

张隆胜 编著

英语考试阅读技巧丛书

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# 前 言

本书旨在提高大学英语六级考试应试者的阅读能力,由阅读理论、分类练习和历年试卷三大部分组成。理论部分针对六级阅读考试所考查的主要内容,结合各种阅读技巧,系统地介绍了几类主要题型的解决方法。分类练习包括 60 篇阅读练习,根据题材分为社会历史、文化教育、日常生活和科技知识四大类。希望这样的分类尝试能使读者集中熟悉类似的阅读材料,迅速提高对各类英语文章的阅读能力。书中附有 3 套历年六级考试试卷,供读者进行自测,希望读者能在学习理论部分并完成分类练习后再进行自测,效果将更加明显。

本书适用于六级应试者及同等学历的英语学习者。因编者水平有限,疏漏之处在所难免,望广大读者不吝赐教。

编者

1999 年 8 月 25 日

# 阅读方法与技巧

## 一、通过略读推断文章主要内容

大学英语六级考试的阅读试题当中,有很大一部分是考查应试者把握文章或段落主要内容的能力。据统计,考查文章主旨的试题在历年六级阅读考试中,约占 1/5 的比例。这类试题的表现形式往往各不相同,有时直接问及文章或段落的大意,有时要求应试者判断文章或段落的中心句,还有时要求应试者选出合适的文章题目。这些试题殊途同归,都要求应试者正确把握文章或段落大意,领会文章主旨。在六级阅读测试中,文章篇幅较长,生词较多,对应试者的阅读过程易形成种种干扰,要想克服这些干扰,顺利理解文章的中心意思,应试者应该有针对性地采用相应的阅读技巧。

如何准确而迅速地对这类试题作答呢?略读(skimming)技巧的使用是至关重要的。略读是指在阅读过程中不必仔细关注每一个细节。而是通过快速浏览,领会文章的精髓。在略读过程中,应试者应该选取重要部分和重要细节,其余部分一带而过。一般来说,略读可按以下步骤进行。首先,以一般阅读速度通读文章第一段,因为起始段落往往含有引言或中心句。从第二段开始,加快阅读速度,只需判断每段中是否有主要观点或重要细节即可。至结尾段落,阅读速度减慢,通读此段,因为在本段中往往可以找到文章的总结。

以上是进行略读的一般过程。在六级阅读考试中,根据文章的难易程度,主旨题出现的不同位置,应试者还可灵活选取各种不同的略读方式。一般来说,略读方式可分为三种——preview

skimming, overview skimming 以及 review skimming. 每种方式都有其特殊的用途及技巧。以下是对于这三种略读方式的具体说明。

一、提前略读(preview skimming)。顾名思义,这一略读方式是指对于一段将要进行精读的阅读材料提前进行浏览。浏览目的是找出文章的主要内容、重要事实以及文章的结构方式,从而确定对阅读材料进行精读的有效方式。提前略读就仿佛将文章看作一幅路线图,只需观察其大致走向,以确定旅行的方式。当考查文章主要内容的试题出现在第一题时,提前略读无疑是解题的最佳方式。主旨题出现在第一题,说明文章难度不大,中心意思较为明显。这时,应试者就应首先进行提前略读,找出文章大意以及每一段的重要事实和全文结构组织方式。这样,不仅主旨题首先得到解决,下面的细节题也可以按图索骥,根据提前略读的结果到相应的段落中寻找,这样就可以不必逐字逐句通读全文,节约了大量时间。由此可见,当主旨题出现在第一题时,提前略读是一个一举两得的好方法。

二、回顾略读(review skimming)。回顾略读是指对一篇已经精读过的阅读材料重新回头浏览一遍。目的是进一步深入理解段落之间的逻辑关系以及各内容要点之间的联系,从而真正领会文章主旨。一般来说,细节繁多,结构复杂的文章往往需要这一略读步骤,以便梳清文章的脉络。当考查文章主要内容的试题出现在最后一题时,回顾略读是解决问题的最佳方式。主旨题出现在最后一题,说明文章难度较大,细节纷繁,中心意思较为隐晦。这时,应试者就应在通读全文,解决前面各个细节问题的基础上对全文进行回顾略读。由于对文章已有较深入的理解,回顾略读的速度可以比提前略读更快,迅速理解各段落、各细节之间的关系,文章的主要内容也就清楚地呈现了出来。而且,这样的

回顾略读对于前面的细节题也有一定的检查作用,同样也是一举两得的好方法。

三、整体略读(overview skimming)。整体略读比前两种略读方式的速度稍慢一些,是指对一小段文字进行整体性的浏览。遇到考察段落大意的试题往往要求采用这一略读方式。尤其是一些段落,开头并没有中心句,在这种情况下,速度稍慢的整体性略读是解决问题的最佳方式。

以上是结合主旨题出现的位置以及方式对于三种略读技巧进行的分析。需要指出的是,在这里采取各种略读技巧的前提是先看题目再进行阅读,只有这样才能运用有针对性的技巧,迅速而准确地解决问题。

运用略读技巧还必须注意的一个问题就是略读的速度。值得应试者注意的是,略读速度比一般阅读速度快并非仅仅是为了节约时间,而是为了更准确地把握文章的主要内容。如果逐字逐句地进行阅读,视野内停留的只可能是孤立的词或是片语,难以对文章形成整体印象。只有提高阅读速度,同时覆盖较多的阅读材料,才能更清楚各部分之间的关系,准确地判断出文章大意。由此可见,解决主旨题时,略读是必要的,应试者应大胆提高阅读速度,不必逐字细读,这样才能事半功倍。

略读速度因人而异,一般说来,略读速度应为普通阅读速度的两倍。在六级考试中,较为理想的略读速度应为 350 个单词每秒。

下面将以六级考试中主旨题的实例说明略读技巧的运用。

### Passage One

In Kansas at the turn of the century, Edwin and Amy Earhart doted on their active daughters, Amelia and Muriel. Ed-

win gave the girls footballs and rifles, while Amy shocked the community by dressing them in gym suits instead of skirts. Edwin's job caused the family to move from town to town, and the girls' interest in rough sports and shooting rats raised eyebrows wherever they went.

Amelia's parents did not pressure her to reform as she grew older, even when she dabbled in the domains of science and automobile mechanics. But in 1920, when she went aloft at an air show and returned home determined to learn how to fly, even her liberal parents hesitated. They soon gave in, however; and within months Amelia was flying a Kinner Airster her mother helped her buy.

### Questions

1. What is the best title for this passage?

- A) The Earharts' First Flight
- B) How to Get Involved in Sports
- C) The Early Years of Amelia Earhart
- D) How to Become a Pilot

这道主旨题出现在第一题。很明显,这一段文字简单易懂,篇幅较短,只有两个自然段,是六级考试训练中较为简单的练习。正如前文所分析的,如果阅读材料较为简单,主旨题往往出现在第一题,提前略读(preview skimming)则是解决问题的最佳方式。只需浏览两段文字,即可发现,这两段文字摘自 Amelia Earhart 的传记,讲述她少年和青年时代的成长历程。A, D 两答案局限于她的飞行事业,虽然这有可能是她整部传记的侧重点,但在这两段文字中只能涵盖第二段的内容。B 答案则体现了第一段的内容。只有 C 答案,才全面覆盖了两段文章的主要内容,

体现了全文的主旨,是正确答案。对于这样一篇简单的材料,提前略读的速度可以非常之快,而逐字细读只能得不偿失。

## Passage Two

Students of United States history, seeking to identify the circumstances that encouraged the emergence of feminist movements, have thoroughly investigated the mid-nineteenth-century American economic and social conditions that affected the status of women. These historians, however, have analyzed less fully the development of specifically feminist ideas and activities during the same period. Furthermore, the ideological origins of feminism in the United States have been obscured because, even when historians did take into account those feminist ideas and activities occurring within the United States, they fail to recognize that feminism was then a truly international movement actually centered in Europe. American feminist activists who have been described as "solitary" and individual theorists were in reality connected to a movement—Utopian (乌托邦的) ideas in Europe during the two decades that culminated falls, New York, in 1848. Thus, a complete understanding of the origins and development of nineteenth-century feminism in the United states requires that the geographical focus be widened to include Europe and that the detailed study already made of social conditions be expanded to include the ideological development of feminism.

The earliest and most popular of the Utopian socialists were the Saint-Simonians. The specifically feminist part of Saint-Simonianism has, however, been less studied than the groups contri-

bution to early socialism. This is regrettable on two counts. By 1832 feminism was the central concern of Saint-Simonianism and entirely absorbed its adherents energy; hence, by ignoring its feminism, European historians have misunderstood Saint-Simonianism. Moreover, since many feminist ideas can be traced to Saint-Simonianism, European historian's appreciation of later feminism in France and the United States remained limited.

Saint-Simon's followers, many of whom were women, based their feminism on an interpretation of his project to reorganize the globe By replacing brute force with the rule of spiritual powers. The new world order would be ruled together by a male, to represent reflection, and a female, to represent sentiment. This complementarity reflects the fact that, while the Saint-Simonians did not reject the belief that there were innate (先天的) differences between men and women, they nevertheless foresaw an equally important social and political role for both sexes in their Utopia.

Only a few Saint-Simonians opposed a definition of sexual equality based on gender (性) distinction. This minority believed that individuals of both sexes were born similar in capacity and character, and they ascribed male-female difference to socialization and education. The imagined result of both currents of thought, however, was that women would enter public life in the new age and that sexual equality would reward men as well as women with an improved way of life.

### Questions

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) The mid-nineteenth-century American economic and social conditions greatly affected the status of women
- B) Feminism was a truly international movements centered in America
- C) The ideological origin of feminism in the United states was Saint-Simonianism which was popular in Europe
- D) The majority of Saint-Simonians believed sexual equality based on gender distinction

这道主旨题出现在最后一题。很明显,这篇文章细节纷繁,内容深奥,篇幅较长,是一篇较难理解的社会科学的论述文,各项内容之间关系复杂,很难分清主次,推断文章大意。主旨题出现在最后也正是由于这个原因。正如前文所分析的,应试者应在进行全文精读,解决了所有细节题目之后,进行回顾性略读,理清文章的脉络。通过回顾性略读,分清主次,弄清细节之间的关系,从而推断出文章主旨。通过回顾性略读,我们会发现,答案A和答案D虽然在文章中有所提及,但前者是一个补充性说明,后者是论述的进一步深化,都不是文章的主题。答案B的内容有一部分与事实不符,而且该句所提及的内容也只是一个前提条件。只有答案C才是全文论述的中心和要义,其余一切细节,都是围绕这一中心展开,为论证这一论题服务的。只有通过回顾性略读,我们才能排除枝节,找到真正的主干。对于较难的主旨题,回顾性略读确实是解答的最佳方法。

## 二、通过跳读判断文章细节

大学英语六级考试的阅读试题当中,有很大一部分是考察应试者判断相关细节的能力。据统计,考查文章细节的试题在历年六级阅读考试中,占有 2/5 的比例,是考查的重要方面。考查

细节的阅读试题一般分为两类。一类是考查明示细节,即文中明确出现,可以在阅读中直接找到的细节。一类是考查隐含细节,即文中没有明确给出,但可以通过一定的分析,推理或计算推断出来的细节。无论是考查明示细节还是隐含细节,都是较为基本的考查内容,应试者应努力争取在细节题上拿分,不仅要做到百分之百的准确,而且还要尽量节约时间,做到迅速准确,将时间留给难度较大的其它试题。

如何准确而迅速地判断文章细节呢?跳读(scanning)技巧的运用至关重要。跳读(scanning)是指在阅读过程中为获取一定信息而精读这一信息所在的部分,跳过与该信息无关的部分,而不必仔细通读全文,以便提高阅读效率。其实这一阅读技巧对于广大应试者来说并不陌生,在查字典寻找所需条目时,我们往往就在不知不觉地运用这一快速阅读的技巧。在回答细节题时,应试者应该有意识地运用跳读技巧,以求事半功倍。

然而,跳读技巧的使用,是需要一定前提的。这一前提就是阅读者必须熟知信息排列的逻辑顺序,这样才能知道所需信息的大概位置,正确地进行跳读。在日常生活中,我们查找字典,电话本,电视节目单等,都是因为事先知道这些阅读材料是按字母或时间顺序排列的,所以才能迅速有目的地进行跳读。在阅读考试中进行跳读,同样需要这个前提。那么,这一前提是怎样达到的呢?前文所提到的另一个快速阅读技巧略读,尤其是预测性略读(preview skimming)是达成这一前提的必要方式。阅读考试中每一篇材料往往附有两个或两个以上的细节题。在通过跳读寻找这些细节题的答案之前,应首先花一两分钟时间对全文进行预测性略读,找出文章的结构组织方式以及各段之间的逻辑关系,弄清信息排列的方式。一旦通过预测性略读熟悉了各类信息的排列顺序,就可以大致确定所需信息所在的部分,从而准确而

迅速地进行跳读,找出相关细节。由此可见,跳读(scanning)是以预测性略读(preview skimming)为前提的。略读为辅,跳读为主的阅读技巧是准确而迅速地解决细节题的关键。

通过跳读推断文章细节的主要目标是为了提高阅读速度和阅读准确率。以下将对这两个标准——高速度(high speed)和高准确率(accuracy)分别进行分析。

第一、高速度。跳读的主要目的是为了迅速找到所需信息,较快的阅读速度是十分重要的。一旦应试者确定了正确的精读部分,就应该争取在最短的时间内找到相关细节。目标要明确,精力要集中,不能被无关的信息分散注意力,这样才能保证跳读的速度。

第二、高准确率。高准确率同样至关重要。跳读的目的就是为了准确地找到细节。因此,100%的准确率加上一流的阅读速度应成为跳读的唯一目标。

下面将通过两则实例分析跳读技巧在推断文章细节时的运用。

## Passage One

In recent years, scientific and technological developments have drastically changed human life on our planet, as well as our views both of ourselves as individuals in society and of the universe as a whole. Maybe one of the most profound developments of the last decade is the discovery of recombinant DNA technology, which allows scientists to introduce genetic material (or genes) from one organism into another. In its simplest form, the technology requires the isolation of a piece of DNA, either directly from the DNA of the organism under study, or artificially syn-

thesized from an RNA template, by using a viral enzyme called reverse transcriptase. This piece of DNA is then ligated to fragment of bacterial DNA which has the capacity to replicate itself independently. The recombinant molecule thus produced can be introduced into the common intestinal bacterium *ESCHERISHCHIA COLI*, which can be grown in very large amounts in synthetic media. Under proper conditions, the foreign gene will not only replicate in the bacteria, but also express itself, through the process of transcription and translation, to give rise to large amounts of the specific protein coded by the foreign gene.

The technology has already been successfully applied to the production of several therapeutically (疗法地) important biomolecules, such as insulin (胰岛素), interferon (干扰素), and growth hormones (激素, 荷尔蒙). Many other important applications are under detailed investigation in laboratories throughout the world.

### Questions

1. Recombinant DNA technology consists primarily of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) producing several therapeutically important biomolecules
  - B) giving rise to large amount of protein
  - C) introducing genetic material from one organism into another
  - D) using a viral enzyme called reverse transcriptase
2. Recombinant DNA technology has been used in the production of all of the following biomolecules except \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) growth hormones
  - B) *Escherishchia coli*

C) interferon

D) insulin

这篇文章是一篇科技文章。生词较多,易对应试者产生干扰。事实上,该文语法简单,内容以陈列事实为主,只要将众多冗长的科技术语看成简单的、对意义不产生较大影响的符号,阅读过程其实是较为轻松顺利的。这里出现的两个细节题选择项看似复杂,其实考查的都是明示细节。在进行跳读之前先对全文进行预测性略读,可以发现全文两段可分为三个部分。第一部分是对 recombinant DNA technology 的历史意义及基本概念的介绍,第二部分是对 recombinant DNA technology 工艺程序的详细介绍,第三部分介绍运用这一技术所生产的化学制剂。弄清了信息的排列顺序以后即可根据题目要求进行跳读。第一题显然是基本概念性问题,在第一部分内查找,即可在原文中找到所需信息,证明 C 答案是正确答案。第二题对于这一技术的实际运用提问,即可在第三部分内查找,A,C,D 三项均可在文章中找到,B 项不属于这一技术的成果,故符合题目要求。这样迅速而有条不紊地进行略读和跳读,两道细节题即可迎刃而解。

## Passage Two

What made the Alamo famous was the battle. For thirteen days in 1836, the 188 Texan volunteers held off 4,000 Mexican troops in one of the most violent dramas of American history. But the story began twelve years earlier. In 1824 Mexico won its independence from Spain and continued the colonization policy that had been initiated by Spain in 1821. Immigrants gladly took the oath of loyalty to Mexico in exchange for land, and they swarmed in. But then in 1824 Mexico redefined its territories,

making them states. Texas was the only separate territory to lose its independence; it was joined to Coahuila and the capital was moved from San Antonio to Saltillo. The Texas residents felt a lack of representation in government affairs and they gathered in protest. By 1834 the rumbles of discontent grew louder and by 1835 they were fighting. The Texans felt that they were fighting for their rights, but in the eyes of the Mexican government the uprising was treasonous.

The Battle of the Alamo began on February 23, 1836 and lasted for thirteen days. It ended with every Texan fighter dying. The only lives which were spared were a few women and children. Though the fight was fateful for the men, it kindled the spirit of other fighters. Forty-six days after the fall of the Alamo, a furious counterattack by Texan and American volunteers began with the words, "Remember the Alamo!" The result of this fight was free Texas, the beginning of a new republic.

### Questions

2. According to the passage, what was the main reason that the Texans began fighting?
  - A) They wanted more land
  - B) They weren't represented in the government
  - C) Their families were in danger
  - D) They wanted to move the capital
3. Which of the following statements is not true according to the passage? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) All the Texan men were killed in the battle
  - B) The Mexicans won the battle

C) Texas was not an American state

D) The Texans died shouting, "Remember the Alamo!"

这是一篇介绍历史事件的短文,生词较少,内容也较为简单,然而,这里的两个细节题却并不那么容易解决,需要仔细分辨。在进行跳读之前先对全文进行预测性略读,可以发现全文分为两大部分。第一部分介绍 Alamo 战役的历史背景,第二部分介绍 Alamo 战役的战况。弄清了信息的排列顺序以后即可根据题目要求进行跳读。第一题问及战争的原因,可在第一部分内查找。可发现几个选择项在文中都有所提及,但 B 项为主要原因,为正确答案。第二题问及战争结果,应在第二部分内查找。最后一项显然不符合事实,为正确答案。略读加跳读的技巧可帮助我们准确而迅速地找到答案。

### 三、根据上下文推断词义

六级大纲规定,应试者应熟悉掌握 3200 个词,认识 2000 个词汇及几百个词组。但是,由于阅读理解这一部分题材广泛,遇到生词是常事,应试者不可能 100% 地掌握大纲要求的词汇,而且,根据要求,试题常常测试应试者“根据上下文判断大纲附表以外的某些词汇和短语意义”的能力。

在阅读理解测试中,生词的多寡直接影响到理解的深度和理解的速度。应试者如果有一两个关键词不认识,尤其是动词、名词、形容词或副词,就会影响全文的理解。如果反复阅读仍不得其意,有时还会影响应试者的心理情绪。因此,应试者应在掌握一定词汇的基础上,运用一定的解题技巧,进行推测判断。

首先,应试者应该熟悉常见的命题方式。综合近几年的六级考题,此类题型的命题方式有:

1. The word "... " (Line ..., Para. ...) most probably