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# 大学英语阅读

(修订版)

阅读 300 篇

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(1~3 级)

(修订版)

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300 Reading Passages  
for College English

上海交通大学出版社

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# 前 言

《大学英语阅读 300 篇(1~3 级)》(修订版)是参考《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》及《普通高等专科学校英语课程教学基本要求》精心编写的,其目的在于帮助学生迅速提高阅读能力,达到规定要求,顺利通过大学英语四级考试、高等专科英语水平考试或其他相应的考试。

本书修订版与原版相比有很大改进:更新了三分之一的内容,文章趣味性更强,更有可读性;文章重新排序,深浅次序更加合理;增加了简答题及翻译题的做题指导,使学生迅速掌握这两种题的做题技巧;对少量生词、短语及缩略词等做了必要的注释,方便了学生的阅读。本书修订版分四部分:第一部分由 100 篇阅读理解文章构成,对应于大学英语一级水平;第二部分的难度相当于大学英语二级水平,101~180 篇为阅读理解,181~200 篇为简答题;第三部分对应于大学英语三级水平,100 篇文章均为阅读理解,在每篇文章中有一划底线的句子供学生做翻译练习之用。简答题及翻译题是近几年各种考试中经常出现的题型。本书第四部分为全书 1500 个练习题的参考答案及翻译练习的参考答案。

本书修订版选材广泛:有科普常识、人物传记、英语语言国家风土人情、生活习俗、社会文化及教育等方面的内容。文章体裁多样:有叙述文、说明文、议论文及应用文等。文章由浅入深,循序渐进,融趣味性和可读性于一体。

根据近几年考试题型变化,本书修订版设计了三种题型:阅读理解题、简答题及翻译题。这三种题型都是用来培养学生阅读能力的,但侧重点不尽相同。

阅读理解题主要培养学生掌握阅读材料的主旨大意;了解说明主旨大意的细节;既理解字面的意思也能根据阅读材料进行一定的判断和推论;既理解个别句子的意义,也理解上下文的逻辑关系,以提高学生准确、快速获取信息的能力。

简答题主要有特殊疑问句和未完成句两种。回答特殊疑问句要求学生在对文字材料理解的基础上进行必要的归纳和概括,用自己的语言或在文章中摘出恰当的词语回答这些问题。做未完成句,则应在理解文字材料的基础上,摘出恰当的词语完成该句。简答题不仅考查学生的阅读理解能力,还在某种程度上考查学生的书面表达能力。做简答题时要紧扣问题,一语中的;切忌答非所问,画蛇添足。英译汉主要培养学生对英语文字材料的确切理解能力和汉语表达能力。翻译题均从阅读理解文章中摘引,因而这里所说的确切理解是根据原文上下文的确切理解。翻译要求连贯、正确、表意清楚;不要过度追求汉语的“雅”。既不要漏译原文的重要部分,也不要随意增加影响句意的词语。

阅读速度因人而异,开始时以每 10 分钟读完一篇为好,重点应放在理解的准确性上,速度可逐渐加快。

本书修订版的第四部分为全书 1500 个练习题及翻译题的参考答案。本书可供学生自读自测,也可作为泛读教材或考试强化训练之用。它是学生的良师,老师的益友,是帮助读者通过各种考试的好帮手。

本书修订版由杨荣泉、宋士华编写,田桂荣教授主审。在此对第一版的编者田桂荣、宋士华及梁志刚表示衷心感谢。

由于编者水平有限,加之修订时间仓促,错误疏漏之处在所难免,望广大读者及同行专家不吝赐教。

编 者

2001 年 11 月于青岛

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# Part One

## Reading Comprehension (Passages 1~100)

### Passage 1

Have you ever seen a moon that looks unbelievably big? It hangs over the horizon like a huge, pale hot-air balloon. Many people think of the bright full moon of autumn or the harvest moon that way — like a huge, pale hot-air balloon. But can you always trust your eyes?

The harvest moon is the full moon on a day nearest the first day of autumn. Full or nearly full, it rises early in the evening for several nights in a row. It brings farmers well-lit evenings to harvest their crops.

The harvest moon can look huge. But does it really fill more of the sky than an ordinary full moon?

Why does the moon look bigger when it is near the horizon? Our brains compare the size of the moon with the size of the objects we see on the horizon. We know that the distant mountains, homes, or skyscrapers are really very large. And, since the moon is much farther away than is the distant landscape, we “see” the moon as being larger than it would otherwise look.

1. To what do we compare the size of the harvest moon?
  - A. Mountains.
  - B. Buildings.
  - C. Homes.
  - D. All of these.
2. The main purpose of the article is to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. inform
  - B. persuade



7. The difference in time between zones is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. seven days
  - B. twenty-four hours
  - C. one hour
  - D. more than seven days
8. From this selection it seems true that the Atlantic Ocean \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. is in one time zone
  - B. is divided into twenty-four time zones
  - C. is divided into five time zones
  - D. cannot be crossed in five days
9. The international date line is the name for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the beginning of any new time zone
  - B. the point where time changes by one hour
  - C. the point where a new day begins
  - D. any time zone in the Pacific Ocean
10. If you cross the ocean going east, you set your clock \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. ahead one hour in each new time zone
  - B. ahead one time for the whole trip
  - C. back one full day for each one full day
  - D. ahead by twenty-three hours

### Passage 3

Holidays in the United States usually occur at least once a month. Most months have a national holiday that has been arranged to be celebrated on a Monday. The holidays have all been decided to be celebrated on a Monday so that the workers may have 3-day weekends — that is, Saturday, Sunday and Monday in order to rest or travel or do things with their families. Major holidays in the United States such as New Year's Day or Christmas Day or the day, when we remember the first settlers of the United States, called Thanksgiving Day are celebrated all over the country. During these holidays most businesses close and the workers stay home and celebrate with their families.

Vacation can be from 2 weeks a year to 4 weeks a year. This usually depends on how long you've been working for a company, what type of position you have, whether you have a very high position or a very important position and it's difficult to find someone to replace you.

In this case, you might take a few days at a time rather than taking one month all at once. Usually the more time you spend working for a company, the more time you may get for a vacation.

11. The government of the United States makes it a rule for workers to have a \_\_\_\_\_ weekend almost once a month.
  - A. 1-day
  - B. 2-day
  - C. 3-day
  - D. 4-day
12. Workers in the United States sometimes work from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Monday to Saturday
  - B. Tuesday to Sunday
  - C. Thursday to Friday
  - D. Tuesday to Friday
13. Which statement is NOT true according to this passage?
  - A. Only a few shops remain open on New Year's Day.
  - B. Most of the workers needn't work on Christmas Day.
  - C. Days on vacation must be more than all the holidays in a year.
  - D. All the workers have a half-month vacation.
14. The reason why someone has to divide his vacation into several parts is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. no one can be found to take his place
  - B. he hasn't a most high position
  - C. he plays an important role in his work
  - D. he hasn't been working for his company for a long time
15. Which of the following is the best title for this passage?
  - A. Holidays in the United States.
  - B. Vacation in the United States.
  - C. How Do the Workers Spend Their Holidays.
  - D. Something About the Holidays and Vacation in the U. S. .

#### **Passage 4**

Sarah Winchester was a very rich woman. She didn't buy many jewels or fancy clothes. Instead, she spent millions of dollars to build a house. The strange thing about Sarah's house was that it was never finished. Work on the house went on for 38 years because Sarah was afraid to stop building it.

Sarah's house was near San Jose, California. Every day, a crew of carpenters, plumbers, and other workers arrived there. Sarah wanted more rooms and more doors and more windows, so the workers kept on building them. The house was seven floors high and had 160 rooms. There were 2,000 doors and 10,000 windows. There were also three elevators, nine kitchens, and 47 fireplaces.

Why did Sarah want a house that kept getting bigger? The reason seemed to be that Sarah was afraid of dying. She thought she would die when the house was finished, so she made certain that it was never finished.

Sarah Winchester's plan seemed to have worked because she lived to be 83 years old. Finally, her house was finished.

16. What did Sarah keep doing to her house?
  - A. Making it cleaner.
  - B. Making it quieter.
  - C. Making it bigger.
  - D. Making it more beautiful.
17. The story says that Sarah's house had \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. 7 floors
  - B. 40 floors
  - C. 160 floors
  - D. 3 floors
18. Who did the work on Sarah's house?
  - A. Sarah herself and other workers.
  - B. Sarah's children and other workers.
  - C. Carpenters and plumbers and other workers.
  - D. Engineers and other workers.
19. How long did the work on the house continue?
  - A. For 7 years.
  - B. For 38 years.
  - C. For 83 years.
  - D. The story doesn't tell.
20. Sarah's house was finally finished \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. when she moved in
  - B. when she spent all her money
  - C. when she died
  - D. when she was seriously ill

## Passage 5

The diner is only a humble restaurant, but it has a special place in American life. Diners appear in our novels, plays, poems, and movies.

Many artists have used diners as scenes for their paintings. Why are diners so fascinating to us?

The diner attracts many different kinds of people. It is a haven for lonely truck drivers far away from home. Construction workers learn about new jobs in distant cities. Traveling salesmen exchange gossip with one another. Teenagers sit in their booths, eating hamburgers.

The people who work in diners are also interesting. Where did the new waitress come from? Will she remain here, or will she suddenly run off one day, as the last one did? And is the short-order cook really an escaped prisoner, fleeing from the law?

Everyone comes to the diner for a different reason. Some want to work there, and some want to eat there. Some stay for years, and others stay only for a few minutes. But, for all of them, the diner is a bright, warm stopover between the endless stretches of an open road.

21. What's the main idea of paragraph 2?
- A. The attraction of diners to different people.
  - B. Food offered at diners.
  - C. How people eat at diners.
  - D. When people come to diners.
22. The purpose of the last paragraph is to \_\_\_\_.
- A. tell us about the reason for people coming to diners
  - B. invite us to try diners as a stopover between stretches of an open road
  - C. give a summary of the whole passage
  - D. state the major point of the preceding paragraph
23. Why do truck drivers like a diner?
- A. It's a place to gossip.
  - B. It's a place for fries and a hamburger.
  - C. It's a haven against loneliness.
  - D. It's a place to learn about new jobs.
24. Diners attract \_\_\_\_.
- A. only truck drivers
  - B. many different kinds of people

- C. novelists
- D. escaped prisoners
- 25. Diners are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. quiet
  - B. unpleasant
  - C. luxurious
  - D. fascinating

## Passage 6

In the past two years, millions of Americans have suddenly embraced the bicycle as if it were a startling new invention. Annual bike sales doubled between 1960 and 1970, and there are nearly 70 million bikes in the United States today. That's more than two for every three automobiles.

Of course, the bike has been around for more than 150 years, and this isn't America's first bicycle boom. A wave of bike enthusiasm swept the land in the late 1800s and bicycle production hit two million units in 1897. Then with the coming of the auto, bicycling declined, and for decades remained popular only with children and a few adult faddists.

Now, national preoccupation with air pollution and physical fitness has brought the bike back to the forefront — particularly with adults. More than eight million bikes were sold in the United States last year and a third of them went to adults. The year before, only 15 percent of new bike sales were for adults.

26. The word "embrace" in the first sentence is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. make use of
  - B. take someone into arms
  - C. contain
  - D. deal with
27. It can be concluded that if people continue to concern themselves with air pollution and physical fitness, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. stricter air standards will be enforced
  - B. fewer automobiles will be sold
  - C. Americans will enjoy better health
  - D. bicycle sales will continue to rise

28. The bicycle is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. enjoying a strong revival    B. creating traffic problems  
C. popular only with children    D. replacing the family cars
29. The reader can also conclude that Americans are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. quick to follow the example of others  
B. interested in comfort and luxury  
C. concerned with the quality of their lives  
D. childish in the way they relax and exercise
30. In the sentence "... and this isn't America's first bicycle boom." (Para. 2) the word "boom" means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a rapid increase in sale    B. supermarket  
C. a rapid increase in price    D. shop

### Passage 7

If you have ever tried to keep a few spiders in a jar, you may have made an interesting discovery. In a few days, you may have only one spider. Many spiders are cannibals! Hungry spiders eat anything they are able to catch, including other spiders.

A spider has a very small mouth and does not actually "eat" its victim. Instead, it first sucks out the body juices from its victim's body. Then fluids from the spider are injected into the victim's body. These fluids turn the victim's tissues into juices that can also be eaten by the spider. Later, the hollow body of the victim is cast aside.

You may wish to study spiders as they capture or feed on their victim. You can keep many kinds of spiders in small, clear plastic containers with soft plastic caps. Pierce the caps for air. Be sure to keep only one spider in each container. Keep the containers in a cool place. If the spiders are not fed for a week, many of them will attack small live creatures that are placed in their containers.

Flies, caterpillars, or other spiders can serve as food. However, large ants and members of the wasp family may frighten the spider.

31. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?  
A. Pet Spiders.

- B. Animals That Eat One Another.  
C. The Eating Habits of Spiders.  
D. Catching Spiders.
32. The word "cannibal"(Para. 1) means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. an animal eating its own kind  
B. an animal eating plastic containers  
C. an animal injecting fluid  
D. an animal always being hungry
33. A spider might be frightened by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. caterpillars  
B. big spiders  
C. flies  
D. large ants
34. In "eating" a victim, which of these does a spider do last?  
A. To suck out juices.  
B. To inject fluids.  
C. To toss the body aside.  
D. To catch another spider.
35. The best way to encourage spiders in containers to eat is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. fill the container with water  
B. keep the spiders hungry for a week  
C. remove the lid from the container  
D. feed the spiders a little each day

## Passage 8

Antonia left Athens and came to America to make her fortune. She wanted to be a famous actress, so she went to live in Hollywood, California.

At first, Antonia had very little money, so she was forced to watch every penny while making the rounds of movie agents' offices. For over a year, she worked only in small parts. She found life extremely hard. She had to take buses or walk everywhere, and she ate only one meal a day. Even though she worked nights as a waitress, Antonia could not really make ends meet.

Suddenly, one day, the star of the film became ill, and the director asked Antonia to take the part. Her acting was superb. After the first show of the film, she became an overnight success. Everyone gave her mad notices, and she received many offers for future starring roles.

Since then, Antonia has changed her whole way of life. Now she wears expensive furs and drives a Rolls-Royce. She lived in a twenty-seven room house in Beverly Hills, with seven servants. All her needs are cared for. For Antonia, America was truly the land of streets paved with gold. Through her hard work, she had earned the fame she desired so much.

36. The phrase "making the rounds" (Para. 2) most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. visiting  
B. making a fortune  
C. working extremely hard  
D. starring in films
37. What changed Antonia's way of life?  
A. Wearing expensive furs.  
B. Her good fortune.  
C. Her superb acting.  
D. Her experience as a waitress.
38. How many people live in her large house?  
A. One.  
B. Twenty seven.  
C. Seven.  
D. Eight.
39. What can we know from this passage?  
A. Antonia paved the streets with gold.  
B. She starred in films for one year.  
C. She went home to Athens.  
D. She became an overnight success.
40. The tone of this passage can best be described as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. cold  
B. admiring  
C. sad  
D. pitiful

## Passage 9

Doctors have known for a long time that extremely loud noises can cause hearing damage or loss. The noise can be the sound of a jet airplane or machines in factories or loud music or other common sounds found at home and at work.

A person only needs to hear the noise for little more than one second to be affected.

An American scientist had found that using aspirin can increase the

temporary hearing loss or damage from loud noise. He did an experiment, using a number of male students at a university who all had normal hearing. He gave them different amounts of aspirin for different periods of time, then he tested their hearing ability. He found that students who were given four grams of aspirin a day for two days suffered much greater temporary hearing loss than those who did not use aspirin. The hearing loss was about twice as great.

The scientist said millions of persons in the United States use much larger amounts of aspirin than were used in the study. He said these persons face a serious danger of suffering hearing loss from loud noises.

41. Doctors have long known that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. one will become deaf when he hears a loud noise
  - B. hearing damage or loss can be caused by sounds of all kinds
  - C. one may lose his hearing when he hears a terribly loud noise
  - D. common sounds at home are not harmful to the ear
42. This passage suggests that one's hearing \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. will be damaged even if he has heard a loud noise for less than one second
  - B. will be damaged even if he has heard a loud noise for only little more than one second
  - C. will not be damaged if he has heard a loud noise for only little more than one second
  - D. will not be damaged if he has little more than one second to get ready
43. According to this passage, one conclusion you can draw is that aspirin \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. should never be taken more than four grams daily
  - B. can damage one's hearing when it is given more than four grams daily
  - C. makes hearing damage from loud noise worse
  - D. increases hearing loss by three times
44. Millions of Americans are in danger of suffering hearing loss because they \_\_\_\_\_.