COLLEGE ENGLISH GRADED READING

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田鹏森 主编



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4 大学英语分级阅读

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【内容简介】《大学英语分级阅读》根据《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》以及四级考试新题型编写。以提高学生阅读量、阅读速度及阅读理解水平为主要目的。

本书紧密配合大学英语四级教学·选材广泛·除配有阅读理解题外·还设计了长难句英译汉翻译练习·是大学英语精读课的同步阅读教材·是增强理解及翻译能力并备考的必备之书。

本书可作为大学英语课辅助教材使用,也可供广大英语爱好者阅读欣赏。

大学英语分级阅读

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序 言

在大学英语教学及测试中,阅读能力的培养占有头等重要的地位,这种观点已为英语教学界所公认。作者根据自己的教学心得,结合当前形势对英语教学的要求,吸收现有同类教材的优点,协力编出《大学英语分级阅读》,以满足教学需要。本书有如下特点:

- 1. 题材广泛,内容丰富,知识性与趣味性兼顾;语言规范,可读性强,既可以增进阅读能力,又可以拓宽知识面。
- 2. 作为阅读教材,不以应试为主要目的,注重学生阅读理解的训练,从而促进听、说、写、译能力的全面发展。
- 3. 紧密配合大学英语教学,可作为读写教程的同步材料,有助于巩固及加深学生对读写教程的掌握。
- 4. 文章难度由浅人深,逐级提高。练习及考查材料的深度也相应地逐步加大,因此本教材也可用于阅读强化训练。
- 5. 考虑到四级考试的新题型,特设置英译汉练习一栏, 为英译汉专项练习提供了可行的方法及丰富的素材。
- "一分耕耘,一分收获"。这部精心设计,精心制作,历时3年的教材终于问世了。我相信,它一定会受到广大读者的欢迎。

陈伯顺

1997年10月

前言

《大学英语分级阅读》是根据高等学校文理工科《大学英语教学大纲》关于阅读理解的要求编写的,旨在向学生提供难易程度相当、总量符合大纲指标的同步阅读材料,使学生通过大量的阅读实践,提高阅读理解能力,增进阅读速度,扩大英语感性认识范围,并为进一步提高听、说、写、译能力奠定雄厚的基础。

外国语学习以其实践性强而区别于其他学科知识的学习。学好外国语,掌握运用语言进行熟练交际的能力,积累大量语言材料是极其重要的,而阅读就是吸收语言文化积累语言材料的最重要途径。无量之积累就不会有质之飞跃。处于世纪之交的我国大学外语教学,大纲在修订、教材在更新,然而培养学生语言交际能力这个总目标是不会改变的。实现这一目标,阅读量、阅读速度以及阅读理解水平的提高起着举足轻重的作用。多年以来大学英语教学实践以及四六级考试,使我们深深感到阅读能力的训练与培养,必须从基础阶段抓起,而且要持续抓好。阅读的目的不是为了应试。《大学英语分级阅读》就是在这一认识指导下编写的。

本教材共分 4 册,每册 100 篇阅读文章,按每单元 4 篇分别编入 25 个单元。针对每篇文章,除了设计 5 个标准的阅读理解题外,根据四级考试新题型,在三、四级阅读材料的每篇后增设了划线长难句的英译汉练习,书末提供了参考答案与

译文,对三、四级材料中出现的超纲词汇加注了简明的汉语释义。全套教材 400 篇短文,选材广泛,题材新颖,知识性与趣味性兼顾,可读性强,阅读材料及练习难易程度合适,可紧密配合一到四级教学,循序渐进,过渡自然,兼顾了训练读者提取信息、推断、引申、概括、分析、归纳能力。

本教材可作为大学英语分级教学的同步教材,也适合于 大学生阅读自测或进行阅读理解强化训练。

本教材编写过程中得到西安建筑科技大学教务处教材科、外语系,西北工业大学外语系,西北工业大学出版社的大力支持与协助;西安建筑科技大学外语系陈伯顺教授审阅了全书并为本书撰写了序言,在此一并致谢。

由于编者水平有限,书中疏漏或谬误恐所难免,诚恳希望使用此教材的老师和同学批评指正。

全套教材由田鹏森副教授任主编。第 4 册由杨品菊、曹勇、唐建敏编写。

编 者 1997年10月于西安

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Passage A

Many artists late in the last century were in search of a means to express their individuality. Modern dance was one of the ways some of these people sought to free their creative spirit. At the beginning there was no exacting technique, no foundation from which to build. In later years trial, error, and genius founded the techniques and the principles of the movement. Eventually, innovators even drew from what they considered the dread ballet, but first they had to discard all that was academic so that the new could be discovered. The beginnings of modern dance were happening before Isadora Duncan, but she was the first person to bring the new dance to general audiences and see it accepted and acclaimed.

Her search for a natural movement form sent her to nature. She believed movement should be as natural as the swaying of the trees and the rolling waves of the sea, and should be in harmony with the movements of the Earth. Her great contributions are in three areas.

First, she began the expansion of the kinds of movements that could be used in dance. Before Duncan danced, ballet was the only type of dance performed in concert. In the ballet the feet and legs were emphasized, with virtuosity shown by complicated, codified positions and movements. Duncan performed dance by using all her body in the freest possible way. Her dance stemmed from her soul and spirit. She was one of the pioneers who broke tradition so others might be able to develop the art.

Her second contribution lies in dance costume. She discarded corset, ballet shoes, and stiff costumes. These were replaced with flowing Grecian tunics, bare feet, and unbound hair. She believed in the natural body being allowed to move freely, and her dress displayed this ideal.

Her third contribution was in the use of music. In her performances she used the symphonics of great masters, including Beethoven and Wagner, which was not the usual custom.

She was as exciting and eccentric in her personal life as in her dance.

- 1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
 - A) The Evolution of Dance in the Twentieth Century.
 - B) Artists of the Last Century.
 - C) Natural Movement in Dance.
 - D) A Pioneer in Modern Dance.
- 2. According to the passage, what did nature represent to Isadora Duncan?

	A) Something to conquer.	B) A place to find peace.
	C) Model for movement.	D) A symbol of life.
3.	Which of the following is N	OT mentioned in the passage
	as an area of dance that	Isadora Duncan worked to
	change?	
	A) The music.	B) Costumes.
	C) The stage sets.	D) Movements.
4.	Compared to those of ballet	, Isodora Duncan's costumes
	were less	
	A) costly	B) graceful
	C) colorful	D) restrictive
5.	What does the paragraph	following the passage most
	probably discuss?	
	A) Isodora Duncan's furt	her contribution to modern
	dance.	
	B) The music customarily i	used in ballet.

Passage B

D) Audience acceptance of the new form of dance.

C) Other aspects of Isodora Duncan's life.

Culture is the total sum of all the traditions, customs, beliefs, and ways of life of a given group of human beings. In this sense, every group has a culture, however savage, undeveloped, or uncivilized it may seem to us.

To the professional anthropologist, there is no intrinsic

superiority of one culture over another, just as to the professional linguist there is no intrinsic hierarchy among languages.

People once thought of the languages of backward groups as savage, undeveloped forms of speech, consisting largely of grunts and groans. While it is possible that language in general began as a series of grunts and groans, it is a fact established by the study of "backward" languages that no spoken tongue answers that description today. Most languages of uncivilized groups are, by our most severe standards, extremely complex, delicate, and ingenious pieces of machinery for the transfer of ideas. They fall behind our Western languages not in their sound patterns or grammatical structures, which usually are fully adequate for all language needs, but only in their vocabularies, which reflects the objects and activities known to their speakers. Even in this department, however, two things are to be noted: 1. All languages seem to possess the machinery for vocabulary expansion, either by putting together words already in existence or by borrowing them from other languages and adapting them to their own system. 2. The objects and activities requiring names and distinctions in "backward" languages, while different from ours, are often surprisingly numerous and complicated. A Western language distinguishes merely between two degrees of remoteness ("this" and "that"); some languages of the American Indians distinguish between

what is close to the speaker, or to the person addressed, or removed from both, or out of sight, or in the past, or in the future.

This study of language, in turn, casts a new light upon the claim of the anthropologists that all cultures are to be viewed independently, and without ideas of rank or hierarchy.

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	intrinsic	. rb /c	66
(I)	intrinsic	, W#	HN.

- ② hierarchy: 等级(制度)
- ③ grunt: 哼声,咕哝声
- ④ anthropologist: 人类学家
- 6. The languages of uncivilized groups as compared to Western languages are limited in _____.
 - A) sound patterns
- B) grammatical structures
- C) vocabularies
- D) both B) and C)
- 7. The author says that professional linguists recognize that

- D) there is no hierarchy of languages
- 8. The article states that grunt-and-groan forms of speech are found _____.
 - A) nowhere today

A) Western languages are superior to Eastern languages.

B) all languages came from grunts and groans

C) the hierarchy of languages is difficult to understand

- B) among the Australian aborigines
- C) among Eastern cultures
- D) among people speaking "backward" languages
- 9. According to the author, languages, whether civilized or not, have .
 - A) the potential for expanding vocabulary
 - B) their own sound patterns
 - C) an ability to transfer ideas
 - D) grammatical structures
- 10. Which of the following is implied in the passage?
 - A) The study of languages has discredited anthropological studies.
 - B) The study of language has reinforced anthropologists in their view that there is no hierarchy among cultures.
 - C) The study of language is the same as the study of anthropologists.
 - D) The study of languages casts a new light upon the claim of anthropologists.

Passage C

When the plane still had not arrived half an hour after the scheduled departure time, Eric started to have doubts about ever catching his connecting flight. For the third time he asked at the desk to find out what was happening.

"There's a severe storm over the mountains. The pilot's flying round it, but should be landing in about twenty minutes." Sudden storms were, Eric knew, very common at this time of year, and the small Fokkers used by the airline for internal flights would not be able to climb above them. Not that this helped him at all. "What about my connection?" he insisted. "Well, we radioed the pilot and we are going to make the turnaround as quickly as possible and he' ll do his best for you. "Eric looked around at his prospective fellow passengers. There were only a dozen of them, all locals, and would no doubt be terminating their flight in the capital. Eric, on the other hand, had finished his work and was leaving the country to return home. No goodbyes, no fuss-but that was how he liked it. The plane arrived and the hostess led out the passengers. Eric's cases were loaded into the passenger compartment. An hour later, looking out of the window, Eric saw the light of the capital standing out sharply in the blackness of the tropical night. "No smoking. Seat belts." As the plane taxied to a halt opposite the inland terminal building, the hostess asked Eric for his passport. "You will be given clearance on the tarmac." Sure enough, there was a small reception committee waiting at the bottom of the steps: the immigration officer with his stamp at the ready and the customs man with the chalk. Formalities were over in seconds, and Eric and his luggage were loaded into a jeep and driven over to the waiting jet which would take him

6,000 miles home. Eric trotted up the steps and then	past
rows of curious faces. Ten minutes later, he was airbo	orne
and homeward bound.	
11. Eric was on his way to	
A) the capital B) his home	
C) his new work D) a foreign country	
12. The arrival of Eric's plane was delayed bec	ause
•	
A) there were the mountains in front of the plane	
B) there were often storms over the mountains	
C) the plane was too small	
D) the storm was so severe that the pilot couldn'	t fly
through it	
13. The plane that Eric took	
A) only flew within the country	
B) sometimes flew to other countries	
C) could only fly in good weather	
D) could only hold a dozen passengers	
14. Eric took the small Fokkers	
A) to fly home	
B) to fly to the capital	
C) to catch his connecting flight	
D) to see his friends	
15. When Eric left his work he was	
A) seen off by many people	
B) seen off by only his dear ones	

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- C) seen off by nobody
- D) given a farewell party

Passage D

Let us take a look at the chief thing in the story—the human body itself. A human body appears to be rather soft and delicate, compared with that of a wild animal, but it is actually surprisingly strong. Indeed, its very softness and looseness is an advantage; it makes man good at moving about and falling about in safety. Man is the most skillful in movement of all living things of his own size, because he can do so many different things with his limbs. Man's games show how he can control his own body. No other land creature can swim as skilfully as man; none has such varied grace; very few live as long as he; none is so strong in its natural resistance to disease. Therefore man has a great advantage in his battle against the risks of damage and death that threaten him. It is difficult to kill him so long as he is fed and in good health. Yet every day thousands of people die needlessly, even though man is naturally strong, because those two killers, disease and starvation, win the battle.

Old age? No one can live forever, so one might suppose that quite a large number of old people would come to the end of their days every year. There is, however, another thing to remember. During the time it has taken you to read this page, a considerable number of babies have been born somewhere in the world-one is born every one and a quarter seconds! Of these babies, one group can be expected to have a good long life of about seventy years, because they were lucky enough to be born in countries where living standards are high.

The deadliest of all killers are starvation and disease. We cannot be content until we have mastered them. To do so is one of the most important tasks of our times.

- 16. The softness and looseness of man's body is an advantage because it _____.
 - A) makes him strong
 - B) makes him resistant to diseases
 - C) helps him to avoid injury
 - D) keeps him in good health
- 17. The words "varied grace" refer to man's _____.
 - A) softness and delicacy
 - B) strength
 - C) ability to swim well
 - D) ability to perform many different movement easily and skifully
- 18. Why is the word "different" in italics?
 - A) Because it is not important.
 - B) To make it clear to see.
 - C) To make it easier to read.
 - 10 •