蔡昌卓　田穗文　**总主编**

● 蓝　伟　主编

大学英语阅读高手

第3册

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Preface

序

在当代社会,阅读是我们每一个人在学习、生活和工作中最为基本的一项技能。我们接受外界的知识和信息,处理日常生活中的各种问题,在很大程度上需要阅读文字材料,从中获取自己所需的东西。学习英语,阅读历来就是一条必不可少的重要途径,这既是提高学习者语言综合能力的手段,也是学习语言的重要目的之一。无论在国内,还是在国外,阅读理解一直是衡量外语水平的重要标准。美国的 TOEFL、GRE,英国的雅思,国内的中考、高考、PETS,大学英语四、六级考试,英语专业四、八级考试,阅读理解都是必测项目,而且所占得分比重很大。阅读理解对我们每个人来说,其作用自古至今都不容置疑。

长期以来,阅读教学一直是我国外语教学中的重要环节,教师们期望以读带动听、说、写、译等四种能力的提高。几年前,我应一家外语杂志的邀请,开辟了"蔡博士专栏",定期撰写这方面的文章,通过实例来探讨这个课题,以求解决英语学习者的困惑。后来因工作过于繁忙,虽只坚持了两年多,但收获还是很大的,而且这个栏目受到了广大师生的好评,在社会上也产生了较大的反响。这虽是一种尝试,但值得继续深入探究,为后来者提供参考与借鉴。

2004 年初,教育部颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》,进一步明确了大学英语的教学目标是"以培养学生的英语综合应用能力",注重"英语语言知识与应用技能、学习策略",使他们"在今后工作和社会交往中能用英语有效地进行口头和书面的信息交流,同时增强其自主学习能力,提高综合文化素养,以适应我国社会发展和国际交流的需要"。该要求虽然提升了听与说在日常教学中的地位,但对阅读理解能力的重要性丝毫没有减弱。它将大学阶段的英语教学要求分为三个层次:一般要求、较高要求和更高要求,每个层次都对学生的英语阅读能力提出了具体而明确的要求。在一般要求层次中规定,"在阅读篇幅较长、难度略大的材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词。能

基本读懂国内英文报刊,掌握中心意思,理解重要事实和有关细节。能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料。能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法"。

但在日常教学中,要做到《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》规定的各项要求,还有很大的差距,况且中国这么大,各地的生源差别又十分明显。我们的大学英语教学,由于条件和课时的限制,课堂教学偏重精讲多练,阅读量远远不够,学生们普遍反映阅读能力和词汇量很难提高。我想,这与大学英语的自身发展过程中存在的问题有很大关系。当前大学英语教学过于功利和教条,在较大程度上受四、六级统考所左右,教学理论多从欧美照搬照抄,方法时旧时新,西方的洋东西没有较好地融于本土,忘记了"中学为体,西学为用"的祖训。一些教师更偏向口语能力的训练,错误地认为只有听说才是语言交际的唯一途径,忽略了阅读在非母语语境中的应有地位。其实,读写在第二语言学习中扮演着十分重要的交际角色。在日常教学中,不少人把阅读与应试等同起来,一些老师不去想方设法扩大学生的阅读量与提高学生阅读兴趣和阅读方法,而是片面追求阅读在考试中的得分,因而把阅读课当成应试课来上,使学生对阅读、甚至对大学英语教学产生厌倦或恐惧,其结局就可想而知了。

当今,市场上的阅读书籍五花八门,多不胜数,但应试书过多,而适合各种层次各个学段的学生阅读的书则太少,教师对学生课外阅读抓得不紧,学生喜爱的读物又很难弄到,这无疑对学生学习英语不利。试想,从小学到大学,光那几本教材就能学好英语?加上在校园里还是在校园外,能经常运用英语的机会十分有限,大学毕业过不了几年就交还给老师了。因此,我认为,没有必要规定所有学生都要学习外语,更没有必要让所有学生学习英语。许多非通用语种学了以后或许对学生将来的事业更有益处。所有这些,都值得我们深思,都急待我们去解决。

应苏州大学出版社的盛情邀请,我和田穗文教授根据多年教学心得和新课程要求,组织了一些高校大学英语骨干教师一起探究阅读教学,结合我们教学的实际需要,费时费力,编写了这套阅读课本,但愿能给各位同学带来一些裨益,并盼老师和同学不吝赐教。

蔡昌卓
2007 年 6 月 13 日于山水甲天下的桂林

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Unit 1

Part I Reading Comprehension
(Skimming and Scanning)(15 minutes)

Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the
   passage quickly and answer the questions.
For questions 1-7, mark

Y(for YES)   if the statement agrees with the information given in the
            passage;

N(for NO)   if the statement contradicts the information given in the
            passage;

NG(for NOT GIVEN)   if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information
   given in the passage.

Where You Live Linked to Life
Expectancy

   Where one lives, combined with race and income, plays a huge role in
the health differences in the United States. The differences are so stark(明显
的) that a report issued Monday contends it is as if there are eight separate
Americans instead of one.

   Asian-American women living in Bergen County, N. J. , lead the nation

in longevity, typically reaching their 91st birthdays. Worst off are American-Indian men in swaths of South Dakota, who die around age 58—three decades sooner.

Millions of the worst-off Americans have life expectancies typical of developing countries, concluded Dr. Christopher Murray of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Asian-American women can expect to live 13 years longer than low-income black women in the rural South, for example. That's like comparing women in wealthy Japan to those in poverty-ridden Nicaragua.

Compare those longest-living women to inner-city black men, and the life-expectancy gap is 21 years. That's similar to the life-expectancy gap between Iceland and Uzbekistan.

Health disparities are widely considered an issue of minorities and the poor being unable to find or afford good medical care. Murray's county-by-county comparison of life expectancy shows the problem is far more complex, and that geography plays a crucial role.

"Although we share in the U. S. a reasonably common culture, there's still a lot of variation in how people live their lives," explained Murray, who reported initial (初期的) results of his government-funded study in the online science journal *PLoS Medicine*.

Consider, the longest-living whites weren't the relatively wealthy, which Murray calls "Middle America." They're edged out(逐渐排挤掉) by low-income residents of the rural Northern Plains states, where the men tend to reach age 76 and the women 82.

Yet low-income whites in Appalachia and the Mississippi Valley die four years sooner than their Northern neighbors.

He cites American Indians as another example. Those who don't live on or near reservations in the West have life expectancies similar to whites'.

"If it's your family involved, these are not small differences in lifespan," Murray said. "Yet that sense of alarm isn't there in the public."

"If I were living in parts of the country with those sorts of life

expectancies, I would want to be asking my local officials or state officials or my congressman, 'Why is this?'"

This more precise measure of health disparities will allow federal officials to better target efforts to battle inequalities, said Dr. Wayne Giles of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDCP for short), which helped fund Murray's work.

The CDCP has some county-targeted programs, like one that has cut in half diabetes-caused amputations(截肢)among black men in Charleston, S. C., since 1999, largely by encouraging physical activity and the new study argues for more, he said.

"It's not just telling people to be active or not to smoke," Giles said. "We need to create the environment which assists people in achieving a healthy lifestyle."

The study also highlights that the complicated tapestry of local and cultural customs may be more important than income in driving health disparities, said Richard Suzman of the National Institute on Aging, which co-funded the research.

"It's not just low income," Suzman said. "It's what people eat, it's how they behave, or simply what's available in supermarkets."

Murray analyzed mortality(死亡率) data between 1982 and 2001 by county, race, gender and income. He found some distinct groupings that he named the "eight Americans":

—Asian-Americans, average per capita income of $21,566, have a life expectancy of 84.9 years.

—Northland low-income rural whites, $17,758, 79 years.

—Middle Americans (mostly white), $24,640, 77.9 years.

—Low-income whites in Appalachia, Mississippi Valley, $16,390, 75 years.

—Western American Indians, $10,029, 72.7 years.

—Black Middle Americans, $15,412, 72.9 years.

—Southern low-income rural blacks, \$10,463, 71.2 years.

—High-risk urban blacks, \$14,800, 71.1 years.

Longevity disparities were most pronounced in young and middle-aged adults. A 15-year-old urban black man was 3.8 times as likely to die before the age of 60 as an Asian-American, for example.

That's key, Murray said, because this age group is left out of many government health programs that focus largely on children and the elderly.

Moreover, the longevity gaps have stayed about the same for 20 years despite increasing national efforts to eliminate obvious racial and ethnic health disparities, he found.

Murray was surprised to find that lack of health insurance explained only a small portion of those gaps. Instead, differences in alcohol and tobacco use, blood pressure, cholesterol(胆固醇) and obesity(过度肥胖) seemed to drive death rates.

Most important, he said, will be pinpointing(精确地确定……位置) geographically defined factors, such as shared ancestry, dietary customs, local industry, what regions are more or less prone(易于……的) to physical activity that in turn influence those health risks.

For example, scientists have long thought that the Asian longevity advantage would disappear once immigrant families adopted higher-fat Western diets. Murray's study is the first to closely examine second-generation Asian Americans, and found their advantage persists.

The 10 counties with the highest and lowest life expectancy, according to a study in the online science journal *PLoS Medicine*:

Highest Life Expectancy		Lowest Life Expectancy	
Clear Creek, Colo.	81.3	Washabaugh, S.D.	66.6
Eagle, Colo.	81.3	Todd, S.D.	66.6
Gilpin, Colo.	81.3	Shannon, S.D.	66.6
Grand, Colo.	81.3	Mellette, S.D.	66.6
Jackson, Colo.	81.3	Jackson, S.D.	66.6
Park, Colo.	81.3	Bennett, S.D.	66.6

Summit, Colo.	81.3	Baltimore City, Md.	68.6
Montgomery, Md.	81.3	Petersburg, Va.	69.6
Lyon, Iowa	81.3	Marlboro, S.C.	69.6
Sioux, Iowa	81.3	Phillips, Ark.	69.8

Life expectancy by state, according to a study in the online science journal *PLoS Medicine*:

State Life Expectancy Rank

Hawaii	80.0	1	N.M.	77.0	27
Idaho	77.9	15	N.Y.	77.7	19
Ill.	76.4	33	N.D.	78.3	8
Ind.	76.1	37	Ohio	76.2	36
Iowa	78.3	7	Ore.	77.8	17
Kan.	77.3	24	Pa.	76.7	31
Maine	77.6	20	R.I.	78.3	9
Md.	76.3	35	S.D.	77.7	18
Mass.	78.4	5	Texas	76.7	30
Mich.	76.3	34	Utah	78.7	3
Minn.	78.8	2	Vt.	78.2	11
Mont.	77.2	25	Va.	76.8	28
Neb.	77.8	16	Wash.	78.2	13
N.H.	78.3	6	Wis.	77.9	14
N.J.	77.5	23	Wyo.	76.7	32

1. There are great differences in life expectancy in the United States. (   )

2. American Indian women lead the nation in longevity. (   )

3. Life-expectancy gap in the US is as wide as 21 years. (   )

4. The longest-living whites are those relatively wealthy " Middle Americans. " (   )

5. Murray's study showed that the Asian longevity advantage disappeared. (   )

6. Longevity gaps will disappear in the future. (　　)
7. Six counties in S. D. have the lowest life expectancy according to the study in the online science journal *PLoS Medicine*. (　　)
8. The minorities and the poor tend to have shorter life expectancy because they are _____.
9. According to the study in the online science journal *PLoS Medicine*, life expectancy in Grand, Colo. is _____.
10. According to the study in the online science journal *PLoS Medicine*, Minnesota ranks _____ in life expectancy.

Part II Reading Comprehension

(Reading in Depth) (25 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please choose the corresponding letter for each item. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Welcome to Oxford

Russia will cooperate closely with China on moon exploration and the two nations could sign space cooperation __1__ by the year's end, the Russian space chief said Monday.

Federal Space Agency chief Anatoly Perminov said that Chinese experts had shown a strong interest in Russia's lunar experience.

"Russia is ready for __2__ cooperation with China in the field," Perminov said Monday in remarks posted on his agency's Web site. " This is a serious and quite __3__ field of cooperation. In the past the Russian--Chinese cooperation have been __4__ limited to the sales of Russian equipment, but now we are considering the development and implementation of joint projects. "

The Soviet Union sent __5__ unmanned missions that explored the moon, including two rovers that studied the moon's __6__ in 1970 – 1973. However, it lost the moon race to the United States, abandoning its manned

__7__ program after a series of booster explosions.

"Joint lunar research is our priority," Anatoly Perminov said, according to the RIA Novosti news agency. He didn't elaborate on __8__ plans for the moon research, but said that new agreements on space cooperation could be __9__ during Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov's visit to Beijing in the fall.

Perminov also said that China could join Russia's project of sending a probe to Mars' moon, Phobos, to take samples of Phobos soil and __10__ them back to the Earth. The mission is set for 2009.

A) surface	F) close	K) samples
B) deliver	G) specific	L) lunar
C) elaborate	H) closely	M) signed
D) agreements	I) promising	N) mission
E) cooperation	J) numerous	O) mostly

Section B

Directions: There are two passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice.

Passage One

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

Visitors to Britain may find the best place to sample local culture is in a traditional pub. The bar counter is possibly the only site in the British Isles in which a friendly conversation with strangers is considered entirely appropriate and really quite normal behaviour. "If you haven't been to a pub, you haven't been to Britain. "This tip can be found in a booklet. But the trouble is that if you do not follow the local rules, the experience may fall flat. For example, if you are in a big group, it is best if only one or two people go to

buy the drinks.

In Britain, pub-goers will indicate in unspoken ways if they are interested in chatting. Concentrate on those who have bought drinks and are still loitering(闲逛,游荡) at the bar. Those who have moved to sit at tables are probably not seeking company. Look for people with "open" body language, facing outwards into the room. Don't ever introduce yourself with an outstretched hand and a big smile. The British, quite frankly, do not want to know your name and shake your hand.

Talk generally about the weather, the beer or the pub and at an appropriate moment, offer to your newfound companion a drink. This exchange is key to feeling part of the pub crowd and thereby getting to know more about Britain than its tourist's spots. The ritual of sharing—buying rounds of drinks in turn—is of great significance. This is because the British male is frightened of intimacy, finds it difficult to express friendly interest in other males.

If you are having British friends or business contracts, one of your hosts will probably buy the first round, but you should be quick to offer the next. The right time to offer to buy a drink is when their glasses are still a quarter full. The line of "It's my round—What are you having?" may not be in your phrase book, but it is one of the most useful sentences in the English language.

1. What's the meaning of "the experience may fall flat" in Line 6, Para. 1, according to the context?
   A) It will be meaningless.
   B) This experience may produce no result.
   C) This experience will be wonderful.
   D) This experience will not be interesting.

2. According to the passage, what's your best choice if you want to find someone to talk to in the bar?
   A) Tell people that you are interested in chatting.