

新思路

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大学英语 阅读进阶

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W 上海外语教育出版社
外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新思路大学英语阅读进阶. 第2册/胡安琳总主编; 光峰分册主编.

—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2015

ISBN 978-7-5446-4117-3

I. ①新… II. ①胡… ②光… III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教材 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2015)第260753号

出版发行: **上海外语教育出版社**

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 包 洁

印 刷: 昆山市亭林彩印厂有限公司

开 本: 787 × 1092 1/16 印张8.25 字数161千字

版 次: 2016年3月第1版 2016年3月第1次印刷

印 数: 3 500册

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5446-4117-3 / H · 1922

定 价: 16.00元

本版图书如有印装质量问题,可向本社调换

为适应我国高等教育发展的新形势，推动大学英语教学改革，提高大学英语教学质量，培养符合新时期国家和社会发展需要的合格人才，教育部于2005年9月下旬公布了大学英语四六级考试改革的新题型，2006年又进行了修订。2013年12月，大学英语四六级考试的试卷结构和测试题型再次作出调整。改革和调整后的大学英语四六级考试阅读理解部分包括词义理解、长篇阅读和仔细阅读等测试内容，分别以选词填空、匹配和多项选择题型方式呈现，快速、准确地获取信息是测试的重点。

2015年，教育部推出《大学英语教学指南》(以下简称《指南》)，作为全国各高校实施大学英语教学的重要依据。为了便于各高校确定教学目标并组织教学，《指南》提出大学英语的教学以“培养学生的英语应用能力，增强跨文化交际意识和交际能力，同时发展自主学习能力，提高综合文化素养，使他们在学习、交往、社会活动和未来工作中能够有效地使用英语，满足国家、社会、学校和个人发展的需要”作为我国大学英语教学的总体目标，并将大学英语教学的具体要求分为三个层次：基础、提高、发展。根据这些层次的要求，我们希望分层培养学生的阅读能力，使其逐渐提高阅读速度，在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时，阅读速度达到每分钟100个单词，能就阅读材料进行略读和寻读；能借助词典阅读本专业的英文教材；能基本读懂国内英文报刊，掌握中心意思，理解主要事实和有关细节；能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料；能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。

依据《指南》的总体目标和具体规定，结合大学英语四六级考试的最新要求，我们组织了大批多年在教学一线的大学英语教师，历时数年，精心编写了《新思路大学英语阅读进阶》，以期通过长期、系统的阅读实践，循序渐进地提高大学生的英语阅读水平，从而提高他们的英语综合能力。

《新思路大学英语阅读进阶》全套分为四册，教材在选材长度、题型设计和阅读速度等方面参考了《指南》和大学英语四六级考试的相关要求，以帮助学生培养对英语文章阅读的兴趣，熟悉题型，逐渐提高阅读能力。

《新思路大学英语阅读进阶》全套教材的编写融科学性、系统性与创新性于一体，创造性地以主题为基本的编写单元，从一名大学生的视角设计了从入学直至大学毕业可能经历到的大学学习和生活的方方面面；选材贴近中国大学生的生活，注重趣味性、知识性、信息性和创新性，题材广泛，内容丰富，涉及语言、文化、文学、科普、体育、科技、法律、管理、社会焦点等方面，此外还选取了应用文体的文章。全套教材四册的编写遵循了由易到难、由浅到深的基本原则，阅读文章的长度从第一册的300至500个单词逐渐过渡到第四册的900至1200个单词。

本书为《新思路大学英语阅读进阶》系列教材的第二册，共12个单元，每单元由4篇阅读

短文组成。主题涉及大学新生感兴趣的内容,包括节日、社交礼仪、运动健康、爱情和友情、旅游、汽车、机器人、金钱、音乐、时尚、校园富贵病、文化冲击等12项;所选短文长度介于500至900个单词,生词不超过短文词汇总量的3%,练习形式参照大学英语四级考试阅读部分新题型编写,主要为选择题、匹配题、选词填空题等,建议标准阅读速度为每分钟120个单词。

我们在编写本书的过程中参考了大量资料,在此向这些著作的作者们深表感谢。同时,囿于水平,书中错漏在所难免,敬请广大读者和同仁不吝指正。

编者

2015年12月

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Passage 1

Happy Father's Day

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten 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. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Father's Day is a beautiful festival that acknowledges and appreciates the important role 1 by a father in raising the child. Historians have recorded that there was a tradition to celebrate Father's Day even thousands of years ago. Their study say that 4,000 years ago in Babylon a son called Elmesu carved a father's day message on a clay card. In his message Elmesu wished his father a long and healthy life. There is no 2 as to what happened to this father and the son but it is believed that several countries 3 the custom of celebrating Father's Day.

The tradition of celebrating Father's Day as seen today 4 in the last century. 5 there are several people who are credited for furthering the cause of the festival, there is far greater acceptance for Ms Sonora Louise Smart Dodd's contribution. A doting daughter from

Spokane, Washington, Ms Dodd is recognized as the 6 or Mother of the Father's Day Festival.

Inception of the Father's Day took place in Sonora's mind when she happened to hear a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. Sonora, who was 27 then, had begun to recognize the 7 her father must have gone through while bringing up his six children alone. Sonora questioned that if there is a day to recognize mothers then why is not there a day to 8 fathers?

Father's Day has become a hugely 9 festival. World over people thank their father and pay tribute to them. Most commonly children give Father's Day cards and flowers to their fathers. Neckties are a popular 10 on the occasion of Father's Day.

(268 words)

A) originated	B) hardships	C) festival	D) played	E) celebrate
F) evidence	G) popular	H) meaning	I) gift	J) Founder
K) honor	L) however	M) retained	N) contribute	O) Though

Questions in this section have a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select the word that best fits 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 of the word is identified by a letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Father's Day is a holiday that is celebrated in many countries. It is a day to honor and celebrate the fathers of the world. The holiday was first created in the United States by a woman named Anna Jarvis. She was the daughter of a minister and she wanted to honor her father. She started a campaign to get the day recognized. She wrote letters to everyone she knew and she even went to the White House to see the President. Finally, in 1910, Father's Day was declared a national holiday. Since then, it has become a day when people give their fathers gifts and flowers. It is a day to show our appreciation for the men who have helped us grow up. Father's Day is a special day for everyone. It is a day to honor the fathers of the world and to show them how much we love and appreciate them.

Unit 1

Passage 2

Look Out, or You'll Be the Next April Fool

April Fool's Day, sometimes called All Fool's Day, is one of the most light-hearted days of the year. Its origins are uncertain. Some see it as a celebration related to the turn of the seasons, while others believe it stems from the adoption of a new calendar.

On April Fool's Day, people tell lies to fool other people. They play tricks. Then everyone laughs. You can tell a lie on April Fool's Day. If someone believes the lie, you can say, "April Fool!" Be careful. Someone may tell you a lie. If you believe it, he or she will say, "April Fool!" Here are some April Fool lies beginners.

"Your shoe is untied."

"There's a bug on your shoulder."

"There's a spot on your shirt."

"We're having a test today."

"Your car has a flat tire."

"I'm moving away next week."

Here are several of the top ten April Fool's Day pranks ever pulled off, as judged by the U.S. website of Museum of Hoaxes for their notoriety, absurdity, and number of people duped.

Swiss spaghetti harvest tops the hoax list.

In 1957, a BBC television show announced that thanks to a mild winter and the virtual elimination of the spaghetti insects, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. Footage of Swiss farmers pulling strands of spaghetti from trees prompted a barrage of calls from people wanting to know how to grow their own spaghetti at home.

Instant color TV sets in Sweden comes as the third. Sweden in 1962 had only one television channel, which broadcast in black and white. The station's technical expert appeared on the news to announce that thanks to a newly developed technology, viewers could convert their existing sets to receive color pictures by pulling a nylon stocking over the screen.

U.S. ex-president Nixon's comeback is placed at the sixth. In 1992, U.S. National Public Radio announced that Richard Nixon was running for president again. His new campaign slogan was, "I didn't do anything wrong, and I won't do it again." They even had clips of Nixon announcement. Listeners flooded the show with calls expressing their outrage.

Nixon's voice actually turned out to be that of impersonator Rich Little.

Burger King, an American fast-food chain, published a full-page advertisement in *USA Today* in 1998 announcing the introduction of the "Left-Handed Whopper," specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new burger included the same ingredients as the original, but the condiments were rotated 180 degrees. The chain said it received thousands of requests for the new burger, as well as orders for the original "right-handed" version.

Discover Magazine announced in 1995 that a highly respected biologist, Aprile Pazzo (Italian for April Fool), had discovered a new species in Antarctica: the

hotheaded naked ice borer. The creatures were described as having bony plates on their heads that became burning hot, allowing the animals to bore through ice at high speed.

Noted British astronomer Patrick Moore announced on the radio in 1976 that at 9:47 am, a once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event, in which Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, would cause a gravitational alignment that would reduce the Earth's gravity. Moore told listeners that if they jumped in the air at the exact moment of the planetary alignment, they would experience a floating sensation. Hundreds of people called in to report feeling the sensation.

(560 words)

Comprehension Exercise

Match items in column A with relevant items in column B according to the passage.

A

1. No. 1 event on the hoax list
2. Rich Little
3. April 1st
4. Antarctica
5. Earth's gravity alignment

B

- a) playing tricks to others
- b) where new creatures were found
- c) Swiss spaghetti harvest
- d) floating sensation
- e) a man who imitated Nixon's voice

Passage 3

Easter Day

The meaning of many different customs observed during Easter Sunday has been buried with time. Their origins lie in pre-Christian religions and Christianity. All in some way or another are a “salute to spring,” marking rebirth. The white Easter lily has come to capture the glory of the holiday. The word “Easter” is named after Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring. A festival was held in her honor every year at the vernal equinox (春分).

People celebrate the holiday according to their beliefs and their religious denominations. Christians commemorate Good Friday as the day that Jesus Christ died and Easter Sunday as the day that he was brought back to life. Protestant settlers brought the custom of a sunrise service, a religious gathering at dawn, to the United States.

This year Easter will be celebrated on Sunday March 22. On Easter Sunday children wake up to find that the Easter Bunny has left them baskets of candy. He has also hidden the eggs that they decorated earlier that week. Children hunt for the eggs all around the house.

Neighborhoods and organizations hold Easter egg hunts, and the child who finds the most eggs wins a prize.

The Easter Bunny is a rabbit-spirit. Long ago, he was called the “Easter Hare.” Hares and rabbits have frequent multiple births so they became a symbol of fertility. The custom of an Easter egg hunt began because children believed that hares laid eggs in the grass. The Romans believed that “All life comes from an egg.” Christians consider eggs to be “the seed of life” and so they are symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Why we dye, or color, and decorate eggs is not certain. In ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and Persia eggs were dyed for spring festivals. In medieval Europe, beautifully decorated eggs were given as gifts.

In England, Germany and some other countries, children rolled eggs down hills on Easter morning, a game which has been connected to the rolling away of the rock from Jesus Christ’s tomb when he was resurrected. British settlers brought this custom to the New World.

In the United States in the early nine-

teenth century, Dolly Madison, the wife of the fourth American President, organized an egg roll in Washington, D.C. She had been told that Egyptian children used to roll eggs against the pyramids so she invited the children of Washington to roll hard-boiled eggs down the hilly lawn of the new Capitol building! The custom continued, except for the years during the Civil War. In 1880, the First Lady invited children to the White House for the Egg Roll because officials had complained that they were ruining the Capitol lawn. It has been held there ever since then, only canceled during times of war. The event has grown, and today Easter Monday is the only day of the year when tourists are

allowed to wander over the White House lawn. The wife of the President sponsors it for the children of the entire country. The egg rolling event is open to children twelve years old and under. Adults are allowed only when accompanied by children!

Traditionally, many priests bought new clothes for Easter which they wore to church. After church services, everyone went for a walk around the town. This led to the American custom of Easter parades all over the country. Perhaps the most famous is along the Fifth Avenue in New York City.

(575 words)

Comprehension Exercise

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

1. Easter Sunday _____.

A) is a holiday for Christians only	B) marks the beginning of spring
C) falls on March 22nd every year	D) is not celebrated on a fixed date
2. Why do people celebrate Easter?

A) Because it's the day to honor the goddess of spring.	B) Because it's the day Jesus Christ died.
C) Because it's the day Jesus Christ was resurrected.	D) It's not certain.
3. Which is not the activity held on Easter?

A) Big family reunion.	B) Easter egg hunt.
C) Egg roll.	D) Easter parade.
4. Rabbit is a very important symbol of Easter because _____.

A) Christians like rabbit very much	B) rabbits have great ability of fertility and they have multiple births
-------------------------------------	--

- C) Americans believe that rabbit can bring them luck and happiness
 D) rabbits are a symbol of pureness
5. Which of the following statements is not true?
- A) The dyed eggs were given as gifts long ago.
 B) Egg rolling is an activity held in the U.S. and other European countries.
 C) Dolly Madison initiated egg rolling in the U.S.
 D) Children in the U.S. have several days free from school.

Passage 4

Memorial Day

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

History of the Memorial Day

A) It was 1866 and the United States was recovering from the long and bloody Civil War between the North and the South. Surviving soldiers came home, some with missing limbs, and all with stories to tell. Henry Welles, a drugstore owner in Waterloo, New York, heard the stories and had an idea. He suggested that all the shops in town close for one day to honor the soldiers who were killed in the Civil War and were buried in the Waterloo cemetery. On the morning of May 5, the townspeople placed flowers, wreaths and crosses on the graves of the Northern soldiers in the cemetery. At about the same time, retired Major General Jonathan A. Logan planned another ceremony, this time for the soldiers who survived the war. He led the veterans through town to the cemetery to decorate their comrades' graves with flags. It was not a happy celebration, but a memorial. The

townspeople called it Decoration Day.

B) The two ceremonies were joined in 1868, and northern states commemorated the day on May 30. The southern states commemorated their war dead on different days. Children read poems and sang civil war songs and veterans came to schools wearing their medals and uniforms to tell students about the Civil War. Then the veterans marched through their home towns followed by the townspeople to the cemetery. They decorated graves and took photographs of soldiers next to American flags. Rifles were shot in the air as a salute to the northern soldiers who had given their lives to keep the United States together.

Origin of the Name

C) In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day and soldiers who had died in previous wars were honored as well. In the northern United States, it was

designated a public holiday. In 1971, along with other holidays, President Richard Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday on the last Monday in May.

D) Some southern states continue to celebrate Memorial Day on various days, i.e. June 3rd in Louisiana and Tennessee called "Confederate Memorial Day" and May 10th in North and South Carolina.

Celebrations on the Memorial Day

E) Cities all around the United States hold their own ceremonies on the last Monday in May to pay respect to the men and women who have died in wars or in the service of their country.

F) On Memorial Day, the President or Vice President of the United States gives a speech and lays a wreath on the tombs. Members of the armed forces shoot a rifle salute in the air. Veterans and families come to lay their own wreaths and say prayers. There is a chance that one of the soldiers buried here is a father, son, brother or friend.

G) Memorial Day is not limited to honor only those Americans from the armed forces. It is also a day for personal remembrance. Families and individuals honor the memories of their loved ones who have died. Church services, visits to the cemetery, flowers on graves or even silent tribute mark the day with dignity and solemnity. It is a day of reflection. However, to many Americans the day also

signals the beginning of summer with a three-day weekend to spend at the beach, in the mountains or at home relaxing.

H) In Waterloo, New York, the origin has not been lost and in fact the meaning has become even more special. President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed Waterloo the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1966, 100 years after the first commemoration. Every May 30, townspeople still walk to the cemeteries and hold memorial services. They decorate the graves with flags and flowers. Then they walk back to the park in the middle of town. The village choirs sing patriotic songs. In the evening, school children take part in a parade.

Cemeteries in the U.S.

I) Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia is the nation's largest national cemetery. Not only are members of the armed forces buried here; astronauts, explorers and other distinguished Americans have all been honored with a special place here. President John F. Kennedy is buried in a spot overlooking Washington, D.C. Here in the early hours of the Friday morning before Memorial Day, soldiers of the Third U.S. Infantry walk along the rows of headstones. Each soldier stops at a headstone, reaches to a bundle of flags he is carrying, pulls one out and pushes it into the ground. Most consider it a privilege to place flags on the more than two hundred thousand graves