

新编

# 高中英语阅读

## 强化训练

陈锡麟 王 珽编写



上海译文出版社

**新编**

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Senior English Reading Practice

陈锡麟 王 珽 选编

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## 前 言

上海市教委制定的《面向 21 世纪上海市中小学外语学科教育改革行动纲领》明确要求高中毕业生要做到一门外语能力基本过关。为真正提高学生听、说、读、写的能力,高中外语词汇量要求达到 5 千单词,阅读量达到 60 万个单词。

要达到这样的目标,依靠课堂内阅读有限的课文材料显然是远远不够的。学生只有通过足够的阅读训练,才能获得较为理想的语言能力。

阅读能力的强弱相当程度上反映出学生语言运用能力的优劣。因而在各种水平的英语考试中,阅读理解的测试都是一个非常重要的部分。加强阅读方面的训练,有利于英语水平的提高,自然也是备考工作中不可或缺的一环了。

有鉴于此,我们选编了这一本《新编高中英语阅读强化训练》供学生课外阅读。本书内容分为社会与文化、科学与技术以及趣味故事等三大类别。前两个部分的阅读主要是以获取信息为目的,后一部分的阅读则更多是为了提高兴趣。对于提高阅读能力来说,各种材料的阅读都是必要的。通过阅读各种类型的材料,可以巩固和扩大词汇量,提高理解力和阅读速度。但从考试角度来看,则宜将重点较多地集中在知识性的材料。为此,我们在选材的比例上较多地偏向于前两个部分:在所选的材料中社会文化和科技知识类共占 72.5%,而故事类则只占 27.5%。根据通用的测试习惯,每篇材料后都设计了五道测试理解能力的选择题。书后附有全部答案。

希望本书对高中学生英语学习会有所帮助。书中凡有疏漏不妥之处,谨请读者指正为感。

编 者  
2000 年 1 月

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## 怎样提高英语阅读理解能力

阅读能力是体现语言文字能力的一个重要方面,因而也自然是测试英语水平的一种必要手段。国内外各种英语考试形式中,语篇阅读理解都占相当比例。所谓阅读理解,当然是指读了一段文字后能理解其中的意思。这里既有对句子的理解,又有对语篇中所提供信息的捕捉,还可能要读者作出一定的判断和猜测等等。然而语篇理解的关键首先在于确切理解其中的每个句子,否则就可能因对片言只字的误解而影响对整篇文章的了解。有的是因一词多义而容易引起歧义;有的是某些句型具有特殊含义,稍一忽视就造成理解错误;有的则完全是英汉语言两种不同的习惯引起的意思分歧。这里列举一些例句。

1. The camera is anything but inexpensive.  
这架照相机就是不便宜。
2. We cannot thank you too much for your timely help.  
你对我们的及时帮助,我们怎么感谢你也不够的。
3. The TV sets and VCD players in the shop-window are for sale.  
橱窗里的电视机和影碟机是可出售的。  
(on sale 是“廉价出售”。)
4. Tom is not in the right.  
汤姆(所说或所做的)不正确。  
(on the right 是“在右边”。)
5. It's Monday today. I'll meet Susan next Friday.  
今天是星期一,我将于本星期五见到苏珊。  
(Friday next week 才是“下周五”。)
6. Her left leg hurt yesterday.  
她的左腿昨天疼痛。  
(Her left leg was hurt yesterday. 才是“她的左腿昨天受伤了。")
7. The passengers wondered if there was still room on the crowded bus.  
乘客不知道拥挤的公共汽车上是否还有立足之地。  
(room 指“空间”; a room 才是“房间”。)
8. The man spends about 20 percent of his income on dress.  
这位男士将收入的百分之二十用于添置服装。  
(dress 是“服装(总称)”, a/the dress 或 dresses 才是“女装”。)

类似上述的情况如果出现在语篇中,就会因一个词或一个句式结构而影响了对语篇的理解。下面再请看一个例子:

'I lived here when I was a child, and I had more than enough of gardening then. It was

my father's hobby, you see. Unfortunately he wasn't fit enough to do it himself. My brother and I did all of it between us year after year. There was one right way and many, many wrong ways. Each plant was an enemy to me. I've spent a good part of life at work here.'

'I see. You took a dislike to it, and now you're getting even!'

'I disliked it. That's putting it mildly. Then, of course, I didn't understand the effect it had.'

The professor \_\_\_\_\_ the garden when he was a child.

- A. was glad to help his father work in
- B. took a mild dislike to
- C. hated
- D. killed the enemies in

要回答这个理解题,关键要弄清最后两行的意思。这是从一篇短文中辑录的对话,其中一位是问题中提及的教授,另一位是造访的青年。青年的话中有“You took a dislike to it(指 garden)”,教授说“I dislike it.”下句中又有 mildly 一词,于是许多人以为选择 B 项正确。那是因为他们未理解 That's putting it mildly. 一句的意思。这句解释是:“那是说得温和一点”。也就是说:“说得温和一点是‘不喜欢’,那么实说的话应该是比 dislike 语气更强的 hate 了。”所以答案应该是 C 项。

有的时候,疏忽了一个代词也会影响理解的正确与否。请看下面的例子。

In their bedroom Frank smoked. They kept the windows open, to let the smoke drift away and leave no smell in the room. Bob kept that secret for Frank.

It was necessary for them to keep the window open when Frank smoked because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the smoke would have made them uncomfortable
- B. they didn't want to get rid of the smell in the bed room
- C. their parents had forbidden them to smoke
- D. that would make it more interesting to smoke

乍一看来,应该选 C 项,因为父母禁止孩子抽烟,所以他们把窗户打开,让烟味散出窗外,以免被父母发现。然而语篇中明明是 Frank smoked,另一个孩子 Bob 则是 kept that secret for Frank,所以就不符合 C 项中 forbidden them to smoke 了。正确答案是 A 项。

在理解整篇内容及全部语句的基础上,答题的正确率自然就比较高了。一般说来,阅读理解往往会在捕捉信息、判断、归纳主要意思及推理等方面提问。请看下面从近年高考题中选出的例子。

## I

Before long, many diners stayed open around the clock. In other words, people were able to eat in a diner at any time. Diners changed in other ways, too. The original menu of sandwiches and coffee became bigger. It included soup, favorite dishes, and a breakfast

menu. In addition, diners soon became permanent buildings. They were no longer carts on wheels.

According to this paragraph, diners changed in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. two ways
- B. three ways
- C. four ways
- D. five ways

(选自 1999 年上海高考题)

本题要求答出 diners 的变化,其一是 eat at any time,其二是 menu 的品种增加了,其三是地方成了 permanent buildings。所以正确答案是 B 项。

## II

Australia and the United States are about the same in size, and their western lands are both not rich in soil. It was the eastern coast of Australia and America that the English first settled, and both colonies soon began to develop towards the west. However, this westward movement took place more because the English were searching for better land because the population was increasing. Settlements of the western part of both countries developed quickly after gold was discovered in America in 1849 and in Australia two years later.

Although the development of these two countries has a lot in common, there are some striking differences as well. The United States gained its independence from England by revolution while Australia won its independence without having to go to war. Australia, unlike the United States, was firstly turned into a colony by English prisoners and its economic development was in wheat growing and sheep raising. By 1992, for example, Australia had fifteen times more sheep than it had people, or almost half as many sheep as there are people today in the United States. Yet, in spite of these and other main differences, Australia and the United States have more in common with each other than either one has with most of the rest of the world.

1. In the early 1990s, \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Australia had one fifteenth as many people as sheep
- B. there were more sheep in Australia than in the United States
- C. the population in Australia was greater than that of the United States
- D. the United States had twice as many sheep as people

2. Australia, unlike the United States, \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. won its independence by peaceful means
- B. did not discover gold until the late 1840s
- C. was the last and biggest continent to be discovered
- D. was not rich in gold in its western part

3. The last sentence in the last paragraph "... Australia and the United States have



more in common with each other than either one has with most of the rest of the world" means "\_\_\_\_\_".

- A. The United States and Australia do not have any main differences
- B. The United States and Australia have much more in common than they have with other countries
- C. The United States and Australia have nothing in common with the rest of the world
- D. In common with the rest of the world, the United States and Australia have a lot of differences

(选自 1997 年上海高考题)

第 1 题答案是 A 项。根据语篇中说 fifteen times more sheep than it had people, 即羊的数目是人的 15 倍, 因而人的数目为羊的  $\frac{1}{15}$ 。这是推理题。

第 2 题答案是 A 项。文中 without having to go to war 即是 A 项中 by peaceful means。这是寻找细节的问题。

第 3 题答案是 B 项。B 项的语句和语篇中最后一句意义相同。这是测试语句理解的试题。

### III

A person's age no longer tells you anything about his/her social position, marriage or health. There's no longer a particular year in which one goes to school or goes to work or gets married or starts a family. The social clock that kept us on time and told us when to go to school, get a job, or stop working isn't as strong as it used to be. It doesn't surprise us to hear of a 29-year-old university president or a 35-year-old grandmother, or a 70-year-old man who has become a father for the first time. Public ideas are changing.

Many people say, 'I am much younger than my mother — or my father — was at my age.' No one says 'Act your age' any more. We've stopped looking with surprise at older people who act in youthful ways.

1. 'Act your age' means people should \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. be active when they are old
  - B. do the right thing at the right age
  - C. show respect for their parents young or old
  - D. take more physical exercise suitable to their age
2. If a 25-year-old man becomes general manager of a big firm, the writer of the text would most probably consider it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. normal
  - B. wonderful

C. unbelievable

D. unreasonable

(选自 1997 年全国高考题)

第 1 题看似词义的测试,但从文中可知老年人做年轻人的事不会令人吃惊,显然 Act one's age 与新时代不同了。Act one's age 的词义不言自明,故 B 项正确。

第 2 题是推断作者的意图,文中 29 岁青年当大学校长不足为奇,那么 25 岁青年当大公司总经理也正常的了。故选 A 项。

#### IV

Sometimes an animal has a plant partner. The relationship develops until the two partners cannot manage without each other. This is so in the corals(珊瑚)of the sea. In their skins they have tiny plants which act as“dustman”, taking some of the waste products from the coral and giving in return oxygen which the animal needs to breathe. If the plants are killed, or are even prevented from light so that they cannot live normally, the corals will die.

What does this paragraph mainly discuss?

- A. Some animals and plants depend on each other for existence.
- B. Some animals and plants develop their relationship easily.
- C. Some plants depend on each other for food.
- D. Some animals live better together.

(选自 1996 年全国高考题)

本题是概括整段意思的问题。这段讨论的是 corals 和 tiny plants 相互依存的关系,所以 A 项正确。

然而不管什么类型的试题,只要确切理解字、词、句、篇,试题的解答也就迎刃而解了。要具备较强的阅读能力,就必须进行大量的阅读训练。现在让我们转入具体的语篇阅读吧。



# **Part One**



## **Passages on Social Studies & Culture**

**(第一部分 社会与文化知识)**

## Passage 1

In recent years there is a 4.5 percent increase in the number of college students studying foreign languages in the United States. That is encouraging news; however, many Americans still regard foreign-language study as an academic pursuit rather than as a means of communicating with non-English-speaking people.

In these days of fast travel and communication, it is impossible for people in one part of the world to be completely isolated from the rest of humanity. Events in one country may directly affect the citizens of another country thousands of miles away. It is important for people in different countries to be able to communicate with each other.

It is not unusual for Europeans to be bilingual and even trilingual, but most Americans speak only English. Of course, it is true that Americans are geographically isolated from much of the rest of the world, but that makes it even more important that they try to learn as much about other cultures as possible. One of the best ways to learn about other cultures is to study foreign languages.

Unfortunately, Americans have earned a bad reputation on this point. When they travel abroad they expect people from other countries to be able to understand English and are surprised and even annoyed when they don't. Yet they have little patience with foreigners they meet who don't speak English well. Is this reasonable?

### Notes:

- |               |                |      |         |
|---------------|----------------|------|---------|
| 1. academic   | /ækə'demɪk/    | adj. | 学术的     |
| 2. pursuit    | /pə'sju:t/     | n.   | 事务      |
| 3. bilingual  | /baɪ'lɪŋɡwəl/  | adj. | 能说两国语言的 |
| 4. trilingual | /traɪ'lɪŋɡwəl/ | adj. | 能说三国语言的 |

### Multiple choices:

1. According to the passage, the study of foreign languages in the United States is quite \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. surprising  
B. satisfactory  
C. encouraging  
D. disappointing
2. The problem is that \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States.  
A. not enough people are learning foreign languages.

- B. people are not bilingual or trilingual
  - C. people are not learning foreign languages to communicate with foreigners
  - D. people from other countries are all learning English
3. Europeans learn foreign languages effectively because they \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. find languages useful
  - B. want to contact Americans
  - C. are isolated geographically
  - D. are interested in other cultures
4. Which of the following statements is not true?
- A. It's hard to learn about other cultures without learning their languages.
  - B. Culture is not necessarily related to the language.
  - C. Communication is the purpose of learning foreign languages.
  - D. Europeans have done better than Americans in foreign language learning.
5. The writer of the passage feels that \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. Americans should use English only
  - B. Americans cannot depend on English only
  - C. Americans are hopeless as they don't want to learn foreign languages
  - D. Europeans are hopeless though they learn languages well

## Passage 2

Last April, 15-year-old Rei Iwasaki stopped her piano and flute lessons and began to study every day of the week. Her parents paid to send her to a “cram school”. She wanted very much to pass her exams.

In February she did pass an all-day, five-subject examination and entered the high school she hoped to enter.

Thirteen-year-old Akio Yoshiwara wasn't so lucky. Unable to take the pressure of the exams, he hanged himself in February. He left a suicide note which said, “I did my best in this dear life, but it's no good.”

Suicides are now a common part of life among students in Japan. The cause is the incredible pressure of the “examination hell”.

Even a number of teachers are committing suicide each year. When some students broke windows in a school near Tokyo, the principal blamed himself and wrote the following note: “The incidents were due to the lack of appropriate measures by the principal and I apologize. I am very tired.” He then killed himself.

The Japanese educational system is much different from the American system. It is perhaps the most regimented school system in any of the industrialized nations.

Boys and girls wear uniforms and go to school six days a week — 240 days a year compared to 180 in the U.S. Ninety-five percent graduate from high school compared to seventy-five percent in the U.S.

Students don't ask questions in class but only listen respectfully to the teachers. And every few years students are tested to see which school they will enter next. There is stiff competition for the “best” schools.

The result is a well-informed, disciplined student, ideal for factory and company work and excellent at learning specialized skills. But there is little fun in education, little creativity and the incredible pressure of “examination hell”.

### Notes:

- |               |                |             |       |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-------|
| 1. suicide    | /ˈsjʊsaɪd/     | <i>n.</i>   | 自杀    |
| 2. incredible | /ɪnˈkredəbl/   | <i>adj.</i> | 不能相信的 |
| 3. regimented | /ˈredʒɪməntɪd/ | <i>adj.</i> | 严厉的   |

### Multiple choices:

1. From the passage we can learn that in Japan \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. more teachers than students committed suicide
  - B. even a principal committed suicide
  - C. students rather than grownups committed suicide
  - D. suicide was the natural result of examinations
2. Pressure of the exams \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. could only push certain students to be successful
  - B. never fails to make students successful
  - C. could hardly help students to learn anything
  - D. seems the only measure to teach students
3. Which of the following statements is not true?
- A. the cram school did help many students pass the exams.
  - B. The 13-year-old boy hanged himself as his apology was not accepted.
  - C. Wearing school uniforms is nothing wrong.
  - D. Some students killed themselves as they were totally disappointed.
4. According to the writer of the passage, the Japanese educational system is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. much better than that of U.S.A.
  - B. just wonderful
  - C. good compared with that of industrialized nations
  - D. by no means perfect
5. The topic for this passage should be \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. Cases of Suicide
  - B. Japanese Students Suffer from Pressure
  - C. Education Systems in Japan and U.S.A.
  - D. The Japanese Educational System



### Passage 3

Today, these so-called bank credit cards have become very popular. They can be used in stores, hotels, and restaurants all over the world. And, they can be used to pay for all kinds of unusual goods and services, including car repairs, hospital care and accident or life insurance.

Credit cards offer two major services. First, they are easier and safer to carry than large amounts of money. Second, they permit people to borrow — to buy things they want even when they do not have enough money to pay the full price. Credit cards make it possible to spread out payments over weeks or months.

To receive credit cards, people must prove that they earn enough to pay for what they buy. And they usually must prove that they have paid back any money they borrowed in the past. Then, after they receive the card, credit companies limit how much they can buy with it. Visa and Mastercard, for example, do not permit most of their users to owe more than \$1,500. Yet even with these restrictions, credit cards often make it too easy for people to spend the money they cannot pay back.

With credit cards, people pay for goods or services at the end of each month, instead of when they buy them. And when the time does come to pay, most credit cards offer people a choice. They can pay all of what they owe for the month. Or they can pay just part — usually between five and ten percent — of what they owe.

Studies of credit card use have found that each month, about half of all card users pay the full amount they owe. The others pay only part of the amount.

It is this group that provides credit card companies with most of their earnings. That is because the people pay a service charge — ‘interest’ — for the right to postpone full payment. Most pay an interest rate of about 19 percent a year of what they owe. In the last few years, there has been increasing criticism of these high interest rates on credit cards.

The use of credit cards continues to increase. Some people say that in the near future credit cards will replace money completely, but others believe that event is unlikely. However, they think Americans will be using credit cards more and more. A major reason for this is the increasing fear of crime. Credit cards — unlike real money — can be replaced if they are lost or stolen.

#### Multiple choices:

1. With a credit card one can buy things \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. one can never afford