



大学英语快速阅读教材系列

# 大学英语 快速阅读

**COLLEGE ENGLISH  
FAST READING**

主编 游长松



武汉大学出版社  
WUHAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

**BOOK THREE**



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主编 游长松

编者（按姓氏笔画）

王明月 冯 燕 李 鹏

张 鸿 张红梅



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## 前 言

《大学英语快速阅读》是根据教育部颁发的《大学英语教学基本要求》以及大学英语四、六级考试最新题型而编写的。改革后的大学英语考试题型更注重扫读和寻读能力的培养,并增加了阅读的篇幅,改进了阅读理解题型,要求学生在15分钟之内完成约1000字文章的阅读量。传统的阅读教材在阅读篇幅,阅读时间以及阅读理解题型方面都很难满足新的要求。为了适应大学英语四、六级考试的新变化,我们及时编写了《大学英语快速阅读》教材。

本教材有以下几个特点:首先是紧扣最新变化,无论是阅读篇幅还是题型都严格按最新大学英语四级考试要求编写。其次是选材多样,内容新颖,信息量大,所选短文全部是近两年英美正式发表的,以介绍英美社会、人文、习俗等背景知识为主,每单元以一个话题为中心。我们的编写宗旨是不以应试为目的,而是给学生提供高质量的英语阅读文章,使学生在愉快的阅读中,欣赏美文,开阔视野,并在不知不觉中掌握阅读技能,尤其是快速阅读技能。为此,我们在每个单元中都添加了英语阅读技能介绍,以期从理论和实践两个方面提高学生的阅读能力。最后,本教材适合于课堂和自学两种教学模式。每单元由四篇文章组成,前两篇为课内阅读,由教师按规定的时间随堂练习,有计划、有步骤地培养学生的阅读技能;后两篇文章为课后阅读,可作为课后作业和学生自主学习材料,进一步强化和巩固课内所学的内容。

相信通过学习本教材,学生能更迅速和更有效地掌握英语阅读技能。

本教材由武汉大学外语学院大学英语部负责编写。第三册由游长松主编,王明月、冯燕、李鹏、张鸿、张红梅参编。

由于编者水平和经验有限,且时间紧迫,教材中难免还有不足之处,热切期望广大读者不吝指正。

编 者

2007年6月于珞珈山

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# Unit One

## Fashion and Trend

### In-Class Reading

#### Passage I

#### Brides Say "I Do" to Green Weddings

##### Words to Know

1. trendy *a.* 流行的
2. metaphorically *ad.* 隐喻性地;比喻性地
3. nuptial *n.* 婚礼
4. buffet *n.* 自助餐
5. parish *n.* 教区
6. commitment *n.* 许诺;承担义务
7. Briton *n.* 大不列颠人;英国人
8. crusty *a.* 粗鲁无礼的
9. hippie, hippy *n.* 嬉皮士
10. vintage *a.* 古老的;最佳的,最优秀的
11. fabric *n.* 织品;织物;布
12. confetti *n.* (旧时狂欢节或庆祝场合抛撒的)糖果;(婚礼、狂欢节中抛撒的)  
五彩纸屑
13. insurer *n.* 保险业者;保险公司
14. floral *a.* 植物群的;花似的;花的;植物的
15. cornflower *n.* [植]矢车菊
16. fiancé *n.* 〈法〉未婚夫

Time Limit: 7'50"

1 White weddings might have been the dream of fashionable brides of old. But the trendiest weddings in Britain are now at least metaphorically green as couples seek to reduce the impact of their nuptials on the environment.

2 That means everything from recycled wedding dresses and guests arriving by bicycle, to home-grown flowers and locally produced food for the wedding buffet.

3 "We are using the parish church that is literally around the corner," Bride-to-be Libby Smith, 30, said. "On the morning of the wedding, the bridesmaids and I are going to be walking to the church."

### "Green" Gifts Too

4 It's not just the ceremonies that are environmentally aware. Guests are getting into the spirit with their gifts.

5 After charity gift-lists raised millions of pounds over Christmas, environmental groups WWF and Friends of the Earth have launched similar services for weddings.

6 Guests can donate to charities on behalf of newlyweds, making up to 20,000 pounds a month for green and ethical causes.

7 "A lot of people seem to feel that when they are making a big commitment to each other they would like to do some good as well," said Nicola Baird, campaigner for Friends of the Earth.

8 Sarah Webber, 30, a Briton living in Australia, plans to keep the environmental footprint of her wedding to a minimum by having a ceremony in Australia and a party in Britain to prevent her family members from needing to fly across the globe.

9 She is also making sure her wedding buffet is locally produced: "We're not crusty hippies or anything like that... but thinking about where things come from is part of our lifestyle," she said.

10 One of the biggest concerns for "green" brides is how to find that all-important dress, and the Internet is where they begin their search.

11 "There is the charity shop option, there are vintage shops, where you could find something a bit more stylish... or you can have a design made from scratch using fair-trade fabrics," said Katie Fewings, who launched [www.ethicalweddings.com](http://www.ethicalweddings.com) in 2006.

12 Her site lets brides share advice on how to source tricky items—from organic

confetti to recycled invitations—with nearly 130 registered members in its discussion forum.

13 With the average cost of a wedding in Britain set to rise to nearly 18,500 pounds this year, according to UK-based insurer Weddingplan, couples say the homemade approach personalizes the celebrations.

### Home-Grown Salad

14 London-based Rebecca, a 35-year-old bride-to-be who posts on the ethical weddings site, is being helped by her father, who will be growing lettuces and tomatoes to help feed 150 guests at her wedding reception this summer.

15 He is also providing a floral touch: “I love wild and home-grown flowers, so my dad has offered to grow all the flowers for me. Cornflowers are my favourite,” Rebecca told Reuters, asking to be known by her first name only.

16 Her fiancé Doron, 36, said although some people have found the couple’s choices unusual, the planning has paid off.

17 “For those for whom the environment is not a prime concern, it initially jars, perhaps... but once everything is explained we’ve had 100 per cent support.”

18 The couples say their wedding is not supposed to be fashionable: “Fashion is of absolutely no concern to us... we want to make it really memorable without exploitation,” Rebecca said.

19 Campaigners say couples planning green weddings tend to already lead an environmentally friendly lifestyle, but increased awareness about green issues can take the trend to a wider audience.

(582 words)

### Comprehension Exercises: Yes / No / Not Given

**Directions:** Judge whether or not the following statements agree with the information given in the passage, and mark Y for Yes, N for No, or NG if information is not given in the passage.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The fashionable brides still have the dream of white wedding nowadays.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ On the green wedding, the bride and the bridesmaid drive to the church.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The green wedding buffet is globally produced.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The couples planning green weddings want to make their weddings

memorable without exploitation.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ There will be more green weddings than the white ones in future.

## Passage II

### Men's Fashion—How to Create Lasting and Permanent Styles

#### Words to Know

1. overtly *ad.* 公然地;公开地
2. perpetually *ad.* 永恒地;终身地
3. boil down to 归结为
4. apparel *n.* 衣服;装饰
5. wear and tear 磨损;折磨
6. accessory *n.* 附加品;附属物;附件
7. shaggy *a.* 蓬松的;表面粗糙的
8. complexion *n.* 面色;肤色
9. perk up (重新)活跃起来;振作精神
10. clownish *a.* 滑稽的

**Time Limit: 7'15"**

1 Many men and women do not have much idea about Men's Fashion. Very often the advice I have been approached on are what men can wear to appear professional or what men should wear so that they do not look outdated but overtly trendy.

2 I would greatly suggest understanding the basics of men's fashion and put this knowledge into a permanent men's fashion style. There would not be anymore worry about following trends but perpetually looking stylish.

3 The basics of men's fashion boil down to knowing what each piece of apparel is made up of. The fabrics used determine a lot on the quality of the apparel. Good fabrics allow the apparel to withstand wear and tear.

4 If any men's clothing or accessories that wear out fast would naturally make it look old and badly cared. This does not reflect well of the men wearing it and easily

put most men out of style just by looking shaggy.

5 The next important point we need to note are the details found in every apparel and accessories. Details can be subtle but it creates a very big impact in the eventual outlook of the styling.

6 So before we start playing with details, the knowledge of each detail's responsibility and how it helps in holding up the item or even gives significance to it in style can assist us in choosing the best men's clothing.

7 Learning how to coordinate is another tough thing for many men. It does not need to be if they just understand about the various concepts of coordination. Starting from differentiating the type skin complexion they belong to would be the most basic knowledge to acquire.

8 Then they just need to put on the right color clothing against their complexion that perks up their facial skin tone and brings the attention to their face.

9 After that, coordinating colors between the various men's clothing is another method. There are various ways to match different and similar or same hues as well as the shades of hues to achieve the nicest blend of colors.

10 If they are adventurous, then there are more that they can create that puts two very contrasting colors and yet a harmonious fusion of such colors without looking weird or clownish.

11 Putting patterns against each other is another challenging task in men's fashion. It is through the play of patterns that can make many men look very trendy and stylish.

12 If not properly done, those clashing patterns would be a very trying and poorly executed attempt. It boils down to knowing the types of patterns and their scale before choosing how to put them together.

13 Men can go for two to four similar or different pattern coordination without even looking overdoing the matching. It is fundamental to keep the flow of patterns as natural as possible and create a relaxing look from the combination.

14 It is good to have an idea of how to put all these men's clothing and accessories together. From there we can develop a permanent styling and never have to worry about the next trend or whether it is unprofessional. At least all aspects of men's fashion have been touched on. Therefore, if you are daring enough it is always possible to transform it into fashionable styling.

(544 words)

### Comprehension Exercises: Sentence Completion

**Directions:** *Complete the following sentences with the information given in the passage with no more than three words for each answer.*

1. The author suggests that there would not be anymore worry about \_\_\_\_\_ but perpetually looking stylish.
2. The clothing with good \_\_\_\_\_ can withstand wear and tear.
3. In the eventual outlook of the styling \_\_\_\_\_ creates a very big impact.
4. Men can be adventurous enough to put together two \_\_\_\_\_ and create a harmonious fusion of such colors without looking strange or funny.
5. Those \_\_\_\_\_ patterns would be a poor attempt if not properly done.

### After-Class Reading

#### Passage I

### The Ring—Step Back in History

#### Words to Know

1. faceted *a.* 有小平面的;刻面的
2. turquoise *n.* [矿]绿宝石;绿松石色;青绿色
3. goldsmithing *n.* 金匠的技术或行业
4. crown *n.* 露在镶嵌底板上面的那部分已雕琢过的宝石
5. committed *a.* 效忠的;忠于……的
6. ceramic *a.* 陶瓷的
7. filigree *n.* 细丝工艺:用金、银或其他细丝制作的精致和复杂的装饰品
8. gemstone *n.* 经雕琢的宝石
9. garnet *n.* 石榴石
10. amethyst *n.* 紫水晶
11. aquamarine *n.* 绿玉
12. emerald *n.* 祖母绿;翡翠

13. ruby *n.* 红宝石
14. peridot *n.* 橄榄石
15. sapphire *n.* 蓝宝石
16. rheumatism *n.* 风湿; 风湿病
17. colic *n.* 绞痛; 疝痛; 疝气
18. yellow topaz *n.* 黄晶; 黄玉
19. Sanskrit *n.* 梵文: 一种古印度语, 为印度及吠陀经所用文字, 也是印度的古典文学语言
20. citrine *n.* 黄水晶
21. blue topaz *n.* 蓝黄玉

**Time Limit: 12'10"**

1 The popularity of rings increased during the medieval period. People wore rings no matter if they were rich or poor. The most used materials in the making of rings are copper, iron, gold and silver. The class of the person was usually identified by the material the ring was made of.

2 Faceted jewels began to appear in rings around the 14th century. Some cultures have rings that are usually associated with them. Native Americans are associated with silver and turquoise jewelry. The Greek symbol of the fish, called the Ichthus, was used by Early Christians. The Irish Claddagh has an interesting story attached to it.

3 Richard Joyce, along with the crew on a fishing boat from the village of Claddagh, Ireland, was captured the same week he was supposed to be married. Goldsmithing was Richard Joyce's trade while he was enslaved. While he was captured he was not married. Richard Joyce made a ring for his beloved that had two hands holding a heart for love and a crown for loyalty.

4 Joyce escaped from his captors and returned to Claddagh where he was excited to see his love again and know she had never married. She never gave up hope of his return to her. He gave her the ring that is known as the Claddagh ring. Wearing the Claddagh on your right hand, crown inward means that you are letting people know that you are single.

5 The person who wears the Claddagh on the right hand with the crown outward is in a committed relationship. Wearing the Claddagh with the crown outward on your left hand says let our love and friendship reign forever, never to be separated. There



are many reasons for wearing rings, one is adornment. Rewards for a job well done include rings such as the one given after the Super Bowl victory.

6 Rings such as engagement rings and wedding rings symbolize commitment. Religious women wear rings to show their commitment to God. You can use almost any material to make rings now. Plastic, silver, copper, gold or even wood can be used to make them. Ceramic materials can be used as well.

7 Rings can be very simple or of something as intricate as filigree. Rings can be plain and simple or be adorned with jewels and/or gemstones, as is the case of birthstone rings. There is a birthstone for each month with its own meaning.

8 Below you will find a list.

9 The Garnet is January's stone, the gem of faith and truth; it is believed to stop bleeding, to cure sickness of the blood and infections and it is said to protect from poisons.

10 It is believed that February's birthstone, the Amethyst, helps soldiers in battle, hunters to catch prey, control evil thoughts and help the owner have success in business.

11 In order to prevent seasickness, keep them safe, and gain courage and foresight, sailors use the Aquamarine, the stone for March.

12 The Diamond is April's stone and is the symbol of strength, courage and invincibility. The diamond is the greatest gift of love. In 1477 Archduke Maximilian of Austria gave a diamond to Mary of Burgundy which started the tradition of engagement rings.

13 The Emerald is the birthstone for May and believed to sharpen the eyesight and mind of the wearer. Travelers used Emeralds as protection against the hazards of long trips. The owner of the Emerald is said to be given the power to predict the future because of its green color.

14 The pearl is the birthstone of June and fresh water pearls are said to give the power of protection, luck, and love. They provide protection for children from harm and wisdom from experience.

15 The Ruby's (July) red color is related to protection, courage, physical energy, strength, health, sex, and passion. Associated with it are blood, death and birth.

16 The August birthstone, the Peridot, is said to bring the wearer peace, success and good luck. It is believed it has the powers of health, protection and sleep. It is