Super · 分级分类英汉对照读物 · 四级

科普篇

主编 ⊙ 司树森　刘典忠

最新材料、精辟分析、直击考题
大学英语四级考试高分必备

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编委会名单

前　言

为了适应我国高等教育发展的新形势，提高教学质量，满足新时期国家和社会对人才培养的实际需要，新《大学英语课程教学要求》（试行）对阅读理解能力（Reading Comprehension）提出了较高的要求：能读懂有一定难度的文章，理解其意义，能借助词典阅读英语原版教材和英语国家报刊上的文章，能比较顺利地阅读所学专业的综述性文献，并且在阅读速度上也有了新的要求，即阅读速度达到每分钟 70 个单词，在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低的材料时，要求达到每分钟 100 个单词，能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料，并在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。为了适应上述要求，提高在校生及广大青年读者的英语阅读理解能力，扩大知识面，扩大词汇量和阅读的技能技巧，从而为通过英语四级统考打下坚实的基础。同时，坚持大量阅读也是培养语感、学会用英语思维的有效途径。为此目的，我们编写了《Super·分级分类英汉对照读物·四级》系列。本系列读物共分四册：《科普篇》、《经济法律篇》、《文学艺术篇》和《综合篇》，本系列读物的内容和难度紧扣最新《大学英语课程教学要求》对阅读理解的各项具体要求。短文取材新颖，多选自英美报刊和读物的最新信息，趣味性、知识性强，既可开阔眼界又可了解外部变化万千的世界，且具有启迪性，使读者在阅读中得到诸多方面的改善与提高。现把各篇简介如下：

《科普篇》内容涉及自然科学的各个领域，诸如基础科学研究、天体宇宙、太空飞行、生态环境保护、地震预测、医疗保健、生物工程、动植物、计算机、网络信息、黑客、交通运输及干细胞的研究与克隆技术的发展与现状等。

《经济法律篇》大部分文章为经济、法律领域的最新动态与发展，包括社会的热点话题与基础知识，有区域及世界经济发展

现状与问题，国际金融与对外贸易、通货膨胀、货币贬值与股票证券交易、司法公正与犯罪以及中国入世最新评析等。

《文学艺术篇》轻松愉快引人入胜的名人轶事，文学家、艺术家的生平事迹，富于哲理的寓言故事，音乐、美术、雕刻、历史典故及作品赏析和文艺评论等。

《综合篇》的内容涉及政治人物、历史事件，军事发展、战争模式与高科技的运用、体育交流、文化教育的发展与变化、地理知识、各国的风土人情、习俗及人口爆炸与控制等。

本系列各册均有100篇短文，由浅入深，每篇300至600个单词，少数短文较长，达700单词以上，旨在扩大信息量和阅读的实际需要。为了便于自学，每篇短文后均有词汇用法、语法结构或难句的分析，注释简洁，并配有阅读理解练习，其形式与英语四级统考题型完全相同，这有助于读者的应试需要，参考译文有助于理解和提高翻译水平。每篇文章后附有练习答案便于读者自测。

本系列各册后面均附有2003年1月至2004年6月的四套全国统一考试的全真试题及答案。

本系列各册不仅适用于准备参加大学英语四级考试的在校生，也适用于广大中级英语自学者、自考生及参加全国英语等级考试的读者使用。

编者

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Passage 1

Mae Jemison

Imagine you are lying on your back, strapped into a chair, with your knees bent in front of you. You feel your heart beating with excitement as you hear a voice on the earphone inside your helmet counting down slowly, "Three, two, one," Then, beneath you, a deep rumble start as rocket fuel ignites in the huge engines. You feel a lurch[1] as the docking mechanisms let go, and your rocket begins to rise.

This is the moment Mae Jemison has been waiting and working for since 1987. The first African-American female astronaut-in-training at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)[2], Jemison is scheduled to "fly" in September 1992. She is to serve as a specialist on Spacelab—J, a joint Japanese-American research project.

Mae Jemison was thirty-three when she was selected for NASA's astronaut training program. Astronaut candidates must have science degree. They must be fit and healthy with normal blood pressure and good eyesight. They must stand between five feet and six feet four inches tall. They must complete a one-year training program that includes water-survival lessons and weightless walks in a huge antigravity tank.

On the 1991 mission, astronaut Jemison says that her "responsibility are to be familiar with the shuttle and how it operates, to do the experiments once you get into orbit, to help launch the payloads[3] or satellites, and also to do extra-vehicular activities, or space walks."

How did Mae Jemison grow up to become such a special person?

Science—especially astronomy—fascinated her from childhood.

She also had a strong desire to help other people. Born in Alabama, but raised in Chicago, she studied chemical engineering and African-American culture and history at Stanford University. To help others, she decided to become a doctor. While still a medical student, she went to Cuba and Kenya on study trips, then worked in a refugee[4] camp in Thailand. She spent three years in West Africa as a doctor with the Peace Corps. When Dr. Jemison finally returned to the United States, she settled in California to practice medicine. And it was then that she decided to reach for the stars.

Mae Jemison's first application to NASA was not successful. Then, in 1986, the Challenger space shuttle exploded, killing all aboard[5]. NASA did not take in any new astronauts for about a year. When it finally reopened its application process, Mae Jemison was ready, and so was NASA. After being selected as a minority astronaut, Mae Jemison received a good deal of attention from newspaper and television. She explained to reporters that the space program and other fields in high technology offer promising careers for African-Americans and other minorities who study hard and make the most of their opportunities[6]. (454 words)

Notes

1. **lurch** *n.* a sudden, uncontrolled movement, a lurching movement 突然失控，突然倾斜
2. **the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**：美国国家航空航天局
3. **payload** *n.* the total weight of the instruments, crew, and life-support systems that a spacecraft carries or can carry 飞船有效负荷
4. **refugee** *n.* one who flees in search of refuge, as in times of war, political oppression, or religious persecution 难民，避难者，在战争、政治压迫或宗教迫害的时候为寻求避难而逃出的人

5. **the Challenger space shuttle exploded, killing all aboard.** killing all aboard 是现在分词短语作伴随状语
6. **She explained to reporters... the most of their opportunities.** 句中 that 引导一个宾语从句，作 explained 的直接宾语。who 引导一个定语从句，先行词是 African-Americans 和 other minorities。

Exercises

1. The first paragraph is about _____.
   A. how excited Mae Jemison was when she became an astronaut
   B. how Mae Jemison became an astronaut
   C. how the people usually feel when the rocket they take begins to rise
   D. what Mae Jemison did after she was able to fly a rocket
2. Which of the following statements is true?
   A. Mae Jemison had a strong desire to become famous.
   B. Mae Jemison was brought up in Alabama.
   C. Mae Jemison studied astronomy at Stanford University.
   D. Mae Jemison studied medicine.
3. When did the Challenger space shuttle explode?
   A. Before Mae Jemison became a doctor.
   B. Shortly after Mae Jemison graduated from Stanford University.
   C. About a year before Mae Jemison was selected as an astronaut.
   D. About a year after Mae Jemison became famous all over the world.
4. Mae Jemison believed that _____.
   A. men and women were not equal
   B. women were better paid than men were
   C. American blacks were unable to find satisfactory jobs no matter how hard they studied