

高等院校英语专业四级考试指导丛书

READING COMPREHENSION

阅读理解

主编 余才胜
审校 张庆宗

湖南人民出版社

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高中英语阅读与写作技巧

阅读理解

TEACHER

1. 阅读理解
2. 写作技巧

湖南人民出版社

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阅 读 理 解

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第一部分

阅读技能篇

《英语教学大纲（高等学校英语专业）》（2000年）指出英语专业基础阶段（一年级和二年级）的主要教学任务是传授英语基础知识，对学生进行全面的、严格的基本技能训练，培养学生实际运用语言的能力、良好的学风和正确的学习方法，为进入高年级打下扎实的专业基础。该大纲同时对各阶段的教学要求也做出了明确具体的规定。教育部目前用来检验基础阶段的教学效果和学生的语言能力的途径之一就是每年一度的全国高校英语专业四级考试。就阅读课而言，其目的在于培养学生的英语阅读理解能力和提高学生的阅读速度；培养学生细致观察语言的能力以及假设判断、分析归纳、推理检验等逻辑思维能力；提高学生的阅读技能，包括细读、略读、查阅等能力；并通过阅读训练帮助学生扩大词汇量，吸收语言和文化背景知识。强调阅读课注重阅读理解能力与提高阅读速度并重。而全国高校英语专业四级考试中对阅读的测试也包括这两部分，即阅读理解（Reading Comprehension）和快速阅读技能（包括 Skimming 和 Scanning）。为了帮助即将参加全国高校英语专业四级考试的学生做好系统的复习准备，本书将对阅读技能和应试技能作系统的介绍，并提供仿真试题十套供学生结合所介绍的阅读技能和应试技能进行实战演练。

本篇将系统介绍与提高阅读理解能力相关的阅读技能。就阅

读能力而言，它主要包括下列几个方面：

- 理解所读材料的主旨和大意 (Understanding the main idea)
- 了解阐述主旨的事实依据和细节 (Understanding specific details)
- 根据所读材料进行推理判断，领会作者的真实意图 (Making inference and understanding the author's real intention)
- 正确理解文中出现的生词 (Dealing with unfamiliar words)

以下我们将分四节讲解如何正确理解文章中出现的生词和难词；如何掌握文章和段落的主旨；如何对所读材料作结论；如何对文章内容进行推理判断。需要说明的是，英语阅读技能不仅仅包含我们在本篇中要介绍的这些，它还包括快速阅读技能以及如何获取文章的细节信息、如何判断句子的正误等等。但是，为了避免与本书第二部分（应试技能篇）的内容重复，我们在本篇中就只分四节重点介绍以上所列的阅读技能，其他的技能可以参考第二部分的相关内容。

第一节 正确理解词汇

作为第二语言的学习者，在阅读英语文章的过程中遇到生词是一种常见的现象。很多学习者往往把阅读理解能力不强与词汇量不够联系在一起，这也是正常的。其实，阅读理解能力的差异是由多种因素决定的，比如读者的背景知识、语言知识（如词汇、语法、修辞等）、语言应用能力和逻辑思维能力等因素。词汇量的多少只是影响阅读理解的因素之一。我们应该明白：认识一篇文章的所有单词并不等于能理解这篇文章；而透彻理解一篇文章并不一定要认识文章的所有单词。那么，如何克服这一因素对阅读理解的影响呢？英语学习者在平时的学习中除了要注意积累词汇以外，还应该注意培养在阅读中正确猜测和理解词汇的能

力。在此，我们将重点介绍如何根据上下文猜测词义的方法，以帮助英语学习者提高阅读理解能力。

一、根据上下文的线索 (Context Clues) 猜测词义

根据上下文 (Context) 猜测词义的线索包括：定义 (Definition)、解释 (Explanation)、举例 (Example)、语义关系 (Semantic Relation) 等。

1. 定义 (Definition)

上下文有时候会就一个难懂的单词或概念下定义，以帮助读者理解作者的意图。常常出现在文中的这种表述方式有：“It can be defined as”, “It’s defined as”, “It can be defined that”, “... is supposed to tell (be)...” 或 “... is ...” 等。

例如：

A. *Linguistics* is the study of the way in which language works.

B. *Western horoscope* is supposed to tell you what to do and how to behave on a day-to-day basis.

2. 解释 (Explanation)

除正式的定义外，作者还可能在逗号、破折号或括号后给出生词/难词的解释。近义词或同义词在这里出现得较多。

例如：

A. It is a popular belief that SLA (second language acquisition) is strongly influenced by the learner’s FL (first language).

此句括号中的内容分别解释了缩写词“SLA”和“FL”的含义。

B. Put the picture in a prominent or noticeable place in your room so that you can take notice of it everyday.

此句中逗号后面的 noticeable 是前面生词 prominent 的同义

词，用来对生词进行解释。

- C. It is a law of diminishing returns—the less work you do, the less interest you will have and the more bored you will become.

此句中破折号后面部分解释了概念 “a law of diminishing returns”。

3. 举例 (Example)

文中作者有时会使用具体的实例对某个生词或概念加以说明。常用的表述有：“such as”、“including”、“for instance”、“for example”、“an example of that is”、“to illustrate”等等。

例如：

- A. Being born a horse, for example, determines your character, but then it is up to you to maximize the positive aspects of this animal and minimize its negative features. You can become a very good horse, but you can never stop being a horse!
- B. He observed teachers' adjustments in pronunciation, such as, with low-level students, the teachers used a more accurate, standard pronunciation.

4. 语义关系 (Semantic Relation)

这里介绍的语义关系包括上下义关系和对比关系。

A. 上下义关系

在英语中有很多同义词之间存在着上下义关系，比如 furniture (家具) 一词和 table (桌子)、desk (书桌)、bed (床) 等词之间就是上下义关系。能够判断出词汇之间的这种关系对于我们理解词汇和判断文章的内容是很有帮助的。

例如：

Vitamin A is abundant in a variety of vegetables and fruits, including carrots, spinach, squash, tomatoes, sweet potatoes and apples.

在此句中学生对“spinach”和“squash”也许比较陌生，但是，如果能辨别出“vegetables and fruits”和“carrots, spinach, squash...”是上下义关系，就能猜出这两个生词的大意：它们是上义词“vegetable”的下义词，是两种蔬菜。

B. 对比关系

有时作者在文章中借助反义词来解释某一生词。在文章中作者通常是用某些标志性词语（signal words）来表示词语之间的对比关系。这些标志性词语有：“unlike”、“however”、“while”、“nevertheless”、“despite”、“although”、“even though”、“(and) on the other hand”等等。

例如：

The players in the World Cup are professionals, while those who play in the Olympics must be amateurs.

在上句中“amateurs”一词也许是生词，但是“while”提示了对比关系，我们可以猜出“amateurs”是“professionals”的反义词。

二、练习

练习 1

Directions: With the help of context clues, write down your own definition of every underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. Most dentists' offices are drab places, but Emilio's new office is a bright, cheerful place.
2. In spite of the fact that the beautiful egret is in danger of dying out completely many clothing manufacturers still offer handsome prices for their long, elegant tail feathers, which are used as decorations on ladies' hats.

3. The man thought that the children were defenseless, so he walked boldly up to the oldest and demanded money. Imagine his surprise when they began to pelt him with rocks.
4. Experts in kinetics, in their study of body motion as related to speech, hope to discover new methods of communication.
5. Unlike her gregarious sister, Jane is a shy, unsociable person who does not like to go to parties or to make new friends.
6. After a day of hunting, Harold is ravenous. Yesterday, for example, he ate two bowls of soup, a salad, a large chicken, and a piece of chocolate cake before he was finally satisfied.
7. After the accident, the ship went down so fast that we weren't able to salvage any of our personal belongings.
8. The major points of your plan are clear to me, but the details are still hazy.
9. By anticipating the thief's next move, the police were able to arrive at the bank before the robbery occurred.
10. All of the palace's laundry, when gathered for washing, formed a massive bundle which required the combined efforts of all the servants to carry.
11. "Give me specific suggestions when you criticize my work," said the employee. " Vague comments do not help me improve."
12. The apple appeased my hunger temporarily, but I could still eat a big dinner.
13. The workers' lives were wretched; they worked from morning to night in all kinds of weather, earning only enough money to buy their simple food and cheap clothes.
14. It is difficult to list all of my father's attributes because he has

so many different talents and abilities.

15. Mother was tall, fat, and middle-aged. The principal of the school was an older woman, almost as plump as Mother, and much shorter.
16. Many members of the old wealthy families in society held themselves aloof from Gatsby, refusing even to acknowledge his existence.
17. I became angrier and angrier as Don talked, but I refrained from saying anything.
18. Mr. Doodle is always busy in an ineffectual way; he spends hours running around accomplishing nothing.
19. Ian was proud of the neat rows of marigolds in his flowerbeds which he tended with great care.
20. Among all the malignancies, lung cancer is the biggest killer.
21. The scene, the beauty of their singing, of these black men who were the grandsons of kidnapped African men and women, the descendants of slaves, burned our eyes.
22. It would be discourteous to visit some famous scholars looking as if we were going to the beach or a nightclub.
23. People living alone are advised to tackle their loneliness by joining a club or a society, going out and meeting people.
24. These delays irritated Scott and made him impatient and sometimes bad-tempered.
25. It was a full-grown macho, a man-killer, and I was terrified.

参考答案:

1. **drab:** dark, not cheerful
2. **egret:** a kind of bird whose long, elegant tail feathers may be used as decorations on ladies' hats

3. **pelt:** attack, fight against
4. **kinetics:** scientific study of body motion as related to speech
5. **gregarious:** sociable
6. **ravenous:** very hungry
7. **salvage:** save
8. **hazy:** unclear
9. **anticipate:** foresee; predict
10. **massive:** huge
11. **vague:** unclear; not specific; general
12. **appease:** stop
13. **wretched:** hard and miserable
14. **attributes:** talents and abilities
15. **plump:** fat
16. **aloof:** far away from
17. **refrain:** keep
18. **ineffectual:** of spending hours running around accomplishing nothing
19. **marigold:** a kind of flower
20. **malignancy:** cancer
21. **descendants:** grandsons
22. **discourteous:** impolite
23. **tackle:** deal with
24. **irritate:** make somebody impatient and bad-tempered
25. **macho:** man-killer

练习 2

Directions: Read the text carefully, without looking at a dictionary, and do the vocabulary exercise following the

text. While reading, pay special attention to the words that you don't know; look carefully at the context and see if you can get an idea of what they mean.

Waiting for the Lorry

The lorry had been ordered to arrive at the rest house at 7:30 for loading and by 8:30 we thought we should be well on the road. It was very apparent that we were new to this place. At ten o'clock we were pacing round and round our mountain of luggage on the veranda, cursing and fuming impatiently, scanning the road for the truant lorry. At eleven o'clock a cloud of dust appeared on the horizon and in its midst, like a beetle in a whirlwind, was the lorry. It screeched to a halt below, and the driver dismounted. I noticed an assortment of odd passengers sitting in the back, about twelve of them, chatting happily to each other with their goats, chickens, bags of yams, calabashes of palm wine, and other necessities of travel spread out around them in the lorry. I stormed down to interview the driver, and it was then I learned that it is better not to inquire why a lorry is late: I was treated to at least six different and contradictory reasons, none of which satisfied anyone except the driver. Wisely leaving this subject, I turned my attention to the crowd in the back of the vehicle. It transpired that this was the driver's wife, this was the driver's wife's cousin, this was the father of the motor-boy, and this was the motor-boy's mother-in-law, and so on. After a prolonged altercation they were removed, together with their household goods and livestock. The driver then had to turn the lorry for loading, and my faith in his abilities was rudely shattered when he backed twice into the hibiscus hedge, and once into the rest-house wall. Our baggage was then loaded with a speed and lack of

care that was frightening, and, as I watched, I wondered how much of our equipment would be left intact on arrival. I need not have worried. It turned out later then only the most indispensable and irreplaceable things got broken.

Vocabulary Exercise:

Here are some words and expressions from the text, each is followed by four explanations of its meaning; only one is correct. Please do this exercise without a dictionary.

1. pacing
 - a. running
 - b. walking impatiently
 - c. counting our steps
 - d. sitting
2. fuming
 - a. angry
 - b. smoking
 - c. waiting
 - d. laughing
3. scanning
 - a. walking along
 - b. standing beside
 - c. blaming
 - d. looking at every part of
4. truant
 - a. that hadn't turned up
 - b. broken-down
 - c. old-fashioned
 - d. big