



英语 阅读理解策略

李佐文 叶慧君 编著

内蒙古大学出版社

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前 言

阅读,是英语学习和英语教学中的一个重要环节,它不仅有利于语言习得、理解能力的培养,还可为英文写作提供范例和增加素材。更重要的是,它是获取外国文化、政治、经济科技等知识不可缺少的途径之一。

在有限的时间内既能保证速度又能保证质量地阅读一定数量的文字材料,以求得到高水平、深层次的理解,是广大英语学习者共同的奋斗目标。以此为目标,就必须重视阅读技能的培养。所谓阅读技能,是指读书所需要的各种能力,诸如语言能力、记忆能力、理解能力等。这是一种综合能力,它的发展与提高既要求学习者的自身努力,也需要良师益友的指导。

时下,有关考研和职称英语应试的阅读指导书虽不少,但普遍存在的问题是,大都以试题为主,至于方法和技巧则少有提及,并且讲解不够深入,不够透彻。有鉴于此,作者积多年教学经验与体会,在参考大量国外资料的基础上,力图为广大英语学习者提供一种更好的方法和途径。本书以阅读攻关为切入点,提出阅读理解的八大策略。其中每一部分都根据具体情况,深入浅出地结合语言学常识,如构词法、语篇分析方法、上下文的衔接与连贯等,力求从分析阅读的过程、方法上,培养读者的阅读能力。阅读实践部分附有精心挑选出来的 30 篇题材体裁丰富多样的短文,可供读者巩固各章学到的技巧和策略。

需要强调指出的是,读者必须在透彻理解、用心记住阅读技巧的基础上,及时按照为该技巧设计的各种题型,一环扣一环,一步

一步地深入训练,并完成阅读理解实践中所有的补充练习。这样才能更好地掌握技巧,并在今后的阅读实践中灵活应用,不断提高理解推断能力,准确地解答各种各样的问题,从而高效地完成阅读任务。有的读者只对练习题感兴趣,有的则只注重方法而忽视习题的重要性,这都是不可取的。冰冻三尺非一日之寒,阅读能力也绝非一日之功,但是有了好的开端,掌握了科学的方法,再加上大量阅读材料的积累和自身不懈的努力,获取代表着阅读水平最高境界的 HOT 技能(Higher Order Thinking Skills)亦并非可望而不可及。

祝广大英语学习者成功!

李佐文

2004 年 12 月

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第一章 通览全文 把握中心

要想全面提高阅读能力,并在各种标准化统考中有出色表现,必须先学会一种非常有用的阅读技巧——把握文章中心思想。读懂一篇文章不仅在于认识文中的单词,理清文中句子结构,而且最重要的是理解作者试图在文中表达的思想观点。不管阅读材料是一个段落,一篇文章还是一本书,都必须先弄明白它的主题(subject)和中心思想(main idea),因为其他阐释性的细节和观点(supporting details and ideas)都是围绕主题思想展开的。事实上,在几乎所有包含阅读理解的考试中,都要考查对文章宏旨要义的把握。这里所说的“宏旨要义”与主旨大意、主题思想、中心思想(main ideas, controlling ideas, central ideas)都是一回事,就是指作者通过这篇文章主要想让读者明白什么。本章将详细讲述:

如何抓住文章主题思想;如何区分主题(topic)、主题句(topic sentence)和中心思想(main idea);如何对各段及全文进行概括总结;如何利用三问法确定文章的中心思想;如何认清所给答案中的干扰选项。

一、如何抓住文章主题思想

每一篇文章都应有自己的主题思想,主题思想的表达可以分为以下几种不同的方式。

1. 主题思想可能是文章所谈内容的重大意义或必要性。

[1] The need for wildlife protection is greater now than ever before. About a thousand species of animals are in danger of extinction, and the rate at which they are being destroyed has increased. With mammals, for instance, the rate of extinction is now about one species every year; from A. D. 1 to 1800, the rate was about one species every fifty years. Everywhere, men are trying to solve the problem of preserving wildlife while caring for the world's growing population.

本段落共四句。第一句指出保护野生动物的必要性；第二句解释这种必要性：大约一千个动物物种濒临灭绝；第三句以哺乳动物灭绝速度的数据来证实观点；第四句是过渡句：“在世界各地，人们关心人口增长的同时也在设法解决保存野生动物的问题”，引出下文。本段的主题思想正是第一句所说的：“The need for wildlife protection is greater now than ever before.”

2. 主题思想可能是文章内容的总结。

[2] This isn't just idle conjecture. New York's Citibank plans to have more than half its 2.5 million account-holders on-line by 1995. Major retail chains like J. C. Penney's are experimenting with at-home shopping systems, and computer-based news, sports, and entertainment services such as QUBE and Teletext are already available. A shopping mall near Washington, D. C. offers shoppers a "window shopping" service accessible through a modem. The service lists sales and specials in a store-by-store index. Users can call up price comparisons of particular items, place orders, and request gift suggestions for women, men, children, pets, older relatives, secretaries, or a variety of other recipient categories.

The wide availability of inexpensive computers could have a dramatic impact on our society.

本文第一段主要讲述了运用计算机系统购物,并谈到一些大的连锁零售商正在试行为顾客提供多种服务的网络系统;第二段总结了第一段的内容:计算机的广泛应用对我们的生活有深刻影响。因此,这一段的主题思想是: The availability of computers could dramatically affect our society.

3. 主题思想可能是作者对主题所作的一句结构完整、意义明晰的表述。

[3] Finding enough meat was a problem for primitive man. Keeping it for times when it was scarce was just as hard. Three ways were found to keep meat from spoiling: salting, drying, and freezing.

People near salty waters salted their meat. At first they probably rubbed dry salt on it, but this preserved only the outside. Later they may have pickled their meat by soaking it in salt water.

In hot, dry lands, men found that they could eat meat that had dried while it was still on the bones. They later learnt to cut meat into thin strips and hang it up to dry in the hot air.

Men in cold climates found that frozen meat did not spoil. They could leave their meat outside and eat it when they pleased:

本文由四小段组成。第一小段开头就介绍了这样的情况:对原始人来说,寻找足够的肉食保存到日后食物匮乏时再吃也同样困难。于是人们找到了防止肉食变质的方法:盐渍、风干、冰冻。接下来的第二、三、四小段分别介绍了这三种保存肉食的方法。文中第一小段的第三句是作者对主题思想清晰明确的表述,也即文

章的主题句。

4. 如果文章只有一个要点,那么主题思想就包含在这一个要点当中,如果文章有几个要点,那么主题思想往往包含在这几个要点的关系之中。

如果文章的第一个要点是:

Americans have a major shortage of large-denomination paper currency in their country.

第二个要点是:

Drug dealers are hoarding large-denomination bills.

那么该文章的中心思想在于 A. 美国货币流通中大面额钞票短缺和 B. 贩毒者积存大面额钞票这两个要点之间显然存在的因果关系中:

Because drug dealers are hoarding large-denomination bills, U. S. has a shortage of these bills in circulation.

[4] For more than ten years there has been a big rise in car crime than in most other types of crime. An average of more than two cars a minute are broken into or stolen in the UK. Car crime accounts for almost a third of all reported offences with no signs that the trend is slowing down.

Although there are highly professional criminals involved in car theft is committed by the opportunists. Amateur thieves are aided by our own carelessness. The Automobile Association recommends locking up whenever you leave the car and for however short a period. A partially open sunroof or window is a further come-on to thieves.

文章第一段的要点是: There has been a big rise in car crime. 文章的第二个要点是: Car thieves are aided by our own carelessness. 该文章的主题思想是: Because of our own care-

lessness, there have been more and more car offences.

二、主题、主题句与主题思想的区分

有时候我们会混淆主题(topic)、主题句(topic sentence)和主题思想(main idea)这三个概念,下文将对这些概念进行界定与阐释。

1. 主题

主题(topic)是指文章总体上在讨论哪一个方面的内容或话题(subject)。主题可以用一个词或一个短语表达出来,如 Robot, water shortage, medical technology 这些都是文章的主题(topic),但并不是主题思想(main idea)。

[5] The difference between a liquid and a gas is obvious under the conditions of temperature and pressure commonly found on the surface of the earth. A liquid can be kept in an open container and fills it to the level of a free surface. A gas forms no free surface but tends to diffuse throughout the space available; it must therefore be kept in a closed container or held by a gravitational field, as in the case of a planet's atmosphere. The distinction was a prominent feature of early theories describing the phases of matter. In the 19th century, for example, one theory maintains that a liquid could be dissolved on a vapor without losing its identity, and another theory holds that the two phases are made up of different kinds of molecules(分子): liquidons and gasons. The theories now prevailing take a quite different approach by emphasizing what liquids and gases have in common. They are both forms of matter that have no permanent structure, and they both flow readily. They are flu-

ids. Question: With what topic is the passage primarily concerned?

- A. The difference between Gases and Liquids
- B. High Temperature Zones on the Earth
- C. The Beginning of Modern Physics
- D. New Containers for Fluids

该段文章从一开始就提到 gases and liquids 之间的区别,全文都围绕 gases 和 liquids 的区别来展开讨论。因此四个备选短语中 A 是最符合题意的。

2. 主题句

段落的主题句(topic sentence in a paragraph)和文章的中心论点句(the thesis statement in a long passage)是指通常在文中出现的能最好地对全文进行扼要概括的句子。主题句必定要出现一个主题(subject)和就这个主题所作的明确有力的表述或主张,即主题思想(main idea)。一般来说文章的主题句是比较容易辨认的,它是对文章主旨的概括。在做考试中的主旨题时,往往不能找到一个与主题句一字不差的答案选项。另外主题句也并不总是段落的第一句,它可能根据段落展开的需要出现在段落的任何位置,也可能根本就不出现,只是暗含在整段文章中。

[6] a. It is known today that most suicidal personalities have some common psychosocial characteristics. b. The main one is difficulty in relating satisfactorily with others on a sustained emotional basis. c. This seems to result from their frequent tendency to be overly sensitive to loss and rejection, to poor self-esteem, and, often, to excessive expectation for themselves and other. d. As a result, they can accumulate anger, and, in turn, become loners and alienate themselves from society. e. However, they generally remain ambivalent in their

suicidal propensities, and, while many reject help by professionals, they still desperately wish they could make it, wish that someone would be accepting and nice to them.

本段的 topic sentence 比较容易辨认,是第一句:有自杀倾向者具有一些共同的心理特征,后面几句都是对导致自杀的主要心理特征进行的分析说明。

[7] a. When Aim toothpaste was developed to take on Crest, what did management need to know in order to position its gel toothpaste appropriately against such a well-entrenched leader? b. In order for Burger King to attack McDonald's, it needed to know what consumers felt they were not getting. c. Miller Lite Beer took a discarded product (low-calorie beer) and built a new product category using advertising and positioning. d. What was in their situation analysis that allowed them to see what no other firm had seen? e. As the first step in developing a campaign, the situation analysis is vital. f. If it is done poorly, the campaign can easily go astray.

本段 topic sentence 是第五句,前三句分别以 Aim, Burger King 和 Miller Lite Beer 为例,说明市场形势分析在商业活动中的重要性。第四句提出问题,第五句正是可以回答这一问题并对全文进行概括的句子。第六句进一步强调如果不能对形势进行准确的分析,商业活动往往流于失败。

3. 中心思想

中心思想(main idea)必须是一个结构清晰、意义完整的句子。它作为文章段落最主要的观点,也许会以不同的表述形式在文中多次提及。但不管作者怎样对它进行表述,抓住中心思想对理解全文都是至关重要的。

[8] Through the history of life, there have been many ma-

for upheavals in which whole groups of animals were replaced by others. Perhaps the most famous was the replacement of the dinosaurs by the mammals 65 million years ago. Another major change occurred 150 million years earlier, when the dinosaurs took over the position of dominance that had been held for 80 million years by mammal-like reptiles.

What triggered these great upheavals? Scientific thinking about the various factors that might have been responsible for such replacements has undergone some significant changes of its own. At times, for example, scientists have suggested that mammals caused the extinction of the dinosaurs by eating their eggs or by competing for the same food resources. Now, however, most people are convinced that the mammals played only a minor role, if any (largely because both groups had lived side by side for millions of years), and that, instead, environmental change was primarily responsible. The mammals apparently sat around for 150 million years in Mesozoic undergrowth until, with the extinction of the dinosaurs, they had their opportunity to radiate into the available niches.

Question: What is the main idea of the passage?

这篇文章的对象牵扯到三代生物的彼此取代,根据科学的理论,彼此取代的发生是因环境剧烈的改变所致,文章倒数第四行明确指出“…… instead environmental changes was primarily responsible.”所以可以总结文章的中心思想是: Some species of animals have been replaced by others due to radical environmental changes.

[9] Each country has several favorite customary cookies. Most often they are made with the land's most common and