

田桂荣 等主编

# 大学英语 阅读300篇 (1~3级)



篇

300 PASSAGES TO DEVELOP  
READING COMPREHENSION (1~3 GRADE)

上海交通大学出版社

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300 Passages to Develop Reading Comprehension

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# 前 言

《大学英语阅读 300 篇(1~3 级)》是参考《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》及《普通高等专科学校英语课程教学基本要求》而精心编写的,其目的在于帮助高等学校的学生迅速提高阅读能力,达到规定的要求,顺利通过大学英语四级考试,高等专科学校英语水平考试及其他各种考试。

本书分四部分:第一部分对应于大学英语一级水平,在 100 篇文章中,第 1~80 篇为阅读理解,第 81~100 篇为简答题;第二部分的难度相当于大学英语二级水平,其设计与第一部分相同;第三部分对应于大学英语三级水平,100 篇文章均为阅读理解,在每篇文章中又设计一个英译汉翻译题,在文章中用底划线划出的句子即是供学生练习用的翻译题。简答题和翻译题是根据近几年考试中增加的新题型而设计的。第四部分为全书 1500 个练习题的参考答案。

本书选材广泛:有科普常识、人物传记、英语语言国家风土人情、生活习俗、社会文化及教育等方面的内容。文章体裁多样:有叙述文、说明文、议论文及应用文等。文章由浅入深,循序渐进,融趣味性和可读性于一体。

根据近几年考试题型的变化,本书设计了三种题型:阅读理解题、简答题和翻译题。其中 260 篇短文设阅读理解题,是本书的主体,另外 40 篇短文设简答题。翻译题则安排在第 201~300 篇阅读理解短文中。这三种题型都是用来培养学生的阅读能力的,但侧重点不尽相同。

阅读理解题主要培养学生掌握阅读材料的主旨大意;了解说明主旨大意的细节;既理解字面的意思,也能根据阅读材料进行一定的判断和推论;既理解个别句子的意义,也理解上下文的逻辑关系,以提高学生准确、快速获取信息的能力。在练习过程中学生应有意识地掌握快速阅读、查读、浏览等种种阅读技巧。

简答题主要有两种题型:特殊疑问句和未完成句。特殊疑问

句是简答题中的主要题型。回答特殊疑问句要求学生在对文字材料理解的基础上进行必要的归纳和概括,用自己的语言或在文章中摘出恰当的词语回答这些问题。做未完成句,则应在理解文字材料的基础上,摘出恰当的词语完成该句。简答题不仅考查学生的阅读理解能力,还在某种程度上考查学生的书面表达能力。做简答题时要紧扣问题,一语中的,简明扼要;切忌答非所问,画蛇添足。

英译汉主要培养学生对英语书面材料的确切理解能力。翻译题均从阅读理解的文章中摘引,因而这里所说的确切理解是指必须根据原文上下文来确切地理解英文。做翻译练习要求连贯、正确、表达清楚;不要过度追求汉语的“雅”。既不要漏译原文的重要部分,也不要随意增加影响句意的词语。

阅读速度因人而异,开始时以每 10 分钟读完一篇文章为好,重点应放在理解的准确性上,速度可逐步加快。

本书第四部分为全书 1500 个练习题的答案及翻译题的参考答案,可供学生自读自测,也可作为泛读教材或考试强化训练之用。它是学生的良师,老师的益友,是帮助读者顺利通过各种考试的好帮手。

本书由田桂荣、宋士华和梁志刚编写,由杨荣泉教授主审。

由于作者水平有限,加之时间仓促,谬误疏漏之处在所难免,望广大读者及同行专家不吝赐教。

编 者

# 目 录

<b>Part One</b> .....	( 1 )
Reading Comprehension(Passage 1 ~80) .....	( 1 )
Short Answer Questions(Passage 81 ~100) .....	(121)
<b>Part Two</b> .....	(140)
Reading Comprehension(Passage 101 ~180) .....	(140)
Short Answer Questions(Passage 181 ~200) .....	(274)
<b>Part Three</b> .....	(297)
Reading Comprehension(Passage 201 ~300) .....	(297)
<b>Part Four</b> .....	(463)
Key to Passage 1 ~80 .....	(463)
Key to Passage 81 ~100 .....	(464)
Key to Passage 101 ~180 .....	(467)
Key to Passage 181 ~200 .....	(468)
Key to Passage 201 ~300 .....	(471)
Key to Translations (Passage 201 ~300) .....	(473)

## Part One

### Reading Comprehension(Passage 1~80)

#### Passage 1

In one way of thinking, failure is part of life. In another way, failure may be a way towards success. The "spider story" is often told. Robert Bruce, leader of the Scots in the 13th century, was hiding in a cave from the English. He watched a spider spinning a web. The spider tried to reach across a rough place in the rock. He tried six times to span the gap. On the seventh time he made it and went on to spin his web. Bruce is said to have taken heart and to have gone on to defeat the English. . . Edison, the inventor of the light bulb, made hundreds of models that failed before he found the right way to make one.

So what? First, always think about your failure. What caused it? Were conditions right? Were you in top form yourself? What can you change so things will go right next time?

Second, is the goal you're trying to reach the right one? Try to do some thinking about what your real goals may be. Think about this question, "If I do succeed in this, where will it get me?" This may help you prevent failure in things you shouldn't be doing anyway.

The third thing to bear in mind about failure is that it's a part of life. Learn to "live with yourself" even though you may have failed. Remember, "You cannot win them all."

1. This passage deals with two sides of failure. In section 1 the author talks mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the value of failure
  - b. how people fail
  - c. famous failures
  - d. how not to fail
2. Robert Bruce is mentioned in this passage to show that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. failure must come before success
  - b. failure is not all bad
  - c. nature will help us if we let it
  - d. people who fail have plenty of company
3. Which of the following does the writer not tell us to do to cope with failure?
- a. Check out our goals to see if they are right for us.
  - b. Think about failure as part of life.
  - c. Think about a failure to find out what went wrong.
  - d. Avoid things that are beyond us.
4. The phrase “in top form” in paragraph 2 most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. in a high position
  - b. in a best condition of skill
  - c. in a right shape
  - d. in a healthy state
5. We can conclude from the last paragraph of this passage that \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. failure is the third important thing in one’s life
  - b. it is impossible to win a race without going through failure first
  - c. it is important to take heart when meeting with failure
  - d. we should live alone to experience failure

## Passage 2

Holidays in the United States usually occur at least once a month. Most months have a national holiday that has been arranged to be celebrated on a Monday. The holidays have all been decided to be celebrated on a Monday so that the workers may have 3-day weekends—that is, Saturday, Sunday and Monday in order to rest or travel or do things with their families. Major holidays in the United States such as New Year’s Day or Christmas Day or the day, when we remember the first settlers of the United States, called



Thanksgiving Day are celebrated all over the country. During these holidays most businesses close and the workers stay home and celebrate with their family.

Vacation can be from 2 weeks a year to 4 weeks a year. This usually depends on how long you've been working for a company, what type of position you have, whether you have a very high position or a very important position and it's difficult to find someone to replace you. In this case, you might take a few days at a time rather than taking one month all at once. Usually the more time you spend working for a company, the more time you may get for a vacation.

6. The government of the United States makes it a rule for workers to have a \_\_\_\_\_ weekend almost once a month.
  - a. 1-day
  - b. 2-day
  - c. 3-day
  - d. 4-day
7. Workers in the United States sometimes work from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Monday to Saturday
  - b. Tuesday to Sunday
  - c. Thursday to Friday
  - d. Tuesday to Friday
8. Which statement is not true according to this passage?
  - a. Only a few shops remain open on New Years Day.
  - b. Most of the workers needn't work on Christmas Day.
  - c. Days on vacation must be more than all the holidays in a year.
  - d. All the workers have a halfmonth vacation at least.
9. The reason why someone has to divide his vacation into several parts is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. no one can be found to take his place
  - b. he hasn't a most high position
  - c. he plays an important role in his work
  - d. he hasn't been working for his company for a long time
10. Which of the following is the best title for this passage?
  - a. Holidays in the United States.
  - b. Vacation in the United States.

- c. How do the workers spend their holidays.  
d. Something about the holidays and vacation in the U.S. .

### Passage 3

Antonia left Athens and came to America to make her fortune. She wanted to be a famous actress, so she went to live in Hollywood, California.

At first, Antonia had very little money, so she was forced to watch every penny while making the rounds of movie agents' offices. For over a year, she worked only in small parts. She found life extremely hard. She had to take buses or walk everywhere, and she ate only one meal a day. Even though she worked nights as a waitress, Antonia could not really make ends meet.

Suddenly, one day, the star of the film became ill, and the director asked Antonia to take the part. Her acting was superb. After the premiere of the film, she became an overnight success. Everyone gave her rave notices, and she received many offers for future starring roles.

Since then, Antonia has changed her whole way of life. Now she wears expensive furs and drives a Rolls-Royce. She lives in a twenty-seven room mansion in Beverly Hills, with seven servants. All her needs are cared for. For Antonia, America was truly the land of streets paved with gold. Through her hard work, she had earned the fame she desired so much.

11. The phrase “making the rounds” in paragraph 2 most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. visiting                                      b. making a fortune  
c. working extremely hard                  d. starring in films
12. What changed Antonia’s way of life?  
a. Wearing expensive furs.  
b. Her good fortune.  
☒ c. Her superb acting.  
d. Her experience as a waitress.

- ### Passage 4

My heart sank. What could I do? Should I jump into the river and hope to save my life by swimming? I looked to the right. In the river there was a big crocodile waiting to welcome me with its mouth wide open. I was so frightened that I shut my eyes. And I thought it would be the end of my life. I heard branches moving as the tiger roared and jumped. Just then I opened my eyes. What do you think had happened? The tiger had jumped right over me and now in the jaws of the crocodile.

- 5 —

- ### Passage 5

Of course, the bike has been around for more than 150 years, and this isn't America's first bicycle boom. A wave of bike enthusiasm swept the land in the late 1800s and bicycle production hit two million units in 1897. Then with the coming of the auto, bicycling declined, and for decades remained popular only with children and a few adult faddists.

— 6 —

21. The word "embrace" in the first sentence is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. make use of  
b. take someone into one's arms  
c. contain  
d. deal with
22. It can be concluded that if people continue to concern themselves with air pollution and physical fitness, \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. stricter air standards will be enforced  
b. fewer automobiles will be sold  
c. Americans will enjoy better health  
d. bicycle sales will continue to rise
23. The bicycle is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. enjoying a strong revival  
b. creating traffic problems  
c. popular only with children  
d. replacing the family car
24. The reader can also conclude that Americans are \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. quick to follow the example of others  
b. interested in comfort and luxury  
c. concerned with the quality of their lives  
d. childish in the way they relax and exercise
25. "... and this isn't America's first bicycle boom," the word "boom" means \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. a rapid increase in sale      b. supermarket  
c. a rapid increase in price      d. shop

### Passage 6

Primitive man learned that he could have more of the good thing of life by trading with other men. For example, he could exchange an extra animal skin for food, a club, or a spear. With the coming of civilization man began to use grain, olive oil, crops, and cattle as barter items. But trading with goods was inexact and

burdensome. It was necessary to carry around a load of hay on your back to exchange for a dozen bushels of wheat. In about 700 B. C. , a people in Asia Minor known as the Lydians decided that gold, silver, and other metals should stand for the value of goods. They invented a rough coin called the stater, which was made of gold and silver. A certain number of staters could be used to buy a bag of salt, a tool, or clothing. In this way the old custom of barter was gradually replaced by the use of money, although some primitive people still use goods as a medium of exchange.

26. The best title for this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Primitive Man
- b. The Stater
- c. The Lydians
- d. How Money Replaced Barter

(27) The best statement of the main idea of this passage is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. money replaced goods as a medium of exchange
- b. with the coming of civilization man began to use grain, olive oil, crops and cattle as barter items
- c. trading with goods was inexact and burdensome
- d. a certain number of staters could be used to buy a bag of salt, a tool, or clothings

28. According to the passage, primitive man traded \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. with money
- b. with grain
- c. with cattle
- d. to enrich his life

29. It is definite from the passage that trading with goods \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. no longer exists
- b. was inefficient
- c. was invented by the Lydians
- d. was exact

30. Money replaced the old custom of barter because \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. coins were made of rough metal
- b. the Lydians used staters to trade with other people
- c. money was more convenient
- d. crops and cattle were worthless

## Passage 7

One day a tailor in Duluth, Minnesota, was busy mending an old coat, repairing some holes and a place where it was torn, when he suddenly heard a low, threatening sound at his open door. He looked up and could hardly believe what he saw. He had heard there were bears coming right into the city looking for food, but it did not seem possible the brown beast at his door was real. He was terribly frightened. He had no gun in the shop. His only weapon was the pair of scissors he used for cutting cloth. At that moment a car came down the street. The driver saw the bear and was so surprised that he steered his car off the road and onto the sidewalk. Luckily, the bear was just as frightened by the car as the tailor was by the bear. The bear moved quickly on down the street to look for food elsewhere. The tailor telephoned the police, and the bear was captured before it could harm anyone.

31. A low, threatening sound was suddenly heard by a tailor when \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. he opened the door  
b. he was busy finishing a coat  
c. ☒ he was doing some mending  
d. he was washing an old coat
32. The man was frightened because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. there was something wrong with his gun  
b. he did not know how to use a gun  
c. he was afraid to fire a gun  
d. ☒ there was no gun in the shop
33. The passage says that \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. ☒ bears were heard coming into Duluth looking for food  
b. no one heard bears coming into Duluth looking for food  
c. the tailor didn't believe a bear was at his door  
d. sometimes bears came into the city looking for food and hurt people

34. When a car came down the street, \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. the driver saw the bear but was not frightened  
b. the bear was killed by the driver  
c. ☒ the bear ran down the street to look for food elsewhere  
d. the bear was captured by the police
35. The driver steered his car off the road and onto the sidewalk because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. he wanted to stop and save the tailor  
b. ☒ he hadn't expected to see a bear there  
c. the bear was coming directly toward him  
d. he wanted to stop and call the police

### Passage 8

Strange thing happens to time when you travel. Because the earth is divided into twenty-four time zones one hour apart, you can have days with more or fewer than twenty-four hours, and weeks with more or fewer than seven days.

If you make a five-day trip across the Atlantic Ocean, your ship enters a different time zone every day. As you enter each zone, the time changes the hour. Travelling west, you set your clock back; travelling east, you set it ahead. Each day of your trip has either twenty-five or twenty-three hours.

If you travel by ship across the Pacific you cross the international date line. By agreement, this is the point where a new day begins. When you cross the line, you change your calendar the full day, backward or forward. Travelling east, today becomes yesterday; travelling west, it is tomorrow!

36. The best title for this selection is \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. A Trip Across the Atlantic  
b. ☒ How Time Changes Around the World  
c. Crossing the International Date Line  
d. How Time Zones were Set up
37. The difference in time between zones is \_\_\_\_\_.



- a. seven days
  - b. twenty-four hours
  - ☒ c. one hour
  - d. more than seven days
38. From this selection it seems true that the Atlantic Ocean \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. is in one time zone
  - b. is divided into twenty-four time zones
  - ☒ c. is divided into five time zones
  - d. cannot be crossed in five days
39. The international date line is the name for \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the beginning of any new time zone
  - b. the point where time change by one hour
  - ☒ c. the point where a new day begins
  - d. any time zone in the Pacific Ocean
40. If you cross the ocean going east, you set your clock \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ a. ahead one hour in each new time zone
  - b. ahead one time for the whole trip
  - c. back one full day for each one full day
  - d. ahead by twenty-three hours

### Passage 9

When man began to search the skies with the improved telescopes, what he saw made him feel very small. Compared with the universe, earth seemed to be just a very small bit of dust.

Earth is only a planet located on the edge of the Milky Way. The Milky Way, our galaxy, has roughly thirty billion stars like our sun. It is itself just one of about a hundred million galaxies in the known universe.

Space is so vast and distances are so great that there is a problem in measuring them. Instead of writing down all the zeros, we describe these distances in light-years. A light year is the distance which light, moving at 186326 miles per second, travels in one year.

Our closest neighbor galaxy Andromeda, is more than 900000