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真题

核心词汇

Vocabulary Frequency



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总序

先把 1986 年英国《卫报》的一组数据送给准备参加出国留学考试的广大考生们吧：

Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, in 1986, estimated the size of the average person's vocabulary as developing from roughly 300 words at two years old, through 5,000 words at five years old, to some 12,000 words at the age of 12.

在上世纪的英国，两岁孩子的词汇量是 300 个，5 岁孩子的词汇量是 5 000 个，12 岁孩子的词汇量是 12 000 个。看完这组数据，大家的感受如何？面对出国留学的各类考试，雅思、托福、ACT、SAT……考生们最大的难点是什么？学习进程中遇到的最大的问题在哪里：语法？写作？阅读？……

英国语言学家威尔金斯说过：“没有词汇，人们无法表达任何事情。”词汇学习是英语学习的基础，学生不掌握一定的词汇量，其语言能力无从谈起。

从现在中国学生的英语学习情况来看，掌握的英语词汇量有限，是制约学生提高雅思、托福、ACT 等考试成绩最大的、也是在意识层面上最不受家长和学生重视的一个因素。充分认识词汇量对英语学习的影响，积极引导学生扩大词汇量已经是英语教学的重中之重。学习词汇的过程就是和遗忘作斗争的过程，要促使短时记忆转化为长时记忆，必要的方法和策略是必不可少的。需要注意的是，认识单词和会用单词是深度不同的两个层次，词汇量达到一定水平后，在对话、写作中使用这些单词的能力对英语水平的提高具有更大的影响。

美联出国考试产品中心研究表明，词汇量对英语学习的重要性如下：

1. 词汇是英语学习的基础；
2. 词汇有助于提高英语学习的效率。

影响学生学习词汇的因素如下：

1. 缺乏良好的学习动机，为了应付考试被动地学习；
2. 缺乏科学的学习词汇的策略；
3. 不良的学习习惯，如孤立地记忆单词、学习内容积压过多等；
4. 词汇本身的复杂性。

美联出国考试产品中心针对“扩大考生词汇量的策略”这一课题进行了广泛调查，通

通过电话、面访、问卷等多种方式与 1 600 多名考生进行深度交流，也同行业内数十位专家学者进行了多维探讨，集美联出国考试产品中心、运营中心以及全国奋战在一线的几十名资深老师之心血，以真题和真实语料为切入点，根据考试词频分门别类逐一列举，结合美联出国考试八年来学员学习轨迹的大数据，筛选出地道的语料，推出了涵盖雅思、托福、ACT 等多门考试在内的这套共 9 本的词汇书，并针对出国考试的所有学员推出独家定制课程。

该套图书的特点如下：

1. 精选核心词汇，部分科目标注使用频率，短时高效；
2. 部分科目配合真题中的实用例句，帮助考生把握词汇的使用语境；
3. 按话题进行分类，帮助考生更好地熟悉常考话题；
4. 具有权威性、实践性、完整性、高效性。

“少壮不努力，老大背单词”，各位同学或许要问，这单词要背到什么时候才算够？然“骐骥一跃，不能十步；驽马十驾，功在不舍”。除了少数有背单词“怪癖”的人之外，对大多数人来说，背单词从来不可能成为一件快乐的事情。我们所做的只是希望这份“不舍”的“功”可以变得更加高效，至少不要南辕北辙，也希望“驽马”在“不舍”的道路上看到的不仅仅是一条无边无际的路，而是“一花一世界，一沙一天堂”。

Tank 谭春霖

前言

作为英语阅读老师，我平时所接触的学生，虽然语言基础各不相同，参加的英语考试也不一样，但是他们在英语阅读方面所遇到的问题却是大同小异。这些问题无外乎是单词看不懂，句子理不清，段落连不上。当然，其中最最基础的一个环节就是单词。之前朋友圈里曾经流行过一个段子，是关于大家做英语阅读时的感受：

文章：这个国家药淪鑰髻很多甲药，和龠獲駢。

问题：为什么药淪獲叻？

这个段子反映的，就是在单词缺乏的情况下做英语阅读题最真实的感受。每次我给新学生上第一次英语阅读课，一定会问一个问题，就是之前背过什么单词书。十个学生里，有两个可能会说从来没背过单词，单词都是靠读英文小说或者看美剧积累的；还有七个人会从书包里翻出一本八成新的词汇宝典或者打开手机给我推荐几个特别牛的背单词软件，但当我问他，这本书你背了几页？背单词软件进度到多少？这七个孩子的回答是“不超过百分之二十”。十个学生里，一般只有一个会翻出一本破破烂烂的单词书，或者给我展示一下背单词软件的进度条，自豪地说，这些单词我已经全部刷过两三遍了。这位，就是大家口中的学神了。我非常希望，选择了这本书，并且打开了这本书的每一个学生都可以像他一样。

很多学生都会问我：“老师，你当时学英语的时候，是怎么背的单词？”每当这时，我总会回想起大学时候疯狂学英语的那段血泪史。作为一名高中的理科生，大学进入全都是文科生的英语专业，瞬间感觉单词量被别人甩出了几条街。所以，我下定决心，要让自己的单词量突破两万。那个年代科技还不是很发达，所以我背单词的最好伙伴就是一本袖珍版的朗文英汉双解字典。那是我人生中的第一本，也是至今唯一一本纸质版的字典。每天我都会花两个小时看字典，把字典当作一本小说一样来看。每个单词我都会把英文解释、固定搭配和相应的例句用笔记本工工整整地抄下来，并且把例句背下来。根据我个人的经验，看英文解释比看中文意思更能准确理解单词，毕竟很多英文单词和中文并不是一一对应的。并且，背例句就有了上下文的语境，之后在理解和自己使用这些单词的时候，会准确很多。

编写这本 ACT 单词书的灵感也来自我自己背单词的经验，希望读者可以注意到两点：

第一，英文解释；第二，例句。这本书的例句全部都来自 ACT 考试引用的文章，其中不乏一些语法结构比较复杂的例句，在看懂例句的同时，你不仅记住了单词的语境，其实也是对语法结构的检验。所以，希望大家千万不要只是机械地去背诵英文单词对应的中文意思，而是要更关注英文解释和例句。

编写一本 ACT 单词书最初的动力，是觉得目前市面上很缺乏一本专门为 ACT 考试量身定做，并且难度适中，又和考试内容紧密相关的词汇书。如果你刚好准备去美国，刚好选择了考 ACT，刚好决定努力背单词，又刚好遇到这本书，那么你一定会发现：“A more less complete guide would have been easier to start with, but more frustrating in the end. A more complete book would have been impossible for you to use. So, please persist in wrestling with it.”

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Part 1 Prose Fiction

gravitational [ˌɡrævɪ'teɪʃənl]

adj. 万有引力的，重力的；地心吸力的

- Gravitational means relating to or resulting from the force of gravity.

68A Prose Fiction Line 2

Always in those first few minutes when the shuttle left the parent ship and accelerated to clear the gravitational pull of the larger mass, Lee was sure she had made a terrible mistake.

fragile ['frædʒl]

adj. 易碎的，脆的；虚弱的

- If you describe a situation as fragile, you mean that it is weak or uncertain, and unlikely to be able to resist strong pressure or attack.

68A Prose Fiction Line 5

She didn't belong here; none of them did—fragile creatures set in rows in a canister shot through black space.

insane [ɪn'seɪn]

adj. 疯狂的；精神病的；非常愚蠢的

- Someone who is insane has a mind that does not work in a normal way, with the result that their behavior is very strange.

68A Prose Fiction Line 7

To be here was madness, an insane presumption, and there was no way to escape.

desperate ['despəreɪt]

adj. 绝望的

- If you are desperate, you are in such a bad situation that you are willing to try anything to change it.

68A Prose Fiction Line 10

All she was, all she had accomplished, meant nothing in this time of desperate sanity.

tribute ['trɪbjʊt]

n. 致敬；贡品；悼念；体现

- If one thing is a tribute to another, the first thing is the result of the second and shows how good it is.

68A Prose Fiction Line 16

Three miles long, half a mile deep and wide, the starship was a tribute to the art of welding.

bizarre [bi'zɑ:r]

adj. 离奇的, 奇怪的, 奇特的 (指态度、容貌、款式等)

➤ Something that is bizarre is very odd and strange.

68A Prose Fiction Line 17

It floated in deep space like a chunk of bizarre litter.

quirk [kwɜ:rk]

n. 怪癖; 奇事, 巧合; 突然的弯曲

➤ A quirk is something unusual or interesting that happens by chance.

68A Prose Fiction Line 24

In this confinement of starships individual quirks became well-known.

archive ['ɑ:kaiv]

n. 档案文件; 档案室

➤ The archive or archives are a collection of documents and records that contain historical information. You can also use archives to refer to the place where archives are stored.

68A Prose Fiction Line 31

It had been discovered five hundred Earth years before; there were records of several landings there, but little more than basic data survived in the corporate archives.

sentience ['senʃəns]

n. 知觉; 感觉能力; 感觉性

➤ the readiness to perceive sensations

68A Prose Fiction Line 46

Five hundred years earlier, tests of sentience had been crude, full of Earthly chauvinism, unreliable.

chauvinism ['ʃəʊvɪnɪzəm]

n. 沙文主义; 盲目的爱国心

➤ Chauvinism is a strong, unreasonable belief that your own country is more important and morally better than other people's.

68A Prose Fiction Line 47

Five hundred years earlier, tests of sentience had been crude, full of Earthly chauvinism, unreliable.

primitive ['prɪmətɪv]

adj. 原始的; 发展水平低的

- Primitive means belonging to a society in which people live in a very simple way, usually without industries or a writing system.

68A Prose Fiction Line 51

Her father said she was a product of a more primitive era.

ancestor ['ænsəstər]

n. 祖先

- Your ancestors are the people from whom you are descended.

68A Prose Fiction Line 60

The child in her never quite forgave her ancestors for that crime.

expedition [ˌɛkspə'dɪʃn]

n. 考察, 远航

- An expedition is an organized journey that is made for a particular purpose such as exploration.

68A Prose Fiction Line 73

Fifteen space years had passed since then, and five more expeditions.

devout [dɪ'vaʊt]

adj. 虔诚的; 真诚的

- A devout person has deep religious beliefs.

68A Prose Fiction Line 77

She had gained also in that time a devout respect for life.

abound [ə'baʊnd]

vi. 充满; 丰富, 盛产; 非常多, 大量存在

- If things abound, or if a place abounds with things, there are very large numbers of them.

68A Prose Fiction Question 5

Information in the passage indicates that Lee's dream is to:

D. discover a place where animal life abounds.

claustrophobic [ˌklɒ:stɹə'fəʊbɪk]

adj. (患) 幽闭恐怖症的

- You describe a place or situation as claustrophobic when it makes you feel uncomfortable and unhappy because you are enclosed or restricted.

68A Prose Fiction Question 6

In the context of the passage, the statement in lines 23-24 most nearly means that:

H. people often become claustrophobic when working on starships.

conscientious [ˌkɒnʃiˈenʃəs]

adj. 认真负责的；本着良心的

➤ Someone who is conscientious is very careful to do their work properly.

68G Prose Fiction Line 4

A conscientious and self-effacing laborer, ever humble before his craft, he never thought he'd have any money and figured out, as a young man, that he would always live humbly, "without means," practicing his illustrative and painterly skills into his old age.

animation [ˌæniˈmeɪʃn]

n. 生气，活泼；动画片制作

➤ Animation is the process of making films in which drawings or puppets appear to move.

68G Prose Fiction Line 33

Every so often he had gone to work for the Steichman brothers, whose animation studio was down on Lafayette Street.

obscure [əbˈskjʊr]

adj. 昏暗的；晦涩的；隐蔽的；不著名的

➤ If something or someone is obscure, they are unknown, or are known by only a few people.

68G Prose Fiction Line 35

It was an obscure studio, the big animation houses being out in California.

hygiene ['haɪdʒiːn]

n. 卫生，卫生学；保健法

➤ Hygiene is the science concerned with the prevention of illness and maintenance of health.

68G Prose Fiction Line 48

He did his bit as a civilian employee with a unit of the Army Information Service out in Secaucus, New Jersey, where he worked for three years during the war, churning out instructional comics with titles like "Hygiene at Sea", pamphlets, and posters about everything from malaria to dental hygiene.

plodding ['plɒdɪŋ]

adj. 沉重缓慢的；单调乏味的

➤ working or doing sth. slowly and steadily, especially in a way that other people think is boring

68G Prose Fiction Line 51

Sometimes while resting, traffic noise would take him back to his early days in Manhattan, after the war, when he lived in a walk-up on Fiftieth Street, as a plodding, ever slow but first-rate freelancer, who fell in love with Annie Macguire.

reticent ['retɪsnt]

adj. 含蓄的；寡言少语的；有保留的；谨慎的

➤ Someone who is reticent does not tell people about things.

68G Prose Fiction Line 65

Adorable and ever so tender, on his back, little feet up, his face would go into delighted contortions when Ives, the shyest and most reticent father in the world, would stand over his and touch his belly.

fond ['fʌnd]

adj. 深情的 (*adv.* fondly)

➤ If you are fond of someone, you feel affection for them.

68G Prose Fiction Line 67

Thinking about Robert, Ives would always fondly remember those evenings he spent in 1948, at the Art Students League.

lousy ['laʊzi]

adj. 糟糕的；微薄的

➤ If you describe the number or amount of something as lousy, you mean it is smaller than you think it should be.

68G Prose Fiction Line 80

That she was an art and English teacher at a school on the Upper East Side, her pay lousy.

snob [snɒb]

n. 势利小人

➤ If you call someone a snob, you disapprove of them because they admire upper-class people and have a low opinion of lower-class people.

68G Prose Fiction Line 87

Ives couldn't tell if she was a snob or simply private.

consummate ['kɒnsəmət]

adj. 完美的；至上的

➤ You use consummate to describe someone who is extremely skillful.

68C Prose Fiction Line 9

I would never have guessed that such a consummate storyteller lay waiting all these years inside my father.

rueful ['ru:fəli]

adj. 悲伤的；悔恨的 (*adv.* ruefully)

➤ If someone is rueful, they feel or express regret or sorrow in a quiet and gentle way.

68C Prose Fiction Line 15

But so far he has not told us any stories involving my mother, though he does mention her—lovingly, ruefully—in passing.

giddy ['gɪdi]

adj. 头晕的；高兴或激动得发狂的，举止反常的

➤ If you feel giddy with delight or excitement, you feel so happy or excited that you find it hard to think or act normally.

68C Prose Fiction Line 31

No, stories tucked within the envelopes of other stories, an entire post office worth of them, filling me with giddy anticipation.

stern [stɜ:n]

adj. 严厉的；坚决的 (*adv.* sternly)

➤ Someone who is stern is very serious and strict.

68C Prose Fiction Line 49

“No pandering to tourist types here,” he adds sternly.

lofty ['lɒfti]

adj. 傲然的，傲慢的 (*adv.* loftily)

➤ If you say that someone behaves in a lofty way, you are critical of them for behaving in a proud and rather unpleasant way, as if they think they are very important.

68C Prose Fiction Line 63

“We are artists, Rakhi,” he said loftily.

prophecy ['prɒfəsi]

n. 预言

➤ A prophecy is a statement in which someone says they strongly believe that a particular thing will happen.

68C Prose Fiction Line 77

Is this prophecy, intuition, or just a guess?

primal ['praɪml]

adj. 原始的

- Primal is used to describe something that relates to the origins of things or that is very basic.

68C Prose Fiction Line 81

It's not the loneliness of being without a mate, but something more primal.

outrage ['aʊtreɪdʒ]

n. 愤慨

- Outrage is an intense feeling of anger and shock.

68C Prose Fiction Question 8

It is reasonable to infer that the question in Lines 56-57 is prompted by Rakhi's feeling of:

F. outrage over the seemingly endless demands her father is making of her.

trance [træns]

n. 恍惚

- A trance is a state of mind in which someone seems to be asleep and to have no conscious control over their thoughts or actions, but in which they can see and hear things and respond to commands given by other people.

69A Prose Fiction Line 27

It's as if I were in a trance.

chronological [ˌkrɒnəˈlɒdʒɪkl]adj. 按时间的前后顺序排列的 (*adv.* chronologically)

- If things are described or shown in chronological order, they are described or shown in the order in which they happened.

69A Prose Fiction Question 1

It can most reasonably be inferred that which of the following events mentioned in the passage occurred first chronologically?

- A. The narrator dances for the president of the United States.
 B. The narrator watches a seagull's flight while cleaning the beach in front of her house.
 C. The narrator is given the parka that she wears while performing the seagull dance.
 D. The narrator arrives at the village gymnasium.

ascent [ə'sent]

n. 上升

- An ascent is an upward, vertical movement.

69A Prose Fiction Question 4

In the first paragraph, the narrator seems most affected by the seagull's:

H. ascent

trim [trim]

vt. 装饰; 修剪

- If something such as a piece of clothing is trimmed with a type of material or design, it is decorated with it, usually along its edges.

69A Prose Fiction Question 9

As it is used in lines 58 and 61, the word *trimmed* most nearly means:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| A. embellished | B. shortened |
| C. tidied up | D. condensed |

peddler ['pedlər]

n. 商贩

- A peddler is someone who goes from place to place in order to sell something.

67F Prose Fiction Line 7

We had all kinds of peddlers who went from house to house, selling fresh bean curd and steamed buns, twisted dough and colorful candies.

compound ['kɒpaʊnd]

n. (筑有围墙的) 院子

- A compound is an enclosed area of land that is used for a particular purpose.

67F Prose Fiction Line 19

The family home grew from a simple three-pillar house to a compound with wings stretching five pillars each.

envy ['envi]

n. 羡慕; 嫉妒

- Envy is the feeling you have when you wish you could have the same thing or quality that someone else has.

67F Prose Fiction Line 21

All in all, our family was successful but not so much that we caused great envy.

64E Prose Fiction Line 58

She thinks I have a power that she doesn't have and this brings out her envy and bad humor.

shed [ʃed]

n. 棚, 库

- A shed is a small building that is used for storing things.

67F Prose Fiction Line 39

According to Great-Granny, the studio began as a grain shed that sat along the front wall of the courtyard house.

hide [haɪd]

n. 兽皮

- A hide is the skin of a large animal such as a cow, horse, or elephant, which can be used for making leather.

67F Prose Fiction Line 52

In the winter, it was sheep hides to keep out the snow.

calligraphy [kəˈlɪgrəfi]

n. 美术字 (体); 书法

- Calligraphy is the art of producing beautiful handwriting using a brush or a special pen.

67F Prose Fiction Line 75

Her calligraphy was even better than Father's.

monotone ['mənətəʊn]

n. 单调的语调, 单调的声音

- If someone speaks in a monotone, their voice does not vary at all in tone or loudness and so it is not interesting to listen to.

69F Prose Fiction Line 17

"I said when's the next train," Brand said, in a monotone.

badge [bædʒ]

n. 徽章

- A badge is a piece of metal or cloth which you wear to show that you belong to an organization or support a cause. American English usually uses button to refer to a small round metal badge.

69F Prose Fiction Line 24

He took the billfold from the inner pocket of his coat and hung his badge out in front of the kid's nose.

brisk ['brɪsk]

adj. 轻快的; 迅速的 (*adv.* briskly)

- A brisk activity or action is done quickly and in an energetic way.

69F Prose Fiction Line 25

"Yes, sir," the agent said briskly.