

最新高级英语

SPEED READING FOR

ADVANCED LEARNERS

快速阅读精粹

主编 谭志明 姜登祯

-42



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Speed Reading for Advanced Students

最新高级英语快速阅读精粹

主编 谭志明
编著 黑玉琴
刘选民

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主 编:谭志明 姜登祯

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地址:西安市南大街 17 号

邮编:710001

电话:029-7279676

传真:029-7279675

E-mail: Xian wpc@public.xa.sn.cn

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前 言

短期英语强化培训初级、中级系统教材共十一本于1995、1998年相继出版。现在我们又把短期英语强化培训高级系列教材奉献给广大读者。它们分别是：

《最新高级英语快速阅读精粹》

(Speed Reading for Advanced Students)

《测试成功之路》

(Towards Success in TOEFL, PETS5, BEC)

《托福听力测试突破》

(Breakthrough in TOEFL Listening Comprehension)

《最新高级英语阅读速通》(Advanced English Reading)

《高级英语听力》(Advanced English Listening)

《高级英语写作》(Advanced English Writing)

短期英语强化培训高级系列教材设计的起点是大学英语6级或本系列培训中级，结业成绩相当于TOEFL 570分或IELTS 6分以上。按国际惯例，这样的结业成绩一般被认为达到了高级英语水准，可以进入多数外国大学院校学习。因此，短期英语强化培训高级系列教材是通向国际英语标准考试的桥梁，它将使国内大学英语教学与国际英语教学直接接轨。

短期英语强化培训高级系列教材是按照教育部《出国留学人员英语强化教学大纲》修订本(1992)的高级阶段标准要求编写的，并根据近年来人们英语水平普遍有所提高的实情，编写的要求略高于该教学大纲的水平。跟初、中级系列教材一样，它充分体现了“大剂量，高时效，重交际，讲灵活”的教学指导思想和原则。

《最新高级英语阅读速通》和《最新高级英语快速阅读精粹》在于进一步提高学员的阅读理解能力和阅读速度，在于进一步提高学员的英语语言技巧和运用能力，在编写的过程中，我们特别注意了选材的质量和数量。质量上，强调一个“精”字，要求选文内容精粹、文辞精美、结构严谨，有一定的利用价值和代表性，便于精讲、精读、精练。数量上，突出一个“泛”字，要求选文题材广、文体宽、风格异，有一定的难度和趣味性，便于定时量化检测，便于激发学生的学习积极性。两本阅读书由于课文难度和词汇量显著增大，对学生是一个挑战。这两本书的选文也充分体现了当代英语的特点。

《测试成功之路》编撰了10套TOEFL、7套PETS 5、3套BEC模拟题(不含听力理解部分)，选材新颖、面宽，涵盖这三种考试试题书面部分的所有基本题材和题型，所命的问题有很强的应试性、针对性。模拟题似真题而又不照抄照搬。一书在手，如虎添翼，对于参加以上三种考试的考生来说，本书不仅提供了战前演练的“活靶”，而且为他们铺平了一条通过考试的成功之路。

PETS5 (Public English Test System, Level 5), 即全国公共英语等级考试第五级，是教育部考试中心于去年推出，用以替代全国外语水平考试(WSK·EPT)的一种新型考试，去年九月启用。我们根据教育部考试中心PETS5的考试大纲赶编了七套PRETS模拟题与TOEFL和BEC模拟题一同出版，供考生备考之用。关于PETS5的听力部分，可购买由我们编写，西安外语音像教材出版社出版的《PETS5听力测试突破》一书。

《托福听力测试突破》在编写内容与形式上自成体系，相对独立。然而，它与此前出版的《英语听力测试》(第一册)有机联系。它根据TOEFL近年来的一些命题规律，针对考生的难点，将各类题型归类整理，引导学生反复操练，以期在较短的时间内提高其听力应试能力。本书以TOEFL听力题型为主，但部分“对话”及“短文”对PETS5考生亦有相当重要的价值。

《高级英语听力》较之《中级英语听力》有相当大难度，课文长度有较大增加。题材以讲座、演讲等为主要内容，着重培养学生听讲座、听专题报告、记笔记等能力，以便适应国外学习与工作的需要。另外，针对学生听英语新闻困难的现象，本书选用了标准语速VOA或BBC新闻内容，以训练培养学生理解新闻的技巧和能力。作为高级听力教材，文化导入是必不可少的。因此，本书还尽可能将一些文化背景知识融合在听音材料中，力争使学员通过训练在听力理解文面产生一个质的飞跃。

《高级英语写作》包括两大块：一是基本功练习，二是类型和技巧。前者是为了和中难写作教槛衔接(因为有人可能未参加中级培训)，后者则是教学的重点。它的特点是：一、容量大，全面介绍了英语写作的“四大类型”和“八大技巧”；二、应用性强，学了就能用得上；三、各部分既有学生范文模拟，又有作家作品鉴赏；四、超出一般国外英语考试题型，对学员用英语进行各种书面交际均有参考价值。

21世纪向外语教育工作者提出了巨大的挑战，但也给我们提供了巨大的机遇。当此系列教材完成之际，我们为有这样的机遇而高兴，同时也深感未来责任之重大。由于我们的水平有限，本系列教材疏漏之处在所难免，尚有待今后陆续补正。我们再次诚恳希望广大读者和外语界同仁不吝赐教，俾使本教材渐臻完善。

高级英语强化培训系列教材在编写过程中，陕西省政协副主席、西安外国语学院前院长孙天义教授、院长杜瑞清教授曾给予很大支持和关怀；王长友同志、王树昌同志、蒲建社同志也付出了辛勤的劳动；世界图书出版公司康宏磊同志给予大力支持和协助，在此一并表示诚挚的谢意！

编 者

二零零零年六月

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Unit One

Passage 1

It is almost impossible to believe that just before the turn of this century petroleum was regarded as a nuisance. Early drillers for valuable salt wells were greatly disgusted when petroleum gushers got in their way and spoiled the wells. Petroleum could be skimmed from many creeks and rivers in Pennsylvania and there was no use known for it except as "medicine."

The Indians believed that petroleum would cure any disease of man or beast. Small quantities of it were bottled and sold under the name of "Seneca" and "Genessee oil." Samuel Kier was one of the bottlers of this "medicine." He always had an ample supply on hand.

It was in the middle of the 19th century before Kier consulted a Philadelphia chemist to see if there was another use for his slow-moving stock. The chemist suggested that it might be useful as an illuminant if it were distilled. Kier then constructed a five-gallon still and became the first oil refiner. The refined petroleum came to be called kerosene. The demand for it, because it was so much cheaper than whale oil in lamps, was great.

In the year 1859 Edwin Drake, a retired railroad worker, drilled the first oil well at Titusville, Pennsylvania. His "gusher" produced great quantities of oil. From then on, an "oil craze" similar to the "canal-building craze" spread throughout the country. All one needed to know was where to drill. Some

depended on dreams and visions. Others ran around with "divining rods," looking for places to drill. These were Y-shaped witch hazel sticks that were held loosely in the hands with the point forward. According to those who believed in the divining rod, some mysterious force pulled the loose end of the rod toward the ground, indicating exactly where to drill for oil. To this day, people in rural areas sometimes use a "divining rod" to locate water. There were still others who claimed that they could locate oil by smell.

Of course there was oil in abundance in places like Oil Creek, Pennsylvania, which flowed with it. Derricks sprang up everywhere in the Pennsylvania oil frontier. The makers of barrels could not keep up with the demand. As wells were exhausted in one place, drillers moved on and opened up new wells. There soon appeared an "oil aristocracy" of people who became millionaires overnight. Kerosene was the first product. It furnished oil for lamps and later provided fuel for the steel industry. But kerosene was only one of many products that would be derived from petroleum. In the years that followed, other products, such as cleaning fluids, chemicals, mineral oils and gasoline were developed from petroleum; and petroleum later became the basis of a great many of the synthetics and plastics that scientific research developed.

John D. Rockefeller, who has often been referred to as the man with whom "big business" began, became the wealthiest man in America through his ability to harness the petroleum industry. He was born in upper New York State in 1839. At a very early age he decided that he was going to be the opposite of his

father, a genial, smooth-talking man who wandered the countryside selling quack medicine for the cure of cancer. John and his brothers grew up under the care of their mother, who was a strict disciplinarian. Money was scarce in the Rockefeller household and at an early age John worked, helped his mother, and yet managed to save money. Before he was in his teens he had learned that money lent to others brought in interest and in time doubled itself. He studied book-keeping and mathematics because he felt that they would be useful in the business world. When John was fourteen the family moved to Cleveland.

From *The Biography of John D. Rockefeller*

Exercises

Comprehension: Select the answer which is most accurate according to the information given in the passage.

1. The main purpose of this passage is to
 - a. introduce the petroleum industry in America.
 - b. describe how petroleum was discovered in America.
 - c. present the identifying properties of different petroleum products.
 - d. provide the background for the following discussion about John D. Rockefeller.
2. The word "medicine" in first paragraph is put in quotation marks to imply that petroleum
 - a. is really a powerful medicine.
 - b. is not really a medicine.

- c. is only a medicine for Americans.
 - d. is quite a strange medicine with *magic power*.
3. Who first refined petroleum for kerosene?
- a. Samuel Kier.
 - b. John D. Rockefeller.
 - c. Edwin Drake.
 - d. Not mentioned.
4. All the following words or phrases are used in the description of the "oil craze" except
- a. dreams.
 - b. visions.
 - c. oil aristocracy.
 - d. the divining rod.
5. Where in the passage does the writer mention different products derived from petroleum?
- a. In Paragraph 2.
 - b. In Paragraph 3.
 - c. In Paragraph 4.
 - d. In Paragraph 5.
6. The word "harness" as used in Paragraph 6 is closest in meaning to
- a. control.
 - b. accelerate.
 - c. plan.
 - d. overlook.
7. The paragraph following this passage will most probably in-

form readers of

- a. John D. Rockefeller's talent for business administration.
- b. the influence of John D. Rockefeller's mother on him.
- c. oil wells in Cleveland.
- d. John D. Rockefeller's career and achievement in the petroleum industry.

1.d 2.b 3.a 4.c 5.d 6.a 7.d

Passage 2

From Mozart to Megabytes

Millions of music lovers have become addicted to the crisp, clear sound of the compact disc, which is rapidly replacing the records and cassette tapes in their collections. Now the CD seems destined to win the affection of computer buffs too. Inserted into a special disk drive connected to a personal computer, a single CD can deliver to the screen as much information as can be stored on 1,500 floppy disks. That is music to the ears of software manufacturers. Says Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, who has spearheaded U. S. research in CD technology for the computer: "The key is that the CD enables individuals to use a lot of information fast."

Microsoft underscored that point last week at an international CD conference in Seattle, where it introduced a \$295 compact disc called *Bookshelf*. The title is most appropriate. The disc contains digitized versions of ten popular reference volumes, including *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*, Roger's *Thesaurus*, the *World Almanac* and the *U. S. Zip Code Directory*. E-

quipped with a copy of *Bookshelf*, the special disk drive and a personal computer, a writer can have instant access to a wealth of reference material without interrupting word processing. With the push of a button, an individual can call up synonyms and quotations--which pop up in "windows" on the screen--and then, with another tap on the keyboard, insert them into the text.

The disc that stores music and data with equal ease is a technological marvel. Molded out of the same durable plastic used in bulletproof windows, the discs are engraved by laser beam, leaving microscopic "pits" and "lands" (flat areas) representing streams of binary digits. Each pit is no larger than a bacterium; some 2 billion fit on a 4.72-inch disc, laid down in a continuous spiral nearly three miles long. With this capacity, a single 4.72-inch disc can store up to 250,000 pages of text. And a CD surface area 6 feet long and 6 feet wide would be sufficient to store the words in every book ever written.

Book publishers were among the first to tap the CD's vast capacity. Two years ago, Grolier fit all 9 million words of its 20-volume *Academic American Encyclopedia* onto one-fifth of the surface of a single disc. Now some 130 different discs are available, including CD editions of such voluminous tomes as the *Oxford English Dictionary*, *Books in Print* and the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*. The CD version of Census Bureau data enables anyone with a properly equipped personal computer to conduct demographic searches that once required a mainframe computer.

Despite their enormous potential, compact discs have some drawbacks. Unlike floppy disks, which can be erased and rere-

corded at will, the compact discs now generally available are "read only" and cannot be altered outside the factory. Thus computer owners are unable to use the CDs to store their own data and programs or to alter those prerecorded on the disc. The same limitation affects software producers. Instead of updating its One Source disc of Wall Street data electronically, for example, Lotus must mail subscribers a new CD every week. Price too has inhibited the spread of the discs. Computer CD drives cost about \$ 800, and software publishers are charging up to \$ 50,000 for CD versions of especially valuable data. But strangely enough, audio CDs may be coming to the rescue. Says David Davies of Minnesota's 3M company, which produces about half of the world's compact discs for computers: "Without the CD music market, data CDs would not exist. The hardware would be too expensive." The intense competition to produce music CDs, he explains, will spill over to the CD data field, forcing down the costs of both discs and their computer drives. Donald McLagan, a Lotus vice president, agrees. "Every time Bruce Springsteen and Stevie Wonder sell a compact disc," he says, "it's good news for the data side."

An article by Philip Elmer-Dewitt from
The World of English/1989

Exercises

Comprehension: Select the answer which is most accurate according to the information given in the passage.

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - a. compare the compact disc with the record and tape.
 - b. inform readers of the function and potential of the compact disc.
 - c. explain the relation of computers to CD technology.
 - d. present difficulties in making the compact disc.
2. The word "underscored" in Paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to
 - a. underrated.
 - b. predicted.
 - c. missed.
 - d. emphasized.
3. Where in the passage does the writer mention the making of the disc?
 - a. In Paragraph 1.
 - b. In Paragraph 2.
 - c. In Paragraph 3.
 - d. In Paragraph 4.
4. The attitude of software manufacturers toward the compact disc can be described as
 - a. indifferent.
 - b. enthusiastic.
 - c. puzzled.
 - d. shocked.
5. The word "tap" as used in Paragraph 4 can be best replaced by
 - a. strike.

- b. exploit.
 - c. turn.
 - d. touch.
6. All the following factors are mentioned as disadvantages of compact discs except
- a. vast capacity.
 - b. non-removal of prerecorded data.
 - c. no alteration made later on.
 - d. failure to record one's own programs at will.

1 b 2 d 3 c 4 b 5 b 6 a

Passage 3

An Inflated Reputation

Australia's cute Capri convertible was unveiled much later than planned because its prime market is the U. S. A. --and the authorities there now require all new cars to be fitted with "airbags".

In some corners, this passive protection system is being hailed as the best way to take the worry out of motoring. But is it?

A few firms already fit airbags to some cars sold here and others will do the same. Possibly, some politicians will jump on the bandwagon and demand they be made compulsory.

The argument is that anything which may save a life is worthwhile, regardless of the cost. A more pragmatic approach is that airbags are very expensive and contribute less to occupant safety than seems to be the case at first sight.

The airbag concept is not new. Most major vehicle companies have been working on them since the early 1970s, but no one claims they are an instant fix for the road toll. Airbags are effective (but not wholly so) in head-on collisions only and give little or no protection in other kinds of accidents.

Several safety authorities have stated that airbags are less effective than conventional seat belts, especially the new generation kind used by Mercedes and Volvo which automatically retract as soon as a collision occurs. Another drawback in the system fitted to new cars in the U. S. is that the airbag is hidden within the steering wheel hub and protects the driver only. An extension to other parts of the car (such as the doors) is practical but very expensive.

There's also the worry that if the driver does not feel the need to buckle-up, the other occupants will also ignore their seat belts.

Airbags have one important advantage: They work even if the driver does not bother to buckle up and this is why the U. S. authorities have made them mandatory. The logic is that drivers are not legally required to buckle-up in most U. S. states and education campaigns to encourage them to do so voluntarily have not worked.

The airbag concept is simple. In the event of a collision, a sensor detects an abnormal rate of deceleration and triggers a mechanism which inflates a folded plastic bag with explosive speed. The bag acts as a cushion between the occupant and the steering wheel. Workable systems have been under test for at least two decades but there have been problems ensuring long-