



第三册

Fast Reading of College English

# 大学英语快速阅读

总顾问 俞凤娣 主编 刘雪成

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## 内 容 提 要

大学英语快速阅读丛书是一套针对当代英语教育实际需要而编写的阅读教材,共分为四册,本书为第三册。丛书立足于培养大学生快速阅读浏览能力、快速捕捉信息能力和解题能力等,读者对象主要为独立院校“三本”学生。

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## 编者的话

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### 一、编写宗旨

大学英语快速阅读是一套针对当代大学英语教育实际需要而编写的阅读材料。在多年的教学过程中,笔者发现学生普遍存在为过四、六级而盲目集中数月做训练题目应试的情况。作为教师,我们理解学生因就业竞争压力而疲于应试,但这诚然不是大学英语教育的初衷。鉴此,我们组织了一批有多年教学经验的教师,定期与数所大学的一线教师互相交流学习,讨论整理出当下90后学生较为关注的内容及其自身所欠缺的知识面,从而编写了此套阅读教程。换言之我们为学生筛选出较有意义并吸引他们的材料,让他们每天只花10分钟左右的时间进行快速阅读训练,提高他们的阅读技能即信息捕捉能力以及对英语学习的兴趣,在材料的循循善诱之中,为他们过关四、六级打下技能基础。

### 二、本册教材特点

本册教材的各单元是按照阅读练习的难度梯次来排序的,在阅读难度的评测中我们综合考量了文章难度,长度以及题目难度三方面因素。

传统的阅读理解包括信息题、主旨题、推理题、计算题、词汇题等多种题型,而这一册教材主要训练的是信息题、段落主旨题,其他题型只是稍作涉及,主要锻炼的是学生的skimming和scanning两种技能,这里需要解释的是:这种侧重是我们根据近年来国家四、六级考试快速阅读题型特点(均为长篇幅外加信息题和段落主旨题)而做出的,是为了更好地在平时教学中有针对性地帮助学生备考四、六级,在本册和将来的第四册中我们适度地增加了相应题型的份量,提高快速阅读训练的广度和难度。

### 三、编写过程

#### 1. 选材阶段

选材的首要宗旨是把好语言关。我们确保材料都来自英语水平较高的出版物和网络媒体。其次是题材新颖,最新的时事要闻、最热门的新鲜事、最新出现的受人瞩目的事件等。再次是选材内容十分广泛,本册教材的内容包括有“华人母亲因何更优秀”、“走进香港私人厨

房”、“美貌的劣势”等等,都是富有深意又耐人寻味的文章。最后是难度的控制,我们在材料筛选过程中删去了对背景知识把握度以及思维深度要求较高的文学性、学术性的文章。对较冷僻词汇我们加注了中文或者直接替换。

## 2. 出题阶段

快速阅读的题目考的是略读题干和选项——短时记忆要点,定位词——回文章中定位——理解定位点周围关键句——比对 statement 或选项——微做推理或直接判断,所有题目做完,应对文章整体结构要点有全局性了解,而达到略读而知大意的效果。故我们要求所有编者先做文章的提纲,然后按照行文顺序均匀出题,题目尽量出于有理解难度的中心句上。

最后,衷心感谢为这套教材劳心劳力的诸位老师以及为这套教材提出诸多宝贵意见的各位专家、学者。

编者

2011年9月

# Contents

## Unit 1

Text A	Why Is There No Looting in Japan? .....	(1)
Text B	Why Are the Himalayan Glaciers Melting? .....	(5)
Text C	History of Ivory Soap .....	(9)
Text D	Bill Gates No Longer World's Richest Man after Giving away Billions ...	(12)

## Unit 2

Text A	Sodium: How to Tame Your Salt Habit Now (1) .....	(15)
Text B	Sodium: How to Tame Your Salt Habit Now (2) .....	(19)
Text C	Eating White Rice Increases Diabetes Risk While Eating Brown Rice Could Reduce It .....	(22)
Text D	Census Findings Show Changes in US Population .....	(26)

## Unit 3

Text A	Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior( I ) .....	(30)
Text B	Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior( II ) .....	(34)
Text C	F1 Must Do More to Sell Itself; Whitmarsh .....	(39)
Text D	U. S. Investors Make History with Roma Takeover; Milan Extend Lead .....	(42)

## Unit 4

Text A	Scientists Warn of Toxicity in Fish .....	(45)
Text B	China at 60: Nostalgia and Progress .....	(48)
Text C	Top Three Nuclear Nations' Quake Hazard .....	(51)
Text D	What Makes You Attractive? .....	(55)

## Unit 5

Text A	4 Financial Miscues in the Name of Love .....	(60)
Text B	The Children's Book Comes to Life Electronically. Should We Be Alarmed? .....	(65)
Text C	The Curse of Cute .....	(69)
Text D	The Why-Worry Generation .....	(72)

## Unit 6

Text A	Educating Fatima .....	(76)
Text B	The Kate Question: More or Less of Diana? .....	(81)
Text C	China Gives Press More Freedom—for Food Safety .....	(85)
Text D	Five Biggest Myths About College Admissions .....	(90)

## Unit 7

Text A	Why the Recession May Cause More Depression Among Men .....	(95)
Text B	Zombie Prevention: Your Child's Sleep .....	(98)
Text C	A Memory Tonic for the Aging Brain .....	(104)
Text D	Inside Hong Kong's Private Kitchens .....	(109)

## Unit 8

Text A	Beating Children Remains .....	(113)
Text B	At Princeton, Questions After Instructor's Suicide .....	(117)
Text C	Online Games, a Path to Young Consumers .....	(121)
Text D	Sentenced to Witch Camp .....	(126)
Key	.....	(130)

# Unit 1

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## Text A

### Why Is There No Looting in Japan?

In the wake of Japan's deadly earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant explosions, we have witnessed the almost indescribable chaos that follows a disaster of this magnitude: loss of life, severe injuries, homelessness, lack of water, food and proper medical care, the physical destruction of towns and cities, and a growing fear of radioactive contamination from power plants that seem beyond anyone's ability to control.

But one heart-wrenching byproduct of disasters like this one has been missing in Japan, and that's looting and lawlessness.

Looting is something we see after almost every tragedy; for example: last year's earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, the floods in England in 2007, and of course Hurricane Katrina back in 2005. It happens when some people who've seen life as they know it get tossed out the window feel that all morality has been tossed out too. It's survival of the fittest and whatever you can get your hands on is yours, no matter who it belongs to.

But that's not happening in Japan.

Journalist and social commentator Ed West wrote in the UK Telegraph yesterday how struck he was by the Japanese culture throughout this ordeal. He observed how supermarkets cut their prices in the days following the quake and how vending machine owners were giving out free drinks as "people work together to survive." And West was most surprised by the fact that there was no looting.

Many have pointed to the popularity of Japan's distinctive Buddhist and Shinto religions as well as how the values of conformity and consensus are considered virtues in their culture. That's one explanation, but it probably has something to do with remaining



true to your moral code even in the darkest hours.

**Here's my question to you:**

Why is there no looting in Japan?

**Kim:**

Because Japanese culture, unlike all other modern cultures, is based primarily on honor and dignity. Unlike our Katrina disaster, the Japanese don't see this as an opportunity to steal everything in sight. The so-called civilized world can learn much from the stoic Japanese.

**Greg in Arkansas:**

Two words: National pride. The people of Japan love their country and do what is best for the nation, unlike the United States where we love our country and do what is best for ourselves.

**Natasha:**

The Japanese are resourceful, innovative and disciplined people with a great sense of national pride. While they also have criminals and felons, it is not quite in comparison to the sleazy balls we have in our streets. It was disgusting to watch these scum bags loot stores in New Orleans during Katrina when they should have helped their fellow citizens in need. While watching the devastation in Japan is heart wrenching, it is so refreshing to see the civility of people within the calamity they are facing.

**Larry in Georgetown, Texas:**

I was blessed to visit Japan several years ago on business and was told that if I lost my wallet in downtown Tokyo that the person who found it would make it their mission to return it to me intact. These people are very gracious and kind.

**Carol:**

Sociologists will tell you that the lack of looting is just the result of large numbers of people developing a more orderly society to cope with living in a smaller land mass. Personally, I've always thought it's because they're a more highly evolved race.

**Joy:**

It's the Japanese culture—very refined, dignified, disciplined and civilized. We should all learn from them. They're the types of people you help out willingly because you know that they'll make full use of any opportunity to get back on their feet.

**Richard:**

I don't really know. It would be easy to say that they are a very homogeneous society and perhaps in a way consider each other family. In any case they are to be applauded.

(From <http://caffertyfile.blogs.cnn.com/2011/03/15/why-is-there-no-looting-in-japan>, 643 words)

**Direction: Select the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.**

1. Which of the following could not be seen after Japan's disasters?
  - A. Loss of life.
  - B. Lawlessness.
  - C. Homelessness.
  - D. Anxiety about radioactive contamination.
2. When some people looted in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina, they \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. threw their lives out of the window
  - B. threw their feelings out of the window
  - C. hated the belief in survival of the fittest
  - D. took others' property
3. According to Ed West, what helped the Japanese cooperate?
  - A. Japanese culture.
  - B. Japanese economy.
  - C. Natural surroundings.
  - D. Social system.
4. Greg in Arkansas thinks that the difference between Japanese national pride and American national pride lies in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the Japanese are proud of Japan while the American are ashamed of US
  - B. the Japanese do what is best for themselves while the American do what is best for the nation
  - C. the Japanese do what is best for the nation while the American do what is best for themselves
  - D. the Japanese love Japan while the American criticize US
5. From Joy's viewpoint, the reason why people are willing to help Japanese is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the Japanese are creative
  - B. the Japanese are warm-hearted
  - C. the Japanese are more civilized than other nations
  - D. the Japanese are eager to recover from disasters

## **Why Are the Himalayan Glaciers Melting?**

**The BBC's Chris Morris travels to the main source of the Ganges River to find out why the glaciers are melting.**

As the first light of dawn lit up the snow-covered mountain peaks, we trekked through a barren landscape 4,000 metres up in the Indian Himalayas, heading for the Gangotri glacier, the main source of the River Ganges.

About 2km from our destination, we passed a rock inscribed with the date 1891. This was where the snout of the glacier stood just over 100 years ago. And the retreat continues.

"All the glaciers in this region are melting," said Dr Rajesh Kumar, a glaciologist who accompanied us to Gangotri. "And we have to find out why."

### **Worried**

The Himalayas hold the planet's largest body of ice outside the polar caps—an estimated 12,000 cubic kilometres of water. They feed many of the world's great rivers—the Ganges, the Indus, the Brahmaputra—on which hundreds of millions of people depend.

But climate scientists are worried.

"There's the possibility that if we don't do something about stabilising the earth's climate then these glaciers could easily vanish in the next few decades," said RK Pachauri, the Nobel Prize-winning Indian scientist who heads the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

"We need to understand the dynamics of these glaciers better and we need much more precise information and measurements."

That's what scientists like Dr Kumar are beginning to provide.

There are a variety of instruments tracking daily temperatures to try to establish patterns over time.

"We only started doing this a few years ago," he admitted, "I don't think anyone took it seriously before that. There wasn't any money for research."

The glacier itself was grey and discoloured—a huge wall of ice stretching back up the mountain. Water dripped from icicles glinting in the early morning sun.

From one side a stream of fast flowing water emerged—the exact point where the Ganges begins its long journey from the Himalayas across the north Indian plains to the Bay of Bengal.

Dr Kumar's previous visit had been just over five months earlier.

His GPS told him that in that time the glacier had retreated by some 15 metres.

"It's a big change," he admitted.

The Indian government has said the rate of retreat in many glaciers has decreased in recent years. But there is evidence to suggest that it's picking up again.

And there are other signs of a climate in transition.

### **"Things changing"**

A few miles downstream from Gangotri, in the village of Harsil, we visited Basanthi Negi's house, where she showed us how high the snowfall used to be.

She reached up over her head to touch the wooden floor of her balcony—about two metres above the ground.

"But we haven't had snow like that in at least 10 years," she explained.

"We can all feel things changing."

Less snow means the glacier melts even faster as the ice is more exposed to the heat of the sun—as well as receding, the glacier is getting thinner.

"Current trends and patterns of melting clearly spell a very difficult situation for most of South Asia in the future," RK Pachauri said.

That is why the IPCC has been so outspoken in campaigning for action, which will

help mitigate(减缓) the rise in the earth's temperature.

"It's a global challenge and this is where countries like India... have to raise their voices and make it known to the global community that what you're really going to create is social chaos, which will spill across borders," he warned.

India is taking action: the prime minister has created a new high-level body to assess the Himalayan glaciers, and there is talk of much greater co-operation across the border with China. But even they can't act alone.

Back at the glacier pilgrims prayed at a small shrine to the goddess of the river.

This is a place of huge religious significance. But now, it's all about the science—and the politics—of climate change.

(From <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8337604.stm>, 676 words)

**Direction: Select the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.**

1. The rock with the date 1891 showed that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. it was not far from Himalayas peaks
  - B. we arrived at the main source of the River Ganges
  - C. we had a long way to go
  - D. the Gangotri glacier has been receding
2. What's the importance of Himalayan glaciers?
  - A. They hold the largest body of ice on the earth.
  - B. They feed hundreds of millions of people.
  - C. They are famous for beautiful scenery.
  - D. They are on the highest mountain peak.
3. What would happen if people remained indifferent to our planet's climate?
  - A. The Himalayan glaciers would disappear.
  - B. The earth temperature could stay stable.
  - C. IPCC would earn more money.
  - D. Water originating from the glacier could flow faster a few decades later.

4. Basanthi Negi's narration on the past high snowfall proves that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. she is very tall  
B. she lives in poor condition  
C. the sun is nearer to the earth  
D. the retreating glacier becomes thinner
5. According to RK Pachauri, which area will be severely influenced by the present patterns of melting?  
A. Harsil village.  
B. Area along Ganges River.  
C. South Asia.  
D. India only.

**Direction: Complete the sentence with information given in the passage.**

6. The Indian government is cooperating more with \_\_\_\_\_ across the border.

## History of Ivory Soap

At about the same time that Colgate & Co. introduced a perfumed soap called Cashmere Bouquet, William Procter and James Gamble decided to begin business together in Cincinnati. These two men began their fortune by selling candles and soap from a wheelbarrow. It did not last too long before Procter and Gamble was delivering large quantities to major cities such as Memphis, Pittsburgh, and Louisville. Ivory soap was introduced to the marketplace in 1879.

Did you ever wonder why Ivory Soap floats? In the development stages, James N. Gamble called it 'White Soap'. James Gamble and his associates finally perfected the formula for the "White Soap" in 1878. At first, the name of this soap was going to be called P&G White Soap, but Harley Procter decided to give the soap a name that people could remember. Procter attempted numerous times to find an appropriate name for the soap.

The concept of soap that floats was rumored to have been encountered by accident. The story goes that Harley Procter named the soap 'Ivory' from a biblical verse (Psalm 45) church: "All thy garments smell of myrrh and aloes and cassia, out of the ivory palaces whereby they have made me glad." In 1878, the formula for the "White Soap" was created. Several months later the accident occurred. Without thinking one of the workmen left to go to lunch and the machinery was still running. Since the machinery was left in operation, air would work its way into the mixture. The workman decided not to discard the mixture after discussing with his supervisor. Instead he poured mixture into frames and the soap hardened. Interestingly enough it was cut, packaged, and shipped.

Amazingly, Procter & Gamble began to receive letters from buyers of this



“accidental” soap. They wanted more of the soap that floats! Even though this interesting formula was one of their best products, they were perplexed as to how this happened. The mysterious formula for the floating soap was resolved when the lunchtime accident was revealed.

The error the workman made became Procter & Gamble’s new product. Why was this product so popular? Some people were known to bathe in the Ohio River and the floating soap would never get lost. Ivory Soap became a best seller due to a workman’s error. Procter & Gamble makes the floating soap by intentionally adding a small amount of air in the formula. Naturally, this allows the soap to be lighter than water.

Since Proctor wanted to produce pure soap, a chemical analysis of the soap had to be done. Up to this time, there was not a standard for purity of soap. Therefore, Harley decided to locate an independent scientific consultant or chemist in New York to develop a standard for the purity of soap. The chemist found that in order soap to be 100% pure, the constituents would have to be fatty acids and alkali.

It was found by a chemist that the 56/100 of the ingredients did not fall in the pure soap category. In 1882, an Ivory advertisement appeared that stated the slogan “99-44/100% Pure”. This calculation was created by Proctor in which 56 was subtracted from 100 to account for a result of 44. The 56 consisted of the following impurities: uncombined alkali, 0.11%; carbonates, 0.28%; and mineral matter, 0.17%.

Keeping the Ivory Soap bars away from extreme heat or cold will affect the bar’s fragrance. It is recommended that the bars to be kept in their original wrappers to make the fragrance last longer. Ivory also recommends that using warm to hot water and/or soft or conditioned water will create a rich lather.

You may also want to keep the shower spray away from the Ivory soap. With the shower spray continually coming in contact with the bar of soap, it will affect the lathering.

A good idea to make the bar last longer is to let the bar dry between uses. Consider using two bars of soap that you can alternate. Put the bar(s) in a soap dish with points in