

新编研究生英语系列教程

# 研究生英语阅读教程

(提高级/第三版)

北京市高等教育学会研究生英语教学研究分会

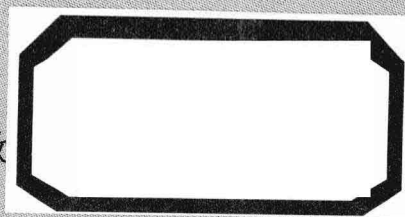
主 编 李光立

副主编 张雪燕 刘兰芝



中国人民大学出版社

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## 第三版前言

《研究生英语阅读教程（提高级 / 第三版）》是北京市高等教育学会研究生英语教学研究分会组织北京市和全国有关院校在 2004 年出版的《研究生英语阅读教程（提高级）》和 2007 年第二版的基础上修订编写的研究生英语阅读教材，适用于高等院校文、理、工、医、农、林等各学科的非英语专业硕士研究生和部分博士研究生。

《研究生英语阅读教程（提高级 / 第三版）》的编写指导思想是通过本教材的教学使研究生能够掌握其应该掌握的各项阅读技能，并通过阅读实践运用这些技能，从而使研究生真正具有较熟练的英语阅读能力，为以英语为工具进行本专业的学习和研究打下坚实的基础。

第三版在 2004 年出版的《研究生英语阅读教程（提高级）》和 2007 年出版的《研究生英语阅读教程（提高级 / 第二版）》的基础上对阅读技巧的顺序进行了重新安排，使之更加合理；更换了一些课文，使文章更具有时代性。

根据各个学校研究生英语课时的调整情况，本教材减少了第二版中阅读技巧和阅读篇章的总量，由原来的六个单元 18 课减少为五个单元 15 课，以适应新的教学要求。各单元体裁分别为：第一单元为新闻报道阅读；第二单元为传记阅读；第三单元为杂文阅读；第四单元为科技与科普文章阅读；第五单元为小说阅读。每个单元的开始都详细地介绍了该单元体裁文章的阅读技巧，每课课文后配有有关阅读技巧和课文的大量练习、课文中的生词表、注释、作者及文章背景介绍等。

第三版的主要特点如下：

1. 本教材以阅读文章体裁为主线。本教材在每单元开始分别系统地介绍了各种体裁文章的阅读技巧。

2. 本教材强化研究生阅读技巧的训练。除了介绍阅读技巧外，本教材每课配有大量的练习，其中包括阅读理解练习 A 和 B(A 为有关文章主旨和细节的单项选择题，B

为关于文章结构和逻辑关系的练习)、词汇练习 A 和 B(词汇练习 A 为课文中需要学生认知的词汇及词组,词汇练习 B 为课文中需要学生掌握的词汇及词组)、综合填空练习、翻译练习和问题与讨论(问题为从书中到书外学生熟悉和感兴趣的话题)等,有针对性地训练研究生运用在该课中学到的阅读技巧,从而使其能够真正掌握与运用这些技巧。

3. 本教材可操作性好。本教材以讲述阅读技巧为主线,每课配有课文和大量的练习,这样可以使教师在教学中有较大的选择性,可以以阅读技巧为教学重点也可以以阅读课文、练习或讨论为教学重点。本教材的教师用书不仅提供了练习答案,还提供了大量的背景材料、语言点的介绍和全部课文的译文。本教材的教师用书不单独出版,使用者可以向中国人民大学出版社外语分社免费索取。

4. 本教材可读性好。本教材所选阅读材料语言纯正、规范,大部分课文选自英美等英语国家的名家名篇,而且绝大多数都是最新发表的作品。所选文章注意了在内容上、题材上的多样化,如第二单元传记阅读中选择了政界人物希拉里、科学奇人乔布斯和科学家约翰·纳什。

5. 本教材体现英语阅读的真实性。本教材所选阅读材料均来自英语原文。为了让学生阅读真实的原汁原味的英语文章,生词表和注释都放在了每课的最后。

6. 本教材与北京市高等教育学会研究生英语教学研究分会组织的每年 1 月和 6 月的研究生英语学位课统考紧密结合。本教材每课课文后设计的阅读和词汇题与研究生学位课统考题形式一致,也可以作为备考练习之用。

本教材配有精心制作的教学课件,使用者可以向中国人民大学出版社外语分社免费索取。联系方式:shandysxj@163.com, jianjiandecha@126.com, jufa@crup.com.cn, 010-62514974/62513265/62515576。

本教材在编写和出版过程中得到了北京市高等教育学会研究生英语教学研究分会的全力支持,中国人民大学出版社外语分社的同志为本教材的策划和出版做了大量的工作,在此我们一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于时间仓促,编者水平有限,本教材的某些不足在所难免,敬请使用本教材的教师和读者批评指正。

编 者

2012 年 2 月



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# Unit One

## Reading News Reports

### Introduction to News Reports

News reporting mainly performs two functions:

1. Its dominant function is to give information, so the language used in news reporting serves the referential function.

2. Its secondary (or subordinate) function is to reflect, shape and sway public opinion, so the language of news reporting is also conative in function.

### Headlines

**Tenses in headlines.** In the news reporting, the simple past tense is always used in the body text because the job of a reporter is to tell his reader what has just happened in the world. But things are quite different with the headlines, which serve to catch the attention of potential readers.

#### 1. Use of simple present tense

The simple present tense is preferred to refer to the past or the recent past. This use of the simple past tense conveys a sense of recency—an important value in news event. It seems as if the reporter were unfolding the scene before the reader's eyes.

#### 2. Use of simple past tense

Though quite rare in headlines, the simple past tense does occur. It is, then, used to emphasize a past fact as shown in the examples below:

What Did Bush Know?

Bush Was Told of Hijacking Dangers

#### 3. Use of past participles

A usual journalistic practice is to delete the auxiliary verb *be* in the headlines where the passive voice is involved. So only the past participle is left, and the reference may be to the past, the present or occasionally to the future:

*Past*

Bush Warned of Hijackings Before 9/11

*Present*

Profound Effect on U.S. Economy Seen in a War on Iraq

*Future*

More Time Required to Forge Trade Settlement

**4. Use of present participles**

To save space, reporters often avoid using continuous verb forms in the headlines, and generally favor the use of present participles without the auxiliary verb *be* to represent continuous tense:

2 M Workers Facing Loss of Jobs

**5. Use of infinitives**

When the time reference is to the future, reporters often use the infinitives in headlines though the “will” construction also occur:

China to Spend \$2.5 Billion on Scientific, Technological Research

**6. Verbless sentences**

In the case of *be* as the main verb, it is often omitted in headlines. And sometimes reporters prefer nominal group without any verbs altogether in headlines. Often *and* is replaced with “,”.

China, India in Partnership to Host Global Trade Fair

Germany in Shock After School Shooting

## News Lead

The opening paragraph of a news report contains nothing but the news lead. It gives the gist of the whole news event in just one sentence in most cases. The lead is, in this sense, the “showcase” of all materials contained in a news event. Only on rare occasions do we come across a news lead that consists of more than one sentence.

The news lead is an important semantic feature of news reporting. Like the thematic statement of an essay, it is essential to the realization and interpretation of the meaning of the whole news event. All other paragraphs that follow the lead are actually supporting paragraphs, which provide more specific details. This is an effective time-saving technique for the benefit of the reader as well as the editor. If the reader, after going over the lead, feels interested in the details of a news event, he can just read on; if he is not, or if he is hard pressed for time, he can very well stop after the lead and nothing much is lost.

Determined by its referential function, the basic semantic elements of a news item contain information about the six w’s—“who”, “what”, “where”, “when”, “why”, and “how”. The news lead usually contains the first few w’s and leaves the rest to the supporting paragraphs. Reporters

generally play up one w which is considered more important than others in the news lead. On some occasions, the lead may contain all the six w's, and the supporting paragraphs further explain them in greater detail.

## Lexical Features

### 1. Use of clichés and set expressions

Reporters usually work under great pressure to get firsthand news and to get it printed in the newspapers at the earliest possible time. They have to, therefore, rely on those handy and labor-saving clichés and set expressions. The following italicized expressions are a few of these journalistic terms:

*He is quoted as saying ...*

*... according to official sources, speaking to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity ...*

### 2. Neologisms

Reporters have to present their material in the most readable and interesting way so as to attract the attention of the reading public. They often try to enliven their language with neologisms through giving new meaning to old words, concocting nonce words, coining new words or borrowing words from other fields.

#### (1) Words with extended meaning

*Monicagate Year Two*

(It refers to former U.S. President Clinton's sexual scandal with Monica Lewinsky. The suffix -gate has become the synonym of scandal since President Nixon's Watergate scandal.)

#### (2) Nonce words

A nonce word refers to a word coined to be used only once for a particular situation. The word may be made up of several words joined together through hyphenation or without hyphens as in "This election could go anywhichway".

He adopts a *the-end-justifies-the-means*.

#### (3) Coinage

Reporters have great inventiveness in coining new words and expressions, especially through affixation, compounding and blending, etc.

*Youthquake* (youth + quake, the rebellion of the young)

#### (4) Words borrowed from sports, gambling, commerce, science and technology.

### 3. Use of initials, acronyms, clippings and blendings

### 4. Use of "midget" words

"Midget" words, mostly Anglo-Saxon words, are frequently used, especially in headlines. They sound more exciting and dramatic to the English ear, and they are short and space-saving. Besides, they can both function as nouns and verbs, thus giving reporters more flexibility in

wording his headlines. A sample list of these words is given below:

*aid* (help)

*axe* (reduce)

*back* (support)

*ban* (prohibition)

### 5. Use of noun modifiers

For the sake of brevity, reporters tend to use noun modifiers to replace other modifying structures such as:

Adjective: *race* (racial) hatred

Gerund: *launch* (launching) pad

Prepositional phrase: *China* visit

Participial phrase: *Acceptance* speech

Infinitive phrase or clause: *Ouster* attempt—attempt to oust somebody

Sometimes a series of nouns are used as premodifiers: *Baby Boom* Threat

# Lesson 1

## Spillonomics: Underestimating Risk

David Leonhardt

[1] In retrospect, the pattern seems clear. Years before the Deepwater Horizon rig blew, BP was developing a reputation as an oil company that took safety risks to save money. An explosion at a Texas refinery killed 15 workers in 2005, and federal regulators and a panel led by James A. Baker III, the former secretary of state, said that cost cutting was partly to blame. The next year, a corroded pipeline in Alaska poured oil into Prudhoe Bay. None other than Joe Barton, a Republican congressman from Texas and a global-warming skeptic, upbraided BP managers for their “seeming indifference to safety and environmental issues”.

[2] Much of this indifference stemmed from an obsession with profits, come what may. But there also appears to have been another factor, one more universally human, at work. The people running BP did a dreadful job of estimating the true chances of events that seemed unlikely—but that would bring enormous costs.

[3] Perhaps the easiest way to see this is to consider what BP executives must be thinking today. Surely, given the expense of the clean-up and the hit to BP’s reputation, the executives wish they could go back and spend the extra money to make Deepwater Horizon safer. That they did not suggests that they figured the rig would be fine as it was.

[4] For all the criticism BP executives may deserve, they are far from the only people to struggle with such low-probability, high-cost events. Nearly everyone does. “These are precisely the kinds of events that are hard for us as humans to get our hands around and react to rationally,” Robert N. Stavins, an environmental economist at Harvard, says. We make two basic—and opposite—types of mistakes. When an event is difficult to imagine, we tend to underestimate its likelihood. This is the proverbial black swan. Most of the people running Deepwater Horizon probably never had a rig explode on them. So they assumed it would not happen, at least not to them.

[5] Similarly, Ben Bernanke and Alan Greenspan liked to argue, not so long ago, that the national real estate market was not in a bubble because it had never been in one before. Wall Street traders took the same view and built mathematical models that did not allow for the possibility that house prices would decline. And many home buyers signed up for unaffordable mortgages, believing they could refinance or sell the house once its price rose. That’s what house prices did, it seemed.

[6] On the other hand, when an unlikely event is all too easy to imagine, we often go in the opposite direction and overestimate the odds. After the 9/11 attacks, Americans canceled



plane trips and took to the road. There were no terrorist attacks in this country in 2002, yet the additional driving apparently led to an increase in traffic fatalities.

[7] When the stakes are high enough, it falls to government to help its citizens avoid these entirely human errors. The market, left to its own devices, often cannot do so. Yet in the case of Deepwater Horizon, government policy actually went the other way. It encouraged BP to underestimate the odds of a catastrophe.

[8] In a little-noticed provision in a 1990 law passed after the Exxon Valdez spill, Congress capped a spiller's liability over and above cleanup costs at \$75 million for a rig spill. Even if the economic damages—to tourism, fishing and the like—stretch into the billions, the responsible party is on the hook for only \$75 million. (In this instance, BP has agreed to waive the cap for claims it deems legitimate.) Michael Greenstone, an M.I.T. economist who runs the Hamilton Project in Washington, says the law fundamentally distorts a company's decision making. Without the cap, executives would have to weigh the possible revenue from a well against the cost of drilling there and the risk of damage. With the cap, they can largely ignore the potential damage beyond cleanup costs. So they end up drilling wells even in places where the damage can be horrific, like close to a shoreline. To put it another way, human frailty helped BP's executives underestimate the chance of a low-probability, high-cost event. Federal law helped them underestimate the costs.

[9] In the wake of Deepwater Horizon, Congress and the Obama administration will no doubt be tempted to pass laws meant to reduce the risks of another deep-water disaster. Certainly there are some sensible steps they can take, like lifting the liability cap and freeing regulators from the sway of industry. But it would be foolish to think that the only risks we are still underestimating are the ones that have suddenly become salient.

[10] The big financial risk is no longer a housing bubble. Instead, it may be the huge deficits that the growth of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security will cause in coming years—and the possibility that lenders will eventually become nervous about extending credit to Washington. True, some economists and policy makers insist the country should not get worked up about this possibility, because lenders have never soured on the United States government before and show no signs of doing so now. But isn't that reminiscent of the old Bernanke-Greenspan tune about the housing market?

[11] Then, of course, there are the greenhouse gases that oil wells (among other things) send into the atmosphere even when the wells function properly. Scientists say the buildup of these gases is already likely to warm the planet by at least three degrees over the next century and cause droughts, storms and more ice-cap melting. The researchers' estimates have risen recently, too, and it is also possible the planet could get around 12 degrees hotter. That kind of warming could flood major cities and cause parts of Antarctica to collapse.

[12] Nothing like that has ever happened before. Even imagining it is difficult. It is much easier to hope that the odds of such an outcome are vanishingly small. In fact, it's only natural to have this hope. But that doesn't make it wise.

(990 words)

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

David Leonhardt (born January 1, 1973) is an economics journalist with *The New York Times*. He joined *The Times* in 1999 and writes both the "Economics Scene" column and for the *Times Sunday Magazine*. Before coming to *The Times*, he wrote for *BusinessWeek* and *The Washington Post*. In April 2011 he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in the "Commentary" category for "his graceful penetration of America's complicated economic questions, from the federal budget deficit to health care reform".

## **EXERCISES**

### **I. Reading Comprehension**

***A. Answer the following questions or complete the following statements.***

1. By "the pattern seems clear" (Paragraph 1), the author implies that what happened at Deepwater Horizon \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A. has its unique reasons          | B. is not an isolated event      |
| C. is avoidable if taken seriously | D. is unavoidable no matter what |

2. The author specifically mentions Joe Barton's criticism of BP to emphasize that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. public opinions matter in the case of the oil spills
  - B. the oil industry should impose pressure on BP
  - C. BP has indeed made unforgivable wrong decisions
  - D. the fight against the oil industry is inconsistent
3. How might Robert Stavins comment on the BP executives and their mistakes?
- A. Nobody in their right mind would make such mistakes.
  - B. They have everything in their power to avoid the mistakes.
  - C. These mistakes are actually beyond human control.
  - D. These mistakes, though serious, reflect common human weakness.

4. The "black swan" in Paragraph 4 means that the thing in question \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| A. is precious       | B. rarely happens        |
| C. is only our dream | D. catches our attention |

5. People's fear of planes after the 9/11 attacks \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. is understandable B. drives them crazy  
 C. cannot be fully justified D. proves to be well-grounded
6. Things with the high stakes \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. should be left to the market alone  
 B. can be better handled with government help  
 C. can be better solved by the market than the government  
 D. may be made worse by government intervention
7. Michael Greenstone would summarize the role played by the 1990 law as \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. beneficial B. unpredictable C. negligible D. adverse
8. By "it would be foolish to think that the only risks we are still underestimating are the ones that have suddenly become salient" in Paragraph 9, the author means to stress that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. there are also risks in fields other than the oil industry  
 B. there are more risks in the oil industry than we have known  
 C. we no longer underestimate the risks in the oil industry  
 D. we should be careful not to underestimate the risks again in the future
9. The author describes in detail the greenhouse gas effect to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. remind people of the possible risks ahead  
 B. try to persuade the global warming skeptics  
 C. tell people to face reality and take initiatives  
 D. convince people of the reliability of his information
10. The author's purpose in writing the article is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. call on the public to condemn the oil industry  
 B. offer solutions to the problems in the oil industry  
 C. expose the deal between the industry and the government  
 D. analyze the reasons behind the oil disasters and issue warnings

**B. Complete the following outline of the text by filling in the blanks.**

Reasons Behind Deepwater Horizon	Wrong Actions	Consequences	Suggested Solutions
Obsession with profits		Safety could not be guaranteed.	
Human weakness			
Government policy			