

大学英语系列教材

*Active Reading*  
Intermediate

主动  
阅读

中级本



主编 邹晓玲 张 梅



重庆大学出版社

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Intermediate



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## 内容提要

《主动阅读》(中级和中高级)是根据教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》编写而成。该教材以提高学生英语阅读技能为宗旨,配以大学英语四、六级考试题型等材料作为学生阅读能力的训练和检测,旨在逐步培养学生的阅读技能和良好的阅读习惯以及阅读方式,提高学生英语阅读能力。同时,帮助学生通过有效阅读来获取知识、拓宽视野。该教材分为中级和中高级两本,每本由8个单元组成,涉及不同的阅读技能。每单元以阅读技能为主线,通过对各个微技能的讲解,增强读者的认识,并通过举例来阐述各个微技能在阅读过程中的应用。本教材参照大学英语四、六级考试要求编写了大量的实战练习题,以便巩固学生对各个微技能的掌握及运用。本书可作为阅读课程教材使用,也可用作学生的课外补充学习资料,还可作为具有相应水平的学生和英语爱好者提高英语阅读能力的自学课本。

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# 前言

《大学英语主动阅读》(中级和中高级)是依据教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》编写而成,供大学英语基础阶段的教学使用。本教材分为中级和中高级两本,适用于大学英语阅读课程使用,旨在培育学生的英语阅读能力。在该系列教材编写之前,我们对学生作了广泛的调查,学生普遍反映读了很多英语文章,但阅读能力难于提高,其效果不明显,当被问及阅读技巧时,学生普遍缺乏这方面的知识,等等。我们在综合了学生的反馈意见并参阅了国内外的一些阅读课本之后,决定该系列教材要有针对性,不单是强调学生的大量阅读,还应注意阅读方式和阅读技巧的培养,使学生具有 Critical Reading 的能力。

在此思路的指导下,本系列教材的特点体现在以下几个方面:1. 采用 skill-oriented 的编写原则,每单元均以各微技能为标题,便于学生查找所需技能,使学生能充分运用有效的阅读技能,更好地理解所读文章。2. 采用大学英语四、六级考试题型训练学生的阅读技巧,使学生能运用所学技巧有效答题,快速掌握阅读技巧,兼顾学生学与考的需求。3. 所选材料均为地道的“原汁原味”英语文章,语言规范,内容健康。选择的课文多为近期出版和发表的英文原版语料,具有很强的时代感。4. 课文的难易程度和长度均严格遵照全国大学英语四、六级考试的要求,便于学生考察自己的英语水平。

本系列教材分为中级本和中高级本,中级本主要让学生学习一些最基本的阅读技巧,如信息快速查找技巧、生词应对技巧、区分文章细节的技巧等。中高级本强调深层阅读技巧,如判断句子之间的关系、理解文章的组成结构、判断作者的态度、区分事实和观点、评判式的阅读等技巧。

本教材各单元由五个部分组成。第一部分均为信息快速查找训练,第二部分是深度阅读,第三部分强调文章上下文意思的理解,第四部分是翻译,第五部分是阅读微技能训练。

本教材的编写得到了许多同仁和专家的关心和悉心指导,重庆大学出版社的领导和外语分社的编辑们也为该教材的出版和版式设计等方面付出了辛勤的劳动,我们借此机会向他们表示感谢。由于编者水平有限,难免存在不足之处,甚至有错误的地方,恳请使用本教材的广大教师和学生不吝指正。

编写组

2012 年 7 月

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# UNIT ONE

## Skimming for the Main Idea (1)

### Part 1 Skimming & Scanning

*Go over the following passage quickly and then complete Section A and Section B within 15 minutes.*

#### Does Apple Still Need Steve Jobs?

Apple is known for building excitement over its latest devices, but the company's next closely watched event has nothing to do with a product. Instead, anticipation is growing over the scheduled return of Apple's talented CEO.

It's been almost six months since Steve Jobs — who co-founded Apple and has thrilled the public by launching consumer tech favourites such as the iPhone and the iPod — announced that he was taking a medical leave of absence until the end of June.

As that time quickly approaches, Apple fans, investors and observers have been gripped by questions. Will he come back as promised? If so, in what capacity? And how crucial is he still to the company's success?

Jobs, who is a *pancreatic* (胰腺的) cancer survivor, revealed at the beginning of this year that a *hormone* (荷尔蒙) imbalance caused the considerable weight loss that had some speculating whether his cancer had returned.

"The remedy for this nutritional problem is relatively simple and straightforward, and I've already begun treatment," Jobs wrote in a letter addressed to the "Apple community" on January 5.

"But, just like I didn't lose this much weight and body mass in a week or a month, my doctors expect it will take me until late this spring to regain it."

There had been little news since. But that all changed Saturday when *The Wall Street Journal* reported Jobs, 54, had a liver transplant about two months ago in Tennessee. He has been recovering well, but may work part time for several weeks when he returns to work, the newspaper reported.

The fact that the article appeared just hours after Apple began selling its new iPhone 3GS



had some *bloggers*(博客) questioning the timing of the report, with some suggesting that the excitement over the rollout helped draw attention away from the revelations about Jobs' health. Apple didn't comment on *The Wall Street Journal* report directly, answering media questions with the same statement.

"Steve continues to look forward to returning to Apple at the end of June, and there is nothing further to say," said Apple spokesman Steve Dowling. Dowling declined to provide a specific date for Jobs' return or say whether Jobs would be making any public appearances or statements.

### Iconic Figure

"This feels like they're clearing the way for his return. But it wouldn't be out of character for Apple to let the deadline slip a bit," said Philip Elmer-DeWitt, who writes the Apple 2.0 blog for *Fortune* magazine and has been covering the company since 1982.

"The real issue of Steve coming back is: How much does the company need him?"

How much, Indeed?

Investors have been painfully aware of how any development regarding Jobs' health — real or rumor — can affect Apple's stock price. But experts say Apple has been taking steps to ensure that its fortunes are not linked with Jobs taking an active role in the company.

"He's an iconic figure that everybody wants around, he's the world's greatest salesman and that's irreplaceable," said Gene Munster, a senior research analyst at Piper Jaffray who has been covering Apple since 2003.

"But as far as the product direction and the product quality, the road map for the next five years is already in place [at Apple]."

Munster described Jobs as a visionary and someone with the ability to figure out what the next big thing is. But he said Piper Jaffray's "Buy" recommendation on the company's stock wouldn't change even if Jobs doesn't come back, based on the strength of products such as the iPhone. Still, few companies have been so closely associated with their CEOs. Munster compared the situation to Henry Ford and the car company he founded at the beginning of the 20th century. Elmer-DeWitt said it could be compared to Walt Disney and the entertainment giant he created.

Jobs is also much more than just a CEO. His talent for developing must-have products, his signature black sweaters and dramatic delivery during product launches have made him a cultural icon beyond Silicon Valley. He was even imitated for fun on "Saturday Night Live".

### Smaller Role

Observers say Apple and Jobs himself have made efforts in recent years to "wean" (使断奶) the public off his presence, such as including other people onstage with him during events and de-emphasizing his role.

"Last year a lot of scholars were [saying that] if Steve Jobs left the company, the

company would just immediately fall into ruin,” said Daniel Eran Dilger, a contributing editor for AppleInsider.com.

“And what’s interesting is after he went on leave, and he’s been gone for six months now, the company has had a couple of major announcements and events and has gone on fine.”

When he began his leave of absence, Jobs put Apple Chief Operating Officer Tim Cook in charge of the company’s day-to-day operations. If Jobs decides to step down, Cook can take over and probably will, Elmer-DeWitt said.

“There are lots of smart people at Apple and most people have sort of accepted the idea that Jobs trained an executive team to operate the company without him,” he added.

“And that his DNA, the thing that makes Apple different from all the other companies, has been baked into the leadership team and that the company will do fine.”

What may be lacking years down the road if Jobs retires or leaves is his “X-factor” and his unique stamp on every little piece of design.

“Once you get a bunch of people in a room, none of whom is more powerful than the other, you start to get products that are literally designed by committee and that’s what Apple products never were,” Elmer-DeWitt said.

“They were always designed by very smart people that Steve chose. But in the end there was one guy who had final say on them. It remains to be seen whether there’s someone at Apple who can step up and take over that role.”

## ⇒ Section A Information Confirmation

*Go over the following questions and choose the best answer to each question from the choices marked A, B, C, and D.*

- Steve Jobs’ leave of absence became an event \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. known for building its latest devices  
 B. next closely watched by the company  
 C. not much to do with the latest products  
 D. launching consumer tech favorites
- The *Wall Street Journal* reported on Saturday that Jobs was \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. having a liver transplant operation in hospital  
 B. staying in Tennessee for a few more weeks  
 C. recovering well and might return to work  
 D. returning to Wall Street to work part time
- Investors believed that the Apple stock price \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. could only be affected by rumours about Jobs’ death  
 B. would not be affected with the company’s measures  
 C. would be affected if the company didn’t take any step

- D. could even be affected by real news about Jobs' health
4. If Jobs left Apple, Piper Jaffray would \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. still think that the Apple stock is worth buying  
B. not be closely associated with Apple's change  
C. not stop buying the Apple stock in a quite few years  
D. not buy Apple stocks as the product quality changed
5. Apple and Jobs made efforts to "wean" the public off his presence by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. arranging others to perform on the stage  
B. trying to make the public clear of his role  
C. making announcement to de-emphasize his role  
D. making others in charge of everyday operations
6. Jobs has left his own unique \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. feature to Apple after he died  
B. idea to Apple's leadership team  
C. signature on every product logo  
D. stamp on every piece of design
7. After Jobs' death, there has to be a team of outstanding men \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. to design products together as Apple used to do  
B. to take the place of Jobs in day-to-day operations  
C. with someone who has final say on new products  
D. none of whom is more powerful than the other

## ⇒ Section B Information Completion

*Complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.*

8. Apple is eager for the return of Jobs who thinks his medical treatment rather \_\_\_\_\_.  
9. Jobs is not only a CEO but also a \_\_\_\_\_ in the eyes of the public.  
10. After Jobs is retired, another chief officer is to take over the company's \_\_\_\_\_.

## Part 2 Reading in Depth

*Read the following two passages more carefully and then do the exercises below.*

### Passage 1

While *homogenization* (同质化) has made it easier to grow huge amounts of food on ever larger plots of land, adapting to global warming-induced changes becomes more difficult, particularly if those changes vary from farm to farm and plant to plant.

Agricultural scientists say there are a variety of possible solutions to avoid low crop yields

or failures. Lewis Ziska, a USDA plant physiologist based in Beltsville, Maryland, is in the early stages of creating more flexible varieties of food crops by breeding them with certain weeds. “Many weeds seem to do better, in general, under a wide range of environments,” he said. “Can we take these genes and exploit these abilities by crossing the weeds with cultivated lines? Absolutely.” Ziska notes, for example, that domesticated rice can’t produce seed if the temperature grows above about 90° Fahrenheit (32° Celsius) when the plant is trying to *fertilize* (使受精). Some weeds related to rice avoid the problem, however, by undergoing fertilization in the early morning or at night, when temperatures are generally cooler. That feature could be passed to the domesticated rice, Ziska says.

Scientists are also looking to breed modern crops with ancestral plant lines. Global warming forecasts predict higher concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Ziska has found that under such conditions an early 20th-century *strain* (品种) of wheat actually performs better than a common modern strain. Jones, of Washington State University, is working on this, as well. His team made test plots of every strain of wheat grown in the Pacific Northwest since the 1850s, looking for features that could be useful under global warming conditions.

The plant geneticist said he is especially interested in characteristics that haven’t been selected for since modern farmers started relying heavily on herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers — such as the ability to compete with weeds or grow well in poor soil. Plants with those features could help farmers reduce the need for chemical inputs and lower their carbon *footprint* (碳排放量).

Other crop scientists say there are situations where nature could benefit from a helping hand. L. Curtis Hannah, a plant molecular biology researcher at the University of Florida in Gainesville, is using modern gene-transfer techniques to engineer strains of corn that could help farmers in tropical areas.

Focusing on the naturally occurring genes in corn that produce an *enzyme* (酶) called AGPases, Hannah has been able to produce lab-modified corn that thrives at high temperatures. “When the temperature is above 90 (32° Celsius) during the early stages of seed development, we’ve seen increases in the yield as high as 68 percent,” Hannah said.

While environmentalists generally oppose the introduction of genetically engineered *organisms* (生物体) as too risky, Hannah and other crop scientists say such techniques aren’t inherently dangerous and can be effective tools — used alongside traditional breeding — to adapt crops to global warming.

1. Agricultural scientists breed food crops with certain weeds so as to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. provide shelter for food crops
  - B. cultivate grass into food crops
  - C. improve the quality of food crops
  - D. adapt food crops to harsh weather

2. According to the passage, Lewis Ziska focuses on the study of the relationships between \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. carbon dioxide and temperature
  - B. temperature and crop yields
  - C. soil and crop yields
  - D. soil and crop features
3. Some weeds have the quality that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. can turn crops into fertilizers
  - B. provides crops with fertilizers
  - C. can kill insects in crop fields
  - D. can be passed to food crops
4. Excessive dependence on fertilizers leads to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. loss of useful features of crops
  - B. an increase of soil temperature
  - C. crops that get fertilized easily
  - D. crops that compete with weeds
5. Plant geneticists strive to cultivate crops \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. that grow well under harsh conditions
  - B. that can produce less carbon dioxide
  - C. getting fertilized in cool temperature
  - D. producing more in high temperature

## Passage 2

Archaeologists (考古学家) in Jamestown, Virginia, have discovered a rare inscribed slate tablet dating back some 400 years, to the early days of America's first permanent English settlement. Both sides of the slate are covered with words, numbers, and *etchings* (蚀刻) of people, plants, and birds that its owner likely encountered in the New World in the early 1600s.

Archaeologists and other scientists are still trying to interpret the slate, the first with extensive inscriptions to be found at any 17th-century colonial American site. The scratched and worn 5-by-8-inch (13-by-20-centimeter) tablet is inscribed with the words "A MINON OF THE FINEST SORTE". Above the words are the letters and numbers "EL NEV FSH HTLBMS 508", as well as symbols that have yet to be interpreted.

"We don't know what it means yet", Kelso said. But there are some clues. According to Straube, "minon" is a 17th-century variation of the word "minion" and has numerous meanings, including "servant", "follower", "comrade", "companion", "favorite", or someone dependent on a patron's favor. A minion is also a type of cannon — and archaeologists have found shot at the James Fort site that's the right size for a minion.

Drawings on the slate depict several different flower blossoms and birds that may include

an eagle, a songbird, and an owl.

“The crude drawings of birds and *flora* (植物) offer dramatic evidence of how captivated the English were by the natural wonders of the alien New World,” *excavation* (发掘) director Kelso said. There’s also a sketch of an Englishman smoking a pipe and a man, whose right hand seems to be missing, wearing a ruffled collar.

Although the age of the tablet is not yet known, archaeological evidence — including turtle and oyster shells, Indian pots, trade beads, mirror glass, early pipes, medicinal jars, and military items — indicates that it was deposited in the well during the early years of James Fort, which was established in 1607. If it’s Smith’s well, archaeologists believe the tablet could date to 1611, when the well was probably filled in, or earlier.

Another recent discovery from the same well is a brass baby’s toy that’s a combination whistle and teething stick. Straube, the Jamestown *curator* (馆长), said the teething-stick portion is made from *coral* (珊瑚). In the 17th century, coral was considered good for babies’ gums and a magical substance that kept evil away. She said it may have belonged to one of the women who arrived with children in 1609.

- From what the slate presents to us, clues can be found that its owner \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. did well in writing and drawing  
 B. was killed and buried in a well  
 C. was living in harsh conditions  
 D. recorded what he experienced
- The word “MINON” on the slate possibly means “cannon” because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. above it are some relevant symbols  
 B. important symbols were interpreted  
 C. bullets were found of the right size  
 D. it’s a variation of the word “minion”
- Who is likely to be the owner of the slate?  
 A. An American Indian.  
 B. An English colonist.  
 C. An archaeologist.  
 D. An architect.
- The slate reveals that the new continent \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. had attractive natural scenery  
 B. had pleasant weather conditions  
 C. was occupied by Indians  
 D. was inhabited by savages
- In the 17th century, coral was considered to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. an expensive gift for close friends  
 B. an evil thing that might cause trouble  
 C. a substance helpful for infants’ teeth  
 D. a magical thing owned by rich women

## Part 3 Reading in the Context

*Read the passage with 10 missing words or phrases. Learn to guess their meanings from the context and then select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Each word or phrase should be selected only once.*

Football stadiums have a huge environmental impact. Just keeping a *pitch* (场地) in top condition 1 regular watering, under-pitch heating to prevent freezing in the winter, and even the use of high-power lighting 2 to promote grass growth. Floodlights, scoreboards and video screens have large electricity demands, while thousands of fans travelling to and from the match 3 vast quantities of carbon dioxide while generating huge amounts of garbage.

But there are signs that football teams are starting to get wise to 4 issues with clubs around the world starting to make efforts to become more eco-friendly. A 2008 5 by "Ethical Consumer" looked at the eco-credentials of clubs in the English Premier League and found that Manchester City was the greenest. Among its 6, the team says it has reduced *landfill* (垃圾填埋区) by 85 percent, moved to electric vehicles at the ground, and used eco-friendly paper for match-day programs.

By promoting safe walking routes, the club says it has managed to get 71 7 of its fans to walk to the stadium. The club even came up with an ambitious plan to 8 its own electricity by installing a *wind turbine* (风力发电机) at the stadium, but the scheme was 9 put on hold because of fears that ice could fall from the turbine blades and injure spectators.

Funded by the oil wealth of the Abu Dhabi United Group, Manchester City has the cash to 10 far-reaching green schemes, but at the other end of the financial spectrum, English non-league club Dartford FC has shown the big teams aren't the only ones that can afford to be eco-friendly.

A. investigate	F. transport	K. exhaust
B. requires	G. emit	L. devices
C. introduce	H. generate	M. survey
D. achievements	I. environmental	N. eventually
E. percent	J. machinery	O. groups

## Part 4 Translation

*Complete the sentences by translating into English the Chinese given in brackets.*

1. It's high time that \_\_\_\_\_ (我们采取措施解决问题).

2. Had it not been for their mistakes, \_\_\_\_\_ (房子早就竣工了).
3. It all depends on \_\_\_\_\_ (你是否支持这项计划).
4. He introduced me to his friends who \_\_\_\_\_ (他们都是英语专业的学生).
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (直到她完成使命) she realized the importance of her work.

## Part 5 Reading Skills

Skimming is defined as reading quickly to get the main idea of a text. It is a technique used in previewing or for getting an overview of a text. When skimming, your eyes read rapidly over the page, just pick out the main ideas and topics. Scanning also involves rapid movement through a text, but it aims at searching for specific information rather than the main points.

Skimming enables you to quickly go through the text without paying attention to all parts of it. It is a valuable preparation for intensive reading as it allows you to select what is essential to read and to gain an overview of the structure of the material.

Strategies in skimming involve reading:

- title, subtitles, subheading
- the first and last paragraphs
- the first sentence of each paragraph
- words in bold type, italics, digits, or tables

### Example 1

*Skim the following passage and answer the questions in three minutes.*

While it is possible for people with great talent or drive to achieve with a bad attitude, it doesn't happen very often, and it takes an incredible amount of effort. And even if they do achieve some degree of success, they aren't happy. (And they make the people around them miserable too.) Most often, people with bad attitude don't get very far in life.

On the other hand, even barely average people can do great things when their attitudes are great. In *The Winner's Edge* (优势), Denis Waitley observed, "The winner's edge is not in a gifted birth, a high IQ, or in talent. The winner's edge is all in the attitude, not *aptitude* (才能). Attitude is the criterion for success."

*Choose the best answer.*

1. Which one of the following can be regarded as the key word in the passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
A. People.                      B. Attitude.                      C. Success.                      D. Talent.
2. Which answer best sum up the passage?  
A. People with great talent can always achieve great success.



- B. Successful people tend to make those around them unhappy.
  - C. Good attitude contributes greatly to one's success.
  - D. Attitude is important.
3. What is the main idea of Paragraph 1?
- A. People with bad attitude can still be successful.
  - B. People with bad attitude are unhappy.
  - C. People with bad attitude usually will not be very successful.
  - D. It takes a great deal of effort to succeed.

## ➡ Explanations

1. The key is B. The topic of the passage is centered around people's attitude, so B is the correct answer.
2. The key is C. The last sentence in Paragraph 2 "*Attitude is the criterion for success*" best summarizes the main idea of the passage.
3. The key is C. The last sentence in Paragraph 1 is the conclusion made on people with bad attitude. Pay attention to organizers like "*while, even if, most often*" as they can guide you to follow the author's thought.

### Example 2

*Skim the following passage and answer the questions in four minutes.*

Reading is becoming more and more important in the new knowledge economy and remains the most effective human activity for transforming information into knowledge.

If top readers read at speed of above 1,000 words per minute (wpm) with near 85% comprehension, they only represent 1% of readers. Average readers are the majority and only reach around 200 wpm with a typical comprehension of 60%. This seems surprising since most readers, actively reading work documents, newspapers, magazines, books or the contents of a computer display are practicing daily for at least one hour. With such an intense training everyone should be close to top performance.

Unfortunately, this is far from the real situation. The average reader is five times slower than the good reader. Things are even worse if we consider reading efficiency as well as speed. Reading efficiency is reading speed weighted by (加权, 乘以) comprehension rate and it amounts to  $200 \times 60\%$  or 120 efficient words per minute (ewpm) for the average reader and to  $1,000 \times 85\%$  or 850 ewpm for top readers. Thus, an efficiency ratio of seven divides these two categories.

*Choose the best answer.*

1. Compared to average reader, the accomplished reader reads with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. higher speed and worse reading comprehension