

英语快捷阅读新编

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北京理工大学出版社

内 容 简 介

本书是为帮助我国各类工作者和英语学习者通过捷径迅速提高英语阅读能力,迎接 21 世纪的挑战而编写的。全书分四个部分,共 80 篇短文,材料新,内容广,编排新颖。练习题包含近年来各类英语考试阅读理解部分的新题型,旨在帮助读者适应各类英语考试,提高成绩。

本书适用于有一定英语基础的读者,特别是各类高校的学生。它既可供读者自学,也可供各类英语辅导班或大学英语阅读课作辅助教材使用。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语快捷阅读新编/舒宗来主编. —北京:北京理工大学出版社,1999.6

ISBN 7-81045-563-X

I. 英… II. 舒… III. 英语-阅读教学-高等学校-语言读物 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(1999)第 16942 号

责任印制:刘京凤 责任校对:陈玉梅

北京理工大学出版社出版发行
(北京市海淀区白石桥路 7 号)
邮政编码 100081 电话(010)68912824
各地新华书店经售
北京地质印刷厂印刷

787 毫米×1092 毫米 16 开 14.25 印张 300 千字
1999 年 6 月第 1 版 1999 年 6 月第 1 次印刷
印数 1—6000 册 定价:17.00 元

※图书印装有误,可随时与我社退换※



编者的话

随着我国经济的迅速发展, 21世纪高科技时代的即将到来, 我国教育目标应注重为培养高素质的复合型人才, 而这些人才必须掌握和熟练运用外语这一重要工具, 才能面对21世纪的挑战。在我国目前情况下, 英语阅读能力仍是各类工作者、特别是大学生今后工作所需的主要技能。阅读是掌握语言知识、获取信息、提高语言应用能力的基础。通过大量阅读, 既可以获取丰富的信息、扩大知识面、开阔视野, 又可以学到大量词语和各类文章的不同写作方法, 有助于提高听、说、写、译的能力, 从而逐步掌握和熟练运用英语这一重要工具。《英语快捷阅读新编》就是为帮助我国各类工作者、英语学习者, 特别是为迅速提高大学生英语阅读能力而编写的。

本书以稍高于大学英语1-4级的水平分四个部分(各部分相当于各级)编写而成, 共80篇短文, 每部分20篇短文, 每篇短文后附有词语注释和综合练习题, 书后附有练习答案, 便于读者自学。

本书材料新, 选自国内外近年来出版的各类书刊、报纸, 内容广, 涉及科学技术、社会经济、环境保护、文化教育、体育、卫生、法律、婚姻、风俗等自然科学和人文科学诸多方面, 使读者能从中获取许多新信息。

本书编排较新颖, 每篇短文中的生词或常用词语用黑体字标出, 并在对应行右边的空白处注以中英文释义。既能帮助读者扫除阅读障碍, 提高阅读速度和理解准确率, 又能巩固已学词语, 扩大词汇量, 从而使读者通过这一捷径在短期内提高阅读能力。另外, 每篇短文的右下角注有字数和需要读者自己计出阅读所花的时间, 使读者及时了解自己的阅读速度。

每篇短文后的练习题包含近年来各类英语考试, 特别是职称考试、EPT和CET阅读理解部分的新题型。第1-5题为多项选择题, 第6题为简短回答题, 第7题为写大意题, 第8题为翻译题, 将短文中划有横线的句子译成汉语。这些练习能帮助读者适应各类英语考试, 提高成绩, 实用性强。

本书适用于有一定英语基础的读者, 特别是各类高校的学生。它既可供读者学, 也可供各类英语辅导班或大学英语阅读教学作辅助教材使用。

本书由从事英语教学多年的大学英语教师编写, 由舒宗来主编, 各部分的参编者分别为: 第一部分: 谢婧, 陈凤兰, 宋爽, 匡玲; 第二部分: 智晋平, 吕静薇, 陈义家, 杨雷; 第三部分: 舒宗来, 陈凤兰, 肖琼, 吕静薇; 第四部分: 吴玉璞, 肖琼, 孔辉, 杨羽佳。

本书的编写承北京理工大学出版社的支持和唐雷同志的协助, 谨此一并致谢。

由于编者水平与经验有限, 书中难免有不足之处, 诚恳广大读者批评指正。

一九九八年十月

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Part One

Passage 1

The Hibernating Human

Duo Te, a 54-year-old single man, sleeps for **extremely** long periods of time in winter, thinking it helps him to lose weight and brings him good luck. Sometimes he sleeps for a week, sometimes a month, waking only occasionally for a drink of water. This unusual habit of his attracted the attention of a professor at a local university, who is studying him.

Duo Te is an agricultural **consultant** and has no fixed working hours. He says he has had this habit of **hibernation** since the 1960s, when one winter he felt particularly tired and became seriously overweight. Because of bad weather, he had to stay at home for several weeks, and he found that sleeping is the only way to relieve the **boredom**, and from then on, he started to sleep in winter **regardless of** whether it was day or night. As a result, he lost 50 pounds that first year. At the beginning, he would get up in the mornings and have something to eat and take a shower, but then he read some materials and learned that every kind of need could be **reduced** during hibernation, and he gradually learned to control his **instincts**. Now, when he hibernates, he need only drink some water once a week; all his system slows down, and he hardly needs any food and certainly doesn't need to wash.

Says he: "For four months, I don't eat or play, I save a lot of money, and when I wake up, I can use the money to improve my quality of life. Hibernation is really a good idea. If anyone else is interested, it's worth trying."

ad. reaching the highest degree 极端地

n. adviser 顾问

n. the state of sleeping through the whole winter 冬眠

*n. the state of being dull 无聊
不管*

vt. become less 减少

n. natural tendency to behave without reasoning 直觉

Word: 297 Time:

Exercises

1. Duo Te sleeps for extremely long period of time in winter for he thinks _____.
 - A. it helps him to lose weight and brings him good luck
 - B. it helps him to be relieved from work and worries of life
 - C. he can have a very good rest
 - D. it helps him to gain weight and brings him good luck.
2. The sentence "Duo Te is an agricultural consultant and has no fixed working hours" means _____.
 - A. Duo Te works on a farmland and starts working from the early morning
 - B. Duo Te gives advice to farmers and need not stay at the office all day long
 - C. Duo Te works with farmers and spends much of his time with them
 - D. Duo Te's work is to give farmers some advice or information, his working hours are flexibly arranged by himself
3. He started his hibernation in one winter when _____.
 - A. he felt little tired and became slightly overweight
 - B. he particularly felt bored and became seriously overweight
 - C. he particularly felt tired and became seriously overweight
 - D. he particularly felt exhausted and lost 50 pounds
4. The sentence "he gradually learned to control his instincts" means _____.
 - A. when he hibernated, he would get up in the mornings and have something to eat and take a shower
 - B. when he hibernated, he learned to control his temper and felt it was very interesting
 - C. when he hibernated, he hardly needed any food and water
 - D. when he hibernates now, he needs to drink some water once a week, hardly needs any food and doesn't need to wash
5. After hibernation, Tuo Te thinks _____.
 - A. he can be relieved from the boredom
 - B. he can get rid of the troubles of eating and drinking
 - C. he can save money and improve the quality of his life
 - D. he can be free from his work and away from people
6. What benefits can Tuo Te get from hibernation?

7. What is the main idea of this passage?

8. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 2

Examinations in the Past and at Present

In ancient times the most important examinations were spoken, not written. In the schools of ancient Greece and Rome, testing usually consisted of saying **poetry** aloud or giving speeches.

In the European universities of **the Middle Ages**, students who were working for **advanced** degrees had to discuss questions in their field of study with people who had made a special study of the subject. This custom exists today as part of the process of testing **candidates** for the doctor's degree.

Generally, however, modern examinations are written. The written examination, where all students are tested on the same questions, was probably not known until the nineteenth century. Perhaps it **came into existence** with the great increase in population and the development of modern industry. A room full of candidates for a state examination, timed exactly by electric clocks and carefully watched over by managers, **resembles** a group of workers at an automobile factory. Certainly, during examinations teachers and students are expected to act like machines.

One type of test is sometimes called an **objective** test. It is **intended** to deal with facts, not personal opinions. To make up an objective test the teacher writes a series of questions, each of which has only one correct answer. Along with each question the teacher writes the correct answer and also three **statements** that look like answers to students who have not learned the material properly.

n. poems 诗 (总称)

(欧洲史上之) 中世纪

a. far on in progress 程度高的

*n. a person taking an examination
考生*

开使存在; 产生

vt. be like 相似; 类似

a. 客观的

*vt. have in mind as a purpose or
plan 意欲; 打算*

n. stating of facts, views, etc. 陈述

Words: 243 Time:

Exercises

1. In the Middle Ages students _____.
 - A. took objective tests
 - B. were timed by electric clocks
 - C. specialized in one subject
 - D. never took written exams
2. The main idea of paragraph 3 is that _____.
 - A. workers now take examinations
 - B. the population has grown
 - C. there are only written exams today
 - D. examinations are now written and timed
3. The kind of exam where students must select answers is _____.
 - A. personal
 - B. general
 - C. objective
 - D. subjective
4. Modern industry must have developed _____.
 - A. before the Middle Ages
 - B. in Greece or Rome
 - C. around the 19th century
 - D. machines to take tests
5. It may be concluded that testing _____.
 - A. should test only opinions
 - B. has changed since the Middle Ages
 - C. should always be written
 - D. is given only in factories
6. What is an objective test? (Explain briefly)

7. What is the main idea of the passage?

8. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 3

Population Density

The average population **density** of the world is 47 persons per square mile. Continental densities range from no **permanent** settlers in Antarctica to 211 per square mile in Europe. In the western **hemisphere**, population densities range from about 4 per square mile in Canada to 675 per square mile in **Puerto Rico**. In Europe the range is from 4 per square mile in Iceland to 831 per square mile in the **Netherlands**.

High population densities generally occur in regions of the developed industrialization, such as the Netherlands, Belgium, and Great Britain, or where lands are **intensively** used for agriculture, as in Puerto Rico and **Java**.

Low average population densities are characteristic of most underdeveloped countries. Low density of population is generally connected with a relatively low percentage of cultivated land. This generally results from poor quality land. It may also be due to natural **obstacles** to cultivation, such as deserts, mountains. It may be due to old methods that limit cultivation. It may be due to social obstacles, and to land ownership systems which keep land out of production. More economically developed countries of low population density have large rate of their populations living in **urban** areas. Their rural population densities are usually very low. Poorly developed countries of low population density, on the other hand, often have a concentration of rural population living on cultivated land, which is as great as the rural concentration found in the most densely populated industrial countries.

n. 密度

a. lasting for a long time 永久的

n. half a sphere 半球

n. 波多黎各

n. Holland 荷兰

ad. 精细地

n. 爪哇岛

vt. grow crops and plants 耕种

n. sth. in the way that stops progress 障碍物

a. of a town or city 都市的

Word: 242 Time:

Exercises

1. The most populated continent mentioned in this article is _____.
 - A. Asia
 - B. Africa
 - C. Europe
 - D. North America
2. In the deserts and mountain areas of the world _____.
 - A. there is dense population
 - B. we may expect to find many people
 - C. the density of population is low
 - D. good quality land is found
3. There are no permanent settlers in Antarctica because _____.
 - A. it is too hot
 - B. it is too cold
 - C. there is no transportation
 - D. it has only recently been discovered
4. In highly industrialized communities, we may expect _____.
 - A. large rural area
 - B. urban development
 - C. a sudden increase of people
 - D. cultivated land
5. Puerto Rico is a land of _____.
 - A. heavy industrialization
 - B. poverty
 - C. intense agriculture
 - D. large cities
6. What are the reasons of the low population density in underdeveloped countries?

7. What is the main idea of the passage?

8. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 4

One of the Oldest Games in the World

Are you interested in any games? Do you know anything about **chess**?

Chess must be one of the oldest games in the world. An **Arab** traveler in India in the year 900 wrote that it was played 'long, long ago'. Chess was probably **invented** in India, and it has been played everywhere from Japan to Europe since 1400. The name 'chess' is interesting. When one player is attacking the other's **king**, he says, in English, 'check'. When the king has been caught and can't move anywhere, he says 'check mate'. These words come from **Persian**. 'Shah mat' means 'the king is dead'. That is when the game is over, and one player has won.

Such an old game changes very slowly. The rules have not always been the same as they are now. For example, at one time the queen could only move one **square** at a time. Now she is the strongest piece on the **board**. It would be interesting to know why this has happened! Chess takes time and thought, but it is a game for all kinds of people. You don't have to be a **champion** in order to enjoy it. It is not always played by two people sitting at the same table. It can be played in some other ways. The first time the Americans beat the Russians was in a match played by radio. Some of the chess masters are able to play many people at the same time. The record was when one man played 400 games! It is said that some people play chess by post. This must make chess the slowest game in the world.

n. 象棋

n. 阿拉伯

vt. create by thought 发明

n. the most important piece 帅

n. language of Persia 波斯语

n. 棋盘上的方格

n. 棋盘

n. one who wins the first in a game 冠军

Words: 282 Time:

Exercises

1. Which of the following is known to be **TRUE**?
 - A. Chess is an old Indian travelling game.
 - B. Chess is the oldest game in the world.
 - C. Chess was played in Japan and Europe before 1400.
 - D. Chess was played in India long before 900.
2. One player has won the game when _____.
 - A. he attacks the other player's king
 - B. he says some Persian words
 - C. the other player's king can not move anymore
 - D. he says 'check' to the other player
3. Which of the following will you hear when one player has won the game?
 - A. 'Shah mat'
 - B. 'Check'
 - C. 'The king is dead'
 - D. 'Check mate'
4. Which of the following is **NOT TRUE**?
 - A. All kinds of people can play chess.
 - B. Only two people can play chess sitting at the same table.
 - C. Some people write to each other playing chess.
 - D. The Russians lost the game played by radio.
5. According to the old rules of the game, _____.
 - A. the queen was the strongest piece on the board
 - B. the king had to be attacked all the time
 - C. the queen could move no more than one square at a time
 - D. the king could not move anywhere
6. What makes chess the slowest game in the world?

7. What is the main idea of the passage?

8. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 5

Rabies-Control Programme

The doctor had had experience with the control of **rabies** among the wild animals when he was in charge of a control group along the **boundary** between the United States and Mexico. It was his job to train workers, and to organize the work against rabies on both sides of the boundary. Although dog owners did not like it, nearly all the dogs in the nearby towns were **vaccinated**, and rabies was driven back as far as the forest and desert.

The rabies-control program was later taken to all parts of Mexico. The World Health Organization provide for large-scale production of the **vaccine** against rabies at a special institute in Mexico. This institute has become the maker of low-cost vaccines needed for curing rabies in countries and **territories** of the Americas.

With the towns along the boundary now almost freed of rabies, the workers went to the fields where wild animals were found to be highly **infected**. Forty-one poisoning offices were started in distant parts with the help of field workers from the United States. Within one and a half million acres, eighteen thousand wolves were killed with **poisoned** meat. This shows that poison can be very effective against wild animals.

The effectiveness of the program may be judged in several ways. The hunters reported that **formerly** they could kill two or three wolves on a day's hunt, but now they might go weeks without seeing even a track. The reduction of cattle losses, the increase of wild **game**, and the disappearance of rabies in other wild animals, also proved the success of the program.

n. 狂犬病

n. dividing line 边界

vt. protect sb. by injecting

substance from disease 种疫苗

n. 疫苗

n. (territory) 地区; 领土

vt. give disease to sb. 感染

vt. cause death or injury by

dangerous substance 毒害

ad. previously 从前; 以前

n. animals and birds hunted for

sport and food 猎物

Word:272 Time:

Exercises

1. The doctor in the story had his experience of _____ along the boundary between the United States and Mexico.
 - A. destroying the wild animals
 - B. vaccinating the dogs
 - C. controlling the rabies
 - D. in charge of poisoning offices
2. Besides dogs, rabies may also be spread by _____.
 - A. dog owners
 - B. vaccinations
 - C. field workers
 - D. wild animals
3. The experience of the doctor in Mexico had shown that _____.
 - A. new ways of working were needed
 - B. rabies could be controlled
 - C. education was the best
 - D. the best hope is for a better vaccine
4. As a result of poisoning program against wolves _____.
 - A. many other animals were killed also
 - B. cattle were also lost numerously
 - C. rabies disappeared completely
 - D. wild animals increased
5. We get the idea from this story that in Mexico the wolves _____.
 - A. were mostly destroyed with the coming of the field workers
 - B. were few in number but could do a lot of damage by spreading rabies
 - C. were quite numerous a few years ago at least
 - D. had become so lazy that they would not bite
6. Why is rabies so harmful?

7. What is the main idea of this passage?

8. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 6

Air Pollution

The dark smoke from **stacks** or from a burning pump contains very small bits of solid or liquid matter and many gases. Altogether, they make up the serious problems of air **pollution**. In so many cities it keeps from seeing the sun, **irritates** our eyes, causes us to cough and makes us ill.

Air pollution can **spread** from city to city. It even spreads from one country to another. So air pollution is really the whole world's problem.

Air pollution can kill babies, old people, and those who have **respiratory** diseases. In London, in 1952, four thousand people died in one week as a result of a serious air pollution **episode**. In 1948, in the small town of Donora, Pennsylvania, twenty people died in a four-day period of bad air pollution. Air pollution increases the risks of certain **lung** diseases. Of course, smoking and other factors help to cause these illness, too, but these cases have increased greatly during recent years as air pollution has become worse. Air pollution can cause both airplane and auto accidents because it cuts down **visibility**. Scientists are trying to find out whether chemicals that reach us from the air may cause changes in our **cells**.

These changes might cause babies to be born with serious birth **defects**. Scientists are trying to learn how all the many chemicals we are **apt** to take into our bodies from air, water, food and even medicines act together to **affect** our health and the way our bodies work. That is another reason why it is so important to begin to control pollution now instead of waiting until we learn all the answers.

n. 大烟筒(工厂的)

n. being polluted 污染

vt. make sore 使痛; 发炎

vi. have a wide effect 蔓延; 传播

a. 呼吸道的

n. one event in a chain of events
(一系列事件中的一个事件)

n. 肺

n. 能见度

n. 细胞

n. fault 缺点; 缺陷

a. having a tendency to do sth.
有...可能的

vt. produce an effect on 影响

Words:280 Time: