

杨荣泉 主编

新题型

大学英语四级 阅读200篇

200 篇

第五版

大学英语四级阅读200篇
*200 Passages for Developing
Reading Comprehension*

上海交通大学出版社

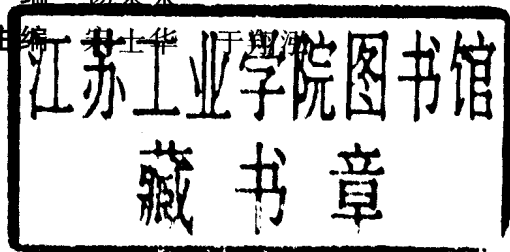
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(第五版)

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前 言

《大学英语四级阅读 200 篇》自出版以来与四级考试相伴十余年,深受广大读者的喜爱和专家的好评,借本书第五版修订之际,编者们对大家的厚爱深表谢意。本书之所以长期畅销不衰,主要原因是它随着大学英语教学的不断改革及考试题型的不断变化而及时修订,使其更好地为教学和考试服务。大学英语四、六级考试改革项目组和考试委员会于 2005 年 2 月制定了《全国大学英语四、六级考试改革方案(试行)》并公布了大学英语四级考试样卷。《大学英语四级阅读 200 篇》(第五版)就是依据 2005 年的改革方案和四级考试样卷修订的。

《全国大学英语四、六级考试改革方案(试行)》简介对阅读理解的要求是:阅读理解部分比例调整为 35%。仔细阅读部分除测试篇章阅读理解外,还包括对篇章语境中的词汇理解的测试;快速阅读部分则测试各种快速阅读技能。大学英语四级考试说明中对阅读理解是这样规定的:阅读理解部分分值比例为 35%;其中仔细阅读部分(Reading in Depth)25%,快速阅读部分(Skimming and Scanning)10%。仔细阅读部分又分为:(1) 选择题型的篇章阅读理解;(2) 篇章层次的词汇理解(Banked cloze)或短句问答(Short Answer Questions)。快速阅读理解部分主要测试浏览阅读和查读的能力。在大学英语四级考试试点考试样卷中快速阅读(Skimming and Scanning)放在写作(Writing)之后,答案应写在答题卡 I (Answer Sheet I)上;快速阅读题型分为两类:是非判断题及句子填空或其他。仔细阅读理解(Reading in Depth)则安排在听力之后,分为两部分:第一部分是一篇文章中有 10 个标有题号的空白处,文章下面是标有字母的 15 个单词,其中 10 个单词是答案,另有 5 个干扰词,要求考生选出正确的答案并填在答题卡 II (Answer Sheet II)上;第二部分是篇章阅读理解,题目为多项选择题,共 2 篇文章,10

个题目,与过去的阅读理解考试形式一样。这次修订就是在深入研究以上规定,认真分析样卷并根据样卷的形式及顺序编排的。

本书由 50 个单元构成,每个单元包括 4 篇文章。第一篇是快速阅读,文章长 1000 余词,多为实用文,共有 10 题,分为两类:前 7 个题目为是非判断题,[Y][N][NG]分别表示 Yes, No, Not Given;后 3 个题目则是句子填空题。这一部分主要是培养、测试考生各种快速阅读技能,尤其是考生的归纳、概括及查找信息的能力。第二篇是篇章层次的词汇理解题,文长 200 余词,题材多种多样,可读性强,所考词汇一般为实义词,如名词、动词、形容词及副词。这一部分主要是考察考生对篇章语境中的词汇理解能力。第三、四篇文章是篇章阅读理解题,文章长 300 余词,题材、体裁丰富,题材有科普常识、英语国家的风土人情、政治、社会经济、人文教育、医疗健康以及生理心理等等;体裁多为叙述文、说明文、议论文等。这一部分旨在培养测试考生的以下能力:掌握中心大意,了解说明中心大意的事实及细节,能根据文章内容进行分析、推理和判断,能把握作者的观点和态度。完成每个单元的时间为 40 分钟:快速阅读 15 分钟,仔细阅读为 25 分钟。考生可根据自己的情况,由慢到快逐步提高阅读速度。

书后有两个附录:一个是用简明的语言介绍了三种不同的阅读技巧,以及如何去读才能获得最佳效果;另一个是 50 个单元的参考答案。

为了节省篇幅,本书只在第一个单元加了答题说明。

本书自出版以来已发行数十万册,为了满足广大读者的要求,根据《全国大学英语四、六级考试改革方案(试行)》,这次修订比过去任何一次都更加彻底、全面,并与新的四级考试中的阅读内容及形式相一致。

《大学英语四级阅读 200 篇》(第五版)由杨荣泉主编,宋士华和于翔鸿任副主编,参与编写工作的还有田桂荣、侯乐和杨晓靖。在此向参加第四版修订的同志们表示衷心的感谢。

杨荣泉

2006 年 4 月

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Unit One

Passage 1

Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning) (15 minutes)

Directions: In this passage, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions on Answer Sheet 1.

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.

How to Buy a Used Car

Nearly everybody buys a used car sooner or later, as a primary vehicle or as a second car. Indeed, three out of four sales today are used cars, and they're not cheap junkers either—the average price now is \$ 5500, about half what a new car costs. Make the wrong selection and a major investment can be lost the moment you drive off the lot.

There is far less chance of this happening to you if you know: when to buy, where to buy, how to examine the car, how to conduct your own road test, and how to bargain over the price.

When to buy

Shop during the day. Lighting makes cars gleam like jewels at night. In daylight they look dull, but realistic.

Don't shop in the rain. It can mask liquids that might be leaking. If possible, shop in the winter when supplies are high and demand is low.

Where to buy

Shop the suburbs. In more affluent neighbourhoods cars are more likely to have been well cared for.

A private owner normally sells a car for less than a dealer does, but almost always "as is," with no guarantee. That's an acceptable risk if what you're looking for is a cheap second car to "drive to the station."

Even though a used-car dealer generally charges more, you can often get some type of limited guarantee. This is often a 50-50 plan, in which you each pay half on repairs for a period that may range from 30 days to a year. Ask the dealer about the availability of an optional service policy.

Used-car dealers often claim to have gone over the car, and many have. But remember that small dealers often buy cars that are auctioned (拍卖) because nobody else wants them.

Some experts feel that a new-car dealer is the best place to buy a secondhand car, especially if you're laying out a large sum for a late model. Some of these dealers offer extensive guarantees, such as one on the "drive train," which covers any problems with engine, transmission (变速器), drive shaft and differential (差速器). Expect to pay for this, as well as for the markup. But if you shop soon after the new models have arrived, when a dealer has a lot of trade-ins tying up his profits, he might deal.

The visual examination

You've found your dream car, and can hardly wait to get in and roar away. Wait.

First, look for any flaws or ripples (划痕) in the body that might indicate a past accident. To see if a car has been repainted, look under the rubber seals around the door or under the chrome trim. Repainting may mask deep flaws.

Check the odometer (计程器) for total mileage, and then compare that figure with any stickers still attached to door posts. It's illegal to change odometer readings, but it happens. If there are no stickers, be a little suspicious. Check pedals and controls; wear on these parts should agree with the mileage. If they are brand new, be suspicious. If they are worn out, beware.

Check that the doors, hood and trunk all open smoothly and close with solid sound. Sight along the sides of the car from 30 feet away to be sure that the rear and front wheels line up.

Look under the car for fluid leaks. Except for condensation from a working air conditioner on a hot day, no car should ever drip anything, any time.

Now sit in the driver's seat and try the controls. The car should fit you—it should be comfortable. Check seat adjustment, door locks, window-raising mechanisms, horn, lights, directional signals, radio—all accessories.

Start the engine. It should turn over quickly and then settle down to a rather fast idle. Give the engine a moment or two before you press the accelerator a bit. Watch for smoke from the rear. Blue smoke might mean a complete engine overhaul (大修), black a maladjusted carburettor (化油器).

White smoke can be ignored if the engine is cold, but once it is warmed up, white smoke can mean a leaking head gasket(垫圈); expensive. Reject this car.

After the engine has warmed, shut it off, and then go wipe your finger inside the tailpipe(making sure it's not too hot). The residue should be whitish-gay. If you get a black, oily mark, refuse the car—it's probably an oil burner.

Restart the engine and check the oil in an automatic transmission. It should be clean and clear, with no burned odor.

The test drive

The salesman may try to convince you that a short drive around the block is enough. Wrong. Make it clear that you plan to road test the car, and if he isn't happy with this look elsewhere.

The test route you have mapped out should include dry city streets, a freeway, a hill, a bumpy road and an empty parking lot. All gauges(计量器) should read steady and normal throughout the test, especially oil pressure and engine heat. If not, don't buy the car.

Drive to a traffic-free city street on your predetermined route and then accelerate smoothly to about 35 miles per hour. The automatic transmission should shift without jerking and with no noise.

Slow to about 7 m. p. h. by gently applying the brakes. There should be no noise, no sharp sound or grinding. The car should slow in a straight line, with no pulling to the right or left.

Pick up speed to about 15; then making certain nobody is behind you, hit the brakes hard! The car should come to an immediate stop without making noise or swerving.

In an empty, level parking lot, brake to a complete stop. Shift into reverse and back up at about 4 m. p. h. , brake to a halt, shift into forward, etc. Do this four or five times to test the transmission. All shifting should be smooth, with no noise or hesitation.

Accelerate up a hill to about 40 m. p. h. The car should not labour. If it does, you could have a rotten transmission. Go back down the hill. Stop halfway, shift into neutral and set the parking brake. The car should remain stationary when you take your foot off the brake pedal.

Drive the car over the bumpy road, up a hill, and on the highway. Rarely will a car be perfect. However by now you should have a pretty good idea what needs to be done.

How to bargain

Use what you've learned from the visual exam, test drive and outside

mechanic to get the price down. Have a maximum figure in mind, based on your inspection and on current prices from a used-car guide. Start your bidding lower than that. When you have nearly arrived at a price, get the seller to throw in certain repairs. It may be cheaper for him than further price cuts.

1. Following the instructions here will help you make a good selection when buying a used car.
2. Winter is a good time for purchasing a car because there is little rain in winter.
3. You are more likely to pay less to a private owner for a car of poor quality.
4. Refuse the car if you find any signs of a past accident in the visual examination.
5. Don't buy the car if there is white smoke coming out of the rear because it is probably an oil burner.
6. At certain speeds in the tests, a good car should not make any noise when the driver brakes either hard or gently.
7. If you are patient and careful enough, you will certainly find a perfect used car.
8. The last step before you make a decision to buy a car is _____.
9. Besides all gauges, the two very important systems mainly examined in the test drive are _____.
10. According to some experts, the best place to buy a second-hand car is _____.

Passage 2 Reading Comprehension(Reading in Depth)(25 minutes)

Directions: *In this passage there are 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. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.*

Questions 1 to 10 are based on the following passage.

Looking back on years of living in a working-class home in the North of England, I should say that a good living room must 11 three principal things: homeliness, warmth and plenty of good food. The living-room is the warm heart of the family and 12 often slightly stuffy to a middle-class visitor. It is not a social centre but a family center; little entertaining goes on there or in the front room, if there 13 to be one; you do not entertain in anything approaching the middle-class 14. The wife's social life outside her 15 family is found over the washing-line, at the little shop on the corner, visiting relatives at a moderate 16 occasionally, and perhaps now and again a visit with her husband to his pub or club. Apart from these two places, he has

just his work and his football matches. They will have, each of them, friends at all these places, who may well not know what the inside of their house is like, having never “stepped across the threshold,” as the old 17 phrase has it. The family hearth is 18 for the family itself, and those who are “something to us”(another favorite formula) and who look in for a talk or just to sit. Much of the free time of a man and his wife will 19 be passed at that hearth. Just staying in is still one of the most common leisure-time 20 .

A. happens	B. professions	C. sense	D. nevertheless
E. fashioned	F. distance	G. immediate	H. usually
I. occupations	J. preserved	K. imitate	L. provide
M. therefore	N. reserved	O. contribute	

Passage 3

Directions: *The passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C, D. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.*

The medical world is gradually realizing that the quality of the environment in hospitals may play a significant role in the process of recovery from illness.

As part of a nationwide effort in Britain to bring art out of the galleries and into public places, some of the country's most talented artists have been called in to transform older hospitals and to soften the hard edges of modern buildings. Of the 2,500 National Health Service hospitals in Britain, almost 100 now have significant collections of contemporary art in corridors, waiting areas and treatment rooms.

These recent initiatives owe a great deal to one artist, Peter Senior, who set up his studio at a Manchester hospital in northeastern England during the early 1970s. He felt the artist had lost his place in modern society, and that art should be enjoyed by a wider audience.

A typical hospital waiting room might have as many as 500 visitors each week. What better place to hold regular exhibitions of art? Senior held the first exhibition of his own paintings in the out-patients waiting area of the Manchester Royal Hospital in 1975. Believed to be Britain's first hospital artist, Senior was so much in demand that he was soon joined by a team of six young art school graduates.

The effect is striking. Now in the corridors and waiting rooms the visitor experiences a full view of fresh colors, playful images and restful courtyards.

The quality of the environment may reduce the need for expensive drugs when a patient is recovering from an illness. A study has shown that patients who had a view onto a garden needed half the number of strong pain killers compared with patients who had no view at all or only a brick wall to look at.

21. According to the passage, "to soften the hard edges of modern buildings" means _____.
- A. to pull down hospital buildings
 - B. to decorate hospitals with art collections
 - C. to improve the quality of treatment in hospitals
 - D. to make the corners of hospital buildings round
22. What can we say of Peter Senior?
- A. He is a pioneer in introducing art into hospitals.
 - B. He is a doctor interested in painting.
 - C. He is an artist who has a large collection of paintings.
 - D. He is a faithful follower of hospital art.
23. According to Peter Senior, _____.
- A. art is losing its audience in modern society
 - B. art galleries should be changed into hospitals
 - C. patients should be encouraged to learn painting
 - D. art should be encouraged in British hospitals
24. After the improvement of the hospital environment, _____.
- A. patients no longer need drugs in their recovery
 - B. patients are no longer wholly dependent on expensive drugs
 - C. patients need good-quality drugs in their recovery
 - D. patients use fewer pain killers in their recovery
25. The fact that six young art school graduates joined Peter shows that _____.
- A. Peter's enterprise is developing greatly
 - B. Peter Senior enjoys great popularity
 - C. they are talented hospital artists
 - D. the role of hospital environment is being recognized

Passage 4

Directions: *The passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C, D. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.*

Polyester (聚酯) is now being used for bottles. ICI, the chemicals and plastics company, believes that it is now beginning to break the grip of glass on

the bottle business and thus take advantage of this huge market.

All the plastics manufacturers have been experiencing hard times as their traditional products have been doing badly world-wide for the last few years. Between 1982 and 1984 the Plastics Division of ICI had lost a hundred and twenty million dollars, and they felt that the most hopeful new market was in packaging, bottles and cans.

Since 1982 it has opened three new factories producing "Melinar", the raw material from which high quality polyester bottles are made.

The polyester bottle was born in the 1970s, when soft drinks companies like Coca Cola started selling their drinks in giant two-liter containers. Because of the build-up of the pressure of gas in these large containers, glass was unsuitable. Nor was PVC, the plastic which had been used for bottles since the 1960s, suitable for drinks with gas in them. A new plastic had to be made.

Glass is still cheaper for the smaller bottles, and will continue to be so unless oil and plastic become much cheaper, but plastic does well for the larger sizes.

Polyester bottles are virtually unbreakable. The manufacturers claim they are also lighter, less noisy when being handled, and can be reused. Shopkeepers and other business people are unlikely to object to a change from glass to polyester, since these bottles mean few breakages, which are costly and time-consuming. The public, though, have been more difficult to persuade. ICI's commercial department is developing different bottles with interesting shapes, to try and make them visually more attractive to the public.

The next step could be to develop a plastic which could replace tins for food. The problem here is the high temperatures necessary for cooking the food in the container.

26. Plastics of various kinds have been used for making bottles _____.
A. since 1982
B. since the 1970s but only for large bottles
C. since the 1960s but not for liquids with gas in them
D. since companies like Coca Cola first tried them
27. Why is ICI's Plastics Division interested in polyester for bottles?
A. The other things they make are not selling well.
B. Glass manufacturers cannot make enough new bottles.
C. They have factories which could be adapted to make it.
D. The price of oil keeps changing.
28. Why aren't all bottles now made of polyester?
A. The price of oil and plastic has risen.

- B. It is not suitable for containing gassy drinks.
C. The public like traditional glass bottles.
D. Shop-keepers dislike reusable bottles.
29. Manufacturers think polyester bottles are better than glass bottles because they _____.
A. are cheaper
B. are more suited to small sizes
C. are more exciting to look at
D. do not break easily
30. Plastic containers for holding food in the same way as cans _____.
A. have been used for many years
B. are an idea that interests the plastics companies
C. are possible, but only for hot food
D. are the first things being made in the new factories

Unit Two

Passage 1

World's Nonsmokers Take up Fight for Cleaner Air

In country after country, talk of nonsmokers' rights is in the air. This fresh voice is heard from Australia to Sweden. Its force is freeing clean air for nonsmokers—and tightening the situation for smokers.

In west Germany, for instance, taxi drivers—known for their independence—post signs saying “Nicht Raucher”(nonsmoker) and may refuse passengers who insist on smoking... Bans in Poland prevent smoking in factories, offices, snack bars, and other public places... And Venezuelans can be fined \$ 230 to \$ 1,000 for smoking in supermarkets, buses, and numerous other places. Many countries also are moving in step to limit tobacco promotion (despite a 7 percent jump in world tobacco production last year) and eliminate the “false claims of the glorification(美化) of smoking as a habit...” says Jean de Moerloose of the United Nations World Health Organization.

While a majority of countries have taken little or no action yet, some 30 nations have introduced legislative steps to control smoking abuse. Many laws have been introduced in other countries to help clear the air for nonsmokers, or to cut cigarette consumption.

In many developing nations, however, cigarette smoking is seen as a sign of economic progress—and is even encouraged.

“While it appears that in developed countries the consumption of cigarettes has become stabilized, there are some indications that it is still rising at a steady pace in Latin America,” says Dr. Daniel J. Joly, an adviser to the Pan American Health Organization.

Despite progress in segregating(隔离) nonsmokers and smokers, most countries see little change in the number of smokers. In fact, there is a jump in the number of girls and young women starting to smoke.

As more tobacco companies go international, new markets are sought to gain new smokers in developing countries. For example, great efforts are made by the American tobacco industry to sell cigarettes in the Middle East and North Africa—where U. S. tobacco exports increased by more than 27 percent last year, according the U. S. Foreign Agriculture Service.

So far, any cooperation between tobacco interests and governments' campaigns against smoking has been in the area of tobacco advertising.

Restrictions on cigarette ads, plus health warnings on packages and bans on public smoking in certain places, are the most popular tools used by nations in support of nonsmokers or in curbing(限制) smoking.

But world attention also is focusing on other steps which will:

—make the smoker increasingly self-conscious and uncomfortable about his habit by publicizing public awareness of the decline of social acceptability of smoking.

(This method is receiving strong support in the U. S. and other countries.)

—prevent pro-smoking scenes on television and films.

—remove cigarette vending machines.

—provide support for those who want to kick the habit of smoking.

—make it illegal to sell or hand over tobacco products to minors and prohibit smoking in meeting places for young people.

—boost cigarette prices with higher tobacco taxes—and use the money for antismoking campaigns.

At a June UN conference on smoking, a goal set by Sir George E. Godber, chairman of the expert committee on smoking and health for the World Health Organization, stated: “We may not have eliminated cigarette smoking completely by the end of this century, but we ought to have reached a position where relatively few addicts still use cigarettes, but only in private at most in the company of consenting adults.”

NATIONS ATTEMPT SOLUTIONS

Here are brief sketches of major or unique attempts around the world to insure nonsmokers' right to smoke-free air and to help smokers quit.

SWEDEN

An ambitious, concerted plan to raise a nation of nonsmokers is being implemented by the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare.

Swedish children born after 1975 will grow up in environments that will be nonsmoking and antismoking as much as possible. General cigarette consumption will cut from 1,700 cigarettes a year per person to 1920 level of under 300 cigarettes a year, according to the 25-year plan. .

A campaign to restrict tobacco advertising, raise cigarette prices to over \$ 2 a pack, remove cigarette vending machines by 1979, ban pro-smoking content in films and television programs, restrict public smoking, and give intensive antismoking education in schools and the military, will promote the goal of a