

研究生教材

高级英语阅读

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国防

高级英语阅读

English Reading for Advanced Students

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前 言

随着我国国际交往日益扩大,学习和掌握英语这一国际化语言已成为社会上一项迫切的要求,对学生具有较强的英语阅读能力的要求也愈加迫切。越来越多的科技工作者想出国深造或进行学术交流。已通过大学英语四级考试的学生或已初步具备英语阅读能力的人,都想趁热打铁、毫不间断地继续提高自己的阅读能力。为了使学生更好地掌握他们所学的英语知识,通过大量阅读来巩固所学的词汇、语法,提高英语阅读能力,我们编写了此书。

本书主要是为大学非英语专业高年级学生、研究生、具有研究生同等学力人员、博士生,以及出国预备班等人员编写的高级英语阅读教材。本书阅读文章主要取材于英美各种原文书刊。本书题材广泛,既有科技文章,也有反映政治、文化生活、人物等方面的文章。文体多样化,语言规范,内容健康,文字生动,有一定思想性、趣味性。全书共有 43 篇文章,每篇阅读量在 1 000 ~ 1 500 字左右数。每篇文章后都配有与国家英语考试相符的题型,其中除了每篇都有的考查学生阅读理解的 10 道选择题外,又分别配有改错、选择搭配、完型填空及回答问题等练习供学生读后做。Passage 1 - 10 由彭慧编写,Passage 11 - 20, 31 - 33 由姜明芝编写,Passage 21 - 30 由陈姻编写,Passage 34 - 43 由曾祥娟编写,全书由姜明芝负责审稿、定稿。

由于时间仓促,衷心希望广大读者对所存缺点、错误给予批评指正。

编者
2001 年 4 月 28 日

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1. The Workhouse

What makes the hair stand on end even more than the harrowing tales of human need contained in this readable and impressively researched history of the workhouse, is that while that hated Victorian institution may have disappeared, together with the poor laws that created it, the attitudes behind them still exist and still dictate our policies towards the deprived.

Above all, there was and still is the belief that if the physically fit are poor it is because they are idle only from choice. As far back as the sixteenth century the law dictated: "If any man or woman, able to work, should refuse to labour and live idly for three days, he or she should be branded with a red-hot iron on the breast with the letter "V" and should be the slave for two years of any person who should inform of such idler."

We may not brand the unemployed with a red-hot iron today, but sear their minds with criticism we do: the "deserving" and "undeserving" poor still exist. Thus it is easier for politicians to make provision for widows than for unmarried mothers, easier for charities to raise money for pets (apparently blameless for their needs) than for the homeless, the poor, or ex-prisoners.

The belief, belied by all the facts of economic life, that it is impossible to be poor and able-bodied unless you are feckless or idle leads to so-called "relief " institutions that deliberately set out to deter custom. That was the concept of the workhouse. One of its pioneers wrote : "I wish to see the workhouse looked to with dread by our labouring classes and the reproach for being an inmate of it extend downwards from father to

son ...Let the poor see and feel that their parish, although it will not allow them to perish through absolute want, is yet the hardest taskmaster, the closest paymaster, and the most harsh and unkind friend they can apply to."

Attitudes of the past? Not at all. Even today many local politicians and welfare officers will defend the punitive conditions of hostels for the homeless as a necessary incentive to the homeless to find alternative accommodation — no matter that it is sheer lack of accommodation that makes them homeless in the first place.

It is shattering how the author's descriptions of the workhouse coincide with some hostels for the homeless that I have seen. "The basic item of furniture was a cheap, wooden bed, with a mattress made of sacking and two or three blankets. Pillows were 'unnecessary' and sheets, if provided, were of the coarsest kind. Few people enjoyed the luxury of a single bed, and some beds, both single and double, were arranged in two tiers, like bunks in an army barrack room...The only decorations on the wall were the lists of regulations, enjoining instant obedience to the master... There were no newspapers, no books, and for the younger inmates no games and no toys. The children, like their elders, fought, teased each other, threw stones, or most commonly, sat listlessly about, stupefied with boredom and apathy."

Details of the past? Not at all. I have seen homeless families packed into one dormitory in conditions almost exactly the same.

Exercises

I . Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions or complete the following statements by choosing the best answer (A, B, C, or D) under each.

1. This passage seems to be taken from _____.
 - A. a history book
 - B. an article on the poor
 - C. a book review
 - D. an article on the workhouse
2. The workhouse is (was) _____.
 - A. a Victorian hostel for the poor and homeless
 - B. a prison
 - C. a home for unmarried mothers, the homeless, the poor, and ex-prisoners
 - D. a new type of hostel for people with nowhere to live
3. What “makes the hair stand on end” most of all, according to the author?
 - A. The harrowing tales of human need.
 - B. The history of the workhouse.
 - C. The fact that the workhouse has disappeared.
 - D. The fact that attitudes to the poor have not changed.
4. The author talks about the idea that if people do not work it is because they do not want to. According to the author, this is _____.
 - A. his own attitude
 - B. a characteristically modern attitude
 - C. a characteristically Victorian attitude
 - D. an attitude that has existed at least since the sixteenth century
5. According to the passage, _____.
 - A. widows and unmarried mothers are both regarded as “deserving poor”
 - B. widows are regarded as “deserving poor” but not unmarried mothers
 - C. unmarried mothers should be regarded as more deserving than widows
 - D. both widows and unmarried mothers are regarded as “undeserving

poor”

6. "Belied" (para. 4, line 1) means _____.
 - A. proved
 - B. disproved
 - C. illustrated
 - D. concealed
7. "The belief" (para. 4, line 1) is that _____.
 - A. if healthy people are poor it is because they are lazy
 - B. so called relief institutions are unsatisfactory
 - C. the facts of economic life make it impossible for poverty to lead to the workhouse
 - D. relief institutions should deter custom
8. Why did the pioneers of the workhouse want the labouring classes to be afraid of it?
 - A. In order to punish them.
 - B. To encourage them to find work and accommodation.
 - C. Because the parish was a hard taskmaster.
 - D. To deter custom.
9. According to the passage, public attitudes to those who do not work _____.
 - A. are no better now than they used to be
 - B. were at their worst in Victorian times
 - C. are much better now than before
 - D. are still moralistic and unsympathetic
10. The word "them", (para. 1, line 5), refers to _____.
 - A. the harrowing tales of human need
 - B. the attitudes of Victorian days
 - C. the workhouse and the poor laws
 - D. our policies toward the deprived

II . Error Correction

Directions: Each of the following sentences has four underlined parts. These parts are labeled A, B, C and D. Identify the part of the sentence that is incorrect and mark out your choice.

1. The conveniences that Americans desire reflecting^A not so much a leisurely^B lifestyle as a busy lifestyle in which even minutes of time are^C too valuable to be wasted^D.
2. The Portuguese give^A a great deal of credit to one man^B for having promoted^C sea travel, that man was^D Prince Henry the navigator, who lived in the 15th century.
3. Accounts of^A scientific experiments are generally correct for^B those write about^C science are careful in checking^D the accuracy of their reports.
4. Some bosses dislike to allow^A people to share^B their responsibilities; they keep all^C important matters tightly^D in their own hands.
5. Just outside^A the ruins are^B a magnificent^C building surrounded by^D tall trees.
6. The weeds^A and tall grass in that yard makes^B the house look^C as if it had been vacant^D for quite some time.
7. The traditional pattern of classroom teaching at the colleges and universities bring^A the professor and a group of 20 to^B 30 students together^C for a 50-minute class two or three times^D a week.
8. On each^A side of the highway was^B hundreds of billboards advertising^C ev-

everything from modern motels to roadside stands that sell fresh fruit and
bedspreads.
D

9. I don't think it advisable that he will be assigned to the job since he
has no experience whatsoever.
A B C D

10. It is extremely necessary that you will realize that reading is not a
physical and mental process.
A B C D

2. Computerized Air-Traffic Control

At first glance, the image that flashed on the 19-inch computer screen looked like an ordinary road map. Then J. Richardson, acting manager of the Federal Aviation Administration's Central Flow Control Facility in Washington, began tapping at his keyboard. With one stroke he zoomed in to an aerial view of the New York Metropolitan area, divided not along town or county lines but along sectors of airspace. With another keystroke he eliminated hundreds of tiny black dots showing the location of low-flying aircraft and private jets. What remained on the screen were larger, winged symbols representing commercial airliners. With a few more key taps he color-coded the jetliners according to their airport destination: red for La Guardia, green for Newark, brown for John F. Kennedy.

To computer buffs at ease with the graphic virtuosity of Max Headroom, the FAA demonstration might seem primitive. But to air-traffic professionals gathered in the agency's sixth-floor "war room", it represented a technological breakthrough. Prior to last week, FAA radar data showing the location of planes flying over the U. S. could be shown only piecemeal on computer screens at one or more of the aviation agency's 20 regional control centers. Now, all that information has been merged and displayed on a single cathode-ray screen, giving the nation's air-traffic controllers an unprecedented view of overhead traffic patterns as they unfold from coast to coast. Exclaimed the FAA's Richardson, with pardonable pride: "It's unbelievable!"

Well, at least impressively intricate. The objective of the system is

to provide centralized management of traffic problems as they may build up at any of the country's 12,500 airports. Cost of the new computer operation so far: about \$ 2 million. The FAA's ultimate goal, though, is multi-billion-dollar air-traffic control system so highly automated that it can monitor flights and direct pilots with little or no human intervention.

Such a system is far in the future, but a new linkup may have arrived just in time. FAA officials say that with their new control system they will be able to meet those recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board without reducing the number of flights entering or leaving the critical choke points. Using the new computers, supervisors can monitor with greater precision specific sections of airspace that are becoming dangerously over-crowded. Traffic jams can then be alleviated or prevented by shifting the altitude of some flights or rerouting others so that they bypass congested areas. By this fall, when more complex computer programs should be in place, controllers hope to be able to predict at least two hours in advance when an airspace sector is about to become saturated, and thus prevent delays. Says Jack Ryan, director of the FAA's Air Traffic Operations Service: "We will be ready to head off problems before they occur."

The FAA's glowing new capability is attracting curiosity from other federal agencies. The Defense Department, which must monitor the flow of aircraft into the U. S.'s air defense identification zone, is said to be fascinated by the new system. So is the Drug Enforcement Administration, which desperately seeks to know the identity of every aircraft entering U. S. airspace, especially those from the south. They are particularly impressed with an FAA feature that allows controllers to place an electronic cursor over an individual blip, press a key and see all the available aircraft data displayed on the screen. Any blip that fails to provide informa-

tion has not registered a flight plan with the FAA and may be fair game for interception.

Exercises

I . Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions or complete the following statements by choosing the best answer (A, B, C, or D) under each.

1. The first paragraph tells us that _____.
 - A. FAA officials are learning to operate a computer
 - B. commercial airliners and private jets can be shown on the same screen
 - C. a map of the New York area airspace can be shown on the screen
 - D. a computer program has been introduced to control air traffic
2. "The FAA demonstration" in para. 2 refers to _____.
 - A. the out-dated program FAA had used earlier for air-traffic control
 - B. the newly devised air-traffic control program on display
 - C. the showing of the location of low flying aircraft and private jets
 - D. the graphically screened commercial airliners
3. To identify planes flying overhead, the U. S. air-traffic controllers used to _____.
 - A. get information by communication through phone calls
 - B. depended on the " war room" for information
 - C. collect data by way of radar
 - D. use several computers working at the same time
4. "Unfold" means _____.
 - A. to appear and spread
 - B. to fly over
 - C. to set to work
 - D. to get busy

5. The word “pardonable” in “with pardonable pride” (para. 2) implies that _____.
- A. he shouldn't have felt so proud of himself
 - B. he made unsuitable remarks for the occasion
 - C. he is just a green hand in computer science
 - D. his disbelief should be pardoned
6. The author's remark “at least impressively intricate” (para. 3) _____.
- A. carries a slight discomfort
 - B. reveals his satisfaction
 - C. praises more appropriately
 - D. underrates the achievement
7. The FAA's ultimate goal _____.
- A. is to spend multi-billion dollars
 - B. is a highly automated air-traffic control system
 - C. is to direct pilots with no human intervention
 - D. is to build 12,500 airports
8. The new control system has helped the FAA do all these things except one. The exception is _____.
- A. bringing to the screen airspace conditions over all the 20 regional control centers
 - B. monitoring with greater precision specific sections of airspace
 - C. controlling and preventing traffic jams
 - D. predicting 2 hours in advance where jams will occur
9. “To head off” in “we will be ready to head off problems...” (para. 4) means _____.
- A. to work out
 - B. to prevent
 - C. to deal with
 - D. to foresee
10. Both the U. S. Defense Department and Drug Enforcement Administration are interested in the control system because _____.

- A. they need to guard against air intrusions
- B. they are curious about computer gadgets
- C. they find the electronic cursor helpful
- D. they find the present airspace information insufficient

II . Error Correction

Directions: Each of the following sentences has four underlined parts. These parts are labeled A, B, C and D. Identify the part of the sentence that is incorrect and mark out your choice.

1. Among_A the variables relating to the task are_B the length of the material to be learned, the difficulty of the material_C, and the material should_D be meaningful.
2. My father said I had acted_A wisely in reporting_B the incident. His approval_C made me feel well_D.
3. Many a_A man_B has come to the aid_C of their_D country.
4. The object of_A experimentation is the construction by_B regular steps taking on_C the basis_D of a plan thought out in advance.
5. People rarely_A recognize the fact_B that being underweight is_C as dangerous to health as overweight_D.
6. The recent_A change in the Time_B book review_C format is shortsighted_D.
7. It's so hard_A to spend your whole life trying_B to be something and then just not be_C them_D.
8. For lunch I'm joined together_A by two undergraduates_B, Dave and John,