



*New Century College English*  
*-- Efficient Reading --*

# 新世纪大学英语 快速阅读

华中科技大学外语系 编著



华中科技大学出版社

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**Efficient Reading**

**新世纪大学英语快速阅读**

**(第三册)**

华中科技大学外语系 编著

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## 内 容 提 要

本套教材（1~3 册）是根据新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》（修订本）所规定的教学目标及对快速阅读所作的具体要求而编著的一套快速阅读教材。教材全面系统地介绍了英语快速阅读的各种技巧和方法，包括略读、导读、猜词、预测等。

本套教材旨在使学生以较快的速度在有限的时间内有目的、有方法、有效果地读完一定量的阅读材料，从中获得所需要的信息，以此来提高阅读效率和快速思维的能力。

## 前 言

《新世纪大学英语快速阅读》(1~3 册)是华中科技大学外语系大学英语教材编写组根据教育部最新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本)而编写的一套快速阅读教材。根据大纲对快速阅读所作的具体要求,学生“在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低、生词不超过总词数 3% 的材料时,能掌握中心大意、抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词”。本套教材共分三册,涵盖近乎所有快速阅读的基本技巧,分别供大学英语一至四级使用。

本套教材有以下特点:

1. 能结合大学生的实际情况及大纲的要求,重点培养学生快速阅读及正确理解的技能,提高实际运用语言和快速思维的能力。
2. 在讲解阅读技巧之前,我们提供了“Questions for Self Understanding”,以给学生了解自己阅读习惯的机会。
3. 阅读文章具有较强的时代特色及很强的知识性、趣味性、可读性和针对性。教材中所选的绝大部分文章都源于国际互联网或国内外最新出版的各种报刊杂志,并针对常用的快读技巧进行了专项训练。
4. 既适用于课堂教学,又适用于课外自学。
5. 既适用于本科生、研究生,又适用于专科生和自学者。

本册为第三册,分为两部分。在第一部分,我们为读者提供了选材广泛新颖、颇具时代特色、融知识性与趣味性为一体的阅读材料,适合大学英语三、四级学生使用,其难易程度均不超过大纲规定的四级词汇范围。每篇文章前注明了应该达到的阅读速度,以供读者自测,文章后还配有文章字数及检查学生对该文章的理解的练习题。第二部分是练习的参考答案。

在本教材的编写过程中,我们得到了外语系领导、广大教师及出版社领导和编辑的支持和帮助,编者在此表示最诚挚的谢意。

同时,我们还要特别感谢雷小川老师,他从本教材的选题、编写到最后的审、定稿都给予了指导和支持,并提出了不少宝贵的指导性建议,在此我们向他表示最诚挚的谢意。

由于编者水平有限,书中错误和不足难免,在此我们恳请广大读者及同仁批评指正。

编 者

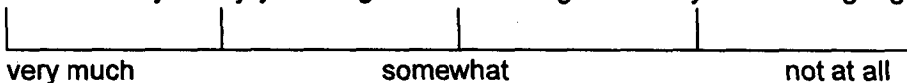
2003 年 2 月

## Questions for Self-understanding

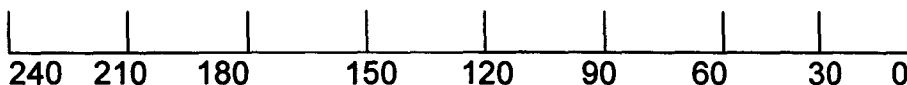
Before you begin your reading course, think about how you read now. Circle the point on the line which best describes your present reading habits and interests.

### 1. Reading in your first language

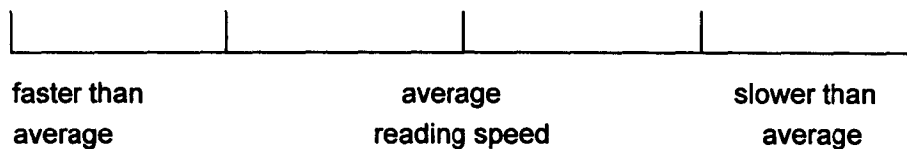
a. Do you enjoy reading books and magazines in your first language?



b. How many minutes a day do you generally read?

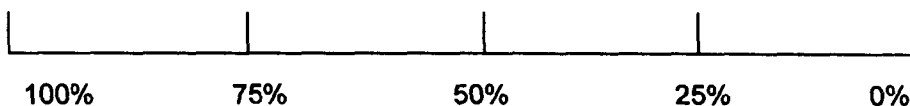


c. In general, how fast do you think you read?

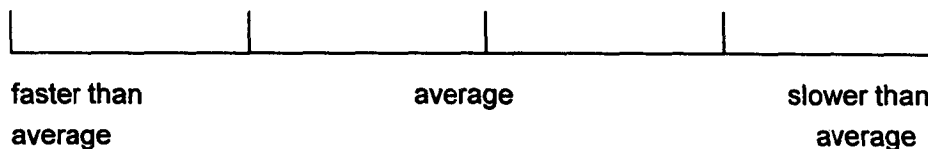


### 2. Reading in English

a. When you read an English passage, how much do you usually understand?



b. In general, how fast do you think you read in English?



c. What kinds of books and magazines do you want to read in English for your own pleasure or information?

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# I . Reading Passages

Expected Reading Time: 3' 20"

## Passage 1 Computers and Girls

The girls in this sixth grade class in East Palo Alto, California, all have the same access to computers as boys. But researchers say, by the time they get to high school, they are victims of what the researchers call a major new gender gap in technology.



Janice Weinman of the American Association of University Women says, "Girls tend to be less comfortable than boys with the computer. They use it more for word processing rather than for problem solving, rather than to discover new ways in which to understand information."

After re-examining a thousand studies, the American Association of University Women researchers found that girls make up only a small percentage of students in computer science classes. Girls consistently rate themselves significantly lower than boys in their ability and confidence in using computers. And they use computers less often than boys outside the classroom.

The instructor of this computer lab says he's already noticed some differences. Charles Cheadle of Cesar Chavez School says, "Boys are not so afraid they might do something that will harm the computer, whereas girls are afraid they might break it somehow."

Six years ago, the software company Purple Moon noticed that girls' computer usage was falling behind boys. Daren Gould says, "The number one reason girls told us they don't like computer games is not because they are too violent, or too competitive. Girls just said they're incredibly boring."

Purple Moon says it found what girls want, characters they can relate to and story lines relative to what's going on in their own lives. Karen Gould of Purple Moon Software says, "What we definitely found from girls is there is no intrinsic reason why they wouldn't want to play on a computer; it was just a content thing."

- 30 The sponsor of the study says it all boils down to this, the technology gender gap that separates the girls from the boys must be closed if women are to compete effectively with men in the 21st century.  
(332 words)

### Reading Comprehension

1. According to the passage, girls would use the computer more \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. to play computer games
  - B. to find new ways to solve problems
  - C. to get access to the latest information
  - D. to do word processing
2. Numerous studies showed that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. there are far fewer girls in computer science classes
  - B. girls occasionally feel inferior to boys in using computers
  - C. girls use computers more inside class than outside class
  - D. girls think highly of boys' ability in computer science
3. According to the instructor of the computer lab, the difference between boys and girls lies in that the former \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. are not afraid of tearing apart the computer
  - B. are more brave to exploit the computer
  - C. are more competitive in playing computer games
  - D. are interested in doing something to harm the computer
4. What does the pronoun "they" (Line 25) refer to?
  - A. software companies
  - B. girls
  - C. computer games
  - D. boys
5. The word "this" (Line 30) refer to the fact that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. effective competition between men and women will put an end to the technology gender gap
  - B. the technology gender gap that distinguishes the girls from the boys must come to an end
  - C. the study conducted can explain the technology gender gap more scientifically
  - D. the awareness of the technology gender gap may lead to women's willingness to compete with men
6. What can be inferred from the passage?
  - A. Even in primary school, girls are discriminated against by the researchers.
  - B. Girls are considered victims in the research of the new gender gap in technology.
  - C. The research of the gender gap in using computers has been done in different age groups.
  - D. Girls have the same right to use computers as boys by the time they get to high school.

## Passage 2 Beauty May Become a Liability

Beauty has always been regarded as something praiseworthy. Almost everyone thinks attractive people are happier and healthier, have better marriages and have more respectable occupations. Personal consultants give them better advice for finding jobs. Even judges are softer on attractive defendants (被告). But in the executive circle, beauty can become a liability.



While attractiveness is a positive factor for a man on his way up the executive ladder, it is harmful to a woman.

Handsome male executives were perceived as having more integrity (正直) than plainer men; effort and ability were thought to account for their success.

Attractive female executives were considered to have less integrity than unattractive ones; their success was attributed not to ability but to factors such as luck.

All unattractive women executives were thought to have more integrity and to be more capable than the attractive female executives. Interestingly, though, the rise of the unattractive overnight succeeds.

Why are attractive women not thought to be able? An attractive woman is perceived to be more feminine (女性的) and an attractive man more masculine (男性的) than the less attractive ones. Thus, an attractive woman has an advantage in traditionally female jobs, but an attractive woman in a traditionally masculine position appears to lack the "masculine" qualities required.

This is true even in politics. "When the only clue is how he or she looks, people treat men and women differently," says Anne Bowman, who recently published a study on the effects of attractiveness on political candidates. She asked 125 undergraduates to rank two groups of photographs, one of men and one of women, in order of attractiveness. Then the students were told the photographs were of candidates for political offices. They were asked to rank them again, in the order they would vote for them.

The results showed that attractive males utterly defeated unattractive men, but the women who had been ranked most attractive invariably (无例外地) received the fewest votes.

(339 words)

## Reading Comprehension

1. The purpose of the passage is to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. give advice to job-seekers who are both attractive and unattractive
  - B. discuss the effect of appearance on job selection, especially in the executive circle
  - C. discuss favorable factors to either men or women in job selection
  - D. emphasize the importance of appearance in job selection
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is/are considered to explain attractive female executives' success.
  - A. Beauty
  - B. Integrity
  - C. Factors such as luck
  - D. Abilities
3. Why does an attractive woman have a disadvantage in a traditionally masculine position?
  - A. Because she is thought to lack the required masculine qualities.
  - B. Because she is over-feminine.
  - C. Because she is perceived as lacking integrity.
  - D. Because she is considered as being incapable of the position.
4. Anne Bowman conducted her study to figure out \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. how attractiveness affects men and women differently
  - B. how people treat men and women differently
  - C. how attractiveness affects a political candidate's performance
  - D. how students judge political candidates' abilities by appearance
5. The result of Anne Bowman's study is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. attractive males received less votes than the unattractive males
  - B. attractive males received more votes than the unattractive males
  - C. attractive females received more votes than the unattractive females
  - D. unattractive females received the most votes



Proverb

It's never too late to learn.

Don't put off till tomorrow what should be done today.

**Expected Reading Time: 3' 12"**

### **Passage 3 Campaign Finance Reform**

One of the political issues we hear a lot about lately is campaign finance reform. The people who are calling for reform usually want the government to pay for campaigns and/or limit the amount of money that candidates and their supporters can spend.



One reason that reform is called for is that it costs so much to run for political office. Candidates have to spend a great deal of time and effort raising money. The incumbents (those already in office) have less time to do their jobs since they must attend so many fund raising events. Another reason is the fear that candidates will be owned or controlled by the "special interest groups" that contribute to their campaigns. Sometimes this certainly seems to be the case.

On the other side are those who caution that just because you call something "reform" doesn't mean it's really better. They argue that our right to freedom of speech is meaningless if the government can limit anyone's ability to get his or her message out to the people. If one person or a group of people want to tell the public what they think about an issue or candidate, they have to buy advertising on TV, radio, and in newspapers and magazines. They might want to display billboards along highways and banners on heavily trafficked web sites. All this costs a lot of money.

Opponents of laws that regulate or limit spending say that you don't really have freedom of speech or freedom of the press if you can't get your message out. They say that in a democracy, the government should never be able to regulate political discussion or the means to distribute ideas. They believe that this is most important when the voters are about to make decisions.

What do you think about this issue? Listen to what the candidates for national office have to say. Which candidates make the most sense to you?

(324 words)

## Reading Comprehension

1. One of the reasons that people call for campaign finance reform is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. running for political office costs too much
  - B. people think that the candidates should be controlled by "the special interest groups"
  - C. the government itself can pay for campaigns
  - D. people can raise funds for campaigns
2. It can be inferred from the passage that if people want to make their opinions known to the public, they \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. must gain the approval of the government
  - B. should let the government know
  - C. have to spend a lot of money on advertising
  - D. need not spend any money
3. According to the opponents of laws that regulate or limit spending, real freedom of speech in a democracy means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. voters can express their ideas completely freely, without any regulation from the government
  - B. voters can express their ideas relatively freely, with regulation from the government when necessary
  - C. the government can regulate political discussion but not limit the means to distribute messages
  - D. voters can express their ideas freely through means regulated by the government
4. The writer of this article is possibly \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. a lecturer
  - B. an editor of a magazine
  - C. a political expert
  - D. a host/hostess of a radio program
5. What will be most probably presented in the following part?
  - A. the readers' points of view about campaign finance reform
  - B. the opinions of the candidates for national office about campaign finance reform
  - C. the readers' different opinions about various candidates
  - D. the candidates the readers may vote for

Angler: You've been watching me for three hours now. Why don't you try yourself?  
Onlooker: I haven't got the patience.



Passage 4 Who Really Survive?

It is a curious fact that as we leave the most impoverished (穷困的) peoples of the world, where the human being with his too few calories of energy scratches out for himself a bare subsistence (生存), we find the economic insecurity of the individual many times multiplied. The solitary Eskimo, Bushman, Indonesian, Nigerian, left to his own devices, will survive a considerable time. Living close to the soil or to their animal prey, the peoples with the lowest standard of living in the world can sustain their own lives, at least for a while, almost single-handed. With a community numbering only a few hundred, they can live indefinitely. Indeed, a very large percentage of the human race today lives in precisely such fashion — in small, virtually self-contained (独立的) peasant communities which provide for their own survival with a minimum of contact with the outside world. This large majority of mankind suffers great poverty, but it also knows a certain economic independence.



When we turn to the New Yorker or the Chicagoan, on the other hand, we are struck by exactly the opposite condition, by a prevailing ease of material life, coupled at the same time by an extreme dependence of the individual in his search for the means of existence. In the great metropolitan areas where most Americans live, we can no longer imagine the solitary individual or the small community surviving, short of robbing for food and necessities. The majority of Americans have never grown food, caught game, raised meat, and ground grain into flour. Faced with the challenge of clothing themselves or building their own homes, they would be hopelessly untrained and unprepared. Even to make minor repairs in the machines which surround them, they must call on other members of the community whose business is to fix cars, or to repair plumbing (管道), or whatever. Perhaps, the richer the nation, the more apparent is this inability of its average inhabitants to survive unaided and alone.

(343 words)

## Reading Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
  - A. People have to rely on themselves in order to have a good living.
  - B. The richer people are, the less ability they have to survive all by themselves.
  - C. People have to depend on each other to survive, especially in primitive societies.
  - D. Modern people should be trained and prepared to live without the help of others.
2. The phrase "left to his own devices" in ( Line 6 ) most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. left alone to depend on themselves
  - B. left alone to make plans
  - C. left alone to invent new devices
  - D. left alone to live in solitary areas
3. It is most likely to find people like Robinson Crusoe \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. in great metropolitan area
  - B. in a large community
  - C. in modern America
  - D. near the North Pole
4. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
  - A. Modern American society is a self-contained society.
  - B. Division of labor improves efficiency.
  - C. The survival ability of a man is decided by the degree of his dependence on others.
  - D. A person living in a small community may survive longer than one living alone.
5. One can NOT make a living in modern America by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. buying things one needs from stores
  - B. hiring the services of others
  - C. learning to do things all by oneself
  - D. robbing others of food and necessities



To accomplish something, the first person you have to defeat is yourself.

The grass is greener on the other side of the hill.



Expected Reading Time: 3' 50"

## Passage 5 New York Times Wins Pulitzer

The New York Times on Monday won a Pulitzer Prize for its public service reporting on the aftermath (后果) of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.



- 5 The Pulitzer Prize Board of Columbia University said that the paper's special section, "A Nation Challenged", "coherently and comprehensively covered the tragic events, profiled the victims and tracked the developing story, locally and globally".

- 10 The Pulitzer awards, established in his will by early 20th century publisher Joseph Pulitzer, are handed out annually in the categories of print journalism, literature and music.

They are the most prestigious (有声望的) awards in American journalism and letters.

- 15 American novelist Richard Russo won for "Empire Falls". The playwriting award went to Susan-Lori Parks for her play "Topdog/Underdog", and "Practical Gods" by Carl Dennis won for poetry.

The prize for general non-fiction went to Diane McWhorter, author of "Carry me home: Birmingham, Alabama, the climactic battle of the civil rights revolution".

- 20 In music, the composition "Ice Field" by Henry Brant was honored.

The Times, widely considered the best newspaper in the United States, likely benefited from its proximity to the World Trade Center wreckage. It also won the prize for explanatory reporting.

- 25 The Times won in the breaking news photography category for its coverage of the terrorist attack on New York City and its aftermath.

The Wall Street Journal won the prize for breaking news reporting on the terrorist attack.

- 30 The Washington Post won a Pulitzer for its series that exposed the role that the local government in the District of Columbia, the U.S. capital city, played in the deaths of 229 children under its protective care between 1993 and 2000.

Barry Siegel of the Los Angeles Times won for feature writing, for