

大学英语阅读教程

COLLEGE ENGLISH READING COURSE

(第三册)

主 编 王发展
副主编 王卫强 郭 健



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,更可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

A subject which seems to have been insufficiently studied by doctors and psychologists is the influence of geography and climate on the psychological and physical health of mankind. There seems no doubt that the general character of the landscape, the relative length of day and night, and the climate must all play a big part in determining what kind of people we are.

It is true that a few studies have been made. Where all the inhabitants of a particular area enjoy exceptionally good or bad health, scientists have identified contributory factors such as the presence or absence of substances like iodine, fluoride, calcium, or iron in the water supply, or perhaps types of land that provide breeding places for pests like mosquitoes or rats.

Moreover, we can all generalize about types of people we have met. Those living in countries with long dark winters are apt to be less talkative and less vivacious(活泼的) than inhabitants of countries where the climate is more equable(稳定的). And where the olive and the orange grow, there the inhabitants are cheerful, talkative, and spontaneous.

But the commonplace generalizations are inadequate: their influence of climate and geography should be studied in depth. Do all mountain dwellers live to a ripe old age? Does the drinking of wine, rather than beer, result in a sunny and open temperament? Is the strength and height of one of the Kenyan tribes due to their habitual drinking of the blood of cows?

() 1. _____ might serve as a suitable title for this selection.

- A. The Importance of Geographical Environment
- B. The Influence of Geographical Environment on Man
- C. Generalization of Types of People
- D. Geographical Environment, a Mysterious Subject

() 2. Using context clues we may infer that "iodine, fluoride and calcium" are _____.

- A. substances which act positively or negatively on man's health

- B. harmful substances in the water supply
 C. substances which help provide breeding places for pests
 D. substances contributory to good health
- () 3. We may infer from the third paragraph that geography and climate play an important role in determining the inhabitants' _____.
 A. health condition
 B. personality
 C. life-span
 D. all of the above
- () 4. According to the author, research into the influence of geography and climate should _____.
 A. focus on some unknown aspects
 B. be pursued on a larger scale
 C. be carried out within a larger scope
 D. go much deeper
- () 5. The author hopes that studies on the influence of geographical environment will enable us to _____.
 A. generalize better about types of people
 B. find better water supplies
 C. gain an insight into its influence on mankind
 D. live to a ripe old age

Passage Two

Men seem to have always taken an interest in meteorites (陨石), but not until the early nineteenth century were these objects considered worth preserving for scientific study.

In the beginning, people believed that because meteorites fell from the heavens, they were either gods themselves or messengers from the gods. Thus the more civilized of early men kept the meteorites, draping (用布裹) them in costly linens and steeping them with oil. In many instances, the people built special temples in which the meteorites were to be worshiped. Meteorite worship was common long ago in the Mediterranean area, and in Africa, India, Japan, and Mexico; such worship still persists in some regions.

Although many people held meteorites in reverence, particularly if they were seen to fall, other practical-minded individuals made good use of the durable and easily-worked alloy provided by nature

in the nickel-iron meteorites. They frequently used this metal to make tools, and often pots and other utensils. Throughout history, meteoritic iron has been used in the manufacture of special swords, daggers, and knives for members of royalty. Attila and other early conquerors of Europe boasted of "swords from heaven". As late as the end of the nineteenth century, several swords were made from a Japanese iron meteorite at the command of a member of the Japanese court.

- () 1. In the nineteenth century men began to _____ .
 A. study meteorites scientifically
 B. preserve meteorites
 C. take more than a casual interest in meteorites
 D. investigate practical uses for meteoritic iron
- () 2. Meteorite worship grew from the belief that meteorites were _____ .
 A. signs of the gods' displeasure
 B. messengers of the gods
 C. swords from heaven
 D. signs of special favor
- () 3. The more civilized early men tended to _____ .
 A. have no interest in meteorites
 B. preserve meteorites carefully
 C. recognize what meteorites actually were
 D. make practical use of meteorites
- () 4. Meteorite worship was _____ .
 A. limited to small isolated tribes
 B. common everywhere in the world
 C. common throughout much of the world
 D. limited to the least civilized of early men
- () 5. An appropriate title for this selection would be _____ .
 A. Meteorites in Ancient Times
 B. Meteorite Worship
 C. Man Looks at the Heaven
 D. What Man Has Thought of Meteorites

Passage Three

I hear many parents complaining that their teen-age children are rebelling, and I wish it were so.

At your age you ought to be growing from your parents. You should be learning to stand on your own two feet. But take a good look at the present rebellion. It seems that teenagers are all taking the same way of showing that they disagree with their parents. Instead of striking out boldly on their own, most of them are clutching at (attempting to seize) one another's hands for reassurance.

They claim they want to dress as they please. But they all wear the same clothes. They set off in new directions in music. But somehow they all end up crowded round listening to the same record. Their reason for thinking or acting in thus-and-such a way is that the crowd is doing it. They have come out of their cocoon(蚕茧), into a larger cocoon.

It has become harder and harder for a teen-ager to stand up against the popularity wave and to go his or her own way. Industry has firmly carved out a teen-ager market. These days every teen-ager can learn from the advertisements what a teen-ager should have and be. And many of today's parents have come to award high marks for the popularity of their children. All this adds up to a great barrier for the teen-ager who wants to find his or her own path.

But the barrier is worth climbing over. The path is worth following. You may want to listen to classical music instead of going to a party. You may want to collect rods when everyone else is collecting records. You may have some thoughts that you don't care to share at once with your classmates. Well, go to it. Find yourself. Be yourself. Popularity will come, with the people who respect you for who you are. That's the only kind of popularity that really counts.

- () 1. The author's purpose in writing this passage is to tell _____.
 A. readers how to be popular in the world
 B. teen-agers how to learn to decide things for themselves
 C. parents how to control and guide their children
 D. people how to understand and respect each other
- () 2. According to the author, many teen-agers think they are brave enough to act on their own, but, in fact, most of them _____.
 A. have much difficulty understanding each other
 B. lack confidence
 C. dare not do things
 D. are very much afraid of getting lost
- () 3. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?
 A. There is no popularity that really counts.
 B. What many parents are doing is in fact hindering their children from finding their own paths.
 C. It is not necessarily bad for a teen-ager to disagree with his or her classmates.
 D. Most teen-agers claim that they want to do what they like to, but they are actually doing the same.
- () 4. The author thinks of advertisements as _____.
 A. convincing
 B. influential
 C. instructive
 D. authoritative

- () 5. During the teen-age years, one should learn to _____.
A. differ from others in as many ways as possible
B. get into the right reason and become popular
C. find one's real self
D. rebel against parents

Passage Four

Some people believe that international sport creates good will between the nations and that if countries play games together they will learn to live together. Others say that the opposite is true: that the international contests encourage false national pride and lead to misunderstanding and hatred. There is probably some truth in both arguments, but in recent years the Olympic Games have done little to support the view that sports encourages international brotherhood. Not only was here the tragic incident involving the murder of athletes, but the Games were also ruined by lesser incidents caused principally by minor national contests.

One country received its second-place medals with visible indignation after the hockey final. There had been noisy scenes at the end of the hockey match, the losers objecting to the final decisions. They were convinced that one of their goals should not have been disallowed and that their opponents' victory was unfair. Their manager was in a rage when he said: "This wasn't hockey. Hockey and the International Hockey Federation are finished." The president of the Federation said later that such behavior could result in the suspension of the team for at least three years.

The American basketball team announced that they would not yield first place to Russia, after a disputable end to their contest. The game had ended in disturbance. It was thought at first that the United States had won, by a single point, but it was announced that there were three seconds still to play. A Russian player then threw the ball from one end of the court to the other, and another player popped it into the basket. It was the first time the USA had ever lost on Olympic basketball match. An appeal jury debated the matter for four and a half hours before announcing that the result would stand. The American players then voted not to receive the silver medals.

Incidents of this kind will continue as long as sport is played competitively rather than for the love of the game. The suggestion that athletes should compete as individuals, or in non-national team, might be too much to hope for. But in the present organization of the Olympics there is far too much that encourages aggressive patriotism.

- () 1. According to the author, recent Olympic Games have _____.
A. created good will between the nations

- B. bred only false national pride
 C. barely showed any international friendship
 D. led to more and more misunderstanding and hatred
- ()2. What did the manager mean by saying, "... Hockey and the International Hockey Federation are finished"?
- A. His team would no longer take part in international games.
 B. Hockey and the Federation are both ruined by the unfair decisions.
 C. There should be no more hockey matches organized by the Federation.
 D. The Federation should be dissolved.
- ()3. The basketball example implied that _____.
- A. too much patriotism was displayed in the incident
 B. the announcement to prolong the match was wrong
 C. the appeal jury was too hesitant in making the decision
 D. the American team was right in rejecting the silver medals
- ()4. The author gives the two examples in paragraph 2 and 3 to show _____.
- A. how national pride led to undesirable incidents in international games
 B. that sportsmen are more obedient than they used to be
 C. that competitiveness in the games discourages international friendship
 D. that unfair decisions are common in the Olympic Games
- ()5. What conclusion can be drawn from the passage?
- A. The organization of the Olympic Games must be improved.
 B. Athletes should compete as individuals in the Olympic Games.
 C. Sport should be played competitively rather than for the love of the game.
 D. International contests are liable for misunderstanding between nations.

Passage Five

The more genius a writer has, the more conclusive and precise his answer is. Swift arrives at complete pessimism, considering men to be wretched, unfortunate, ugly, odious and absurd. Addison, on the other hand, maintains himself in a temperate optimism. "All we have to do", he says, "is to be easy here, and happy hereafter." Carlyle gives the answer of the Puritan, while Macaulay gives that of the liberal, both with striking and multiplied illustrations.

What Fielding saw in man were the spontaneous and primitive forces, the irresistible impulses of temperament and of the heart, the violence of egoistic or generous instincts unrestrained by the

proprieties of life or by precepts, and which impetuously (猛烈地) and unawares leap over all barriers. Richardson saw man's intellectual and moral culture, the sway (统治) of religion, the ascendancy of principles and that domination of conscience, which, developed in us by daily self-questioning, by arguing with ourselves, by habit and scruples, installs in our soul, not merely a witness, an overseer, an ever-living judge, but again, an armed auxiliary, an almost invincible combatant which reanimates us in our weaknesses.

Even when the writer is a dramatic poet, and says nothing in his own name, even when he purposely effaces (埋没自己) himself behind his characters, his master thought remains apparent. Three or four times Shakespeare expressed his thought in passing as if he were not aware of it, through some phrase put in the mouth of Hamlet or Macbeth, of Jacques or of Prospero; but, to divine it, there is no need of seeking it there; it everywhere and spontaneously declares itself in the selection of his figures and characters.

Various as these opinions may be, they indicated that we all belong to the same family, good or bad, rich or poor, young or old.

- () 1. Concerning the human race and its potential, Swift and Addison _____.
 A. had exactly the same views
 B. varied slightly in their opinions
 C. were diametrically opposed
 D. expressed no opinions
- () 2. Fielding believed that man _____.
 A. concerned himself too much with the proprieties of life
 B. obeyed the impulses of his heart
 C. lived in an irresistible way
 D. used too much force
- () 3. Richardson's idea was that man was _____.
 A. part of an armed auxiliary
 B. always just
 C. guided by his conscience
 D. very religious
- () 4. Most dramatists _____.
 A. say what they have to say in so many words
 B. use their characters as spokesmen
 C. are not aware of what they are really saying
 D. have profound thoughts to express
- () 5. According to this article, a dramatic poet's greatest responsibility is to _____.
 A. entertain
 B. be spontaneous
 C. efface himself
 D. choose carefully the characters that will represent him

Passage Six

The formation of a new life stage where one did not previously exist is not in itself revolutionary, although the pace of such innovation has picked up in the whirligig(轮回) of twentieth-century social change. Previously, however, these new stages occurred in the earlier years of life.

For example, childhood as we know it is less than two hundred years old. A decline in infant mortality made it more likely that a child would survive his or her early years, permitting parents to become more emotionally attached to each of their children. The greater value placed on children eventually led to restrictions on child labor and laws to prevent cruelty to children, as well as to the sentimentalizing of childhood. Compulsory schooling finally specified the years in which children were to undergo a period of training for the real world.

Adolescence, a stage between childhood and adulthood, is a twentieth-century creation in 1900, only about 13 percent of 14-to-17-year-olds were in school. That number rose to 50 percent by 1930, 73 percent by 1950, and 95 percent by 1965, enter the teenager.

Young adulthood is more recent still. Living alone or with a lover before marriage as a social norm for people in their twenties, for example, begins with the baby boomers. Of those Americans marrying for the first time between 1965 and 1974, 11 percent had lived with a lover, but 44 percent of those entering their first marriages between 1980 and 1984 had done so.

- () 1. The formation of a new life stage is not in itself revolutionary because _____.
- A. the pace of innovation becomes quicker.
 - B. the so-called new life doesn't appear for the first time.
 - C. human life can't be compared to ordinary social phenomena.
 - D. it occurs without being perceived.
- () 2. In paragraph two the writer demonstrates that _____.
- A. parents shouldn't love their children better.
 - B. decline in infant mortality makes children live longer.
 - C. children labor didn't use to be prevailing
 - D. compulsory schooling is an enemy of child labor.
- () 3. In the last paragraph the writer implies that _____.
- A. young adulthood is comparatively stable
 - B. the number of the people is increasing living with a lover before marriage
 - C. all the young people want to be unmarried
 - D. more than 10 years ago 44% young people got married for the first time

- () 4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?
- A. In 1948 about seven out of ten children went to school.
 - B. The writer takes a positive attitude towards spoiling children.
 - C. Teenager stage didn't occur in the nineteenth century.
 - D. Childhood has the longest history.
- () 5. What do you think can be used as the title of the passage?
- A. New Era
 - B. New Life Stages
 - C. Twentieth-century Social Change
 - D. Strange Social Phenomena

Passage Seven

Rhythm in literature is a more or less regular occurrence of certain elements of writing: a word, a phrase, an idea, a pause, a sound, or a grammatical construction. We are also accustomed to this recurrence in the alternate heavy and light beats in music. Our love for rhythm seems to be innate; witness the responses of a small child to lively music. Children love to beat on toy drums or empty boxes. They stamp their feet and chant nursery rhymes or nonsense syllables (音节), not unlike primitive dancers. As children grow older, they are taught to restrain their responses to rhythm but our love of rhythm remains. We live in rhythms, in fact we are governed by rhythms.

Physiologically, we are rhythmical. We must eat, sleep, breathe, and play regularly to maintain good health. Emotionally we are rhythmical, too, for psychologists say that all of us feel alternate periods of relative depression and exhilaration (高兴). Intellectually we are also rhythmical, for we must have periods of relaxation following periods of concentration. It naturally follows then that rhythm, a fundamental aspect of our lives, must be a part of any good literary works whether poetry or prose (散文).

- () 1. What is the main idea of the passage?
- A. Rhythmic patterns in literature are helpful to physicians and psychologists.
 - B. Rhythmic patterns in literature are among the natural manifestations (展现) of rhythm in all facets of life.
 - C. Rhythm tends to be more accentuate (强调) in music than in poetry.
 - D. Rhythm tends to be regular in literature than in other facets of life.
- () 2. According to the passage, what is rhythm?
- A. A regular occurrence of an action of response.

- B. A special kind of music.
C. A kind of emotional disorder.
D. A stage in the development of young children.
- () 3. According to the passage, an adult's reaction to rhythm in music would probably be _____.
- A. uninhibited
C. restrained
B. indifferent
D. responsible
- () 4. It can be inferred from the passage that conscious thought plays the most significant part in creating _____.
- A. physiological rhythms
C. psychological rhythms
B. emotional rhythms
D. literary rhythms
- () 5. According to the passage, which of the following pairs of activities best illustrates intellectual rhythm?
- A. Studying a science book and then studying a psychology book.
B. Learning a poem and then taking a nap.
C. Playing ball at the beach and then going swimming.
D. Solving a math problem and then solving a chemistry problem.

Passage Eight

How much pain do animals feel? This is a question which has caused endless controversy. Opponents of big game shooting, for example, arouse our pity by describing the agonies(痛苦) of a badly wounded beast that has crawled into a corner to die. In countries where the fox, the hare and the deer are hunted, animal lovers paint harrowing(令人难受的) pictures of the pursued animal suffering not only the physical distress of the chase but the mental anguish(痛苦) of anticipated death.

The usual answer to these criticisms is that animals do not suffer in the same way, or to the same extent, as we do. Man was created with a delicate nervous system and has never lost his acute sensitiveness to pain; animals, on the other hand, had less sensitive systems to begin with, and in the course of millions of years, have developed a capacity for ignoring injuries and disorders which human beings would find intolerable. For example, a dog will continue to play with a ball even after a serious injury to his foot; he may be unable to run without limping, but he will go on trying long after a human child would have had to stop because of the pain. We are told, moreover, that even when animals appear to us to be suffering acutely, this is not so; what seem to us to be agonized contortions(扭曲) caused by pain are in fact no more than muscular contractions over which they have no control.

These arguments are unsatisfactory because something about which we know a great deal is being compared with something we can only guess. We know what we feel; we have no means of knowing what animals feel. Some creatures with a less delicate nervous system than ours may be incapable of feeling pain to the same extent as we do; that is as far as we are entitled to go. The most humane attitude, surely, is to assume that no animals are entirely exempt from physical pain and that we ought, therefore, wherever possible, to avoid causing suffering even to the least of them.

- () 1. Harrowing pictures of the pursued animals are drawn _____.
A. by some hunters of big-game shooting
B. by opponents of big-game hunting actively
C. for the purpose of exhibition
D. to be involved in the controversy
- () 2. In the second paragraph the writer informs us that _____.
A. at the very beginning animals were more capable of sensing pain
B. a dog has stronger endurance than a child
C. animals have no control over their muscle
D. he prefers what he states in the paragraph to other opinions
- () 3. In the third paragraph, "that is as far as we are entitled to go" means _____.
A. we can only go that far in that direction
B. we go that far to be given a title
C. we are allowed to say so much
D. so far we have gone into detail
- () 4. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
A. The past endless controversy is finally settled.
B. The writer holds quite different view from the usual answers.
C. Animals don't suffer from pain at all.
D. The writer takes the same attitude as that of opponents of big game hunting.
- () 5. What is the main idea of the passage?
A. We should show pity for animals.
B. Game-hunting ought to be forbidden.
C. No animals are completely free from physical pain.
D. How much pain animals feel is of controversy.