



全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材

COLLEGE ENGLISH

Fast Reading 3

陈洁 主编


大学 英语

快速 阅读

第

3

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· 全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材 ·

大学英语快速阅读

总主编 李建华 (中国农业大学)

编

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1. 第一、二册每单元第一篇文章的前三段或前一段标示了意群,以指导学生按意群进行阅读。逐字阅读速度慢,不利于对句子或篇章的整体理解。把句子分为若干意群来领会文章的整体意思,可有效地提高阅读效率。在每个意群中,重点要放在实词上,不必过多注意冠词、介词等虚词,这是提高阅读速度的关键。

2. 第一、二册每单元第二篇文章的前三段或前一段标示了主题句,以指导学生学会抓住主题句进行阅读。主题句的位置通常在段落的开始,其特点是开门见山地

主 编 陈 洁

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前 言

快速阅读是指以较快的速度在一定的时间内有目的、有效率地读完一定字数的材料，并从中获得所需要的文字信息，它是培养学生提高阅读速度和阅读能力的基础和最有效的方法之一，而且也是大部分大学生今后工作所需要的主要技能之一。多年以来，培养学生具有较强的阅读能力一直是大学英语教学的主要目标。因此，全国大学英语四级新题型中专门增加了对快速阅读能力的考查。为了提高学生快速获取信息的能力，使其尽快达到《大学英语课程教学要求》对快速阅读的要求，我们编写了《大学英语快速阅读》。

《大学英语快速阅读》共分4册，每册8个单元，每单元3篇文章。文章的篇幅分别为：第一册700~800词，第二册800~900词，第三册900~1 000词，第四册1 000~1 100词。本教材选材广泛，内容生动、多样，涉及文化、语言、生活、人性、哲学、文学、科技等方面，语言清晰、活泼，文章有一定的趣味性、知识性和可思性。

在培养学生英语快速阅读策略和技巧运用上，本教材着重强调以下三点：

1. 第一、二册每单元第一篇文章的前三段或前两段标示了意群，以指导学生按意群进行阅读。逐字阅读速度慢，不利于对句子或篇章的整体理解。把句子分为若干意群来领会文章的整体意思，可有效地提高阅读效率。在每个意群中，重点要放在实词上，不必过多注意冠词、介词等虚词，这是提高阅读速度的关键。

2. 第一、二册每单元第二篇文章的前三段或前两段标示了主题句，以指导学生学会抓住主题句进行阅读，主题句的位置通常在段落的开始，其特点是开门见山地

摆出问题,然后加以详细论述。其作用是使文章的结构更加清晰,更具有说服力,便于读者迅速地把握主题和预测该段落的内容。

3. 每篇文章后面都设计了不同形式的练习,目的是提高学生的阅读能力,同时增强他们学习英语的自信心和兴趣。第三、四册按照全国大学英语四级考试新题型设计问题,旨在为学生提供实用性、针对性较强的练习,以便使他们能够自行检测其快速阅读水平并帮助学生提高学习成绩。

此外,每册文章后加注了少量的文化点,文中插入了少量生词,希望能帮助学生提高学习效率。

本册文章以科技题材为主。在选材过程中,我们注重内容的健康性、趣味性和知识性。文章涉及科技、文化、心理、健康、社会等方面。文章生词量不超过3%,本册阅读词汇量3 000左右。为了适合教学目的,我们对部分内容进行了删改。

本教材适合我国高等院校非英语专业大学一年级和二年级学生使用,同时适合广大水平相当的英语自学者。由于编者水平和时间所限,不足之处在所难免,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2007年5月

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Unit 1

Passage 1

Directions: 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.

The Creation of Microsoft

By Lucia Raatma

During his second year at Harvard, Bill Gates began to get clearer ideas about his future. One day, Paul Allen, who was working for Honeywell outside Boston, showed him a magazine cover that changed everything. The magazine was Popular Electronics, and it featured a computer called Altair 8800. This computer was made by MITS (Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems), a company based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Altair was the first device to be called a personal computer—a familiar term today—and it was sold at an affordable price.

"Look," Allen said as he showed Gates the article. "It's going to happen! ...

And we are going to miss it." Gates sat down and read about this new piece of hardware. And he thought about his friend's words. This was a chance he was not going to miss.

Working with the Altair

Computer enthusiasts across the United States were excited about the arrival of the Altair. However, the machine was really just a box with lights and toggle switches. It was nothing like the computers used today. It had neither a keyboard nor a display screen, so there was little it could do. Allen and Gates decided to change that.

The two young men called Ed Roberts, the owner of MITS, and told him that they wanted to create a program—a language for the Altair. They implied that they had already written a version of BASIC to run his computer, but actually they had just begun to think about it.

When Roberts expressed interest, they were ecstatic (狂喜的). For eight weeks, Gates and Allen spent nearly every waking moment working on the software. They fell asleep writing code and started writing code again as soon as they woke up. Gates skipped many classes to meet the deadline that had been set. Gates has said, "I have a soft spot in my heart for BASIC. It was Microsoft's first product, written in my college dorm room."

Finally, Gates and Allen arranged to bring the new program to Roberts. Because money was tight, only one of them could fly to Albuquerque for the meeting. Allen was given this honor because he looked older than Gates did.

When he arrived at the MITS office, Allen worried about how the software would perform. Back at Harvard, Gates was worried too. Since they had written the program without having an actual Altair computer to use, they were afraid that the software might not work. But they had improvised (临时准备) well. As Gates later remembered, "One little mistake would have meant the program wouldn't have run. The first time we tried it was at MITS, and it came home without a glitch (小故障)."

The Altair was now a usable machine, and the future of the computer industry had been forever changed. Gates and Allen had started something big.

The Next Step

After that success, Allen was offered a job at MITS. So in March 1975, he moved to Albuquerque. Gates stayed on at Harvard, but his life was not the

same. He and Allen knew they had much to offer to this growing industry.

After Gates finished his second year of college, he went to Albuquerque for the summer. He and Allen had decided to start their own company. In those summer months, Microsoft was born, though that name was not decided upon until November of that year.

The company name was a combination of the words "microcomputer" and "software." At first, it was spelled Micro-soft, but later the hyphen was dropped. Little did the two entrepreneurs (主办人) know that Microsoft would grow into one of the world's most recognized trademarks.

Software Licensing

When Allen and Gates sold their version of BASIC for the Altair, they had signed a licensing agreement with MITS. Under this agreement, they would make money from the sale of their software whether it was sold as part of the Altair or sold separately. This agreement was the beginning of Gates's concern over software theft. Computer hobbyists often copied the software they used and gave it to their friends for free. However, Gates believed that all users should pay for the software they used.

Moving Ahead

In late 1976, Paul Allen quit his job with MITS to work full-time for Microsoft. Meanwhile, Gates had been trying to license their version of BASIC with General Electric, NCR, Citibank, and many other corporations. By the beginning of 1977, he knew what his life's work would be. He dropped out of Harvard and moved to New Mexico to join Paul.

Gates remembers his parents' reaction: "My parents weren't all that excited about their son announcing he was dropping out of a fine university to start a business in something almost nobody had ever heard of called 'microcomputers'. But they were always very supportive."

Microsoft's first office was located at Two Park Central Tower in Albuquerque. While there, the company continued a battle that had begun with MITS. Gates and Allen felt they should have the right to sell their software to anyone who wanted it, while MITS wanted the exclusive (惟一的) rights. A court ruled in Microsoft's favor. Shortly thereafter, MITS had financial problems and closed down.

In the meantime, Microsoft was developing a second computer language.

An IBM team developed FORTRAN in 1956. Microsoft adapted the language for a new computer chip, called the 8080, which it shipped in July 1977. Again Microsoft had taken someone else's invention and made it more usable. This practice would occur often in the years to come. Allen spent most of his time developing the software, while Gates negotiated deals with other companies.

Gates and Allen had changed the way in which the Altair could be used. Gates was eager to share his vision of personal computing with the public.

(1,001 words)

Questions

1. It was the Altair that brought a great change to Bill Gates.
2. Altair 8800 was quite different from the computers we use today.
3. It took Allen and Gates 8 weeks to write the new program for the Altair.
4. When the new program for the Altair was finished, Gates went to Albuquerque to meet the owner of MITS.
5. The two young men started Microsoft, which drew people's much attention.
6. Under the licensing agreement with MITS, all users should pay for the software they used.
7. In late 1977, Gates dropped out of school to work fully for Microsoft.
8. Microsoft succeeded in getting _____ through law.
9. Shortly after the lawsuit, MITS closed down due to _____.
10. Microsoft developed a second computer language on the basis of _____.

Note

Albuquerque: 阿尔布开克, 美国新墨西哥州中部大城市。

Passage 2

Directions: *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.

Yellowstone Volcano

By Paul Thompson

Yellowstone National Park is in the western state of Wyoming. It is one of the most unusual places in the world. Extremely hot water shoots out of the ground in several hundred places. Small lakes contain water that is so hot it is dangerous to come too close.

Yellowstone is built on an ancient volcano. A lake of hot liquid rock is about six kilometers under the park. This lake is about sixty-five kilometers wide. Experts say this lake is under huge amounts of pressure. The pressure and heat cause hot water to shoot out of the ground and mud to boil at Yellowstone.

The Yellowstone volcano has often been called a super volcano because it is so big. Scientists believe major volcanic activity created violent explosions and built mountains and valleys. Experts believe this super volcano had three major explosions called eruptions. Each of those three eruptions may have been

more powerful than any in recorded history.

Each eruption threw out millions of tons of ash and rock. The last eruption was so huge it covered much of North America with ash. Some of this ash traveled high into the atmosphere and was carried by strong winds around the world.

This cloud of volcanic ash circled the earth many times. It affected the climate by limiting the amount of sunlight that reached earth's lower atmosphere and surface. This last eruption formed the mountains and valleys that visitors can see today in Yellowstone.

Scientists know the volcanic heart of Yellowstone is deep within the earth. This area is called a hot spot. It is only one of a few such places on earth.

Extreme pressure deep in the earth forces liquid rock up through the hot spot to the lake of hot material that is below the surface. This causes the extreme heat that is found in Yellowstone.

Scientists also know the Yellowstone hot spot is linked to the activity of the North American plate. The North American plate is one of several plates that make up the surface of the Earth. These plates move a few centimeters each year. The hot spot does not move. Very often the action between the hot spots and the plate causes great earthquakes as plates move against each other. The plates often split apart. And often after earthquakes, the hot spot forces liquid rock to the surface. This has not happened for several thousand years.

The Yellowstone hot spot has been linked with the North American plate for as long as seventeen million years. At many different times, the hot spot has caused a kind of liquid rock called basalt (玄武岩) to explode to the surface.

This basalt rock from the Yellowstone hot spot can be found in the western states of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada and Idaho. Evidence of this basalt rock can be found in an area as large as three hundred twenty-two thousand square kilometers.

Yellowstone National Park is the oldest national park in the world. About three million people visit it each year. Its great natural beauty has made it one of the most popular national parks. Most visitors like to see "Old Faithful", the world's most famous geyser (间歇喷泉). A geyser shoots hot water high into the air. There are more than three hundred geysers in Yellowstone.

Old Faithful is not the biggest or the most beautiful geyser. But it is the most popular. Visitors gather around Old Faithful before each eruption. Ex-



perts at the park are able to predict when these will happen. The average time between eruptions is about ninety minutes. Old Faithful shoots water an average of forty meters into the air. This eruption lasts between two and five minutes. Old Faithful releases up to about thirty thousand liters of water into the air each time.

The hot spot deep under the ground produces geysers like Old Faithful. Old Faithful is evidence of the volcanic activity at Yellowstone. But will the Yellowstone volcano erupt again? Most experts think the answer is yes. But no one knows when. The most recent of the three extremely powerful eruptions was about six hundred fifty thousand years ago.

Volcano experts say it is extremely difficult to tell when Yellowstone might become an active volcano again. However, earthquakes near a volcano are usually good evidence that a volcano might become active again. For example, Mount Saint Helens in the northwestern state of Washington exploded in nineteen-eighty. Several earthquakes took place near the volcano before that time. In the morning that it exploded, Mount Saint Helens experienced an earthquake of five point one on the Richter scale.

Yellowstone National Park experiences several thousand earthquakes each year. Most are very small. They cannot be felt. They can only be measured by scientific instruments. However, in August of nineteen-fifty-nine, an earthquake at Yellowstone measured seven point five on the Richter scale. Twenty-eight people were killed.

It was one of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded in the United States. But Yellowstone's sleeping giant volcano did not erupt.

In two thousand one, the United States Geological Survey, Yellowstone National Park and the University of Utah signed an agreement which established the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory. Under the agreement, the park, the Geological Survey and the university are responsible for improving efforts to study the volcanic system of Yellowstone.

The observatory uses information from many different instruments on the ground and from satellites to study the volcano. The information will help officials decide if Yellowstone's huge volcano is becoming a danger. Then they could warn the public quickly if necessary.

Experts at the observatory say Yellowstone represents some danger to the

public. It always has. However, its natural beauty also makes it a treasure that could not be possible without the sleeping giant volcano that is under Yellowstone National Park.

(980 words)

Questions

1. The Yellowstone volcano had three major eruptions, of which, the last one was the most powerful.
2. There are more basalt rock in Oregon than in California.
3. Yellowstone National Park is famous partly because of its geysers.
4. Visitors have to wait to see the splendid scene of "Old Faithful", for each eruption only lasts several minutes.
5. The Yellowstone volcano has been sleeping for about six hundred fifty thousand years.
6. Earthquakes near a volcano can help scientists predict when it will erupt.
7. Most of the earthquakes in the park are too small to be measured by scientific instruments.
8. The aim of Yellowstone Volcano Observatory is to _____.
9. Experts at the observatory obtain information mainly from two channels: one is _____, the other is _____.
10. The Yellowstone volcano forms _____ of the park but at the same time represents _____ to the public.

Notes

1. **Wyoming:** 怀俄明, 位于美国西部落基山区。
2. **Richter scale:** 里氏震级, 目前通用的震级标准最初由地震学家查尔斯·里克特 1935 年在美国加利福尼亚州技术学院公布。这个震级表以他的姓氏命名, 即里克特震级表, 简称里氏震级表。