

总主编 李长忠

# 大学英语

# 快速阅读 新目标

主编 王文标

第 1 册



苏州大学出版社

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主 编： 王文标

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## 大学英语快速阅读新目标 第1册

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# 再版前言

《大学英语快速阅读新目标》(1—4册)已使用三年,受到了使用教师和学生的欢迎。但随着形势的发展,外语学习对阅读教学的要求进一步提高,大学英语四、六级考试的题型也发生了一些变化;同时,外语阅读内容的选取既要满足阅读训练要求,也要紧跟时代,要体现时代的特点,反映社会的焦点。基于这些考虑,我们觉得有必要及时对教材的内容和练习类型作出更新和调整,以利于教师的阅读教学和学生的训练学习。

本次修订遵照2007年版《大学英语课程教学要求》的精神,根据大学英语阅读能力训练的要求,对原教材的内容作了较大幅度的调整,只保留了原教材二分之一的内容,对另外二分之一的内容进行了更换。新版教材在继续保留体裁和题材多样、知识多元、人文和科技等内容兼顾、语言地道等特点外,新增部分的内容更加新颖,时代感更强,更富有知识性和趣味性,练习的形式也作了调整,增加了多项选择等题型,与大学英语四级考试的要求更加吻合。再版的教材每册由8个单元构成,每单元有4篇阅读材料,其中的一些篇章都具有一定的关联性。为了便于学生的课堂和课后学习,每册教材的最后继续附有参考答案。

在此次修订过程中,一些高校的大学英语老师也给予了全力支持,我们表示诚挚的谢意。同时,我们也欢迎广大老师和同学继续提出建设性的意见和建议,以便进一步完善。

编者

2010年7月

# 前言

阅读是提高外语技能的重要手段,而快速阅读又是阅读技能的重要方面,进行科学合理的快速阅读训练,有助于帮助学生运用和掌握正确的阅读方法,养成良好的阅读习惯,有效培养阅读能力,从而促进学习者外语综合技能的迅速提高。实际阅读都具有明确和特定的目的:对整篇文章主旨内容的把握,对文章观点的评判,对局部内容的理解,对事实与细节的分辨,对具体信息的捕捉,等等。

《大学英语快速阅读新目标》第1册至第4册按照《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》,结合大学英语四级新题型对快速阅读能力的要求,并根据大学英语阅读能力培养的实际需要编写。所选内容遵循的原则是:内容新颖,时代感强,选材既有历史、传统的内容,也有社会、科技发展的最新信息;体裁和题材多样化,考虑到知识的多样性,文、理、工、医等内容兼顾;内容富有知识性和趣味性,既增长学习者的多元知识,又能使学习者保持阅读兴趣;材料来源多样化,语言地道。本套教材共4册,每册及单元之间由浅入深、由易到难、循序渐进。第1册至第4册文章的长度梯度增长,最终与大学英语四级考试的要求相吻合。每册由8个单元构成,每单元有4篇阅读材料。每篇阅读材料后面设10道测试题,按照大学英语四级快速阅读题型设计,一般前7题为理解题,后3题为填空题。为了便于学习者及时检验自己的阅读情况,后面附有参考答案。本教材每单元的内容,一部分可以作为课堂强化训练,一部分可以作为学习者的课后自主练习。

在编写这套教材的过程中,苏州大学出版社给予了多方面的支持。对此,我们表示感谢。

在使用过程中,如发现有不当之处,衷心希望广大老师和同学提出批评意见和建议,以便今后改进和完善。

编者  
2007年7月

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# Unit 1

## Skimming and Scanning

**Directions:** For the following two passages, you will have 15 minutes to go over each of them quickly and answer the questions. For questions 1-5, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D. For questions 6-10, write T(True) or F(False) for each of them.

### Passage 1 What Has Gone Wrong with Britain?

Before the grass has thickened on the roadside verges and leaves have started growing on the trees, it is a perfect time to look around and see just how dirty Britain has become. The pavements are stained with chewing gum that has been spat out and the gutters are full of discarded fast food cartons. Years ago I remember traveling abroad and being saddened by the plastic bags, discarded bottles and soiled nappies at the edge of every road. Nowadays, Britain seems to look at least as bad. What has gone wrong?

The problem is that the rubbish created by our increasingly mobile lives lasts a lot longer than before. If it is not cleared up and properly thrown away, it stays in the undergrowth for years; a semi-permanent reminder of what a tatty little country we have now.

Firstly, it is estimated that 10 billion plastic bags have been given to shoppers. These will take anything from 100 to 1,000 years to rot. However, it is not as if there is no solution to this. A few years ago, the Irish government introduced a tax on non-recyclable carrier bags and in three months reduced their use by 90%. When he was a minister, Michael Meacher attempted to introduce a similar arrangement in Britain. The plastics industry protested, of course. However, they need not have



bothered; the idea was killed before it could draw breath, leaving supermarkets free to give away plastic bags.

What is clearly necessary right now is some sort of combined initiative, both individual and collective, before it is too late. The alternative is to continue sliding downhill until we have a country that looks like a vast municipal rubbish tip. We may well be at the tipping point. Yet we know that people respond to their environment. If things around them are clean and tidy, people behave cleanly and tidily. If they are surrounded by squalor, they behave squalidly. Now, much of Britain looks pretty squalid. What will it look like in five years?

*From: [http://www.hongzhi.net.com/homework\\_help](http://www.hongzhi.net.com/homework_help)*

1. The author says that it is a good time to see Britain before the trees have leaves because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Britain looks perfect
  - B. you can see Britain at its dirtiest
  - C. you can see how dirty Britain is now
  - D. the grass has thickened on the verges
2. According to the author, things used to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. worse abroad
  - B. the same abroad
  - C. better abroad
  - D. worse, but now things are better abroad
3. For the author, the problem is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. rubbish is not cleared up
  - B. rubbish last longer than it used to
  - C. our society is increasingly mobile
  - D. Britain is a tatty country
4. Michael Meacher \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. followed the Irish example with a tax on plastic bags
  - B. tried to follow the Irish example with a tax on plastic bags
  - C. made no attempt to follow the Irish example with a tax on plastic bags
  - D. had problems with the plastics industry who weren't bothered about the tax
5. The author thinks that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. people are squalid

- B. people behave according to what they see around them  
 C. people are clean and tidy  
 D. people are like a vast municipal rubbish tip
6. It is estimated that 10 million plastic bags have been given to shoppers. ( )  
 7. A few years ago, the Irish government introduced an effective way to reduce the use of non-recyclable carrier bags through the way of tax. ( )  
 8. When he was a minister, Michael Meacher made a successful attempt to forbid the supermarkets to give away plastic bags. ( )  
 9. People's attitude and behavior will be influenced by the environment. ( )  
 10. The author worries a lot about the future of the environment in Britain. ( )

## Passage 2 The Great Wall of China

Walls and wall building have played a very important role in Chinese culture. These people, from the dim mists of prehistory have been wall-conscious; from the Neolithic period—when ramparts of pounded earth were used—to the Communist Revolution, walls were an essential part of any village. Not only towns and villages; the houses and the temples within them were somehow walled, and the houses also had no windows overlooking the street, thus giving the feeling of wandering around a huge maze. The name for “city” in Chinese (cheng) means wall, and over these walled cities, villages, houses and temples presides the god of walls and mounts, whose duties were, and still are, to protect and be responsible for the welfare of the inhabitants. Thus a great and extremely laborious task such as constructing a wall, which was supposed to run throughout the country, must not have seemed such an absurdity.

However, it is indeed a common mistake to perceive the Great Wall as a single architectural structure, and it would also be erroneous to assume that it was built during a single dynasty. For the building of the wall spanned the various dynasties, and each of these dynasties somehow contributed to the refurbishing and the construction of a wall, whose foundations had been laid many centuries ago. It was during the fourth and third century B. C. that each warring state started building walls to protect their kingdoms, both against one another and against the northern nomads. Especially three of these states: the Qin, the Zhao and the Yan, corresponding respectively to the modern provinces of Shanxi (山西), Shaanxi (陕西) and Hebei,

over and above building walls that surrounded their kingdoms, also laid the foundations on which Qin Shi Huang would build his first continuous Great Wall.

The role that the Great Wall played in the growth of Chinese economy was an important one. Throughout the centuries many settlements were established along the new border. The garrison troops were instructed to reclaim wasteland and to plant crops on it, roads and canals were built, to mention just a few of the works carried out. All these undertakings greatly helped to increase the country's trade and cultural exchanges with many remote areas and also with the southern, central and western parts of Asia—the formation of the Silk Route. Builders, garrisons, artisans, farmers and peasants left behind a trail of objects, including inscribed tablets, household articles, and written work, which have become extremely valuable archaeological evidence to the study of defense institutions of the Great Wall and the everyday life of these people who lived and died along the wall.

From: <http://www.lib.pccu.edu.tw/exam/AbNF>

1. Why did Chinese cities resemble a maze?
  - A. Because the cities were walled.
  - B. Because the houses have no external windows.
  - C. Because the name for cities means “wall”.
  - D. Because walls have always been important there.
2. Constructing a wall that ran the length of the country \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. honoured the god of walls and mounts
  - B. was an absurdly laborious task
  - C. may have made sense within Chinese culture
  - D. made the country look like a huge maze
3. Which statement is true about the Great Wall of China?
  - A. It was built in a single dynasty.
  - B. It was refurbished in the fourth and third centuries B. C.
  - C. It was used as existing foundations.
  - D. It was built by the Qin, Zhao and Yan states.
4. Where were the crops planted?
  - A. On wasteland.
  - B. To reclaim wasteland.
  - C. On reclaimed wasteland.
  - D. Along the canals.
5. How did the Great Wall help build trade?

- A. The Great Wall helped build trade only inside China. ( )
- B. The Great Wall helped build trade in China and abroad. ( )
- C. The Great Wall helped build trade only abroad. ( )
- D. The Great Wall helped build trade only to remote areas. ( )
6. Walls and wall building are important symbols of Chinese history and architecture. ( )
7. The Great Wall is a great architectural structure which was built in a dynasty. ( )
8. The Great Wall helped to enhance the economic power of China in the long history. ( )
9. The Great Wall helped the communication and interaction between the remote areas and different parts of China. ( )
10. We can find little written materials about the defense institutions of the Great Wall and the everyday life of these people who lived and died along the wall. ( )

**Directions:** For the following two passages, you will have 15 minutes to go over each of them quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1–7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8–10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

### Passage 3 Ronald Reagan

Ronald Wilson Reagan (February 6, 1911–June 5, 2004) was the 40th President of the United States and the 33rd Governor of California. Reagan was born and raised in Illinois, but moved to California in the 1930s. His father, Jack Reagan, worked at a general store. The family was poor. Yet, in a book about his life, Ronald Reagan wrote that he never felt poor. He was good at sports, especially football. During the summers, he was a lifeguard at a local swimming pool. He reportedly rescued many

people from drowning. Ronald Reagan said there was a feeling of security throughout his childhood. But it was not perfect. His father was dependent on alcohol. Ronald Reagan studied at Eureka College in Illinois. After seeing a play, he said, "More than anything in the world, I wanted to speak the actor's words." As a result, he became a successful Hollywood actor, head of the Screen Actors Guild, and a spokesman for General Electric, before entering politics.

At the end of his two terms in office, Ronald Reagan viewed with satisfaction the achievements of his innovative program known as the Reagan Revolution, which aimed to encourage the American people again and reduce their reliance upon Government. He felt he had fulfilled his campaign pledge of 1980 to restore "the great, confident roar of American progress and growth and optimism".

Ronald Reagan, who died on Saturday after his long battle with Alzheimer's disease(阿耳茨海默氏病,早老性痴呆病), projected an aura(气氛)of optimism so bright that it seemed almost a force of nature. Many people who disagreed with his political beliefs still liked him for his personality, and that was a source of frustration for his political opponents who knew how much his beliefs mattered. Looking back now, we can trace some of the flaws of the current Washington mind-set—the tax-cut-driven deficits, the slogan-driven foreign policy—to Mr. Reagan's example. But after more than a decade of political mean-spiritedness(卑鄙), we have to admit that collegiality(同僚共享权力)and good manners are beginning to look pretty attractive.

President Reagan was, of course, far more than some kind of chief executive turned national greeter. He will almost certainly be ranked among the most important presidents of the 20th century, forever linked with the triumph over the restoration of faith in free markets at home.

He profited from good timing and good luck, coming along when the country was tired of the depressive rule of the Carter administration, wounded by the Iranian hostage crisis, frustrated by rising unemployment and unyielding inflation. Mr. Reagan helped end the Cold War. He was fortunate to have as his counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev, a Soviet leader ready to acknowledge his society's failings and interested in reducing international tensions. Mr. Reagan's decision to send marines to Lebanon was disastrous, however, and his invasion of Grenada was pure drama. His most reckless episode involved the scheme to supply weapons to Iran as ransom(赎回)for Americans who were being held hostage in Lebanon, and to use the



proceeds to illegally finance contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Mr. Reagan showed little appetite for power, even less for the messy detail of politics. He joked about his work habits. “It’s true hard work never killed anybody,” he said in 1987. “But I figure, why take the chance?” His detachment from the day-to-day business of government was charming for a nation that had been tired of watching Mr. Carter micromanage the White House.

The nation’s 40th president was absent from the public eye for a long time after suffering his disease, but his complicated legacy endures. Although Mr. Reagan did reverse course and approve some tax increases in the face of mounting deficits—in stark contrast to former President Bush—he was still responsible for turning the Republican Party away from its fiscally conservative roots. The flawed theory behind the Reagan tax cuts—the ensuing stimulating to the economy would bring in enough money to balance the budget—is still adopted by many of the Republican faithful, including former President Bush.

One of Mr. Reagan’s advisers, David Stockman, later wrote that the real aim of financial policy was to create a strategy that would close the door to more officials, which meant reducing the size of the federal government. Such thinking is far too prevalent in Washington, D. C. to today, and helps explain why plenty of conservatives don’t seem all that bothered by the government’s inability to balance its books.

When Ronald Reagan was elected, the institution of the presidency and the nation itself seemed to be tottering under a large dark cloud. Into the middle of this came a most improbable chief executive—a former baseball announcer, pitcher for General Electric, Hollywood famous actor and two-term California governor with one uncomplicated message: There was no problem that could not be solved if Americans would only believe in themselves. At the time, it was something the nation needed to hear. Today, we live in an era defined by that particular kind of simplicity, which expresses itself in semi-detached leadership and a black-and-white view of the world. Gray is beginning to look a lot more attractive.

Overall, the Reagan years saw a restoration of prosperity, and the goal of peace through strength seemed to be within grasp.

*From: <http://www.namepedia.org/en/real-people/>*

1. In the 1930s, Reagan moved to California and attended college there. ( )

2. Before being the president of the USA, Reagan was a famous movie star. ( )
3. Reagan worked as the USA president for 4 years. ( )
4. He was elected as president only because many people disagreed with his belief but still liked him for his personality. ( )
5. Reagan was regarded as one of the most important presidents of the USA in the 20th century. ( )
6. He got good timing and luck when he got elected, because his people disliked President Carter's administration. ( )
7. According to the author, Mr. Reagan's decision to send army to Lebanon is a wrong act. ( )
8. Mr. Reagan didn't like politics very much, and he didn't show much \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Mr. Reagan didn't appear before the public for a long time because of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. According to Mr. Reagan's adviser, David Stockman, the real aim of financial policy was to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Passage 4 How to Avoid Video Game Addiction

Every afternoon hundreds of thousands of youths flood into Internet cafés, switch on a game console, or otherwise sit down to involve themselves in intense fantasy worlds. I'm talking about video games; games like *Counter Strike*, *Diablo*, *Smash Brothers* or *Halo*. These games can be fun and exciting, but we need to watch out for when this pastime becomes an addiction.

If you are one of those video games fans currently addicted to shooter games or fighting playing games online, you are not alone. Games are still making history through the fun play of both national and international audiences through online multi-gaming experiences. Not only can you start having the excitement of playing it with your brother or friend back home, but also you can play with people from Canada, Pakistan, China, Australia, and many other places to shout "I beat you and I will beat you again".

Games are often incredibly exciting and dramatic, but they generally aren't very intellectual. Video games are great to play, when there is nothing else to do. Games can be a great way to relax after studying, to connect to our friends, or just to aid our

creativity. But if you find you are playing the games rather than reading or doing your chores, or even homework, then it is obvious you have become addicted! Video game addiction is a proposed form of psychological addiction composed of a compulsive use of computer and video games, and is related to Internet addiction disorder. Though there is still great debate as to whether one can become addicted to a video game or computer game, there are people who report that their friends and loved ones have been “sucked into” a game, suddenly becoming self-isolating, preferring to play the game instead of actual personal contact, and focusing almost entirely on the game instead of real life events.

We don't learn as much from games as we would simply read a book. And spending too much time playing them can take away from our study time. We need to remember that we are students first and foremost. Nothing should ever get in the way of proper studying. Games should not become the focus of our life. We need to make sure that playing games never interferes with our studies and that we aren't thinking about them all day. If we ever find ourselves playing them too much, we need to break the addiction. If that happens, we need to step away from the computer or television screen and learn to spend our time more productively.

Besides, video games can also be a bad influence on younger children who may be watching. Many video games are violent and the object in most of them is to kill the other players. This does not send the right message to the children who need to be told that violence is not acceptable and need to be taught how to handle situations maturely. Even if we do decide ourselves to sit down and play a violent video game, we need to make sure that it is not influencing the younger people around us. If we are addicted to games, maybe we don't care it.

Here are seven strategies that work:

1. Make a list of things to do. Write down everything that has to be done during your day and list them in order of importance.
2. Look at the list every day, and follow it. Cross off each as you go through with it. The list should look like this:
  - Make my bed
  - Straighten out my room
  - Take out the garbage
  - Do my homework
  - Play video game



3. Tell the people you're playing with that you're going to stop at a certain time. You might be tempted to ignore the fact that you've played for more time than you'd like, or you may not even realize how long you're playing, but others may help to remind you.
4. Try finding something else you like to do. It could be from drawing to running with your dog. This helps keep your mind off it. If you play because there is nothing better or more fun to do, then you should add something else that is interesting into your life. Join a club, or create a goal. By alternating between the activities, you will not feel the "video game longing", and it may be beneficial in reducing your stress and keeping you on track with your goals.
5. Try playing a single player game rather than an online game. Playing a single player game eliminates the social aspect of an online game which may keep you from playing for long periods of time.
6. Do not "marathon play". Take a break every hour for 15 minutes and do something else (preferably physical such as stretching or walking around your home), then return to the game after your break.
7. If it gets really bad, start deleting the games from your computer or other entertainment files. Write down a list of online games you play and have a friend get on your Internet and block them.

All of above were made for all Game Addicts who would have done better in life, but didn't because he was playing games. Remember games do have real benefits, but must be weighed against the rest of our lives.

*From: <http://www.wikihow.com>*

1. With the popularity of the Internet, it is not difficult for you to play games with net friends in other countries. ( )
2. In Paragraph 3, "sucked into" a game means joining in playing a video game. ( )
3. Spending too much time on video games will occupy your study time. ( )
4. If we want to play a video game, it is our duty to avoid the younger people around us. ( )
5. Strategy 2 suggests that we play video games every day like other daily works. ( )
6. Making a net friend is a really good thing for us, because this friend can remind us