

新编大学英语 阅读教程

第4册



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NEW COLLEGE ENGLISH READING COURSE

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前 言

为很快适应和落实教育部最近颁发的《大学英语课程教学要求》，深化教学改革，培养学生的英语综合应用能力，满足新时期国家对人才的需要；更为了结合我省学生的实际情况，我们依据《全国大学英语四级考试样卷》新题型，组织具有丰富的教学经验、多次参加新题型培训的一线教师编写了这套阅读理解专项教材。希望本套书能在进一步提高我省外语教学质量方面作一点贡献。

本教材旨在培养学生正确的阅读习惯，提高学生的阅读速度和阅读理解能力。在选材时注重内容的可读性、趣味性、知识性、时代性、语言文字的规范性和文体的多样性。课文大多数选自英美原著、正式出版的英文报刊杂志等。

本套教材共分四册，每册十个单元，每单元分两部分：第一部分为快速阅读，含一篇短文，共 10 题，1-7 题为是非判断题，8-10 题为句子填空题，即完成句子；第二部分为仔细阅读，含三篇短文，第一篇为选词填空，共 10 题，从所给的 15 个词中选 10 个词填空。后两篇为单项选择，每篇 5 题，共 10 题。

使用本教材时，应注意以下几点：

1. 为便于教学，本教材印成活页。

2. 让学生养成先了解问题后读文章的良好习惯，做到有的放矢，以达到提高阅读速度和准确率的效果。

3. 学生阅读时不能查词典，如有生词，可根据上下文和构词法进行猜测以确定词义，或直接跳过那些不影响理解的生词。

4. 学生应注意培养边阅读、边理解、边记忆的良好习惯。读完课文即做练习；做练习时，不再翻阅已读过的课文。

5. 学生应在建议时间内快速读完文章，较准确地完成课后练习。

编 者

2006 年 8 月

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Unit One



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.

Some Americans start their workday fifteen minutes after they wake up. Some even stay in their nightclothes. These people are among a growing number who work from home at least one day a month. Some even do this every day. This way of working is called telecommuting or teleworking. Telecommuters do not always work from home.

They might go to an office, but still it is away from their main place of employment.

The idea of telecommuting by computer goes back more than thirty years. For a while, it did not gain as much popularity as its supporters had expected. Then came the 1990s, and the rise of the personal computer and the Internet. Today, telecommuting is gaining much wider acceptance.

In 1997, about 12 million people in the United States worked at home at least one day a month. That is what researchers found. Research done in August of 2005 found a much different situation. More than 45 million people

had worked from home at some time during the past month.

Government Computer News reported in December on the popularity of teleworking among federal employees. That publication told about a study by the United States Office of Personnel Management. The study found that more than 140 000 federal workers took part in telecommuting in 2004. That was up from about 73 000 in April of 2001. Eight percent of federal civilian workers now telecommute.

Federal law requires most government agencies to establish a telecommuting policy. Telecommuting is especially popular in the departments of Defense, Treasury, Justice, and Health and Human services.

Telecommuting can also increase the employment of disabled workers, as President Bush called for in 2003. And it may be important for continuing government operations in times of severe weather, or an emergency like a terrorist attack.

Of course, not everyone could telecommute and still get their jobs done. Could a plumber fix a broken pipe from home? Maybe—by guiding someone else through the repairs. But many people have jobs that seem natural for teleworking.

Experts say lawyers, computer programmers and college professors are often good candidates. So are people like financial advisers, tax experts and online teachers.

But the idea of telecommuting does not appeal to everyone. Some people do not want to mix home and office life. Some fear that if they telecommute, they will not make progress in their organizations. They fear they may become less important to their employers.

Employers may or may not provide equipment for work at home. And tying into an employer's computer system may not always be easy.

But many people want to telecommute. They welcome it as recognition of good work and dependability. It saves the time and cost of traveling to and from work. In some cases, having employees work from home can reduce tension in the workplace. It can give workers more freedom, so they feel more

control over their lives. They can better decide how to balance work and family needs. For parents, that can mean fewer worries about children home alone.

Some telecommuters say having permission to work from home makes them better workers. They might feel the need to work harder and communicate more with their supervisors.

Some employers may have their suspicions about telecommuting. But many managers say they are pleased with it. They note that it can reduce the need for office space, and even cut down on employee absences. People who might make others sick if they came to work might still be well enough to work from home.

Experts say telecommuting can help organizations keep good workers who live far from the office, or want to move out of the area. It can also help when the office itself moves.

Some unions have concerns about telecommuting. They worry that it might make enforcing work rules or conditions more difficult if people are away from the workplace. One union said it was unfair to other workers that telecommuters did not have to travel to the office.

Concerns about telecommuting extend beyond union issues. Employees who have to stay in the office might feel hostility toward those who are able to work from home.

Or they might feel that a telecommuter is not working hard enough—or never did enough to earn the right to work from home. And what happens if there is a crisis that suddenly requires more people than are in the office to deal with it?

These are all issues that employers and employees must think about. Another is information security. There may be worries about the stealing of information from a telecommuter's home or computer. Experts, however, say good planning can reduce that risk, just as it can in an office.

One of the first telecommuters in the United States may have been the president of a bank in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1877 he began to use a

telephone line that operates from his home to his bank.

But it took many years for modern teleworking to develop. It also took a rocket scientist.

Jack Nilles is called the father of telecommuting and teleworking. Mister Nilles was educated as a scientist and engineer. He led the design process for several space vehicles and communications systems for NASA and the Air Force.

In recent years, many companies have moved customer service operations out of a central office. Instead, they use customer service agents who work at home. These workers often take orders for products and services, anything from airplane tickets to flowers to health plans. The pay is not high, but the people have more control over their hours. Many have young children or older family members who need care.

Today, telecommuting is not only changing how Americans work. It is also changing how a lot of people live.

1. () In 2001, more than 140 000 federal workers telecommute.
2. () Lawyers, computer programmers and financial advisers can work from home.
3. () Employees who worry about children home alone welcome telecommuting.
4. () Telecommuters can communicate with their supervisors through computer system.
5. () Telecommuting doesn't agree with the regulations of some unions.
6. () In 1877, one of the first telecommuters began to use a telephone line to work at home.
7. () Telecommuters have more control over their time.
8. Telecommuting means _____.
9. With the rise of _____, telecommuting began to be widely accepted.
10. Employers may worry about _____ from a telecommuter's home or computer.



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. **You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.***

The journey two divers made some time ago to the very deepest point on the earth makes us realize how much of the world still remains to be 11. The two men went down seven miles to the 12 of the Pacific Ocean inside a small steel ball to find out if there are any ocean currents or signs of life.

It was 13 to set out early, so that the ball would come to the surface in daylight, and be easily found by the mother ship which would be waiting for it. The divers began preparations early in the morning and soon afterwards, when all was 14, the steel ball disappeared under the surface of the water.

The divers felt as if they were going down steps as they passed through warm and cold layers of water. In time, the temperature dropped to 15 point. They kept in touch with the mother ship by telephone telling how they felt. Then at a depth of 3 000 feet, the telephone stopped working and they were 16 from the outside world. All went well until some four hours later at 30 000 feet, the men were 17 by a loud, cracking noise: even the smallest hole in the ball would have meant instant death. Luckily, 18, it was only one of the outer windows that had broken. Soon afterwards, the ball touched the soft ocean floor raising a big cloud of "dust" made up of small dead sea-creatures. Here, powerful lights lit up the dark water and the men were surprised to see fish 19 just above them quite untroubled by the

great water-pressure. But they did not dare to leave the lights on for long, as the heat from them would make the water boil. Quite 20, the telephone began working again and the faint but clear voices of the divers were heard on the mother ship seven miles away. After a stay of thirty minutes the men began their journey up, arriving three hours later, cold and wet through, but none the worse for their experience.

- A. operated
- B. discovered
- C. thus
- D. swimming
- E. take off
- F. bottom
- G. frightened
- H. shocking

- I. cut off
- J. difficult
- K. freezing
- L. necessary
- M. ready
- N. unexpectedly
- O. though

Section B

Directions: There are 2 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

In October 1949 the United Nations brought a number of specialists on food to Geneva, to discuss the problems of eating habits and food supplies to peoples throughout the world. One problem that interested the specialists particularly was a form of illness, about which little was known among the children in Africa.

Two doctors were chosen to make the study. They flew to Africa and during the next two months visited ten countries. They found that serious

diseases of poor eating, often mistaken for other diseases, existing in all parts of Africa. The diseases were similar and could therefore all be named kwashiorkor.

The diseased children are usually from one to four years old. As the illness progresses, the child's stomach becomes swollen by liquid collecting in the body. The skin changes color and may break out in open sores. The hair changes color and starts to fall out. The patient loses all interest in his surroundings and even in food, and becomes so weak that he wants to lie down all the time. Stomach liquids are no longer produced.

The doctors reasoned that kwashiorkor was found in the young children of this age in many parts of Africa because of lack of milk or meat. Their mothers, after stopping their breast-feeding, gave them foods full of starches instead of greatly needed proteins. They found that the addition of milk to the food of children suffering from kwashiorkor saved many lives.

It was necessary that the children of Africa be helped to eat better. The doctors suggested that the production of food rich in protein be increased; they thought that more fish should be caught and more nuts should be grown. That urged education plans to teach mothers better ways of feeding children. They suggested that the United Nations should send large quantities of powdered milk to hospitals and child-health centers. Finally, they recommended closer study of all the special problems connected with kwashiorkor.

21. Kwashiorkor is a disease which is caused by _____.
 - A. poor living conditions
 - B. mosquitoes
 - C. having no food
 - D. not having enough protein
22. One difficulty in discovering kwashiorkor is that _____.
 - A. it has no viruses
 - B. it is like other diseases
 - C. it is hard to see signs of it
 - D. it does not last long
23. A main sign of the disease is that children who have it _____.

All mosquitoes, male and female, pass through their early stages of development in or near water. In fact, mosquito eggs will not hatch without water—although the eggs can survive up to five years on dry land waiting for water. It is not surprising that the heavy rain produce large numbers of mosquitoes.

Why did nature bother to create mosquitoes? Just to annoy us? Probably that wasn't the main reason. Male mosquitoes live on the nectar of flowers, and some scientists believe that they pollinate the flowers as they fly from one to the other. Of course, mosquitoes have to reproduce, and unfortunately that's where you and I come in. Like it or not, mosquitoes are here to stay.

26. What is a proboscis tip?
- A. The mosquito's eyes.
 - B. A kind of mouth.
 - C. The mosquito's sensors.
 - D. Both A and B.
27. According to the author, why does a mosquito bite itch?
- A. Because your blood is kept from clotting.
 - B. Because your blood is tested.
 - C. Because the mosquito sucks your blood.
 - D. Because the mosquito's saliva is mixed with your blood.
28. Which of the followings is RIGHT?
- A. The female mosquito bites you because you are sweaty.
 - B. The female mosquito bites because she is hungry.
 - C. The female mosquito bites because your blood is appetizing.
 - D. The mosquito is not useless to the nature.
29. "Sticks out" in paragraph 3 means _____.
- A. hurts B. protrudes C. rests D. grows
30. The last paragraph says "unfortunately that's where you and I come in". Why is it unfortunate?

- A. Because mosquitoes have to reproduce.
- B. Because mosquitoes will bite us to get some blood.
- C. Because mosquitoes are here to stay.
- D. Because mosquitoes need us in pollinating flowers.



Unit Two



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.

Every four years, the entire world turns toward a certain city, to follow the facts, records, histories of overcoming and, many times, the dramas that constitute the history of every edition of the Olympic Games. In this year 2004, the eyes will be turned toward Athens, cradle of the games of the Modern Age.

However, in a world of about six billion inhabitants, only a selected group of about ten thousand athletes gets to go to the Olympic Games. However, there is a ritual of the Games that allows thousands of common people to participate in the Olympic experience, which is unique in the world: the tracking of the Olympic torch. The flame lit in Olympia is a powerful symbol, the force of which can all be felt all over the world.

This tradition is not as old as the Games. The tracking of the torch was never part of the Games in Ancient Greece, yet it was part of the Greek culture. The old way to carry the Olympic torch was through runs in honor of several gods. They were carried from one altar to the other or to some particular

city. The first to get to the place of the sacrifices had the honor to light the flame of the gods with his own torch.

The fire was not employed as an Olympic symbol until 1928, when a flame was lit during the games of Amsterdam. That caught the imagination of the public. Four years later, in Los Angeles, the flame was lit once again. But those were not real Olympic flames.

They had been lit in the cities of the Games, and not in Olympia. In 1932, Carl Diem, from the German Olympic Committee, saw the pyre (柴堆) in Los Angeles and decided to develop the idea. When the Games were held in Berlin, in 1936, Diem introduced the first tracking of the Olympic torch. This first tracking was unavoidably maculated (玷污) by the German Nazism of that time. This connection occurred because the Nazi ads, which were entirely linked to the Games, made use of the event.

The torch is currently completely integrated to the Olympic Movement and is an instrument that should reflect not only the soul of the country organizing the Games, but also the technology available in that moment. For the Games of Athens 2004, the designer Andreas Varotsos selected the symbolic olive leaf. He wanted to include all aspects of his country, both in the historical and cultural levels, at the same time making use of an international language that reflected the spirit of Greece and showed values of peace, love and harmony in all places.

For the Games of 1968, in Mexico, the torch was carried to Spain, from where it would cross the Atlantic and follow the route of Christopher Columbus up to Central America. In America, the flame was taken to earth in Vera Cruz and made a stop at the Valley of the Dead to celebrate the Aztec culture. In City of Mexico, Enriqueta Basilio was the first woman to light the Olympic pyre.

In 1972, 36 years after the Games of Berlin, the torch was once again carried to Germany, and in 1976 it had an innovation that symbolized the growth of technology during the 20th century. In Athens, a machine collected the ionized particles (电离粒子) of the flame and transformed it in electronic