

CET-4 大学英语四级考试

读故事 记单词

Reading Stories,
Reciting Vocabulary for CET-4

 考天下名师团 编

格林 主编




中国石化出版社
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前 言

词汇是语言学习的基石。从传统上来讲,学生记单词的方法不仅单调乏味,而且效率极低,很多单词背的时候费了九牛二虎之力,用的时候还是一头雾水。有鉴于此,我们想给大家一种新的学习词汇的方法——用一些风趣幽默的小故事把一些看似毫无关系的词串连起来。先提供一个故事,然后再提供一个词汇表,这样不仅简单方便,而且妙趣横生。

从理论上讲,背故事比背单词容易,因为故事中有一定的发展线索,联想会更加丰富。这正是我们编写本书的理论基础。在编写这些小故事的过程中,我们发现原本枯燥的单词也可以变得活泼可爱,原本沉闷的学习也可以变得生动有趣。这使我们想起了哥伦布那个征服世人的故事:把鸡蛋敲破了就能立在桌子上。原来世界上没有攻不破的难关,关键是我们能否找到攻关的钥匙。读故事记单词正是为大家准备的一把攻克词汇难关的钥匙。

有人说过:If you love him, make him study English, for it's interesting; if you hate him, make him study English, for it's boring. 英语到底是 interesting 还是 boring,这本身就是个见仁见智的问题,我们希望读故事记单词这种形式能够帮助你找到学习英语的乐趣,增加征服英语的信心,提高掌握英语的效率。

编 者

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Passage 1

An Optimist

乐天派

Two frogs in the belly of a snake were considering their altered circumstances.

"This is pretty bad luck," said one.

"Don't jump to conclusions," the other said, "we are out of the wet and provided with board and lodging."

"With lodging, certainly," said the first frog, "but I don't see the board."

"You are a croaker," the other explained, "We are the board."

点滴思考

1. What were the two frogs doing?
2. What conclusions did the first frog draw?

真题词汇

enroll^{8①} [ɪnˈrəʊl] *v.* (使)加入, 注册

【语境】 At least 15 states also offer merit aid, typically in a bid to enroll top students in the state's public institutions. 至少有 15 个州也提供奖学金, 通常是为了在公立大学中招收优等生。(真题阅读)

provide⁶ [prəˈvaɪd] *vi.* 提供, 供给

【阅读理解】 Second, other people often provide us with informational support. 第二, 其他人经常给我们提供信息。(四级真题)

【报刊例句】 Paleontologists say that a dinosaur specimen found in Madagascar provides important clues to how the continents broke up and drifted apart 70 million years ago. 译文: 古生物学家说, 在马达加斯加发现的恐龙化石标本为研究 7000 万年前各大洲怎样断裂、漂流提供了重要线索。[注]: 恐龙早已不存在, 这里所说的“恐龙标本”显然是化石标本。

(Time · 时代周刊)

circumstance⁶ [ˈsɜːkəmstəns] *n.* 环境, 情况, 境遇, 形势, 事件

【阅读理解】 One strength of the human condition is our tendency to give and receive support from one another under stressful circumstances. 人类的一个优点就是在艰难环境下自然给予他人或接受他人的帮助。(四级真题)

【完形填空】 Outside of class the student continues to use the personal model because it has always worked well in that circumstance. 在课外, 学生保持个人的思维模式, 因为这种模式在特定的情形下总是管用的。(四级真题)

① 8 次是指该单词从 2000 年到目前为止在历年真题中出现的次数。

Passage 2

Choice of Counsellors

扁鹊之言

Bianque, a famous physician, came to see King Wu of the state of Qin. The King told the doctor about his disease and Bianque was ready to give him a treatment.

The ministers at the king's side said to him, "Sire, your malady is in front of your ears and below your eyes. Even with treatment it might not be cured and very likely you will lose your hearing and your sight."

The king related these words to Bianque.

Bianque was enraged and threw down the stone needle which he used for giving treatments:

"Sire, you discuss your illness with one who knows how to effect a cure but you allow those who know nothing about medicine to spoil the whole thing. If the state of Qin is governed in this way, then one such mistake on your part is enough to bring down the state."

点滴思考

1. Bianque was a famous physician.
2. The ministers at the king's side told something against Bianque.
3. Bianque was so angry that he decided not to cure King Wu of the state of Qin.

真题词汇

likely⁴⁶ ['laikli] *adj.* ① 可能的, 有希望的 ② 适合的 *adv.* 可能

【用法】be likely to do / It is likely that 表示“很可能”。The train is likely to be late. 这趟火车很可能晚点。/ It is very likely that he will not consent. 很可能他不会同意。

【阅读理解】The danger is likely to continue, they say, until the waves reach an inland area of hard rock which will not be eaten as limestone is. 专家们说危险可能继续下去, 除非海水涌到有坚硬岩石的内陆地区, 那里不会像石灰石一样被侵蚀。(四级真题)

【报刊例句】The typical mass-murderer is likely to be a loner, according to homicide detectives. 译文: 据专办杀人案件的侦探介绍, 典型的大量杀人者往往是孤独者。

(Newsweek · 新闻周刊)

名医扁鹊面见秦武王。武王说自己有病, 扁鹊准备帮他治好病痛。

左右大臣却说: “大王的病, 在耳目之间, 治也未必能治好, 反而会使大王听力不灵敏, 眼睛也浑浊、不明亮。”

武王把这些话告诉了扁鹊。

扁鹊愤怒地把治疗用的针石扔在地上, 说:

“大王与懂医术的人讨论如何治病, 却让丝毫不懂医术的人来干扰, 必定要失败。从这件事, 可以看出秦国的政策。照这样下去, 大王一定会使国家灭亡的。”

Passage 3

The Horse and the Dog

马和狗

A dog and a horse, which served the same peasant, began to discuss each other's merits, one day.

"How grand we are, to be sure!" says Barbos, "I shouldn't be sorry if they were to turn you out of the farmyard. A noble service, indeed, to plough or to draw a cart! And I've never heard of any other proof of your merit. How can you possibly compare yourself with me? I rest neither by day nor by night. In the daytime I watch the cattle in the meadows; by night I guard the house."

"Quite true," replied the horse, "Weren't for my ploughing, you wouldn't have anything at all to guard here."

狗和马一起替农夫干活。一天,他们开始讨论彼此的功绩。

"我们狗可真伟大啊!"狗说。"要是他们把你赶出农庄,我才不觉得惋惜呢。耕田、拖车,固然是高尚的活儿,可我从未听说过你还有其它什么功绩。你怎能跟我相比呢?我白天黑夜都不休息。白天我在牧场保护牲口黑夜里我看守门户。"

"一点不错,"马回答说。"你说的很对。不过要记住,如果没有我耕田,你在这儿就没有什么可看守的了。"

真题词汇

merit⁴² ['merit] *n.* 优点,长处,功绩,功劳;真相,价值 *v.* 应收,值得

【同义】virtue, value, credit, advantage

【助记】比较 demerit(缺点)

④ Once the new leading group is established, you must be responsible for everything that is, for your mistakes, merits and contributions.

⑤ Once the new leading group is established, you must be responsible for everything that is, for your mistakes and for your achievements.

⑥ 可以说"make mistakes or contributions",但"merits"与"defects"或者"failings"相对,故删除"merits"。因"contributions"与"mistakes"与并列,故用"achievements"代替。

【报刊例句】Merit scholarships are available for straight-A students. 译文:学习成绩连续为A的学生将能获得优秀学生奖学金。(The Times • 泰晤士报)

grand³ [grænd] *adj.* 盛大的,豪华的,壮丽的,壮观的,美妙的;显赫的,傲慢的;全部的

【同义】wonderful, impressive, large, splendid, magnificent

【派生】grandeur *n.* 庄严,伟大(同)magnificence, stateliness

vitamin ['vaitəmin, 'vitəmin] *n.* 维生素

【报刊例句】People concerned about cardiac health should keep their intake of vitamins high. 译文:关心心脏健康的人们应当保持维他命高摄入。[注]:cardiac,心脏的。

(US News and World Report • 美国新闻与世界报道)

Passage 4

The Goose that Laid the Gold Eggs

下金蛋的鹅

A farmer and his wife once had a goose that laid a solid gold egg every day. Each evening they settled it securely in its pen in the corner of their kitchen with a bowl of the best corn and a saucer of fresh water. Each morning they found a new, bright yellow egg in its nest of sweet hay.

One day the farmer's wife said to her husband. "These eggs are all very well, my dear, but though I suppose we will be rich in the end, it is a very slow way of making a fortune. By the time we get it, it will not be worth half what it is today. Now I have an idea. It is obvious to me that there must be a great store of golden eggs inside our goose. Why should we wait all our lives for her to lay them? Go and get a knife and we'll have all the gold now while we can still enjoy it."

"Well," said the farmer doubtfully, "it seems a sad way to treat a good bird. But on the other hand..."

Without another word he killed the goose and cut her open only to find that inside she was just like any other goose, with no sign of a golden egg at all.

"We'll not get rich quickly or slowly now, my dear," said the farmer sadly.

Don't be greedy.

农夫和他的妻子养过一只鹅,那只鹅每天都下一个纯金的蛋。每天晚上,他们都要把鹅安放在厨房一角的窝里,放上一碗最好的玉米和一碟清水。每天早晨,他们都在清香的干草窝里捡到一个刚下的、亮晶晶的、黄灿灿的蛋。

有一天,农夫的妻子对丈夫说:“亲爱的,这些蛋都很好,尽管我想我们最后会富起来,可这是个很慢的发财办法。到我们发财的时候,价值还不到现在的一半呢。我有个主意。我看,很明显,鹅肚子里一定有许多金蛋。我们干嘛要一辈子等着她下蛋呢?去拿把刀来。趁我们还可以享用的时候,把金子全弄到手吧。”

“哦,”农夫犹豫不定地说,“这样对待一只好家禽似乎不是好办法,不过另一方面.....”

他没说什么话就把鹅宰了,剖开一看,发现鹅肚子里和别的鹅一样,连金蛋的影子也没有。

农夫伤心地说:“亲爱的,如今无论快慢,我们都富不了啦。”

不要贪得无厌。

点滴思考

1. A farmer and his wife had a goose that laid gold eggs.
2. Each morning, they would find a new, bright yellow egg in its nest of sweet hay.
3. The farmer's wife killed the goose to get more eggs.
4. The farmer believed what his wife had done was true.

真题词汇

sign⁴¹['sain] *n.* 迹象, 征兆; 符号, 标记; 标牌, 招牌; 手势, 姿势 *vt.* 做手势; 签字, 签名

【听力短语】as a sign of... (to indicate one's...) 为了表示……; Sam had worked 30 years for the same company and now he had to retire. As a sign of gratitude, the company held a dinner in his honor. 萨姆为同一家公司干了 30 年, 现在他要退休了。为了表示对他的感谢, 公司为他举办了一次宴会。(四级真题)

【报刊例句】There is a need not only for clever sensors to pick up signs of nuclear mischief, but also for speedy on-site inspection to check on suspicious activity. 译文: 不仅有必要用精密的传感器确定各种核捣乱的迹象, 而且要对可疑活动迅速实施现场检查。[注]: 这里说的是“核不扩散条约”。mischief, 恶作剧、捣乱, 此处的意思是“各种违反国际核公约的行为”; on-site (on-the-spot), 现场的。(Scientific American · 科学美国人)

secure⁷['si:kjuə] *adj.* 安全的, 安心的, 可靠的 *v.* 固定, 获得, (为借款等)作保, 向(债权人)提供保证, 促成, 掩护, 使安全, 停操作, 船抛锚

【同义】anchor, defend, acquire, obtain, procure, safe

【反义】unfasten

【派生】security *n.* 安全(同) protection, safety

【助记】与 secure 的通常意义“安全”联系起来记忆, 获得安全

【报刊例句】About half the automobiles in Europe now use polymer adhesive sealing materials to secure their windshields. 译文: 在欧洲, 大约有一半汽车的挡风玻璃用高分子黏合密封剂加固。[注]: polymer, 此处指“高分子的”; adhesive, 黏合剂; sealing, 密封; windshield, (汽车)挡风玻璃。(Time · 时代周刊)

declaration¹['dekler'eɪʃən] *n.* 宣布, 宣言, 声明, 宣称, 断言; (纳税品、房地产等的)申报;

【律】(原告的)诉词, (证人的)陈述; 法律断言

【同义】announcement, avowal, statement

【词组】Declaration of Independence (〔美国〕独立宣言)

【助记】de + clar (= clear 清楚, 明白) + ation → 向大家说明白 → 宣告; *v.* declare *vt.* 宣布, 声明

epidemic¹['epɪ'demɪk] *n.* [C] ① 流行病: Some epidemics are fatal. 一些流行病是致命的。

② (思潮、风尚等的)流传, 盛行 an epidemic of flu 流感的盛行 *adj.* 流行性的, 流传极广的, 极为盛行的: Such kind of story is epidemic. 这样的故事很流行。

【报刊例句】The World Health Organization has rung alarm bells about a possible tuberculosis epidemic. Tuberculosis, which attacks mainly the lungs, intestines, skin and brain, is a bigger killer than pneumonia and AIDS combined. 译文: 世界卫生组织为结核病流行敲起了警钟。结核病主要损害肺、肠、皮肤和脑, 死于结核病的人比死于肺炎和艾滋病的总和还要多。[注]: World Health Organization (WHO), 世界卫生组织; attack 此处不应译为“攻击”。

(Newsweek · 新闻周刊)

nylon¹['naɪlɒn, 'naɪlən] *n.* [纺] 尼龙; 尼龙制品, 尼龙长袜

【词组】nylon cage 尼龙隔离罩

Passage 5

The Cook and the Cat

厨师和猫

A certain cook, rather more educated than his fellows, went from his kitchen one day to a neighbouring tavern. He was of a serious turn of mind, and on that day he celebrated the anniversary of a friend's death, leaving a cat at home, to guard his viands from the mice. On his return, what did he see? The floor was strewn with fragments of a pie, and Vaska the cat crouching in a corner behind vinegar-barrel, purring with satisfaction, was busily engaged in disposing of a chicken.

"Ah, glutton! Ah, evildoer," exclaimed the reproachful cook, "Are you not ashamed of being seen by these walls, let alone living witnesses? What! Be an honourable cat up to this time—one who might be pointed out as a model of discretion! And now, ah me! How great a disgrace! Now all the neighbours will say, 'The cat Vaska is a rogue, the cat Vaska is a thief. Vaska must not be admitted into a kitchen, not even into the courtyard, any more than a ravenous wolf into a sheep fold. He is utterly corrupt; he is a pest, the plague of the neighbourhood.'"

Thus did our orator, letting loose the current of his words, lecture away without stopping. But what was the result? While he was delivering his discourse, Vaska the cat ate up the whole of the chicken.

I would advise some cooks to inscribe these words on their walls: "Don't waste time in useless speeches, when it is action that is needed."

有一位厨师所受的教育比他的伙伴略多。一天,他离开厨房到邻近的一家酒馆去。他是个凡事认真的人,那天他正悼念亡友逝世一周年。临走时他把猫留在家里看守食品,以防老鼠吃掉。他回去时看到了什么呢?满地都是馅饼碎屑,那只名叫华司卡的猫躲在醋坛子后面的角落里,挺满足地咪咪呜咪地叫着,正忙着吃一只鸡。

"哎呀!贪吃鬼!哎呀!坏家伙!"厨师大声责备说,"不要说给人看到了,光是墙壁看见你干这坏事,你也该觉得难为情啦。什么!亏你还是一只体面的猫儿——还可以提出来做谨慎的楷模呢?如今,天哪!什么脸都丢光了!现在所有的邻居都要说:'华司卡这只猫是个无赖;华司卡这只猫是个小偷。再不许华司卡进厨房,甚至不许进院子了。就像不许饿狼进羊圈一样。它是完全堕落了;它是个害人精,是我们这一地区的祸害。'"

我们的演说家就这样滔滔不绝,口若悬河地讲个没完。结果怎样呢?在他大发议论时,华司卡已把那只鸡吃得一干二净。

奉劝某些厨师们把下面几个字刻在墙上吧:"需要采取行动时,切莫空谈浪费时间。"

点滴思考

1. The cook was more educated than his fellows.
2. The cat did something against the cook's will.
3. The cat ate up the chicken because the cook let it do that.
4. Sometimes we should take quick actions.

真题词汇

result⁴⁰ [ri'zʌlt] *n.* ① 结果, 效果 ② 成绩, 比分 *vi.* ① 导致, 结果是 ② 起因于, 因……而造成

【词组】as a result 作为结果, 因此; as a result of 作为……的结果, 由于

【难句】If, on the other hand, producing more of a commodity results in reducing its cost, this will tend to increase the supply offered by seller-producers, which in turn will lower the price and permit more consumers to buy the product. 另一方面, 如果大量制造某种商品导致其成本下降, 那么这就有可能增加卖方和制造商能提供的供给, 而这也就会反过来降低价格并允许更多的消费者购买产品。

【报刊例句】The Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan fueled reckless speculation in real estate, and as a result the stock market plunged, with a series of eye-popping losses. 译文: 大藏省和日本银行引发了不顾后果的房地产投机, 结果是股票市场猛跌, 造成一系列触目惊心的损失。[注]: “大藏省”是日语, 相当于其他国家的财政部, 日本银行是日本中央银行。speculation, 此处的意思是“(商业)投机”; real estate, 房地产、物业不动产(房产一般用 property)。(Harvard Business Review • 哈佛商业评论)

engage¹⁰ [in'geɪdʒ] *v.* 使忙于做……事, 使从事于; 聘请, 雇用; 约定, 订婚; 吸引, 吻合

【词组】(be) engaged in 忙于, 从事

【阅读理解】1. The fitness movement that began in the late 1960s and early 1970s centered around aerobic exercise. Millions of individuals became engaged in a variety of aerobic activities and literally thousands of health spas developed around the country to capitalize on the emerging interest in fitness, particularly aerobic dancing for females. 健身运动兴起于 20 世纪 60 年代末、70 年代初, 当时主要是围绕有氧操而展开的。好几百万人都加入了各种各样的有氧运动行列。毫不夸张地说, 全国上下开了成千上万家健身温泉中心, 从这场骤然升温的健身运动中获利, 尤其从女性有氧操中获利。(四级真题)

2. Engaging in leisure-time activities with others helps us to meet our social needs while at the same time distracting us from our worries and troubles. 与别人一起进行休闲娱乐活动, 能满足我们的社会需求, 同时帮助我们摆脱烦恼。(四级真题)

【报刊例句】China is targetting young and middle-aged people in its ambitious program to eliminate illiteracy. 译文: 中国正在推行其雄心勃勃的扫盲计划, 重点是中青年。

(Time • 时代周刊)

slope¹ [sləʊp] *n.* 倾斜, 斜坡, 斜线, 斜度, 斜面, 斜率, 揹枪的姿势 *v.* 使倾斜, 弄斜, 逃走

【同义】declivity, slant, tilt, incline, gradient

【派生】sloping *adj.* 倾斜的, 有坡度的 (同) inclined, slanting

Passage 6

The Shepherd and the Nightingale

牧童和夜莺

"Sing to me, my dearest nightingale." said a shepherd to the silent song stress one beautiful spring evening.

"Alas." said the nightingale, "the frogs make so much noise, that I have no inclination to sing. Do you not hear them?"

"Undoubtedly I hear them," replied the shepherd, "but it is owing to your silence."

一个美好的春日傍晚,牧童对默不作声的歌手夜莺说:"亲爱的夜莺,给我唱个歌儿吧。"

"天啊!"夜莺答道,"青蛙叫得吵死人了,我没有兴致来歌唱。你难道没有听到青蛙在叫吗?"

"我当然听到了,"牧童回答道,"但这是因为你没有开口啊。"

点滴思考

1. The shepherd asked the nightingale to sing a song and the nightingale was glad to do so.
2. The nightingale had no inclination to sing because the frogs made so much noise.
3. According to the shepherd, the frogs made so much noise because of the nightingale's silence.

真题词汇

stress³⁶ ['stres] *n. / v.* 加压力于,重压,使……承受严峻的考验,紧迫,着重,强调,重音(读),重视

【报刊例句】Creativity is stressed at the cost of discipline in many American schools, according to concerned educators. 译文:据有关教育工作者介绍,许多美国学校以牺牲纪律为代价过分强调(学生的)创造性。[注]:at the cost of,以……为代价。

(Business Week • 商业周刊)

transplant [træns'plɑ:nt, trænz-, trɑ:n-; -'plænt] *vt.* ① 移栽,移种(植物等): They'll transplant the young cabbage plants to the garden. 他们将把一些甘蓝的幼苗移栽到菜园里。② 移植(器官): The doctor transplanted one of her sister's kidneys into her body. 医生把她妹妹的一只肾移植到她的身体里。③ 使迁移,使移居: She transplanted her family from the country to the city. 她把全家从乡间迁居到城市里。

【报刊例句】Leaf-cutter ants slice pieces out of plants, secrete antibiotic chemicals on them from special glands and transplant them to beds of virgin mulch, where they grow their own vegetable gardens. 译文:切叶蚁把植物切割成碎片,然后它的一种特殊的腺体在这些碎片上分泌一些抗菌化学物质,再把碎片移植到铺有干净覆盖物的苗床上,于是这苗床就成了切叶蚁的“菜园”。[注]: leaf-cutter ants, 切叶蚁。secrete, 分泌。beds, 此处指苗床。Virgin mulch 的意思是“未经使用的覆盖物”,转义“铺有干净的覆盖物”。

(Reader's Digest • 读者文摘)