



考研必备

2004 年版

英语

阅读一本全

主编 郭庆民

吴永麟

策划 高 联



国家行政学院出版社



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语阅读一本全/郭庆民、吴永麟主编. -北京:国家行政学院出版社,2003

(考研必备)

ISBN 7-80140-286-3

I. 英… II. ①郭… ②吴… III. 英语-阅读教学-研究生-入学考试-自学参考资料 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 028912 号

敬告读者:本书封面贴有防伪标识,揭下表层后可见阴阳相对  
镂空的“行政学院”字样,无此者均为盗版。

英语阅读一本全

郭庆民 吴永麟 主编

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国家行政学院出版社出版发行

北京市海淀区长春桥路6号

邮政编码:100089

发行部电话:68920615,68929949

新华书店经销

北京市朝阳区印刷厂印刷

\*

787×1092 1/16 开本 31.5 印张 820 千字

2003年5月第1版 2003年5月第1次印刷

ISBN 7-80140-286-3/H·65 定价:40.00 元

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# 前 言

阅读理解部分占英语试卷分值的40%，因此，英语能否过关，阅读理解部分的得分至关重要。另外，扩大英语词汇量、掌握基础语言知识、提高翻译和写作能力，都得通过阅读这座桥梁来实现才能更加有效。否则，即使把词汇和语法规则背下来，也是看不懂、译不出、写不了，何况，死记硬背的东西理解不深刻，容易忘。

阅读能力的提高，不是一朝一夕的事，也不是随意翻阅文章就能解决问题。提高速度、扩大视野、提高答题的命中率，显然需要精读一批文章。通过精读，学会把握重要信息，提高理解疑难长句的能力，扩大词汇量，拓宽自己的视野，掌握答题的思路。本书正是本着这一宗旨，在十多年考研英语辅导班教学经验的基础上，并针对学生存在的问题而编写的。本书具有以下鲜明特点：

1. 题材广泛。本书文章摘选自国外报刊、杂志、书籍、考题。内容丰富、时效性强，文章涉及政治、经济、文化、教育、语言、哲学、心理、历史、新科普知识等方面，旨在让学生了解西方社会的热点问题，扩大学生的视野，提高分析问题的能力。

2. 体裁齐全。本书所选文章包括报刊评论、议论文、说明文，还包括部分叙述文和应用文。以提高学生对各种体裁文章的分析 and 理解能力。

3. 层次分明。本书第一篇将所选文章按难度依次分为基础、中级、高级三个等级，为方便学生阅读，每篇文章均配有生词表及其国际音标。第三篇中的20套模拟试题涉及知识新颖，题型多样，也尽量按难易程度排列。这样做的目的是让学生循序渐进地进行系统复习和训练。

4. 详解详译。本书第二篇包括了对文章难点、长句、涉及到的各方面知识的详细注解和翻译。每篇文章配有摘要，画龙点睛地对文章的结构和作者的主要观点进行分析和点评，从宏观上给学生以阅读指导。“答案详解”部分对答案和题解做了深入剖析，其中也包括了难点讲解和难句翻译，教会学生掌握答题的角度。

5. 综合性强。由于存在以上四个特点，通过阅读本书精选的文章，学生不仅提高了阅读能力，而且还提高了翻译能力，扩大了词汇量，提高了词汇应用能力，拓宽了自己的知识面，学了解题思路。

我们认为,学生必须要花大力气精读文章,在精读中获得应试能力的全面提高。不能走马观花地只强调做题的量,更重要的是扎扎实实地读懂每篇文章,从分析句子(尤其是疑难长句)结构入手,仔细精读,甚至将文章中的部分句子亲自动手翻译出来。如果坚持这样做,学生才有切实的积累,久而久之,对于英文文章的写法、语句的表达方式就会了如指掌,提高了理解的深度和阅读的速度,并为做翻译、写作和综合填空积累了充足的语言知识。正所谓一石击“四”鸟。

另外,每部分配有“参考答案速查”,因此学生在做题时如果遇到难题,不要急于看题解,首先要自己检验自己的解题思路是否正确,然后再查阅和对比本书的解题思路,这样做当然会大大地帮助考生摆正自己的解题思路。遇到疑难长句也不要急于看本书的翻译,学生应该对难句进行分析并动手翻译一下,再核对参考译文。只有这样,才能切实做到在练习中不断提高自己的理解能力。

本书的突出特点在于一个“精”字。自出版以来,也因其鲜明的特点受到了广大考生的好评。根据考研形势的需要,我们今年对本书进行了重大修改和补充,以期更适合于读者备考的需要。

本书由中国人民大学外语学院 **郭庆民**、清华大学外语学院 **吴永麟** 主编。参加编写的还有毕玉玲、王珠英、吴永春等。

由于作者水平有限,错误和缺点在所难免,望读者和广大同仁指正。

编者

2003年5月

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# 第一篇 阅读理解阶梯精读

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## 第一部分 基础 24 篇

### 基础

### Passage 1

The past ages of man have all been carefully labelled by anthropologists. Descriptions like ‘Palaeolithic Man’, ‘Neolithic Man’, etc., neatly sum up whole periods. When the time comes for anthropologists to turn their attention to the twentieth century, they will surely choose the label ‘Legless Man’. Histories of the time will go something like this: ‘In the twentieth century, people forgot how to use their legs. Men and women moved about in cars, buses and trains from a very early age. There were lifts and escalators in all large buildings to prevent people from walking. This situation was forced upon earth-dwellers of that time because of their extraordinary way of life. In those days, people thought nothing of travelling hundreds of miles each day. But the surprising thing is that they didn’t use their legs even when they went on holiday. They built cable railways, ski-lifts and roads to the top of every huge mountain. All the beauty spots on earth were marred by the presence of large car parks.’

The future history books might also record that we were deprived of the use of our eyes. In our hurry to get from one place to another, we failed to see anything on the way. Air travel gives you a bird’s-eye view of the world — or even less if the wing of the aircraft happens to get in your way. When you travel by car or train a blurred image of the countryside constantly smears the windows. Car drivers, in particular, are forever obsessed with the urge to go on and on; they never want to stop. Is it the lure of the great motorways, or what? And as for sea travel, it hardly deserves mention. It is perfectly summed up in the words of the old song: ‘I joined the navy to see the world, and what did I see? I saw the sea.’ The typical twentieth-century traveller is the man who always says ‘I’ve been there.’ You mention the remotest, most evocative place — names in the world like El Dorado, Kabul, Irkutsk and someone is bound to say ‘I’ve been there’ — meaning, ‘I drove through it at 100 miles an hour on the way to somewhere else.’

When you travel at high speeds, the present means nothing: you live mainly in the future because you spend most of your time looking forward to arriving at some other place. But actual arrival, when it is achieved, is meaningless. You want to move on again. By travelling like this, you suspend all experience; the present ceases to be a reality: you might just as well be dead. The traveller on foot, on the other hand, lives constantly in the present. For him travelling and arriving are one and the same thing: he arrives somewhere with every step he makes. He experiences the present moment with his eyes, his ears and the whole of his body. At the end of his journey he feels a delicious physical weariness. He knows that sound, satisfying sleep will be his; the just reward of all true travellers.

- Anthropologists label nowadays' men "Legless" because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - people forget how to use his legs
  - people prefer cars, buses and trains
  - lifts and escalators prevent people from walking
  - there are a lot of transportation devices
- Travelling at high speed means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - people's focus on the future
  - a pleasure
  - satisfying drivers' great thrill
  - a necessity of life
- Why does the author say "we are deprived of the use of our eyes"?
  - People won't use their eyes.
  - In travelling at high speed, eyes become useless.
  - People can't see anything on his way of travel.
  - People want to sleep during travelling.
- What is the purpose of the author in writing this passage?
  - Legs become weaker.
  - Modern means of transportation make the world a small place.
  - There is no need to use eyes.
  - The best way to travel is on foot.
- What does "a bird's-eye view" mean?
  - See view with bird's eyes.
  - A bird looks at a beautiful view.
  - It is a general view from a high position looking down.
  - A scenic place.

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## Vocabulary

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- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. palaeolithic /ˌpæliəʊ'liθɪk/ | 旧石器时代的                          |
| 2. Neolithic /ˌniːə'liθɪk/      | 新石器时代的                          |
| 3. escalator /'eskəleɪtə/       | 自动电梯                            |
| 4. ski-lift                     | 载送滑雪者上坡的装置                      |
| 5. mar /mɑː/                    | 损坏, 毁坏                          |
| 6. blur /blɜː/                  | 模糊不清, 朦胧                        |
| 7. smear /smiə/                 | 涂, 弄脏, 弄模糊(尤指画面、轮廓等)            |
| 8. evocative /i'vəʊkətɪv/       | 引起回忆的, 唤起感情的                    |
| 9. El Dorado /ˌel də'rɑːdəʊ/    | (由当时西班牙征服者想象中的南美洲)黄金国, 宝山, 富庶之乡 |
| 10. Kabul /'kɑːbl/              | 喀布尔(阿富汗首都)                      |
| 11. Irkutsk /ɪr'kʊtsk/          | 伊尔库茨克(原苏联亚洲城市)                  |

When you think of the tremendous technological progress we have made, it's amazing how little we have developed in other respects. We may speak contemptuously of the poor old Romans because they relished the orgies of slaughter that went on in their arenas. We may despise them because they mistook these goings on for entertainment. We may forgive them condescendingly because they lived 2000 years ago and obviously knew no better. But are our feelings of superiority really justified? Are we any less blood-thirsty? Why do boxing matches, for instance, attract such universal interest? Don't the spectators who attend them hope they will see some violence? Human beings remain as blood-thirsty as ever they were. The only difference between ourselves and the Romans is that while they were honest enough to admit that they enjoyed watching hungry lions tearing people apart and eating them alive, we find all sorts of sophisticated arguments to defend sports which should have been banned long ago; sports which are quite as barbarous as, say, public hangings or bear-baiting.

It really is incredible that in this day and age we should still allow hunting or bull-fighting, that we should be prepared to sit back and watch two men batter each other to pulp in a boxing ring, that we should be relatively unmoved by the sight of one or a number of racing cars crashing and bursting into flames. Let us not deceive ourselves. Any talk of 'the sporting spirit' is sheer hypocrisy. People take part in violent sports because of the high rewards they bring. Spectators are willing to pay vast sums of money to see violence. A world heavyweight championship match, for instance, is front page news. Millions of people are disappointed if a big fight is over in two rounds instead of fifteen. They feel disappointment because they have been deprived of the exquisite pleasure of witnessing prolonged torture and violence.

Why should we ban violent sports if people enjoy them so much? You may well ask. The answer is simple; they are uncivilised. For centuries man has been trying to improve himself spiritually and emotionally — admittedly with little success. But at least we no longer tolerate the sight madmen cooped up in cages, or public floggings of any of the countless other barbaric practices which were common in the past. Prisons are no longer the grim forbidding places they used to be. Social welfare systems are in operation in many parts of the world. Big efforts are being made to distribute wealth fairly. These changes have come about not because human beings have suddenly and unaccountably improved, but because positive steps were taken to change the law. The law is the biggest instrument of social change that we have and it may exert great civilising influence. If we banned dangerous and violent sports, we would be moving one step further to improving mankind. We would recognise that violence is degrading and unworthy of human beings.

- It can be inferred from the passage that the author's opinion of nowadays' human beings is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. not very high  
 B. high  
 C. contemptuous 狂妄的, 鄙视的  
 D. critical
- The main idea of this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. vicious and dangerous sports should be banned by law

- B. people are willing to pay vast sums of money to see violence  
 C. to compare two different attitudes towards dangerous sports  
 D. people are blood-thirsty in sports
3. That the author mentions the old Romans is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. to compare the old Romans with today's people  
 B. to give an example  
 C. to show human beings in the past know nothing better  
 D. to indicate human beings are used to blood-thirsty
4. How many dangerous sports does the author mention in this passage?
- A. Three. ~~B.~~ Five.  
 C. Six. ~~D.~~ Seven.
5. The purpose of the author in writing this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. that, by banning the violent sports, we human beings can improve ourselves  
 B. that, by banning the dangerous sports, we can improve the law  
 C. that we must take positive steps to improve social welfare system  
 D. to show law is the main instrument of social change

## Vocabulary

1. relish /'relɪʃ/	从……获得乐趣, 享受
2. orgy /'ɔ:dʒi/	狂欢, 放纵
3. arena /ə'ri:nə/	竞技场, 活动或斗争的场所
4. blood-thirsty	残忍的, 嗜血的
5. bear-baiting	逗熊游戏
6. bull-fight	斗牛
7. batter /'bætə(r)/	猛击, 连续地猛打/捶, 乱打
8. pulp /pʌlp/	成纸浆, 成软块
9. burst into flames	突然燃烧起来/着火
10. grim /grim/	令人窒息的, 简陋的
11. coop up /ku:p/	把……关起来

### 基础

### Passage 3

Advertisers tend to think big and perhaps this is why they're always coming in for criticism. Their critics seem to resent them because they have a flair for self-promotion and because they have so much money to throw around. 'It's iniquitous,' they say, 'that this entirely unproductive industry (if we can call it that) should absorb millions of pounds each year. It only goes to show how much profit the big companies are making. Why don't they stop advertising and reduce the price of their goods? After all, it's



the consumer who pays. . . ’

The poor old consumer! He'd have to pay a great deal more if advertising didn't create mass markets for products. It is precisely because of the heavy advertising that consumer goods are so cheap. But we get the wrong idea if we think the only purpose of advertising is to sell goods. ~~Another equally important function is to inform.~~ A great deal of the knowledge we have about household goods derives largely from the advertisements we read. Advertisements introduce us to new products or remind us of the existence of ones we already know about. Supposing you wanted to buy a washing-machine, it is more than likely you would obtain details regarding performance, price, etc. , from an advertisement.

Lots of people pretend that they never read advertisements, but this claim may be seriously doubted. It is hardly possible not to read advertisements these days. And what fun they often are, too! Just think what a railway station or a newspaper would be like without advertisements. Would you enjoy gazing at a blank wall or reading railway bye-laws while waiting for a train? Would you like to read only closely-printed columns of news in your daily paper? A cheerful, witty advertisement makes such a difference to a drab wall or a newspaper full of the daily ration of calamities.

We must not forget, either, that advertising makes a positive contribution to our pockets. Newspapers, commercial radio and television companies could not subsist without this source of revenue. The fact that we pay so little for our daily paper, or can enjoy so many broadcast programmes is due entirely to the money spent by advertisers. Just think what a newspaper would cost if we had to pay its full price!

Another thing we mustn't forget is the 'small ads,' which are in virtually every newspaper and magazine. What a tremendously useful service they perform for the community! Just about anything can be accomplished through these columns. For instance, you can find a job, buy or sell a house, announce a birth, marriage or death in what used to be called the 'hatch, match and dispatch' column but by far the most fascinating section is the personal or 'agony' column. No other item in a newspaper provides such entertaining reading or offers such a deep insight into human nature. It's the best advertisement for advertising there is!

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
  - A. Advertisement.
  - B. The benefits of advertisement.
  - C. Advertisers perform a useful service to communities.
  - D. The costs of advertisement.
2. The attitude of the author toward advertisers is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. appreciative
  - B. trustworthy
  - C. critical
  - D. dissatisfactory
3. Why do the critics criticise advertisers?
  - A. Because advertisers often brag.
  - B. Because critics think advertisement is a "waste of money".
  - C. Because customers are encouraged to buy more than necessary.
  - D. Because customers pay more.
4. Which of the following is NOT true?