求，现已正式出版。本书由江苏科技大学外国语学院具有多年大学英语教学经验的教师编写，由朱慧敏担任丛书主编，由王令坤教授主审。参加本书编著工作的教师有：

第一册主编：赵平；编委：张芳，夏惠君，尹婧红，刘剑平

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本书在编写和出版过程中得到了江苏科技大学有关领导、江苏科技大学教材科、外语教学与研究出版社等单位和个人的大力支持，在此一并致谢。本书从有关文献中选用了部分材料，谨向这些文献的作者致以崇高的谢意。

由于编者水平有限，书中若有疏漏及不妥之处，恳请读者提出批评与宝贵意见。

编者

2007年8月

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Passage 1

Directions: There is one passage in this section. The passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them, you should decide on the best choice to answer the question or complete the statement.

Do you want to know something about the history of weather? Don't look at the sky. Don't look for old weather reports. Looking at tree rings is more important. Correct weather reports date back only one century, but some trees can provide an exact record of the weather even further back. It is natural that a tree would grow best in a climate with plenty of sunlight and rainfall. It is also expected that little sunlight or rainfall would limit the growth of a tree. The change from a favorable to an unfavorable climate can be determined by reading the pattern of rings in a tree trunk. To find out the weather of ten years ago, count the rings of a tree trunk from the outside to the inside. If the tenth ring is far from the other rings, then it is certain that plenty of sunny and rainy weather occurred. If the rings are close together, then the climate was bad for the tree.

Studying tree rings is important not only for the history of weather, but also for the history of man. In a region of New Mexico you can find only sand—no trees and no people. However, many centuries ago, a large population lived there. They left suddenly. Why?

A scientist studied the ring patterns of dead trees which had grown there. He decided that the people had to leave because they had cut down all the trees. Trees were necessary to make fires and buildings. So, after the people destroyed the trees, they had to move.

In this instance studying tree rings uncovered an exciting fact about the history of man.



1. We can know from the passage that in an unfavorable climate _____.
 - A. tree rings grow close together
 - B. tree rings grow far apart
 - C. trees in New Mexico will grow big and tall
 - D. people can cut down most of the trees in New Mexico
2. Ancient people usually lived where there were plenty of trees, because trees _____.
 - A. provided them with shade
 - B. indicated plenty of sunlight and rainfall
 - C. were material for burning and building houses
 - D. provided them with food

3. The scientists are interested in studying tree rings because they can tell _____.
 A. whether in that area the climate was favorable or not
 B. whether a particular tree was healthy or not
 C. whether people took good care of the trees or not
 D. how old the trees were
4. The study of dead tree rings shows _____.
 A. how the weather was there
 B. where the people had to go
 C. when the tree died
 D. why the people had to leave
5. The people had to leave a certain region of New Mexico because _____.
 A. they had cut down all the trees
 B. there were many trees there
 C. they had no water
 D. bad weather stopped the growth of trees
6. Translate the following sentence into Chinese:
 Correct weather reports date back only one century, but some trees can provide an exact record of the weather even further back.
-
-

Passage 2

Directions: There is one passage in this section. The passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them, you should decide on the best choice to answer the question or complete the statement.

The Museum of Modern Art in New York City is known throughout the world. It has a collection of contemporary **masterpieces**¹ in painting and **sculpture**². In the summer month, the Museum presents Summergarden, a fine program designed to give tired New Yorkers and out-of-town visitors an opportunity to enjoy special presentations. These include films, dramatic events, poetry readings, dance programs, and lectures in a surrounding of modern sculpture and landscapes.

Summergarden takes place in the Museum's sculpture garden from June through September on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from six until eleven o'clock. The garden is transformed into free city park in the very heart of the largest city in the United states. The site is lighted so that visitors get dramatic views of twentieth-century sculpture as well as recent works. Fifty thousand visitors attended Summergarden in its first two seasons, and this year more people than ever have been drawn to it.

1. **masterpiece** a work of art that is of very high quality
2. **sculpture** the art of making solid objects representing people or animals out of stone, wood, clay, etc.



1. What does the Museum specialize in?
 - A. Works of art from foreign countries.
 - B. Arranging poetry readings.
 - C. Modern paintings and sculpture.
 - D. Twentieth-century sculpture only.
2. Which of the following is NOT included in the Summergarden presentations?
 - A. Films and dances.
 - B. Lectures.
 - C. Recitations of poetic works.
 - D. Concerts.
3. What is NOT true about Summergarden?
 - A. It is open to the general public every evening from June to September.
 - B. It requires no entrance fee.
 - C. It is set in an artistic surrounding.
 - D. It offers a variety of entertaining activities to city dwellers.
4. What can be inferred from the passage?
 - A. Most people come to the Museum for its Summergarden presentations.
 - B. Summergarden is the best program in the Museum.
 - C. More and more people are attracted by Summergarden.
 - D. Summergarden is so named because it is located in a park in the central part of New York.
5. What is the main topic of the passage?
 - A. The Museum of Modern Art in New York City.
 - B. A special program in the Museum of Modern Art.
 - C. Visitors to the Museum of Modern Art in New York.
 - D. A public garden in New York City.

Passage 3

Directions: In this part, you will have 5 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1-6, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

Britain has laws to make sure that women have the same opportunities as men in education, jobs and training. But it's still unusual to find women doing dirty or heavy jobs.

Nikki Henriques is a car maintenance engineer in London. She used to be a secretary. Barty Phillips, a journalist with *The Observer*, a Sunday newspaper, asked her why she wanted to work with cars.

"My first reason was independence," she said. "I also wanted to use my hands, and I like learning about how things work. Many people prefer to have a woman repair their cars, too."

Nikki didn't find it easy to become a car maintenance engineer. She went to a Government Skill Centre—a special sort of college where people can learn a new job—for twenty weeks. "For ten weeks I was the only woman among four hundred men, and some of them were rude to me, just because of my sex. It was also very tiring—from 8 in the morning to 5 at night, with only 30 minutes for lunch."

Now Nikki works free-lance—that is, she's self-employed, working for herself and not for a garage or a company.

Barty Phillips also spoke to Rose, who works as a general builder in Sheffield, an industrial town in the north of England. Like Nikki, Rose used to be a secretary. "I didn't enjoy it at all," she said. "I wanted to do more practical work, and I wanted to be self-employed."

Rose joined a women's building cooperative, and she learnt her job from other people and from experience. However, many of the women in her group have been specially trained. Most of the jobs they do are improvements to buildings and general repairs.

"People often say, 'Oh, women aren't strong enough', but I don't think strength is important," said Rose. "The important thing is to get used to doing a different sort of work."

Rose would like more women to come into the building industry. "Everything built at the moment is a product of man's world. If women become builders, they will be able to understand the production of their houses and their towns."



1. There are laws in Britain to help women to do whatever they like to do.
 2. As a successful secretary, Nikki was interviewed by a journalist from *The Observer*.
 3. In order to become a car maintenance engineer, one has to get some special training.
 4. The most important reason for Nikki to be a car maintenance engineer is that she has to make her own living.
 5. "To work free-lance" means to work for oneself and not for a company.
 6. As a woman builder, Rose enjoys a higher salary than men.
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. [Y] [N] [NG] | 2. [Y] [N] [NG] | 3. [Y] [N] [NG] |
| 4. [Y] [N] [NG] | 5. [Y] [N] [NG] | 6. [Y] [N] [NG] |

Passage 4

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with 10 blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Write the corresponding letter in the blanks given below the word bank. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Certainly dustmen prefer to be known as "Refuse Collection and Disposal Officers".

You may think that this is ___1___ silly, and ___2___ it is better to call a spade a spade. But dustmen can be just as sensitive as people of any other occupation, ___3___ we must admit that their job is not the most romantic one in the world. We often take dustmen for ___4___. Perhaps because they usually come very early in the morning, before most people are ___5___, we are inclined to forget that they ___6___. Our dustbins are emptied ___7___, but we rarely stop to think about the men who do this. However, it is one of the most important jobs in the world, and ___8___ there are no dustmen to take ___9___ the rubbish, the general public will soon become ___10___ that something is wrong.



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| A. granted | B. when | C. regularly | D. though | E. sometimes |
| F. that | G. exist | H. rather | I. live | J. up |
| K. aware | L. away | M. certain | N. because | O. asleep |

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| 1. _____ | 2. _____ | 3. _____ | 4. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 7. _____ | 8. _____ | 9. _____ | 10. _____ |

Passage 5

Directions: Answer the following questions with the fewest possible words.

In ancient times the most important examinations were spoken, not written. In the schools of ancient Greece and Rome, testing usually consisted of saying poetry aloud or giving speeches.

In the European universities of the Middle Ages, students who were working for advanced degrees had to discuss questions in their field of study with people who had made a special study of the subject. This custom exists today as part of the process of testing candidates for the doctor's degree.

Generally, however, modern examinations are written. The written examination, where all students are tested on the same questions, was probably not known until the nineteenth century.

Perhaps it came into existence with the great increase in population and the development of modern industry. A room full of candidates for a state examination, timed exactly by electric clocks and carefully watched over by managers, **resembles**¹ a group of workers at an automobile factory. Certainly, during examinations teachers and students are expected to act like machines.

One type of test is sometimes called an objective test. It is intended to deal with facts, not personal opinions. To make up an objective test the teacher writes a series of questions, each of which has only one correct answer. Along with each question the teacher writes the correct answer and also three statements that look like answers to students who have not learned the material properly.

1. **resemble** to look like or be like



S1. What did the testing in the schools of ancient Greece and Rome usually include?

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S2. What should people do if they are applying for the doctor's degree?

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S3. When did modern examinations begin?

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S4. How are teachers and students supposed to behave during the written examination?

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S5. What is an objective test for?

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Passage 1

Directions: There is one passage in this section. The passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them, you should decide on the best choice to answer the question or complete the statement.

The wheel was one of man's first inventions and yet it has also proved one of the most useful. So wide and varied are the uses of wheels, in machines and vehicles of all kinds, that it is difficult to imagine what the world would be like without them. It is surprising to hear it said, therefore, that the wheel's importance will perhaps be greatly reduced by the end of the century by an invention so new as to be still unnamed.

The invention is a machine that floats above any surface on a cushion of air. The cushion is formed when air is blown into the bottom of the machine. This part is shaped like a saucer turned upside-down. If air is blown into this saucer, the machine rises to a height that may vary from a few inches to a few feet.

Industry is already using one form of the invention to deal with heavy loads. It can lift them with ease and since there are no wheels, and therefore no friction, they can be put into motion with the touch of a finger.

The new invention, however, is having a great effect on transport. Not only does it make expensive road systems unnecessary, but it also enables vehicles to travel equally well over land or water. This unique ability to reach most destinations has given rise to the prediction that wheeled vehicles may be as uncommon at the end of the century as airplanes were at the beginning.



1. The main idea of the first paragraph is that _____.
 - A. the wheel was man's earliest invention
 - B. people can't live without wheels
 - C. wheels have a variety of important uses
 - D. a new invention may make wheels less important
2. The phrase "with the touch of a finger" (in Para. 3) means _____.
 - A. without difficulty
 - B. by electricity
 - C. without friction
 - D. by hand

3. The passage tells us that the new invention _____.
 A. is more important for industry than for transport
 B. will one day be used instead of airplanes
 C. makes it possible to travel without using roads
 D. will replace wheeled vehicles in a hundred years
4. According to the passage, the new invention _____.
 A. will soon get a name
 B. can go almost anywhere
 C. is lighter than air
 D. was uncommon a century ago
5. Which of the following statements is TRUE?
 A. The wheeled vehicles will probably become more important at the end of the century.
 B. Airplanes were common at the beginning of the century.
 C. The new invention may be common at the end of the century.
 D. Both the wheeled vehicles and the new invention will possibly become less important at the end of the century.

Passage 2

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with 10 blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Write the corresponding letter in the blanks given below the word bank. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

All of us rely on what we ____1____. We say to ourselves, "I know, I was there; I saw it happen" and that seems to settle the matter. Or does it? Can we really trust the evidence of our eyes?

____2____ competition sports. Fans who see the same game will not agree with each other and will disagree with the referee. "He was out of bounds when he caught the pass," says one fan. Says another, "You're crazy. I saw it ____3____ my own eyes. He was five feet in bounds.

You must be blind." The referee rules that the receiver ____4____ step out of bounds. But thousands of fans are still not convinced—because they were there!

It's the ____5____ story in the courtroom. Trial procedure depends ____6____ witnesses giving sworn **testimony**¹. But just how **reliable**² is the testimony of a person who reports what he has seen? In a recent study, ten thousand witnesses were asked to describe that man they saw ____7____ a crime. The study reveals that, on the average, the witnesses overestimated the man's height ____8____ five inches, his

1. **testimony** a formal statement that sth. is true, as made by a witness in a court of law
 2. **reliable** that may be trusted; dependable
 3. **distortion** the act of giving a false or dishonest account of sth.

age by eight years, and gave the wrong hair color in 83 percent of the cases. These witnesses didn't play tricks on them!

What can we do to keep error 9 a minimum? First of all, don't let your emotions interfere with your vision. Don't see something because you want to see it. Secondly, try to stay 10. If you are tense, you are liable to see red when the color is blue. And finally, it helps to make notes of what you see. Don't rely on your memory alone. Take pictures, make recordings, and use any other aid to reduce distortion³.



- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|--------------|---------|
| A. to | B. in | C. commit | D. different | E. same |
| F. with | G. did | H. relaxed | I. relaxing | J. on |
| K. see | L. Take | M. by | N. through | O. hear |

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____

11. Translate the underlined sentences into Chinese.

Passage 3

Directions: Answer the following questions with the fewest possible words.

The idea of a fish being able to generate electricity strong enough to light lamp bulbs—or even to run a small motor—is almost unbelievable, but several kinds of fish are able to do this. Even more strangely, this curious power has been acquired in different ways by fish belonging to very different families.

Perhaps the best knowns are the electric rays, or **torpedoes**¹, of which several kinds live in warm seas. They possess on each side of the head, behind the eyes, a large organ consisting of a number of cells which contain a series of flat electric plates. One side, the negative side, of each plate, is supplied with very fine nerves, connected with a main nerve coming from a special part of the brain. Current passes from the upper, positive side of the organ downwards to the negative, lower side. Generally it is necessary to touch the fish in two places, completing the circuit, in order to receive

1. **torpedo** a large flat sea fish with a long pointed tail
2. **eel** a long thin fish that looks like a snake and can be eaten
3. **spinal cord** the thick cord of nerves enclosed in the spine by which messages are carried to and from the brain

a shock.

Another famous example is the electric eel². This fish gives an even more powerful shock. The system is different from that of the torpedo in that the electric plates run along the length of its body and are supplied with nerves from the **spinal cord**³. Consequently, the current passes along the fish from head to tail. The electric organs of these fish are really altered muscles and like all muscles, and they tend to tire easily, so they are not able to produce electricity for very long.

The power of producing electricity may serve these fish both for defense and attack. If a large enemy attacks, the shock will drive it away; but it appears that the electric eel uses its current most often against smaller fish.



S1. What can the electricity produced by the most powerful electric fish do?

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S2. where are electric rays likely to be found?

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S3. In order to get a shock, what should we usually do?

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S4. Where are the electric plates on the electric eel?

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S5. What is the purpose of the shock produced by electric fish?

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Passage 4

Directions: There is one passage in this section. The passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them, you should decide on the best choice to answer the question or complete the statement.

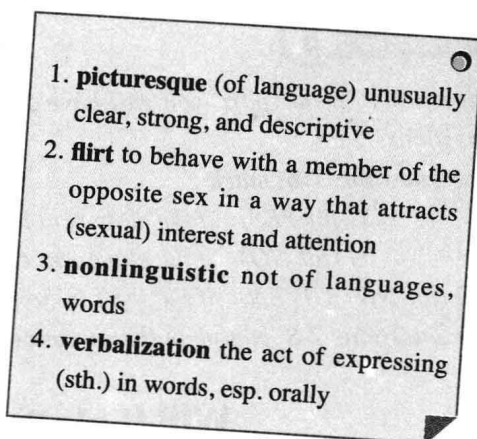
Ever since humans have inhabited the earth, they have made use of various forms of communication. Generally, this expression of thoughts and feelings has been in the form of oral speech. When there is a language barrier, communication is accomplished through sign language

in which motions stand for letters, words, and ideas. Tourists, the deaf, and the mute have had to resort to this form of expression. Many of these symbols of whole words are very **picturesque**¹ and exact and can be used internationally; spelling, however, cannot.

Body language transmits ideas or thoughts by certain actions, either intentionally or unintentionally. A wink can be a way of **flirting**² or indicating that the party is only joking. A nod signifies approval, while shaking the head indicates a negative reaction.

Other forms of **nonlinguistic**³ language can be found in Braille (a system of raised dots read with the fingertips), signal flags, Morse code, and smoke signals. Road maps and picture signs also guide, warn, and instruct people.

While **verbalization**⁴ is the most common form of language, other systems and techniques also express human thoughts and feelings.

- 
1. **picturesque** (of language) unusually clear, strong, and descriptive
 2. **flirt** to behave with a member of the opposite sex in a way that attracts (sexual) interest and attention
 3. **nonlinguistic** not of languages, words
 4. **verbalization** the act of expressing (sth.) in words, esp. orally



1. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - A. There are many forms of communication in existence today.
 - B. Verbalization is the most common form of communication.
 - C. The deaf and mute use an oral form of communication.
 - D. Ideas and thoughts can be transmitted by body language.
2. Which of the following groups of people who use sign language to communicate is NOT mentioned?
 - A. Tourists.
 - B. Deaf people.
 - C. Dumb people.
 - D. Blind people.
3. It can be indicated that tourists have had to use sign language probably because they _____.
 - A. can't hear
 - B. can't speak
 - C. can't understand
 - D. are required to do so
4. Sign language is said to be very picturesque and exact and can be used internationally while _____ cannot.
 - A. spelling
 - B. ideas
 - C. whole words
 - D. expressions
5. Which of the following statements best summarizes this passage?
 - A. When language is a barrier, people will find other forms of communication.
 - B. Everybody uses only one form of communication.
 - C. Nonlinguistic language is invaluable to foreigners.
 - D. Although other forms of communication exist, verbalization is the fastest.

Passage 5

Directions: In this part, you will have 5 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1-6, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 7-8, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Will It Matter if I Skip Breakfast?

If you have to miss one meal a day (or if you want to do so), which meal will cause you fewest health problems if you don't eat it? If they have to make a decision of this type, most people (especially dieters or very busy people) will choose to skip breakfast.

However, many experts in the field of health consider breakfast (the meal which "breaks" your "fast" which started the night before) to be the most important meal of the day. If we eat a good breakfast, they say, we will have the energy and nutrients we need to begin our working day with vigor and hopefully with good humor. Nevertheless, many people skip breakfast or substitute a donut and a cup of coffee for a well-balanced meal. What happens if we ignore the importance of breakfast?

One recent study conducted in the United States tested a large number of people. Participants included both males and females who ranged in age from 12 to 83. During the experiment, these people were given a variety of breakfasts, and sometimes, they had to skip breakfast completely. Special tests, including blood tests and endurance tests, were set up to analyze how well the participants' bodies functioned when they had eaten a certain kind of breakfast.

The results showed that if a person eats an adequate breakfast, he or she will work more efficiently and more productively than if he or she skips breakfast or eats a very poor breakfast. This fact appears to be especially true if a person's work involves mental activity. The study showed that if school children eat fruit, eggs, bread, and milk before going to school, they will learn more quickly and will be able to concentrate on their lessons for a longer period of time than if their breakfast diet is inadequate.

The study also showed that, contrary to what many people believe, if you skip breakfast, you will not lose weight. This is because people become so hungry if they skip breakfast that they eat too much for lunch and end up gaining weight instead of losing. So remember, if you are on a diet, skipping breakfast will not help you. You will probably lose more weight if you reduce your other meals.