

大学英语阅读系列教材

College English
Fast Reading

周尤亮 主编

大学英语

快速阅读

(第2册)



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(第2册)

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前 言

在 2005 年初的教育部关于大学英语四、六级考试的重大改革中, 阅读部分增加了快速阅读新题型, 比重增至 35%。同时, 《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》对阅读理解(Reading Comprehension)能力提出了较高的要求, 其中, 快速阅读部分要求在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时, 阅读速度达到每分钟 80~100 词, 能基本读懂国内外英文报刊及常见应用文体的材料, 能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。为了适应上述要求, 提高在校生及广大青年读者的英语阅读理解能力、开阔阅读视野、全面提高语言的综合应用水平, 从而为大学英语四级考试取得较好成绩打下坚实的基础, 我们编写了这套《大学英语快速阅读》教材。

《大学英语快速阅读(第 2 册)》由 16 个单元、48 篇文章组成, 内容和难度紧扣最新《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》对快速阅读的各项具体要求。其选材注重信息性、趣味性和实用性, 题材广泛, 内容丰富, 涉及文化习俗、婚姻爱情、信息技术、科学教育、社会焦点等各个方面。我们希望通过这套教材的学习, 可以帮助学生提高英语阅读理解能力、运用语言结构和词汇的能力、分析判断和逻辑推理的能力以及迅速捕捉信息的能力。为了适合教学, 我们对部分文章内容进行了适当删改。

本套教材不仅适用于包括独立学院在内的高校大学生, 也适用于广大中级英语自学者、自考生及参加全国英语等级考试的读者。

由于我们的经验不足, 水平有限, 疏漏之处在所难免, 诚望广大读者和同仁不吝指正。

编 者
2007 年 6 月

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Unit 1 Customs and Traditions in East and West



Passage 1

American and Chinese Views of Friendships

Length of text: 391 words

Target time: 5 minutes

Target speed: 80 wpm

Starting at: _____

Finishing at: _____

Time taken: _____

Reading speed: _____

Comprehension score: _____

1 America is a mobile society. Friendships between Americans can be close, constant, intense, generous, and real, yet fade away in a short time if circumstances change. Neither side feels hurt by this. Both may exchange Christmas greetings for a year or two, perhaps a few letters for a while—then no more. If the same two people meet again by chance, even years later, they pick up the friendship where it left off and are delighted. This can be quite difficult for us Chinese to understand, because friendships between us here in our country flower more slowly but then become lifelong attachments, with mutual obligations, extending sometimes deeply into both families.

2 Americans are ready to receive us foreigners at their homes, share their holidays, and their home life. We need not fear that we are taking on a

lasting obligation and we should not hesitate to accept their hospitality because we can not reciprocate. Americans will not expect us to do so for they know we are far from home. They will enjoy welcoming us and be pleased if we accept their hospitality easily.

- 3 Another difficult point for us Chinese to understand Americans is that although they include us warmly in their personal everyday lives, they don't demonstrate a high degree of courtesy if it requires a great deal of time. This is usually the opposite of the practice here in our country where we may be unstintingly generous with our time. Sometimes, we, as hosts, will appear at airports even in the middle of the night to meet a friend. We may take days off to act as guide to our foreign friends. The Americans, however, extend their welcome usually at homes, but truly can not manage the time to do a great deal with a visitor outside their daily routine. They will probably expect us to get ourselves from the airport to our own hotel by public transport. And they assume that we will phone them from there. Once we arrive at their homes, the welcome will be full, warm and real. We will find ourselves treated hospitably.
- 4 For the Americans, it is often considered more friendly to invite a friend to their homes than to go to restaurants, except in purely business relationships. So accept their hospitality at home for what it is, a warm and friendly gesture.

Comprehension Exercises

1. Friendships between Americans _____.
 - A. can not be real
 - B. may demand mutual obligations
 - C. can be transient
 - D. may be easy to understand for us Chinese
2. When friendships are likely to disappear, _____.
 - A. Americans may make great efforts to keep it
 - B. no Americans will feel hurt by this

- C. Chinese people will take it easy
D. Americans and Chinese respond
3. Different from Americans, _____.
A. Chinese will often make great efforts to keep friendship going
B. Chinese will take it easy when friendship fades away
C. Chinese will usually strike up a friendship very quickly
D. Chinese will pick up a friendship and feel the same
4. The word "reciprocate" in the second paragraph means _____.
A. receive B. endure C. appreciate D. make a return
5. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?
A. Americans are generous with their time while hospitalizing foreign friends.
B. Chinese may act as guide to our foreign friends.
C. Americans extend their welcome usually at home.
D. Chinese may meet a friend at the airport even in the middle of night.
6. The word "unstintingly" in Para. 3 ("we may be unstintingly generous with our time...") most probably means _____.
A. willingly B. painfully C. sparingly D. freely
7. When it takes a lot of time to hospitalize a foreign guest, Americans usually seem to be _____.
A. enthusiastic B. reluctant C. indifferent D. friendly
8. As a guest, if we arrive in America, usually we get to the hotel _____.
A. in our own cars B. in our American friends' car
C. by public transport D. on foot
9. Once we get to our American friends' home, we will find that _____.
A. their homes are very much attractive
B. we are warmly received
C. Americans don't demonstrate a high degree of courtesy
D. Americans are generous with their time
10. Why do Americans invite a foreign friend to their homes?
A. Because it is convenient. B. Because it saves time.
C. Because it is a gesture of friendliness.
D. Because it is inexpensive.

Passage 2

*Teen Dates*Length of text: 504 wordsTarget time: 6 minutesTarget speed: 80 wpm

Starting at: _____

Finishing at: _____

Time taken: _____

Reading speed: _____

Comprehension score: _____

- 1 When does dating begin for teenagers in America? Earlier and earlier, it seems. It is often difficult these days to distinguish a twelve-year-old girl from her seventeen-year-old sister if a mother permits the younger one to dress and wear make-up as her sister does. Physically, each generation's girls are bigger, and this physical bigness often deceives parents into believing that emotional development necessarily follows size.
- 2 In a young girl's life there are periods when one boy seems to be more in evidence than others. When this becomes quite obvious the family often undertakes to reduce him in status in various ways. Puppy love is serious to the lovers, if a little ludicrous to parents, brothers, and sisters, but it should be respected, for it has its painful aspects. Very few daughters really wish to settle their affections for life on a teenage boy when it comes right down to it, though the fantasy of undying devotion is very evident for a time.
- 3 In large cities where many children must necessarily achieve independence early, boys and girls in their early teens are allowed to go unaccompanied to lunch, the movies, the theaters, rock concerts, and sporting events. The kind of entertainment the young couple goes to must be approved of by both sets of parents. They should not go to discos and night clubs, and they should be thoroughly aware of the penalties for breaking the laws governing the legal age for drinking.

- 4 Many parents feel safe in permitting their teenage children to go to places at night with a group of other boys and girls. Its whereabouts are known by the parents at all time, and no unaccountable junketing around the countryside in some boy's car is allowed. Adolescents want rules and need them. They do not respect the too "easy" parents.
- 5 At what age a boy dates depends on the boy himself. And again physical size bears no relation to emotional readiness. Anywhere from thirteen or fourteen on, a boy may be ready to leave the teasing group of boys and go on his first date.
- 6 The first sign, of course, is cleanliness. He will suddenly begin bathing without reminders, lengthily combing his hair before setting out for school instead of merely running the comb—or more likely, his fingers—through it. Suddenly his shoes may seem to take on a polish, and he will stop biting his fingernails. He will require two or three times his usual number of clean shirts, and he will even take an unusual interest in ties, socks, and handkerchiefs, hitherto items of no interest at all. He constantly asks if anyone notice how deep his voice is getting. It is usually Mother who sees the signs first. She knows instinctively that her son is about to take his first steps away from her apron strings. Most of what she can do for him she has already done. Soon he will probably turn more and more to his father for counsel, or to some father substitute.

Comprehension Exercises

1. From the first paragraph we know that _____.
 - A. a seventeen-year-old girl is not allowed to wear make-up
 - B. a girl's physical bigness shows her mental development
 - C. a girl may even date before twelve
 - D. it is hard to say when a girl begins to date
2. When a boy begins to step into the life of a girl, _____.
 - A. the girl may feel worried
 - B. it can not be easily perceived

- C. the girl's family may try to reduce his importance to the girl
D. the girl's family will feel uneasy
3. As to puppy love, a girl _____.
A. will not take it seriously
B. will seldom wish to find her life-long partner
C. will completely devote herself to it
D. will ask her family for suggestions
4. What is the meaning of "ludicrous" in the third paragraph?
A. Ridiculous. B. Funny. C. Luxurious. D. Stupid.
5. In large cities, teenagers may _____.
A. go to the discos if they are sure of the security
B. go escaped if they break the law governing the drinking age
C. go to the movies together with the approval of their parents
D. go wherever they want to
6. Which of the following is correct according to the passage?
A. For teenage children, emotional development necessarily follows physical bigness.
B. Teenage children themselves want rules and need them.
C. Parents often feel unsafe to let the teenage children go out at night.
D. A lenient parent might have more respects from the children.
7. From what may we conclude that a boy has begun his first date?
A. He begins to complain about his allowance.
B. His voice is getting deep.
C. He begins to pay much attention to cleanliness.
D. He thinks he is emotionally ready.
8. A boy's cleanliness includes _____.
A. bathing without reminder
B. polishing shoes
C. asking for more shirts
D. All of the above mentioned.
9. When a mother sees signs of the change of her boy, _____.
A. she is ready to tell him what to do
B. she knows that he will begin to stand on his own feet

- C. she knows what she can do for him has already been done
D. None of the above is correct.
10. After beginning to date, a boy usually turns to _____ for suggestions.
- A. his mother
B. his father
C. boys of similar age
D. girls of similar age

Passage 3

Wedding Invitations and Announcements in America

Length of text: 488 words

Target time: 6 minutes

Target speed: 80 wpm

Starting at: _____

Finishing at: _____

Time taken: _____

Reading speed: _____

Comprehension score: _____

- 1 One of the preparations for a wedding is to prepare an invitation list. For very small or informal weddings, engraved invitations are not necessary. The bride may call, send a mailgram, or write personal invitational notes in these cases. If, however, a large wedding is decided upon, the necessary invitation list must be started almost as soon as the engagement is announced. The bride and groom always order a dozen more invitations than they think they can possibly use. They will be needed for last-minute emergencies and family scrapbooks.
- 2 The groom and his family must co-operate by furnishing their typed invitation list as early as possible, so the bride may combine them with her own usually large lists, remove duplications, and, if necessary, shorten the lists with the help of both families. The groom's family is allowed one half the total number of invitations, unless the majority of his relatives and friends live at a considerable distance, in which case a smaller proportion of the invitations may suffice and a larger list for announcements substituted.

Invitations are sent through the mails to the parents of the groom, members of the wedding party, and the minister and his wife, as these are treasured mementos of the occasion. The bride's mother might wish to enclose a short note in the invitations or announcements to the groom's immediate family (直系亲属), saying that they might wish to have them for sentimental reasons. Parents of members of the wedding party receive invitations along with the spouses of any of the attendant, but do not have to be invited to a sit-down meal reception. It is customary to invite the spouse of a member of the wedding party, but he or she should not expect to be seated at the bridal table for any of the festivities. Young children of any attendants should not come to the reception; any children present should be related to the bride and groom. People who have lost someone in the immediate family should be included on the wedding invitation list, and should accept. It is even possible for one in mourning to be in the bridal party. All the attendants are considered to be in wedding uniform, their own problems and personalities subjugated (使屈服, 征服) for the day they are in the service of the bride and groom. This is understood by everyone, and only if bereavement ((亲人) 丧亡) has been very recent and very close is it sometimes necessary for an attendant to ask to be excused, not because of possible criticism, but because his own emotional state might cast a shadow on the happy day.

- 3 Wedding invitations, unlike ordinary social invitations, are sent as much as four to six weeks in advance of the wedding. Engraved invitations take time and are ordered at least eight weeks before they are to be sent out. One may pick up the envelopes in advance so that the addressing can be completed before the invitations arrive.

Comprehension Exercises

1. _____ is not needed for a small or an informal wedding.
A. A phone call
B. An invitational note
C. A mailgram
D. A formal invitation
2. For a large wedding, which of the following is NOT correct?

- A. The bride and groom start a necessary invitation list.
 - B. The bride and groom may call to inform their friends and relatives.
 - C. The bride and groom usually order a dozen more invitations.
 - D. The bride and groom may type the invitation.
3. In the second paragraph, to "remove duplications" means _____.
- A. to remove the names of the attendants
 - B. to remove repeated names of the guests
 - C. to remove the names of the immediate family members
 - D. to remove the names of the children who are invited to the wedding party
4. Generally speaking, when most of the bride's friends and relatives live at a distance, _____.
- A. the wedding ceremony may be held in the bride's hometown
 - B. the bride and bridegroom will make a new list of invitations
 - C. the groom's invited guests will be a smaller proportion of the invitations
 - D. the groom's invited guests will still account for half of the invitations
5. The word "memento" in Para.2 ("...as these are treasured mementos of the occasion...") most probably means _____.
- A. souvenir
 - B. monument
 - C. moment
 - D. momentum
6. Who should be invited but will never attend the wedding party?
- A. The parents of the bride and groom.
 - B. The minister and his wife.
 - C. The late parents of a member of the wedding party.
 - D. The spouse of a member of the wedding party.
7. What might the bride's mother do in order to invite the groom's immediate family?
- A. To prepare a special gift.
 - B. To pay a personal visit.
 - C. To place a phone call.
 - D. To enclose a short note in the invitations or announcements.
8. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT correct?
- A. The bride's and groom's friends and relatives will separately take up half of the invitations.
 - B. Young children of the attendants of the wedding party should not come to

the reception.

- C. The spouse of a wedding attendant is supposed to be seated at the bridal table.
 - D. Any children present should be related to the bride and groom.
9. Of all the attendants, who might be excused for not being able to come to the party?
- A. The children related to the bride and groom.
 - B. The groom's immediate family members.
 - C. Any attendant so long as he or she has reasons.
 - D. Any attendant who has lost a relative very recently.
10. How long should the wedding invitations be sent in advance?
- A. About three weeks.
 - B. At least about one month.
 - C. At least eight weeks.
 - D. Any time before the wedding party.

Unit 2 Cities Around the World



Passage 1

City of Music

Length of text: 430 words

Target time: 5 minutes

Target speed: 80 wpm

Starting at: _____

Finishing at: _____

Time taken: _____

Reading speed: _____

Comprehension Score: _____

1 Settlements near what is now the City of Vienna, can be traced back to the 5th century before Christ. These were of Celtic origin as is the name Wien (Vienna in German) derived from the Celtic "Vedunia" for river in the woods. The Romans established the garrison camp Vindobona in the 1st century A.D. Reminders of the Roman camp can be seen at Hoher Markt and at underground station Stephansplatz. Vienna began to rise in importance in the Middle Ages. It was made residence of the Babenbergs and the city walls were raised in 1200. Vienna was to become the capital of the Habsburg empire for almost seven centuries. Its imperial past is still visible today.

2 The fall of the monarchy proved a turning point in the history of Vienna. In 1922 Vienna was made a province in its own right. The Social Democrats then in power pursued comprehensive social policies. By 1933 more than 60 000 new and affordable apartments had been built.