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大学英语阅读高手

第2册

◆ 苏州大学出版社

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Preface

序

· 大学英语阅读高手 ·

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,阅读历来就是一项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,还是在海外,阅读理解一直是衡量外语水平的重要标准。美国的托福,英国的雅思,国内的中考、高考、公共英语等级考试,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“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)

Directions: Read 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.

Text A

The Last Day

It was 10 pm. Fritz said good night to his wife. She was watching TV. He went to bed. Tomorrow was a big day. It was his last day of work. Thirty years with the Federal government. Thirty years of flying out of town for weeks on end (连续不断地). Thirty years of interviews, meetings, and heavy briefcases. Tomorrow it would all be over. Not that he didn't like the job. He had enjoyed his career.



Fritz felt blessed (幸福的). His father had had a difficult life as an unskilled laborer. Whenever Fritz was a bit discouraged or upset, he thought about his overworked and underpaid father. He thanked God for his own good life, and for the fact that he had been able to make his dad's last years comfortable.

His two children were married and had their own careers. His wife Paige kept busy with, among other things, her bridge club. She had tried to get him interested in bridge, but without success. Fritz was content with his own Friday night poker (扑克) group.

Friday morning, he went to work for the very last time. Those who knew him well would miss him. Fritz was a genuinely nice guy. He never had a bad word to say about anyone. Some people might have thought he was a little dull, but he was intelligent, a hard worker, and a team player. He had taken only three weeks of sick leave in 30 years.

A small group took him out to lunch. When he returned from lunch, the whole office gathered around for cake, ice cream, a farewell card, and a few short speeches. They presented him with various going-away gifts, including a big, paperback world atlas (a book of maps). It listed all the motels, campgrounds, national parks, tourist spots, and other information to help guide a leisurely traveler throughout the good world. He had told his friends that he and Paige were going to spend a couple of years visiting all the places that he never had gotten to explore while he was there on business. As a final gift, his supervisor told him to take the rest of the day off.

Paige's car wasn't in the driveway when he got home. She was probably shopping for some traveling clothes. Maybe she was out arranging a dinner at a restaurant that evening for just the two of them. That would be nice. But something was wrong. When he hung up his jacket, he saw that the bedroom closet was half empty. Paige's clothes were gone. Her shoes were not on the closet floor. Confused, he looked around the bedroom.

He saw an envelope on the lamp stand. Inside it were two pieces of paper. One notified him of a divorce proceeding. The other was a hand-written note from Paige. "I'm so sorry," it began. She said that her lawyer had told her to wait until today. If she had sought divorce a year earlier, like her boyfriend had suggested, she would not have been able to qualify for 50 percent of Fritz's pension. She hoped that he would find it in his heart to forgive her. She felt terrible about this, she wrote, because "you've been so good to me. But I can't ignore my own heart."

Fritz sat immobile(一动不动的) on the edge of the bed. Her note was in his hand; her words were burning in his brain. Maybe an hour later, the phone rang. He picked it up on the fifth ring. It was Bob, wondering if Fritz was going to play poker later that night.

1. Mr. Fritz said good night to his wife at 22 o'clock while she was watching TV. ()
2. Mr. Fritz didn't like his job because it kept him busy. ()
3. Mr. Fritz was not as rich as his father because he was lack of experience. ()
4. Mr. Fritz was about to retire and needn't work anymore when tomorrow was over. ()
5. Fritz was a real good man and never had a bad word to say about anyone. ()
6. To Mr. Fritz's great surprise, when he got home, he saw two pieces of paper left by his wife, one of which notified him of a divorce proceeding. ()
7. Mr. Fritz and his wife had one clever son and one beautiful daughter. ()
8. Mr. Fritz's wife Paige kept busy with her bridge club. She had tried to _____, but failed.
9. If Mr. Fritz's wife Paige had sought divorce a year earlier, she would



- not have been able to qualify for _____.
10. Mr. Fritz sat immobile on the edge of the bed. Her note was in his hand and her words _____.

Text B

Health Warnings

A lot of people in many countries are very conscious of their health and try to maintain a nutritious diet and daily routines to sustain good health. Yet, for many years the tobacco and liquor industries have tried to project the image of style, fashion and sophistication(老练) for those who use their products.

Most of them have learned, however, that the dangers imposed to health by tobacco and alcohol can no longer be denied or ignored. It is no longer considered macho(大男子气概) or fashionable to smoke a cigarette or take a shot of whiskey straight up to impress others. The campaigns to alert the public to the evils of these two social drugs have been intense and effective. However, most people, young or old, dislike being warned that they shouldn't do something. It is a kind of psychological resistance.

Yet, all tobacco and liquor products must now contain a warning on the package or label. The warning is simple, but the message is clear: smoking and drinking are hazardous to the health. The wording may vary, but it is phrased in such a way as to draw the attention of the consumer to the danger. There are currently about nine warnings which are printed on labels. Some of them are: "Cigarettes are addictive(使人上瘾的)", "Cigarettes cause fatal lung disease", "Smoking during pregnancy can harm your baby", "Tobacco smoke can harm your children", and "Cigarettes cause strokes and fatal heart disease". All of these and others appear regularly on the side of a pack of cigarettes and are preceded by the word "WARNING!" Some people have suggested that the word

“WARNING” should be eliminated since it might increase an interest in smoking among young people. Labels that contain information and do not give orders have proven effective in deterring(吓住) behavior.

On most TV all tobacco advertising is legally banned, and every ad in a magazine must display the warning. There are many public notices on trains and buses giving out the warning that smoking is linked to lung cancer and other lung and heart diseases.

The warning against alcohol consumption is of a different kind. The warning goes out especially to women who are pregnant and anyone operating a car or electrical machinery. A woman who is carrying a child in her womb can cause damage to the fetus(胎儿) by drinking alcohol. Also anyone operating a machine runs the risk of an accident which could be fatal. Such warnings appear on all wine and whiskey bottles and even an apparently harmless can of beer.

For those who are deeply entrenched in their habit, group help is provided in the form of “Smoke-Enders” and “Alcoholics Anonymous”. Also known as AA, “Alcoholics Anonymous” is a worldwide organization dedicated to the curing of alcoholics. This organization helps the addict to control, curb and eventually eliminate the habit. The organization was established in 1935 by two former alcoholics. The organization, which functions through local groups, is based on a philosophy of life that has enabled countless numbers of people to recover from alcoholism. In 1988 there were one million members worldwide. For spouses, relatives and friends of alcoholics there is even the support group known as Al-Anon. To further encourage the smoker to quit, life insurance premiums(保险费) may be reduced for those who have quit smoking. The benefits, therefore, can be seen not only in terms of health and safety, but also with regard to finance.

1. The tobacco and liquor industries have tried to project the image of



- style and fashion to the public. ()
2. A lot of people know that the dangers imposed to health by tobacco and alcohol can be ignored. ()
 3. Few young people offer psychological resistance to the health warnings against tobacco and alcohol. ()
 4. The essence of the warning on cigarettes and alcohol is that alcohol and smoking are dangerous to the health. ()
 5. The warning "Smoke but don't inhale too deeply" often appears on a package of cigarettes. ()
 6. Advertising for coca products is banned from most TV advertising. ()
 7. The warning against alcohol abuse is often addressed to pregnant women and people operating machines. ()
 8. Besides TV, there are many public notices on _____ giving out the warning about the dangers of smoking.
 9. Smokers and drinkers can conveniently go to _____ for free help.
 10. The insurance companies will give a reduction of _____ for those who have quit smoking.

Part II Reading Comprehension

(Reading in Depth)

Directions: Choose the best answer for each of the following questions according to the passages.

Text C

Studying for a Master's Degree

I arrived at the university at the beginning of October last year to pursue my studies. I am studying for a Master's degree in Economics—M. A. (Econ.) —by research. It will take me between one and two years to complete.

At the beginning of last term I discussed my research with my tutor, Dr. Jones, in the Department of Economics. He advised me to draw up a research outline in the area I had chosen for my research—"A case study in foreign aid to developing countries". After further meetings with Dr. Jones my outline was approved and accepted by the Faculty of Economics.

My next step was to begin reading appropriate books, journals and reports for the background section of the research "A Study of the Literature". My supervisor's suggestion was to keep a set of index card and write the details of each reference I read on a card. Thus I have started making a bibliography which will be very useful for future reference. It will also save me a lot of time when I need to provide one at the end of my thesis.

This term I have continued reading and have also made a draft of the first section of the research summarizing views on foreign aid to



developing countries. I have also started to read literature on the country I have chosen for my case study—Utopia. I have found that many of the World Bank and U. N. publications are relevant to my research.

I am quite pleased with the progress I have made so far, although the reading is taking me longer than I anticipated. My supervisor asked me to present a paper on my research findings up to the present, to a small group of research students in economics. He was impressed with the paper and said that it was a good seminar as it had provoked a number of questions and a lot of discussion.

1. What can we know from the passage?
 - A) The writer is an undergraduate student of science.
 - B) He is a graduate of Economics of Developing Countries.
 - C) He is a research student of Economics.
 - D) He is a student of English Literature.
2. The underlined word “tutor” in Paragraph 2 probably means _____.
 - A) head of the Department
 - B) supervisor of the writer
 - C) classmate of the writer
 - D) none of the above
3. How long will it take the writer to study for his M. S. ?
 - A) Two years.
 - B) One year.
 - C) Three years.
 - D) At least one year.
4. The writer's thesis is on _____.
 - A) a study of the Literature
 - B) a case study in foreign aid to developing countries
 - C) Utopia—a case study
 - D) economic development in developing countries
5. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?