

# 大学英语

## 阅读教程

(四)

College English Reading

杨辉 总主编



华中科技大学出版社

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# 大学英语阅读教程（四）

## College English Reading

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## 前 言

《大学英语阅读教程》是以外语教学理论为指导,全面贯彻《大学英语课程教学要求》的精神编写而成的,通过拓展阅读,学生能够提高英语水平、开拓知识视野。本教程是针对大学生的学习特点和英语学习现状而编写的,共四册。

根据新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》,快速阅读的速度应为每分钟 100 个单词;能掌握国内英文报刊文章的中心意思,理解主要事实和有关细节;能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体材料。为了适应这一要求,在新改革后的大学英语四、六级考试中,快速阅读理解部分的分值比例为 10%。本教程以敏锐的眼光捕捉到了这一变化,始终把快速阅读能力的培养放在首位,以阅读技巧、阅读方法为主线,体现“精讲多练”的原则,旨在使学生能按《大学英语课程教学要求》,掌握阅读技巧,高效、快速阅读中等水平的一般性题材的英语文章,能进行一定的分析、推理和判断,以促进应试能力及实际应用能力的提高。

本教程共分四册,第一册围绕“运用语言技能理解文章”这一层面的阅读技能展开训练;第二册重点解析和训练“辨别和理解中心思想和重要细节”这一层面的阅读技能;第三册训练“运用专门的阅读技能(略读、查读)”这一层面的阅读技能;第四册提高难度,把前三册的阅读技能贯穿于其中。每册分为 8 个单元,各单元由同一题材的 2 篇文章、生词注释、有关文化背景介绍、练习等组成。为了配合学生参加大学英语四、六级考试,每个单元增加了阅读训练部分,由 3 篇配有选择练习题的小短文组成;同时在主课文的练习中,增加了汉译英练习。

本套教程的编写体现了如下特点。

(1) 本教程由具有丰富的教学经验的大学英语教师分工协作、集体编写而成,具有很强的专业性。

(2) 本教程在编写过程中充分吸收我国在外语教学方面长期积累起来的行之有效的经验和方法,取各家之长,兼容并蓄,能适应多种英语教学的要求。

(3) 本教程旨在通过教师的“精讲”和学生的“多练”来提高学生学习的主动性、积极性和创造性。

(4) 本教程选用当代英语常见语体或文体的典型样本作为素材,内容新颖,搜选范围主要是近五年来英美国家出版的图书、报纸、杂志或最新的网络文章,涵盖教育、科技、政治、经济和文化等各个方面,阅读文章素材具有时代性、可读性、文化教育性和针对性。

(5) 本教程练习题型的设计均按照最新的大学英语四、六级考试标准和难度

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进行。文章后附设了 6 种题型:一是快速阅读(包括是非判断题和句子填空题);二是阅读理解(多项选择题);三是篇章理解(选词填空题),依据阅读文章的内容,编出一篇小短文,留出 10 个空,给出 15 个词供读者进行选择填空;四是简答题,一般用问句形式命题,要求读者作简短回答;五是翻译题,共 5 个句子,句中一部分已用英文给出,要求学生根据全句意思将汉语部分译成英语;六是讨论题,对文章内容提出 2 个问题,供学生讨论。各题型的题量适当,这样可以帮助学生逐步熟悉考试形式,更好地为四、六级考试作准备。

杨辉教授担任本套教材的总主编,设计了“编写提纲”和“编写要求”;张淑莲、李显、邵光庆、荆燕老师完成了全套书的选材工作,对所选文章进行了严格的筛选、分类和分册处理。

在《大学英语阅读教程》的策划、编写和出版过程中,得到了山东轻工业学院教务处和外国语学院的支持和帮助,在此一并表示感谢!

在《大学英语阅读教程》的编写过程中,由于时间仓促,书中存在的不足或错误之处,敬请读者不吝赐教。

编 者  
2009 年 2 月

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# Unit 1 Forces of Nature

## Part 1 Reading Text

### *Forces of Nature: World's Worst Natural Disasters Since 1900*

*CBC News Online January 11 2005*

The following is a list of some of the worst natural calamities to strike the world since 1900. The list is by definition arguable. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, cyclones, hurricanes and other storms are all clearly natural phenomena.

The picture is less clear for disasters like floods and famines. What some people may consider a natural disaster, others may consider more of a political act (for instance, some of the world's deadliest floods and famines were caused, at least in part, by policy decisions taken by hostile, indifferent or negligent regimes).

For our purposes, we have included floods and famines in our list. We will also include flu pandemics, on the assumption that disasters that are not man-made are by definition (at least, our definition) natural.

This list is also limited to disasters since 1900 — an arbitrary cut-off to be sure — but one made to reflect so-called “modern day” disasters only. The death tolls from disasters in the long-distant past are, at best, rough estimates. But there can be no doubt that our pre-1900 ancestors endured some appalling disasters — the bubonic plague (“The Black Death”) that spread through Europe beginning in 1348 wiped out an estimated one-third of humanity, about 25 million people.

And finally, by “worst” we mean the deadliest, not the costliest. So the list will exclude 1992's hurricane Andrew, which caused an estimated \$25 billion US in damage in Florida and Louisiana, but left “only” 26 people dead.

### **Earthquakes/Tsunamis (with 100 000 deaths or more)**

July 28, 1976 — The world's most devastating quake of the 20th century (magnitude 7.8) hit the sleeping city of Tangshan, in northeast China. The official death toll was 242 000.

May 22, 1927 — A magnitude 7.9 quake near Xining, China, killed 200 000.

Dec. 16, 1920 — China was also the site for the world's third-deadliest quake of the 20th century. An estimated 200 000 died when a magnitude 8.6 temblor hit Gansu, triggering massive landslides.

Dec. 26, 2004 — A magnitude 9.0 quake struck off the coast of Sumatra, triggering tsunamis that swept through the coastal regions of a dozen countries bordering the Indian Ocean. More than 156 000 died and thousands more are missing.

Sept. 1, 1923 — A third of Tokyo and most of Yokohama were leveled when a magnitude 8.3 earthquake shook Japan. About 143 000 were killed as fires ravaged much of Tokyo.

Dec. 28, 1908 — Southern Italy was ravaged by a 7.2 magnitude quake that triggered a tsunami that hit the Messina-Reggio-Calabria area, killing 123 000.

Oct. 5, 1948 — More than 110 000 were killed when a 7.3 quake rolled through the area around Ashgabat in Turkmenistan.

### **Volcanic Eruptions**

May 8, 1902 — Mt. Pelee erupted on the Caribbean island of Martinique, destroying the capital city of St. Pierre. Up to 40 000 were killed.

Nov. 13 — 14, 1985 — At least 25 000 are killed near Armero, Colombia, when the Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupted, triggering mudslides.

July 15, 1991 — Mt. Pinatubo on Luzon Island in the Philippines erupted, blanketing 750 square kilometres with volcanic ash. More than 800 died.

Two of the most famous eruptions took place before our 1900 cut-off. In 1883, two-thirds of the Indonesian island of Krakatoa was destroyed when a volcano erupted. A resulting series of tsunamis killed more than 36 000. And in 79 AD, Mt. Vesuvius erupted in southern Italy, destroying the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and two other communities. Thousands died.

### **Hurricanes/Cyclones/Floods**

July — August 1931 — Massive flooding of China's Yangtze River led to more than three million deaths from drowning, disease and starvation.

Nov. 13, 1970 — A cyclone in the Ganges Delta killed at least 300 000 in Bangladesh.

July 1, 1991 — Cyclones triggered flooding in Bangladesh that killed 138 000.



Aug. 1971 — An estimated 100 000 died when heavy rains led to severe flooding around Hanoi in what was then North Vietnam.

Aug. 5, 1975 — At least 85 000 were killed along the Yangtze River in China when more than 60 dams failed following a series of storms, causing widespread flooding and famine.

Oct. 26 — Nov. 4, 1998 — Hurricane Mitch was the deadliest hurricane to hit the Americas. It killed 11 000 in Honduras and Nicaragua and left 2.5 million homeless.

### **Pandemics/Famines**

1918 — 1919 — An epidemic of “Spanish Flu” spread around the world. At least 20 million died, although some estimates put the final toll at 50 million. It’s estimated that between 20 percent and 40 percent of the entire world’s population got sick.

1957 — 1958 — The Asian flu swept around the world, making it the second flu pandemic of the century.

1968 — The Hong Kong flu became the third flu pandemic of the 20th century. The World Health Organization estimated that a total of 1.5 million died in the Asian and Hong Kong flu pandemics.

1980 to present — Toll from AIDS worldwide since 1980 is estimated at 25 million, with 40 million others infected with HIV.

1959 — 1961 — The famine cost an estimated 20 million to 40 million lives in China. China was also hit by major famines in 1907, 1928 — 1930, 1936 and 1941 — 1942.

1932 — 1933 — Failures in Soviet central planning and Stalin’s decision to withhold food from the Ukraine led to huge loss of life. At least five million Ukrainians were among the seven million victims of that famine.

1921 — A Soviet famine in 1921 began with a drought that caused massive crop failures. The initial death toll was greatly magnified when Lenin refused to acknowledge the famine and sent no aid. The Soviets later estimated that 5.1 million died.

1984 — 1985 — Famine killed at least one million in Ethiopia as severe drought led to desperate food shortages.

From: US Geological Survey, World Health Organization, Associated Press, disasterrelief.org, NOAA, Guinness World Records, Oxfam

(1 016 words)

### **New Words and Expressions**

1. negligent /'neglɪdʒənt/ *adj.* guilty of a lack of due care or concern 疏忽的, 粗心大

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意的

2. regime /rer'ʒi:m/ *n.* a government in power, administration 政体, 政权, 政权制度
3. arbitrary /'ɑ:bitrəri/ *adj.* based on personal opinion or impulse, not on reason 任意的, 主观的
4. mudslide /'mʌdslɑɪd/ *n.* a mudflow, especially a slow-moving one 泥流
5. Ganges /'gændʒi:z/ *n.* 恒河
6. Delta /'deltə/ *n.* (河流的)三角洲
7. pandemic /pæn'demɪk/ *adj.* widespread, general 广泛流传的, 普遍的
8. Ethiopia /i:θr'əupiə/ *n.* 埃塞俄比亚 (非洲东部国家)

## Exercises

### I. Fast Reading (15 minutes)

**Directions:** For questions 1—7, mark Y (for Yes), if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage; N (for No), if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage; NG (for Not Given), if the statement is not given in the passage. For questions 8—10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

1. Natural disasters are considered by some people to be the result of political acts.
2. The Black Death is the deadliest disaster in the history.
3. The world's most devastating earthquake of the 20th century occurred in Tangshan in northeast China.
4. In Dec. 26, 2004, a quake struck off the coast of Sumatra, triggering tsunamis that swept the coast regions of a dozen countries bordering the Indian Ocean.
5. The government should be responsible for some natural disasters.
6. Central planning of the government is prone to famine.
7. Natural disasters often occurred in underdeveloped countries.
8. In 79 AD, Mt. Vesuvius erupted in southern Italy, destroying the ancient Roman city of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Natural disasters occurring in coastal areas mostly relate to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Monitoring and pre-warning system should be enhanced because natural disasters can be \_\_\_\_\_ and overwhelming.

### II. Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth)

**Directions:** The following are five questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice.

- Which of the following is not mentioned in the passage?  
A. Earthquakes. B. Famine.  
C. Volcanic eruptions. D. Typhoon.
- What can be inferred from the passage about the aftermath of natural disasters?  
A. Economic losses. B. Heavy casualties.  
C. Environmental losses. D. All of the above.
- Earthquakes occurred in the following places in China, \_\_\_\_\_ is excluded.  
A. the Yangtze River B. Gansu C. Tangshan D. Xining
- Which continent is not mentioned in the passage?  
A. America. B. Asia. C. Oceania. D. Africa.
- What measures can be taken to mitigate the impact of natural disasters?  
A. Disaster prevention.  
B. Disaster mitigation programme.  
C. Enhancement of international cooperation.  
D. All of the above.

### III. Passage Understanding

**Directions:** In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter.

**You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.**

A natural disaster is the 1 of a natural event with significant human and social 2. The passage gives a summary of some of the 3 natural calamities which showed great forces of nature since 1900, 4 Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, cyclones, hurricanes, even floods and famine and flu pandemics. In effect, people may have 5 ideas on how to define natural disasters. Some natural disasters, like floods and famine, are considered by many people to be the result of political acts, for instances, the “Great Leap Famine” in China and the famine in Ukraine. And earthquakes are prone to 6 tsunamis sweeping through the coastal regions. And the force of nature can also 7 a volcanic eruption generating 8 power to 9 a whole city. At times the disasters are as a result of a 10 of these processes.

A. contrary	B. excluding	C. trigger	D. appalling	E. ravage
F. affect	G. worst	H. including	I. costliest	J. occurrence
K. causing	L. combination	M. damaged	N. impacts	O. find full expression in

#### IV. Short Answer Questions

**Directions:** Answer the questions or complete the statements in fewest possible words. Your answer may be a word, a phrase, or a short sentence.

1. How do you understand the word “worst” in the first paragraph?
2. Most mega-killer disasters occur in densely populated belt through Asia, along Indian Ocean — the number of fatalities is proportional to density of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Please enumerate at least three kinds of other natural disasters.
4. The author holds that disasters like floods, famine and flu pandemics are \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Can you give two synonyms of the word “calamity”?

#### V. Translation

**Directions:** Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese given in brackets into English.

1. The effects of recession \_\_\_\_\_ (遍及) industry and agriculture alike.
2. The war \_\_\_\_\_ (夺去了很多人的生命).
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ (估计他一年的收入大约为 6 000 英镑).
4. I picked a sheltered \_\_\_\_\_ (有遮蔽的地方搭帐篷).
5. The forest fire \_\_\_\_\_ (使数英里范围的农村遭到破坏).

#### VI. Questions for Discussion

1. Should human beings themselves be responsible for some of the natural disasters?
2. How to protect our environment?

## Part 2 Reading Practice

There are three short passages in this part, read the passages quickly and do the comprehension exercises.

### Passage 1

In the days immediately following Hurricane Andrew's deadly visit to South Florida, Allstate Insurance hastily dispatched more than 2 000 extra claim adjusters to the devastated area to assist the 200 stationed there. Many of the reserves arrived in convoys of motor homes. Others flew in from as far away as Alaska and California. Since the storm had knocked out telephone lines, Allstate rushed to set up its own

communications system. Allstate expects to pay out 1.2 billion to cover more than 121 000 damage claims as a result of Andrew.

All told, US property and casualty insurers have been hit with more than 8 billion in Andrew-related claims, making the hurricane the most costly single calamity to strike the industry since the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906 (cost 6 billion, after inflation). With claims continuing to pour in, Andrew threatens to take a painful toll on the already battered property-casualty insurance industry and its 100 million policy-holders. The final bill, analysts predict, is likely to top 10 billion. While most well-capitalized insurers are expected to weather the storm, less anchored firms are in danger of being blown away, leaving US consumers stuck with the tab. Says Sean Mooney, senior researcher at the Insurance Information Institute, it will take years before the industry digs itself out from the wreckage left by Andrew. Some [companies] will be buried by it.

Hurricane Andrew is the latest in a string of mishaps to plague the American insurance industry this year. In April an overflowing Chicago River flooded the city's downtown district, costing insurers 300 million in claims. A month later, Los Angeles was rocked by the worst civilian riot in the US since the Civil War. The insurance toll: 1 billion. Then came a series of major hailstorms in Texas, Florida and Kansas. They cost insurers a combined 700 million. And two weeks after Andrew, another lethal hurricane, Iniki, smashed into Hawaii, causing 1.4 billion in damages. In all, property and casualty insurers have paid out a record 13 billion in claims so far this year, far surpassing the previous high of 7.6 billion in 1989, the year of Hurricane Hugo and California's Bay Area earthquake. Just as in that year, when those catastrophes were followed by substantial increases in insurance premiums, insurers are already lobbying for rate relief.

(386 words)

1. According to the passage, Allstate Insurance most likely refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. one of the property and casualty insurers in the US
  - B. the only insurance company responsible for the damage claims by Andrew
  - C. the insurance industry as a whole
  - D. the biggest insurance company in the US
2. As is stated in the second paragraph, the result of Hurricane Andrew is likely to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. lead to inflation throughout the US
  - B. make the largest insurers suffer the most

- C. put the industry in South Florida out of action  
D. cause insurers with insufficient funds to go bankrupt
3. Using context clues, we may infer that stuck with the tab most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. caught in the hurricane  
B. exposed to natural disasters  
C. trapped in financial difficulties  
D. extremely vulnerable to further damages
4. The end of the passage implies that, to compensate for their huge loss, the insurers will \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. resort to a very big increase in insurance premiums  
B. ask for subsidies from the federal government  
C. reduce their insurance coverage thereafter  
D. require a higher interest rate from the bank
5. The main purpose of the passage is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. show the severe damages and heavy losses caused by Hurricane Andrew  
B. suggest that US insurers are virtually unable to cover the damage claims any more  
C. tell about the difficult situation faced by the insurers throughout the US  
D. prove that disasters tend to cause ever worsening devastation as time goes on

## Passage 2

Volcanic fire and glacial ice are natural enemies. Eruptions at glaciated volcanoes typically destroy ice fields, as they did in 1980 when 70 percent of Mount Saint Helens ice cover was demolished. During long dormant intervals, glaciers gain the upper hand cutting deeply into volcanic cones and eventually reducing them to rubble. Only rarely do these competing forces of heat and cold operate in perfect balance to create a phenomenon such as the steam caves at Mount Rainier National Park.

Located inside Rainier's two ice-filled summit craters, these caves form a labyrinth of tunnels and vaulted chambers about one and one-half miles in total length. Their creation depends on an unusual combination of factors that nature almost never brings together in one place. The cave-making recipe calls for a steady emission of volcanic gas and heat, a heavy annual snowfall at an elevation high enough to keep it from melting during the summer, and a bowl-shaped crater to hold the snow.

Snow accumulating yearly in Rainier's summit craters is compacted and compressed into a dense form of ice called firn, a substance midway between ordinary

ice and the denser crystalline ice that makes up glaciers. Heat rising from numerous openings (called fumaroles) along the inner crater walls melts out chambers between the rocky walls and the overlying ice pack. Circulating currents of warm air then melt additional opening in the firm ice, eventually connecting the individual chambers and, in the larger of Rainier's two craters, forming a continuous passageway that extends two-thirds of the way around the crater's interior.

To maintain the cave system, the elements of fire under ice must remain in equilibrium. Enough snow must fill the crater each year to replace that melted from below. If too much volcanic heat is discharged, the crater's ice pack will melt away entirely and the caves will vanish along with the snow of yesteryear. If too little heat is produced, the ice, replenished annually by winter snowstorms, will expand, pushing against the enclosing crater walls and smothering the present caverns in solid firm ice.

(347 words)

1. With what topic is the passage primarily concerned?
  - A. The importance of snowfall for Mount Rainier.
  - B. The steam caves of Mount Rainier.
  - C. How ice covers are destroyed.
  - D. The eruption of Mount Saint Helens in 1980.
2. The word "they" in line 2 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. fields
  - B. intervals
  - C. eruptions
  - D. enemies
3. According to the passage long periods of volcanic inactivity can lead to a volcanic cone's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. strongest eruption
  - B. sudden growth
  - C. destruction
  - D. unpredictability
4. The second paragraph mentions all of the following as necessary elements in the creation of steam caves EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. a glacier
  - B. a crater
  - C. heat
  - D. snow
5. According to the passage, heat from Mount Rainier's summit craters rises from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. crystalline ice
  - B. fires
  - C. chambers
  - D. fumaroles

### Passage 3

In the second half of each year, many powerful storms are born in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean seas. Of these, only about a half dozen generate the strong,

circling winds of 75 miles per hour or more that give them hurricane status, and several usually make their way to the coast. There they cause millions of dollars of damage, and bring death to large numbers of people.

The great storms that hit the coast start as innocent circling disturbances hundreds — even thousands — of miles out to sea. As they travel aimlessly over water warmed by the summer sun, they are carried westward by the trade winds. When conditions are just right, warm, moist air flows in at the bottom of such a disturbance, moves upward through it and comes out at the top. In the process, the moisture in this warm air produces rain, and with it the heat that is converted to energy in the form of strong winds. As the heat increases, the young hurricane begins to swirl in a counter-clockwise motion.

The average life of a hurricane is only about nine days, but it contains almost more power than we can imagine. The energy in the heat released by a hurricane's rainfall in a single day would satisfy the entire electrical needs of the United States for more than six months. Water, not wind, is the main source of death and destruction in a hurricane. A typical hurricane brings 6 to 12-inch downpours resulting in sudden floods. Worst of all is the powerful movement of the sea — the mountains of water moving toward the low-pressure hurricane center. The water level rises as much as 15 feet above normal as it moves toward shore.

(288 words)

1. When is an ordinary tropical storm called a hurricane?
  - A. When it begins in the Atlantic and Caribbean seas.
  - B. When it hits the coastline.
  - C. When it is more than 75 miles wide.
  - D. When its winds reach 75 miles per hour.
2. What is the worst thing about hurricanes?
  - A. The destructive effects of water.
  - B. The heat they release.
  - C. That they last about nine days on the average.
  - D. Their strong winds.
3. Which statement about hurricane is wrong?
  - A. It travels more than 75 miles per hour.
  - B. It usually stays about 9 days.
  - C. It usually causes 6 to 12 inch downpours.



- D. It sometimes brings the sea water level to the height of 15 feet.
4. Apparently the word “downpour” in the last paragraph means.
- A. Heavy rainfall.
  - B. Dangerous waves.
  - C. The progress of water to the hurricane center.
  - D. The energy produced by the hurricane.
5. Which of the following is not true?
- A. Millions of dollars of damage is caused by powerful storms.
  - B. In the second half of each year, there are powerful storms in tropical Atlantic and Caribbean seas.
  - C. A hurricane contains more power than we can imagine.
  - D. The energy in the heat released by a hurricane’s rainfall in a single hour would meet the entire needs of the United States for more than six months.

## Part 3 Home Reading

### *Inaugural Address*

*John F. Kennedy*

Vice President Johnson, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chief Justice, President Eisenhower, Vice President Nixon, President Truman, Reverend Clergy, fellow citizens:

We observe today not a victory of party, but a celebration of freedom — symbolizing an end, as well as a beginning — signifying renewal, as well as change. For I have sworn before you and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed nearly a century and three-quarters ago.

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe — the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state, but from the hand of God.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans — born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage, and unwilling to witness or