The Active Reader

Reading for Meaning

高效英语阅读 第二册

Sandra Allen
Christopher Green
Philip Leetch
Morag Reive

改编 王慧莉 高桂珍

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前 言

《高效英语阅读》是为具有中级水平的英语学习者提供的美国英语系列阅读教程。英语学习者不管是为了学术目的，还是为了消遣，在阅读过程中都会遇到不同类型的阅读文章，该系列教程则提供了这一便利。《高效英语阅读》目的是使英语学习者熟悉阅读技巧、扩大词汇量，从而提高他们的阅读水平。

《高效英语阅读》第二册共有十七章，每章分三个部分：阅读理解、词汇及语法。

阅读理解

阅读理解部分首先是一篇阅读文章。第二册的阅读材料除了传统的文章以外，还包括下列体裁：小册子、社论、访谈、日记、报刊文选、记叙文、人物简介和网页。每篇课文的开头都有一个词汇表供读者参考。阅读文章之后，有五种阅读理解练习，培养以下阅读技巧：

●寻读：鼓励读者迅速找到具体信息；

●略读：鼓励读者迅速掌握文章的主题思想；

●细节阅读：致力于训练读者仔细认真的阅读；

●要点阅读：着重于培养读者辨认和理解文章的要旨；

●推断阅读：鼓励读者对文章隐含的意义和深层的含义作出判断和推论；

●思考性阅读：启发读者根据自己个人的经历回答和文章有关的问题。

词汇

词汇部分包括三种练习，旨在帮助读者理解词义，掌握用法。该部分提供了以下练习类型：

●同义词与反义词；

●从上下文中推断词义、一词多义、在上下文中运用词语、动词形式、词义联想、词类；

●搭配与表达。

语法

语法部分提供了中级水平的英语学习者应该熟悉的语法要点以及两种形式的语法练习。

本教材提供了所有练习的参考答案，既适用于课堂教学，也适用于自学。

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– Antonyms – One word, two meanings – Collocations and expressions	Future perfect tense
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Vocabulary Skills	Grammar Review
– Antonyms – Word parts – Collocations and expressions	'Used to'
– Antonyms – Verb forms – Collocations and expressions	'Something', 'anything', 'somebody', 'anybody', 'somewhere', and 'anywhere'
– Synonyms – Word parts – Collocations and expressions	Adverbs
– Antonyms – Inferring meaning from context – Collocations and expressions	'Except and 'besides'
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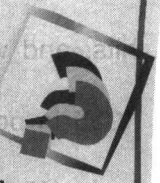
Vocabulary Skills	Grammar Review
– Antonyms – One word, two meanings – Collocations and expressions	Short answers
– Synonyms – One word, two meanings – Collocations and expressions	'Use to' and 'used to', 'Be used to' and 'used to'
– Antonyms – Using words in context – Collocations and expressions	Direct and reported speech
– Antonyms – Word parts – Collocations and expressions	Verbs
– Synonyms – Word association – Collocations and expressions	Active or Passive?

1 Elvis Presley
埃尔维斯·普雷斯利



Do you know these words? 你认识这些词吗？

awesome (*adj*):
['ɔːsəm]
可怕的，使人敬畏的
causing a person to feel admiration and respect or fear and worry (*line 34*)

censor (*v*):
['sensə]审查(书刊等)
to remove parts of a book, film or artwork that might offend or upset (*line 24*)

country music (*n*):
乡村音乐
a style of music from the south and western areas of the USA (*line 7*)

gospel (*n*):
['gɔspəl]福音音乐
a type of Christian music which is usually sung by African-American singers (*line 6*)

heart failure (*n*):
心力衰竭，心脏停跳
a medical condition in which the person's heart stops, and which can cause death (*line 3*)

rebel (*n*):
['rebəl]造反者，反判者
a person who does not agree with the ideas of the majority of people and expresses their disagreement by acting differently (*line 22*)

rhythm and blues (*n*):
节奏布鲁斯——(一种节奏强烈的美国黑人音乐)
a type of music (*lines 6 and 10*)

succumb (*v*):
[sə'kʌm] 屈服
to accept defeat by something stronger than yourself (*line 31*)

twisting (*adj*):
['twistiŋ]摇摆的
moving side to side (*line 24*)

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COMPREHENSION 阅读理解

Passage 课文

Read this profile. 请读以下人物简介。

He was, and is, known as 'The King', had 18 American number one hits, and was the first real rock 'n' roll star. Elvis Presley was born in 1935 in poverty, died in 1977 of heart failure caused by drug use, and in the 42 years in between became the world's most popular entertainer.

In the 1950s, Elvis Presley changed the face of popular music forever. His music was a mixture of black gospel and rhythm and blues, and white country music. Before Elvis, no one had combined black and white popular music so successfully. This was mainly because, in 1950s America, most white people still lived apart from their black neighbors.

Elvis' early rhythm and blues hits like 'That's All Right Mama' (1954) made him a local hero among blacks and whites alike. However, it was not until he signed his first big recording contract with the company RCA that he became known nationally.

It was not Elvis' music alone which won him his fans, but his

performing style, too. At a time when television was new and very popular, Elvis' powerful image as a rebel appealed to young people all over America. He sang with feeling, and moved on stage in the same way. In fact, his twisting hips even led to some TV shows censoring his performances! Elvis sang of teenage love in 'Heartbreak Hotel' (1956), and shook everyone up with 'Hound Dog' in the same year. He was at the peak of his success in the late 1950s, and inspired new stars like Gene Vincent and Eddie Cochran.

Elvis was less successful during the 1960s, and by the 1970s was mainly working just in Las Vegas, where he performed a live show. He began to decline at this time as he succumbed to the temptations of his rock 'n' roll lifestyle. When he died in 1977, he was overweight and addicted to drugs. However, in his prime Elvis was a great musician and an awesome performer, and his influence can still be seen in much of today's music.

READING SKILLS 阅读技巧

Scanning 寻读

When we scan a piece of writing, we look at it quickly. Often we are looking for a specific word or fact.

For example, we may scan a newspaper to look for a job in the employment section or to quickly find a weather report. We use this skill many times a day without even realizing that we are doing it.

Throughout this book you will be asked to scan passages to locate specific information.

Look at this table and notice the information you need to complete it. Now quickly scan the passage to find the information. 请看下列表格，注意要填入的内容，寻读课文，找出相应的内容填入表格内。

Elvis Presley

1 Born: _____	**3 Number of #1 hits:** _____
2 Nickname: _____	**4 Died:** _____

Now check your answers.
1 1935 **2** The King **3** 18 **4** 1977

Skimming 略读

When we skim a piece of writing, we read it quickly as we do when we scan it. Unlike scanning, however, when we skim a passage, we are usually trying to understand the overall meaning without picking up on all the details.

When skimming a passage, quickly read through the beginning, middle, and end to help you understand the overall meaning.

Read through these events. Then quickly skim the passage to put them in order. Number the boxes 1-4. 读一遍以下事件，略读课文后将这些事件发生的顺序写在方格内。

☐ Elvis performed regularly in Las Vegas.

☐ Elvis' performances on TV were censored because of his dancing.

☐ Elvis died overweight and addicted to drugs.

☐ Elvis signed a recording contract with RCA.

Now check your answers.
3, 2, 4, 1

Reading for detail 找详情细节

Details are the small pieces of information in a passage. They expand on the main idea and make the writing more interesting.

This book helps you to practice this skill by asking you to decide which details are important and relevant to the passage.

Read the passage again. Then choose the best response. Circle the letter. 将课文再读一遍，选出最佳答案。

1 Elvis Presley was the first ...
- **a)** real rock 'n' roll star.
- **b)** famous black singer.
- **c)** poor singer.

2 What did fans like about Elvis, apart from his music?
- **a)** His performing style.
- **b)** His voice.
- **c)** His good looks.

3 What made some TV shows censor Elvis' performances?
- **a)** The way it combined black and white popular music.
- **b)** His twisting hips.
- **c)** His singing.

4 Where did Elvis mainly work in the 1970s?
- **a)** All over America.
- **b)** In Las Vegas.
- **c)** On television.

Now check your answers.

Question 1: The answer is a). The passage says that Elvis' music combined black and white popular music, but Elvis was not black, so b) is incorrect. Although Elvis came from a poor background, the passage does not say that he was the first poor singer, so c) is incorrect.

Question 2: The answer is a). Although fans may have admired Elvis' voice and good looks, they are not mentioned in the passage, so b) and c) are incorrect. In paragraph three, it says that his performing style won him fans.

Question 3: The answer is b). In paragraph three it says that Elvis' 'twisting hips even led to some TV shows censoring his performances!'.

Question 4: The answer is b). Although Elvis may have performed in other places during the 1970s, the important word in this question is 'mainly'. In paragraph four it says that by the 1970s, Elvis was mainly working in Las Vegas.

Reading for the main idea 抓中心思想

When we read a passage or an article, it is important to be able to understand the main idea and what the author is trying to say.

Often we can tell what a piece of writing is going to be about before we read it. We can get clues from the photographs or from the title. These usually give us an idea of the content. Other clues are often found in the opening paragraph. Most writers start by giving the main idea of the passage, and then they proceed with the details that expand on that idea.

Choose the best response. Circle the letter. 选出最佳答案。

1 The passage is mainly about ...

a) music in America.

b) the life of Elvis Presley.

c) how to lead a rock 'n' roll lifestyle.

2 Choose another title for the passage.

a) 'Local Hero'.

b) 'Elvis – The Las Vegas Years'.

c) 'The King'.

Now check your answers.

Question 1: The answer is b). The passage mentions music in America and the rock 'n' roll lifestyle, but only in relation to Elvis' life.

Question 2: The answer is c). The title should tell the reader what the entire passage is about. Although Elvis' local popularity is mentioned and his time in Las Vegas is mentioned, they do not sum up the passage. By using Elvis' nickname as a title, readers will know that this passage is about Elvis Presley.

Inferring 推断

Sometimes, important information is hinted at, but not directly stated. In these cases, we must use inference to guess what the writer is actually saying.

We infer every day. For example, if a person asks you to open a window, you might assume that they feel too warm. When inferring, we use clues to guess what has not been said directly.

Use inference to choose the best word. Underline the word. 利用推断选出最佳的词。

1 Television probably had a (**positive, negative**) effect on Elvis' career.

2 The writer probably (**admires, dislikes**) Elvis.

Now check your answers.

Question 1: The answer is 'positive'. In paragraph three it says that it was not Elvis' music alone, but also his performing style which made him popular. Television could broadcast his performances to fans all over America which probably had a positive effect on his career.

Question 2: The answer is 'admires'. We know that the writer admires Elvis by his / her choice of words. In paragraph four, the writer describes Elvis as 'a great musician and an awesome performer'.

Thinking about it 想一想

Write your answers to these questions. 回答下列问题。

1 Why do you think Elvis is still so famous?

_____

_____

_____

2 What might have caused Elvis to abuse drugs?

_____

_____

_____

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