

COLLEGE ENGLISH GRADED READING

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田 鹏 森 主 编



大学英语
分级阅读

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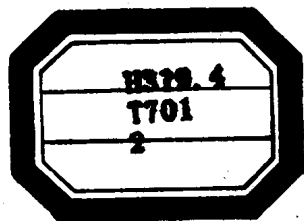
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【内容简介】《大学英语分级阅读》根据《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》以及四级考试新题型精神编写,以提高学生阅读量、阅读速度及阅读理解水平为主要目的。

本书紧密配合大学英语二级教学,选材广泛,每篇短文均配有阅读理解题,是大学英语精读课的同步阅读教材。

本书可作为大学英语课辅助教材,也可供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. 文章难度由浅入深,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。

本教材共分四册,每册 96 篇阅读文章,按每单元 4 篇分别编入 24 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长难句(划线)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。全套教材近 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 and 同学批评指正。

全套教材由田鹏森副教授任主编。第 2 册由商爱华、陆燕、唐建敏编写。

编 者

1997 年 10 月于西安

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Unit 1

Passage A

Almost every family buys at least one copy of a newspaper every day. Some people subscribe to as many as two or three different newspapers. But why do people read newspapers?

Five hundred years ago, news of important happenings — battles lost and won, kings or rulers overthrown or killed — took months and even years to travel from one country to another. The news passed by word of mouth and was never accurate. Today we can read in our newspapers of important events that occur in faraway countries on the same day they happen.

Apart from supplying news from all over the world, newspapers give us a lot of other useful information. There are weather reports, radio, television and film guides, book reviews, stories, and, of course, advertisements. There are all sorts of advertisements. The bigger ones are put in by large companies to bring attention to their products. They pay the newspapers thousands of dollars for the advertising space, but it is worth the money for news of their products goes into almost every home in the country. For those who

produce newspapers, advertisements are also very important. Money earned from advertisements makes it possible for them to sell their newspapers at a low price and still make a profit.

Newspapers often have information on gardening, cookery and fashion, as well as a small but very popular section on jokes and cartoons.

1. The habit of reading newspapers is _____.
☒ A) widespread
B) not popular
C) found among a few families
D) uncommon
2. In the past, news was _____.
A) sent by telegraph
B) sent by letter
C) sent by telephone
☒ D) passed from one person to another
3. The money spent on advertisements is _____.
A) wasted
B) worthwhile
C) not much
D) of no use to anyone
4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
☒ A) Five hundred years ago news did not take a long time to reach other countries.
B) Large companies put big advertisements in the newspapers because they want to draw people's attention to their products.

- C) The news that we need in our newspapers is up-to-date.
- D) Though the newspapers are sold at a low price, people still gain profit.
5. Some people subscribe to as many as two or three different newspapers. Here the phrase "subscribe to" means _____.
- A) contribute to
- B) write to
- C) agree to buy for a specified time
- D) appreciate

Passage B

The summer of 1986 was a time of crisis for many farmers in the United States. A variety of circumstances combined to create major problems for them.

During the early part of the decade, crop prices had begun to decrease. Farmers had been producing enormous quantities of crops, and inside the United States, their products had become too plentiful, causing the prices to fall. At the same time, prices for fertilizers rose. This combination of factors had decreased the prosperity of many farmers by 1986.

However, the real crisis for the farmers in that year was caused by the weather. Farms in the southeastern part

of the country received no rain during the spring and the first two months of the summer. Even, yearly rainfalls are usually one of the resources of the southeast, and, therefore, most of the farms did not have adequate irrigation systems. As the grass in their pastures became dry and brown in late July, the southeastern farmers realized that they might lose most of their herds and go out of business.

Many farmers did in fact go out of business and were forced to sell all of their possessions, including their herds and land, to pay their bills. However, some farmers in the southeast were saved when farmers in other areas of the country, who were having a prosperous year, sent them free hay for their herds. The combination of August rain and help from more prosperous farmers saved many southeastern farmers from the crisis of 1986.

6. During the early 1980s, the farmers' crops became so plentiful in the United States that _____.
A) there existed no economic crisis
B) various circumstances appeared
C) they were forced to stop growing crops
☒ D) they had to be sold at low prices
7. The farmers in the southeast did not have irrigation systems because _____.
☒ A) there was usually enough rain
B) they did not live on crops but herds
C) most of the crops would not die.

- D) farmers in other areas were trying to support them
8. It was _____ that caused the real crisis for the farmers in 1986.
- A) the rising of the prices of fertilizers
 - B) large quantities of crops
 - C) the dry weather
 - D) the settlement of many people to that area
9. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?
- A) In the year of 1986 various problems for farmers occurred in the southeastern part of the country.
 - B) It was the combination of different factors that caused the farmers to get into trouble in 1986.
 - C) Though there wasn't enough water, the grass grew fine.
 - D) The farmers in the crisis area did not get over the difficulty until they were supported by a farm nearby.
10. The farmers went out of business but _____.
- A) they faced less crisis
 - B) they had to move to another area for survival
 - C) they underwent a lot of disasters
 - D) they had to pay their bills

Passage C

In 1933 an unknown American called Clarence Nash

went to see the film-maker Walt Disney. He had unusual voice and he wanted to do work in Disney's cartoon films for children. When Walt Disney heard Nash's voice, he said "Stop! That's our duck!"

The duck was the now-famous Donald Duck, who first appeared in 1934 in the film *The Wise Little Hen*. Donald lived in an old houseboat and wore his sailor jacket and hat. Later that year he became a star after an eight-minute Mickey Mouse film. The cinema audiences liked him because he was lazy and greedy, and because he lost his temper very quickly. And they loved his voice, when he became angry with Mickey's eight nephews. Soon Donald was more popular than Mickey Mouse himself, probably because he wasn't goody-goody like Mickey.

In the 1930s, '40s and '50s, Donald and his friends Mickey, Goofy and Pluto made hundreds of Disney cartoons. He also made educational films about the place of the USA in the world, and safety in the home. Then in 1966 Donald Duck and his voice disappeared — there were no more new cartoons.

Clarence Nash died in February, 1985. But today's children can still see the old cartoons on television and hear that famous voice.

Notes:

① greedy: 贪婪的

② a goody-goody: 伪君子

11. Walt Disney _____.
A) played the part of Donald Duck
B) made Donald Duck films
C) had Donald Duck's voice
D) drew cartoons
12. Walt Disney chose Clarence Nash _____.
A) because his voice was right for Mickey Mouse
B) because his voice was right for the duck in a new cartoon film
C) because he was fond of playing jokes
D) because he was quite humorous
13. The first Donald Duck film _____.
A) appeared in 1934
B) was shown in 1933
C) was greatly appreciated in 1966
D) was popular in 1930
14. Today's children can see Donald Duck _____.
A) in new films B) at the cinema
C) on television D) in storybooks
15. Which of the following is NOT true?
A) Clarence Nash had Donald Duck's voice.
B) People liked Donald Duck better because he was lazy and greedy and became angry quickly.
C) Donald Duck's voice disappeared in 1966.
D) Mickey Mouse wasn't a goody-goody.

Passage D

The world is not only hungry, it is also thirsty for water. This may seem strange to you, since nearly 75% of the earth's surface is covered with water. But about 97% of this huge amount is seawater, or salt water. Man can only drink and use the other 3% — the fresh water that comes from rivers, lakes, underground, and other sources. And we cannot even use all of that, because some of it is in the form of icebergs and glaciers. Even worse, some of it has been polluted.

However, as things stand today, this small amount of fresh water, which is constantly being replaced by rainfall, is still enough for us. But our need for water is increasing rapidly — almost day by day. Only if we take steps to deal with this problem now can we avoid a severe worldwide water shortage later on. A limited water supply would have a bad effect on agriculture and industry. Let me give you just one small example of how necessary water is to industry. Did you know that to produce a single ton of steel, it takes about 91,000 litres of water?

We all have to learn how to stop wasting our precious water. One of the first steps we should take is to develop ways of reusing it. Experiments have already been done in this field, but only on a small scale. The systems that have

been worked out resemble those used in spacecraft.

16. "The world ... is also thirsty for water." This means that _____.

A) the world has not enough fresh water to meet our future needs

B) people all over the world are thirsty for water now

C) we are now facing a serious problem of worldwide water shortage

D) we cannot make use of all the fresh water on earth

17. According to the passage, only about _____ of the earth's surface is not covered with water.

A) 75%

B) 97%

C) 3%

D) 25%

18. We may face a severe worldwide water shortage in the future because _____.

A) the small amount of fresh water is constantly being repalced by rainfall

B) some of it has been polluted

C) some of it is in the form of icebergs and glaciers

D) our need for fresh water is increasing rapidly

19. According to the passage, one of the first steps we should take to stop wasting our fresh water is _____.

A) to deal with this problem now

B) to have lectures on the subject

C) to develop ways of reusing it

D) to work out systems that resemble those used in spacecraft

20. This passage is mainly about _____.

A) water and the earth

B) fresh water on earth

C) water shortage problem

D) experiments on how to reuse fresh water