

大学英语泛读教程

(阅读速度训练)

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READING

SPEED READING

东北林业大学出版社

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前 言

《大学英语泛读教程》是来自全国七个省市的二十五所高等院校的英语教师根据《高等院校英语专业基础阶段教学大纲》共同编写而成的。在编写本套教材的过程中，既考虑到了泛读课与其它英语课程的紧密配合，也考虑到了学生在不同学习阶段的特点和学习目的，以及泛读课堂教学活动特色，力图使本套教材具有科学性、知识性、趣味性和可行性。本套教材适合于大专院校英语专业一、二年级学生使用，也适合于理工科专业本科生和研究生使用。

本套教材共分两大部分，并且配有练习答案。第一大部分为阅读速度训练，它包括四册；第二大部分为阅读能力训练，它分上下两部分。每部分包括两册。

阅读速度训练部分，用于课堂内前二十分钟的阅读速度强化训练，1~4册从易到难，每册文章体裁及其练习都针对不同的教学目的，力求能够系统地、全面地使学生接触各种不同体裁的文章，掌握各种阅读技巧，以提高学生在四级统考中的应试能力。阅读能力训练部分，每册18个单元，四册共选入140篇短文。短文题材新颖，涉及知识面广，它主要用于70分钟的课堂内教学活动，其目的是扩大学生词汇量，拓宽学生知识面，提高学生在阅读过程中的分析和判断能力。练习答案以活页形式出现，教师可以在适当的教学阶段将练习答案分期发给学生，以利教学。

每册阅读能力后面都附有学生课外必读书目。教学人员可以按照必读书目要求学生每周阅读一定页数的浅易读物，并且在课堂上抽出十分钟的时间用读书汇报形式检查学生课外阅读情况，同时指导学生课外阅读方法以扩大学生的阅读量，培养学生阅读兴趣。

本套书的主编由河南师范大学外文系李远方、翁时雄、张炳新同志担任，副主编分别由每册书编写小组组长担任。每册书的付主编实际上是该册书分册的主编。

本套书在编写过程中，承蒙北京大学李赋宁教授、王式仁教授和赵链教授的关怀和鼓励，借此机会向他们表示衷心的感谢。

由于我们编写人员水平有限，时间紧迫，本套书一定有不少问题，希望使用本套书进行教与学的同行不吝赐教，我们将不胜感谢！

编者1991年3月

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阅读速度训练

第一册

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Contents

Book One

Unit 1	1
Unit 2	3
Unit 3	5
Unit 4	7
Unit 5	9
Unit 6	11
Unit 7	13
Unit 8	15
Unit 9	17
Unit 10	19
Unit 11	21
Unit 12	23
Unit 13	25
Unit 14	27
Unit 15	29
Unit 16	31
Unit 17	33
Unit 18	35

Book Two

Unit 1 The Black Cauldron	41
Unit 2 The Hidden Harbor	43
Unit 3 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory	45
Unit 4 The Story of Doctor Dolittle	47
Unit 5 The Secret of Shadow Ranch	49
Unit 6 The Cricket In Times Square	51
Unit 7 A Bear Called Paddington	53
Unit 8 The Terrible Waves	55
Unit 9 Birth of An Island	57
Unit 10 Chicanos	59
Unit 11 The Boxcar Children	61
Unit 12 The Matchlock Gun	63
Unit 13 Influenza: 1	65
Unit 14 Influenza: 2	67
Unit 15 Influenza: 3	69
Unit 16 Underdeveloped People: 1	71

Unit 17 Underdeveloped People; 273

Unit 18 Underdeveloped People; 375

Book Three

Unit 1 81

Unit 2 88

Unit 3 93

Unit 4 97

Unit 5 101

Unit 6 105

Unit 7 108

Unit 8 111

Unit 9 116

Unit 10 121

Unit 11 129

Unit 12 135

Unit 13 141

Unit 14 146

Unit 15 151

Unit 16 155

Book Three

Unit 1 161

Unit 2 164

Unit 3 167

Unit 4 171

Unit 5 175

Unit 6 178

Unit 7 182

Unit 8 185

Unit 9 191

Unit 10 196

Text A

Corn is a fine food. Animals eat it. So do people. But corn isn't just a food. It has other uses. Paint is made with it. So is soap. So is paper. So is some glass. So is shoe polish. So is paste. So is yarn. So is film. So is felt. Many things are made with corn. The 1 is very long.

- 1 a) list b) season c) distance d) grain e) field

People depend on corn. But corn needs people, too. Corn is a grass. But it is a strange grass. Other grasses grow wild. Rice does. Wheat does. Oats do. Corn does not. It can't. Its ears are wrapped. They are completely 2. The leaves are tight. Seed can't get out. It can't spread. Corn can't seed itself. So it must be 3. Someone must take seed off the cob and put it into the soil.

- 2 a) spoiled b) watered c) ground d) examined e) covered
3 a) shipped b) cooked c) planted d) milled e) tasted

scientists wondered about corn. Had it once been wild? Had it changed? where? When? How? One answer came in 1950. It came in Mexico City. A building was going to be put up. First the land had to be checked. Was it strong enough? Was it safe? The builder had to know. So the soil was 4. Workers dug. They dug deep. Soil was taken. It was checked.

- 4 a) flooded b) tested c) warmed d) improved e) deserted

The soil was safe. But it held a surprise. It held corn dust. The dust was 80,000 years old. People had been farming for 4,000 years. But corn's 5 was greater. Corn was older than farming. It must have been wild once.

- 5 a) weight b) yield c) height d) age e) value

How had wild corn looked? People wanted to know. A hunt was begun to find some. People looked in Mexico. They looked for years. Then the 6 ended. It ended in 1962. Remains of wild corn were found. The corn was 7,000 years old. It looked much like today's corn. But it was smaller. In fact it was 7. It was under an inch long. It had loose leaves. It had been able to seed itself.

- 6 a) rain b) search c) meal d) danger e) trading
7 a) cheap b) white c) hot d) tiny e) fresh

Text B

Some animals. Like bats and owls, are active only at night. They eat at night. They move about in the dark hours. They sleep during the day. When night comes, they are ready to be active. They are not 8. They have been resting all day.

- 8 a) safe b) powerful c) tired d) friendly e) free

This way of living is fine in the forest. There is no one around to watch the animals. It does not matter to anyone when the animals sleep. So, nobody 9. But this isn't true in zoos. Visitors go there to watch the animals. But watching animals sleep is not much fun. There is not very much to 10. Many people find it boring when so little happens in the cages.

- 9 a) works b) helps c) cares d) smokes e) shoots

- 10 a) see b) drink c) clean d) fear e) protest

So zoos have special buildings. They are made just for night animals. Here day and night are turned around. By day, The rooms are dimly lit. This is supposed to seem like night to the animals. The animals appear to be 11. They act as they would at night. People can watch them play. At night, the rooms are lit up. Then the animals sleep.

- 11 a) wounded b) fooled c) angered d) scattered e) threatened

Like Zookeepers, people who grow plants find it useful to control light. Plants, like animals, react to light. The number of hours of darkness at different times of the year acts as a signal. This governs when the plants will flower. The 12 is important. Some plants bloom only in the spring. Others bloom in summer. Some bloom in fall. And a few bloom in winter.

- 12 a) size b) soil c) air d) rain e) season

People who grow plants know this. They know that some plants need short nights to flower. Others need long nights. This 13 is put to good use. people who grow plants control the hours of light indoors. Plants can then be made to bloom year round. Some people do this just for fun. But often there is another 14. Commercial growers can have flowering plants to sell all year. They can earn a better living.

- 13 a) moment b) creature c) area d) food e) information

- 14 a) group b) enemy c) nest d) reason e) shape

Text A

Years ago glass was made only by hand. It took a long time to make each piece. Glass cost a lot of money. Only kings and rich people were able to own it. But the 1 has changed. Today glass costs much less.

- 1 a) color b) price c) weight d) shape e) size

We are lucky that glass is cheap. It has so many uses. The shells of light bulbs are made of glass. The wires inside the bulbs are red hot. That is why they 2. They give off light. Glass does not burn. It lets the light through safely.

- 2 a) stick b) last c) glow d) cross e) slip

Glass is used for car windows. Early cars had no windows. Curtains were used instead. They kept out some rain and snow. But it was hard to see the road. Riders were often cold. They got wet, too. It wasn't very pleasant to 3 that way.

- 3 a) drive b) wash c) work d) drink e) dress

Later, windows were put into cars. The first panes were ordinary glass. If the car crashed, the glass broke. Rocks also broke the glass. The glass flew and cut people. Now the glass in car windows is made to be safe. Windshield glass may crack. But it will not shatter. It will not 4. It will not fly and hurt anyone.

- 4 a) smell b) show c) sink d) shine e) burst

Glass can be spun into a fine thread. Rope made from this thread can hold heavy loads. It is very 5. It is five times as tough as the best steel. That is why it is used in the plastic bodies of cars, boats, and planes. It is even used in space flights.

- 5 a) dark b) strong c) old d) plain e) similar

Glass thread has other uses. Flameproof curtains are made from it. You could touch a match to them. The curtains might melt, but they would not burn. There would be no 6.

- 6 a) view b) fire c) edge d) product e) pattern

The threads can be made into a sort of wool or foam. This is packed in the walls of houses. It holds the heat in. It keeps the 7 warm. Did you know that glass does all these jobs?

- 7 a) train b) water c) motor d) material e) building

Text B

From early times, people have lived on the banks of rivers. Water was at hand for cooking, drinking and bathing. There were fish to eat. All this would have been reason enough to live near a river. But there were other 8 too. The soil near a river was good for farming. A river was also a fine highway. So people came to river banks and stayed. The banks were 9. Homes were built and people worked there.

- 8 a) branches b) sounds c) companies d) islands e) advantages
9 a) settled b) spared c) lowered d) formed e) connected

Long ago, river water was pure enough to drink. But that is not true now. Today most of the rivers near towns are polluted. They are dirty. We do not dare to drink from them. The water is not 10 enough. It is too dirty even for swimming.

- 10 a) deep b) soft c) calm d) clean e) precious

Rivers are polluted in many ways. Towns have always dumped their wastes into rivers. A river can deal with quite a lot of sewage and garbage. Some melts away. Some is eaten by bacteria in the river. But there are more towns now than there used to be. And the towns are now big cities. The 11 have increased. More people mean more garbage. There is so much now it chokes the rivers.

- 11 a) rates b) currents c) floods d) profits e) populations

Factories dump chemical wastes into rivers. These are poisons. They harm the health of people. They are worse for fish. The fish can't survive in the poisoned water. They are 12. Factories destroy fish in another way. Some factories use river water to cool their machinery. River water is taken into the factory. It runs over the sizzling metal. Then the water flows back into the river. In this way the river is 13. Fish die in such warm water.

- 12 a) packed b) killed c) examined d) needed e) counted
13 a) tested b) saved c) heated d) blocked e) controlled

Farmers use fertilizer on the land. The seeds they plant grow faster and bigger. More can be harvested. So the 14 are larger. Having more food is good. But fertilizer washes into the river when it rains. Then plants grow in the river and clog it.

- 14 a) crops b) pipes c) boats d) beaches e) streams

Text A

Long ago, cities had walls around them. The walls were strong. They were thick. They were high. The walls protected the cities. The walls had tall towers. They had big gates, too. People went in and out through the gates. That is how they 1 the city. That is also how they left it.

- 1 a) ruled b) named c) entered d) burned e) divided

People came to the city. They came to sell things. They came from far away. Some people rode to the city. Others had to 2. They came all the way to the city on foot. When they got there, they were not able to go right in. First, they had to stop at the gates.

- 2 a) share b) write c) hide d) walk e) obey

There were guards at the gates. The guards had work to do. They had two 3. First, they had to check each person's things. Then they had to collect a tax from each one. Everyone had to 4. That is how the city earned money.

- 3 a) horses b) flags c) jobs d) keys e) uniforms

- 4 a) return b) pay c) wash d) explain e) finish

Often there were long lines at the gates. People had to wait. They waited for hours. To pass the time, they talked. They slept. They did not trade while they waited. They kept their goods. They sold them in the city. In time, this changed. People began to sell a few things outside the gates. The trade grew. The market spread. Many customers come to buy. There was a lot of 5. Soon there were stores by each gate.

- 5 a) rain b) clothing c) music d) disease e) business

Bit by bit, a city took shape outside the wall. People lived there. They worked there. But they were afraid. They had no wall to protect them. They did not feel 6. An enemy could attack them. Up went a new wall.

- 6 a) clean b) poor c) safe d) sick e) hungry

The old wall was not needed now. The rooms in its towers were empty. But they did not stay that way for long. A tower seemed like a good place to live. Many people needed 7. So they moved in. They had a new use for the old wall.

- 7 a) wagons b) guns c) doctors d) food e) homes

Text B

Fishing is a very old way to get food. It is older than farming. Fishing is a business now. Many people work at it. They do not fish to sport. They fish to earn a living. They sell what they catch. They make 8.

- 8 a) changes b) rules c) money d) noise e) mistakes

There are many sorts of fishing. One kind is "attacking" which uses spears. A second kind is: "snaring," which uses nets and traps. A third kind is "luring," which uses bait. The 9 are different. Each way has its own tools. Each way catches different fish.

- 9 a) prices b) waves c) colors d) seasons e) methods

Many ocean fish are caught by luring. Boats sail out to sea. They head for deep water. They look for a place with many fish. They stop there. The crew tosses the food into the sea. Fish gather and food goes quickly. The fish want more. They are 10. Now hooks are dropped into the sea. The fish bite. They want more to eat, so they grab the hooks. They are caught.

- 10 a) hungry b) careful c) excellent d) cheap e) dangerous

many countries fish for tuna. Japan catches the most. Japan sells the much of the catch to other countries. But Japan also keeps a great deal of the fish. It isn't 11. People in Japan eat a lot of fish. It makes up ten percent of their diet.

- 11 a) stuffed b) protected c) traded d) served e) examined

Japan has many fishing vessels. They are always on the move. Some 12 are very long. A boat may go 10,000 miles in one journey. But Japan's boats aren't alone. Many countries have such fleets.

- 12 a) storms b) strikes c) lines d) trips e) delays

Some of the boats are huge. They are able to hold a lot. It's good that they can. There is a lot to 13. The boats catch tons of fish. They store it on the board in cold rooms. It stays fresh. When they return to shore, workers unload it. They heap it on the dock and take it to the scales. The fish are 14. Workers check to see how heavy the haul was. Then they take it to be sold.

- 13 a) order b) learn c) fix d) bury e) carry

- 14 a) weighed b) saved c) boiled d) sighted e) surrounded

Text A

It is winter. It is cold. Trees are bare. There is a nest. It is in the tree. It is a robin's nest. But it is quiet now. No robins are there. The nest is 1. The robins have gone away.

- 1 a) new b) empty c) loose d) strong e) flat

Where did they go? They went south. They went for the winter. The north was too cold. There was too little to eat. Robins eat bugs. They eat worms. In winter, there are few bugs. There are few worms. So robins go to the south. There will be more 2 there. So they will have enough to eat.

- 2 a) rain b) room c) food d) salt e) grass

Some robins may stay north. They look for the sun. They try to keep warm. But it snows. There is little sun. So they are cold. Robins eat berries. But snow falls. It covers the berries. They can not get enough to eat. Some will 3. The winter is too hard. It kills them.

- 3 a) die b) drink c) help d) work e) follow

Spring comes. It gets warm. Robins fly north. It is a long trip. They fly for a while. They get tired. They get hungry. So they 4. They land. They rest. They eat. Then they fly on.

- 4 a) hide b) pull c) listen d) stop e) cry

Robins come. They reach the north. The male comes first. He looks. He finds his nest. He sings. His song says, "Halt! This is my nest. It is my land. Stay away, Go!" He chases other birds. He keeps them away. This is how he protects his 5.

- 5 a) wings b) dinner c) home d) eyes e) throat

Soon young robins are born. They are small. They are weak. They are hungry. These 6 must be cared for. So their parents feed them. They keep enemies away. They watch them.

- 6 a) wounds b) places c) tails d) babies e) legs

Summer ends. Robins get set to go south. Each morning they fly out. They eat. At night they come back to the nest. One cold day they do not come back. The robins have 7. They will not be back until spring.

- 7 a) changed b) washed c) learned d) grown e) left

Text B

Trucks carry many things. They carry food from the farm and take it to the market. Trucks carry coal from the mine. They take it to the factory. Big trucks help when you move. They carry furniture. They take it to your new home. Big trucks make long trip. They make many trips at night. A truck driver likes the night best of all. There is no traffic then. The road are quite

8 There are few cars. There are few buses. No one is in the way. There are mostly just trucks on the road. So the driver works at night. He 9 during the day. At night he is not tired. He is wide awake. He has to be. Driving a track is hard work.

- 8 a) wet b) narrow c) rough d) empty e) modern
9 a) speeds b) returns c) sleeps d) crosses e) delivers

Big tracks are heavy. It is hard for them to climb hills. But the road is not always flat. Sometimes there are 10 . The truck must climb. The driver knows how. He uses low gear. Slowly the truck goes up. It gets to the top. Now it must go down. Going down is faster. But there is

11 . The truck could go too fast. It might not stop. So the driver is careful. He uses his brakes.

- 10 a) mountains b) strikes c) passengers d) guards e) accidents
11 a) time b) danger c) room d) noise e) glass

Some trips are long. The driver gets hungry. He looks for a place to 12 . Soon he sees one. He can get food there. It has a good cook. So he stops. He 13 his truck. He pulls into a space. He puts the brake on. He turns the motor off. Now he can leave it. He can go. He can have dinner.

- 12 a) change b) eat c) exercise d) wait e) telephone
13 a) parks b) watches c) loads d) cleans e) weighs

Big trucks are helpful. They carry many things. But so do small trucks. They have uses, too. There are many things they can do. These 14 are important. Small trucks carry the mail. They bring milk to your house. They take away garbage. They help people.

- 14 a) rules b) windows c) signs d) jobs e) lights

Text A

Calcium is important for our health. We must have it in our diet to stay well. A good place to get it is from dairy products like milk, cheese and ice cream. One pound of cheese has fifty times the calcium we should have every day. Other 1 have less. For example, a pound of beans also has calcium. But it has only three times the amount we ought to have daily.

- 1 a) foods b) countries c) gases d) oceans e) animals

Calcium helps build strong bones and teeth. When we are born, our bones are soft. Then we 2. By the time childhood ends, the bones are much harder. A change takes place as we age. Over the years calcium is deposited in the bones. It makes them hard. But even adults must have calcium every day. The 3 is still there. Otherwise the bones would become weak. They would break more often. They would not mend as quickly.

- 2 a) remember b) tire c) pause d) move e) grow
3 a) form b) supply c) hole d) need e) material

Calcium must be present for blood to clot after a person is hurt. Otherwise we could not 4. But with it, wounds can heal. Muscles, too, must have it to work well. Otherwise there would be cramps. The cramps could be dangerous. The throat might become blocked. Then we could not breathe. We wouldn't get any 5. We would die.

- 4 a) speak b) hear c) recover d) sleep e) walk
5 a) suport b) exercise c) iron d) discases e) air

Hookworms are tiny worms that live in the body and eat calcium. It is impossible for children with this sickness to get enough calcium for their bodies. So they keep eating. They are always 6. They swallow carth, they swallow clay, and they swallow chalk. All of this have calcium in them. By eating this way, the children try to get enough.

- 6) quiet b) hungry c) warm d) wet e) tall

Sometimes older people's bodies have too much calcium. When we are young, our bodies can get rid of any that is extra without much trouble. So it doesn't stay in our bodies. But older people cannot do so as easily. Then the calcium 7. It builds up in the body and can cause pain.

- 7 a) mixes b) yellows c) protects d) remains e) separates

Text B

In Mexico, 1,000 years before the Spaniards came, the Maya Indians enjoyed an exciting sport. They played on a vast court. It was longer than a football field, with a floor made of stone. Stone walls stood 35 feet tall around it. Stone hoops were attached to the walls like handles. Benches for big crowds were set up above the court. These 8 were excellent. From them, the cheering throngs had a clear view of the contest, as two teams tried to make a ball go through the hoop.

- 8 a) uniforms b) seats c) captains d) salaries e) leagues

Nowadays, basketball teams want tall players. Tall players can reach the 10-foot basket easily. But in those days, the rings were set a full 25 feet above the floor. Even the tallest man could not jump up to reach the ring then. So 9 was not too important.

- 9 a) height b) money c) speed d) weather e) exercise

Making a basket was hard then for a second reason. As in soccer, men were not permitted to use their hands. The ball could not be 10. Players used elbows, knees, and hips to butt the ball.

- 10 a) guarded b) thrown c) followed d) blocked e) returned

As you can imagine, the ball did not go into the ring too often. So the 11 were low. In fact, a team considered itself lucky to get the ball in just once. At that moment the contest ended, but the fun did not.

- 11 a) profits b) stands c) scores d) nets e) temperatures

As the crowd descended the steep steps to the court and the exits, the winners began grabbing things from passersby. They took jewels or whatever else was handy. Clothing was not 12 either. A man's shirt might be torn from his back by a jubilant winner. Yet people did not 13. The public enjoyed this spree. It was all wild fun and celebration. No one tried to stop the free-for-all. The players were considered heroes. They were well loved. They were 14. Mayas felt that nothing was too good for them. The victors had earned the right to take what they wanted.

- 12 a) safe b) heavy c) loose d) ordinary e) necessary
13 a) watch b) protest c) wait d) belong e) learn
14 a) traded b) fined c) trained d) admired e) sacrificed