

# 大学英语 阅读教程

Developing  
Reading  
Skills

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选编

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## MOTHERHOOD IN A CHANGING WORLD: WOMEN IN GHANA

[Most women in Ghana have always combined an active role in the economy—mainly as farmers and traders—with an active role as wives and mothers of large families. Traditionally, children helped their mothers at home and at work, but now children go to school and can't help as much. How do working mothers in Ghana cope with their responsibilities in the home and on the job now? This article discusses the changes that are taking place in Ghana today.]

1 Most women in Ghana—the educated and illiterate, the urban and rural, the young and old—work to earn an income in addition to maintaining their roles as housewives and mothers. Their reputation for economic independence, self-reliance, and hard work is well known and well deserved.

2 Most of Ghana's working women are farmers and traders. Only one woman in five, or even fewer, can be classified as simply housewives. Even these women often earn money by sewing or by baking and cooking things to sell. They also maintain vegetable

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gardens and chicken farms. Indeed, the woman who depends entirely upon her husband for her support is looked upon with disfavor.

3 Nine out of ten women fifteen years of age and over are married. Women say they would like to have six or more children, and in fact an average of seven children is born to every woman. In short, the normal life pattern for most Ghanaian women is to combine an active role in the economy with an active role as wife and mother of a large family.

4 How do these working mothers cope with their multiple responsibilities in the home and on the job? Traditionally the tasks of motherhood have been shared. Mothers and sisters, grandmothers and nieces all helped to raise the children and to carry out daily tasks, including housework, trading, and farming activities. As the family grew, older brothers and sisters also helped to care for the younger ones and helped in the home.

5 Today with more children going to school, with more people moving away from their traditional homes where support from their family would be provided, how can the mother cope with her many responsibilities? Not only must she continue her income-producing activities, but she must take on such heavy, time-consuming housework as carrying water and firewood, grinding and pounding, along with her frequent burden of pregnancy, nursing, baby and child care.

6 Some new ideas are being tried. One of these is family planning to help reduce family size. Another helpful solution is the day care center, but this is available mainly in urban areas, and usually

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the fees are too high for the poor. Ghanaians realize that more day care centers are needed. Ghana today is looking for new ways to meet the needs of women and their families so women can continue to play their multiple roles in the home and in the economy.

**TURN TO COMPREHENSION CHECK AT END OF CHAPTER**

**READING TIMES:**

1st reading——minutes

2nd reading——minutes

**READING SPEED:**

5 minutes = 77 wpm

4 minutes = 96 wpm

3 minutes = 126 wpm

2 minutes = 192 wpm

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## **New Words and Phrases**

<b>motherhood</b>	[ˈmʌðəhʊd]	n. 母性；母职；母亲(总称)
<b>Ghana</b>	[ˈgɑːnə]	n. 加纳
<b>economy</b>	[i(:)ˈkɒnəmi]	n. 经济；节省；节约
<b>trader</b>	[ˈtreɪdə]	n. 商人
<b>role</b>		n. 作用；任务；角色
<b>responsibility</b>	[risˌpɒnsəˈbɪlɪti]	n. 责任；职责；义务
<b>housewife</b>	[ˈhaʊswaɪf]	n. 家庭主妇
<b>reputation</b>	[ˌrepju(:)ˈteɪʃən]	n. 名誉；声望；荣誉
<b>independence</b>	[ˌɪndɪˈpendəns]	n. 独立；自立；自主
<b>self-reliance</b>	[ˈself-riˈlaɪəns]	n. 自力更生
<b>disfavor</b>	[dɪsˈfeɪvə]	n. 不赞成；轻视
<b>average</b>	[ˈævərɪdʒ]	n. 平均；平均数；一般水准
<b>niece</b>	[niːs]	n. 侄女；甥女
<b>housework</b>	[ˈhaʊswɜːk]	n. 家务劳动
<b>activity</b>	[ækˈtɪvɪti]	n. 活动；活动性
<b>firewood</b>	[ˈfaɪəwʊd]	n. 柴火
<b>pregnancy</b>	[ˈpregnənsɪ]	n. 怀孕
<b>solution</b>	[səˈluːʃən]	n. 解决；解答
<b>fee</b>		n. 费；酬金

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<b>cope</b>		<b>v.</b> 应付, 对付; 妥善处理
<b>educate</b>	<b>['edju(:)keit]</b>	<b>v.</b> 教育; 培养
<b>deserve</b>	<b>[di'zə:v]</b>	<b>v.</b> 应受; 值得
<b>classify</b>	<b>['klæsifai]</b>	<b>v.</b> 把...分类, 把...归入一类
<b>earn</b>	<b>[ə:n]</b>	<b>v.</b> 赚得, 挣得
<b>bake</b>		<b>v.</b> 烤; 烘
<b>depend</b>	<b>[di'pend]</b>	<b>v.</b> 依靠, 依赖
<b>trade</b>		<b>v., n.</b> 经商, 贸易
<b>grind</b>	<b>[graɪnd]</b>	<b>v.</b> 磨; 碾
<b>pound</b>	<b>[paʊnd]</b>	<b>v.</b> 捣碎; 舂烂; 敲打
<b>illiterate</b>	<b>[i'litərit]</b>	<b>a.</b> 文盲的; 未受教育的
<b>urban</b>	<b>['ə:bən]</b>	<b>a.</b> 城市的
<b>rural</b>	<b>['ruərəl]</b>	<b>a.</b> 乡村的
<b>economic</b>	<b>[i:kə'nɒmik]</b>	<b>a.</b> 经济(上)的
<b>normal</b>	<b>['nɔ:məl]</b>	<b>a.</b> 正常的; 正规的
<b>Ghanaian</b>	<b>[gɑ:'neɪən]</b>	<b>a.</b> 加纳的
<b>multiple</b>	<b>['mʌltɪpl]</b>	<b>a.</b> 多样的; 复合的
<b>traditional</b>	<b>[trə'dɪʃənəl]</b>	<b>a.</b> 传统的



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<b>income-producing</b>	<b>['ɪnkəm-prə'dju:sɪŋ]</b>	<b>a.</b> 能得到收入的
<b>time-consuming</b>	<b>['taɪm-kən'sju:mɪŋ]</b>	<b>a.</b> 花费大量时间的
<b>frequent</b>	<b>['fri:kwənt]</b>	<b>a.</b> 频繁的, 经常的
<b>available</b>	<b>[ə'veɪləbl]</b>	<b>a.</b> 可得到的; 可用的

<b>traditionally</b>	<b>[trə'dɪʃənəli]</b>	<b>ad.</b> 传统地
<b>entirely</b>	<b>[ɪn'taɪəli]</b>	<b>ad.</b> 完全地; 彻底地

<b>cope with</b>	应付, 对付, 妥善处理
<b>depend on (upon)</b>	依靠, 依赖; 依……而定
<b>take on</b>	承担; 呈现, 采用
<b>play a role in</b>	在…中起作用
<b>look upon (on)</b>	看待
<b>in short</b>	总之, 简而言之
<b>in addition to</b>	除…以外
<b>along with</b>	与…一道, 与…一起
<b>an average of</b>	平均有

## Notes to the Text

- Ghana** ([gɑ:nə]): an independent country in western Africa. The country obtained independence in 1957. Its official name is the Republic of Ghana. The country has an area of about 240,000 square kilometers. It is bordered by Burkina Faso

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(布基纳法索) on the north, Togo (多哥) on the east, and the Ivory Coast (象牙海岸) on the west. The population of Ghana is about 10,500,000. Most people live by farming, raising food for themselves and their families. Their crops include peanuts, corn, rice, vegetables, and bananas. Cacao is Ghana's chief export and source of income. Also important is the production for export of timber (木材), gold, and diamonds.

### **2. cope with:** to find a way to deal with.

When a man copes with something, he succeeds in doing something which he finds difficult.

She was busy but she was still able to cope with the extra work.

### **3. in addition to:** besides; also.

In addition to her work as a farmer, she is a trader.

He plays piano well, in addition to being a mathematician.

### **4. Indeed, the woman who depends entirely upon her husband for her support is looked upon with disfavor.**

确实，那些完全依赖丈夫供养的妇女是受人轻视的。

Note the difference between the subjective possessive and the objective possessive. Compare:

We need **your** (his, her) support. (subjective)

The woman depends upon her husband for **her** support.  
(objective)

(for her support = to support her)

### **5. Nine out of ten women fifteen years of age and over are married.**

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在十五岁和十五岁以上的妇女中，十有八九是已婚的。

*Fifteen years of age and over modifies women.*

6. in fact an average of seven children is born to every woman.

事实上每个妇女平均生七个孩子。?

The phrase *an average of* is followed by numerals.

An average of 30 students are present each day.

7. carry out: do, fulfil. 7

The students are carrying out some scientific experiments.

It will be difficult, but we will carry out your instructions.

8. Today with more children going to school, with more people moving away from their traditional homes where support from their family would be provided, how can the mother cope with her many responsibilities?

今天，越来越多的孩子上学，越来越多的人离开了往日全家人共同维持的传统的家庭，母亲又如何才能对付得了那么多的职责呢？

- 1) Notice the construction *with + N + V-ing*, which is used as an adverbial of attendant circumstances.

With their lives getting better and better, the Chinese are becoming more fashion-conscious.

Almost all metals are good conductors with silver being the best of all.

- 2) *Where support from their family would be provided* is an attributive clause modifying *homes*. Here *family* means "group of people living in the same house". It refers not

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only to brothers and sisters, but also to cousins, aunts, and uncles.

9. Not only must she continue her income-producing activities, but she must take on such heavy, time-consuming housework as carrying water and firewood, grinding and pounding, along with her frequent burden of pregnancy, nursing, baby and child care.

她不仅必须继续从事挣钱的工作，而且还得干象担水运柴，推磨舂米这些沉重而费时的家务活，再加上怀孕、喂奶、照料孩子这些经常性的负担。

- 1) Notice that part of the predicate verb is moved before the subject when the sentence begins with *not only*, *only*, *never*, *scarcely*, etc.

Not only was the timer out of order, but the engine needed repair.

Scarcely had I started when it began to rain.

- 2) take on: to accept (work, responsibility, etc.).

If you take on a task, never leave it till it's done.

A job like this should not be taken on without a great deal of forethought.

10. family planning: the controlling of the number of children

11. but this is available mainly in urban areas 但是这主要在城镇才有 available: that can be had or used.

We say that a thing is available when it can be obtained and used without difficulty.

I'm afraid my bike is not available now; it is being repaired.

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**Exercises**

**A. Analysis of Ideas and Relationships: Circle the letter next to the best answer.**

1. The main idea of paragraph 1 is that:
  - a. women in Ghana are lazy.
  - b. women in Ghana work and maintain families.
  - c. most women in Ghana are young.
2. In paragraph 1, the words inside the dashes (—) describe:
  - a. a few of the women in Ghana.
  - b. the non-working women.
  - c. most of the women in Ghana.
3. The main idea of paragraph 2 is that:
  - a. one woman in five is a housewife.
  - b. some women don't want to earn money.
  - c. even the non-working women try to earn money.
4. According to the last sentence in paragraph 2, what do people in Ghana prefer ?
  - a. A woman who does not work at all.
  - b. A woman who works.
  - c. A woman who doesn't marry.
5. Read paragraph 3; then match the number with the questions.

a. How many women are married ?	1.9 out of 10
b. How many children do women want ?	2.15
c. By what age are most women married ?	3.6 or 7

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6. Paragraph 4 gives examples of:

- a. ideas for the future.
- b. the traditional way of life for mothers.
- c. the current situation.

7. In paragraph 5 "her frequent burden of pregnancy ...," how does the author feel about pregnancy, nursing, and child care?

- a. She thinks these are easy tasks.
- b. She thinks these are easier than housework.
- c. She thinks these are hard tasks.

How do you know?

8. Paragraph 5 gives examples of:

- a. ideas for the future.
- b. the traditional way of life for mothers.
- c. the current situation.

9. Paragraph 6 gives examples of:

- a. ideas for the future.
- b. the traditional way of life.
- c. the current situation.

10. The author of this article probably agrees that:

- a. women should continue both their roles.
- b. women should not work.
- c. women should stay home with their children.

**B. Interpretation of Words and Phrases: Circle the letter next to the best answer.**

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1. "Their reputation is well deserved" means:
  - a. there are good reasons why they are respected.
  - b. many people do not respect them.
  - c. four out of five women work.
2. Their self-reliance is well known.
  - a. confidence in themselves
  - b. dependence on other people
  - c. role as mothers
3. In paragraph 2, "Even these women ...," these refers to:
  - a. the women classified as housewives.
  - b. the traders.
  - c. most of Ghana's working women.
4. Indeed, they are looked upon with disfavor.
  - a. often
  - b. only
  - c. in fact
5. In fact, women have an average of seven children.
  - a. the truth is
  - b. no one really knows
  - c. perhaps
6. In short, the normal pattern is to work and be a mother too.
  - a. to summarize
  - b. certainly
  - c. at last
7. In paragraph 4, "help care for the younger ones," ones refers to:

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- a. activities.  
b. mothers.  
c. brothers and sisters.
8. Housework is a **time-consuming burden**.
- a. **time-consuming:** 1. takes a lot of time 2. takes very little time 3. is not important
- b. **burden:** 1. heavy work 2. easy job 3. pregnancy
9. Ghana is looking for ways to **meet the needs of women and their families**.
- a. say hello to  
b. provide what is needed for  
c. give money to
10. Match the following antonyms (opposite words):
- a. self-reliant 1. rural  
b. urban 2. separate  
c. combine 3. dependent  
d. reduce 4. increase

**C. Synonyms:** From this list, choose a synonym for the words in bold type in each sentence.

can't read or write	to keep	methods
a city	lowered	plan
divide	merited	usual
farm and small town		

- 1. How many people in the world are illiterate ? (can't read or write)**



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2. I prefer living in an urban area.
3. In many countries, the rural population is getting smaller.
4. Mr. Lee's promotion was well deserved. He works very hard.
5. Try to ma'n'tain some money in your savings account.
6. It is normal to sleep 7 to 8 hours per night.
7. I built that bookcase using a pattern I found in a magazine.
8. The children usually share the housework.
9. Mrs. Ramos reduced her weight by 20 pounds in just three months.

10. There are several ways to solve the problem.

**B. Prepositions and Verb-completers: Write any appropriate preposition or verb-completer in the blank spaces.**

1. Most women in Ghana work to earn an income.
2. Other women earn money by sewing or by cooking things to sell.
3. In addition to working, they maintain families.
4. Nine of the ten women are married.
5. Ghanaian women combine a role in the economy with a role as wife and mother in a large family.
6. How do they cope with their responsibilities at the home and at the job?
7. Can they expect help from their families?
8. People are moving from their traditional homes.
9. Day care is available mainly in urban areas.
10. Ghana is looking for new ways to meet the needs