



新世纪英语丛书  
New Century English



主 编/严 筠  
副主编/杨伟慰 陆美芳  
审 校/杨慧敏

# 大学英语四级 标准阅读600题

44



华东理工大学出版社

EAST CHINA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRESS

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## 本书编委会

主 编	严 筠	
副主编	杨伟慰	陆美芳
编 者	周可欣	沈烨炜
	王剑红	徐启龙
审 校	杨慧敏	



# Preface

## 前言

2004年初发布的《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)(以下简称《教学要求》)对大学英语的教学目标规定为:“培养学生英语综合应用能力,特别是听说能力,使他们在今后工作和社会交往中能应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的能力、提高综合文化素养,以适应我国经济发展和国际交流的需要。”在“教学要求”的三个层次,即一般要求、较高要求和更高要求中都对阅读题材、阅读速度、快速阅读速度、阅读目标、阅读策略等做了定性、定量的要求。

《大学英语四级标准阅读600题》是依据《教学要求》精神,根据国家教委颁布的《大学英语教学大纲通用词汇表》(1—4级)的要求,参照“大学英语四级考试”中阅读理解题型、题量编写而成,力求与大学英语四级考试的要求一致。读者可以通过每一篇阅读理解的训练,摸索出答题的思路和方法,以便在应试中驾轻就熟。

实际上,阅读理解题目只是短文考试的一种形式,听力题、语法题、改错题和写作等都是短文考试的变体。因此阅读速度和实际应用语言的能力,在考试成绩中有着举足轻重的影响作用。

阅读是提高英语水平的最好途径。阅读能扩大词汇量,从上下文理解词义、用法。多读、常读,使读者熟悉英语中常见的句型结构和句式。通过阅读内容,读者可以获取知识,获得信息,对西方(主要是英美)的文化、历史、风土人情、科技动态有更多的了解。

随着读者阅读实践的增多,其阅读速度会逐步加快,效率也会逐渐提高。

本书的编者来自几所不同的高校,都是多年在教学第一线工作的教师。他们不但了解当前考试的趋势特点,而且对学生可能遇到的各种问题和教学的重点、难点极其熟悉,他们精心选材,编写了本书。文章来源有最新的英语报刊,近年的英语图书,以及部分正规的网站。文章长度适宜,部分文章难度略高于四级的阅读材料,语言流畅、规范;内容具有知识性和趣味性。

这本书不仅可以帮助读者拓展阅读面,扩大阅读量,提高阅读能力,而且可以训练读者阅读理解的解题能力,可收到一石二鸟之功,提高阅读能力与应试备考两不误。为方便读者,我们在书后附有根据文章内容而分类的中英文目录。

我们相信读者在使用本书后会取得更大的进步。

在本书的编写过程中得到了何璇、何逊、盛佳昀、陆若以的具体帮助,在此表示感谢。

本书编写过程较仓促,疏漏与不足之处在所难免,恳请读者和同行不吝指正。

严 筠

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## Unit 1

## Passage

## 1

Jack Novak works for Burt's Burgers, Inc., a fast-food company that has sold billions of Burt's Burgers all over the world. He is an assistant to the Marketing Director and a recent business school graduate. Although most of his colleagues like him, they think he is too interested in marketing theory and lacking in practical knowledge and experience.

Burt's Burgers, Inc. has shown increasing profits over the past five years, and the *corporate* (公司的) headquarters has approved a budget to test market new products. Jack's boss, Mike Borowski, has suggested the introduction of the Burt's Barbecue Burger, an "improved" version of the standard Burt's hamburgers. (It has spicy barbecue sauce mixed with the meat.) Mike did a little market research on the "improved" product, but only in the Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas). The consumer response was positive, so Mike is pushing for Burt's Burgers to introduce this "improved" product.

Jack does not support Mike's position and has already told him why he disagrees. He feels that insufficient market research was done and only in a limited area. He is familiar with the New Coke

*fiasco* (惨败) and wants to do extensive market research before making the decision to go ahead with the Burt's Barbecue Burger. However, Jack is reluctant to speak out against his boss, who is a highly respected, long-time employee of Burt's Burgers.

The final decision will be made at the corporate executive group meeting tomorrow morning. Both Jack and Mike will attend the meeting. Jack has already written a six-page *memo* (备忘录) analysing the market potential for Burt's Barbecue Burger and justifying his position against introducing it. He has included a thorough market analysis and several statistical graphs and charts. In addition, Jack has come up with an idea of his own that he might mention at the meeting: if the company is ready to test market new products, he would like to suggest a low-fat hamburger, which would appeal to all the health conscious consumers who avoid eating at Burt's Burgers. He knows of two competitors that are already developing such a product. Why not try to beat them to it? Low-fat food is definitely the major trend of the times. (365 words)

1. What is NOT true of Jack Novak?

- A. He is a graduate student of a business school.
- B. He has a lot to improve in his practical experience.
- C. He enjoys good relations with his colleagues.
- D. He has a job as an assistant in a big company.

2. What do you know about Burt's Burgers, Inc.?

- A. The company has shown great interests in its profits.
- B. The company has approved of the plan to test market new products.
- C. The desire of the company is to introduce an "improved" product.
- D. The profits of this company have been on the rise.

3. What can be deduced of “the New Coke fiasco”?
  - A. Their introduction of the New Coke was a failure.
  - B. They do not have sufficient marketing personnel.
  - C. They have not done large-scale market research.
  - D. They decide to market a burger.
4. What can you infer from the passage?
  - A. The low-fat hamburger will appeal to healthy consumers.
  - B. Health conscious consumers usually eat at Burt's Burgers.
  - C. Burgers has not taken healthy food into consideration.
  - D. Burt's Burgers is famous for its low-fat food.
5. What is Jack's suggestion for the meeting tomorrow morning?
  - A. Burt's Burgers should not fall behind others in keeping up with the times.
  - B. Burt's Burgers should have the potential to share the market.
  - C. Burt's Burgers should develop a new low fat product.
  - D. Burt's Burgers should take actions to beat others.

## 

Being a good office for working mothers has become a point of pride in *corporate* (公司式的) America. Big companies *brag about* (吹嘘, 自夸) family friendly policies and *vie* (竞争) for spots in rankings of the Best companies for women to join. Yet the rhetoric is not always matched by reality, the Associated Press reported. At a time when the motherhood vs. career debate is generating new sparks, experts say most companies could be doing far more to support women who want to be both moms and managers.

While businesses may have good intentions when they start





- B. Experts criticise that most companies haven't done much to support working mothers.
  - C. Experts believe most companies can do more to support their female managers.
  - D. Experts stand by those mothers who want to be managers.
3. What is the persistent bias against part-time employees, as is revealed by a study of Washington D. C. Law firms?
- A. A part-time worker fails to do full-time work.
  - B. A part-time worker fails to do part-time work.
  - C. A part-time worker does full-time work.
  - D. A part-time worker does part-time work.
4. Economist Sylvia Ann Hewlet found that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 19 percent of competitive male managers have no children
  - B. 19 percent of comparable male managers want children
  - C. 49 percent of high-achieving women have no children
  - D. 49 percent of high-achieving women want children
5. The economist urged women to have children earlier because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a woman over 40 may fail to find an ideal husband
  - B. a woman over 40 may fail to have a child
  - C. a woman over 40 may fail to nurse a baby
  - D. a woman over 40 may fail to support a family



**Passage**

**3**

Josh Bryant's classmates knew just how to deal with his deafness: They took matters into their own hands.

Seven-year-old Josh Bryant is giving out rulers to some of his

classmates at the Clinton Park Primary School, but not a single one says thank you. It isn't that they're rude. Instead of saying thanks, Josh's fellow students sign the words, using the *swooshing* (带有声韵) hand gesture that Josh, deaf since infancy, understands. All 31 normal-hearing children in his class at Clinton Park—in Tattershall, England, about 180 miles north of London—have learned enough sign language to make Josh feel like just another student. "It's been overwhelming," says mom Fiona Bryant, 29, a homemaker. She wanted the middle of her three children to be *integrated with* (融合) hearing people but has been surprised and touched by his friends' gracious response. "He fits in with whatever they are doing," she says.

It all began when Josh's classmates started to voluntarily imitate his chats with sign language teacher Maria Harrison, 39, who translates for him at school. Sensing they were eager to learn how, Harrison set up a weekly *choir* (合唱团) last fall that has helped teach about a third of the 190 students at Clinton Park to sing by signing. "I love signing so I can talk to Josh," says Hannah Oglesby, 7. "And we are lucky because we will be able to use this all our lives."

Luckiest of all is Josh, who, since the students began singing, has become so excited about going to school that one recent morning he was up and ready at 4 a. m. He happily joins his *pals* (伙伴) on the playground and "will grab their hands and show them how to do a sign correctly," says Harrison. Helping them, Josh says, is the least he can do. "They are," he signs, "good friends to me."

(325 words)

1. In paragraph 1, "They took matters into their own hands" is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. "They deal with the matters themselves"

- B. "They handle with the matters"  
 C. "They gesture with their own hands"  
 D. "They control what is happen"
2. In dealing with him, Josh Bryant's classmates are \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. rough B. harsh  
 C. severe D. gracious
3. Since he was an infant, 7-year-old Josh Bryant's hearing has been \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. normal B. abnormal  
 C. typical D. atypical
4. 29-year-old Fiona Bryant has several children. Josh Bryant is her \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. first child B. second child  
 C. third child D. fourth child
5. The weekly choir, set up by Maria Harrison, began singing last \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. spring B. summer  
 C. autumn D. winter

## Passage 4

A national debate on genetically modified crops sponsored by government ministers is never going to be an entirely thrilling experience—as Britain's attempt to launch one revealed last week. Such debates are not wrong in principle. The key problem in the UK lies in the way the debate is being framed. Everything about it including the title, "GM Nation", suggests that the country faces a stark choice. Either it welcomes GM food with open arms, or it



turns its back on the technology for good. But this *dichotomy* (二分法) is a fiction designed to suit the dogmatic agendas of those on both sides of the argument.

The question that ought to be driving the debate is not whether GM crops should or should not be grown, imported or eaten. Rather, it is what regulations need to be attached to these activities to protect the environment and consumers.

Without convincing evidence that GM crops are harmful to health or the environment—and as yet there isn't any—governments will struggle to find a long-term legal basis for banning imports of GM seeds and produce. Pleas that their *electorates* (全体选民) don't like the smell of the technology won't get them very far in international trade talks.

Few technologies are all good or all bad, and GM crops will be no exception. What ought to matter is how we manage the risks to ensure that the technology delivers more of the good than the bad. If there are fears about *herbicide-resistant* (抗除草剂) genes spreading to create superweeds or farmers overusing herbicides to the *detriment* (有害的) of wildlife, let's have strict environmental monitoring and get the seed manufacturers and farmers to pay for it via a licence fee. If people are worried about GM crop patents being concentrated in a handful of greedy multinationals, let's spend more public money on crop genetics. If there are concerns about GM *pollen* (花粉) contaminating organic crops to a meaningful degree, let's make the seed manufacturers and/or GM growers responsible for compensating the organic growers.

There are logical policy responses to virtually all the major concerns people have about GM crops and the companies that own them. But are they likely to get a decent public opinion? Not in a