

全国公共英语等级考试系列用书

(PETS)

新思路
单项技能教材 · 口语

● 张在新 主编

第四级

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前言

级别描述

PETS 考试大纲对第四级的考生群体有详细的描述。本级是 PETS 五个级别中的中上级,其标准相当于我国普通高中毕业生在大学至少又学习了3~4年的公共英语或自学了同等程度英语课程的水平。准备参加该级考试的考生,“一般在22岁以上,或打算攻读普通高校非英语专业硕士研究生学位或已有同等学力从事各种专业技术工作或高级管理工作”。“通过该级考试的考生,其英语水平基本满足攻读高等院校硕士研究生非英语专业的需要,基本符合一般专业技术人员或研究人员、现代企业经理等工作对英语的基本要求”。

另外,考试大纲对该级语言技能也有明确要求:在口语方面,主要有两条:“(1)使用适当、精确的语言表达思想,并能产出较长的、内容较连贯、达意的话语,中途由于考虑措辞及语言的恰当性可以有正常的迟疑或停顿;(2)积极地交流,并能使用有效的交流补救措施。”



教材特点

本口语教材完全是按照 PETS 第四级考试的特点而设计的,主体共分为三个部分:(1)故事部分,(2)漫画部分,(3)练习部分。其中故事部分配有英美专家的录音磁带供考生做听、说训练用。各个部分都有练习参考答案。

考虑到考试大纲的要求以及考生群体对英语交际功能的需求,本教材结合该级口语考试采用考生谈论图画的形式,从下面四个方面满足考生的需求:

1. 熟悉考试形式

(1)本教材采用了40套共约300幅叙事漫画作为信息提示,供学生叙述。每一套漫画后面都配有相关的关键词句,以帮助学生看图表达。

(2)由于 PETS 口语考试是在以两位考生之间的形式进行的,因此本书专门为两人训练而设计。故事和漫画内容在两人之间交流,练习部分也是根据

两人的定位而编写的。

2. 熟悉考试内容

考试大纲没有规定第四级口语考试的交际话题,主要是参考第三级的内容。本教材也基本上参考第三级的口语交际话题来编排所有的故事、漫画和练习,为学生提供有关话题的交际内容和语言素材。(当然还要靠从听、读、写等其它学习途径对有关知识的积累)

3. 语言表达

教材的故事和漫画两个主体部分都能帮助学习者产出较长、内容较连贯、达意的话语。学生使用教材时,一人听故事,另一人看漫画叙述。等各自掌握了故事和漫画的内容之后,两人把自己的故事或漫画内容讲述给对方。在这一交流过程中,学生充分、有效地锻炼了自己的英语表达能力。

4. 积极交流


(1) 学生讲故事时,都不是在复述对方已知的内容,而是互相交换能激发对方兴趣的趣闻趣事。因此能调动他们用英语交流的积极性,满足积极交流的需求。

(2) 教材的另一主体部分是练习,既有情景对话,又有智力思考游戏。在有关提示的帮助下,把学生的注意力引到思维内容上来,减轻语言形式对他们的压力。其主要目的也是为了使他们能积极交流,并逐步形成在思维中使用英语的好习惯。

如何使用教材

一. 自学者使用

教材的三个主体可划分为文字和漫画两大部分,第一部是故事和练习(Book 1: Stories and Exercises),第二部是漫画(Book 2: English Through Cartoons)。使用时,可按以下五个步骤进行:

第一步: 学生A学习第一部第一节(故事听说部分)的内容,这里的所有故事都标有  符号,表示先听后说。听磁带之前,先看一遍关键词,这样可以帮助了解故事的基本内容,同时也学习有关生词。学生B同时做第二部第一节(漫画部分)。先试一试不看关键词,粗略地用英语叙述漫画,然后学习关键词以后再叙述。

整个教材的各个部分都是按话题编排的,每个故事和漫画都标有参考难

度系数: [E] - 容易, [M] - 适中, [D] - 较难。学生活动时不要按教材的先后顺序, 而是按[E]、[M]、[D]的顺序进行, 每次可以讲不同的话题。

第二步: A、B 分别完成了故事和漫画之后, 准备各自讲述自己的故事或漫画内容。同时告诉对方有关故事或漫画的关键词的页码, 供各自在听对方讲故事之前学习(准备关键词时注意不要看漫画)。

第三步: A、B 轮流把自己知道的故事和漫画内容用英语讲述给对方。B 在讲漫画内容时, 不要让 A 看漫画, 要让 A 听懂你讲的内容。如果不懂, A 可以用英语提问, 你再补充。

第四步: A、B 互相复述对方的故事。如有不明白的地方, 互相解释说明。A 在复述漫画故事时, 可以看图进行。如有两人都不清楚的地方, 可以翻到教材的第一部第三节(故事录音副本)或第二部 第二节(漫画参考样文)核对。

第五步: 学生 A 和 B 做第一部 第二节的口语练习。做练习时, 请注意最好先不要借助提示(clues)来完成。完成练习后, 核对第一部 第三节的练习答案。

以上五个步骤构成一个学习单元, 每一单元的训练时间约为 100 分钟。这些步骤在教材的活动部分里不再一一说明。

在此, 提醒各位读者和老师注意以下四点:

1. 学生 A、B 要经常互换角色, 交替学习第一部(故事)和第二部(漫画)的内容。
2. 不要预习, 不要事先阅读第一部第三节(故事录音副本和练习答案)和第二部分第二节(漫画参考样文)的内容, 否则就会影响训练的效果。
3. 学生 A、B 可以参考[E]、[M]、[D]三级难易程度系数, 根据自己的兴趣, 任意选择话题进行讲故事和漫画的活动。两人可以同时讲不同话题的故事, 这样也可以防止对方预习活动内容。
4. 做练习时, 学生自己先根据情景进行操练, 然后再参考关键词或提示完成练习。

二. 课堂使用

虽然本教材主要为考生自学而设计, 但如果是在课堂里有教师辅导当然效果更佳。学生可随时提问, 从教师那里得到帮助。在课堂里, 教师可以在第一步播放故事录音, 也可以自己给小组 A 讲故事(在教室一角或在室外走廊里), 同时让小组 B 准备漫画叙述(在教室里)。其它步骤与自学相同。

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Book 7

Stories and Exercises

Section I: Stories

Business



[M] A Hard-nosed Boss

Key Words and Expressions

- ❖ a hard-nosed boss who watched his employees like a hawk (uncompromising, tough)
- ❖ leaning against a pile of boxes
- ❖ foreman (a person in charge of a group of workers)
- ❖ stood off to the side and watched
- ❖ stand around doing nothing
- ❖ scratched his head
- ❖ took out a nail file and began cleaning his nails (a metal tool that has rough surfaces for reducing or smoothing metal, wood, etc.)
- ❖ stepped from his hiding place
- ❖ boom (to make a deep echoing sound)
- ❖ parking lot (car park: an open area for cars to park in)



[D] The New President

Key Words and Expressions

- ❖ the president who was stepping down met with him privately
- ❖ open these if you run up against a problem
- ❖ things went along pretty smoothly
- ❖ sales took a downturn
- ❖ catching a lot of heat (blame or criticism)

Levels of Difficulty: [E] Easy

[M] Moderately Difficult

[D] Difficult

New words (boldfaced) are explained in parentheses.

- ❖ at his wits' end (made too worried by difficulties to know what to do next)
- ❖ blame your predecessor (person who held a position before you)
- ❖ call a press conference (news conference: a meeting arranged by an important person to which news reporters are invited to listen to a statement or to ask questions)
- ❖ tactfully lay the blame at the feet of the previous president (having the ability to do or say the right thing at the right time)
- ❖ sales began to pick up
- ❖ the problem was soon behind him
- ❖ the company was again experiencing a slight dip in sales (a moderate or temporary decrease)
- ❖ the message read, "Reorganize"
- ❖ streamline the production process (to make a business more simple and more efficient in working)
- ❖ lay off some employees
- ❖ the company quickly rebounded (to recover, to move quickly back to a former level after falling)
- ❖ after several consecutive profitable months (following in a regular or unbroken order)
- ❖ the company once again fell on difficult times

2 Crime



[E] Two Ghosts

Key Words and Expressions

- ❖ strike up a conversation (to begin)
- ❖ how does it feel to freeze to death?
- ❖ get the shakes (the nervous shaking of your body)
- ❖ a very calm way to go
- ❖ you kind of drift off (drift away: sleep slowly)
- ❖ had a heart attack (a medical condition in which your heart stops working, causing you great pain)
- ❖ find my house in a mess

- ❖ the door to the back garden was bolted on the inside
- ❖ burglar (someone who gets into houses, shops, etc. to steal things)
- ❖ basement (a room or area that is under the level of the ground)
- ❖ there was no sign of anyone there
- ❖ attic (a space or room under the roof of a house often used for storing things)
- ❖ if you had only stopped to look in the freezer



[E] Who Sent the Tickets?

Key Words and Expressions

- ❖ went away on their honeymoon (a holiday taken by two people who have just got married)
- ❖ put away all of the presents they received from friends and family
- ❖ to be warmed by the gesture of the person
- ❖ trying to identify the donor (a person who gives or donates)
- ❖ failed in the effort
- ❖ guess the identity of the unknown host (who or what a particular person or thing is)
- ❖ found the house stripped of every article of value
- ❖ a line was written in the same hand on it
- ❖ on the enclosure with the tickets

3 Current Affairs



[M] The Bet

Key Words and Expressions

- ❖ offered a standing \$1,000 bet (permanently agreed or arranged)
- ❖ squeeze just one more drop of juice from a lemon
- ❖ longshoreman (docker: someone whose job is to load and unload ships at a dock)
- ❖ but to date none was able to win the bet (up to the present time; until now)
- ❖ a polyester suit (a man-made material used to make cloth)
- ❖ said in a tiny squeaky voice (making very high noises that are not loud)
- ❖ I'd like to try the bet
- ❖ the laughter had died down

- ❖ only the wrinkled remains of the lemon were left in his hand
- ❖ laughter turning to silence
- ❖ clenched his fist around the lemon (to hold together tightly)
- ❖ the crowd cheered
- ❖ lumberjack (someone whose job is cutting down trees for wood)
- ❖ the IRS (short for the “Internal Revenue Service”: a U.S. Federal agency responsible for collecting taxes)



[D] Noah's Problems

Key Words and Expressions

- ❖ ordering you to build an ark (a large boat; Noah's ark: the large boat which Noah built, according to the Bible, to save his family and two of every type of animal from a flood sent by God)
- ❖ in a flash of lightning
- ❖ he delivered the specifications for the ark
- ❖ trembling with fear
- ❖ fumble with the blueprints
- ❖ the sky began to cloud up
- ❖ the rain began to fall in torrents
- ❖ a lightning bolt crashed into the ground
- ❖ all the trees have been felled down
- ❖ gathering up the animals
- ❖ endangered species facing extinction
- ❖ the sun began to shine
- ❖ a rainbow arched across the sky
- ❖ the water began to recede (to move back or away; go further off)

4 Daily Life



[E] A Park Incident

Key Words and Expressions

- ❖ ripped off a board of the nearby fence (to tear quickly and violently)