

大学英语阅读教程

COLLEGE ENGLISH READING COURSE

(第一册)

主 编 马 冬
副主编 邱 丽 王 兰



哈尔滨工业大学出版社

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前 言

英语阅读理解是大学英语学习中的重中之重,既是同学们夯实基础的关键又是各类英语考试的拿分大项,同时英语阅读理解的技能学习和掌握往往是难中之难,日常学习和应试把握常常无从下手,颇有“成也阅读败也阅读”的势态。新版《大学英语阅读教程》的编写基于这样一个理念:紧扣大学英语教学目标的要求,配合英语教师的日常教学,同时有针对性地大学英语四、六级考试进行辅助和铺垫。试题材料主要选自近几年英、美等国出版的原文作品和报刊文章,选题紧紧围绕“代表性、科学性、前瞻性和操作性”的主题,由众多经验丰富的一线教师精心设计。全书试题由浅入深,循序渐进,内容新颖,趣味性强,旨在引导读者少走弯路,科学、快速地提高英语阅读理解能力,高效率地学习英语。

新版《大学英语阅读教程》每一分册都由阅读和快速阅读两部分组成。本套教程第一和第二分册的阅读部分一般保持在 500 词左右,快速阅读单词量在 1 200 词左右;第三和第四分册,文章难度加大,单词量也相应增加,阅读部分单词量在 550 ~ 600 词之间,快速阅读在 1 500 词左右。

语言和文化密不可分。语言具有丰富的文化内涵,文化意识也是语言综合运用能力的一个组成部分。新版《大学英语阅读教程》的选材具有浓厚的英语文化色彩,学习这套教材,不仅可以提高学生的英语阅读能力,更让学生领略丰富多彩的异域文化,加深学生对英语文化的了解。

新版《大学英语阅读教程》是我们在大学英语教学内容和课程体系改革方面所做的一次大胆尝试。我们的目标是让学生通过自身实践,认真体会,积极思考和亲身体验,培养一定的语感,以期有效地提高他们的英语阅读能力。编写中定会存在不当和疏漏之处,敬请使用者批评指正。

马 冬
2008 年 7 月

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第一部分 阅 读

Passage One

The word “lefty” means a person who uses his or her left hand for writing, eating and other jobs.

We are born with two hands: a right hand and a left one. But only about ten or fifteen percent of us are lefties. Everyone else is right-handed. They use their right hands much more than their left.

Scientists do not know why there are so many more right-handed people than lefties.

Some very famous people have been left-handed. Alexander the Great was a lefty. So was the great French king Charlemagne. Other famous lefties in history include Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Napoleon and Queen Victoria of Britain. In the twentieth century, famous lefties include American President Gerald Ford, tennis player Martina Navratilova, singer Paul McCartney, and the great Brazilian soccer player, Pele.

These people demonstrate that lefties are just as intelligent and talented as the right-handed majority. However, lefties have had a difficult time throughout history. The Roman word for left, for example, was the same word used to describe someone who was evil or untrustworthy.

The German word for left, “linkisch”, also means someone who was unskilled. The French word, “gauche”, can also mean a person who does not know how to act socially. In Spanish, the word for left is “azurdas”. It means the wrong way. And in Italian, the word “mancino” can also mean someone who is dishonest.

The Greek language is one of the few to give the word “left” a good meaning. The Greek word “aristera” means both “left” and “the best”.

An organization in the United States, Lefthanders International, is campaigning to give lefties their rights. Are you a lefty? If so, you should be proud!

() 1. The reason why there are so many more right-handed people than lefties is _____.

A. that only about ten or fifteen percent of the population are born left-handed

B. a secret that nobody has ever been able to reveal

- C. that most people like to use their right hand for writing, eating and other jobs
D. that lefties have suffered a lot throughout history
- () 2. With a list of famous lefties (Para. 4) the author suggests that _____.
A. lefties are in no way inferior to the right-handed majority
B. the Greek language is right in giving the word "aristera" a good meaning
C. lefties of the world should stand firm in the face of discrimination
D. lefties should organize themselves to stand up for their rights
- () 3. Which of the following statements is NOT mentioned?
A. The Greek word "aristera" means both "left" and "the best".
B. The Spanish give a bad meaning to the word for left.
C. The aim of the Lefthanders International is to protect the American lefties' interest.
D. The author himself is a lefty.
- () 4. The author advises lefties to _____.
A. follow all the famous left-handed
B. avoid shaking hands with their left hands when they greet someone
C. feel no inferior to the right-handed people
D. try to use the right hand if necessary
- () 5. The passage is mainly about _____.
A. the pride of being a lefty
B. the world's famous lefties
C. persons who use the left hand more easily than the right
D. the difference between the right-handed and left-handed

Passage Two

When I come across a good essay in the newspaper, I often cut it and keep it. But just as I am about to do so, I find the article on the opposite side of the page just as interesting.

It may be a discussion about a way to keep in good health, or advice about how to behave and conduct oneself in society. If I cut the front essay, the other one on the back of the page will suffer damage, leaving out half of it or the text will be kept but missing the subject. As a result, my scissors (剪刀) would stop before they start, or only halfway done when I find out the regrettable consequence.

Sometimes, two things are to be done at the same time, both deserving your attention. You can only take up one of them, the other has to wait or even be given up. But you know the future is unknown—the changed situation may not allow you to do what is left behind. Thus, you are caught in

a fix and you may feel sad. How come that nice opportunities and brilliant ideas should gather around all at once? It may happen that your life changes dramatically on your preference of one alternative over the other.

In fact, that is what life is like: we are often faced with two choices that are equally desirable, just like what happens during newspaper-cutting. It often occurs that our attention is drawn to one thing only after we are engaged in another. The latter may be more important than the former and thus giving rise to a divided mind. I still remember a philosopher's remarks: "When one door shuts, another one opens in life." So a casual or passive choice may not necessarily be a bad one.

Whatever we do in our lifetime, wherever life's storm toss(抛)us, there must be something we can achieve, some shore we can land on that opens up new vistas(景色)for us. Don't forget there is always an alternative door open for every one. While the first door is closed, there must be another that is open for you.

- () 1. What annoys the writer when it comes to newspaper-cutting?
- There is a quite limited number of good essays.
 - It takes too much time and effort to do it.
 - Some of the articles will be inevitably damaged.
 - He can't cut out the good articles on the opposite side of the same page.
- () 2. What does the third paragraph mainly tell us?
- There are often two good things both deserving our attention.
 - Life is just like newspaper-cutting.
 - Good opportunities and ideas often come to us at once.
 - One has to decide on one's preference.
- () 3. Life and newspaper-cutting are alike because _____.
- in both cases we have choices to make
 - newspaper-cutting is an important part in life
 - there is always a door open
 - casual choice is always bad
- () 4. "When one door shuts, another one opens in life." (Para.4) means "_____."
- When we shut one door, we have to open another
 - There is always a way for us whatever happens
 - There are many doors in our lives
 - Keep all doors open is important
- () 5. The author believes that _____.
- one has to be educated to make choices
 - one will feel regretful if one chooses one thing instead of the other
 - a casual choice may turn out to be a good one
 - newspaper-cutting needs patience

Passage Three

What will cities of the future be like? Will they have the same problems as our present cities? Or will they be wonderful places to live in? What cities of the future will be like depends on how we plan cities today.

People called city planners look for ways to solve city problems. As city planners are specialists, they look ahead to the future. They look for ways to help cities to grow. Sometimes, they even plan whole new cities.

City planners worry about the problems of CBDs (Central Business District). How can these busy areas meet the needs of both people and businesses? The city of Fresno, California, has worked out good answers to this question. Not long ago, the CBD there was crowded and ugly. It was hard to walk there because there were so many cars and trucks. And shoppers had no room to park.

However, Fresno's city planners decided to change the city's CBD. First, they made it much nicer to look at. They planted trees. They built fountains, walkways, and play areas. Then they fixed up the older buildings in the CBD and even built new ones.

Then the city planners said that no cars could drive into the CBD. People could park their cars in nearby garage, but they either had to walk into the CBD or drive in little electric cars.

Today, Fresno's CBD is a good place to visit. It is very nice to walk in, and it has many pretty things to look at.

Many cities today do not have enough space for new buildings. All their land is used up. One way to find space is to look in a new direction-up. All cities have a lot of unused air space. A few years ago, an airline wanted to put up a new building. They wanted to build it in the center of Manhattan Island. But Manhattan is the most crowded part of New York City. Unused land on Manhattan would have been very hard to find.

The airline solved its problem by using air space. That is, they put up their building over another building. The company's new building was built over a train station.

- () 1. According to the passage, city planners do the following jobs except _____.
 A. solving city problems B. designing city spaces
 C. building modern houses D. planning whole new cities
- () 2. From the passage, we learn that a fine city depends on _____.
 A. future planners B. careful planning
 C. the improvement of CBD D. house construction
- () 3. Which of the following was NOT adopted by city planners to change the Fresno's CBD?

- A. They built more parking lots.
B. They planted more trees.
C. They built areas for entertainment.
D. They made it more beautiful.
- () 4. How did the airline solve the problem of constructing a building in crowded Manhattan?
A. They built more walkways.
B. They fixed up older buildings.
C. They found space underground.
D. They used the air space above an existing building.
- () 5. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
A. the same city problems of today will exist with future cities
B. future cities will be pleasant places to live in
C. the look of future cities depends on how we use air space today
D. there will be more tall buildings in future cities

Passage Four

Giving presents should be fun—a chance to make someone happy and to enjoy a warm glow of satisfaction as a result.

Unfortunately, it doesn't always work that way, particularly in marriages and close relationships. The wrong present can spark a right royal row or, even worse, a long, slow simmer.

What is it that can turn a seemingly simple and sincere gesture into World War III? And how can you avoid giving offence?

It all starts when two people decide to share their lives even though their family backgrounds might be different, according to Nora Huppert, the NSW representative of the Australian Association of Marriage and Family Counselors, and a practicing therapist.

One partner may have come from a small family, where birthdays were big events and entailed lavish(大量的)presents. The other may have come from a large family, where presents—if given at all—were taken.

Obviously, if a couple don't discuss how they are going to do things, they'll be in for some unfortunate misunderstandings.

Then there's the all-important question of what to give. Thinking about your partner's interest, and what he or she might need or like, is a start, said Nora. And it's also vital to update your shopping list. For instance, if you always give your partner sheet music, even though he gave up the

clarinet(单簧管)years ago, he's probably less than appreciative.

But the real stumbling block is the complex, ingrained etiquette of receiving gifts. We all know you're supposed to say you like a present, even if you secretly hate it or already have enough of the same thing to leave to all your great grandchildren. Problem is, your partner will never know he or she has got it wrong, and could go on repeating the mistake. And, of course, it's not considered polite to ask for something you do want.

"I think the assumption is that if people's partners loved them, they'd know what to buy. But how can they?" said Nora.

The easiest way to a smooth exchange of gifts, she said, is for people simply to tell each other what they'd like. And asking before buying doesn't show a lack of understanding.

"What it means is that someone cares enough to want to get it right."

- () 1. According to Nora Huppert, giving presents can give offence sometimes because _____.
 A. partners come from different family backgrounds
 B. some partners are narrow-minded
 C. some partners are hard to please
 D. some partners come from small families
- () 2. When a person decides what to give, he should consider _____.
 A. his partner's interest B. his partner's need
 C. updating his shopping list D. all of the above
- () 3. Which of the following may the author agree with?
 A. If you hate a present, you may tell the presenter that you dislike it.
 B. You should never ask for something you do want.
 C. The best way to avoid giving offence is to tell each other what they'd like.
 D. None of the above.
- () 4. The passage is mainly talking about _____.
 A. avoiding offence B. presents
 C. giving presents D. choosing presents
- () 5. The passage would be read by _____.
 A. therapists B. counselors C. specialists D. common readers

Passage Five

Taste is such a subjective matter that we don't usually conduct preference tests for food. The most you can say about anyone's preference is that it's one person's opinion. But because the two big cola

(可乐饮料) companies—Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola are marketed so aggressively, we've wondered how big a role taste preference actually plays in brand loyalty. We set up a taste test that challenged people who identified themselves as either Coke or Pepsi fans: Find your brand in a blind tasting.

We invited staff volunteers who have a strong liking for either Coca-Cola Classic (传统型) or Pepsi, Diet(低糖的) Coke, or Diet Pepsi. These were people who thought they'd have no trouble telling their brand from the other brand.

We eventually located 19 regular cola drinkers and 27 diet cola drinkers. Then we fed them four unidentified samples of cola one at a time, regular colas for the one group, diet versions for the others. We asked them to tell as whether each sample was Coke or Pepsi; then we analyzed the records statistically to compare the participants' choices with what mere guess-work could have accomplished.

Getting all four samples right was a tough test, but not too tough, we thought, for people who believed they could recognize their brand. In the end, only 7 out of 19 regular cola drinkers correctly identified their brand of choice in all four trials. The diet cola drinkers did a little worse only 7 of 27 identified all four samples correctly.

While both groups did better than chance would predict, nearly half the participants in each group made the wrong choice two or more times. Two people got all four samples wrong. Overall, half the participants did about as well on the last round of tasting as on the first, so fatigue, or taste burnout, was not a factor. Our preference test results suggest that only a few Pepsi participants and Coke fans may really be able to tell their favorite brand by taste and price.

- () 1. According to the passage the preference test was conducted in order to _____.
- A. find out the role taste preference plays in a person's drinking
 - B. reveal which cola is more to the liking of the drinkers
 - C. show that a person's opinion about taste is mere guess-work
 - D. compare the ability of the participants in choosing their drinks
- () 2. The statistics recorded in the preference tests show _____.
- A. Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola are people's two most favorite drinks
 - B. there is not much difference in taste between Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola
 - C. few people had trouble telling Cola-Cola and Pepsi-Cola
 - D. people's tastes differ from one another
- () 3. It is implied in the first paragraph that _____.
- A. the purpose of taste tests is to promote the sale of colas
 - B. the improvement of quality is the chief concern of the two cola companies
 - C. the competition between the two colas is very strong
 - D. blind tasting is necessary for identifying fans
- () 4. The word "burnout" (Para. 5) here refers to the state of _____.
- A. being seriously burnt in the skin
 - B. being unable to burn for lack of fuel
 - C. being badly damaged by fire
 - D. being unable to function because of excessive use

- () 5. The author's purpose in writing this passage is to _____.
- A. show that taste preference is highly subjective
 - B. argue that taste testing is an important marketing strategy
 - C. emphasize that taste and price are closely related to each other
 - D. recommend that blind tasting be introduced in the quality control of colas

Passage Six

In cities with rent control, the city government sets the maximum rent that a landlord can charge for an apartment. Supporters of rent control argue that it protects people who are living in apartments. Their rent cannot increase; therefore, they are not in danger of losing their homes. However, the critics say that after a long time, rent control may have negative effects. Landlords know that they cannot increase their profits. Therefore, they invest in other businesses where they can increase their profits. They do not invest in new buildings which would also be rent-controlled. As a result, new apartments are not built. Many people who need apartments cannot find any. According to the critics, the end result of rent control is a shortage of apartments in the city.

Some theorists argue that the minimum wage law can cause problems in the same way. The federal government sets the minimum that an employer must pay workers. The minimum helps people who generally look for unskilled, low-paying jobs. However, if the minimum is high, employers may hire fewer workers. They will replace workers with machinery. The price, which is the wage that employers must pay, increases. Therefore, other things being equal, the number of workers that employers want decreases. Thus, critics claim, an increase in the minimum wage may cause unemployment. Some poor people may find themselves without jobs instead of with jobs at the minimum wage.

Supporters of the minimum wage say that it helps people keep their dignity. Because of the law, workers cannot sell their services for less than the minimum. Furthermore, employers cannot force workers to accept jobs at unfair wages.

Economic theory predicts the results of economic decisions such as decisions about farm production, rent control, and the minimum wage. The predictions may be correct only if "other things are equal". Economists do not agree on some of the predictions. They also do not agree on the value of different decisions. Some economists support a particular decision while others criticize it. Economists agree, however, that there are no simple answers to economic questions.

- () 1. There is the possibility that setting maximum rent may _____.
- A. cause a shortage of apartments
 - B. worry those who rent apartments as homes

- C. increase the profits of landlords
D. encourage landlords to invest in building apartment
- () 2. According to the critics, rent control _____.
A. will always benefit those who rent apartments
B. is unnecessary
C. will bring negative effects in the long run
D. is necessary under all circumstances
- () 3. The problem of unemployment will arise _____.
A. if the minimum wage is set too high
B. if the minimum wage is set too low
C. if the workers are unskilled
D. if the maximum wage is set
- () 4. The passage tells us _____.
A. the relationship between supply and demand
B. the possible results of government controls
C. the necessity of government control
D. the urgency of getting rid of government controls
- () 5. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
A. The results of economic decisions can not always be predicted.
B. Minimum wage can not always protect employees.
C. Economic theory can predict the results of economic decisions if other factors are not changing.
D. Economic decisions should not be based on economic theory.

Passage Seven

Flying over a desert area in an airplane, two scientists looked down with trained eyes at trees and bushes. After an hour's flight one of the scientists wrote in his book, "Look here for probable metal". Scientists in another airplane, flying over a mountain region, sent a message to other scientists on the ground, "Gold possible." Walking across hilly ground, four scientists reported, "This ground should be searched for metals." From an airplane over a hilly wasteland a scientist sent back by radio one word, "Uranium".

None of the scientists had X-ray eyes: they had no magic powers for looking down below the earth's surface. They were merely putting to use one of the newest methods of location minerals in the

ground—using trees and plants as signs that certain minerals may lie beneath the ground on which the trees and plants are growing.

This newest method of searching for minerals is based on the fact that minerals deep in the earth may affect the kind of bushes and trees that grow on the surface.

At Watson Bar Creek, a brook six thousand feet high in the mountains of British Columbia, Canada, a mineral search group gathered bags of tree seeds. Boxes were filled with small branches from the trees. Roots were dug and put into boxes. Each bag and box was carefully marked. In a scientific laboratory the parts of the forest trees were burned to ashes and tested. Each small part was examined to learn whether there were minerals in it.

Study of the roots, branches, and seeds showed no silver. But there were small amounts of gold in the roots and a little less gold in the branches and seeds. The seeds growing nearest to the tree trunk had more gold than those growing on the ends of the branches.

If the trees had not indicated that there was gold in the ground, the scientists would not have spent money to pay for digging into the deeper. They did dig and found more gold below. They dug deeper. They found large quantities of gold.

- () 1. Scientists were flying over a desert or hilly wasteland or a mountain region in order to search for _____ in the ground.
A. gold B. silver C. metals D. minerals
- () 2. The study of trees, branches and roots indicates that _____.
A. there were larger amounts of gold in the branches than in the seeds
B. there were smaller amounts of gold in the roots than in the branches
C. there were larger amounts of gold in the seeds growing nearest to the tree trunk than seeds growing on the ends of branches
D. there were larger amounts of gold in the branches than in the roots
- () 3. Which is the best title?
A. Scientists Searching for Metals with Special Power
B. New Methods of Searching for Minerals
C. Gold Could Be Found by Trees and Plants
D. A New Method of Searching for Minerals—Using Trees and Plants
- () 4. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as part of a tree that can help find minerals?
A. Leaves B. Roots C. Branches D. Seeds
- () 5. The scientists were searching for minerals by using _____.
A. X-ray B. magic power
C. a special instrument D. trained eyes

Passage Eight

Solar energy for your home is coming. It can help you as a single homeowner. It can help the whole country as well. Whether or not solar energy can save your money depends on many things. Where you live is one factor. The type of home you have is another. Things like insulation present energy costs, and the type of system you buy are added factors.

Using solar energy can help save our precious fuel. As you know, our supplies of oil and gas are very limited. There is just not enough on hand to meet all our future energy needs. And when Mother Nature says that's all, the only way we can delay hearing those words is by starting to save energy now and by using other sources, like the sun.

We won't have to worry about the sun's running out of energy for another several billion years or so. Besides beginning an endless source of energy, the use of the sun has other advantages as well. The sun doesn't offer as many problems as other energy sources. For example, fossil fuel plants add to already high pollution levels. With solar energy, we will still need sources of energy, but we won't need as much. That means we can cut down on our pollution problems.

With all these good points, why don't we use more solar power? There are many reasons for this. The biggest reason is money. Until now, it is just not practical for a homeowner to put in a solar unit. There are cheaper sources of energy. All that is changing now. Solar costs are starting to equal the costs of oil and electricity. Experts say that gas, oil and electricity prices will continue to rise. The demand for electricity is increasing rapidly. But new power plants will use more gas, oil or coal. Already in some places the supply of electricity is being rationed. Solar energy is now in its infancy. It could soon grow to become a major part of our nations energy supply.

- () 1. Which statement best expresses the main idea?
- A. Something about Solar Energy and Pollution.
 - B. Solar Energy.
 - C. Energy and Pollution.
 - D. Energy and Money.
- () 2. Solar energy can help us save _____.
- A. the earth and natural resources
 - B. Mother Nature
 - C. the sun
 - D. our precious fuel
- () 3. The sun is an endless source of energy; it will not run out of it for _____.