



# 反田

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# 摩天大楼

Rethinking  
Skyscrapers

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赵恒元 主编



Rethinking

Skyscraper

天津人民出版社

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出版人:刘晓津

(天津市西康路 35 号 邮政编码:300051)

邮购部电话:(022)23332446

网址:<http://www.tjrm.com.cn>

电子信箱:[tjrmchbs@public.tpt.tj.cn](mailto:tjrmchbs@public.tpt.tj.cn)

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# 前 言

《大学英语教学大纲》(最新修订本)指出：“阅读是掌握语言知识、打好语言基础、获取信息的重要渠道。阅读能力是大部分大学生今后工作所需的主要语言技能。在大学英语教学中要始终注重阅读能力的培养。从语言学习的规律来看，英语能力的提高是建立在大量的语言输入，尤其是大量的阅读的基础上的。”

依据最新《大学英语教学大纲》的精神，我们编写了本套《大学英语时文轻松阅读》。阅读在大学英语的学习过程中是重点，在考试中所占总分的百分比也越来越大，因此抓住了短文阅读就是抓住了重点。然而对许多学生来说，重点并不是他们的强点，而是他们的弱点。如何变弱点为强点，固然有一些技巧，但是最根本的、最关键的、最起作用的还是进行大量的语言实践，即多看英语短文，尤其是多看那些原汁原味的文章。

本套丛书的一篇篇短文均来自英美等国家的网站、报刊、杂志、广播、电视等多种媒体。文章选材，涉猎广泛。我们从中可以了解到国外

的诸多风俗习惯、文化传统、社会生活、政经现状、文体发展、科技进步、环境保护、休闲娱乐以及名人生平、奇闻逸事、世界之谜、热点话题等等。

本丛书分初、中、高三个级别,供大学生不同的学习阶段或不同程度的大学生选择使用。词汇范围不超过最新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲词汇表》。对于个别超大纲的词汇和一些背景、语言难点等均作了简明注释。每篇短文后编写了阅读理解题,题后附有答案。

参加本书编写工作的还有:李静、敖萍、梁淑珍、赵永贵、雷云燕、赵荻川、简易、潘书祥、郑宏、牛建新、赵庆国、王泽斌、杜振中、倪群、赵丽芳、刘琛、李银素、张培权、姚霞等。

**赵恒元**

hengyuanzhao@yahoo.com

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## 1. U.S. Early Childhood Education

### 美国儿童的早期教育

美国人很重视儿童的早期教育。那么,美国儿童的早期教育是怎样进行的?

About forty years ago, only five percent of American children who were three or four years old attended early education programs. Today, about two-thirds of the children of that age go to preschools, nursery schools or daycare centers with educational programs. Many education experts say this is a good situation. They say young children who have some kind of preschool education do much better when they attend school.

Young children in preschool programs learn colors and numbers. They identify common objects and letters of the alphabet to prepare them for reading. They sing and play games that use numbers and maps. They learn to cooperate with teachers and other children. Many preschool programs include activities to help young children learn about the world around them. For example, children visit places like zoos, museums and fire and police stations.

After preschool, most American children attend kindergarten

in public schools. Most children start kindergarten at about age five. Many American kindergartens now require skills taught in early education programs. So children who have not attended a preschool program may not be ready for kindergarten.

Many families, however, lack enough money to send their children to private nursery schools or preschools. Such schools may cost several thousand dollars a year, as much as a public university.

To help poor families, the government operates an education program for young children called Head Start. Studies have shown that many children from poor families do not do well in school. Studies also have shown that children in Head Start programs perform equally well or better than other children when they start school. But the government currently is providing Head Start with enough money to serve only about sixty percent of the children who need this program.

Educators have expressed concern that some early childhood education programs are not good enough. The United States has about eighty thousand preschools, nursery schools and daycare centers. The National Association for the Education of Young Children studies these schools. The association says it has approved only about ten percent of the preschools in the country. Experts say American children need more and better preschool education.

#### 注 释:

1. preschool 学龄前学校

2. nursery school 幼儿学校
3. daycare center 日托中心
4. identify 分辨出
5. alphabet 字母
6. police station 派出所
7. kindergarten 幼儿园
8. kindergarten in public school 学龄前幼儿园
9. Head Start programs 预科教育
10. approve 批准

### Reading Comprehension

Directions: *The following questions are based on the above passage. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice.*

1. The pupils of kindergarten in a public school are usually \_\_\_\_\_ years old.  
A) 5                      B) 3                      C) 6                      D) 2
2. The pupils in preschools are usually under the age of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) 7                      B) 6                      C) 5                      D) 4
3. How much money is it needed for a college student in a public university in a year?  
A) A few dollars.                      B) Scores of dollars.  
C) Hundreds of dollars.                      D) Thousands of dollars.
4. Head Start programs usually target \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) the poor children
- B) the poor college students
- C) the poor families
- D) the kindergarten schools

5. The National Association for the Education of Young Children  
\_\_\_\_\_ the present preschool education.

- |                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| A) supports    | B) is not satisfied with |
| C) is proud of | D) is disappointed about |

**KEY**

1. A   2. C   3. D   4. A   5. B

## 2. Special Education

### 残疾人教育

残疾人是一个特殊的群体。在教育上,他们在美国得到更多的照顾。

More than six million American students have physical or mental problems. These disabilities make it difficult for them to do normal schoolwork. Some of these children cannot see, hear, or learn normally. Other children have mental problems that prevent them from cooperating in a classroom.

Some disabled students attend special public or private schools operated to provide for their needs. However, many disabled children attend special classes in public schools. Students with minor learning problems often study one or two subjects in programs designed for them. They also attend classes with non-disabled children.

For years, most children with special needs were not permitted to attend public schools. As recently as twenty-seven years ago, public schools accepted only one in five disabled children. Many states had laws that barred children with mental problems or limited

intelligence. They also barred those who could not see or hear.

By 1975, however, Americans had demanded legislation to improve life for people with special needs. That year, Congress passed the Education for All Handicapped Children Act. The law is now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It orders public schools to accept and educate all children. The Office of Special Education Programs in the Department of Education supervises programs for disabled students.

The office says the law has meant many gains for disabled children and their families. The majority of such children now attend their local public schools in classrooms with non-disabled children. Many more disabled students complete high school than in the past. And many more disabled students are now going to college.

However, experts say there are still problems in special education in the United States. For example, some schools do not have teachers trained to work with disabled students. Other schools lack needed equipment or supplies. Parents of disabled students often must become activists to get the right services for their children.

The nation currently spends more than seven thousand million dollars a year on special education. Experts and families say much more is needed to provide necessary services.

#### 注 释:

1. disability 残疾

2. disabled 残疾的(较委婉的说法)

- 3. non-disabled children 非残疾儿童
- 4. bar 把…… 挡在门外
- 5. legislation 立法
- 6. Congress 美国国会
- 7. handicapped 残疾的
- 8. act 法案
- 9. gain 优惠, 偏向

### Reading Comprehension

Directions: *The following questions are based on the above passage. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice.*

1. If children with mental problem they may most probably have difficulties to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) hear
  - B) see
  - C) use a pen
  - D) communicate with other children
2. A child has \_\_\_\_\_ problem if he or she cannot walk on foot.
  - A) a physical
  - B) a mental
  - C) an out-of-class
  - D) a mathematic
3. The disabled students in the United States are not likely to attend \_\_\_\_\_ according to the passage.
  - A) public school
  - B) private school

- C) special public school                      D) charter school
4. Only 30 years ago, \_\_\_\_\_ of the disabled children were accepted by public schools.
- A) 5%    B) 10%  
C) 20%    D) 30%
5. What does “gain” mean in “the law has meant many gains for disabled children and their families”?
- A) Increase.                                      B) Profit.  
C) Accumulation.                              D) Acquisition.

**KEY**

1. D    2. A    3. D    4. C    5. B



### 3. Schools Around the World

## 环 球 学 校

利用计算机的优势,把地球上不同地区的老师和学校连在一起,以促进教学质量的提高,这是件很有意义的事。

Teachers in eight nations and Hong Kong are taking part in an unusual exchange of information. They are sharing excellent work by their students in mathematics and science. The program is called Schools Around the World.

Teachers taking part in the program use computer technology to exchange work by students. One goal is to develop and continue student excellence in mathematics and science. Another is to improve the skills of teachers in the program. A national organization called the Council for Basic Education in Washington, D.C. operates Schools Around the World.

Carol Stoel directs the program. She says about five hundred teachers are involved in Schools Around the World. These teachers take part in the program after being trained.

Schools Around the World enables educators separated by distance to communicate by computer. They increase knowledge about