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大学英语系列教程

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SERIES COURSE
FOR COLLEGE
ENGLISH

陈志远 编

大学英语阅读教程

College English
Course for Reading
Comprehension

电子科技大学出版社

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(一)

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前 言

大学英语系列教程是以《大学英语教学大纲》为指导，同时参照《大学英语四级考试大纲》而编写的。本系列教程的使用对象为大学二年级学生（大学英语第三、四级），有一定基础的英语自学者，及准备参加国内外英语水平考试的应考者。教程分阅读、听力、语法、词汇、写作等五册。从各方面对学生进行全面的综合训练，着重培养使用语言能力及应试能力。系列教程编写组由陈志远、刘光渠、李新元、顾大昕、归楠华组成。编写过程中，编写组针对1985年以来，贯彻《大学英语教学大纲》的教学进展情况，结合大学英语四级考试的内容、方式及成绩分析，经共同讨论，确定本教程编写原则和内容大纲。在此基础上，编写组成员分别完成本教程各部分的编写工作。最后，由编写组对本教程初稿进行了审校。

本书为大学英语阅读教程，内容包含英语阅读技能讲解，一百篇阅读文章及配套练习。本书参考了大量英美原著，文章题材广泛，体裁多样，语言规范，偏词较少，富有知识性和趣味性。每篇文章三百词左右，其中超过大学英语四级范围而又难猜测的生词，用汉语注明了词义。文章后面配有五个理解练习题，针对文章内容关键，切中疑难要点，以训练和自测阅读能力。全书取材由浅入深，具有适当的坡度，前面部分相当于大学英语三级水平，以后逐渐加深难度，最后二十余篇材料已基本达到大学英语六级及托福考试水平，并接近 GRE 考试的阅读基本要求。

阅读理解在国内外各类各级英语试题中占有最大的比重，

是影响考试成败的最关键项目。本书为准备参加大学英语四级统考、及欲参加其它类别英语考试（如大学英语六级、研究生入学考试、EPT、TOEFL、GRE、高教自考等）的考生提供了一本便于自学、便于自测的应考复习指导书。

本书最后定稿时，西南交大刘馨兰教授对书稿进行了审阅，提出了很好的意见。在编写和出版过程中，还得到了电子科技大学外语系同行、校教材科和出版社的大力支持和帮助。对此，编者表示衷心感谢。

编 者

1989年12月

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绪 论

——关于阅读技能的几个问题

《大学英语教学大纲》对大学英语基础阶段（四级）阅读能力规定了如下要求：掌握基本阅读技能，能顺利阅读并正确理解语言难度为中等的一般题材文章和科普、科技读物，阅读速度达到每分钟50词。阅读难度略低、生词不超过总词数3%的材料时，速度达到每分钟80词，阅读理解的准确率以70%为合格。

根据大纲要求，针对大学英语四级考试的问题设计形式，提高阅读技能（包括应试技能），要特别注意解决下面几个问题。

一、概括和确定中心思想

阅读一段或一篇文章时，要注意找出其中心思想，这是英语阅读试题中常见的问题。试题中对中心思想进行提问的问句及词语，主要有下列一些：

1. Which of the following best expresses (or states) the main idea (or central thought, topic, theme, subject, purpose, intention, aim) of the passage?
2. Which sentence of the following is the topic sentence?
3. The appropriate title would be...
4. The paragraph could be entitled...
5. The main idea of the paragraph suggests...
6. The paragraph illustrates (or demonstrates) ...

有关中心思想的答案，有时可直接在文章中的原句或原词

中找到，但常常也有用另外的句子或词语来表达的。

文章中直接表达中心思想的句子叫做主题句 (topic sentence)。大多数情况下文章一开头就道出了中心思想，首句就是主题句。有时直到文章结束时才概括出中心思想，末句就是主题句。也有主题句出现在文章中间的情况。有些文章也可能没有主题句，其主题思想由全篇 (或全段) 整体中心意思所表达。

下面以三段短文为例，让我们找出每段的主题句。

Example 1

Athens (雅典) and Sparta (斯巴达) were the two most advanced Greek cities of the Hellenic period (750—338 B.C.). Both had a city-state type of government, and both took slaves from the peoples they conquered. However, the differences outweigh the similarities in these two ancient civilizations. Sparta was hostile, warlike (constantly fighting the neighboring cities), and military, while Athens enjoyed the democratic and cultural way of life. The latter city left its mark in the fields of art, literature, philosophy, and science, while the former passed on its totalitarianism (极权主义) and superior military traditions. The present system of a well-rounded education followed in the United States is based on the ancient Athenian idea. The Spartan system on the other hand, was concerned only with military education.

Example 2

Few can deny the strange coincidences (巧合) in

the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. For example, Kennedy was elected in 1960 while Lincoln assumed the Presidency in 1860. Both men were assassinated (暗杀) from behind, on a Friday, and in the presence of their wives. The two men were born exactly one hundred years apart, as were their assassins, Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth. Perhaps the strangest coincidence is that Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, advised him not to go to Dallas where he was shot. Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him not to go to the Ford Theater where he met his death.

Example 3

If you were planning to buy a television set, the following advertisement would certainly attract your attention: "Color TV, only \$79. Two day sale. Hurry." However, when you go to the store ready to buy, you may discover that the advertised sets are sold out. But the salesman is quick to recommend you another model, a more reliable set which is "just right for you." It costs \$359. This sales tactic (策略) is called "bait (饵诱) and switch." Buyers are baited with a sales offer, and then they are switched to another more costly item. Buying items on sale requires careful consideration of the merchandise (商品) and the reasons for the sale.

说明:

范例1的头两句说明雅典和斯巴达这两座希腊古城具有最先进的古代文明的一些共同点。从第四句起到文章结束,以较大比重阐述二者的相异处,斯巴达黩武好战,雅典崇尚文化科学。整段文章的侧重点在两城的相异处。而文章第三句“然而,它们的不同点却超过了它们古代文明的共同点”是文章前后的转折处,表达了整段文章的主要论点和中心思想,因而是这段短文的主题句。

范例2开头第一句“很少有人能否认肯尼迪和林肯两人之死的奇特巧合”就提出了本文的主题。后面的句子是用具体事实细节来证明其主题思想。因而,本文第一句为主题句。

范例3的前面部分是叙述情节,指出那种售货策略就是用标出低价为诱饵引你上钩去买高价物品。文章最后一句才画龙点睛提出:购买廉价出售的物品需要仔细考虑该商品及其廉价出售的缘由。这句就是本文的主题句。

下面再举两个例子,让我们找出每段的中心思想。注意,多项选择中提供的有关中心思想的答案,有时不是文中的原句或原有词语,而是用另外的形式来表达的。

Example 4

Doctors are of the opinion that most people can not live beyond 100 years, but a growing number of scientists believe that the aging process can be controlled. There are more than 12,000 Americans over 100 years old who receive Social Security (保险) benefits, and their numbers increasing each year. Dr. James Langley of Chicago claims that, theoretically and under ideal conditions, animals, including man, can live

six times longer than their normal period of growth. A person's period of growth lasts approximately twenty-five years. If Dr. Langley's theory is accurate, future generations can expect a life span (寿命期限) of 150 years.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A) Within a few generations, most people will probably live for 150 years.
- B) Social Security pensioners (领社会保险养老金的人) are steadily increasing in number.
- C) Physicians and scientists disagree regarding man's possible life span.
- D) Man's normal period of growth compares with that of animals.

Example

People the world over recognize the swastika (卐) as the symbol of Hitler's tyranny (暴政), but few realize that its origin can be traced to prehistoric times. In fact, it was once an American Indian symbol of mercy. During the late 1800s the Carlsberg Brewery in Denmark adopted the symbol as its trademark. It quickly became synonymous (同义) with excellence. In the early 1930s it became the emblem (标志) of Hitler's Germany. It is ironic that a symbol of love and quality was corrupted to represent power and cruelty.

1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A) The chief vice of authority is corruption.
- B) There is nothing so evil as the corruption of the best.
- C) Civilizations die from irony as surely as they die of corruption.
- D) Whoever shows mercy to an enemy denies it to himself.

2. The main idea of the paragraph suggests that
- A) a symbol can be given different meanings.
 - B) a thing of beauty is easily recognized.
 - C) an evil person usually gets his way (得逞).
 - D) a symbol usually changes over the years.
3. Which is an appropriate title for the paragraph?
- A) Might is Right
 - B) The Power of Suggestion
 - C) The Fall of Germany
 - D) Use and Misuse

说明:

范例4的答案C)是对的,文章的中心思想是介绍医生和科学家对人的可能寿命长短的不同看法。其它三个答案不对,因为:答案A)只是根据一个科学家的理论对不久将来人的寿命期限的预测和假设;答案B)只是文中一个具体事实细节;答案D)与文章含意不符,文章并没有把人的正常生长期与动物的进行比较。

范例5的三个多项选择题都比较抽象和隐晦,既需要弄清文章本身内容及含义,又要确切理解每个问题及其各项答案的意义,在此基础上,越过表面字句进行概括分析和推论,就不难找出作者的意旨和文章主题。这段文章的大意是:世人皆知

“卍”是希特勒暴政的标志，但很少人知道它的起源可追溯到史前时代。事实上，它曾一度是美洲印地安人对仁慈的象征。十九世纪末丹麦的一家公司用这个标志作商标。它很快就与“优秀”同义了。二十世纪三十年代初期它成了希特勒德国的徽志。具有讽刺意义的是，一个曾作为仁爱和美好品质的象征却被败坏用来代表强权和残暴。不难看出，最后一句是文章的主题句。三个问题的正确答案分别是：1. B)：没有比败坏最美好的东西更邪恶的了。2. A)：对一个标志可赋予不同的含义。3. D)：使用和谬用。

二、弄清有关事实和细节

阅读理解试题中有相当部分问题是针对文章中有关事实或细节的。问句形式很多，较常见的有下列一些：

1. The author states that...
2. The writer mentions all of the items listed below except...
3. Which of the following is true (or, not true, not correct, not mentioned) according to the passage?
4. What (or: who, when, where, why, how much, how many...) ...?

回答有关事实细节的问题，要注意确切理解关键词的词义及有关部分之间的联系，分清局部和整体、肯定和否定，以及先后顺序等。

下面举两个例子：

Example 6

One famous sunken ship is the “Lusitania”, which sank off the southern coast of Ireland in 1915 with

a loss of nearly 1,500 lives. It had four huge propellers (螺旋桨) made of an expensive metal. Today each of those propellers is worth \$ 300,000 or more. The ship, lying on the sea-bed, has been bought by a man called John Light. He paid about \$ 12,000 for the whole ship. He hopes to bring up those propellers and sell them. He also hopes to sell other parts of the ship, when he has brought them to the surface, for about \$ 600,000.

1. John Light thinks that he may be able to sell all the parts of the "Lusitania" for

A) \$ 12,000.

B) \$ 300,000.

C) \$ 1,200,000.

D) \$ 1,800,000.

2. John Light bought the "Lusitania" ...

A) before 1915.

B) before it sank.

C) after it sank.

D) after it had been brought to the surface.

Example 7

She was neither dressed nor built for energetic activity on a hot day, being very short indeed, and fat, so that she had to roll a little in order to get along. Her tight black dress was worn without a belt or any ornaments (装饰品) other than a large metal cross, well fingered but of no special value, which

hung on a white ribbon around her neck. Her cracked shoes made loud footsteps in the silence of the empty street of closed buildings.

1. What was the woman wearing?

A) a dark dress with a lot of jewellery.

B) a loose summer dress.

C) a dress with a white collar.

D) a plain and simple dress.

2. The woman was hindered in walking by

A) her tight dress.

B) her heavy necklace.

C) her round shape.

D) her worn-out shoes.

说明:

范例6的第1个问题, 答案D)是正确的, 因为文中提到该船有四个大螺旋桨, 每个值300,000美元, 船的其它部分可卖600,000美元, 则该船全部部件共可卖 $300,000 \times 4 + 600,000 = 1,800,000$ 美元。

范例6的第2个问题, 答案C)是对的, 文章第三句提到, 该船搁在海底的时候被约翰买下, 说明是在船沉没之后买的, 既不是在沉下前A)、B), 也不是在打捞到海面之后D)。

范例7的第1个问题, 正确的答案是D): 朴素简单的衣着。文章第二三句指出她衣鞋破旧, 没有任何装饰品, 只有一个无特别价值的金属十字架用白丝带挂在颈上。答案A)提出戴有很多珠宝, 与文章不符; 答案B)指宽松的衣服, 而文章提的是紧身的黑色衣服; 答案C)带白领的衣服, 而文章讲的是黑色衣服, 只不过十字架挂在白色丝带上。

范例7的第2个问题问的是: 这个妇女走路时受……的妨

碍？正确的答案是C)：她的圆胖体型。文章第一句提到由于她又矮又胖，因而不得不蹒跚(roll)而行。其它三个答案都不是妨碍她走路的因素。

三、进行合理的推论和引申，作出正确的结论和判断

大学英语四级考试阅读试题中有一部份问题不是直接从文章本身内容找到答案的，而需要把文章的事实或观点与文内没有说明的但与之有关的思想联系起来。要注意关键词的确切含义，透过字面，探索其深层的内容，理解其隐含的信息，要以文中的事实为依据，进行概括、推论和引申，以求出合乎逻辑的结论，作出正确的判断及合理的推断。要能推断出作者在文章中没有直接说出的观点、态度及暗示和用意。

如：When the phone finally rang, Joe leaped from the edge of his chair and grabbed for it. 这个句子中 finally 一词暗示 Joe 可能已经等候这个电话有一些时候了，leaped (跳起来) 和 grabbed (急促地抓) 进一步印证了这个推断，并暗示他感到有些紧张和焦急，他坐的位置是 the edge of his chair (椅子的边沿)，表明他的不安和急切等待的心情。因而，由这些关键词语可以推断出，He waited for an important call (他等一个重要的电话)。

阅读理解试题中要求进行推论引申的问题形式，常见的有下列一些：

1. It can be concluded from the passage that...
2. The passage supports which of the following conclusions?
3. Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage?
4. The author probably feels that...

5. The passage is intended to...
6. It may be inferred from the passage that...
7. An inference which may be made from the passage is...
8. Implied but not stated...
9. The main idea of the passage suggests...
10. We may assume the passage that...

试读下面三段文章并回答后面的推论性问题。

Example 8

The rubber industry, founded in the 1920's with the foreign investment, and the activity that followed it, brought both progress and profit to Liberia (利比里亚). Before that time Liberia had no roads, no mechanical transport, and no good port; its people had little education and few tools. Now Liberians feel that the country is being ruled by rubber. For this reason the recent discovery of iron ore is important. Liberian leaders are trying to moderate the power of the rubber industry and to establish the country's political and economic independence.

Implied but not stated: The establishment of the rubber industry

- A) brought both progress and profit to Liberia.
- B) solved all of Liberia's problems.
- C) created a problem between the two groups of Negroes.
- D) solved some problems in Liberia and created others.