英语分类阅读

六级100篇

（附答案、词汇与难点注释）

罗平 李志君

分类阅读

分类突破

阅读高分

一手在握

华中理工大学出版社

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内容提要

本书以帮助广大英语学习者培养及提高英语阅读能力为宗旨，在分析研究国家六级英语考试曝光卷的基础上，将阅读文章的题材分为自然与地理、妇女问题、自然资源与能源、教育、经济、文艺与体育、医学、工农业、人文、交通与建筑等十大类别，进行有针对性的训练和讲解。书中收集了国家六级英语考试曝光卷中的阅读篇章，内容丰富、体裁广泛，突出了知识性和趣味性两大特点，适于广大英语学习者、尤其是高等学校的本科生进行阅读训练。

前言

考完英语六级的大学生朋友走出考场十有八九会说：阅读题真难。回到寝室，清理被自己翻破了的六级单词书和已经听过无数遍的模考磁带，深深地叹了口气：唉，早知如此，平常应该多练一下阅读。可再想想，发现适合自己读的东西似乎太少了。狄更斯的《双城记》至今还呆在书架的一角，无法往下读；《简爱》更是默默承受着被冷落的凄苦。《21世纪报》、《英语学习》固然可以让人亲近，可又苦于没有相应的测试题来检查自己的阅读理解程度。

鉴于上述现象，我们编写了这本书。考虑到六级考题中阅读选题的广泛性，我们在书中列出了十大题材，每个选题下都有十篇从近些年出版的外刊及书籍中选出的文章，每篇文章后配有阅读测试题。

考虑到不同层次的考生的要求，我们在书后附上答案的同时也提供了难点注释。在这部分，我们不求面面俱到，而是突出重点，主要是对一些可能会有疑难的题目进行了简洁的分析和解释。同时，在字里行间也力求给考生一些解题的技巧。另一方面，超纲新词注解旨在帮助读者在阅读各种文章的同时扩大自己的词汇量。建议读者做完阅读文章后面的测试题之后再看单词注解，这样可以做到阅读技能的提高和单词记忆两不误，并且重点放在阅读理解上。我们认为不必为记住几个生僻的单词花费大量时间，而要把精力用来读大量的文章。这样不仅可以使读者阅读时眼到之处心领神会，而且写起文章来也会有一种俯拾皆是的流畅感。

使用本书时，读者可以按照文章编排顺序一一读下去，也可以

每次在不同的题材中选一篇来读。前者可以让你看到同一个世界的不同侧面，而后者则让你在不同的世界里有不同的新鲜感觉。

学外语虽然不大容易，可好在语言这东西并非是天上的星星那般闪烁不定。多读，从而熟悉各种语言表达形式，便自然会按意群阅读。否则只能是鸡啄米般一个字一个字生吞下去，既没有速度，也谈不上理解。一百篇，一千篇，一万篇……，量的积累必然会产生质的飞跃。有一天你会发现自己不仅阅读能力加强了，而且语感也好多了。

然而，在我们的一生中从来没有一本书或一类书可以教会我们生活或学习的全部。只愿我们这本小书能伴你度过大学生活的一部分。也希望你会喜欢其中所选的一些文章，并且在做完练习后能拿过来朗读几遍，相信你一定会有收获的。

但愿这本书会成为你到达狄更斯、勃朗台为你编织的故事乐园的一座桥梁。更希望它能使你在考场上信心倍增，阅读拿高分。

华中理工大学出版社的工作人员对于此书的编写给予了大力帮助，在此深表谢意。

书中若有疏漏，欢迎广大师生及英语爱好者提出宝贵的意见和建议，以便编者不断改进。

编著者

1999 年 9 月

目 录

第一部分

⊙分类阅读·分类突破·阅读高分·一手在握⊙

篇章阅读

Part One Nature & Geography

(自然与地理)

此类文章主要涉及海洋研究、地震学、火山、冰川、气候等方面的问题。在阅读时除了理解文章及段落的大意之外，还应注意文章中某些细节的描写以及词和习语的用法。

Passage 1

Orchids are unique in having the most highly developed of all blossoms, in which the usual male and female reproductive organs are fused in a single structure called the column. The column is designed so that a single pollination will fertilize hundreds of thousands, and in some cases millions, of seeds, so microscopic and light they are easily carried by the breeze. Surrounding the column are three sepals and three petals, sometimes easily recognizable as such, often distorted into gorgeous, weird, but always functional shapes. The most noticeable of the petals is called the labellum, or lip. It is often dramatically marked as an unmistakable landing strip to attract the specific insect the orchid has chosen as its pollinator.

To lure their pollinators from afar, orchids use appropriately intriguing shapes, colors, and scents. At least 50

different aromatic compounds have been analyzed in the orchid family, each blended to attract one, or at most a few, species of insects or birds. Some orchids even change their scents to interest different insects at different times.

Once the right insect has been attracted, some orchids present all sorts of one-way obstacle courses to make sure it does not leave until pollen has been accurately placed or removed by such ingenious adaptations to specific pollinators. Orchids have avoided the hazards of rampant crossbreeding in the wild, assuring the survival of species as discrete identities. At the same time they have made themselves irresistible to collectors.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
   A) Birds
   B) Insects
   C) Flowers
   D) Perfume
2. The orchid is unique because of _____.
   A) the habitat in which it lives
   B) the structure of its blossom
   C) the variety of products that can be made from it
   D) the length of its life
3. The word "fused" in line 3 is closest in meaning to _____.
   A) combined
   B) hidden
   C) fertilized
   D) produced
4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a means by which an orchid attracts insects?
   A) Size
   B) Shape
   C) Color
   D) Perfume
5. Which of the following statements about orchids' scents does the passage support?

A) They are effective only when an insect is near the blossom.

B) Harmful insects are repelled by them.

C) They are difficult to tell apart.

D) They may change at different times.

Passage 2

Standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon, gazing across this giant wound in the Earth's surface, a visitor might assume that the canyon had been caused by some ancient convulsion. In fact, the events that produced the canyon, far from being sudden and cataclysmic, simply add up to the slow and orderly process of erosion.

Many millions of years ago the Colorado Plateau in the Grand Canyon area contained 10 000 more feet of rock than it does today and was relatively level. The additional material consisted of some 14 layered formations of rock. In the Grand Canyon region these layers were largely worn away over the course of millions of years.

Approximately 65 million years ago the plateau's flat surface in the Grand Canyon area bulged upward from internal pressure; geologists refer to this bulging action as upwarping; it was followed by a general elevation of the whole Colorado Plateau, a process that is still going on. As the plateau gradually rose, shallow rivers that meandered across it began to run more swiftly and cut more definite courses. One of these rivers, located east of the upwarp, was the ancestor of the Colorado. Another river system called the Hualapai, flowing west of the upwarp, extended itself eastward by cutting back into the

upwarp; it eventually connected with the ancient Colorado and captured its waters. The new river then began to carve out the 277-mile-long trench that eventually became the Grand Canyon. Geologists estimate that this initial cutting action began no earlier than 10 million years ago.

Since then, the canyon forming has been cumulative. To the corrosive force of the river itself have been added other factors. Heat and cold, rain and snow, along with the varying resistance of the rocks, increase the opportunities for erosion. The canyon walls crumble; the river acquires a cutting tool, tons of debris; rainfall running off the high plateau creates feeder streams that carve side canyons. Pushing slowly backward into the plateau, the side canyons expose new rocks, and the pattern of erosion continues.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
   A) Patterns of erosion in different mountain ranges.
   B) Forces that made the Grand Canyon.
   C) The increasing pollution of the Colorado River.
   D) The sudden appearance of Grand Canyon.
2. In the first sentence, the author refers to the Grand Canyon as a "wound" to indicate that _____.
   A) it was caused by some ancient convulsion
   B) its presence is an embarrassment to the state of Colorado
   C) it looks like an injury on the Earth's surface
   D) it has caused many visitors to injure themselves
3. According to the passage, the first phenomenon to contribute to the formation of the Grand Canyon was _____.
   A) a series of volcanic eruptions

B) the collapse of rock formations in the Colorado Plateau

C) a succession on floods from the Hualapai River and what is now the Colorado River

D) the Earth's internal pressure lifting the Colorado Plateau region

4. What was the geographic position of the upwarp approximately 65 million years ago?

A) To the east of what is now the Colorado River?

B) To the west of the Hualapai River.

C) At the source of the Hualapai River and what is now the Colorado River.

D) Between the Hualapai River and what is now the Colorado River.

5. Which of the following conclusions about the Grand Canyon can be drawn from the passage?

A) Its contours are constantly changing.

B) It contains approximately 14 million tons of rock.

C) Its eruptions have increased in recent years.

D) It is being eroded by toxic waste and pollutants.

Passage 3

Birds that feed in flocks commonly retire together into roosts. The reasons for roosting communally are not always obvious, but there are some likely benefits. In winter especially, it is important for birds to keep warm at night and conserve precious food reserves. One way to do this is to find a sheltered roost. Solitary roosters shelter in dense vegetation or enter a cavity—— horned larks dig holes in the ground and ptarmigan burrow into snow banks—— but the effect of sheltering is

magnified by several birds huddling together in the roosts, as wrens, swifts, brown creepers, bluebirds, and anis do . Body contact reduces the surface area exposed to the cold air, so the birds keep each other warm. Two kinglets huddling together were found to reduce their heat losses by a quarter and three together saved a third of their heat.

The second possible benefit of communal roosts is that they act as "information centers." During the day, parties of birds will have spread out to forage over a very large area. When they return in the evening some will have fed well, but others may have found little to eat. Some investigators have observed that when the birds set out again next morning, those birds that did not feed well on the previous day appear to follow those that did. The behavior of common and lesser kestrels may illustrate different feeding behaviors of similar birds with different roosting habits. The common kestrel hunts vertebrate animals in a small, familiar hunting ground, whereas the very similar lesser kestrel feeds on insects over a large area. The common kestrel roosts and hunts alone, but the lesser kestrel roosts and hunts in flocks, possibly so one bird can learn from others where to find insect swarms.

Finally, there is safety in numbers at communal roosts since there will always be a few birds awake at any given moment to give the alarm. But this increased protection is partially counteracted by the fact that mass roosts attract predators and are especially vulnerable if they are on the ground. Even those in trees can be attacked by birds of prey. The birds on the edge are at greatest risk since predators find it easier to catch small birds perching at the margins of the roost.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?

A) How birds find and store food.

B) How birds maintain body heat in the winter.

C) Why birds need to establish territory.

D) Why some species of birds nest together.

2. The word "conserve" in line 4 is closest in meaning to "_____".

A) retain

B) watch

C) locate

D) share

3. The author mentions kinglets in line 12 as an example of birds that _____.

A) protect themselves by nesting in holes

B) nest with other species of birds

C) nest together for warmth

D) usually feed and nest in pairs

4. Which of the following statements about lesser and common kestrels is TRUE?

A) The lesser kestrel and the common kestrel have similar diets.

B) The lesser kestrel feeds sociably but the common kestrel does not.

C) The common kestrel nests in larger flocks than does the lesser kestrel.

D) The common kestrel nests in trees; the lesser kestrel nests on the ground.

5. Which of the following is a disadvantage of communal roosts that is mentioned in the passage?

A) Diseases easily spread among the birds.

B) Groups are more attractive to predators than individual

birds.

C) Food supplies are quickly depleted.

D) Some birds in the group will attack the others.

Passage 4

Lichens can be spectacular for anyone who cares to look, but few people take the trouble. Often modestly colored, and seemingly two-dimensional as they cling to whatever surface they find, they grow in background—— as though designed to be ignored. Yet they hold a special fascination for botanists, partly because they present mysteries still to be solved and partly because they do so many things so well.

No casual observer of a lichen would ever suspect that it was a composite of interacting life forms. The seemingly uncomplicated lichen is actually composed of a fungus and a colony of algae (or blue-green algae, which some scientists now consider to be bacteria). A few species even include all three of these diverse forms of life. A complete lichen is strikingly different from its separated partners in both appearance and biochemistry; many produce ***unique*** compounds which cannot be made by the component organisms alone.

Lichens grow in almost every natural habitat imaginable, from deserts to tropical rain forests—— even on the backs of certain beetles in New Guinea, and inside rocks (along with algae) in the otherwise barren dry valleys of Antarctica.

Many species can tolerate extreme heat, cold, or dryness. Very few, however, can survive heavy air pollution, and many live only where the air is very clean. The disappearance of lichens from an area gives warning of a threatened environment.