

College English
大学英语

快速阅读教程

第二级

Speed Reading Course
Band 2

汪开虎 主编

A B C D E F G
H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T
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上海交通大学出版社

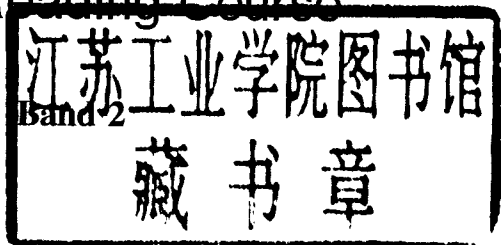
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大学英语快速阅读



第二级

Speed Reading Course



主 编 汪开虎
本册编者 汪开虎 奚俊芳
何 艳 王春艳
刘 萍

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内 容 提 要

本书为套书大学英语快速阅读教程(1-6级)的第二级。本套书按大学英语的相应难度分为6级,每级一册,便于不同水平的读者选择使用。本套书选材新,体裁广,包括了科普、财经、体育、政治、经济等各领域 的文章,文章全部选自英语国家2000年出版的报纸、杂志等。选材具有时效性、趣味性和知识性等特点。

本书适合大学学生和具有同等英语水平的学习者使用。

大学英语快速阅读教程

第二级

汪开虎 主编

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前 言

阅读能力是大学英语教学的重心。根据《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本),大学英语教学的目的是“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力”。较强的阅读能力包括一定的阅读效率和速度。但是,阅读速度慢是广大英语学习者遇到的普遍问题。造成这一问题的主要原因之一是缺乏合适的快速阅读教材。虽然大学里的英语教材大都配有快速阅读,但对学习者来讲,仅仅这一点材料是远远不够的。为此,我们编写了这套《大学英语快速阅读教程》,为读者提供适量的训练材料,帮助读者培养良好的阅读习惯,提高阅读能力。

全套丛书共选编 300 篇文章,按难度分为 6 册,每级 1 册,每册含 50 篇文章。各级的难度大体与大学英语教学大纲的要求相符或略高一点。这些文章大多数出自英语国家 2000 年出版的各类报刊杂志,题材广泛,涉及政治、经济、金融、旅游、军事、外交、航天、天文、生物、基因科学、医药、计算机、体育等诸多领域;文章体裁丰富,有新闻、广告、专访、评论、论述、游记、感想、摘要等等。

本书初稿完成后,我们在上海交通大学组织在读大学生进行了阅读测试。根据反馈,我们对初稿进行了调整,撤换了过难和过易的文章,对正误集中的阅读理解题做了相应调整,为超过大纲要求并影响阅读理解的词汇加上了中文解释。

为便于读者了解文章的难易度,编者在每篇文章后面附上了文章的统计信息,包括字数、段落数、句数、段落平均句数、句子平均字数和被动句比例。正是这些因素决定了文章的难易,同时,它们也体现了英语不同文体的特点。对生词的统计信息是文章难易度分级的主要依据之一,因为编者对生词做了控制并适当加了注释,因此关于生词的信息我们没有列出来。

阅读速度项(Your Reading Speed),由读者自己记时填写,并可根

据下表检验是否达到相应等级水平。阅读效率项(Your Reading Efficiency),由读者参照书后答案计算出答题正确率。

| 级 | 阅读速度 (wpm) | | 技能要求 |
|---|------------|------|------------------------------|
| | 一般阅读 | 快速阅读 | |
| 一 | 60 | 80 | 能读懂语言难度一般的普通题材的文章。学会基本阅读技能。 |
| 二 | 65 | 90 | 同上 |
| 三 | 70 | 100 | 能读懂语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章。掌握基本阅读技能 |
| 四 | 70 | 100 | 同上 |
| 五 | 70 | 120 | 能读懂语言难度较高的一般性题材的文章。掌握较高的阅读技能 |
| 六 | 70 | 120 | 同上 |

——摘自《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本)上海外语教育出版社

本书可作为普通高校学生学习英语的快速阅读教材,也可供广大英语学习者自学。

本套丛书由汪开虎主编,参加本书编写的人员都是上海交通大学的英语教师,他们都长期从事英语教学工作。本书第一册(Band 1)由刘萍编写,第三册(Band 3)由王春艳编写,第四册(Band 4)由何艳编写,第五册(Band 5)由奚俊芳编写,第六册(Band 6)由汪开虎编写,第二册(Band 2)由上述人员共同完成。

本书在编撰过程中,得到上海交通大学外国语学院院部、英语系和大学英语教学部的大力支持与鼓励,在选材、统稿和校对过程中,得到温孜、郑晓卿及英国 Mary Feng 女士的大力帮助,特此致谢。另外,上海交通大学外国语学院英语系四年级 F9714001 班和 F9714002 班全体同学对本书初稿提出了不少宝贵的意见,在此一并表示感谢。

本书大多数文章选自美国、英国、加拿大、澳大利亚、新西兰等国家 50 多种报纸和杂志,此处无法一一注明,谨此铭谢。

由于时间仓促,工作量较大,错误遗漏之处在所难免,望行家不吝指正。

汪开虎

2000 年 10 月 11 日

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1. Family Fortune

Starting Time: _____

In 1840, times were hard for Bentley Harcourt. He had a farm in Yorkshire, but it didn't make money. He wanted to marry, but decided to wait until better times came along. Better times did not come along. One day, he saw a newspaper article about the American West. It sounded like the land of milk and honey. He thought about it. He had no family. Nobody cared if he lived or died. Why not make a new life in the New World? He sold his farm and emigrated to America. After a year of drifting, he found himself in Texas. He loved it. He loved the fact that you could travel for days and not meet another soul. He used his savings to buy some land. That year, he died.

In 1910, an oil company moved on to his land and found oil. They took millions of barrels of oil out of the ground. All the profits due to the owner of the land were paid into a bank account in Houston, where they waited for a relative to claim them. The money sat in the bank for years. By 1975, the amount stood at two billion dollars. In 1975, in Bradford, England, a man called David Kingsley took up a new hobby — tracing his family tree. He studied church records, visited museums, checked every reference to families called Kingsley. He also checked on his mother's family. They were called Harcourt. He discovered one day that his mother's great-great-uncle, a man with the splendid name of Bentley Harcourt, had sailed from Liverpool to America on the SS Enterprise.

In the same year, shortly after learning about his great-great-uncle, Kingsley read a magazine article about a fortune that lay unclaimed in a

Texas bank. The article told the story of a lonely immigrant called Bentley Harcourt, and about how he had died shortly after buying his dream ranch in Texas. The magazine offered to pay the legal expenses of anyone who could claim to be a descendant and who might be entitled to the fortune. Kingsley read the story with mounting excitement. Surely this must be the same Bentley Harcourt that he had come across during his research into his family tree. He talked the matter over with his wife and then wrote to the magazine.

As it turned out, Kingsley was not the only one who claimed to be a descendant. By the end of 1997, over sixty people were claiming they were entitled to the fortune. The arguments, the quarrels and the court cases went on and on and on. In the end, Kingsley did not get the \$2bn, but, funnily enough, he didn't mind. He had found something much more important. He had a great-great-uncle called Bentley Harcourt, there was no doubt about that. But, amazingly, his was a different Bentley Harcourt. It seemed impossible that there could be two people with such an unusual name, but it was true. This Bentley Harcourt had settled in Orange County, California and had made his fortune in fish canning. He married a hardworking Swedish girl, and they had thirteen children. David Kingsley had found a different treasure: a branch of his family across the Atlantic. The two families wrote to each other. Later, they visited each other. They became the best of friends.

And the fortune of the other Bentley Harcourt? It is still unclaimed. As I write this, the sum stands at \$2.3 billion. This may be a good moment to start tracing your family tree.

Finishing Time: _____

Reading Comprehension

1. We may infer from the passage that Bentley Harcourt _____.
 - A. was an Englishman
 - B. was an American
 - C. left for Yorkshire
 - D. left for Bradford
2. The oil company paid the profits _____.
 - A. to the owner of the land
 - B. to Bentley Harcourt
 - C. into a bank account in Houston
 - D. to a relative of the answer
3. The magazine which had told the story of an unclaimed fortune offered to pay the legal expenses of anyone who _____.
 - A. claimed to be the descendant
 - B. could claim to be a descendant and who might be the successor
 - C. was the descendant
 - D. was a descendant and who had the title of the fortune
4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?
 - A. Over sixty people claimed they were entitled to the fortune.
 - B. Kingsley did not receive the \$ 2 billion.
 - C. Kingsley found some unexpected material wealth
 - D. Kingsley did have a great-great-uncle called Bentley Harcourt.
5. The author writes the last sentence as _____.
 - A. an advertisement
 - B. a humor
 - C. an irony
 - D. a joke

Statistics on the Passage

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|------|
| Words: | 589 | Sentences per Paragraph: | 10.4 |
| Paragraphs: | 5 | Words per Sentence: | 11.3 |
| Sentences: | 52 | Passive Voice: | 3% |
| Your Reading Speed:____ words/minute | | | |
| Your Reading Efficiency:____ % | | | |

2. Sinking Ship

Starting Time: _____

On board the Central America, a ship on her way from Havana to New York, were no fewer than four hundred and ninety-one passengers, most of whom were miners returning with their gold to the land where they were born. At the start of the voyage the sky had been cloudless and the wind fair, but three days later the ship was rolling in a storm which threw her about like a child's plaything. It was not long before water found its way into the engine-room and put out the fires, leaving the ship helpless, with her engines stopped.

In spite of all efforts, the depth of the water down below slowly increased; and the difficulties of the men at work were made more severe by the fact that the water had been heated by the engine-room fires. It became clear to all, from the captain downwards, that nothing could save the ship, and that she would soon go to the bottom.

Unusual courage was shown by nearly all on board: not even the women gave themselves up to useless tears. Captain Herndon moved about the ship encouraging all, sometimes giving orders in attempts to save his ship, sometimes silent, always determined. But all his efforts were in vain.

Fortunately, when all hope of safety had entirely gone, another ship, the Marie of Boston, appeared on the scene. The Marie had also suffered heavily in the storm, but her captain immediately made arrangements to move the women and children in boats from the Central America to his own ship. The mountainous seas made it impossible to take more

than a few at one time in a boat, and the work was painfully slow. But there was no disorder: even the rough miners waited patiently, making no attempt to save themselves until the women and children were safe. When they had all been taken off, there was time for forty of the men to be taken to the Marie as well.

All this time the Central America had been sinking lower in the water, and at eight O'clock on Saturday evening in September 1847, she disappeared forever in the roaring sea. Those who were still alive, and who had not reached the Marie, then found themselves swimming in the water, which fortunately was not too cold at first.

The night was dark, though sometimes the moving clouds allowed a star or two to be seen in the sky. The miserable men held on to any bit of wood they could find. They called to the Marie for help, but she was far beyond the reach of the human voice. At one O'clock in the morning the water was getting colder, and a sharp wind had begun to blow.

Suddenly lights were seen in the distance; another ship! The shouts of the swimmers were heard on board, and willing hands pulled them out of the water. The name of the ship that had so fortunately arrived on the scene in time to save their lives was the Ellen. What had brought her to the exact spot through the darkness and the pathless sea? Her captain had known nothing of the wreck and had, indeed, attempted to sail away from it. But let him speak for himself.

'I was forced by the wind,' he said long afterwards, to change my course. Just as I changed it, a small bird flew across the ship once or twice and then flew at my face. I took no notice of this until exactly the same thing happened a second time, which caused me to think it rather unusual. While I was thus considering it, the same bird, for the third time, made its appearance and new about in the same way as before. I was then persuaded to change my course back to the original one. I had not gone far when I heard strange noises, and when I tried to discover

where they came from, I found I was in the middle of people who had been shipwrecked. I immediately did my best to save them.'

Finishing Time: _____

Reading Comprehension

1. Most passengers on the ship Central America were miners who _____.
 - A. went to America to find gold
 - B. returned to their birth place America
 - C. went back with gold to America which was their birth place
 - D. went back with gold they earned in America
2. The author suggests that _____.
 - A. all the people on the ship were unusually courageous
 - B. even women showed great courage
 - C. Captain Herndon calmly gave orders to save the ship
 - D. all the people worked together and helped one another
3. It was difficult for the Marie of Boston to rescue people on the sinking ship for the following reasons EXCEPT that _____.
 - A. people rushed to the boats
 - B. a boat could only take a few people at one time
 - C. the Central America had been sinking all the time
 - D. the storm was heavy
4. We may infer from the last paragraph that _____.
 - A. it was the bird that saved those drowning people
 - B. the bird was sent out by the captain of the Central America
 - C. those drowning people were saved by chance
 - D. the captain of Ellen knew of the wreck
5. The appropriate title for the passage could be "_____".
 - A. Hope B. Chance C. Destiny D. Survival

Statistics on the Passage

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|------|
| Words: | 681 | Sentences per Paragraph: | 4.0 |
| Paragraphs: | 8 | Words per Sentence: | 21.2 |
| Sentences: | 32 | Passive Voice: | 21% |
| Your Reading Speed: ____ words/minute | | | |
| Your Reading Efficiency: ____ % | | | |

3. How to Write a Resume

Starting Time: _____

If you are about to search for a job, the suggestions I offer here can help you **whether** or not you have a high school or college diploma, whether you are just starting out or changing your job or career in mid-stream.

“What do I want to do?”

Before you try to find a job, you have to answer the hardest question of your working life: “What do I want to do?” Here’s a good way. Sit down with a piece of paper and don’t get up till you’ve listed all the things you’re proud to have accomplished. Your list might include being head of a fund-raising campaign, or acting a juicy role in the senior play.

Study the list. You’ll see a pattern emerge of the things you do best and like to do best. You might discover that you’re happiest working with people, or maybe with numbers, or words, or well, you’ll see it.

Once you’ve decided what job area to go after, read more about it in the reference section of your library. “Talk shop” with any people you know in that field. Then start to get your resume together.

There are many good books that offer sample resumes and describe widely used formats. The one that is still most popular, the reverse chronological, emphasizes where you worked and when, and the jobs and titles you held.

How to organize it

Your name and address go at the top. Also phone number.

What job do you want? That's what a prospective employer looks for first. If you know exactly, list that next under Job Objective. Otherwise, save it for your cover letter, when you're writing for a specific job to a specific person. In any case, make sure your resume focuses on the kind of work you can do and want to do.

Now comes Work Experience. Here's where you list your qualifications. Lead with your most important credentials. If you've had a distinguished work history in an area related to the job you're seeking, lead off with that. If your education will impress the prospective employer more, start with that.

Begin with your most recent experience first and work backwards. Include your titles or positions held. And list the years.

No job experience?

In that case, list your summer jobs, extracurricular school activities, honors, awards. Choose the activities that will enhance your qualifications for the job.

Next list your Education—unless you chose to start with that. This should also be in reverse chronological order. List your high school only if you didn't go on to college. Include college degree, postgraduate degrees, dates conferred, major and minor courses you took that help qualify you for the job you want.

Also, did you pay your own way? Earn scholarships or fellowships? Those are impressive accomplishments.

Personal data

This is your chance to let the reader get a glimpse of the personal you, and to further the image you've worked to project in the preceding sections. For example, if you're after a job in computer programming, and you enjoy playing chess, mention it. Chess playing requires the ability to think through a problem.

Include foreign languages spoken, extensive travel, particular inter-