

TRENDS IN TOEFL

Course of Reading Reading Practice

湖南大学出版社

托福新题型——阅读教程

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内容提要

本书系统介绍了托福阅读部分的最新动态,分析了出题方式及解题技巧,提供了最新的阅读材料,不但适合广大托福考生复习迎考,而且可作为大学英语四、六级考试、英语水平考试及研究生入学考试的备考教材。

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前言

从 1995 年 8 月开始托福试题有了新的变化,听力部分和阅读部分题型做了调整,听力、结构与书面表达、阅读都出现了新动向,测试的侧重点出现了新的趋势,如听力部分不再有脱离语境的单句理解,而对话增加了;阅读部分不再单独考查词汇,每篇文章后的问题增加了,等等。这一切都给将要参加考试的考生带来了新的挑战,如何备考,适应新题型、新趋势,是广大考生共同关心的问题。为了帮助他们尽快了解这些新动向,我们组织编写了这套托福新题型丛书(共三册),介绍新的命题范围和方式、解题技巧及对策,并精心挑选了反映重点、难点和新趋势的试题,为考生提供了丰富的实战材料。

本书为阅读分册,全书共分为三部分,第一部分介绍了阅读部分的新变化、出题方式和解题技巧,第二部分为 17 套阅读理解题,第三部分为参考答案与难词注释。该书不但可作为托福备考教材而且可作为大学英语四、六级考试、英语水平考试和研究生入学考试的阅读练习书。编者诚心希望使用该书的考生取得满意的成绩。

编 者 1995 年 11 月于湖南大学西语系

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1 简介及解题技巧

1.1 阅读部分简介

托福试卷的第三部分旨在测量学生的阅读理解能力,所读篇章在主题和文体风格上与学生在北美各大学可能遇到的情况相似。该部分由五至六篇文章以及文章后的问题组成,问题用于考查考生对文章明确陈述或暗示的信息和某些词语的理解。

美国教育考试服务处提供的资料表明,阅读文章涉及的领域广泛,但属一般性质的内容,而不致于对某领域的专家特别有利;一般来说,文章提供充分的语境,以便能读懂文章的考生不用依靠与内容有关的文章外的知识也能回答有关问题。

阅读材料不会具体涉及美国和加拿大以外的国家,以免对某一文化背景的人特别有利。所提问题主要检查考生对文章主要内容和展开的细节的理解,也有一些题目要求考生以文章的信息为基础作出推理,确认文章的组织结构、作者的写作目的,或将文章所述内容类推至文章以外的情景。也有一些词汇题检查英语单词的掌握情况,由于许多英语单词不止一个词义,考生应记住词汇题考查的是该词语在该段文章中的具体意义。

1.2 技巧、策略与题型

我们在阅读时既要注重理解,还要注意速度,会读书的人往往能视阅读材料的难度一边读一边调整阅读速度,以便达到速

度和理解的最佳平衡。在进行托福阅读训练时要特别注意有意识地提高自己的速度,力争做到快速读完文章且能用尽可能少的时间准确地解答题目;要做到这一点,考生应该注意以下几个方面。

1.2.1 一般阅读技巧的应用

读过大学英语的考生一般都知道一些英语阅读技巧,但是, 值得一提的是,并非所有的技巧都适合于托福阅读考试,下面择 其要点进行复习。

1.2.1.1 略读

一般来说,托福考试没有时间让考生把每段文章都预读一次,但考生完全可以用略读法有选择地读文章每小段的第一句和最后一句或其它较醒目的语句,扫视其它句子中突出的字眼。略读宜按正常速度的两倍进行。通过略读,考生往往能把握住文章大意,做出一些推测,以便在进一步阅读时进行考证。这种积极主动的阅读思维过程能使考生较牢固地记住文章内容。请按上述方法阅读下面的文章:

例 1:Magnesium is another mineral we now obtain by collecting huge volumes of ocean water and treating it with chemicals. Although originally it was derived only from brines or from the treatment of such magnesium-containing rocks as dolomite, of which whole mountain ranges are composed. In a cubic mile of sea water there are about four million tons of magnesium. Since the direct extraction method was developed in about 1941, production has increased enormously. It was magnesium from the sea that made possible the wartime growth of the aviation industry, for every airplane made in the United States (and in most other countries as well) contains about half a ton of magnesium metal. And it has innumerable

uses in other industries where a lightweight metal is desired, besides its long-standing utility as an insulating material, and its use in printing inks, medicines, and toothpastes.

- 1) What is the main topic of this passage?
 - (A)Use of sea water
 - (B)Treatment of sea water
 - (C)Chemical properties of magnesium
 - .(D)Derivation and uses of magnesium
- 2) According to the passage, why is magnesium important to industry?
 - (A)It is strong.
 - (B)It conducts heat well.
 - (C)It weighs little.
 - (D)It is inexpensive to produce.
- 3) According to the passage, magnesium was first obtained from
 - (A)rocks found on land.
 - (B)great amounts of ocean water.
 - (C)the sea floor.
 - (D)major industrial sites
- 4) According to the passage, which of the following was a direct consequence of the new method of obtaining magnesium?
 - · (A) The development of insulation materials.
 - (B)Increased airplane production.
 - (C)Improved medical facilities.
 - (D) The development of cheap inks for printing.
- 5)It can be inferred from the passage that during the past fifty

years the demand for magnesium has

(A)declined greatly.

(B)increased slightly.

•(C)remained stable.

(D)risen dramatically.

文章第一句告诉读者如今通过对海水进行化学处理可获得magnesium(镁),紧接着提到过去获取镁的方法、海水中镁的含量、直接提炼法的发明以及镁在工业中的用途。magnesium 在全文中出现五次,中心非常突出,此外,dolomite,extraction,aviation industry,innumerable uses,lightweight metal 等字眼亦容易引起注意,这些都有助于弄清文章大意和解题。答案分别为1(D),2(C),3(A),4(B),5(D)。

1.2.1.2 寻读

读完文章和题目后考生可利用寻读法解题。寻读是指有目的、有计划地按题目的意图有重点地尽快寻找到答案的出处,题目中的关键词或表达式可作为线索,首先扫描记忆中有印象可能出现答案或支持答案的地方,对自己原先较模糊的判断进行考证。如果题目问某事件发生的年代,那么以年代作为线索搜寻文章中的年代表达式并进行确认;如果题目问某人做过某件事,那么以该人名为线索挑出含有它的句子再读以便确认。有时候文章较长,完全可以先读题目弄清意图后再按"图"索骥。读下段文章时,先读题目,然后以题目中的关键词为线索找出答案。

例 2. Today's trumpet is one of the world's oldest instruments. It is the result of many centuries of development. Although it looks nothing like its ancestors, there are many similarities. All trumpets are hollow tubes. They are all blown. And they all use the player's lips to produce the basic sound.

The trumpet developed as players and makers worked to improve its design, size, shape, material, and method of con-

struction. They wanted to create an instrument that would produce a beautiful and attractive tone, enable the performer to play all the notes of the scale, extend the range higher and lower, make it possible to play more difficult music, and, in general, be easier to play well. The remarkable way in which the modern trumpet achieves these goals is a measure of the success of all those who struggled to perfect this glorious instrument.

The trumpet is actually the leading member of an entire family of related instruments. There are trumpets of several different sizes, and in several different keys. There are cornets, bugles, flugelhorns, and a number of others that are all similar to the trumpet in the way they are made and played.

The trumpet family is much more than a group of related instruments that can stir one with their sound, or narrow tubes of metal capable of producing a variety of musical sounds. It is a link to many different periods of history and people of many cultures. From the use of trumpets in ancient religious ceremonies to the part they play in modern rock bands, the trumpet family of instruments has much to tell about civilization and its development.

- 1) What is the best title for the passage?
 - (A)Science and the Trumpet
 - (B)Recordings of the Trumpet
 - (C)The Trumpet and Its Ancestry
 - (D)How the Trumpet Is Made
- 2) It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is needed to make the trumpet work?

(A)Air pressure

(C)Daily cleaning

(B)Keen eyesight

(D)Long fingers

3) In line 22, the word "one" could best be replaced by

(A)the listener

(C) the composer

(B)a family

(D)an instrument

- 4) Which of the following can be inferred about the first trumpet players?
 - (A) They could not play all the notes of the scale.
 - (B) They were not able to pick up the trumpet.
 - (C) They could not play simple tunes.
 - (D) They had difficulty improving upon the trumpet.
- 5) The author believes that the trumpet is particularly important because it
 - (A)can be used in rock bands.
 - (B) has historical significance.
 - (C) is religious instrument.
 - (D) has a narrow range.

记住第 1 题中的 science, recordings, ancestry, trumpet 和 made, 第 2 题中的 make the trumpet work, 第 3 题的 one, 第 4 题的 first trumpet player 和第 5 题中的 particularly important; 回过头读文章核实心中的推测,不难找出五道题的相应答案:1(C),2(A),3(A),4(A)和 5(B)。

在略读过文章后解答题目时也应以关键词语(特别是题干的关键词)为线索,找到有相应内容的地方考证。

1.2.1.3 推测生词意义

托福考试中无可避免地会遇到生词,文章后的题目中也有一定数量的题目考查考生的词汇量和生词理解能力。平时过份依赖词典的考生遇到生词时往往束手无策,全凭运气猜答案。然

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而,在阅读中我们完全可以用下列方法推测出生词或新表达式的意思。生词的构造、前后的词语以及上下文逻辑关系都为弄清词义提供了必不可少的线索。养成猜词的习惯可节省查词典的时间,还有助于学习单词的具体用法,除构词外,我们一般还可以从以下几个方面找出生词的意义:生词后的定义、下文的重述、常识、相关信息、举例说明、前后对比与对照等,例如:

- 1) There the crust of the Earth is thinner and the unknown mantle the layer beneath the crust lies closest, tempting scientists to drill into it. (mantle 后紧跟一个简单的定义)
- 2) Carbon monoxide is a <u>noxious</u> gas which can cause death. (名词后的定语从句重述名词前的形容词的意思)
- 3)The man walked <u>briskly</u> to keep warm on the very cold night. (常识告诉我们,寒冷的夜晚要快走才能保持暖和)
- 4)Of mammals, only humans and some primates enjoy color vision. The red flag is black to the bull. Horses live in a monochrome world. (从上下文和前缀 mono-可推测出词义为"单色")
 - 5)She is studying glaucoma and other diseases of the eye. (可判断出划线词指一种眼疾)
- 6)Don't be deceived by his lugubrious appearance; in fact, he is quite a jolly person. (从两句的对照可看出划线词可能是jolly 的反义词)

1.2.2 阅读策略

由于中小学汉语教学的影响,不少人养成了一些防碍提高阅读速度的坏习惯,并且迁移到外语阅读活动中。考生一定要尽力去掉这些坏习惯,有意识地培养好的习惯。

1)不要一词一词地看,而是按意群或至少是一个个短语地

读,最好能一目半行乃至一行(一目数行在考试中不现实)。

- 2)不要念念有词地读,甚至心里都不要想到单词的发音,要养成真正的默读习惯。
 - 3)不要用手或笔指着文字读,只用眼睛扫视。
 - 4)不要前后左右摆动头部,只要动眼就够了。
 - 5)略读时不要回视,而是顺着文章思路发展读下去。
- 6)不要等读完文章后才进行推理,而是要边读边推理、判断、做结论、再论证;有不少考生只一味接收信息而不加工,结果在解题时被动接收的信息已基本遗忘。
- 7)不要把文章内容全看成事实或真理,不要只凭印象和常识解题,而是要细心区分事实与观点;要特别注意字里行间的含意。

做到以上几点,并非一日之功,考生应将阅读视为自己生活中的一部分,通过大量的有意识、有目的的实践逐步改进方法,提高水平。

1.2.3 题型与解题方法

托福文章涉及的领域虽多但提问的方式有限,一般有主旨题、事实细节题、推理题、词汇题、指代关系题、篇章结构题、预测题等。掌握题型,了解措词方式,识别题型有利于快速作出反应,对症下药,顺藤摸瓜,争取在最短的时间内解答题目。

为便于托福考生备考,兹将有关题型的形式、措词、干扰方式、解题对策介绍如下。

1.2.3.1 主旨题

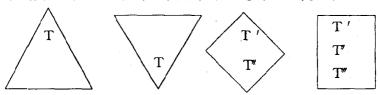
主旨题亦称作中心思想题,不但考查考生对文章中心思想或段落大意的理解,而且还可能检查考生识别作者意图的能力。

主旨题的题干部分往往包含以下措词:

- 1) principal; main; mainly; best; suitable; primarily
- 2) idea; point; topic; title; purpose; theme; subject; discuss;

summarize; express; concerned

解答此类题型的第一步是找出文章或段落的主题句。主题 句比其它句子更概括、更笼统、更抽象,一般位于文章起首,也有 可能处于段中、段尾或分成几部分置于文章中数处,还有可能只 是暗示出来而已。用下列图形表示主题句(T)可使其一目了然。



找到主题句或通读文章后的关键是四个选择项的理解。最好的选择,既所谓正确答案,在四个选择中最全面、最恰当地总结文章段落的内容,但不一定包含文中的词语。

其余三个选择项为干扰项,即所谓错误答案,一般有以下几个问题:

- 1)包含文章未曾提及或暗示的新信息;
- 2)只总结部分内容,遗漏了文章的某些主干思想;
- 3) 措词过于笼统,往往包括文章外的许多其它情况。

请回头阅读例 1 及第 1 题,不难发现(A)、(B)、(C)三个干扰项有以上特点,(A)只提到文章极少一部分内容,忽略了镁的提炼和工业用途;(B)的措词极笼统,同时也忽略了文章另一半内容;(C)提出的是新信息——"镁的化学性质"。

1.2.3.2 事实细节题

作者为了说明、论证某一思想往往佐以大量事实、中肯的细节。托福阅读部分有不少题目正是为了考查考生识别理解文章中具体事实和细节的能力。这种题又可分为两类,一种是查问文章中出现的某些具体内容,另一种是要求考生识别文章中不曾出现也没有被暗示的信息。

事实细节题的措词千变万化,但一般含有 who, what,

which, why, where, when 疑问词或 according to the passage/author 等。

答题时先弄清题目意图,抓住关键词,然后在相关信息处寻 找依据确证或排除某些选择项。要特别注意选择项的措词,找出 与原文的差异,不要受形似义异的选择项干扰,也不要受段章取 义或张冠李戴的干扰项的迷惑。

题干部分往往有关键词或短语,可以作为寻读的线索,然而 正确答案却不一定有文中某处完全一样的措词,有时编题人有 意采用诠释法编正确答案,也就是用不相同的词解释同一事情; 至于干扰项,编题人故意用一些貌似而神不似的表达式。例1的 五道题有三道是事实细节题(2、3、4)。

例如,第2题问为什么镁对工业重要,industry 可作为线索找到第10行和第13行,发现第13行提到镁在需要重量轻的金属的工业中有许多用途,由此可知(C)是答案,进一步的论证发现(A)是编题人生造的新信息,(B)和(D)也没有文字依据,这时可完全确定正确答案是(C)。为了节省时间,考生有时省去后面的论证过程,因此,如果有两个以上可行的答案而先选择的不是最佳答案,那么考生就会选错丢分。熟练的考生一般能利用刚记住的内容较快地完成后一步骤。

1.2.3.3 推理题

这种最令考生头痛的题目考查考生根据文章字面表述进行归纳、演绎、分析、综合、引申等的逻辑推理能力。这类题既有以局部内容(包括词汇和短句)为基础进行判断的简单推理题(包括计算题),也有以某一思想或段落、甚至整篇文章为基础判断作者(或文中某人物)态度、观点、意图、语气、身份及文章文体等的复杂推理题。

一方面,有些题要求考生根据文章明确陈述的内容做出结论,另一方面,也有一些题要求考生将文章中的某一情况引申至

文章外的可能情形。

推理题的题干一般包含以下表达式:

- 1) infer, imply,
- 2)most probably, least likely 等。

推理题的选择项措词千变万化,不胜枚举。

不少考生做推理题出错往往是由于先入为主。事实上,一切推理判断是建立在文章(包括思想和形式)的基础上的,考生的背景知识和经验可用而不可重用,也就是说可以用于帮助理解而不可把自己的知识和经验也当作文章作者的。

另一问题是,考生有时忽视了事实与观点、绝对与可能、必 然与偶然之间的区别,错把观点看成事实,错把可能的事情当作 既成事实。

例 1 的第 5 题为推理题,正确判断建立在文章后半部分的基础上,一是镁生产大幅度上升,二是镁在许多工业领域有广泛用途,这些都有力地证明选择(D)是正确的或至少比其它三个更合理。

1.2.3.4 词汇题

托福考试第三部分不再有专门考查词汇掌握情况的分列式词汇题,但每篇文章后基本有若干道题目检查考生理解上下文中词汇或表达式的能力,这些词一般是多义词,因而它们的意义只能在上下文中理解,而不一定时生生平时熟知的那种。

在做词汇题时,首先要找到该词的位置,吃透上下文,然后依上下文的特定意思选择最相近的选择项,而不可不看上下文 只依记忆中的意义做选择。

例 3:The agricultural revolution in the nineteenth century involved two things: the invention of labor-saving machinery and the development of scientific agriculture. Labor-saving machinery naturally appeared first where labor was scarce. "In

Europe. "said Thomas Jefferson. "the object is to make the most of their land, labor being abundant; here it is to make the most of our labor, land being abundant. "It was in the United States, therefore, that the great advances in nineteenth-century agricultural machinery first came.

At the opening of the century, with the exception of a crude plow, farmers could have carried practically all of the existing agricultural implements on their backs; by 1860, most of the machinery in use today had been designed in an early form. The most important of the early inventions was the iron plow. As early as 1790 Charles Newbold of New Jersey had been working on the idea of a cast-iron plow and spent his entire fortune in introducing his invention. The farmers, however, were not interested in it, claiming that the iron poisoned the soil and made the weeds grow. Nevertheless, many people devoted their attention to the plow, until in 1869 James Oliver of South Bend, Indiana, turned out the first chilled-steel plow.

- 1) What is the main topic of the passage?
 - (A) The need for agricultural advances to help feed a growing population
 - (B) The development of safer machines demanded by the labor movement
 - (C) Machinery that contributed to the agricultural revolution
 - (D) New Jersey as a leader in the agricultural revolution
- 2) The word "naturally" in line 4 is closest in meaning to
 - (A)unsurprisingly

(B)gradually

(C)apparently

- (D)safely
- 3) The expression "make the most of" in line 5 is closest in 12