

# 大学生高级实用英语

## —— 新型阅读技巧 (上册)

Advanced Practical English for College Students

郝庆华 王淑艳 主编



南开大学出版社

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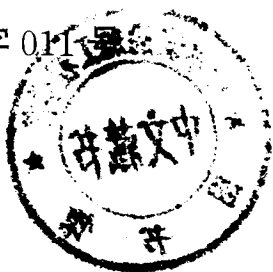
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—新型阅读技能(上册)

郭庆华 王淑艳 主编

南开大学出版社出版

(天津八里台南开大学校内)

邮编:300071

新华书店天津发行所发行

永清县第一胶印厂印刷

1994年11月第1版 1994年11月第1次印刷  
开本:850×1168 1/32 印张:11.75  
字数:351千 印数:1-8000

ISBN 7-310-00708-5

I·69 定价:10.50元

## 前 言

改革开放的深入,社会与经济的发展,已在很大程度上改变了中国人的观念与意识,对未来的建设者们——当今的大学生——自然也提出了新的要求。具体说就是:英语专业的学生要有些其它专业知识,而其它专业的学生在英语方面则不仅要能读懂,而且还要有一定的听、说、写的能力。本书正是为适应这种英语学习的大趋势而编写的。

本书分上、下两册,每册二十个单元,每单元有三篇文章,文章后是练习。文章均选自当代英美报刊、杂志、小说及广告说明材料等。内容上涉及学科较广,可为学生提供多方面的知识。练习设计以快速阅读为基础,准确理解为核心。各个练习互有连带关系,前一个练习为后一个练习作准备,后一个练习又以前一个练习为基础。由于练习中加强了口语与写作的较系统的训练,以满足学生的要求,并为学生日后实际工作与学习打下基础,所以,它使读者适应改革开放的形势,满足一个对外交流蓬勃发展的社会对外语人才的需要。

本书编写过程中,参考了大量国外出版的英语最新书籍,并得到了南开大学出版社及英国和澳大利亚友人的大力支持与帮助,在此特表谢意。

参加本书编写工作的有:内蒙古工学院外语系王淑艳、北方交通大学外语部李江靖、山西大学师范学院公外部李晓虹、内蒙古大学外语系刘晓燕、南开大学公共外语部薛念文、河北工学院外语部张慧泉、南开大学外文系郗庆华(以姓氏笔画为序)。由于时间紧迫,水平有限,书中定有不少缺点错误,敬请读者批评指正。

编者

1993年7月

## 本书使用说明

本书的重点是要通过一系列技巧练习,使有一定英语基础的学生在理解原文及作者意旨方面有新的认识与提高,同时也逐步培养起听、说、写的习惯与能力,以适应今后的社会需要。为使读者更好地使用此书,现将本书中练习的主要类型及目的介绍如下:

### 1. 预猜

在看到文章标题后,阅读文章之前,让学生对文章思想内容进行一下猜测。(学生猜得正确与否并不重要),目的是:(1)从一开始就引导学生注意文章思想内容,而不是一头扎进词汇堆里。(2)阅读前即对文章有一定猜想,然后在阅读中印证、检查,能增加思想内容的新鲜感,加强学生记忆力。(3)组成小组(3—4人为宜)对文章内容进行预猜讨论,可以增加口语练习机会。(注意:这一项不管是回答问题还是讨论,均要求口头做)。

### 2. 速读

预猜完毕,便让学生速读该篇文章,为后面的讨论或分析做准备。速读中有时会产生误解或错解,原因可能是碰到了生词,但也可能是由于未掌握合理的阅读技巧。生词可以通过查词典自己解决,本书所侧重的是阅读技巧。将如何快速阅读安排在第一篇,目的是让学生了解后去实践、练习。

### 3. 抓中心思想

这项练习是在速读中找出文章的主题思想。文章或数百字或上千言,要讲许许多多的内容,但作者所言必有主有次。有时读者主次混淆,不能准确了解作者的意旨,就达不到阅读的目的。这项练习是通过各种不同形式的练习培养学生分清文章内容主次、迅速抓住中心思想的本领。

### 4. 克服生词障碍

阅读中,最常遇到的问题是生词。其实,根据上下文已知内容,多数情况是可以猜出该词的大概意思的。这项练习旨在培养学生进行合理的猜测。此练习本可放在“抓中心思想”之前,但为了避免

学生看到文章就陷进生词堆里,所以决定还是首先来解决“中心思想”的问题,并通过分析思考,解决关键词义的识别问题。

处理生词有各种方法,除查字典外,还可以用抓词根,看前、后缀等方法进行猜测。但本练习的重点在于根据上下文找线索,然后根据线索去对生词的词义进行猜测。找线索的主要方法有:

(1)有时作者在一句话、一段话或一篇文章中,通过另外的几个单词或短语,以直陈或暗示的方式为某个生词作某种程度的解释,这就为我们理解该词提供了线索。

(2)作者有时用逗号、冒号、括号、破折号以及重复等手法来表明两个相邻的词为同义或近义,这也为我们理解其中生词提供了线索。

(3)有时作者也用一些信号性的词来表明其后的词语与前边的词语互为反义。这些信号性词语也就为我们理解生词提供了线索。这些信号性词语有: rather than, while, not, however, on the other hand, but 等。

(4)有时作者以举例的形式对一些重要观点或论点进行说明或解释。这样,文中的例子自然也就成了读者理解文章文字的线索。这样的线索有时又有下列信号性词: many types, such as, several, characteristics, include, consist of, are source of ... 等。

(5)同一个英文词在不同句子里有不同的意思,这也是学生在学习英文中常遇到的难题。其实,既然词义都寓于其所在的句子或段落所创造的环境及氛围里。那么,从整句整段文字所表达的含义中去猜测词的意思与功能就是顺理成章的了。这样,我们就可以以句意或段意为线索,去推断某词的意思。

### 5. 通过速读获取某信息或检查理解

在有了对文章的总体理解,熟悉了中心思想后,可进行该项练习,目的在于加强对文章的进一步理解。练习的内容是让学生通过速读去了解细节情况及信息。在生活中,为了解某种信息,有时无需通读全文,例如在考试中,以及回答某具体问题等,但要准确而迅速找出你所需信息,则需要反复练习并掌握一定技巧。本练习就是为训练这种技巧而设计的。

### 6. 文章组织分析

对文章的组织结构进行分析,可使学生看到作者如何将句子连成段,将段连成文章以展现自己意图。这种分析有助于深入理解

课文,加深记忆,为随后的口语讨论等练习作好准备。让学生了解全文组织结构,从文章组织上看作者的意图,也可以克服学生只注意词义、句义而忽略作者在全文中的意旨这种只见树木不见森林的学习方法。本书中组织分析练习主要采用下列三种方法:

### (1)文章组织中次序的分析

为使内容表达清楚,作者有时依事物的发生、发展和结果这样一定顺序和一定过程中的阶段和步骤来写作。如果阅读时能理出这种顺序,看到每个事件之间的逻辑关系,就会对所述内容有更深入的认识,对作者的意图有更深的了解。一般来讲,作者在表达这种顺序时,常用一些信号性词来提醒读者,如: before, after, first, next, later, finally, last, when, while, since, today, then, as soon as, time, date, number 等。

### (2)看清因果关系

有时作者把各种想法或行动加以梳理组织,以强调事物的起因。这时,我们所要注意的就不应该只是个别行动。因为作者往往通过把一个个行动或想法联结起来以表现一个行动怎样直接或间接导致另一行动。表示起因的信号性词有: lead to, bring about, determine, affect, because of, make, the reason why, are factors on, influence 等。

也有时,作者把各种想法或行动加以梳理组织,以表达某行动的结果。这时,我们也不应只注意具体行动。因为作者是通过一个行动对另一个行动所产生的作用,来说明某事件或想法的结果。表示结果的信号性词有: result, as a result of, outcome, thus, a consequence of, derived from, led to, brought about by, therefore 等。在快速阅读中,只注意具体事件而不注意作者将这一个事件联系起来要表达的前因后果,这是造成某些学生对所读文章似懂非懂的原因。此项练习就是通过种种训练手段来培养学生正确的阅读习惯。

### (3)认识文章中的比较与对比

有时,作者运用比较和对比,来表现事物间的同异。在这种情况下,我们所要注意的不应只是作者对每个事物的描写,而应是作者进行比较或对比的用意。因为作者是通过事物描写,比较到这些事物的共同点、相近点与不同点,或其同异程度。此项练习的目的是使学生在阅读中,逐步从注意对具体事物的描写转移到注意

作者的意图、目的。有关比较和对比的常用词有:like, but, or, on the other hand, conversely, differences, similar, equal, nor, alike, both, neither. 等。

在练习中,无论是回答问题还是进行讨论均应用英语进行。另外,由于课文文字难易程度不同,学生对其内容熟悉程度不同,为充分发挥课文的作用,以达到最好的教学效果,每课课后的练习项目不尽相同,练习项目的先后顺序也未必统一。这主要是因为本书的编写遵循形式服从效果的原则。



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## UNIT 1

### Passage A: How to Read Faster

#### Predicting

1. Look at the title and discuss in groups:
  - a) How do you think you can read faster?
  - b) What do you have to do if you want to read faster?
2. What are the words you think that may appear in the passage?

#### HOW TO READ FASTER?

*Bill Cosby*

When I was a kid in Philadelphia, I must have read every comic book ever published. (There were fewer of them then than there are now)

I zipped through all of them in a couple of days, then reread the good ones until the next issues arrived.

Yes, indeed, when I was a kid, the reading game was a snap.

But as I got older, my eyeballs must have slowed down or something! I mean, comic books started to pile up faster than my brother Russell and I could read them!

It wasn't until much later, when I was getting my doctorate, I realized it wasn't my eyeballs that were to blame. Thank goodness. They're still moving as well as ever.

The problem is, there is too much to read these days, and too little time to read every word of it.

Now, mind you, I still read comic books, in addition to contracts, novels and newspapers; screenplays, tax returns and correspondence. Even textbooks about how people read. And which techniques help people read more in less time.

I'll let you in on a little secret. There are hundreds of techniques you could learn to help you read faster. But I know of three that are especially good.

And if I can learn them, so can you — and you can put them to

use immediately.

They are common sense, practical ways to get meaning from printed words quickly and efficiently. So you'll have time to enjoy your comic books, have a good laugh with Mark Twain, or a good cry with *War and Peace*. Ready?

They'll give you the overall meaning of what you're reading. And let you cut out an awful lot of unnecessary reading.

### **1. Preview — If it's long and hard**

Previewing is especially useful for getting a general idea of heavy reading like long magazine or newspaper articles, business reports, and nonfiction books.

It can give you as much as half the comprehension in as little as one-tenth the time. For example, you should be able to preview eight or ten 100-page reports in an hour. After previewing, you'll be able to decide which reports (or which parts of which reports) are worth a closer look.

Here's how to preview: Read the entire first two paragraphs of whatever you've chosen. Next read only the first sentence of each successive paragraph. Then read the entire last two paragraphs.

Previewing doesn't give you all the details. But it does keep you from spending time on things you don't really want or need to read. Notice that previewing gives you a quick, overall view of long unfamiliar material. For short, light reading, there's a better technique.

### **2. Skim — If it's short and simple**

Skimming is a good way to get a general idea of light reading — like popular magazines or the sports and entertainment sections of the paper.

You should be able to skim a weekly popular magazine or the second section of your daily paper in less than *half* the time it takes you to read it now.

Skimming is also a great way to review material you've read before.

Here's how to skim: Think of your eyes as magnets. Force them to move fast. Sweep them across each and every line of type. Pick up

*only a few key words in each line .*

Everybody skims differently.

You and I may not pick up exactly the same words when we skim the same piece, but we'll both get a pretty similar idea of what it's all about.

To show you how it works, I circled the words I picked out when I skimmed the following story. Try it. It shouldn't take you more than ten seconds.

My brother [Russell] [thinks monsters] [live] in our [bedroom] closet at night. But I told him [he is crazy].

"Go and [check] [then]," he said.

[I didn't want to .] Russell said [I was chicken.]

"Am not , " I said.

"Are so, " he said.

So [I told him] the monsters were going to [eat him] at midnight. He started to cry. [My Dad came in] and [told] the monsters [to beat it]. Then he [told] us to [go to sleep].

"If I hear any more about monsters," he said, "[I'll spank you.]"

We went to [sleep fast]. And you [know something?] They [never did] [come back].

Skimming can give you a very good idea of this story in about half the words — and in less than half the time it'd take to read every word.

So far, you've seen that previewing and skimming can give you a general idea about content — fast. But neither technique can promise more than 50 percent comprehension, because you aren't reading all the words. (Nobody gets something for nothing in the reading game.)

To read faster and understand most — if not all — of what you read, you need to know a third technique.

### 3. Cluster—To increase speed and comprehension

Most of us learned to read by looking at each word in a sentence—one at a time.

Like this:

My—brother—Russell—thinks—monsters...

You probably still read this way sometimes, especially when the words are difficult. Or when the words have an extra-special meaning—in a poem, a Shakespearean play, or a contract. And that's O. K.

But word-by-word reading is a rotten way to read faster. It actually cuts down on your speed.

Clustering trains you to look at groups of words instead of one at a time—to increase your speed enormously. For most of us, clustering is a totally different way of seeing what we read.

Here's how to cluster: Train your eyes to see all the words in clusters of up to three or four words at a glance.

Here's how I'd cluster the story we just skimmed:

My brother Russell thinks monsters live in  
our bedroom closet at night. But I told him he is crazy.  
“Go and check then,” he said.  
I didn't want to. Russell said I was chicken.  
“Am not,” I said.  
“Are so,” he said.  
So I told him the monsters were going to eat him  
at midnight. He started to cry. My Dad came in  
and told the monsters to beat it. Then he told us  
to go to sleep.  
“If I hear any more about monsters,” he said,  
“I'll spank you.”  
We went to sleep fast. And you know something?  
They never did come back.

Learning to read clusters is not something your eyes do naturally. It takes constant practice.

Here's how to go about it. Pick something light to read. Read it as fast as you can. Concentrate on seeing three to four words at once rather than one word at a time. Then reread the piece at your normal speed to see what you missed the first time.

Try a second piece. First cluster, then reread to see what you missed in this one.

When you can read in clusters without missing much the first time, your speed has increased. Practise fifteen minutes every day and you might pick up the technique in a week or so. (But don't be disappointed if it takes longer. Clustering everything takes time and practice)

So now you have three ways to help you read faster. Preview to cut down on unnecessary heavy reading. Skim to get a quick, general idea of light reading. And cluster to increase your speed and comprehension.

With enough practice, you'll be able to handle more reading at school or work—and at home—in less time. You should even have enough time to read your favorite comic books — and *War and Peace*!

### **Glossary**

- ① zip[zip]vt. go through quickly
- ② snap[snap]n. a very easy task
- ③ doctorate['dɒktərɪt]n. the degree, title or rank of a doctor
- ④ screenplay['skri:npleɪ]n. a story written in a form suitable for its production as film
- ⑤ spank[spæŋk]vt. strike with quick force (as if) with the open hand
- ⑥ cluster['klʌstə]v. (cause to) gather in a group; n. a number of things of the same kind growing or being close together in a group

### **Exercises**

#### **Extracting the main idea**

Which of the following statements do you think best expresses the



main idea of Bill Cosby's article? Why is it better than the other two?

1. Moving your eyes faster across each line will give you a general idea of the content of the reading material in much less time than it would take to read every word
2. Different methods serve different purposes. It is necessary to choose your method of reading according to the kind of material you have to read and the amount of comprehension you need.
3. you should preview long and heavy readings, skim simple ones, and read in groups or clusters when you have to understand most of the material quite well.

### Dealing with unfamiliar words

Here are some slang and difficult words, try to guess the meaning from the context.

1. Yes, indeed, when I was a kid, the reading game was a snap. But as I got older, my eyeballs must have slowed down...

- a) child                                      b) boy  
a) difficult job                              b) easy job

2. I zipped through all of them in a couple of days, then reread the good ones...

- a) read fast                                      b) finished as quickly as possible

3. It wasn't until much later, when I was getting my doctorate, I realized...

- a) degree of a Doctor                      b) philosophy degree

4. I'll let you in on a little secret

- a) give you                                      b) share... with you.

5. 'Go and check then,' he said. 'I didn't want to' Russell said. 'I was chicken'

- a) lacking courage                              b) full of courage

6. Preview to cut down on unnecessary heavy reading.

- a) increase                                      b) reduce

7. Concentrate on seeing three or four words at once rather than one word at a time.

- a) Pay attention to                              b) Keep