

NEW FAST READINGS

* 大学英语四级统考

新编英语 快速阅读

* 李志华等 编注

* 杭州大学出版社

新编英语快速阅读

李志华 编注
王自杭

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前 言

《新编英语快速阅读》是根据国家教委编制的《大学英语教学大纲》的具体要求，专门为大学一、二年级学生以及具有同等水平的英语爱好者选编的。

学好英语，要做到眼勤、手勤、耳勤、口勤。我们只有读得多、读得快，才能打下坚实的基础。

顾名思义，快速阅读强调阅读速度，要求在限定的时间内获取最多信息。《大纲》对阅读速度有明确的要求。四级的基本要求是“掌握基本阅读技能，能顺利并正确理解一般题材、语言难度中等的文章，速度达到每分钟 50 个词。在阅读难度略低、生词不超过总词数 2% 的材料时，速度达到每分钟 90 个词，阅读理解的准确率不低于 70%”。本书从快速阅读的角度选材，每篇文章的难度均略低于精、泛读课文，生词控制在每篇文章总词数的 2% 左右，篇幅在 400 词左右。为了配合学生们进行自我评估，每篇文章的开头都提供了 Reading Time 和 Comprehension Score 两个空格，希望读者每次及时记录阅读时间和得分。如果每天抽出 20 分钟，读完一篇课文，做完练习，记住生词和短语。阅读速度和准确率一定会有所提高。用完本书后，能达到大纲提出的要求，这就是我们编写这本书的意图。为了便于使用，每篇文章后都配有生词表，书末附有练习答案。

这本书提供了 98 篇从美国最新出版的书籍中精选的文章。每篇配有 10 个阅读理解题，其中前 5 题较浅易，要求仔细阅读一遍后即能做出；后 5 题较深入、隐晦，旨在培养《大纲》提出的阅读技能，包括辨认重要事实、确定中心思想、得出合乎逻辑的结论、作出合理的判断、进行正确的推论以及综合概括等技能。

本书所选的文章题材广泛，内容丰富。其中包括名人轶事、名胜古迹、生活常识、科普知识，反映了英美等国的风土人情、生活习俗和价值观念等。选文的语言规范流畅，通俗易懂，同时兼顾知识性、趣味性和科学性。

在培养阅读技能的过程中，一定的阅读量固然重要，但还得有

正确的阅读方法来指导。由于受传统教学法的影响，我们的学生往往养成了逐字阅读的习惯，在阅读时还喜欢把英文译成中文，这样不仅大大地降低了阅读速度，而且势必造成见树不见林的结果，从而不能达到迅速全面地获取所需信息的目的。为了使本书达到预期的效果，希望在阅读时遵循下列四个步骤：

1. 第一步：预读

当你拿到一篇阅读材料时，不要急于从头至尾地逐词阅读，首先应将全文粗略地看一遍。这样做，对提高理解水平和阅读速度大有裨益。下面提供一些预读时的具体做法以供参考。①看一下文章的题目。一篇文章的题目往往包含该文的主题思想或中心大意；②大致看一下文章的第一段，如第一段很长的话，则看该段文章的第一二句便可。文章的第一段往往是提纲挈领性的，它向读者阐明作者的写作目的；③大致看一下文章的最后一段，如最后一段很长的话，则看最后一二行便可。有些作者可能会在最后一段将全文的中心思想重复一遍，另一些作者可能会在文章的末尾得出自己的一个结论；④看一下文章内是否有人名、地名、日期和数字。如果有的话，对这些词应予以充分重视。另外，可以注意一下文章属于何种文体。

第二步：领会含义

阅读时，不能停留在词面意思上，而应根据上下文，领会其确切的含义。要做到这一点，请注意下面三个方面。①阅读时，注意力应保持高度集中。每个人的思想都难免会开小差，一有这种情况发生，就应立即纠正。纠正的方法是请你在脑子里记住预读时获取的信息，这样有助于把你的注意力集中在阅读材料上；②按意群阅读；③阅读时可不断向作者提些问题。例如：“What does this mean?” “What is he saying now?” “How can I use this information?” 这些问题也有助于把你的注意力集中在阅读材料上。

第三步：掌握段落大意

领会每一段的段落大意很重要。只有这样，才能把整篇文章的来龙去脉了解得一清二楚，从而达到理解全文的目的。下面两点方法供读者参考。①尽快找到该段的主题句。主题句即该段的段落大意。一般说来，主题句在段首或段尾。但应注意，某些段落没有主题句。它们通常创造一种气氛或情调，而不向读者提供具体信息；

②理解段落结构。每一个结构严谨的段落都包含作者一定的目的。作者的目的可能是向读者提供信息、说明事实、解释道理等等。读者应理解作者是怎样围绕大意达到其目的的。

第四步：理解全文的中心思想

阅读时，应把作者向读者提供的贯串全文的事实联系起来。这样，不仅能了解文章的中心思想，还能明白作者是通过什么方法来传达其意图的。另外，阅读时应找出文章内的信号词。有时，作者提供的信号词很明显。例如：“There are three reasons…”。聪明的读者就会顺藤摸瓜地找到这“三个原因”。其它一些信号词（例如：moreover, otherwise, consequently等）也能帮助读者发现作者的写作意图，从而帮助读者联系全文的事实，理解文章的中心思想。

读者如能按照以上四个步骤实践并养成习惯，必定能提高阅读速度和理解能力。

在本书的编写过程中，曾得到杭州大学外语教学部领导的大力支持，程贤政老师对该书的编写提供了许多具体的帮助，编者谨表示衷心感谢！

由于时间仓促和编者水平有限，书中难免有不当之处，请读者和专家们指正。

李志华

杭州大学外语教学部

1990年4月27日



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1 A Great Composer¹

作曲家

Ludwig van Beethoven² was one of the greatest composers who ever lived. He taught people that they could be freer when they wrote music. Before his time, music was composed for a special purpose. Often it was church music. Or, music was written to entertain³ at parties and dances. Beethoven did not think that music needed to have a practical use. He thought people should listen to music just for itself.

Beethoven was born in Germany in 1770. He was a very musical child. The boy learned to play the violin and the piano. But he was not happy at home. His mother died when he was in his teens. After that, his father was often drunk and bad-tempered. Beethoven became a tutor⁴ in a rich family. He was glad to get a job. His student's mother was very kind to the young teacher. She helped him meet many famous musicians. One of these was Mozart⁵. Mozart heard the boy play the piano. He said, "That boy will give the world something worth listening to."

In a few years, Beethoven was ready to leave his teaching job. He went to the city of Vienna⁶. There he wrote a lot of music. Some people who heard his music did not like it. They thought it was too loud and forceful⁷. But soon most people came to admire his work.

When Beethoven was in his twenties, he began to go deaf. The deafness changed his behavior⁸. He became withdrawn⁹ and moody¹⁰. His friends found him hard to be around. But he kept composing even when he lost all his hearing. The music he heard was in his head.

Beethoven died when he was 57 years old. Most of his friends

and family had deserted¹¹ him. This had caused Beethoven a great deal of grief. But at least he had had his music. He had composed over a hundred pieces. His music spanned¹² two stages of music history. His early music was more formal¹³. It followed certain steps and patterns. But his later music changed. That style is now called romantic¹⁴ music. This type of music is written to stir the listener's feelings. Sometimes a piece tells a story. Beethoven learned to use music, not words, for the story. This romantic style changed the way people thought about music. Many later composers gained new ideas from Beethoven's musical discoveries.

1. Beethoven was born in
 - a. France.
 - b. America.
 - c. England.
 - ☒ d. Germany.
2. The boy got a job as a
 - a. violinist.
 - b. singer.
 - c. tutor.
 - ☒ d. pianist.
3. When Beethoven was in his twenties, he began to go
 - ☒ a. deaf.
 - b. blind.
 - c. crazy.
 - d. wrong.
4. During his life, Beethoven composed
 - a. only a few pieces.
 - b. five hundred pieces.
 - ☒ c. over a hundred pieces.
 - d. two hundred pieces.
5. Beethoven's later style is now called
 - a. baroque music.
 - ☒ b. romantic music.
 - c. country music.
 - d. classical music.
6. The young Beethoven
 - a. was very happy.
 - ☒ b. did not get along with his mother.
 - c. played the trumpet.
 - ☒ d. was very talented.
7. Beethoven's father
 - a. begged him not to leave

- home.
- b. died when Beethoven was in his teens.
 - c. was not kind to his son.
 - d. took good care of his son.
8. Mozart apparently thought that Beethoven
- a. had a bad temper.
 - b. should stop playing the piano.
 - c. would become famous.
 - d. would certainly go deaf.
9. Beethoven's deafness made
- him
 - a. stop writing music.
 - b. difficult to socialize with.
 - c. talk very loudly.
 - d. famous.
10. Beethoven's music
- a. changed the way later composers thought.
 - b. is unimportant in today's music world.
 - c. ended the romantic era of music.
 - d. exerted no influence on later composers.

Words and Expressions

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. composer <i>n.</i> 作曲家</p> <p>2. Ludwig van Beethoven 贝多芬(1770-1827), 德国作曲家</p> <p>3. entertain <i>vi.</i> 款待; 供人娱乐</p> <p>4. tutor <i>n.</i> 家庭教师</p> <p>5. Mozart 莫扎特(1756-1791), 奥地利作曲家</p> <p>6. Vienna 维也纳, 奥地利首都</p> <p>7. forceful <i>a.</i> 强有力的</p> | <p>8. behavior <i>n.</i> 行为, 举止</p> <p>9. withdrawn <i>a.</i> 孤独的, 离群的</p> <p>10. moody <i>a.</i> 易怒的; 喜怒无常的</p> <p>11. desert <i>vt.</i> 抛弃</p> <p>12. span <i>vt.</i> 跨越</p> <p>13. formal <i>a.</i> 正式的; 正规的</p> <p>14. romantic <i>a.</i> 浪漫主义的; 浪漫的</p> |
|--|--|

2 Picture This

Many events in our lives give us special memories. A camera helps to preserve¹ those moments. Looking through photographs is a way to keep those times alive. To capture² just the right look, it helps to know how to use a camera. ^{we} ~~capture~~

First you need the right kind of film³ for your camera type. Then you need to load⁴ the film. This should be done away from bright lights. Be careful not to open the camera until the film is finished and rewound⁵. If this happens you risk exposure⁶ and loss of pictures.

You want to make sure the subject of your picture is centered. This is done by placing the subject in the center of your viewfinder⁷. You may want to take a picture of more than one person. In that case, focus on⁸ the center of the group.

Light is a big factor in effective photos. When you are outside, it is best to keep the sun behind you. Pictures taken inside usually need a flash⁹ for good lighting. However, to get a muted¹⁰ look, you may wish to forget the flash. It is fun to experiment with light for new effects.

Some cameras come with a self-timer¹¹. This is especially helpful if you want to include yourself in the picture. At family gatherings it is nice to be part of the group shot. Center the photo with your position in mind. Press the timer button and get into place. About fifteen seconds will go by. The flash will go off.

Care of your camera is very important. You should avoid getting it wet. Never let your camera sit in a hot place. Do not take it apart¹² yourself.

10元

Each person has his or her own style of taking pictures. Some like taking pictures of people. Others look for an outdoor scene as their subject. Some photographers like shots to be posed¹³. Others enjoy taking candid¹⁴. This is when people do not know their picture is being taken.

Now you are ready to take your picture. Hold the camera steady, focus, and click! When the film is developed, you can see your results. Don't be upset if your first pictures are not as good as you had hoped. Good photography takes practice. Taking pictures is a full-time job for some people. You might think of working for a newspaper or magazine. Or you could just use your skill for your own reward.

1. When you load film into your camera,
 - a. ☒ the room should not be well-lit.
 - b. ☐ count how many pictures you have.
 - c. ☐ make sure the window is open.
 - d. ☐ there should be bright lights.
2. If you open the camera before the film is finished,
 - a. ☐ take it out and have it developed.
 - b. ☒ you will lose pictures from exposure.
 - c. ☐ reload the film again.
 - d. ☐ you will save your film.
3. When you take pictures outside, the sun should 0
 - a. ☐ shine in your face.
 - b. ☒ be very bright.
 - c. ☐ feel very hot.
 - d. ☒ be behind you.
4. You should not let a camera
 - a. ☐ be returned to the store.
 - b. ☐ get used by someone else.
 - c. ☒ get hot or wet.
 - d. ☐ be taken apart by a photographer.
5. Candid~~s~~ are pictures
 - a. ☒ which are not posed.
 - b. ☐ that come out fuzzy.
 - c. ☐ that are taken on

- vacation.
d. which are muted.
6. A self-timer makes it possible
a. ☒ for you to be in the picture.
b. to take more than one picture at a time.
c. to take pictures underwater.
d. to center the subject of your picture.
7. Cameras help us to remember
a. to center people in a picture.
b. to capture the right look.
c. to rewind the film.
d. ☒ special events.
8. Light can be experimented with
a. ☒ to create a different effect.
b. to block out your subject.
c. when you are all out of film.
d. to develop your film.
9. Before using your camera, it is important to
a. ☒ have the right kind of film.
b. ☒ have your photo album ready.
c. tell people you are taking pictures.
d. have the people posed.
10. A newspaper or magazine can
a. help you answer questions about your camera.
b. supply you with plenty of film.
c. ☒ offer a good job for a photographer.
d. let you take candid.

Words and Expressions

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|----------|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 1. preserve | vt. | 保存; 保留 | 5. rewind | vt. | 倒卷 |
| 2. capture | vt. | 捕获; 摄取 | 6. exposure | n. | 曝光 |
| 3. film | n. | 照相软片; 胶卷 | 7. viewfinder | n. | 取景器 |
| 4. load | vt. | 装 | 8. focus on ... | | 聚焦于…… |

9. flash n. 闪光

10. muted a. 色调柔和的

11. self-timer n. 自动快门

12. take ... apart 把……拆开

13. pose vt. 摆好姿势

14. candid n. 趁人不备时偷拍的照片

III

album

photo album

reel exposure
caption focus on
photo muted
timer
self-timer
muted
Candid

If only I B. your advice.
A. take. B. taken. have C. could have taken D.