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• 英语泛读系列读物 •

Reading  
and  
Understanding

# 阅读与理解

汤季特 主编  
方斌宏  
王学铭 主审

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东北工学院出版社

# READING AND UNDERSTANDING

## 阅读与理解

(第 二 册)

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## 内 容 简 介

系列读物《阅读与理解》是适合于研究生、大学二年级以上学生和具有中等以上英语水平的英美读者使用的阅读丛书。对于欲在大学期间通过5—6级英语证书考试的学生,也是一本准备应试的阅读教材。全书共三册,每册24课。每课书有生词表、课文、注释、理解练习和词汇练习。每册书后附有练习答案和总词汇表。

此读物内容新颖,题材广泛,体裁多样,信息量大,趣味性强。文章的词汇量和生词量用计算机做了统计,文章的长度和难度依次递增,生词量控制在总词汇量的2%,超出部分一律给出词义并列在课前。课文练习紧密配合阅读技巧的学习,并用加小标题的方法对阅读技巧做出提示,以便加强练习的目的性。

## READING AND UNDERSTANDING

(第二册)

汤季特 方斌宏 主编

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## 前 言

《阅读与理解》是冶金、有色系统高校研究生英语协作组织编写的英语系列读物,旨在满足研究生和大学高年级学生泛读课教学的要求和具有中专以上英语水平的广大读者提高阅读水平的需要,并为欲在大学期间通过 5—6 级英语证书考试的学生提供一套应试训练教材。为此,编写中采取了如下具体做法:

1. 文章主要选自近年来英语原版书刊,内容新颖,题材广泛,体裁多样,信息量丰富,有较强的知识性和趣味性。

2. 根据研究生泛读课的要求,提供了 80000 个词汇量的阅读材料,可供 2—3 个学期使用。

3. 本读物的生词量用计算机进行了统计,(生词以大学英语词汇表为依据),起点为 3800,相当于大学本科生三年级的词汇量,略低于研究生入学所要求的词汇量;每篇文章的生词量控制在全篇词汇量的 5%。其中 2% 要求学生掌握,列于书后的总词汇表中,3% 列于课文前,以便扫除阅读障碍。

4. 每篇文章的长度依次递增,第一册为 700~900 个词;第二册为 900~1100 个词;第三册为 1100~1300 个词。同一册内文章的难易程度均衡分布,册与册之间有一定的坡度。

5. 文章的理解练习通过加小标题,可以使学生有意识地学习阅读技巧,并为教师提供了讲解阅读技巧的提示。词汇练习目的是重点训练根据上下文猜词义和选择词义的能力。

6. 为便于读者自学,本读物对背景知识,语言难点以及长难句做了必要而适量的注释。

7. 这套系列读物共分三册,每册二十四课,每课配有生词表、课文注释、理解练习和词汇练习。每册后面附有练习答案及要求掌握的 2% 生词的词汇表。

本读物可作为泛读课的教材,主要由学生课下阅读,教师在课上进行检查并结合练习讲解阅读技巧。

本书编写过程中曾得到东北工学院美籍英语教师 Nancy Lee 和 Kenny Boyers 的帮助和指导。

本书的编写得到了东北工学院研究生院、东北工学院外语部、昆明工学院外语系的大力支持。

本读物一、二册的审稿会由国家教委大学外语教材编审委员会委员、昆明工学院外语系主任王学铭教授主持,北京钢铁学院、中南工业大学、西安冶金建筑学院、昆明工学院等院校参加,在此一并致谢。

由于时间紧迫,加之编者水平有限,疏漏之处在所难免,热诚希望专家和读者批评指正。

编 者

1988 年 7 月

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## Passage 1

### Endangered Species: Birds

#### READ THE FOLLOWING WORDS

1. humidity	[hju:/miditi]	<i>n.</i>	湿气;湿度
2. vegetation	[vedʒi'teiʃən]	<i>n.</i>	植物;草木 (集合语)
3. pollutant	[pə'lu: tənt]	<i>n.</i>	污染物
4. extinct	[iks'tɪŋkt]	<i>a.</i>	已绝种的
5. eagle	['i:gl]	<i>n.</i>	鹰
6. Audubon	['ɔ:dəbən]	<i>n.</i>	奥德邦 (美国鸟类学家)
7. ironically	[ai'rənikli]	<i>ad.</i>	反语地;讽刺地
8. stereotype	['steriətaip]	<i>v.</i>	使固定;使僵化
9. eccentric	[ik'sentrik]	<i>a.</i>	反常的;古怪的
10. prey	[prei]	<i>n.</i>	猎物
11. binoculars	{bai'nɔkjuləz}	<i>n.</i>	双筒望远镜
12. ornithologist	[ɔ:ni'θɒlədʒist]	<i>n.</i>	鸟类学家
13. pheasant	['feznt]	<i>n.</i>	雉
14. pygmy	['pigmi]	<i>a.</i>	矮小的
15. habitat	['hæbitæt]	<i>n.</i>	栖息地
16. trample	['træmpl]	<i>v.</i>	踏 (倒)
17. hawk	[hɔ:k]	<i>n.</i>	鹰
18. offspring	['ɔ:fsprɪŋ]	<i>n.</i>	子孙
19. abandon	[ə'bændən]	<i>v.</i>	放弃
20. Maryland	['merilənd]	<i>n.</i>	(美国) 马里兰州
21. warbler	['wɔ:blə]	<i>n.</i>	鸣禽
22. prohibit	[prə'hɪbit]	<i>v.</i>	禁止
23. interference	[intə'fiərəns]	<i>n.</i>	干涉;妨害
24. coax	[kəuks]	<i>v.</i>	诱哄

#### TEXT

1. The human race is only one small species of beings in the living world; many other groups exist among the creatures on this planet. However, human beings have a great influence on the rest of the world. People change the environment by building cities where forests

once stood. People affect the water supply by using water for industry and agriculture. People affect weather conditions by increasing the amount of water in the air; when open land is changed into farms, the humidity of the atmosphere in that area increases because of the increased vegetation. Human beings change the air by adding pollutants like smoke from factories and fumes automobile motors. Thus, it can be said that the human species changes the world through its actions, by its habits. People, in other words, are interfering with nature.

2. One negative result of people's interference with the environment<sup>(1)</sup> is that many kinds of animals are becoming rare. In fact, their numbers are decreasing so rapidly that they are in danger of becoming extinct<sup>(2)</sup>. Because worried and concerned experts want to make sure that these animals do not disappear, an "endangered species" list has been made, and ways to save them have been started. Some types of birds, like eagles, are in danger of extinction. This is the reason why many concerned citizens have organized into groups to try to save the birds. The National Audubon Society(NAS)<sup>(3)</sup> is one such organization.

3. The people of the Audubon Society, ironically, once tried to encourage interest in birds. The present situation indicates that they were too successful<sup>(4)</sup>. Nowadays these same people are looking for ways to protect the birds from the people who want to watch them. Just a few years ago, bird watchers were stereotyped as harmless but strange<sup>(5)</sup>; people thought of all bird watchers as eccentric hunters who chased their prey with binoculars to see better with, instead of guns to shoot with. Stereotypes of bird watchers were the subjects of jokes because the general public did not find birds interesting. However, with a little education and advertising, bird-watching and bird watchers really changed. Bird-watching became a national pastime, an interesting hobby, a favorite way to spend leisure time.

4. Because of the efforts of the NAS, the numbers of amateur ornithologists have multiplied. Now between five and ten million nonprofessional bird watchers search for a glimpse of a golden pheasant, a tiny pygmy swift, or a whooping crane. In the past decade, the NAS membership has quadrupled; such an increase of four times the number in only ten years indicates a surge of enthusiasm for birds<sup>(6)</sup>. Unfortunately, this great growth of interest has meant another kind of interest; the overenthusiasm of some amateur ornithologists has resulted in harm to the birds and their habitats<sup>(7)</sup>, the special environments that the birds choose. For example, both vegetation and the nesting places have been trampled, the natural places have been destroyed by the feet of the small percentage of overly enthusiastic watchers. One professional ornithologist reported that so many people have become interested in birds that on rare bird can bring a flock of bird watchers<sup>(8)</sup>. A result is that where there were once flocks of birds, there are now only a few.

5. A 1976 ornithological study of rare birds noted two examples of human interference with the balance of nature. Because enthusiastic bird watchers will go to such great lengths to observe a rare bird, they upset the living patterns of the bird. For instance, each spring so many people had been collecting near a black hawk's nest that the nest produced only one

offspring in five years. People, by gathering around the nest, were making a rare bird even rarer. In general, if human beings come too close to a nest, the birds abandon it, leaving it permanently or for the season. Bird watchers, in their excitement to see a rare bird, are sometimes unkind and unreasonable. For example, the study found that bird watchers sometimes try to trick birds out of hiding with tape recordings of birdsongs. The curious bird, wondering who is singing, comes out of hiding. However, this is not a harmless trick because it is confusing to the birds. They respond naturally to the call of another bird of their species, but instead of meeting a feathered friend, they meet human beings with cameras and binoculars. The experts told about one situation in Maryland: the shy and rare Swainson's warbler nearly always comes out of the brush in answer to a recording<sup>(9)</sup>. This response has encouraged amateur ornithologists to use recordings to coax (persuade) the bird to come out of the vegetation. However, because so many warblers have become confused, many have abandoned their nests. No nesting means no baby birds, and without many offspring, the Swainson's warbler will be in danger of extinction.

6. Because of the efforts of organizations like the Audubon Society, there are now laws to protect endangered species. One rule prohibits hunting the endangered species,<sup>(10)</sup> but being safe from hunters does not mean complete safety. Another rule, one that forbids taking photographs, has even more important implications. Photographers, in their enthusiasm to get clear pictures of the special marks on birds' wing feathers, have even thrown stones at birds. The bright flashes of light from their cameras frighten birds too. Because of these kinds of interference, experts want more laws to be passed to protect the birds. In particular, they want restrictions to keep people out of bird habitats during nesting time.

7. If bird watchers "watched" themselves, such restrictions might not be necessary. The Audubon Society suggests four major rules:

1. Avoid use of birdsong tapes.
2. Watch birds from a distance.
3. Never use flash cameras to photograph birds.
4. Be careful not to disturb or destroy leaves near a nest.

Also, if a large number of bird watchers are going out together, a guide should lead them. The guide can make sure that the birds are kept safe.

8. If everyone follows rules like the Audubon Society's rules for bird watchers, then the effects of human interference will be decreased. More species will live and produce offspring. There will be birds and other animals for a long time, and the human species will continue to share this environment with them.

from "*Between the Lines*" by Zukowski / Faust

## NOTES TO THE TEXT

- (1) One negative result of people's interference with the environment  
人类对环境侵扰的一个副作用……  
to interfere with; to get in the way of another  
妨碍, 干扰
- (2) in the danger of becoming extinct  
濒临灭绝的危险
- (3) The National Audubon Society (NAS)  
美国全国爱鸟学会  
Audubon  
奥德邦(1785~1851)美国鸟类学家
- (4) they were too successful  
他们事与愿违
- (5) bird watchers were stereotyped as harmless but strange  
人们习惯认为观看鸟类的人(对鸟类)是无害的。只是他们的行为不可思议  
to stereotype; to fix in one form  
定型, 定框框
- (6) a surge of enthusiasm for birds  
爱鸟的热情高涨  
surge  
(感情的)起伏, 洋溢
- (7) the overenthusiasm of some amateur ornithologists has resulted in harm to the birds and their habitats  
某些业余鸟类学家的过分热情导致对鸟类及其栖息地的危害  
to result in; to cause  
导致, 引起
- (8) one rare bird can bring a flock of bird watchers  
一只珍禽能招引来一群观看鸟类的人  
a flock of; a group of  
一群, 一伙
- (9) in answer to a recording  
对录音的反响  
in answer to;  
对…予以回答
- (10) One rule prohibits hunting the endangered species  
一项法律规定禁止捕猎濒于灭绝的生物  
the endangered species  
濒临危险的生物

## HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

How carefully did you read?

1. Human beings change the world by
  - a. building cities.
  - b. using water.
  - c. changing people's habits and actions.
  - d. adding pollutants.
2. One negative result of people's interference with the environment is that
  - a. many species of animals are in danger of becoming extinct.
  - b. some kinds of animals are growing rapidly.
  - c. the creatures on the earth are becoming rare.
  - d. the atmosphere is getting polluted.
3. Worried and concerned experts list the "endangered species"
  - a. for the coming generation.
  - b. to hasten their extinction.
  - c. to make sure that they do no harm to the human race.
  - d. so as to protect them.
4. To save birds, the people of the Audubon society are looking for ways
  - a. to encourage interest in birds.
  - b. to protect the birds from bird watchers.
  - c. to change the environment.
  - d. to prevent hunters from shooting them.
5. The number of amateur ornithologists is
  - a. five million.
  - b. ten million.
  - c. five to ten million.
  - d. between five and ten billion.
6. The NAS membership has increased
  - a. (by) three times in the past ten years.
  - b. four times in the last ten years.
  - c. twice in the past decade.
  - d. five times in the past decade.

Did you know the reason?
7. Bird watchers are eccentric hunters because they use
  - a. particular guns.

- b. binoculars instead of guns.
  - c. nets to watch birds.
  - d. both b and c.
8. The overenthusiasm of some amateur ornithologists has resulted in harm to the birds and their habitats because
- a. the nesting places of birds have been destroyed.
  - b. the living patterns of birds have been upset.
  - c. trees have been cut down by the watchers.
  - d. vegetation has been damaged.
9. Where there were once flocks of birds, there are now only a few because
- a. many birds died for want of water.
  - b. the air has been polluted.
  - c. the interference of bird watchers has caused many birds to desert their nests, thus less and less offspring.
  - d. many forests have given place to cities.
10. Taking photographs is forbidden because
- a. photographers throw stones at birds to get clear pictures.
  - b. the flashes of light frighten the birds.
  - c. photographers also collect bird eggs whenever they strike these bird watchers as beautiful.
  - d. both a and b.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

### A. Word meaning from context

Often you can tell the meaning of a word by reading the words around it.

Directions: Find the word in the article for clues to guess the meaning of them.

1. *humidity*(para. 1) probably means
  - a. water in the air
  - b. temperature
  - c. pressure
  - d. quality
2. *pollutant*(para. 1) probably means
  - a. something to purify water
  - b. something that makes impure
  - c. flower powder
  - d. the particle forming part of an atomic nucleus

3. *fumes*(para. 1 ) probably means
  - a. fuels for cars
  - b. wastes coming from cars
  - c. spare parts of automobiles
  - d. pleasant smells
4. *extinct*(para. 2 ) probably means
  - a. outstanding
  - b. existing
  - c. distinguishing
  - d. no longer existing
5. *eccentric*(para. 3 ) probably means
  - a. ordinary
  - b. unusual
  - c. perfect
  - d. popular
6. *quadrupled*( para. 4 ) probably means
  - a. doubled
  - b. multiplied by four
  - c. qualified
  - d. enhanced

**B. Word meaning in context**

A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used

Directions: Read the four meaning for each word and decide which meaning fits the word as it is used in the paragraph.

7. *stereotype*(para. 3 )
  - a. a metal plate for printing cast from a mold
  - b. the making of such a metal plate
  - c. the method or process of printing in which such a metal plate is used
  - d. a fixed expression
8. *prey*(para. 3 )
  - a. an animal which is hunted and eaten
  - b. the way of life based on killing and eating other animals
  - c. a helpless person
  - d. plunder; goods taken
9. *habitat* (para. 4 )
  - a. a place of living; a dwelling place
  - b. a watertight vessel consisting of a laboratory and living quarters for researchers or

SCIENTISTS

c. the place where an animal or plant naturally lives or grows

d. an exhibit at a museum or fair showing reproduction of animals or plants in their natural surroundings

10. *flock*( para.4 )

a. a group of sheep

b. a large number of people

c. a small mass of wool

d. soft material

11. *abandon*(para.5 )

a. stop trying

b. give up and leave

c. leave in a cruel way

d. give oneself up to a feeling

12. *nest*(para.5 )

a. a place in which certain living things have and keep their young

b. a comfortable place

c. a shelter

d. a place made or chosen by a bird for its eggs

## Passage 2

### Children and Television

#### READ THE FOLLOWING WORDS

1. whereas	[weə'ræz]	<i>conj.</i>	就…而论; 而在另一方面
2. cartoon	[kɑ:'tu:n]	<i>n.</i>	卡通; 动画片
3. sugarcoated	[ʃugə'kəutid]	<i>a.</i>	加糖衣的
4. youngster	[ˈjʌŋstə]	<i>n.</i>	年轻人; 青少年
5. preschooler	[pri:'sku:lə]	<i>n.</i>	学前儿童
6. kindergarten	[ˈkində,gɑ:tn]	<i>n.</i>	幼儿园
7. recreational	[rekri'eɪʃnl]	<i>a.</i>	娱乐的; 消遣的
8. agency	[ˈeidʒənsi]	<i>n.</i>	手段; 力量; 作用
9. exposure	[iks'pəʊʒə]	<i>n.</i>	暴露; 接触
10. aggression	[ə'greʃən]	<i>n.</i>	侵略; 攻击
11. sensitivity	[sensɪ'tiviti]	<i>n.</i>	敏感; 敏感度
12. dental	[ˈdentl]	<i>a.</i>	牙齿的
13. nutrition	[nju: 'triʃən]	<i>n.</i>	营养
14. habitual	[hə'bitʃuəl]	<i>a.</i>	有习惯的; 惯常的
15. accustomed	[ə'kʌstəmd]	<i>a.</i>	习惯的; 通常的
16. tolerance	[ˈtɒlərəns]	<i>n.</i>	容忍; 宽容
17. frustration	[ˈfrʌstreɪʃən]	<i>n.</i>	挫折
18. creative	[kri'eɪtɪv]	<i>a.</i>	有创造力的

#### TEXT

1. Television has been changing the way people live for thirty years. It influences nearly every aspect of modern life: how people use leisure time, how news is reported, how information is learned, and how people think and feel. Children are particularly susceptible to<sup>(1)</sup> the effects of television because their minds are growing, developing, and learning much faster than those of adults. Whereas television could be used as an educational tool for children, more often simple, entertaining cartoons with little or no educational value are shown.

2. Social scientists, teachers, and parents are troubled by the kinds of television programs

children choose to watch. These groups of people are concerned about the media's impact on young children. They are worried about the effects of televised violence on society as well as commercials for sugarc coated food. Most importantly, however, they feel television is one factor that causes declining math and reading scores among schoolchildren. Because of the excessive time spent watching TV, children are spending less time reading and thinking independently.

3. Indeed, youngsters are watching a lot of television—an average of nearly four hours a day and about 25 hours a week, according to an A.C. Nielsen Co. survey<sup>(2)</sup>. The set stays on 53 hours a week in homes with preschoolers as opposed to 43 hours weekly in the average U.S. household<sup>(3)</sup>. Upon entering kindergarten at age 5, an American child already has spent more hours viewing television than he or she would spend earning a college degree. By the child's eighteenth birthday, more time has been spent watching television than on any other single activity except sleep. The high-school graduate will have attended school for 11000 hours, but he or she will have sat for almost twice that many hours in front of the set, exposed to an estimated 35000 commercials and 18000 murders.

4. Experts are concerned about the view of the world that youngsters are learning from television. Parents, schools, and churches have traditionally been the social models and teachers for children. However, because television influences children's attitudes and behavior, its role in society is becoming increasingly more powerful—it is much more than a simple recreational activity<sup>(4)</sup>. The medium "has changed childhood more than any other social innovation in the history of the world," declares child psychologist Robert M. Liebert, a professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. "For the majority of kids in this country, television is the socializing agency,"<sup>(5)</sup> according to David Pearl, who heads the behavioral sciences research branch of the National Institute of Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

5. Exposure to excessive violence is another influence of television. According to several studies, televised violence may cause children to become more aggressive. Also, because so much violence is seen by children on television, they become more used to it as the only solution to difficult situations. Children who watch a great deal of violence on television may become apathetic toward actual aggression<sup>(6)</sup>. One study has shown that, compared to a control group<sup>(7)</sup>, fifth-graders who watched an aggressive television broadcast were slower to ask for adult help when a fight broke out among younger children. This decreased sensitivity to human suffering is frightening, says psychologist Ronald S. Drabman. "It will lead to much more societal violence," he believes.

6. Clever advertising aimed at children certainly influences them. "Exposing children to so much high-powered advertising of sugar-rich products on television puts their dental health at risk and is also, of course, a negative influence on proper nutrition," says Dr. Dale Roeck, chairman of the American Dental Association's Council on Dental Health<sup>(8)</sup>. Another expert asserts that "almost all the products that television sells to kids are products that per-

ple who care about kids feel shouldn't be consumed in the first place."

7. Very young children don't even distinguish between commercials and programs. Is it fair to show advertising to young children? Many people think that it is not. The U.S. government has yet to control children's advertising<sup>(9)</sup>, but Canada imposed a limited ban on commercials aimed at children. Advertisers in Canada must now aim their messages at parents and families.

8. A recent court order in the United States indicates that some restrictions on advertising for children will probably occur. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC)<sup>(10)</sup> will decide on several key issues based on the recommendation of the court order. The FTC must consider the following points: whether or not children between the ages of 3 and 13 can comprehend the difference between commercials and television; how well children can defend themselves against the persuasive techniques of commercial television advertising; and what negative effects are caused by the child's lack of ability to understand that he or she is the object of persuasive advertising. Advertising aimed at children will probably be limited in the future because so many people think it is unfair and deceptive.

9. What is the impact of youngsters spending more time watching television than attending school, playing outside, or painting a picture? The consequences of habitual television viewing seem more apparent in young children. Nursery school teachers often find that today's youngsters come to class accustomed to being entertained by the television set. There are reports of children who resist learning to cut with scissors, run around the classroom aimlessly, and exhibit limited attention spans, low tolerance for frustration, and a lack of creative imagination<sup>(12)</sup>.

10. Instructors at Horace Mann nursery school in New York noticed definite improvements in pupils' attitudes and behavior, including a decrease in their fighting, after the instructors asked parents to limit the youngsters' viewing to one hour daily. Educational experts also believe that parents could help by discussing both the good and bad aspects of television with their children and by helping them to select beneficial programs.

from "*Between the Lines*" by Zukowski / Faust, Johnston & Atkinson

## NOTES TO THE TEXT

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(2) according to an A. C. Nielsen Co. survey

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(3) The set stays on... U.S. household.

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