

Advanced
Reading Test Preparation
高级英语应试阅读系列

Reading For CET-4 四级阅读

朱 篱 编著

CET-4
CET-4

PETS-4
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清华大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书从 100% 的原文资料中精选了 76 篇文章, 由易到难编成 60 篇阅读理解题和 4 份测试题。练习题的设计兼顾到各种阅读技能, 给读者提供了充分的练习和测试机会。阅读理解题配有问题解答和语言注释, 帮助读者全面理解文章的内容和语言结构。

与本书配套使用的录音磁带和 CD-ROM 光盘请另外购买。

读者对象: 准备参加英语四级 (CET-4) 和全国公共英语四级考试 (PETS4) 的读者。

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前 言

《高级英语应试阅读—四级阅读》是为大学英语四级考试编写的一本阅读教材。

许多同学想知道怎样才能尽快提高英语水平并在考试中取得良好成绩。国内外有许多学者认为，除非有机会在英语国家生活，提高英语水平的最好方法就是阅读。通过阅读一方面可以获得大量的语言信息，学到很多有用的词汇和句法结构，另一方面又为语言的输出如写作和口头表达打下坚实的基础。

阅读的重要性也体现在考题本身。大学英语四级考试阅读部分的得分权重最大，而且除了阅读理解部分外，其它题目类型大多与阅读有密切关系。大学英语四级考试中的完型填空、词汇与结构多项选择、英译中、简短问答题等都与阅读有关。

阅读理解能力的培养也是十分重要的。阅读的过程并不是传统意义上的被动地接受知识，而是读者与文本之间进行互动交流、主动积极地获取信息的过程。除了理解文章字面意义，还应该理解和归纳文章的要旨和中心思想、理解和辨析支撑文章中心思想的细节内容、从字里行间推断文章的深层含义、揣测作者的意图、观点和态度、根据上下文推测词义、理解上下文的逻辑关系等等。以上这些阅读技能也只有在阅读实践中得到提高。

因此，无论是作为输入语言材料的手段，还是在考试得分中所占的比重，还是提高阅读技能，阅读都是至关重要的。《高级英语应试阅读——六级篇》正是基于这样的考虑而编写的，使读者通过广泛的阅读实践，从而提高英语语言技能和阅读技能。

另外，根据教育部考试中心有关全国公共英语等级考试的级别定位的说明，该书也适用于准备参加全国公共英语五级考试的读者。

本书紧扣《大学英语教学大纲》和大学英语考试委员会的命题要求，在选材和问题设计上下了很大功夫。具体说来有以下特色。

1. 本书的语言材料在难度和量方面略微高于考试中使用的阅读材料，这使读者能够在以后的考试中驾轻就熟。

2. 本书的材料大部分都是近期发表的文字资料，读者可以从中获得最新的信息，接触到最新的语言材料。所选文章除了涉及英语国家的文化以外，还有大量关于现代科技方面的内容。历年考试中所使用的文章，不外乎是关于这两方面的内容。熟悉这些内容可为以后的阅读打下基础，也可为应试做好准备。

3. 本书采用的文章是 100% 的原文，在词汇和句法结构上未作任何简化处理，真实地反映了当今英语国家人们使用英语的现状。以往考试中的阅读理解文章为了把难度限制在一定范围以内，对文章的语言作了大规模的简化处理。而这些被替换的单词和词组是说英语国家人们经常使用的、具有丰富表达力语言手段。这或许是许多人虽然通过六级考试，却仍看不懂原文的症结所在了。但是，为了方便读者，每篇文章后面增加了单词表，并对文章中的难点进行注释。

4. 本书对书中出现的语言现象作了较详细的注释，这包括词汇、短语、惯用法、语法知识等。在注释过程中，还使用来自于 BNC 和 Brown 等著名语料库中的近千个原文例句，每个例句都辅以中文翻译，因此这些例句本身就提供了丰富的语言材料。

本书共有 76 篇文章，其中 16 篇用于测试。文章按难度梯度排列。每隔 15 篇文章进行一次测试，每次四篇文章。为了取得最佳阅读效果，我们认为在阅读时应注意以下几个方面：

1. 首先要熟悉单词例表中的生词。由于是原文，词汇量比较大，所以一定要在了解单词例表中生词的大概意思后再进行阅读。

2. 阅读和答题要在规定的时间内完成，每篇文章限制在 9 分钟以内。由于阅读不仅要有正确的理解，还要有一定的速度。因此，

在规定的时间内完成阅读任务是十分重要的。

3. 具体阅读方法因人而异。但一般的阅读方法是，首先快速浏览全文，接着回答问题，然后再有针对性地读第二遍或第三遍。

4. 查阅问题解答，如果有错，应该知道错在哪里。在完成阅读理解任务以后，可以仔细阅读全文和后面的注释，做到基本掌握文章中出现的单词、词组和句法结构。

在本书的编写过程中，得到朱研、承亚非、路明、鲁曙明、史丹吉、张小钢、陈怡、孙新宇、李惠等同志的支持和帮助，谨此致谢。

书中难免有疏漏之处，敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2001年5月

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¹ 目录中的标题是编者加的，目的是便于读者检索。正文里的各 passage 没有标题，这与正式考试题型一致。

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Part I

Passage 1

British television viewers are officially the biggest soap addicts in the world, with two-thirds confessing to regularly tuning in to their favourite kitchen sink drama. Even prolific TV consumers such as the Americans have a smaller appetite for soap operas compared with this country's passion for the likes of EastEnders, Brookside, Emmerdale and Coronation Street.

Even the Brazilians, renowned as the most soap-crazy nation in the world, cannot match our viewing figures: 64 per cent of Brazil's TV viewers are regular soap watchers. China is the third-largest consumer of soap operas with 58 per cent watching regularly. By comparison, only 21 per cent of American TV viewers watch soaps. Steve Thomson, director of Roper Starch, thinks the US's surprising indifference is explained by the different types of soaps available in the UK and America.

"ER is not counted as a soap in our survey, but it performs the same role for American viewers as soaps do in this country, with engaging characters and continuing storylines," he said. US soaps are frequently low-quality, daytime offerings which the majority of viewers disregard. UK soaps are of a far better quality and are included in the peaktime schedules of the major terrestrial channels.

"It's a chicken-and-egg situation," said Mr Thomson. "Our TV controllers know there is an enormous appetite for soaps so they invest a lot of money in them which means they are inevitably better productions".

Soap operas are not on UK viewers' wish lists for the types of programme they would like to see more of, perhaps because they have reached a saturation point. Only seven per cent of the people would like to see more soaps while 31 per cent would like more feature films in the schedules and 16 per cent would prefer to see more natural history programmes. Comedy is also high on the wish list, with 23 per cent wanting more on TV.

Not all UK viewers are mad about soaps. A group identified in the survey as the "creatives", those driven by a desire to be informed, are the least interested in soaps. "These are generally the most educated viewers, so as the population gets better educated, with more and more people going into higher education, life will become harder for the soaps," Mr Thomson predicted.

Comprehension Questions

1. All of the following are true of soap operas in Britain EXCEPT _____.
 - (A) they have engaging characters and continuing storylines
 - (B) there are enough of them to satisfy viewers
 - (C) they are mostly aired in peaktime
 - (D) they will soon disappear from British television
2. Americans view fewer soap operas because _____.
 - (A) there are not as many soap operas available
 - (B) Americans are too busy working
 - (C) soap operas in America are poor productions
 - (D) Americans' viewing taste has changed
3. Which of the following can be inferred about ER?
 - (A) It's included in the peaktime schedules.
 - (B) It's a soap opera.
 - (C) It's of low quality.

- (D) It costs more to produce than British soap operas.
4. Which of the following is the number one program UK viewers wish to see more of?
- (A) Soap operas
(B) Films
(C) History programs
(D) Comedies
5. Those who don't like soap operas believe ____.
- (A) soap operas are not very informative
(B) soap operas takes up too much viewing time
(C) soap operas are not engaging enough
(D) soap operas require viewers to have had higher education

Word List

soap (opera) n. 肥皂剧

addict n. 入迷的人

confess v. 承认

tune in to v. 接收 (收音机、电视节目)

sink n. 水池

prolific adj. 丰富的

renowned adj. 著名的

indifference n. 漠不关心

count v. 计算在内, 认为

engaging adj. 动人的

storyline n. 故事情节

disregard v. 漠视

peaktime n. (收视) 高峰时间

terrestrial adj. (英国地) 地面的 (电视传送系统)

chicken-and-egg adj. 因果秩序难定的

saturation n. 饱和

feature v. 刊登

Notes

- [1] British television viewers are officially the biggest soap addicts in the world, with two-thirds confessing to regularly tuning in to their favourite kitchen sink drama.: 英国电视观众被正式认为是全世界肥皂剧最铁的观众。有三分之二的人承认经常收看喜欢的肥皂剧。

to confess to 意为“承认”，“坦言”。例如：

I confess to being stunned by what I learned from this book. 我的确为书中的内容而感到震惊。

kitchen sink drama 用来代替肥皂剧，kitchen sink 意为“厨房洗涤池”。

- [2] the likes of EastEnders, Brookside, Emmerdale and Coronation Street: 像 EastEnders, Brookside, Emmerdale and Coronation Street 这样的电视剧。

the likes of 用来表示某一类人或事物。例如：

This magazine does sell more copies than the likes of Time, Newsweek, or even Sports Illustrated. 这本杂志的确比《时代》、《新闻周刊》、甚至《体育画报》这类杂志更畅销。

I was staring into those amazing eyes, the likes of which I knew I would never see again. 我凝视着那双充满魅力的眼睛，我知道类似这样的眼睛我不会再看到了。

- [3] It's a chicken-and-egg situation...: 这是一个先有鸡还是先有蛋的问题。

chicken-and-egg 或 **chicken and egg** 用来形容因果关系难以确定的状况。例如：

The government needed the approval of the majority of peasants before land reform could take place and there's this sort of chicken and egg problem in that do you have land reform in order to mobilize peasant support or is it the peasant support that's going to enable land reform to take place successfully. 政府需要得到广大农民的支持才能进行土地改革。这儿是一个先有鸡还是先有蛋的问题：你是实行土改来鼓动农民的支持还是农民的支持使土改能够成功进行。

- [4] Our TV controllers know there is an enormous appetite for soaps so they invest a lot of money in them which means they are inevitably better productions. 我们的电视主管部门知道人们非常喜欢肥皂剧，因此他们对此投入了很多的钱财，这意味着这样的肥皂剧是有一定质量的。

which 所引导的是一个非限定性定语从句，它不是修饰某一个词或短语，而是修饰前面的一个句子，即 they invest a lot of money in them。非限定性定语从句一般用逗号和被修饰部分隔开，但本句中是比较随便的用法。

- [5] Soap operas are not on UK viewers' wish lists for the types of programme they would like to see more of...: 肥皂剧不是英国观众更想看的那种节目。

wish list 用来形容人们理想中希望得到的东西。例如：

A bottle of whisky a day would definitely come on the wish list, said Edwards. Edwards 说，每天喝一瓶威士忌是他梦寐以求的。

Passage 2

All research to date on body image shows that women are much more critical of their appearance than men—much less likely to admire what they see in the mirror. Up to 8 out of 10 women are dissatisfied with their reflection, and more than half may see a distorted image.

Men looking in the mirror are more likely to be either pleased with what they see or indifferent. Research shows that men generally have a much more positive body-image than women—if anything, they may tend to over-estimate their attractiveness. Some men looking in the mirror may literally not see the flaws in their appearance.

Why are women so much more self-critical than men? Because women are judged on their appearance more than men, and standards of female beauty are considerably higher and more inflexible. Women are continually bombarded with images of the “ideal” face. And constant exposure to idealised images of female beauty on TV, magazines and billboards makes exceptional good looks seem normal and anything short of perfection seem abnormal and ugly. It has been estimated that young women now see more images of outstandingly beautiful women in one day than our mothers saw throughout their entire adolescence.

Also, most women are trying to achieve the impossible: standards of female beauty have in fact become progressively more unrealistic during the last century. In 1917, the physically perfect woman was about 5ft 4in tall and weighed nearly 10 stone. Even 25 years ago, top models and beauty queens weighed only 8% less than the average woman, now they weigh 23% less. The current media ideal for women is achievable by less than 5% of the female population—and that’s just in terms of weight and size. If you want the ideal shape, face etc., it’s probably more like 1%.

Comprehension Questions

1. The main purpose of the passage is to _____.
 - (A) explain a phenomenon
 - (B) compare two facts
 - (C) make a suggestion
 - (D) strengthen a current theory