

• 英语泛读系列读物 •

Reading  
and  
Understanding

# 阅读与理解

汤季特 主编  
祝帆  
王学铭 主审

东北工学院出版社

# READING AND UNDERSTANDING

## 阅读与理解

(第 一 册)

**主编:** 汤季特      祝 帆

**主审:** 王学铭

**编者:** 汤季特    祝 帆    方斌宏    王 健    李树和

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### 内容简介

系列读物《阅读与理解》是适合于研究生、大学二年级以上学生和具有中等以上英语水平的各类读者使用的阅读丛书，对于欲在大学期间通过 5—6 级英语证书考试的学生，也是一本准备应试的阅读教材。全书共三册、每册 24 课。每课书有生词表、课文、注释、理解练习和词汇练习，每册书后附有练习答案和总词汇表。

此读物选材内容新颖，题材广泛，体裁多样，信息量大，趣味性强。文章的词汇量和生词量用计算机做了统计，文章的长度和难度依次递增，生词量控制在总词汇量的 2%，超出部分一律给出词义并列在课文前。课文练习紧密配合阅读技巧的学习，并用加小标题的方法对阅读技巧做出提示，以便加强练习的目的性。

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## 前 言

《阅读与理解》是冶金、有色系统高校研究生英语协作组组织编写的英语系列读物，旨在满足研究生和大学高年级学生泛读课教学的要求和具有中等以上英语水平的广大读者进一步提高阅读水平的需要，并为欲在大学期间通过 5—6 级英语证书考试的学生提供一套应试训练教材。为此，编写中采取了如下具体做法：

1. 文章主要选自近年来英语原版书刊，内容新颖，题材广泛，体裁多样，信息量大，有较强的知识性和趣味性。

2. 根据研究生泛读课的要求，提供了 80,000 个词汇量的阅读材料，可供 2~3 个学期使用。

3. 本读物的生词量用计算机进行了统计，（生词以大学英语词汇表为依据），起点为 3800，相当于大学本科生三级的词汇量，略低于研究生入学所要求的词汇量；每篇文章的生词量控制在全篇词汇量的 5%。其中 2% 要求学生掌握，列于书后的总词汇表中，3% 列于课文前，以便扫除阅读障碍。

4. 每篇文章的长度依次递增，第一册为 700~900 个词；第二册为 900~1100 个词；第三册为 1100~1300 个词。同一册内文章的难易程度均衡分布，册与册之间有一定的坡度。

5. 文章的理解练习通过加小标题，可以使学生有意识地学习阅读技巧，并为教师提供了讲解阅读技巧的提示。词汇练习目的是重点训练根据上下文猜词义和选择词义的能力。

6. 为便于读者自学，本读物对背景知识、语言难点以及长难句做了必要而适量的注释。

这套系列读物共分三册，每册 24 课，每课配有生词表、课文注释，理解练习和词汇练习。每册后面附有练习答案及要求掌握的 2% 生词的词汇表。

本读物可作为泛读课的教材，主要由学生课下阅读，教师在课上进行检查并结合练习讲解阅读技巧。

本书编写过程中曾得到东北工学院美籍英语教师 Nancy Lee 和 Kenny Boyers 的帮助和指导。

本书的编写和出版，得到了东北工学院研究生院、东北工学院外语部、昆明工学院外语系的大力支持。

本读物一、二册的审稿会由国家教委大学外语教材编审委员会委员昆明工学院外语系主任王学铭教授主持，北京钢铁学院、中南工业大学、西安冶金建筑学院、昆明工学院等院校参加，在此一并致谢。

由于时间紧迫，加之编者水平有限，疏漏之处在所难免，热诚希望专家和读者批评指正。

编 者

1988 年 4 月

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## Passage 1

### A New Way to Look at the World

#### READ THE FOLLOWING WORDS

1. myth	[miθ]	<i>n.</i>	神话,神怪故事
		<i>v.</i>	使神化
2. goddess	['gɒdis]	<i>n.</i>	女神
3. volcano	[vɒl'keɪnəʊ]	<i>n.</i>	火山
4. wrinkle	[rɪŋkl]	<i>n.</i>	皱纹;皱褶
		<i>v.</i>	使皱起;起皱纹
5. clue	[klu:]	<i>n.</i>	线索;迹象
		<i>v.</i>	为……提供线索
6. line	[laɪn]	<i>n.</i>	线
		<i>v.</i>	画线;起皱纹
7. Andes	['ændi:z]	<i>n.</i>	安第斯山脉(南美)
8. sierra	['siərə]	<i>n.</i>	峰峦起伏之山岭; 有如锯齿状峰峦之山脉
9. the Rockies	['rɒkɪs] = Rocky Mountains		落矶山脉(美)
10. Australia	[ɒs'treɪljə]	<i>n.</i>	澳大利亚
11. Himalayas	[hɪmə'leɪəz]	<i>n.</i>	喜马拉雅山脉
12. Mariana	[məəri'ænə]	<i>n.</i>	马里亚纳(地名)
13. trench	[trentʃ]	<i>n.</i>	沟、渠
		<i>v.</i>	掘沟
14. stress	[stres]	<i>n.</i>	压力,压迫
		<i>v.</i>	强调;重视
15. tectonics	[tek'tɒnɪks]	<i>n.</i>	构造地质学,大地构造学
16. tectonic	[tek'tɒnɪk]	<i>a.</i>	地壳结构的,起因于地壳运动的
17. continent	['kɒntɪnənt]	<i>n.</i>	大陆,陆地



## TEXT

1. What did the world look like to the people of the past? What did they see when they looked around them? They were all familiar with the hills and valleys. Geographical features like mountains and rivers were important to them as dividing lines between groups of people and between countries. People quite naturally considered their own parts of the world as the whole world. Furthermore the parts of nature that were beyond their ability to cross or climb<sup>(1)</sup> were considered supernatural. In their ancient myths the mountains were the homes of their gods and goddesses. A volcano was the home of the god of fire. These explanations seemed reasonable because few people ever saw more than one smoking mountain in their lives.

2. Something important to the knowledge of the world happened. When people were at last able to look down on the surface of the Earth,<sup>(2)</sup> they saw the world in a different way. Their point of view changed. Mountains might seem great, beautiful, and powerful to a person in a valley. However, from a high place a person sees the general features of the Earth's surface. The mountains are seen as part of a worldwide pattern<sup>(3)</sup> not so special that gods would choose to live on them. A mountain is a part of a range with many high points or peaks. There is nothing special about one mountain. Furthermore people on Earth do not notice that the Earth is deeply lined<sup>(4)</sup>—wrinkled and cracked. What a shock this new world view from above must have been!

3. Slowly people realized that those wrinkles were important clues—pieces of information that could be used to learn more about the Earth. The wrinkles were evidence of disasters that had happened on Earth and evidence of a process of change that was still happening. People could learn to understand more about the world by studying these cracks. What they found were explanations of some of the natural features of the world. A volcano is now understood to be an opening—an escape valve—for heat from inside the Earth. Two things have become clear: that the deep cracks are faults, breaks in the surface, and that the Earth's surface is still moving. Parts of the crust of surface very slowly push up mountains and make deep valleys in nearby places.

4. This is exactly what scientists have found to be true. Up and down the western coast of the Americas there is a range of high mountains that has many parts. The Andes, the Sierras, and the Rockies are some of their names. Off the coast, hidden under the waters of the Pacific Ocean, there are deep trenches, sharp cracks in the Earth's crust.<sup>(5)</sup> The movement of the American continents has pushed the mountains up and the trenches down. A similar situation exists in Asia. The piece of land that is now India was once close to Australia. When the land mass hit the rest of Asia, the Himalayas—the world's highest mountains were formed. The



same movement probably made the series of trenches around the coast, including the deepest underwater trench—the Mariana Trench.<sup>(6)</sup> Both areas are likely to have earthquakes because there are stresses between the moving sections that are rigid or hard plates floating on hot, liquid rock. Scientists have used this information to form a theory of the Earth's structure. It is called plate tectonics. According to the theory, the land masses ride on these plates. It is a theory because no one has proved that the ideas are facts.

5. By using this theory of moving plates, scientists can find answers to many questions. They have shown, for example, that all the continents were probably once a single mass of land. The Atlantic Ocean fills the valley that formed because the continental plates moved away from each other. The theory of plate tectonics can also be used to predict how the surface of the world will change in the future. In the meantime, people fear earthquakes and volcanoes. The effects of these disasters are direct. At the same time earth scientists are learning how to forecast disasters and protect people by the study that began with a higher viewpoint.

from "Between the Lines" edited by Jean Zukowski

#### NOTES TO THE TEXT

(1) that were beyond their ability to cross or climb ...

他们无法穿过或攀登的地方, ...

beyond表示含蓄的否定, 表示“超过……之外”。

(2) When people were at last able to look down on the surface of the Earth, ...

在人们终于能够俯视地球表面时, ...

(3) The mountains are seen as part of a worldwide pattern ...

人们把山脉看成是整个(宇宙)世界结构的一个部分……

(4) that the Earth is deeply lined ...

地球上有很深的皱纹……

又如: a lined face有皱纹的脸

(5) Off the coast, hidden under the waters of the Pacific Ocean, there are deep trenches, sharp cracks in the Earth's crust.

远离海岸的地方, 隐藏在太平洋水域之下, 地壳里有很多深沟和明显的裂痕。

(6) the Mariana Trench:

马里亚纳海沟, 位于关岛海岸外, 深达六英里半以上。

#### HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

How careful was your reading?

1. People now understand more about the geographical features of the world because they can see the Earth from
  - a. the mountains.
  - b. the sky.
  - c. under the sea.
  - d. plains and deserts.
2. According to the article, people of the past connected geographical features like volcanoes with supernatural beings because they
  - a. saw so many of these geographical features.
  - b. thought that these geographical features were so ugly.
  - c. could not reach the top or the other side of these parts of nature.
  - d. were not as intelligent as people today.
3. The theory of plate tectonics can be used to explain
  - a. why earthquakes occur in certain places.
  - b. how the Atlantic Ocean was formed.
  - c. how the geography of the world is going to change.
  - d. all of the above.

Did you notice the details?

4. The movement of the American continents has pushed the mountains up and the trenches down. A similar situation in Asia created the
  - a. Sierras.
  - b. Himalayas.
  - c. Andes.
  - d. Rockies.
5. With their new world view people now see a mountain as
  - a. a small part of a range with many high peaks.
  - b. a place special enough to be the home of a god.
  - c. a crack in the earth's surface.
  - d. a powerful element of nature.

What are the main points?

6. The main purpose of the article is to explain
  - a. the point of view of the people in the past.
  - b. the kinds of places where people once thought gods lived.
  - c. a theory which answers questions about the geographical characteristics of the Earth.
  - d. the formation of the Atlantic Ocean.
7. According to the article, people gradually realized that it was important to study
  - a. different ranges of high mountain.
  - b. cracks on the Earth which could explain some of the natural features of the world.

- c.valleys in the Americas.
  - d.rocks in Asia.
- 8.It is now known that some earthquakes are caused by
- a.forces from the moon.
  - b.the stresses between land masses floating on hot,liquid rock.
  - c.severe weather.
  - d.tidal waves.
- What does the auther say?
- 9.Scientists have found that
- a.earthquakes did not happen in the past.
  - b.the moving sections of the Earth are soft.
  - c.all of continents were probably once a single mass of land.
  - d.earthquakes and volcanoes really do not affect people directly.
- 10.Earth scientists intend to use the theory of plate tectonics to forecast
- a.the weather.
  - b.earthquakes.
  - c.the change of tides.
  - d.the life of the Earth.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

### A.Word meaning from context

Often you can tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Directions: Find the words in the article for clues to guess the meanings of them.

1.looked around(para.1)probably means

- a.took care of
- b.saw through
- c.looked about
- d.looked on

2.familiar with (para.1) probably means

- a.deeply interested in
- b.having a thorough knowledge of
- c.common-to
- d.pleased with

3.wrinkles(para.3)probably means

- a.cracks
- b.narrow parts

c.slight folds

d.disasters

4.trenches (para. 4) probably means

a.large holes

b.water courses

c.long rivers

d.ditches

5.continents(para.4)probably means

a.mainlands

b.masses

c.universe

d.grounds

6.situation (para. 4) probably means

a.a side

b.a location

c.a position

d.circumstances

#### B. Word meaning in context

A word may have more than one meaning.Its meaning depends on the way it is used.

Directions: Read the four meanings for each word and decide which meaning fits the word as it is used in the paragraph.

7.pattern (para. 2)

a.a view

b.an example

c.a high point

d.a design

8.range (para. 2)

a.a kitchen stove

b.an extended group

c.an area enclosed by certain limits

d.the distance a gun can shoot '

9.shock (para. 2)

a.a sudden and violent shake or crash

b.a temporary but dangerous condition caused by pain or loss of blood

c.a sudden arousing of emotion of mental stability by something unexpected

d.a sudden conduction of electric current through a person's body

10.realized (para. 3)

a.accomplished

- b.was sold for
- c.gained
- d.understood

11.stress (para. 4)

- a.weight
- b.pressure
- c.importance
- d.an accent

12.fault (para. 3)

- a.a mistake
- b.a defect
- c.a place where there is a break in the continuity of layers of rock, etc.
- d.a failure to serve the ball correctly

## Passage 2

### Remembering

#### READ THE FOLLOWING WORDS

1. wedding	['wediŋ]	<i>n.</i>	婚礼
2. religious	[ri'lidʒəs]	<i>a.</i>	宗教的
3. bloat	[blout]	<i>v.</i>	使膨胀
4. finery	['fainəri]	<i>n.</i>	华丽的衣服或装饰
5. disgrace	[dis'greis]	<i>n.</i>	羞耻,不光采
6. lash	[læʃ]	<i>n.</i>	眼睫毛
7. nick	[nik]	<i>v.</i>	刻痕于
8. scythe	[saið]	<i>n.</i>	大镰刀
9. unyoke	[ʌn'jəuk]	<i>v.</i>	卸下车轭
10. jangle	['dʒæŋɡl]	<i>v.</i>	发出铃响声
11. jolt	[dʒɔlt]	<i>v.</i>	颠簸
12. hut	[hʌt]	<i>n.</i>	小屋,茅舍
13. thatch	[θætʃ]	<i>n.</i>	茅草
14. plead	[pli:d]	<i>v.</i>	恳求
15. beloved	[bi'lʌvd]	<i>a.</i>	被热爱的

#### TEXT

1. A woman, they say, always remembers her wedding night. Well, maybe they do; but for me there are other nights I prefer to remember, sweeter, fuller, when I went to my husband matured in mind as well as in body, not as a pained and awkward child as I did on that first night. And when the religious ceremonies had been completed, we left, my husband and I. How well I remember the day, and the sudden sickness that overcame me when the moment for departure came! My mother was in the doorway, no tears in her eyes but her face bloated with their weight<sup>(1)</sup>. My father standing a little in front of her, waiting to see us safely on our way. My husband, seated already on the bullock cart<sup>(2)</sup> with the tin trunk full of cooking vessels and my saris<sup>(3)</sup> next to him. Somehow I found myself also sitting in the cart, in finery, with



downcast eyes.

2. Then the cart began to move. It lurched as the bullocks got awkwardly into rhythm and I was sick. Such a disgrace for me ... How shall I ever live it down?<sup>(4)</sup> I remember thinking. I shall never forget ... I haven't forgotten, but the memory is not sour. My husband soothed and calmed me.

3. "It's a thing that might happen to anybody," he said. "Do not fret. Come<sup>(5)</sup>, dry your eyes and sit up here beside me." So I did, and after a while felt better, the tears left my eyes and dried on my lashes.

4. For six hours we rode on and on along the dusty road, passing several villages on the way to ours, which was a good distance away<sup>(6)</sup>. Halfway there we stopped and ate a meal: boiled rice, dhal<sup>(7)</sup>, vegetables and curds. A whole coconut apiece, too, in which my husband nicked a hole with his scythe for me so that I might drink the clear milk. Then he unyoked the bullocks and led them to the small pool of water near which we had stopped, giving them each a handful of hay. Poor beasts, they seemed glad of the water, for already their hides were dusty.

5. We rested a half-hour before resuming our journey. The animals, refreshed, began stepping jauntily again, tossing their heads and jangling the bells that hung from their red-painted horns. The air was full of the sound of bells, and of birds, sparrows and bulbuls mainly<sup>(8)</sup>, and sometimes the cry of an eagle, but when we passed a grove, green and leafy, I could hear mynahs and parrots. It was very warm, and being unused to so long a jolting, I fell asleep.

6. It was my husband who woke me—my husband, whom I will call Nathan, for that was his name, although in all the years of our marriage I never called him that, for it is not meant for a woman to address her husband except as "husband."

7. "We are home," he cried. "Wake up! Look!"

8. I woke, I looked. A mud hut, thatched, small, set near a paddy field<sup>(9)</sup>, with two or three similar huts nearby. Across the doorway a garland of mango leaves, symbol of happiness and good fortune, dry now and rattling in the breeze.

9. "This is our home," my husband said. "Come, I will show you."

10. I got out of the cart, stiff and with a cramp in one leg. We went in; two rooms, one a sort of storehouse for grain, the other for everything else. A third had been begun but was unfinished, the mud walls were not more than half a foot high.

11. "It will be better when it is finished," he said. I nodded; I wanted to cry. This mud hut, nothing but mud and thatch, was my home. My knees gave, first the cramped one, then the other, and I sank down<sup>(10)</sup>. Nathan's face filled with concern as he came to hold me.

12. "It is nothing," I said. "I am tired—no more. I will be all right in a minute."

13. He said, "Perhaps you are frightened at living here alone—but in a few years we can move—maybe even buy a house such as your father's. You would like that?"

14. There was something in his voice, a pleading, a look on his face such as a dog has when

you are about to kick it.

15 "No," I said, "I am not frightened. It suits me quite well to live here."

16 He did not reply at once but went into the storehouse and came out with a handful of paddy.

17. "Such harvests as this," he said, sliding the grains about in his hand, "and you shall not want for<sup>(11)</sup> anything, beloved!" Then he went out to get the tin trunk and after a while I followed.

from "Reading by All Means" by K. Markandaya

## NOTES TO THE TEXT

(1) No tears in her eyes, but her face bloated with their weight.

她的眼里没有泪水，但她的脸却因忧虑而显得肿胀。

their weight 直译为“泪水的重量”。

(2) bullock cart 牛车      bullock 小公牛；阉牛

(3) sari: 沙丽，即印度妇女披在身上的卷布或长袍。

(4) How shall I ever live it down?

我怎样才能把这一切忘掉呢？

live down: live so good a life as to make people forget (one's past sin or fault)

过规矩的生活以使人忘记（过去的过失）。

(5) come (祈使用法，用以引起注意。) 如：

Come, come, you shouldn't speak like that!

听我讲，你不应那样说！

(6) which was a good distance away.

这是一段好远的距离。

good = large in size, amount, etc. 大的，十足的。如：

a good week's march 整整一星期的行军。

(7) dhal 达尔豆

(8) sparrow and bulbus mainly 主要是麻雀和夜莺。

该短语作birds的同位语，加以进一步说明。

(9) set near a paddy field = which was set near a paddy field

座落在一片稻田的附近。

(10) My knees gave, first the cramped one, then the other, and I sank down.

我的双膝支撑不住了，先是痉挛的一只脚，后是另一只脚，接着我便瘫倒了。

to give = to bend under pressure, to yield 坍塌；不能支撑。

(11) want for = be lacking in 缺乏。

## HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

Did you pay attention to details?

1. The bride and groom traveled
  - a. in a bullock cart.
  - b. along a dusty road.
  - c. on foot
  - d. both a and b.
2. When they arrived at their home the bride noticed that
  - a. there were no neighbors nearby.
  - b. a garland of mango leaves was hanging over the doorway.
  - c. the house had three rooms unfinished.
  - d. sparrows were singing to welcome them.

Did you understand the characters?

3. When the woman got married she was
  - a. less than 20 years old.
  - b. 20–30 years old
  - c. over 30 years old.
  - d. exactly 20 years old.
4. When the moment of departure came, the mother's feelings about her daughter were that
  - a. she was happy to see her daughter leave.
  - b. she was remembering her own wedding day.
  - c. she was sure about her daughter's future life.
  - d. she was sad to see her daughter leave.
5. Seeing that his daughter was leaving for her husband's home, the father felt
  - a. sure that his daughter would have a happy life in the future.
  - b. proud that he had fulfilled his duty as a father.
  - c. distressed to see her leave.
  - d. disappointed in not having her stay for a few days more.

Can you see the author's technique?

6. You read these phrases or sentences in the story: "jangling the bells" (line 26) "The air was full of the sound of bells and birds ..." (line 27) "the cry of an eagle" (line 28) "I could hear mynahs and parrots." (line 29). These are used by the author to appeal to the reader's sense of
  - a. seeing.
  - b. hearing.
  - c. tasting.
  - d. smelling.