

全国英语等级考试系列用书

(PETS)

新思路
单项技能教材 · 阅读

● 张在新 主编

第五级

Read



高等教育出版社

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

新思路单项技能教材. 阅读. 第5级 / 张在新主编.
北京: 高等教育出版社, 2003.8 (2004 重印)
全国英语等级考试系列用书
ISBN 7-04-012127-1

I. 新... II. 张... III. 英语 - 阅读教学 - 水平考试 - 教材 IV.H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 000403 号

出版发行	高等教育出版社	购书热线	010-64054588
社 址	北京市西城区德外大街 4 号	免费咨询	800-810-0598
邮政编码	100011	网 址	http://www.hep.edu.cn
总 机	010-82028899		http://www.hep.com.cn
传 真	010-64014048		

经 销 新华书店北京发行所
印 刷 中国农业出版社印刷厂

开 本	787×960 1/16	版 次	2003 年 8 月第 1 版
印 张	17.25	印 次	2004 年 6 月第 2 次印刷
字 数	420 000	定 价	22.00 元

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《新思路单项技能教材》简介 New Idea Textbooks for PETS

《新思路单项技能教材》是由PETS研究小组成员针对“全国英语等级考试(PETS)”专门编写的。全套书共20分册，结合PETS一、二、三、四、五级考生的听、说、读、写等四项技能分别进行单项训练和辅导。本套教材有下面四个特点：

新颖

全套教材贯穿以考生/学生为中心的教学思想，结合PETS考试的语言交际原则，通过训练提高考生的语言交际技能。本套教材一改重视语言结构的传统模式，特别注重语言交际的实用性。其新颖性体现在语言交际功能和考生的语言交际需求的统一，即：口语交际功能符合考生的口头交际需求，写作技巧符合考生的书面表达需求，阅读和听力理解方法满足考生的信息获取需求。

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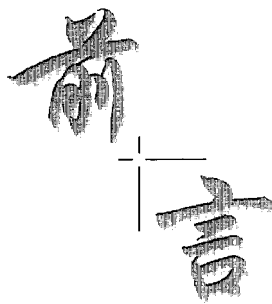
PETS研究小组成员对PETS考试大纲、命题以及成绩评判等各个环节颇为熟悉，并作了专门研究，因此全套教材紧扣PETS各级考试大纲，切实把握大纲所规定的各级语言技能的考试原则和要求。主要编写人员均在国外研修过，对外语教学测试有较深的研究，他们负责各个级别各项语言技能的设计和编写工作，保证了教材的权威性。

适用

本套教材编写针对PETS考生群体的特殊需求，根据考生自学的特点，既讲授知识，又涵盖技能扩充训练、生词注释、练习及答案。除口语的读者定位是两人小组训练外，其它听、读、写的读者定位均为单一考生自学者，因此各分册涉及的讲解和练习内容都切实体现特定读者的需求。

有趣

本套教材尽可能采用英语原文幽默故事、卡通漫画、游戏和趣闻趣事作为素材，生动活泼，图文并茂，寓教于乐，能有力地激发读者的学习兴趣，提高学习效果。



全国英语等级考试体系(Public English Test System, 简称 PETS)是目标参照性考试, 其测试重点是考生的语言实际运用能力或交际能力。阅读理解能力的测查是其中重要的一部分。

级别描述

考试大纲中对PETS第五级考试的界定是:“考试(PETS)五个级别中的最高级, 其标准相当于我国大学英语专业二年级结束时的水平”, “通过该级考试的考生, 其英语水平基本满足在国外攻读硕士研究生非英语专业或从事学术研究工作的需要。该水平的英语也能满足他们在国内外从事专业和管理工作的基本需要”。

此外, 考试大纲对第五级考生语言运用能力中的接受能力, 即阅读能力, 也作出了明确的要求:“能够分析性、评议性地阅读, 并从具体目的出发确定有关资料的价值。”这就比四级的要求更进了一步。考生不但要读懂多种不同类型的文章, 包括私人和正式信件、书刊、杂志上的文章, 以及与自身学习或工作有关的专业文章, 而且要对文章作出价值判断, 并进行分析和评议, 而不是简单地接受。

在具体能力方面, 要求考生能理解主旨要义, 理解文中具体信息, 根据上下文推测生词的词义, 进行有关的判断、推理和引申, 理解文中的概念性含义, 理解文章的结构及单句之间、段落之间的关系, 理解作者的意图、观点或态度, 区分观点、论点和论据, 掌握文章的连贯性和一致性等语段特征, 以及运用略读和掠读的方法获得具体信息。

教材特点

按照上述第五级大纲的要求而设定的本阅读教材的总体目标是,培养、训练考生的各种阅读技巧,扩大考生的阅读面,以期达到PETS考试第五级阅读能力的测试要求。

本阅读教材是完全遵照PETS第五级考试的特点进行设计的,以大纲所要求的阅读能力测试重点为主,同时兼顾提高考生的整体阅读水平,指导考生如何阅读,包括准确阅读、快速阅读和广泛阅读,并就各种有效阅读方法来设计练习。具体从以下几个方面满足考生的需求:

1. 熟悉考试内容

第五级大纲没有列出阅读考试的话题内容要求,所以主要是参考前几个级别大纲的具体要求。全书按主题分单元,每个单元围绕同一个主题有四篇文章。阅读材料来源多为国外较新的各种原始材料,基本涵盖了大纲对阅读内容的要求。题材涉及面广泛,为考生熟悉各种题材的考试内容提供素材。

2. 熟悉考试形式

根据大纲对阅读技能的具体要求,本阅读教材在每篇阅读材料后都根据有关的阅读技能、技巧设计了相应的练习,帮助考生熟悉考试题型。同时,具体指导考生如何进行有效阅读,以期通过这些练习帮助考生在熟悉考试题型的基础上适应对阅读能力的各个方面、不同形式的考查。所有练习都配有答案,放在书的最后,以备考生自测。

3. 提高总体阅读水平

在满足了考生熟悉考试内容和形式的需求的前提下,本阅读教材还力求能够提高考生的总体阅读水平和兴趣。每个单元的文章分成两大部分,第一部分包括A、B两篇文章,通过多项选择等手段,重点培养考生的细读和准确获取文章信息的能力。第二部分包括C、D两篇文章,着重强化快读和对上下文语篇连接的认识。为了帮助某些有困难的考生准确理解文章,每单元最后都配有“词汇表”和“注释”,对文章中出现的一些文化背景、疑难句型、结构难点、特殊句词等作出详细注解。

4. 掌握阅读技巧

对一些具体的阅读技巧,除了从练习的设计中体现以外,各单元中会

有简单的说明，用较醒目的格式提醒考生注意，以帮助考生配合练习尽快掌握，有效地提高阅读理解能力。

如何使用教材

一、自学者使用

教材根据大纲的要求按主题分单元，每个主题都包含：四篇风格不同并从不同侧面介绍该主题的阅读材料，材料后的各种练习，以及最后的生词和注释。建议使用时可按以下几个步骤进行：

第一步：考生阅读文章，不看各单元的词汇表和注释，先做文章后的练习。

第二步：如果第一遍理解有困难，可以参考单元后的词汇表，并且对照注释再进行一次阅读，然后再做练习。

第三步：练习答案附在书后，可以对照检测自己的阅读理解程度。

二、课堂使用

本教材也可以在教师的指导下在课堂上使用，这样效果可能会更好，因为考生的个别疑难问题能得到教师详尽、及时的解答。本书所讲的一些阅读技巧也能在教师的具体和详尽的阐释中充分体现出它们的优点。此外，教师还可以在课堂上增加一些阅读前的练习项目，如让学生根据文章标题预测文章内容等，学生还可以在教师的指导和控制下对某些文章做快速阅读练习。

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封面设计	王凌波
版式设计	孙伟
责任校对	常少华
责任印制	杨明

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高等教育出版社法律事务部

邮 编：100011

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UNIT



The Internet

Part A Text A Truth, Lies and Cyberspace

Text B Net's "Chatterbots" Get Sophisticated

Part B Text C The Web Lifestyle

Text D Playing I-Ball



Text A

Truth, Lies and Cyberspace



Among Bloomberg's web pages on April 7th appeared a story that looked ordinary enough: PairGain, an American **telecom** equipment manufacturer, was to be bought by an Israeli company for about twice its market value. The company's stock price, predictably, rocketed from \$8.50 to \$11.13. All fine and normal — except that the story wasn't true. Somebody had copied Bloomberg's **logo** and layout and posted a false report on the Bloomberg site. When PairGain queried the report, it was taken off, and the share price crashed again. Bloomberg is now suing unnamed parties who posted the page, in order to use the law to try to find out who they were.

As more and more of life moves on to the Internet, so the difficulty of distinguishing fact from fiction on it becomes more and more of a worry. This problem springs from the Internet's central virtue: low barriers to entry. In the real world, being a publisher costs a great deal of money. You have to have manufacturing facilities and distribution networks. So real-world publishers have a great deal invested in their reputations and consequently need to be careful about what they print.

On the Internet, being a publisher costs next to nothing. Many Internet publishers, therefore, have little to lose from printing untruths and plenty to gain in notoriety if the story they put out is sensational enough. What's more, faking the real-world newspaper, which has to be both manufactured and distributed, would be next to impossible; faking an Internet page is dead easy.

Not all the efforts of the lowering of the barriers to entry are bad. Big, established news organizations can be too cautious and too protective of their more powerful sources. Many scandals have been unearthed first by outsiders with scrappy news sheets and little to lose by way of influential contacts. The Internet is a golden age for what used to be the newsletter. The downside is

the ease with which error spreads.

Falsehoods fall into four principal categories. International fraud, as in the Bloomberg case, seems to be relatively rare. Malicious gossip is far commoner: mean fictions that once circulated in a small group now spread across the world instantly through forwarded e-mails and newsgroups. Last year everybody on the Internet knew that Tommy Hilfiger, a fashion designer, had made racist comments on the *Opereh Winfrey Show*¹. Except that he didn't. Again, earlier this year everybody on the Internet knew that *USA Today* had reported that the pop singer Mariah Carey, when asked what she thought of the death of King Hussein of Jordan, said, "He was probably the greatest basketball player this country has ever seen. We will never see his like again." Except, of course, she didn't; and that *USA Today* never reported it.

Then there is careless reporting, which happens because the standard of accuracy on the Internet is low, and the speed of dissemination is high. So the web edition of *Dallas Morning News* scooped the world in claiming that a secret agent had seen Monica Lewinsky and President Clinton² alone together. This was picked up and broadcast by ABC³ before the newspaper's website had time to **retract**. Similarly Pierre Salinger, former television newsmen, claimed at a news conference that TWA 800, a passenger plane that crashed into the Atlantic killing all aboard in 1996, had been downed by a missile — all on the basis of a web page of dubious origin.

Lastly, there are some other whispers, which make the Internet such a perfect place for urban legend. Somebody puts something on the Internet and, somehow, it turns out to be something else altogether — often something intriguing. Mary Schmich of the *Chicago Tribune* wrote her column one week as a graduation speech. Somehow this column became tagged, on the web, as Kurt Vonnegut's **commencement** speech at MIT⁴. Everybody loved it and Mr Vonnegut was mobbed by people wanting to reprint it. Ms Schmich tried to trace the mistake, but on the Internet, such trails lead into infinity.

Cyberspace can also be risky, for now, because even sophisticated people can be **gullible** about what they read there. This may be because of a lag between technology and perception. Smartly produced pages, and things on screens, impress us with an authority that springs from the resources needed to produce them in the old paper medium. Perhaps everyone should be more worldly wise about what can turn up on the web.



- “比较”和“对比”(comparison and contrast)是文章中经常使用的写作手法。当阅读含有“对比”的文章时,读者需要留意对比双方各自的特征和属性。这样才能将两者区别开来,从而增加我们对文章理解的准确性。例如本文中的real-world publishing 和Internet publishing 的对比。下面我们来做练习。

I. Match the following characteristics with the business they describe (A=Internet publishing, B=real world publishing).

Which one

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. enjoys low barriers to entry? | |
| 2. needs manufacturing facilities? | A |
| 3. is costly? | |
| 4. needs distribution network? | |
| 5. is too cautious? | B |
| 6. offers easy access? | |
| 7. is protective of its powerful sources? | |
| 8. is similar to newsletter? | |

II. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- The Bloomberg incident in the first paragraph is a case of _____.
 - [A] malicious gossip
 - [B] careless report
 - [C] whisper
 - [D] international fraud
- The difference between a real-world publisher and an Internet publisher is that _____.
 - [A] the real-world publisher enjoys low barrier entry
 - [B] the Internet publisher is notorious for telling lies
 - [C] the real-world publisher is too cautious about their investment
 - [D] the Internet publisher enjoys easy access and low costs