

ENGLISH

EPT

READING  
COMPREHENSION

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英语水平测试  
阅读理解练习

ENGLISH

湖北科学技术出版社

# 英语水平测试(EPT) 阅读理解练习

Reading Comprehension

(附答案)

王 寅 李 弘 编

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## 前 言

阅读理解练习 (Reading Comprehension) 已成为很多外语水平测试卷所采用的一种考试形式, 如 EPT、TOEFL、GRE 等。通过这种形式的测试, 能够比较可靠地衡量考生的实际阅读能力、速度和语言理解水平。

为了使希望通过英语水平考试的同志们更加适应这种考试形式, 或作为参加 EPT、TOEFL、GRE 等考试的预先练习, 我们编辑了这本小册子, 供同志们练习用。

本书各篇材料都是从国外教材、报刊杂志及各类书籍中选出的, 在选材时尽量考虑到知识性、逻辑性和趣味性。

阅读理解练习的题目形式现多采用多项选择法 (Multiple Choice), 而出题的类型又可大致分为以下五种:

1. 词义理解性问题 (Word-item), 即要求对文章中个别关键词、难词作出解释。这就需要对通篇文章有较透彻的理解, 方可获得准确词义。

2. 直接解答性问题 (Direct Reference), 即指通过阅读全文, 可从中直接引句便可答出的题目。

3. 推理性问题 (Inference), 这类题目则需靠上下文句义上的关系进行推理, 才能得到答案。

4. 假设性问题 (Supposition), 即指通过对原文进行合理的假设, 推断文中未曾说出的内容。

5. 评价性问题 (Evaluation), 即指在理解原文的基础上, 作出切题的概括、总结和评价。

下面举一例对上述五种类型的题目略加说明:

Manhattan, an island about thirteen miles long and two miles wide, forms the principal part of New York City, from whose mainland it is separated by the Harlem River. It was first occupied as part of New Netherland by the Dutch. They applied the name Manhattan to the local indians, and in 1626 the accomplished fact of its settlement was given some semblance of legality by its purchase from the Indians for sixty guilders (\$24). One of the five boroughs of New York City, the island houses the principal business districts and includes Wall Street, Greenwich Village, Broadway, the Bowery, the East side, Harlem, and the Battery.

1. 词义理解性问题:

In Line 8, the word "borough" most closely means

- A. district
- B. settlement
- C. island
- D. mainland

(KEY: A)

2. 直接解答性问题:

The island of Manhattan is separated from the rest of New York City by

- A. one of the city's boroughs.
- B. the Verrazano Bridge.
- C. the Hudson River.

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D. the Harlem River.

(KEY:D)

3. 推理性问题:

The Indians from whom the island was purchased are known as the "Manhattan" Indians because

- A. they lived on Manhattan Island.
- B. that is what they called themselves.
- C. the word means "men of the islands".
- D. that is what the settlers called them.

(KEY:D)

4. 假设性问题:

We may assume that the purchase of Manhattan Island from the Indians for the remarkably low price of \$24 came about because

- A. the Indians were powerless to drive the settlers from the land.
- B. the settlers wished to be perfectly honest in their dealings with the Indians.
- C. in 1626 the Island was of very little value either to the Indians or to the Dutch.
- D. the settlers wished to be able to say that they had not seized the land.

(KEY:D)

5. 评价性问题:

The main purpose of this passage is to

- A. give details about the location and early history of New York City.

- B. give readers some interesting and important facts about Manhattan Island.
- C. convince readers that the Indians were cheated out of an important piece of land.
- D. explain how New York City came to be called Manhattan.

(KEY:B)

王 寅 李 弘  
1984.8于济南

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# 1.

In America there is a new sport called "Earthball". "Earthball", which is like a huge beach ball, was thought of by Stuart Frand, who was once a hippy. The idea of the game is to keep the ball in the air for as long as possible. As the ball is too big, lots of people have to play. There are no winners or losers in the game; the idea is simply to enjoy yourself as much as you can.

"Earthball" is just one of the games in a "New Games Festival". The festival took place in the countryside near San Francisco, in the USA. Perhaps other countries can follow the example of the Californians and have festivals to test new games—it sounds like a good idea!

## 1. "Earthball" is

- A. a big beach ball.
- B. a "New Games Festival".
- C. a hippy game.
- D a huge ball.

## 2. According to the passage, you could play "Earthball"

- A. in the air.

- ☒ B. in the country.
  - C. on the beach.
  - D. in any countries.
3. The aim of the game is
- A. to look for excellent athletes.
  - B. to test whether it is a good idea.
  - ☒ C. to recreate yourself.
  - D. to spread the game throughout the world.
4. Which of the following is true?
- A. Two people on each side can play "Earth-ball".
  - B. The game is enjoyed mostly by the city people.
  - C. Only a hippy can play the game.
  - D. Many people can play the game together.

## 2.

Dear Sarah,

I'm very sorry to hear about your mother's illness, and I'm glad that you're going to Scotland to see how she is. It'll be nice for her to see you.

of course I'll look after Tim. We thoroughly enjoyed having him last year and my dog missed him when he left and looked for him everywhere. I'm sure he'll be delighted to see him again.

Will you bring him on Tuesday afternoon? Or, if that doesn't suit, any time on Wednesday. Don't bother to bring dog food, I have plenty. I hope you'll have time to have tea with me when you bring Tim, and that by then you'll have better news of your mother.

Love,  
Hilda

1. What do you suppose is Tim?

A. Hilda's friend

B. Sarah's son

C. Sarah's mother

D. Sarah's dog

2. When does Hilda want Sarah to bring Tim?

- A. Before Sunday
- ☒ B. Wednesday afternoon
- C. Thursday afternoon
- D. Tuesday morning

3. (Line 7) In the sentence "I'm sure he'll be delighted to see him again", "he" and "him" respectively refers to

- A. Tim, Hilda's dog.
- B. Hilda's dog, Sarah.
- C. Sarah, Tim.
- ☒ D. Hilda's dog, Tim.

4. According to the passage it is mostly probable that

- A. Hilda often goes to see Sarah.
- B. Sarah went to Scotland last year.
- C. Hilda was a good friend of Sarah's mother.
- ☒ D. Hilda and Sarah met last year.

### 3.

British people say horse racing is the sport of kings. Sometimes, though, two horses reach the winning post together. The judge has to decide which horse is first by looking at a photograph. People in the racing world call this a "photo finish". The winning horse wins by "a head" or "a horse".

Occasionally, the judge makes a mistake. One judge had to decide whether a dark-coloured horse or a pale horse won the race. Unfortunately he had to make the decision quickly, so he judged the photo finish from a negative. In photographic negatives dark colours are always light and light colours dark. The judge forgot that, and said "The pale horse won." When the negative was printed you could see that the dark horse was the winner. But it was too late. The people who bet money on the pale horse won and the people who bet on the dark horse—the real<sup>1</sup> winner—lost!

1. The Author tells us that horse racing in Britain is
  - A. only enjoyed by kings.
  - B. enjoyed mostly by the upper class.
  - C. called a "photo finish".

- D. always won by the kings.
2. According to the passage, the judge
- A. often makes mistakes.
  - B. decides all winners by negatives.
  - C. often makes unfortunate decision.
  - D. has to decide the winner quickly.
3. A suitable title for this passage would be
- A. "A pale horse won the racing."
  - B. "Horse racing in Britain."
  - C. "The judge who didn't get the picture."
  - D. "The judgement of the photo finish"

#### 4.

A collision between an oil tanker and a container ship killed 7 men yesterday. The accident happened in the English Channel, which was covered with heavy fog. Two men on the tanker and five on the container ship were killed when the ships collided. Reports say that ten other crewmen are still missing. Authorities are afraid that they may have drowned. Neither of the ships sank after the collision, but the tanker spilled thousands of tons of crude oil into the sea. Winds are pushing this spread oil slick towards Brittany, and French officials are worried that the slick may damage fishing and resort areas along the coast. They have ordered many boats to spray detergent on the oil to try to reduce the damage as much as possible.

1. About how many people suffered from the collision?
  - A. 7
  - B. 10
  - C. 15
  - D. 17
2. The collision happened probably because of
  - A. pilot's carelessness.

- B. heavy fog.
  - C. unseen iceberg.
  - D. dangerous wind.
3. After the accident,
- ☒ A. both of the ships did not sink.
  - B. the container ship caused a serious pollution.
  - C. no rescue was made.
  - ☒ D. the beautiful seaside might be destroyed.
4. What's the meaning of the word "slick"?
- A. fishing areas
  - B. broken parts of the ship
  - ☒ C. thick film of oil
  - ☒ D. goods in the container



5.

Dear Sir,

I'm interested in the furnished cottage near Dedham which you advertised in yesterday's Times, for my husband and I are coming to England in June and require accommodation for three months. Would you please tell me exactly where it is and give me details of bus and train services in the area? We need a cottage on a busy route. And I would also like to know about the local shops. Do the local shops still deliver? I know they did ten years ago.

I would be grateful also if you would tell me whether you supply sheets etc. and whether a laundry calls at the house. The rent you ask sounds reasonable for the size of the cottage. How do you like it paid? Weekly, monthly or in advance?

I would be grateful for an early reply and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Yours faithfully,

Pamela Smith

1. Pamela Smith got the news about the cottage from A. local shops