

ENGLISH

高考必备丛书

# 英语 高考

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# 必 读



广东省语言音像出版社

# 前言

## 突破英语阅读难关

《英语高考必读》按照新大纲的要求，以现代论题为中心，内容涉及社会、教育、环保、科技、娱乐、商业等各个领域。之所以取名为《英语高考必读》是因为作者们不但深入细致地研究了高考阅读理解命题策略和方法，而且总结了数千名不同层次学生在阅读理解上的弱点，在此基础上作者本着极度认真的态度耗时两年才完成了这本教材，她极具针对性，富于实用性，是考生备考的必备教材。阅读此书能够较快的提高英语的阅读水平，同时还可以了解英美文化背景。

本书有以下突出特点：

**全** 一是体裁全，记叙文、说明文、议论文应有尽有；二是内容全，涉及社会、教育、环保、科技、娱乐、商业等各个领域；三是知识全，覆盖了高中从同步到高考的全部重点知识，读完此书等于把高中所有知识点从头到尾利用阅读的形式又复习了一遍。

**新** 一是内容新，所选材料均出自国内外最新的专业的报刊杂志。反映了最新的高考动向和信息，突出了综合性和实用性。二是体例新，短文配有插图，生动有趣，使学生在愉快的环境中较快的提高英语阅读理解水平。

**精** 一是选材精，所选短文都有很强的示范性和针对性，使学生触类旁通。二是设题精，主旨大意题、细节理解题、推论题、词汇题设计精巧，极具代表性，能培养学生解各类题的思维能力。

“何处觅轻舟，伴我逐浪高”，愿此书助广大莘莘学子到达成功的彼岸。

武守群

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# Unit 1



Today, karaoke is an industry that makes billions of dollars. But Inoue made almost no money from his karaoke machines. He didn't patent (专利) his invention, and it was soon copied by larger companies. The only patent he owned, briefly, was for plastic-covered songbooks, and the only karaoke-related profits (利益) he earns today come from a potion he markets to repel the cockroaches and rats that are a karaoke box's main enemy.



"I am its natural parent," he says, "but, having given birth to karaoke, I gave it up." But he doesn't seem too care about the lost riches. Maybe it is enough to know that he has helped so many people experience the joy of singing karaoke. "I think karaoke has helped to change the Japanese people," Inoue says. "They're said to be shy and poor at expressing themselves in public. But give a man a microphone, and the same man who has trouble getting out a wedding speech never wants to stop!"

## Reading comprehension

### 1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Today, karaoke is an industry that makes billions of dollars.
- B. Mr. Inoue got little money because he didn't patent his invention.
- C. Karaoke has helped to change the Japanese people.
- D. Mr. Inoue is the natural father of karaoke.

### 2. Which can we infer from the following passage?

- A. Some larger companies made lots of money from Mr. Inoue's invention.
- B. Mr. Inoue regretted not having patented his invention.
- C. Cockroaches and bats are the enemies of karaoke.
- D. Few people get some pleasure from singing karaoke.

### 3. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

- A. Mr. Inoue helped the Japanese people to transform by inventing karaoke machines.

- B. Japanese people are shy and poor at expressing themselves in public.  
 C. Mr. Inoue could have become very rich from his invention.  
 D. If a man is given a microphone, he will never want to stop giving a wedding speech.
4. Mr. Inoue cared little about his lost riches just because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. he could get some money from a potion he markets to repel the cockroaches and rats.  
 B. he has helped to transform the Japanese people.  
 C. he experienced the joy of singing karaoke.  
 D. he was the natural parent of karaoke machines.



BEIJING, July 24 (Xinhua net) -- More than 42.8 million people have traveled to China from



overseas during the first six months this year, up 6.87 percent compared with the same period of last year. At the same time, the foreign exchange (外汇) income from tourism reached 8.5 billion U.S. dollars, an increase of 10.68 percent over the previous year's figure for the same period, Tuesday's China Daily reported. The number of tourists coming from the Macao Special Administrative Region increased by 34.2 percent in comparison with the figure of January-June period of last year, according to statistics (数据) given by the National Tourism Administration. Many of them went to Zhuhai, a neighboring city of Macao, to do shopping and have dinner in this special economic zone in south China's Guangdong Province, bringing 700 million U.S. dollars of income to the province. Tourists from Taiwan Province numbered 1.7 million, up 15.9 percent over the same time period of 2000. In the first six months of this year, the number of tourists from Thailand and the Republic of Korea, two of China's top tourist source countries, increased by 28.8 and 19 percent each other. The main reasons for overseas travelers to come to China are sightseeing, vacation, and business conferences, China Daily reported, saying that the tourism trade will be further increased as a result of Beijing's successful bidding for the right to host the 2008 Olympic Games.

### Reading comprehension

1. This passage is most probably taken from a \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. a newspaper      B. the Internet      C. radio program      D. both A and B
2. From the figures provided in the passage, we can figure out that about \_\_\_\_\_ people

traveled to China from overseas during the first six months last year.

- A. 40 million      B. 25.5 million      C. 42.8 million      D. 35 million

3. How much money did the foreign exchange income from tourism reach the first six months last year?

- A. 7.68 billion US dollars      B. 6.6 billion US dollars  
C. 8.5 billion US dollars      D. 4.55 billion US dollars

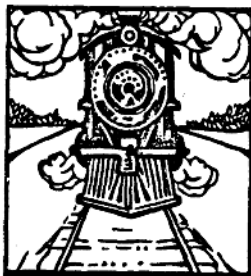
4. Which of the following places are not mentioned in the passage from which people come to China to visit?

- A. Macao      B. Thailand      C. Hong Kong      D. Republic of Korea



A high-speed train from Beijing to Qiqihar in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province jumped the tracks on April 20 in Anda, a small city to the south of the province's capital Harbin, killing two and leaving approximately 50 passengers injured.

The K47 high-speed train was reportedly running at about 100 kilometers an hour when it left the rails at Anda railway station at about 6:50 in the morning. Industry experts speculated that such a high speed may possibly derail the train at turning points.



All the injured passengers, including two who are in serious condition, were sent to local hospitals for treatment.

### Reading comprehension

1. Which of the following can best be the title of the passage?

- A. Train Derailment Kills Two      B. Train Runs Fast  
C. 50 Passengers Injured      D. An Accident

2. What is the meaning of the underlined word "approximately" in the first paragraph?

- A. at most      B. at least      C. more or less      D. less than

3. What is the Chinese meaning of the underlined word "derail" in the second paragraph?

- A. 脱轨                      B. 弯曲                      C. 停止                      D. 翻车

**4. What is the reason of the accident?**

- A. The train was running too fast.  
B. There was a turning point where the accident took place.  
C. There were too many passengers on board.  
D. The train was running too fast at the turning point.



The first "Jurassic Park" in China is expected to be opened on May 1 in Yongjing County, northwest China's Gansu Province, where the world's largest dinosaur (恐龙) footprints have been found.



Construction of the park and other preparations are well underway. Workers are busy building protective shelters and fences where the footprints are located to avoid possible damage to the rare site, a local tourist official said.

Chinese archeologists (考古学家) discovered more than 100 dinosaur footprints near the bank of the Yellow River last month. One of the footprints, 1.5 meters long and 1.2 meters wide, is known as the largest of its kind in the world.

The footprints came from at least four different kinds of dinosaurs. Experts said that the footprints were probably made at least 100 million years ago, in the late Jurassic Period or early Cretaceous Period.

**Reading comprehension**

**1. What is the main idea of the news?**

- A. China is to open a "Jurassic Park"                      B. Construction work is well underway.  
C. More than 100 dinosaur footprints are found in Gansu.  
D. The largest dinosaur footprint was found.

**2. Why are workers busy building protective shelters and fences, according to the passage?**

- A. Because they want to build a park here.

- B. Because they want to prevent the site being destroyed.
- C. Because they want to prevent the dinosaurs getting out.
- D. Because they want to discover more.

3. The underlined word of "underway" most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. going on      B. under the way      C. under construction      D. continuous

4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

- A. There were at least four kinds of dinosaurs in the area.
- B. The late Jurassic Period or early Cretaceous Period were about 100 million years ago.
- C. The park is called the "Jurassic Park" mainly because the footprints made by the dinosaurs which were from the late Jurassic Period.
- D. All the footprints which were discovered here were all the largest in the world.



BEIJING, July 23 (Xinhua net) - South China's Pearl River yesterday climbed to dangerous



levels at different checkpoints along the river after continuous days of rain in parts of Guangdong Province, according to today's China Daily.

At some hydrological (水的) stations, tide (潮) levels are the highest recorded this year, but Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, is not in danger, the city's hydrological authority said.

The source said that by 12:05 p.m. Beijing time on Sunday, tide levels had risen to 2.2 metres at the Fubiaochan checkpoint along the Pearl River, 0.7 meters higher than the alarm line.

It was forecast that at about 1 p.m., the level would be the highest this year, about 2.35 meters. Experts said flooding from rivers in the middle and upper reaches of the Pearl River had now came down.

"If there are no thunderstorms in the Guangzhou area over the next few days and no more flooding from the upper reaches, Guangdong will be safe," the source said.

### Reading comprehension

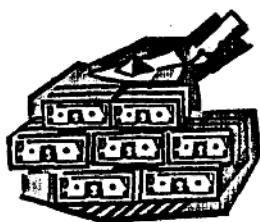


1. Which of the following could best be the title of the passage?
  - A. Waters Rise in Guangdong; Capital Safe
  - B. Rains Continued in Guangdong Province
  - C. People Are Fighting against Flood in Guangdong
  - D. There Will Be No More Storms in Guangdong
  
2. We can judge that the alarm line at Fubiaochan checkpoint is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. 2.2 meters
  - B. 1.5 meters
  - C. 0.7 meters
  - D. 2.35 meters
  
3. Will Guangdong be safe?
  - A. Yes, if there are no thunderstorms in the Guangzhou area over the next few days.
  - B. No, because there will be no more flooding from the upper reaches.
  - C. Yes, if there will be no more thunderstorms in the Guangzhou area over the next few days and no more flooding from the upper reaches.
  - D. No, even if there will be no more thunderstorms over the next few days
  
4. What is the Chinese meaning of the underlined word "reach" in the fourth paragraph?
  - A. 到达
  - B. 河流
  - C. 河段
  - D. 抵达

## Unit 2



**Bill Gates**, billionaire head of the Microsoft computer company, has lost his place as the world's richest man to a supermarket boss, according to the Sunday Times.



The newspaper's Rich List of the richest people in the world shows that Gates has been displaced in the top spot by Robson Walton, head of the family that runs the US supermarket chain WalMart and which owns Asda in Britain.

Walton has gathered a fortune worth 45.3 billion pounds (US\$ 65.4 billion) — eight billion pounds more than Gates, according to the paper's yearly survey (调查).

The richest man in Britain is Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, the Duke of Westminster, whose 4.4 billion pound fortune from fortune in the Mayfair and Belgravia areas of London has moved him up one place into top spot on the Britain list.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth, who celebrated her 75th birthday on Saturday, has seen her fortune rise by 25 million pounds this year to 300 million. It lifts her up one place to equal 105th in the world.

### Reading comprehension

1. According to the passage, who is the first rich in the world now?

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A. Bill Gates                 | B. Robson Walton             |
| C. Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor | D. Britain's Queen Elizabeth |

2. Bill Gates gathered about \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| A. 45 billion pounds | B. 4.4 billion pounds |
| C. 37 billion pounds | D. 300 million pounds |

3. The richest man in Britain lists No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the Rich List of the wealthiest people in the

world.

- A. 1st                      B. 2nd                      C. 105th                      D. before 105th

4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

- A. Bill Gates used to be the richest in the world.  
B. Walton used to be the 2nd richest in Britain.  
C. Britain's Queen Elizabeth was No. 106 in the Rich List of the wealthiest people in Britain.  
D. Queen Elizabeth's fortune was 275 million pounds last year.



A very successful lawyer parked his brand-new Lexus in front of his office, ready to show it off to his friends. As he got out, a truck passed too close and completely tore off the door on the driver's side. The lawyer immediately took out his cell phone, dialed 911, and within minutes, a policeman pulled up.

Before the officer had a chance to ask any questions, the lawyer started screaming hysterically. His Lexus, which he had just picked up the day before, was now completely ruined and would never be the same, no matter what the body shop did to it.



When the lawyer finally wound down from his ranting and raving, the officer shook his head in disbelief. "I can't believe how materialistic you lawyers are," he said. "You care too much about your possessions that you don't notice anything else."

"How can you say such a thing?" asked the lawyer.

The policeman replied, "Don't you know that your left arm is missing from the elbow down? It must have been torn off when the truck hit you."

"My God!" screamed the lawyer. "Where's my Rolex?"

### Reading comprehension

1. Which of the following is not true about "Lexus" according to the passage?

- A. He had just bought it.                      B. It was rather cheap.

- C. It was seriously damaged.
- D. His friends would all go to buy such a car after they saw it.

**2. Which of the following could best show that the lawyer was so materialistic, just as the police officer had said?**

- A. He was ready to show it off to his colleagues.
- B. He immediately took out his cell phone, dialed 911 and called the police.
- C. Before the officer had a chance to ask any questions, he started screaming hysterically.
- D. He began to worry about his Rolex when he was told that his left arm is missing.

**3. What do you think a body-shop is?**

- A. It is a shop where people can have their wounded arms or legs mended.
- B. It is a shop where you can buy false arms or legs.
- C. It is a shop where people can have their cars repaired.
- D. It is a shop where there are a lot of bodies on show.

**4. What did the "anything else" refer to which was said by the police officer?**

- A. The car would never be the same, no matter what people did with it.
- B. The lawyer's Rolex was gone.
- C. The lawyer had had his left arm lost without knowing it.
- D. The lawyer lost his manner.

**5. Which of the following is not true according to the passage?**

- A. Rolex must be a very expensive watch.
- B. The lawyer must be even angrier after he found his Rolex gone.
- C. The police officer took great pity on him.
- D. The lawyer cared too much about his possessions.



Some people argue that the pressures on international sportsmen and sportswomen kill the



spirit of sport -- the pursuit (追求) of personal excellence. Children kick a football around for fun. When they get older and play for local school teams, they become competitive but they still enjoy playing. The individual representing his country cannot afford to think about enjoying himself; he has to think only about

winning. He is responsible for an entire nation's hopes, dreams and reputation(名誉).

A good example is the football World Cup. Football is the world's most important sport. It is even more important now that the United States is seriously taking it up. Winning the World Cup is perhaps the summit of international sporting success. Mention "Argentina" to someone and the chances are that he'll think of football. In a sense, winning the World Cup "put Argentina on the map".

Sports fans and supporters get quite irrational(失去理智的) about the World Cup. People in England felt that their country was somehow important after they won in 1966. Last year thousands of Scots sold their cars, and even their houses, and spent all their money travelling to Argentina, where the finals were played.

So, am I arguing that international competition kills the idea of sport? Certainly not! Do the Argentinians really believe that because eleven of their men proved the most skillful at football, their nation is in every way better than all others are? Not really. But it's nice to know that you won, and that in one way at least your country is best.

### Reading comprehension

**1. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?**

- A. To prove that football is the world's most important sport.
- B. To show that Argentina is better than all the others.
- C. To compare Scotland with Argentina.
- D. To explain the role of sport.

**2. In the second paragraph, the word "summit" means \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. highest point
- B. mountain top
- C. award
- D. summary

**3. According to the passage, Argentina is world-famous because of its \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. large number of sports fans and supporters
- B. successes in the Football World Cup
- C. obvious position on the map
- D. excellency at all important sports

**4. According to the passage, if a sportsman only thinks about winning, he will \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. fail to succeed
- B. be successful
- C. lose enjoyment
- D. be irrational



Baseball is the most popular sport in America. In a baseball game there are two teams of nine players. Players must hit a ball with a bat and run around four bases. A player who goes around all the bases scores a run for his team. The team that finishes with more runs wins the game.

Where did baseball come from? No one knows for sure. Many people believe that the idea came from a game played by children in England. Other people believe that a man named Abner Doubleday invented the game in Cooperstown, New York in 1839. But the first real rules were written by Alexander Cartwright.



Two teams from New York played a game following Cartwright's rules. The rules worked well. Soon there were many teams.

These early teams were not professional. They played only for fun, not money. But baseball was very popular from the start. Businessmen saw that they could make money with professional baseball teams.

The first professional teams was started in 1869. This team was the Red Sox of Cincinnati. Within in a few years, there were professional teams in other cities. In 1876 these teams came together in a league, or a group, called the National League. The teams in the National League played one another.

In 1901 a new league, called the America League, was formed. To create new excitement, in 1903 the two leagues decided to have their first-place teams play each other. This event was called the World Series.

Each year since then the National League winner and the America League winner play in the World Series. Each year, millions of people look forward to this exciting sports event.

### Reading comprehension

1. Which of the following is NOT what baseball players do?

- A. Hit a ball
- B. Run around four bases
- C. Score a run by going around all the bases

D. Run fast for the ball

**2. Where did baseball come from?**

- A. It came from a game played by children in England.
- B. It was invented by Abner Doublday.
- C. It was first played in Cooperstown.
- D. No one knows where baseball came from.

**3. What is the World Series?**

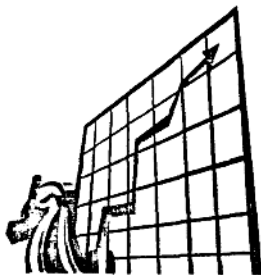
- A. The series of games played by professional teams.
- B. The series of games played by the first professional teams.
- C. The games played by the first-place teams from the two leagues.
- D. The games played by the teams from the teams from America League.

**4. The best title for the passage would be \_\_\_\_.**

- A. The World Series
- B. The Two Professional Leagues.
- C. Exciting Baseball Games.
- D. Baseball



Large companies need a way to reach the savings of the public. The same problem faces practically every company trying to develop new products and make new jobs. There can be few chances to raise the sort of sums needed from friends and people we know, and while banks may agree to provide short-term finance (资金), they are generally unwilling to provide money for long-term projects. So companies turn to the public, inviting people to lend them money. They do this by selling stocks (股票) through the Stock Exchange. By doing so, they can use the savings of many people, both at home and overseas.



When the saver needs his money back, he does not have to go to the company with whom he placed it. Instead, he sells his stocks through a stockbroker (股票经纪人) to some other saver who is willing to put his money in that company.

Many of the public services needed both by industry and by each of us are provided by the Government. Without hospital, roads, electricity, telephones, railways, this country could not be

a real country. All these require continuous spending on new equipment and new development, if they are to serve us properly. Requiring more money than is raised through taxes alone, the

Government and nationalized industries therefore continuously need to borrow money and they, too, come to the Stock Exchange. There is hardly a man or woman in this country whose job or whose standard of living does not depend on the ability of his or her employers to raise money to finance new development. In one way or another, this new money must come from the savings of the country. The Stock Exchange exists to provide a channel through which these savings can reach those who need finance.

### Reading comprehension

1. Almost all companies wanting to make new production and development must \_\_\_\_.

- A. depend on their own financial resources
- B. borrow large sums of money from friends and people they know
- C. depend on the population as a whole for finance
- D. persuade the banks to provide long-term finance

2. When the savers want their money back they \_\_\_\_.

- A. ask another company to get some money
- B. look for other people to borrow money from
- C. put their shares in the company back on the market
- D. put their money in a more successful company

3. All the basic services on which we depend are \_\_\_\_.

- A. run by the Government
- B. in continuous need of financial support
- C. financed wholly by taxes
- D. unable to meet the needs of the population

4. The Stock Exchange makes it possible for the Government and nationalized industries \_\_\_\_.

- A. to make certain everybody saves money
- B. to raise money to finance new developments
- C. to borrow as much money as they wish
- D. to make certain everybody lends money to them



## Unit 3



Movements within the United States have always been mainly towards the west. In the early days there were empty areas to the west of the fully settled parts of the country, and to these areas pioneers could go in order to make new homes in places which had never before been developed. Until about 1900 the idea of the Frontier was very important in the American's idea of their own position in the world. If a person was not pleased with his life where he was, he could go off as a pioneer to develop a new piece of land and make it his own. All through the first centuries of American development there was a steady movement of people and families who went to push the frontier of civilization (文明) further into the continent. To some of these pioneering was a profession. They would spend a few years developing a piece of land, then sell it and move further west.



### Reading comprehension

- The pioneers could go \_\_\_\_\_ in order to make new homes.  
A. to the south      B. to the north      C. to the east      D. to the west
- A person would go off for a new piece of land as a pioneer \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. if he was satisfied with his life  
B. until about 1900  
C. unless he was satisfied with his life  
D. unless he was not satisfied with his life
- Most of the Americans went to the west because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. they wanted to buy something      B. they didn't find the job  
C. they wanted to make new homes there  
D. they wanted to develop a piece of land and then sell it
- The passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the movement within the United States      B. the movement to the west