



Reading Course for English Majors

英语专业阅读教程 ——综合阅读

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think of my father spoke to me
is my skills. But, I will always remember
e, I keep it inspired by the success go to success



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英语专业阅读教程

——综合阅读

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Passage

1

Hitch-hikers

1 Mr. Machin felt somewhat tired. He had been driving all day, and now, the evening drawing on, he could have done with a little nap. However, he was only a hundred miles away from his destination. The food-canning firm he worked for had a rule prohibiting salesmen from picking up hitch-hikers, but he often ignored it; therefore on seeing the two young men thumbing a lift, he immediately pulled up.

2 They seemed decent enough. The thinner one with the crew-cut had an engaging smile and a polite manner. While his pal, harmonica in one hand, travel-bag in the other, looked shy but amiable. In any case, Mr. Machin, totally ignorant of their intentions, was happy to have someone to chat with and keep him awake until he arrived home.

3 "I can take you boys as far as Ashville," he said after introducing himself and learning that the one next to him was Paul and the one behind was David.

4 "Thanks a lot, sir," Paul said. "Just where we were heading. Hoping to find a job, I'm a great car-painter. Mechanic, too. Made big money. Just come from Arizona. Anything doing in Ashville?"

5 "Well, now. There might be something I could do for you," their host said.

6 It was an ideal set-up — just what they had been looking for. They had been hitchhiking for the last four days without coming across a likely victim. Mind you, they had been given plenty of lifts from truck-drivers or soldiers; once two Negro prizefighters in a pink Cadillac had stopped for them. But Machin suited them to a T. As they drove on, he and Paul made smalltalk. David felt inside one of the pockets of the leather windcheater he was wearing. The pocket bulged with a bottle of pills, and a jagged rock wrapped up in a handkerchief. He unfastened his

belt, gold-buckled and studded with multicolored beads. He took it off. He laid it across his lap. He waited, watching the landscape rolling by. He was waiting for Paul to say, "Hey, David, got a match?"

7 It was getting darker. Ahead, the road was straight, with neither a building nor a human being in sight. All David could see was land stripped bare by the winter. "This is the time," he thought, "right now." He stared at Paul as if to communicate the fact. Paul's lips were quivering. Sweat was beginning to show above his mouth. A few such little signs indicated that Paul had already come to the same conclusion.

8 Yet when Paul finally did speak, it was only to tell their host another joke. Mr. Machin had a hearty sense of humor. David was getting edgy. He was impatient.

9 Then: "Hey, David, got a match?" David raised his hand. The rock was on the verge of coming down. But just at that moment something extraordinary happened. Out of the blue there appeared another hitch-hiker, a G.I. "The more the merrier," Machin said, braking his car. (about 520 words)

Exercises

I Tick off the best choice according to the information given in this passage.

1. Mr. Machin _____.
 - A. was a food-canner
 - B. fell asleep at the wheel
 - C. stopped for a short nap
 - D. didn't always observe the company regulations
2. Which statement is TRUE?
 - A. Paul and David were mechanics.
 - B. Paul and David were not what they seemed.
 - C. Paul and David were from Arizona.
 - D. Paul and David made big money.
3. The boys had not attempted anything with the Negroes because _____.
 - A. the Negroes had no money
 - B. it would have been too risky

- C. Paul and David were not racially prejudiced
D. the Negroes were driving a pink Cadillac
4. Mr. Machin "suited them to a T" because _____.
A. he probably had some money on him
B. he was going to Ashville
C. he would put up a fight
D. he had given them a lift
5. "This is the time," David thought, "right now," because _____.
A. he was becoming impatient
B. he loved the winter time
C. the circumstances were perfect for an attack
D. it was getting dark
6. Paul said, "Hey, David, got a match?" _____.
A. to keep the conversation going
B. to make Mr. Machin laugh
C. as a signal for David to strike
D. because he wanted a light
7. Although Mr. Machin didn't know it, the G.I. _____.
A. appeared unexpectedly or suddenly
B. wanted a lift
C. came from out of the blue
D. was extraordinary
8. "It was an ideal set-up" means "_____".
A. it was fine in theory
B. everything was fixed
C. things couldn't have been better
D. it was the perfect crime
9. "David was getting edgy" means "_____".
A. he was sweating with fear
B. he was beginning to lose his nerve
C. he was getting ready
D. he was becoming angry
10. "... on the verge of coming down" means "_____".
A. on its way down

- B. far from descending
- C. about to drop
- D. almost at its target

II Fill in the blank with a suitable word of its correct form.

1. to forbid prohibit

- A. Children are _____ from smoking.
- B. I _____ you to do so.

2. amiable amicable

- A. We came to an _____ agreement.
- B. Mary is a sweet, gentle, _____ girl.

3. to communicate communication

- A. We have been _____ by mail.
- B. The purpose of language is _____.

4. to ignore ignorant ignorance

- A. Please forgive our _____.
- B. She _____ his question.
- C. Tom is quite _____ of Latin.

III Translate the following pairs of similar sentences into Chinese.

1. { She is with child.
She is with a child.

2. { He is in black.
He is in the black.

3. { She is in pink.
She is in the pink.

4. { He keeps shop.
He keeps a shop.

5. { He went to pot.
He went to a pot.

6. { Mr. Smith took a chair.
Mr. Smith took the chair.

7. { The boss gave the worker a sack.
The boss gave the worker the sack.

8. { He took flight.
He took a flight.

IV

Cloze test.

Once two boys ____ 1 ____ up their minds to play a ____ 2 ____ on Charles Darwin, the famous ____ 3 _____. With great care they glued together parts of several insects. ____ 4 ____ used the wings of a butterfly. They ____ 5 ____ the head of a bee and the legs of a grasshopper. At ____ 6 ____ the strange creature was ready. They took it to the great man. "What ____ 7 ____ of bug is this?" they asked him. "Did it hum ____ 8 ____ you caught it?" Darwin asked them. "Yes," ____ 9 ____ the boys, feeling sure they had fooled him. "That's just ____ 10 ____ I thought," Darwin said. "It's a humbug."

Passage

2

Get Ready for a Digitalized Future

1 Ten years from now, computers will be at home in our pockets — and inside our televisions, coffee makers, and almost everywhere else as well. They will pack vastly more computing muscle into tinier, lighter packages.

2 If the most optimistic computer scientists are correct, tomorrow's shirt-pocket computer could hold a billion bytes (equivalent to 2,000 books) in its memory and run at 50 million times the speed of today's fastest personal computers. We have no idea what to do with all that computing power. We doubt if anyone else knows, either. Even the lowest estimates of the advances coming in the next decade will give tomorrow's computers a level of utility and convenience we only imagine today.

3 Convergence is the grand coming together of technologies that used to be separate, such as computers and telephones. Already, the cheapest way to make a long distance telephone call is to fire up your computer and log onto the Internet. Several companies provide telephone style headsets for personal computers together with the software needed to operate them. At this early stage of development, the sound quality is not yet up to that of a normal telephone, but the price can't be beaten. For about half a cent per minute, you can use this system to converse over the Internet with anyone in the world — London, Paris, Moscow, New Delhi.

4 But this is just the beginning of digital convergence. For years, most of us have had three different sets of wires and cables entering our homes and offices: one for electricity, one for conversation or computer data, and one for news and entertainment. Recently some electric utilities have added a fourth set of lines that allow them to check our meter readings remotely. When all of these signals are digitalized, it becomes possible to carry TV pictures on the

telephone wires, computer data on the TV cable, or both of them on the electric utility's metre-checking lines. That's convergence.

5 "Digital Everything" is an even simpler notion. Computers are becoming so small, powerful and cheap that soon almost any object more complex than pottery will be equipped with its own brain. Lights will adjust themselves to illuminate your book or keep glare off the CV (computer/television) screen. Intruder alarms will know enough not to call the police just because you left your keys on the dresser. Toasters will learn whether you like your English muffins lightly browned or charred beyond recognition.

6 Let us take a closer look at that smart toaster and its smarter companion appliances. Imagine a stove that arrives preprogrammed with all the recipes from your favorite restaurant or from a classic cookbook like *The Joy of Cooking*. It will also have a ROM-card reader to let you add your own recipes. Just tell the stove what you want for dinner (like most computers, it will understand spoken instructions), and it will display a list of ingredients on its flat-panel screen.

7 The smart stove will announce when the skillet is hot enough to start the stir-fry vegetables, prompt you when the pasta is *al dente*, and give fair warning when the next step is required. It will sense when the soup is beginning to boil and automatically reduce the heat to a slow simmer. It will schedule all of your meal's courses to be ready, perfectly, the time you want to serve it. Over time, it will also remember how all the members of the household like their food cooked — rare, medium, or well-done. The smart stove will no doubt have many other "intelligent" functions that have not yet occurred to us.

8 Fifteen years from now, product designers will still be figuring out startling ways to use the new intelligence of everyday appliances. No one of these innovations will change our lives, but as the artifacts around us gradually learn to accommodate our individual needs, the world will become a friendlier, more convenient place to live in. (about 670 words)

7

Exercises

I Tick off the best choice according to the information given in this passage.

1. Tomorrow's computer will be installed widely in ____.

A. the office and at home

- B. every public facilities
C. the tinier and lighter devices at home
D. both televisions and coffee makers
2. In the author's point of view, tomorrow's shirt-pocket computers will be _____.
A. not as fast as people expect
B. too complicated for ordinary people to use
C. too fast and powerful for people to know what to do with it
D. very convenient and powerful that we can only imagine today
3. The trend of computing development in the future is _____.
A. digital convergence
B. miniaturization
C. standardization
D. globalization
4. Through the Internet, people can _____ at the lowest cost.
A. buy what they like
B. buy a personal computer
C. have a business negotiation
D. make a long-distance telephone call
5. Despite the sound quality, the Internet call is still highly competitive due to its _____.
A. popularity
B. low price
C. convenience
D. high quality
6. In the future, with only one electric utility's metre-checking line, people can do almost everything EXCEPT _____.
A. watching TV on the telephone wires
B. looking up computer data on the TV cable
C. holding entertainment activities on the telephone wires
D. watching TV programmes on the electric utility's metre-checking line
7. With digital stove, you can easily enjoy your _____.
A. favorite dishes
B. cooking books
C. ingredients
D. programmes
8. Which of the following is NOT true with the smart stove?
A. The smart stove can stir-fry vegetables.
B. The smart stove can cook the pasta properly.

- C. The smart stove can make the recipes for everyone.
D. The smart stove can control the temperature automatically.
9. According to the writer, in 15 years we will have more startling ways to _____.
A. meet everyone's needs
B. change our way of living
C. make everything we need
D. make use of the intelligence of daily appliances
10. From the passage, we can see that life in future will be more and more _____.
A. scheduled
B. digitalized
C. industrialized
D. programmed

II Find and write down the word that best fits the meaning in this passage.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1. defeated (in Para. 3) | _____ |
| 2. distantly (in Para. 4) | _____ |
| 3. idea (in Para. 5) | _____ |
| 4. lighten (in Para. 5) | _____ |
| 5. invader (in Para. 5) | _____ |
| 6. plan (in Para. 7) | _____ |
| 7. adjust (in Para. 8) | _____ |

9

III Translate the following pairs of similar sentences into Chinese.

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 1. | { The boy threw a bone to the dog.
The boy threw a bone at the dog. | _____
_____ |
| 2. | { Mary shouted to me.
Mary shouted at me. | _____
_____ |
| 3. | { They all swore by him.
They all swore at him. | _____
_____ |

4. { He has gone on business.
He has gone into business.

5. { I am tired from the work.
I am tired of the work.

6. { They came to our help.
They came for our help.

7. { The girl is waiting for them.
The girl is waiting on them.

8. { He presented a pistol to me.
He presented a pistol at me.

9. { They came to me.
They came at me.

10. { He walked out on her.
He walked out with her.

IV

Cloze test.

Frostbite 1 the freezing of a part of the body. Often 2 nose, ears, cheeks, fingers, or toes 3 first. Tired or old 4 are more 5 to be frostbitten.

Just before ____ 6 ____ sets in, the skin may be pink. Then it ____ 7 ____ to white or yellow. Often there is no pain, just numbness.

A ____ 8 ____ with frostbite must get indoors quickly. The ____ 9 ____ part of the body should be put in ____ 10 ____ water. Or the part can be ____ 11 ____ in a blanket. Fingers or toes that are frostbitten should be wiggled ____ 12 ____ they are warm. If blisters form, they should ____ 13 ____ be rubbed.

Passage

3

Coping with Crisis

1 If I were asked to give what I consider the single most useful bit of advice for all humanity, it would be this: Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life and, when it comes, hold your head high, look it squarely in the eye and say, "I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me." Then repeat to yourself the most comforting of all words, "This too shall pass."

2 To forgive oneself in the face of a devastating experience is perhaps the most difficult of life's challenges. Most of us find it much easier to forgive others.

3 In many instances we can't control what happens to us, but we can control our reactions to what happens to us. We can stay down for the count and be carried out of the ring or we can pull ourselves back to our feet. If we are victimized by others, we must refuse to give them the power to break our spirit, make us physically ill, and perhaps even shorten our lives. Most doctors will tell you that worry, anxiety, tension and anger can make you sicker than a virus.

4 The expression "nervous breakdown" suggested that nerves have broken down, but organically the nerves are healthy. The problem is purely emotional. A doctor on the staff of the Mayo Clinic has said the majority of patients in hospital beds today are there because of illnesses that were psycho-generated. This means the sickness was triggered by an unresolved problem.

5 I believe in blind faith. I have known people who have suffered deep personal tragedies, and this faith has helped them. But I also believe in the efficacy of positive action to overcome grief. Time is a healer, but those who help time, using it wisely and well, make a more rapid adjustment.

6 Grief, in part, is self-pity turned inside out. The widow who cries, "He was everything to me. How can I go on without him?" is crying for herself, not for him. The mourner who refuses to let go of his grief eventually isolated himself from his friends. The world may stop for a few