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大学英语 阅读教程

COLLEGE ENGLISH
EXTENSIVE READING



厦门大学出版社

大学英语阅读教程

COLLEGE ENGLISH EXTENSIVE READING

BOOK TWO

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前 言

《大学英语阅读教程》由福建省教委高教处和福建省大学英语教学研究会共同组织编写。

大学英语教学的根本目的是培养学生迅速、准确获取所需信息的能力。本书的宗旨就是帮助高校学生养成良好的阅读习惯,掌握科学的阅读方法,有效地提高阅读速度和理解能力。

本书根据《大学英语教学大纲》有关英语阅读理解技能的要求,针对高校成年学生具有较强的分析、归纳、综合和推断的能力,有意识地介绍一些基本的阅读技巧,有针对性地配以大量的练习,以便在技巧的指导下,提高阅读效果,在阅读实践中掌握技巧。阅读理解题的设计,打破了以往经常用的多项选择的单一模式,增设了形式多样的题型,目的是为了能够更好地调动学生的思维积极性,适应大学英语统考题型变化的要求。

考虑到目前学生的实际英语水平和将来工作的可能需要,本书选材力求从简到繁,由易及难。阅读材料的题材主要包括科普常识,日常生活知识,人物传略,英语语言国家的社会、文化、教育的背景知识以及他们的风土人情、社会习俗等。选材的总原则是科学性、知识性、趣味性和时代性相结合。

全书分四册,为大学英语 1—4 级泛读课教学用书。一、二册主要介绍基本的阅读技巧,三、四册偏重于阅读技巧的复习和应用。每册分十个单元。在介绍阅读技巧的一、二册中,每单元由 **Section A**, **Section B** 和 **Section C** 三部分组成。**Section A** 主要介绍阅读技巧,**Section B** 提供有关练习,这两部分为课堂教学的基本材料。**Section C** 偏重于已学过的阅读技巧的综合运用,这部分可以根据学生的水平和需要自由选用。

本书第二册由厦门大学外语教学部张秉赵、林立、郭永穗、李小芬、杨新平编写。

厦门大学出版社宋文艳副编审为本书的编写、出版作了大量的协调工作。在编写过程中,集美大学黄志明老师积极提供材料,借此向他们表示衷心感谢。

由于编者水平有限,时间仓促,谬误疏漏之处在所难免。诚望广大读者及同行提出宝贵意见,以便及时修改补充。

编者 1996 年 1 月

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UNIT 1 MAIN IDEA AND SUPPORTING DETAILS

In Book One you learned how to find the topic and the main idea in a piece of writing. Generally, a paragraph has three elements: a topic, a main idea, and supporting details. In this and the following units you will work on finding details in a reading passage.

Section A

You know that the main idea is the main point the author is trying to make. The supporting details are the facts, reasons, or arguments that the author uses to explain, prove, or support the main idea. Without details (parts) you can not see the main idea (whole). The relationship between the main idea and the supporting details is like the top and the spokes of an umbrella, or like the forest and trees. Good comprehension depends on being able to identify the main idea and the supporting details.

Usually a detail is a piece of information or fact that is an answer to one of the following "5 W's plus H" questions:

WHO?

WHAT?

WHEN?

WHERE?

WHY?

HOW?

A good way to understand the "5 W's plus H" is to look at a newspaper story:

Two men were injured last night near Exit 16 on Highway 35 when their car skidded off the road and crashed into a tree.

Police identified the two men as Lowell T. Lovett and Randolph Hearn, both from Harrison, New York. Both men are reported in satisfactory condition at Valley General Hospital.

Police say that the car, which was driven by Lovett, skidded when it hit an oil slick on the road.

This short news story is filled with details. The details answer important questions like these:

WHO is the story about?

It is about two men named Lowell T. Lovett and Randolph Hearn.

WHAT happened to the two men?

They were injured.

WHEN were they injured?

They were injured last night.

WHERE were they injured?

They were injured near Exit 16 on Highway 35.

HOW were they injured?

They were injured when their car skidded off the road and crashed into a tree.

WHY did the car skid off the road?

Police say that the car skidded off the road when it hit an oil slick.

The story contains some other details, too. They answer these questions:

WHO identified the two men?

WHO was driving the car when it crashed?

WHERE are the two men from?

WHERE are the two men now?

WHAT is their condition?

In all writing, authors use details to express and support the main point they are trying to make. No one should accept another person's ideas without knowing if there is evidence to back them up. To read effectively, you must be able to recognize and remember the important details of a passage. However, not all details in a paragraph are necessarily important. Some paragraphs consist of major supporting sentences. But some paragraphs can also contain minor supporting sentences. Minor supporting sentences follow major ones, and they provide specific details about the person, place, event, or idea described in the major supporting sentences. Look at the following example paragraph:

At the present there are a number of people who believe that the Loch Ness monster exists. They believe it because several witnesses claim to have seen the monster emerge from the lake in which it is said to live. *Believers in the monster's existence emphasize that eyewitness reports are strikingly similar in their description of the monster.* Furthermore, their belief has been strengthened by the appearance of what seem to be actual photographs of the creature. *The photographs show a large creature*

which resembles an ancient sea serpent.

The topic sentence tells us that some people do believe in the Loch Ness monster. The supporting sentences supply reasons why some people believe in the monster's existence:

1. There are witnesses.
2. There are photographs.

The italicized sentences in the sample paragraph are minor supporting sentences that expand on what was said in the major supporting sentences. The following diagram illustrates what we mean:

MAIN IDEA

There are a number of people who believe that the Lich Ness monster exists.

MAJOR SUPPORTING SENTENCES

Witnesses have seen the monster.

Pictures have been taken of the monster.

MINOR SUPPORTING SENTENCES

Reports are very similar.

Looks like an ancient sea serpent.

If you are reading purely for your own enjoyment, it is possible to forget the information contained in the minor supporting sentences. If you are doing careful reading to write a paper, or to take a test, you will usually need to be quite detailed in your explanation, and minor supporting sentences will become important.

So when you read a piece of writing, the most important points you should keep in mind are:

1. To find and remember the main idea before you look for the details.
2. To associate the details with the main idea.
3. To remember those important details.

Section B

Exercise 1-1

Directions: Obviously, facts are no good to you if you don't remember them.

Try to recognize and remember the facts in the following paragraphs. Try to answer the questions without looking back at the paragraph.

1. You may deduct (take away) the full amount of certain medical and dental expenses you paid for yourself, your spouse (husband or wife), and any person who is your dependent. You may not deduct amounts paid for you by insurance.

- (1). What amount of medical expenses can you deduct?
 - A. Half of the amount you paid.
 - B. The full amount you paid.
 - C. 20 percent of the amount you paid.
 - D. 75 percent of the amount you paid.
- (2). You may not deduct medical expenses you paid for _____.
 - A. yourself
 - B. your spouse
 - C. one of your dependents
 - D. someone who is not your dependent
- (3). You may deduct _____.
 - A. dental expenses but not medical expenses
 - B. medical expenses but not dental expenses
 - C. only dental expenses you paid for yourself
 - D. both medical and dental expenses

2. Owing to the large areas of open water between Oka Point and Silver Beach, canoe (long and narrow boat) trips downstream from Oak Point should only be undertaken by people experienced in open-water canoeing. When planning the trip, allowances should be made for delays because of strong winds and rough water. Each group of canoes should be accompanied by a power boat.

- (1). This passage contains information important to _____.
 - A. swimmers
 - B. power boaters
 - C. canoeists
 - D. hikers
- (2). You may be delayed by _____.
 - A. strong currents
 - B. delays at the border
 - C. engine failure
 - D. wind and rough water
- (3). Each group of canoes should be accompanied by _____.
 - A. a power boat
 - B. a law enforcement official
 - C. a motorized raft
 - D. a licensed guide
- (4). Between Oak Point and Silver Beach there are _____.
 - A. dangerous rapids
 - B. strong currents

C. dangerous rocks

D. large areas of open water

3. When selling your house, you may think of yourself as a potential lender. As such you have a right to expect information from the buyer about his or her financial condition. One thing you should get is a statement of income and current obligations. You want to be sure that the buyer can afford to make the payments on your house. As a rule of thumb, the cost of home ownership, including payment, utilities, maintenance, taxes, and insurance, should not come to more than 35 percent of the buyer's take-home pay.

(1). According to the passage, when selling your house you may think of yourself as _____.

A. a potential lender

B. a real estate agent

C. a professional salesperson

D. a prospective buyer

(2). You have a right to expect buyers to tell you about their _____.

A. job history

B. education

C. financial condition

D. religion

(3). The cost of home ownership should not come to more than _____ of the buyer's take-home pay.

A. 10 percent

B. 15 percent

C. 40 percent

D. 35 percent

4. We may be seeing a new breed of trolleys carrying passengers in American cities. Trolleys were widely used in the 1920s when about 50,000 trolleys ran on over 26,000 miles of track in various cities. Modern trolleys are significantly quieter than the trolleys of the 1920s.

(1). The passage is about _____.

A. buses

B. taxis

C. commuter trains

D. trolleys

(2). In the 1920s there were about _____ trolleys.

A. 50,000

B. 25,000

C. 22,000

D. 75,000

(3). The trolleys of the 1920s ran on over _____ miles of track.

A. 21,000

B. 26,000

C. 50,000

D. 62,000

(4). Modern trolleys differ from their ancestors mainly by being _____.

A. noisier

B. safer

C. quieter

D. faster

5. Most of the mint grown in the United States is peppermint. It is produced mainly by commercial growers in large quantities. It usually yields about 50 pounds of oil per acre of peppermint. It is most often planted from roots or cuttings rather than seeds.

- (1). Most of the mint grown in the United States is _____.
A. peppermint B. catnip C. Virginia mint D. pearsnip
- (2). Most peppermint is grown by _____.
A. amateurs B. commercial growers
C. home gardeners D. laboratory technicians
- (3). Peppermint yields about _____ pounds of oil per acre.
A. 50 B. 25 C. 30 D. 15
- (4). Peppermint is usually planted from _____.
A. seeds B. leaves C. air layering D. roots and cuttings

Exercise 1—2

Directions: In the following exercises one topic sentence is given, followed by four supporting sentences used to support the topic sentence. Circle the sentence that does not help support.

1. Smoking should not be allowed in places where nonsmokers are present.
A. Inhaling (taking in) the smoke of other people's cigarettes may be as dangerous as smoking.
B. Nonsmokers resent having to bear with reddened eyes and scratchy throats simply because someone else enjoys smoking.
C. Most smokers bitterly resent having to put out their cigarettes when nonsmokers are present.
D. Many nonsmokers find the smell of tobacco unpleasant.
2. We all should read more than we do.
A. Television has, unfortunately, caused people to read less.
B. Books can teach us how other people think and help us understand one another better.
C. Books help us understand not only other people but also ourselves.
D. It is in books that we can find out about our past mistakes and triumphs so that we may learn from them.
3. Every man and woman who drives a car should know how to change a tire.
A. There should be more courses that teach the basic skills necessary to maintaining an auto, for example, how to change oil and fix a flat tire.
B. Learning to change a tire is easy, and knowing how to change one can help a man or woman avoid being stranded far from help.
C. Having to call a garage simply to fix a flat is a waste of money.

- D. Anyone who has to call a garage just for a flat is wasting time unnecessarily.
4. Growing numbers of critics are demanding that research in nuclear power come to a halt(stop).
- A. The critics maintain that nuclear power plants have not developed sufficient safeguards against mechanical failures.
 - B. Those opposed to continued research insist that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), which was formed to supervise(keep watch over)research in nuclear power, is actually biased in favor of the production of nuclear power.
 - C. NRC safety requirements are quite stringent(strict).
 - D. Those opposed to the use of nuclear power maintain that research will cost billions of dollars and that results are not guaranteed.
5. Although they are frequently forgotten, many women made important contributions to American literature.
- A. Dorothy Parker used her famous sense of humor to write some very good short stories and poems.
 - B. Lillian Hellman wrote plays dealing with social problems other people were afraid to mention.
 - C. *Madame Bovary* was a famous novel about a woman's desire for excitement and romance.
 - D. Willa Cather wrote beautiful short stories and novels about what it felt like to be an outsider in America.
6. Students who graduate from college and go to work for the first time are in for the surprise of their lives.
- A. Gone are those wonderful ten-to-two classes, and many ex-students have to adjust to a nine-to-five schedule.
 - B. Graduation might not produce so much anxiety if students would only prepare themselves better for the job market.
 - C. In college everyone talks about getting an interesting job, but many students end up doing work they don't like.
 - D. Many students find it difficult to wear respectable suits and dresses every day of the week after being used to blue jeans and T-shirts.
7. Freshman year is a difficult one for many students.
- A. Although parents may have been a nuisance at home, they tend to be

- sorely missed at school.
- B. The loss of old friends from home is difficult even though new ones can be found.
 - C. The change in landscape and scenery can help increase the feeling of homesickness.
 - D. Fraternities (clubs of men students) and sororities (clubs of women students) are not as popular with freshmen as they once were.
8. Falling in love for the first time is an extraordinary experience.
- A. Suddenly it's almost impossible to sleep at night.
 - B. Nobody should avoid falling in love even if it is painful.
 - C. Hours are spent daydreaming about the last conversation, date, or embrace.
 - D. Quite often, the first love affair is accompanied by a complete loss of appetite.
9. There are many difficulties involved in driving a taxicab.
- A. There is always one customer who feels that the fare is too high.
 - B. Driving in heavy traffic is nerve-racking.
 - C. No cab driver is ever completely free from the fear of robbery.
 - D. More and more women are beginning to drive cabs.
10. Soap operas, the dramatic serials shown on afternoon television, are not realistic.
- A. People who commit crimes in soap operas are punished or die young.
 - B. There's always a happy ending, even when suicide or murder is involved.
 - C. Problems are always solved.
 - D. Soap operas are very popular.
11. The medical examiner's job covers a wide range of medical knowledge and skills.
- A. The medical examiner searches for bacterial and viral causes of death.
 - B. He must have a thorough knowledge of body physiology.
 - C. Organic and inorganic chemistry are the basis tools of the medical examiner.
 - D. The medical examiner works for the state.
12. One can make a good impression during a job interview.

- A. The applicant should act confidently.
 - B. The applicant should know as much as possible about the company.
 - C. The applicant should look at the interviewer and maintain eye contact.
 - D. The applicant should always make a good impression on the second interview.
13. Exercising provides many benefits for the average person.
- A. Many people report weight loss resulting from exercise.
 - B. People find they have increased stamina(strength, staying power).
 - C. Overexertion(overwork) can be one danger for the mature adult.
 - D. People report reduced strain and tension after starting exercise programs.
14. There are several considerations one must make when choosing a doctor.
- A. Select a doctor with the most degrees hanging on the wall.
 - B. Ask friends for recommendations.
 - C. Check with a local hospital consultant for the names of prospective physicians.
 - D. Check the prospective doctor's credentials.
15. Sweets are neither nutritionally good nor necessary for a child's diet.
- A. Infants do not have a well-developed sense of taste.
 - B. Parents who give infants sweet-tasting foods are starting children on the road to poor nutrition.
 - C. Sweets appeal to all age groups.
 - D. Food companies use sweeteners even though they have no nutritional value.

Exercise 1—3

Directions: Read the following paragraphs. Underline the topic sentences and in the appropriate blanks list the supporting details.

1. Several kinds of dictionaries are used today. The one most people are familiar with is the "desk dictionary", sometimes referred to as a general-purpose dictionary. Another kind is the pronouncing dictionary, which is concerned with a word's pronunciation more than with its meaning. A third type is the bilingual dictionary, which lists the words in one language and attempts to give equivalent meanings in another language. Other types include technical dictionaries, special-purpose dictionaries, and scholarly dictionaries.

Supporting Details(six kinds of dictionaries):

- (1). _____
- (2). _____
- (3). _____
- (4). _____
- (5). _____
- (6). _____

2. Synonyms, words that have the same basic meaning, do not always have the same emotional meaning. For example, the words “stingy” and “frugal” both mean “careful with money”. However, to call a person stingy is an insult, while the word frugal has a much more positive connotation. Similarly, a person wants to be slender but not skinny, and aggressive, but not pushy. Therefore, you should be careful in choosing words because many so-called synonyms are not really synonymous at all.

Supporting Details(3 examples):

- (1). _____
- (2). _____
- (3). _____

3. Some form of written communication has been used throughout the centuries. In the earliest times, people carved or painted messages on rocks. Later on, people began to write on pieces of leather, which were rolled into scrolls. In the Middle Ages, heavy paper called parchment was used for writing; books were laboriously copied by hand. With the invention of the printing press in the middle of the fifteenth century, the modern printing industry was born.

Supporting Details(4 forms of written communication):

- (1). In the earliest time _____
- (2). Later on _____
- (3). In the middle ages _____
- (4). In the middle of the 15th century _____

4. Growing numbers of well-to-do Americans are making the decision to move abroad. They find it impossible in America to walk the streets at night without fear of being raped, mugged, or murdered, nor do they see a way to escape the poisonous air of the cities. They maintain that even American food has become

increasingly dangerous to eat. Last but not least, they insist that they are sick of the pace of American life, a pace that leaves no time for relaxation or pleasure.

Supporting Details (4 reasons for well-to-do Americans to move abroad) :

- (1). _____
- (2). _____
- (3). _____
- (4). _____

5. Each year, thousands of students leave high school before graduation. Is there a particular reason for the high dropout rate? Educational surveys uncover many contributing causes. Some students see little relationship between class work and vocational goals. Economic pressures at home may force the teenager to seek full-or part-time employment. In addition, family responsibilities may demand much of the student's time. The daily school routine presents an unchanging and often boring schedule. Associated with this problem is the inability of school personnel to develop new programs and methods designed to meet the needs of potential dropouts. In addition to these factors, the student's own problems may lead the student to drop out.

Supporting Details (6 reasons for high school students to drop out) :

- (1). _____
- (2). _____
- (3). _____
- (4). _____
- (5). _____
- (6). _____

Section C

Exercise 1-4

Directions: Read each of the following passages and find the supporting details to support the main idea.

1. No matter what type of holiday you are looking for you will find the answer in Switzerland. There is really no other country quite like it, for here you have some of the finest and most spectacular scenery in the whole of Europe together with an attractive climate, hotels that have become a byword for comfort and

services, and the friendliest and most hospitable people you could wish to meet.

Main Idea: People can enjoy any type of holiday in Switzerland.

- Details: (1). _____
(2). _____
(3). _____
(4). _____

2. Think of the variety of attractions. You may seek outdoor sporting activities. Walking, swimming, riding, sailing and golf are just a few of the many possibilities for enjoying your holiday. Then there is an infinite variety of excursions by coach, cable car, or mountain railway, leisurely afternoons on a lake steamer, historic cities, picturesque castles, music festivals—these are just a few more of the variety of interests for your holiday in Switzerland. In the evening music fills the air, whether it be the local village band or an internationally known orchestra at the Casino, an all star variety show, traditional Swiss folklore entertainment, or a local accordionist as you enjoy your “fondue” in a village inn.

Main Idea: There is a variety of attractions in Switzerland.

- Details: (1). _____
(2). _____
(3). _____

3. For a long time men and boys from Newfoundland took part in the annual seal hunt. Although it was a most dangerous adventure there had been a seal hunt every spring for over a hundred years and many turned out. Some had much experience while others had never been before, but the main requirement was that they had to be physically fit.

This paragraph is about the Newfoundland seal hunt. Give short answers to the questions about the details:

- (1) Who went on it? _____
(2) How often did it take place? _____
(3) How many years did it last? _____
(4) What type of person went? _____

4. Many a strong and hardy man never returned. Some went down in the icy waters as icebergs smashed their ships. Others disappeared as their boats were