



Reading Course for English Majors

英语专业阅读教程

——基础阅读

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分册主编 刘 宏 刘学明

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本册使用说明

学习外语的目的在于交际。中国人学习英语的目的就是与来自世界各地的人用英语进行交际。交际主要有两种途径,一是通过口头进行交际,二是通过书面进行交际。对我们中国人而言,用英语口语与人交际的机会很少,更主要是通过英语阅读获取各种信息和知识。英语阅读的重要性由此可见一斑。

英语阅读课历来是我国英语教学中的主干课程之一。另外,在国内外各种英语测试中,阅读题所占比例均不低于30%。然而,我国学生普遍存在英语阅读速度慢、理解率不高的问题。究其原因,主要是多数人没有掌握英语阅读的策略、方法和技巧,只知道死读。

本册的特色是授人以渔,把基本的阅读策略、方法和技巧教给学生,为其今后的阅读打下良好的基础,让学生自己打开阅读的宝库,受益终生。

第1单元的教学重点是指导学生掌握根据上下文线索猜测生词词义的策略、方法和技巧。教师首先应该强调为什么要根据上下文猜测生词词义、什么是上下文、有哪些线索可以利用,然后讲解范例,最后要求学生运用所学策略、方法和技巧进行练习。练习的目的并非只要学生记住生词,更是要训练他们运用猜测生词词义的策略、方法和技巧,因此,教师在检查习题答案时应重点询问学生是根据何种线索猜出词义的。

第2单元的教学重点是指导学生掌握根据构词法猜测生词词义的方法和技巧,以迅速扩大词汇量。教师首先要特别强调用构词法扩大词汇量的重大意义,然后要求学生掌握常用的词根、词缀。为了让学生尽快掌握表中所列词根、词缀,建议采用5步法:教师带读词根、词缀和定义,学生自己朗读词根、词缀和定义,学生互相问答词根、词缀的定义,学生全体背诵词根、词缀的定义,做练习。在学生做练习时,教师应强调并要求学生进行单词分析。

第3单元的教学重点是指导学生对理解难句。教师首先要强调理解难句的重要性,然后讲解范例,讲解范例时要特别强调关键词语;最后,在学生做练习时要求他们利用方法和技巧正确地进行逻辑推理。

第4单元的教学重点是指导学生找出文章的中心思想。在这一单元里,教师要特别强调主题句,因为在一般情况下,找到了主题句就很容易找到文章的中心思想。

第5、6、7单元的重点分别是指导学生进行正确判断、得出正确结论、进行正确推论。教师一方面要特别注重讲解范文,另一方面要分析学生在练习中出现的问题。

第8、9单元的重点是指导学生进行跳读与略读。在第8单元中,教师要强调学生的阅读速度,更要强调他们的理解率。在第9单元里,教师则要特别注重训练学生的阅读速度。

在使用本册时,学生不得预习,否则,所设计的各类练习达不到预期效果,不利于培养实战感。教师则应当注重对范文的讲解,并对学生练习过程中出现的问题进行分析。

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Unit 1

How to Guess the Meaning of Unfamiliar Words

Efficient reading requires the use of various problem-solving skills. For example, it is impossible for you to know the exact meaning of every word you read, but by developing your guessing ability, you will be able to understand enough to arrive at the total meaning of a sentence, a paragraph, or an essay. Exercises in this unit are designed to help you improve your ability to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words by using context clues. (Context clues refer to the sentence and the paragraph in which an unfamiliar word occurs.) In using the context to decide on the meaning of a word, you have to use your knowledge of grammar and your understanding of the author's ideas. Although there is no formula which you can memorize to improve your ability to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words, you should keep the following points in mind:

- (1) Use the meanings of other words in the sentence or paragraph and the meaning of the sentence as a whole to reduce the number of possible meanings.
- (2) Use grammar and punctuation clues which point to the relationships among the various parts of the sentence.
- (3) Use your general or common knowledge of the world.
- (4) Be satisfied with a general idea about the unfamiliar word; the exact definition or synonym is not always necessary.
- (5) Learn to recognize situations in which it is not necessary to know the meanings of the word.

Sample

Each of the sentences in this sample contains a blank to encourage you to look only at the context provided as you try to determine the possible meanings of the missing word. Read each sentence and supply a word for each blank. You must use context clues to help you give a word which is suitable in terms of grammar and meaning.

1. I removed the _____ from the shelf and began to read.
2. Bob is a thief; he would _____ the gold from his grandmother's teeth and not feel guilty.
3. Our uncle was a _____, an incurable wanderer who could never stay in one place.
4. Unlike his brother, who is truly a handsome person, Jack is quite _____.
5. But surely everyone knows that if you step on an egg, it will _____.
6. Tom got a new _____ for his birthday. It is a sports model, red, with white inside and bucket seats.

Answer and Explanation

book
magazine
novel
newspaper

1. I removed the _____ from the shelf and began to read.

The number of things that can be taken from a shelf and read is so few that the word "book" probably jumped into your mind at once. Here the association or connection between the object and the purpose for which it is used is so close that you have very little difficulty in guessing the right word.

steal
take

2. Bob is a thief; he would _____ the gold from his grandmother's teeth and not feel guilty.

Bob is a thief. A thief steals. The semicolon (;) shows that the sentence which follows contains an explanation of the first statement. Furthermore, you know the definition of a "thief" is: a person who steals.

traveler
drifter
roamer
nomad

3. Our uncle was a _____, an incurable wanderer who could never stay in one place.

The comma (,) following the blank shows a phrase in apposition, that is, a word or a group of words which could be used as a synonym of the unfamiliar word. The words beside the sentence are all synonyms of "wanderer".

ugly
homely
plain

4. Unlike his brother, who is truly a handsome person, Jack is quite _____.

Jack is the opposite of his brother, and since his brother is handsome, Jack must be ugly. The word "unlike" signals the contrast between the looks of Jack and his brother.

break

5. But surely everyone knows that if you step on an egg, it will _____.

You recognize the cause and effect relationship in this sentence. There is only one thing that can happen to an egg when it is stepped on.

car

6. Tom got a new _____ for his birthday. It is a sports model, red, with white inside and bucket seats.

The description in the second sentence gives you the information you need to guess the word "car".

Exercises

In the following exercises, try to develop your ability to guess the meaning of the italicized and boldfaced words or phrases by using context clues. Read each sentence carefully and then tick off the correct choice among A, B, C and D.

I

- Pollution is the **contamination** of air, soil and the sea by chemicals, rubbish and other substances.
A. content B. containment C. pollution D. confidence
- Chris wants to ride a furry brown **pony**.
A. pond B. pound C. bike D. horse
- Everyone agreed that the woman in the photo was **gorgeous**. It was easy to see why she had won the beauty contest.
A. beautiful B. handsome C. glorious D. ugly
- After Mrs. Brown put the letter in the envelope, she **sealed** it and put a stamp on it.
A. opened B. closed C. posted D. tore
- Mike gave his sister a small, pink **tulip** because he knows that she likes natural things very much.
A. a kind of toys B. a kind of tubes

III

1. After a day's hard work, he looked *weary*.
A. happy B. excited C. strong D. tired
2. He is always in high spirits. It seems he is quite *content* with his life.
A. contentious B. confident C. satisfied D. satisfactory
3. The teacher's words *stimulated* the boys to do better work.
A. excited B. smoothed C. prevented D. asked
4. She had no outside interests at all. Her whole life *revolved about* her husband and children.
A. went against B. went round C. went with D. involved in
5. Owing to the poor health, he was *compelled* to give up smoking.
A. composed B. competed C. forced D. compared
6. The gold watch is a *memento* of her mother.
A. memory B. reminder C. member D. remember
7. The teacher came into the classroom and *distributed* the test papers to us.
A. disturbed B. gave in C. gave up D. gave out
8. Some scientists tried to *interpret* dreams so as to solve people's psychological problems.
A. explain B. interrupt C. interview D. interest
9. All the students *assembled* in the hall to have a lecture on the world current affairs.
A. resembled B. gathered C. associated D. affected
10. He can be trusted because he will *abide by* his promise if he gives.
A. allow for B. go against C. stick to D. allow of

IV

1. She stopped singing *abruptly* when she heard somebody calling outside.
A. willingly B. suddenly
C. hastily D. unexpectedly
2. He was put into prison, because the police had found *absolute* proof of his guilt.
A. definite B. false C. absent D. indefinite
3. A good rider will not *abuse* his horse.
A. feed B. tie C. ride D. ill-treat
4. It was lunch time; *accordingly*, they all stopped working.
A. however B. therefore C. nevertheless D. but
5. I don't like him because he never *acknowledges* his mistakes.
A. denies B. refuses C. agrees D. admits
6. It takes time to *acquaint* yourself with a new job.
A. familiarize B. admit C. allow D. advise
7. You are rich enough now. Where did you *acquire* all the wealth?

- A. lose B. gain C. hide D. steal
8. He is from the North. Now he has **adapted** himself to the life in the South.
A. admitted B. acquired C. adjusted D. acquainted
9. If you **adhere to** your ideals, you will succeed.
A. adjust B. advise C. accustom D. stick to
10. It takes brains to **administer** a large company.
A. manage B. admit C. advise D. acquire

V

1. A single gold pin **adorned** her new dress.
A. tore B. decorated C. cut D. spoiled
2. Our country has **ample** supply of fuel oil if we don't waste any.
A. enough B. short C. empty D. arrogant
3. **Furious** words will hurt people.
A. Loyal B. Vigorous C. Angry D. Beautiful
4. This **apparatus** can purify water.
A. pipeline B. laboratory C. equipment D. experiment
5. We all **appreciate** a holiday after a year of hard work.
A. hate B. enjoy C. oppose D. decide
6. Since he had never been in such a situation, his **apprehension** was understandable.
A. eagerness B. hesitation C. excitement D. fear
7. However **appropriate** his words were, he should not have shouted.
A. amusing B. interesting C. suitable D. advisable
8. Don't be **an ass** and leave your job without having another.
A. a fool B. a coward C. a rascal D. a pig
9. The police were led **astray** by false clues.
A. on the right track B. on the wrong track
C. off the wrong track D. to the right side
10. The law **authorizes** policemen to carry guns.
A. forbids B. stops C. permits D. encourages

VI

1. Fresh vegetables are not **available** now, but they will be on the market soon.
A. free of charge B. eatable C. gathering in D. obtainable
2. He is badly wounded and can't move. Please call **an ambulance**.
A. a vehicle for tourists B. a vehicle for the sick
C. a vehicle for sportsmen D. a vehicle for ordinary people
3. He is not married yet, he is still a **bachelor**.
A. married man B. butcher C. single man D. burglar

4. The mountain is **bald** above the tree line.
A. green B. blue C. black D. bare
5. The nurse **bandaged** up the boy's broken leg.
A. banned B. tied C. baked D. banded
6. After finishing law school, he was admitted to the **bar**.
A. public house B. barber's shop
C. legal profession D. medical profession
7. While they are away on holiday, they allowed their mail or post to **accumulate** at the post office.
A. be delivered B. get lost C. pile up D. be returned
8. That country set up trade **barriers** against imported goods.
A. treaties B. bars C. organizations D. obstacles
9. It's rather wet in the **cellar** of a building.
A. basement B. corner C. top floor D. center
10. The young man was so **bashful** that he did not speak to the pretty girl.
A. brave B. naughty C. shy D. sad
- VI**
1. The heavy waves **battered** the ship to pieces.
A. battled B. shut C. struck D. bathed
2. He **bellowed** with pain when the tooth was pulled out.
A. screamed B. skimmed C. followed D. bent
3. Eating dirty food caused a great pain in the **belly**.
A. lung B. heart C. stomach D. bell
4. His **benevolent** nature prevented him from refusing any beggar who asked him for money.
A. cruel B. kind C. beneficial D. casual
5. I think I made a **blunder** in asking her the question because she seemed upset by it.
A. big mistake B. big joke C. big crime D. big cake
6. Mary **boasted** that she would succeed where others failed.
A. talked small B. talked big C. boated D. joked
7. The **ferry** which took them across the river was small.
A. train B. bus C. boat D. plane
8. During the storm, a **bough** broke off the tree.
A. trunk B. bird C. nest D. branch
9. I was so **tense** the night before the examination that I couldn't fall asleep.
A. tired B. angry C. sleepy D. nervous

10. I don't think I *concur with* your statement.

- A. agree to B. come up with C. concern about D. conclude

VIII

1. The man walked *briskly* to keep warm on that cold night.

- A. slowly B. lazily C. quickly D. aimlessly

2. She *reproached* her husband for drinking too much.

- A. praised B. reported C. blamed D. requested

3. Mrs. James sat by the window *patching* a hole in her coat.

- A. patting B. watching C. healing D. mending

4. The speaker *demonstrated* his knowledge of the subject by his excellent lecture.

- A. decided B. showed C. devalued D. detailed

5. The girl *braided* her hair with flowers.

- A. combed B. decorated C. washed D. dyed

6. The prisoner made a *breach* in the wall and escaped.

- A. break B. branch C. hole D. hive

7. The rabbit's *burrow* is under the flower bed.

- A. bus B. food C. bow D. hole

8. After the heavy rain, the water formed a lot of *cascades* down the mountain.

- A. ditches B. rivers C. lakes D. waterfalls

9. The milkman reached the house *cautiously* because there was a terrible dog.

- A. carefully B. bravely C. carelessly D. secretly

10. He was buried in that *cemetery*.

- A. graveyard B. courtyard
C. dockyard D. flower garden

IX

1. Do you have a *certificate* of ownership for this car?

- A. curtain B. statement C. right D. document

2. A lot of hunters find the *chase* more exciting than the kill.

- A. chance B. flee C. pursuit D. picnic

3. The patient *clenched* the arms of the dentist's chair.

- A. grasped B. closed C. touched D. kissed

4. We *clipped* our visit by a week to return home earlier.

- A. clapped B. cut C. climbed D. slipped

5. The whole village is now under a *cloak* of snow.

- A. coat B. clock C. cover D. cloud

6. Don't use *coarse* words before a lady.

- A. beautiful B. unnecessary C. plain D. rude

7. Mother **coaxed** her child into taking the bitter medicine.
 A. tricked B. asked C. beat D. taught
8. The old snow has **compactd** into the hard ice.
 A. melted B. heaped C. compressed D. composed
9. The guard **coerced** the prisoner into doing exactly as he wished.
 A. coaxed B. forced C. persuaded D. co-operated
10. The United States is **comprised** of 50 states.
 A. consisted B. compressed C. composed D. deprived

X

1. The murderer was **condemned** to death.
 A. consisted B. sentenced C. conducted D. convinced
2. We must do our best to **conform** to the customs of society.
 A. co-operate with B. cope with
 C. be in agreement with D. deal with
3. Mary is loved by all her friends because she is very **congenial**.
 A. pleasant B. courageous C. wealthy D. confident
4. He **confessed** that he didn't understand a word of it.
 A. opposed B. concluded C. denied D. admitted
5. A **conservative** person opposes changes and new ideas.
 A. progressive B. foolish
 C. bookish D. unprogressive
6. The mother tried to **console** her son when he was crying.
 A. confess B. co-operate C. comfort D. contain
7. If something can be easily seen, we say that it is **conspicuous**.
 A. visible B. conscious C. confident D. famous
8. Everyone in the family came down with the flu because it is **contagious**.
 A. conspicuous B. conscious C. infectious D. healthful
9. She is filled with firm **conviction** that she will be promoted.
 A. belief B. convince C. support D. operation
10. Her white hat and shoes **correspond with** her white dress.
 A. meet with B. cope with C. match D. contrast with

XI

1. She is very economical that she has **darned** her socks.
 A. damaged B. mended C. thrown D. dated
2. The lift **descended** to the ground floor.
 A. came down B. went up C. deepened D. detailed

3. Lack of rain *diminished* the water supply.
A. damaged B. blocked C. reduced D. increased
4. The boy felt *disgraced* because he had told a lie.
A. disagreed B. ashamed C. dissatisfied D. displeased
5. Mr. White is well-known in the *domain* of medicine.
A. field B. dormitory C. doctor D. document
6. We were all *drenched* by the heavy rain.
A. wetted B. dressed C. attached D. attacked
7. He is *dwelling* in the countryside with his family.
A. studying B. researching C. living D. buried
8. The Government has tried its best to *elevate* the living standards of the people.
A. select B. elect C. effect D. raise
9. The author is *eminent* for his novel.
A. famous B. infamous C. eager D. elegant
10. She was *enchanted* by the flowers you sent her.
A. angered B. enlarged C. delighted D. disappointed

XII

1. Nature has *endowed* him with an inventive mind.
A. provided B. deprived C. enlarged D. enriched
2. In his *endeavor* to further his knowledge of the universe, man has now begun to explore space.
A. enclose B. equipment C. attack D. attempt
3. The President will be *escorted* by several secret service officers when he goes abroad.
A. accompanied B. arrested C. murdered D. escaped
4. When you take a train, you must pay for *excess* luggage.
A. excellent B. exercise C. hand D. extra
5. The King's orders were very well *executed*.
A. carried out B. opposed C. excluded D. exhibited
6. He was *expelled* from the company for breaking the rules.
A. expected B. executed C. excluded D. dismissed
7. With the chemicals, the firemen can *extinguish* a fire in a few seconds.
A. put on B. put out C. put in D. exported
8. This new process helps to *extract* oil from the sea.
A. refine B. produce C. draw out D. put in
9. He showed us wonderful *facility* for learning languages.
A. fact B. equipment C. factor D. failure

10. His failure in this examination is *fatal* to his future.
 A. fashionable B. famous C. ruinous D. important

XIII

1. *Fetters* prevent prisoners from escaping.
 A. Fences B. Uniforms C. Chains D. Factors
2. The spy used a *fictional* name when he deals with his enemy.
 A. false B. true C. real D. foreign
3. His left leg was *fractured* as a result of his fall from the stairs.
 A. dropped B. frightened C. broken D. flew
4. These roses have sweet *fragrance*.
 A. fragrance B. taste C. view D. smell
5. The air was thick with the *fumes* of cigarettes.
 A. ashes B. remains C. smoke D. future
6. After receiving the insulting letter, Mary became *indignant*.
 A. happy B. angry C. sad D. excited
7. The ship was totally wrecked or broken during the terrible *gale*.
 A. voyage B. crash C. storm D. gate
8. The *garrison* was built to protect the country.
 A. military camp B. labor camp C. river D. gate
9. The terrible dog *growled* at me when I came close to the house.
 A. watched B. grew C. barked D. shouted
10. Nothing can *hinder* us from winning the game.
 A. hide B. prevent C. help D. persuade

XIV

1. The soldiers *hoist* the national flag every morning.
 A. raise B. take down C. pull away D. hold
2. It is not advisable to go out in such *gusty* weather.
 A. fine B. warm C. good D. stormy
3. He *hurled* the cup to the floor and it broke into pieces.
 A. put B. pulled C. threw D. hurt
4. His pleasure was *impaired* by worrying about money.
 A. imported B. spoiled C. improved D. exported
5. Floods came after 3 days of *incessant* heavy rain.
 A. favorable B. innocent C. continuous D. timely
6. His father is *an invalid*, so his mother had to support the whole family.
 A. a sick person B. an ill person
 C. a strong person D. an infamous person

7. The wood is too wet to **kindle**.
 A. chop B. burn C. dry D. cut
8. A forest fire is a **menace** to wild animals.
 A. threat B. thread C. thresh D. thrash
9. It is not easy for her to **mingle** with people because she is very shy.
 A. meet B. associate C. mind D. sit
10. The farmers are taking their cows and horses to **graze** on the common fields.
 A. feed B. free C. grow D. group

XV

1. Don't be misled by the **fallacious** reasoning of some advertisements.
 A. factory B. satisfactory C. misleading D. reasonable
2. The speaker's **monotonous** voice put the audience to sleep.
 A. pleasing B. sweet C. dull D. pleasant
3. The Indians cut **notches** on a stick to keep count of numbers.
 A. knocks B. branches C. nobles D. marks
4. The **odor** of the flower made her happy.
 A. smell B. taste C. order D. touch
5. She felt a **pang** at the thought of her lost child.
 A. passage B. passenger C. sharp pain D. great shock
6. We saw the cattle grazing on the **pasture**.
 A. woodland B. grassland C. farmland D. passage
7. The Indians **peeled** the bark from the tree to make canoes or boats.
 A. burned B. pecked C. peeped D. stripped
8. Although the performance seemed very **risky**, it was not as dangerous as it looked.
 A. anxious B. perfect C. dangerous D. safety
9. At last he **professed** that he was the masked robber.
 A. promised B. promoted C. denied D. admitted
10. I was **tardy** for class today because I had not caught the first bus.
 A. on time B. in time C. late D. early

XVI

1. Charles asked the bank for a small **loan** so that he could repair his house.
 A. sum of money B. load C. tool D. road
2. One who is **destitute** has a great need for food and clothing.
 A. very tall B. very poor C. very rich D. dead
3. The flowers in the vase **withered** because they had no water.
 A. became sweeter B. became red
 C. became dry D. became white