

朱 篱 编写

最新大学英语

阅读 60 篇

60 篇

60 NEWLY-COMPILED READING
MATERIALS FOR COLLEGE

上海交通大学出版社

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前 言

《最新大学英语阅读 60 篇》是一本面向具有中高级英语水平读者的全新阅读教材,它可作为大学英语四、六级考试的应试教材,也适用于英语专业高年级学生、研究生、以及参加 TOEFL 和 GRE 等考试的学生。该书具有如下特色:

全书内容选自近期国外出版物,内容新,时效性强。

每篇文章不仅有丰富的语言信息,还有很丰富的知识信息,诸如 Y2K 问题,辽西发现的龙鸟和孔子鸟,“奔腾”处理器如何得名,美貌的进化,猪与人体器官移植,美元的魅力等等。许国璋先生生前认为,不要总是把阅读的目的放在提高英语上,阅读应该首先是吸收知识,并在其过程中自然而然地吸收语言。本书的宗旨正是贯彻了许先生的这一想法,使您在获得知识的同时提高英语水平。

本书的阅读理解问题不仅仅着眼于读者对文章字面意义的理解,更重要的是帮助读者提高阅读技能,使读者能够深入阅读,从字里行间领会作者的意图和文章内涵。与此同时,培养读者对文章进行归纳、推断和分析的能力。

提高英语水平的最好途径是什么?答案很简单,那就是广泛阅读。只有通过大量有意义的语言输入,才能有良好的输出,才能真正提高英语的各项技能。正是出于这样的考虑,我们编写了本书奉献给大家,希望它有助于您英语水平的提高。

在本书的编写过程中,得到陈怡、张小钢、孙新宇、李惠、路明、刘金陵、薛纓、张梅梅、刘燕的支持和帮助,谨表谢意。

由于时间仓促,如有疏漏之处,敬请读者批评指正。

编 者

1999 年 6 月

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Passage 1

贝多芬失聪的原因至今仍然是个谜,他是否患有肝硬化、梅毒等其他疾病?最近科学家们正在研究贝多芬的头发,也许能从中找出答案。

Hair Apparent¹

1 Ludwig Van Beethoven probably thought he was taking his secrets to the grave when he died in 1827. He thought wrong. While the composer was decorously interred in his beloved Vienna, most of his hair wasn't; souvenir-hunting fans snipped off so much of his silver mane before burial that he went to his tomb almost bald.

2 What does a posthumous haircut have to do with secrets? Forensic (法医) scientists have long known that a body's hair has tales to tell. To begin with, it carries DNA (脱氧核糖核酸), which can be used to determine family relationships (that's how scientists determined that a woman name Anna Anderson was not, as she claimed, Princess Anastasia of Russia) or hereditary diseases (that's how they hope to prove Lincoln suffered from Marfan syndrome (玛凡综合症), a genetic disorder that makes its victim grow tall and gangly (瘦高的)). Hair also soaks up drugs and other foreign substances from the body (low levels of arsenic in Napoleon's hair established that the ex-Emperor probably wasn't poisoned, as some historians believed).

3 Now it's Beethoven's turn, thanks to two Arizona music lovers. They bought lock of hair at an auction in 1994, and have ordered it for scientific analysis. So far, researchers have learned that the composer didn't have lice and didn't take morphine for his

kidney stones or his cirrhosis (硬化) of the liver. They are still looking for traces of mercury and lead, either of which could have caused his famous deafness; the former would be an especially juicy find, since mercury in those days was used to treat syphilis (梅毒), which some scholars think Beethoven may have had. They'd also like to know if he took any medicine for the terrible diarrhea he reportedly suffered; his hair might reveal that too. It won't help anyone better appreciate the Ninth Symphony. But it might make for (导致) some highbrow (高品位的) gossip.

Comprehension Questions

1. In line 1, "his secrets" refer to all of the following EXCEPT _____.
(A) how he went deaf
(B) what medicine, if any, he took to cure his diarrhea
(C) how he wrote the Ninth Symphony ✓
(D) whether he had lice
2. All of the following are true EXCEPT _____.
(A) President Lincoln was tall the thin
(B) some historians believed that Napoleon was poisoned with arsenic
(C) President Lincoln suffered from Marfan syndrome
(D) Anna Anderson claimed to be Princess Anastasia of Russia
3. If Beethoven definitely did not suffer from syphilis, which of the following will be true? C
(A) Lead would be found easily.
(B) Beethoven did not suffer from diarrhea.
(C) Researchers would find it difficult to pinpoint the cause of Beethoven's deafness.
(D) Mercury would be the major cause of Beethoven's deafness.
4. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
(A) DNA may also be used to trace non-hereditary diseases
(B) levels of substance soaked up in the hair remain little

- changed over time
- (C) Beethoven suffered many other diseases
- (D) in Beethoven's time, mercury was used to treat a wide range of diseases
5. Which of the following words could best be substituted for "juicy" (para. 3) without substantially changing the writer's meaning?
- (A) similar (B) disappointing
- (C) scientific (D) exciting

【注释】

1. Hair Apparent 是作者玩的文字游戏,也就是双关。它在拼写和读音上同 heir apparent (继承人)相似。双关在英语中较为普遍,例如,一家发廊的招牌上写着 Curl up and Dye,意思是“卷发后染发”,但通过双关可以表示“蜷缩后死亡”,因为 dye 和 die 谐音。

再比如,Where there is a will, there is a way. (有志者,事竟成)通过双关可以说成 Where there is a will, there are relatives. (在有遗嘱的地方,亲属云集),因为 will 可以表示“意志”,也可以表示“遗嘱”。

Passage 2

随着 2000 年的临近,计算机“千年虫”问题也越来越引起人们的担忧。那么,“千年虫”是怎么回事?它的危害到底有多大?你的银行存款会被它“吃掉”吗?

Year 2000 Time Bomb

1 No one knows for sure how much trouble will occur at the stroke of midnight, Dec. 31, 1999, when computer clocks roll over everywhere. Some fear the worst: More than half of the technology executives polled recently by CIO magazine¹, for instance, say they will avoid flying commercially on Jan. 1, 2000. Another survey found that 38 percent of information technology industry professionals plan to pull money from banks and investments just before 2000.

2 Even if planes don't fall from the sky and banks don't lose people's deposits, experts say we all will experience inconvenience from what is becoming widely recognized as the “year 2000 problem.” They predict everything from disrupted travel schedules to more serious problems, like large-scale power outages or even global recession. The processing of tax refunds, veterans' benefits (抚恤金) and employee checks could be hampered(阻碍). Indeed, in some places, the problems is already upon us. One survey found that 44 percent of U. S. companies had already experienced a year 2000 failure—like the grocery in Warren, Mich., whose entire computer system crashed when a cashier tried to swipe (刷(卡)) a credit card bearing a 2000 expiration date.

3 As glitches (小故障) go², the year 2000 computer problem (or,

in computerese (计算机行话), the “Y2K” problem) is simple enough. Many of the world’s computers cannot recognize a year that begins with “20” instead of the familiar “19” because, to save space, programmers used only the last two digits to refer to a given year. When the millennium(千年) arrives, thousands of computers could interpret the year 2000 as the year 1900 and make a mess of daily life.

4 Fixing the Y2K problem is also simple—in concept. Someone must examine every line of code in every computer, locate the instructions regarding dates, and rewrite them to accept 2000 as a year designation. But despite the rising din(喧嚣) of warnings, surveys indicate that too few managers in business and government recognizes how little time is left to complete the task.

Comprehension Questions

1. Which of the following statements is best supported by the passage?
 - (A) Many people in the technology industry are worried about the “Y2K” problem.
 - (B) The “Y2K” problem is only a minor error and is no cause for concern.
 - (C) A great deal has been done to fix the “Y2K” problem.
 - (D) The consequences of the “Y2K” problem will be so serious that the whole human race will be eradicated.
2. Why does the author mention the grocery in Warren, Mich. ?
 - (A) To illustrate that the problem is real.
 - (B) To point out that the incident is an isolated one.
 - (C) To list the industries that might be affected.
 - (D) To caution against credit card use.
3. What caused the computer system to crash at the grocery in Warren, Mich. ?
 - (A) The system could not recognize a year designation beginning with “20.”

- (B) The system could not recognize a year designation beginning with "19."
- (C) The system's "Y2K" problem had been fixed but the credit card hadn't been upgraded.
- (D) The credit card was not valid.
4. In computerese, the year 30,000 would be written as _____.
(A) Y3000K (B) Y3KK
(C) Y3KKKK (D) Y30K
5. The writer uses the phrase "in concept" (para. 4) most probably to imply which of the following?
(A) Fixing the "Y2K" problem is conceptually difficult and requires great expertise.
(B) Understanding the "Y2K" problem is more important than knowing how to fix it.
(C) Simple as it is, fixing the "Y2K" problem may be time-consuming.
(D) Fixing the "Y2K" problem is as easy as the problem itself.

【注释】

1. CIO magazine: 一本有关公司信息技术(IT)的杂志。CIO: Chief Information Officer 的简写。

2. As glitches go: 就小故障而言。as...go 解释为“按照……常规,就……而言”,例如:

It wasn't much, as bridges go: not wide enough for a car or sturdy enough to support a motorcycle. 这不同于一般的桥,它很小,没有小汽车那么宽,也承受不了一辆摩托车的重量。

Passage 3

你知道美元在美国本土以外的流通总值是多少？外国人喜欢使用什么面值的美元？美国人又是怎样看待美元在国外的地位？

They Love Our Money

1 Every morning thousands of traders from the countries of the former Soviet Union descend on the Aksaray district of this ancient Turkish seaport. Soon its narrow streets, where signs in Russian outnumber those in Turkish, are filled with visitors buying wholesale goods for resale to customers back home: jewelry, eye-glasses, plumbing fixtures, and most of all, clothing. "You want it in black?" asks the Russian-speaking owner of a store specializing in leather coats. "Come back tomorrow by 5 p. m. and we'll have it in black." Then the names of the price: \$150 per coat—in American cash, please.

2 While Istanbul's moneychangers can handle everything from Romanian lei to Kazakh tenge, the green back (美钞) reigns supreme. And that is true around the globe. Few Americans may realize it, but more U. S. currency is in circulation outside the United States than inside. Of the \$450 billion in bills and coins now lining (填充) people's wallets, cash registers, bank vaults, and mattresses, about two thirds—or \$300 billion—is abroad.

3 That percentage is rising. The end of the cold war opened the former Soviet bloc to American currency, and restrictions on currency trading have been eliminated in much of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Hoseph Botta, who tracks U. S. cash for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, says that the amount of U. S.

currency abroad has grown \$ 15 billion to \$ 20 billion a year for the past five years.

4 Roughly 80 percent of the American cash abroad is in the form of \$ 100 bills. That contrasts sharply with cash at home, which circulates mainly in \$ 20 bills (the denomination (面值) favored for use in automated teller machines). Says Botta: "The higher denominations are very popular outside the U. S. , and that reflects what people are using the currency for"—not small, daily purchases but savings and commercial transactions. In many countries, the local currency is ravaged by inflation or residents do not trust the banks.

5 The popularity of the U. S. bank note (钞票), says Peter Bakstansky of the Federal Reserve, is "a vote of confidence in the monetary, fiscal, and economic system" of the United States. And the Fed¹ is willing to go a very long way (花大力气) to maintain that confidence: In the spring of 1996, when the United States redesigned the \$ 100 bill to thwart (挫败) counterfeiters (伪造者), Treasury officials undertook a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign to reassure Russians that the estimated \$ 20 billion of old bills they possessed would still be legal tender (法定货币).

Comprehension Questions

1. People come to the Aksaray district to _____.
(A) sell goods (B) buy wholesale goods
(C) exchange money (D) do sightseeing
2. The number of American cash abroad in \$ 100 bills is about _____.
(A) 450 billion (B) 360 billion
(C) 300 billion (D) 240 billion
3. It can be inferred that the small denomination bills are favored for _____.
(A) savings (B) business transactions
(C) daily purchases (D) money exchange

4. The writer states all of the following as factors in the popularity of U. S. dollars abroad EXCEPT _____.
- (A) opening of Soviet bloc to American currency ✓
 - (B) the competitive edge of U. S. dollars over other currencies
 - (C) elimination of restrictions on currency trading
 - (D) collapse of local currencies ✓
5. Which of the following was the specific effort aimed at maintaining confidence in U. S. dollars abroad?
- (A) Issuing more \$ 100 bills.
 - (B) Issuing more small denomination bills.
 - (C) Redesigning \$ 100 bills.
 - (D) Campaigning to reassure old bills would still be valid.

【注释】

1. Fed: 美联储(Federal Reserve Board)的简写。