

大学英语 阅读与欣赏 第2册

COLLEGE ENGLISH
READING AND ENJOYING

万石建 主 编
朱慧敏 总主编
王令坤 主 审



中国农业出版社

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前言

阅读是获取信息的重要手段, 大学英语的最主要目标之一就是培养学生“具有较强的阅读能力”。为了帮助学生切实有效地达到这一目的, 必须有大量的语言输入(input)。因此,《大学英语阅读与欣赏》便应运而生。本书是以国家教育部颁发的《大学英语教学基本要求》为依据, 参照大学英语四级考试大纲, 为帮助学生有效地掌握各项阅读微技能及基本要求规定的阅读速度等有关指标而专门设计、编著的。主要供普通高等院校非英语专业的本专科生、研究生及其他英语学习者在课外使用。

本书所提供的阅读素材题材广泛, 体裁多样, 内容新颖, 具有较强的科学性和一定的趣味性, 可读性强, 力求使读者在提高阅读水平的同时, 获得一定的科学知识及文化背景知识。本书旨在通过多种形式的大量阅读练习帮助学生提高阅读能力和阅读速度, 克服背景知识贫乏、词汇量少等问题, 帮助学生复习和巩固已掌握的学习技能, 提高学生实际应用英语的能力, 达到规定的教学要求。

本书共分4册, 每册18个单元, 每个单元含5篇长短不一、内容各异的文章。考虑到大学英语教学既要对学生进行素质教育, 又要帮助他们通过CET考试, 因此, 本书在练习上采用了CET的题型, 以兼顾到各方面的需要。练习形式包括综合填空、多项选择、英译汉、判断与简短回答问题。

本套系列阅读练习已在江苏科技大学等高校试用多年, 应广大读者的要求, 现已正式出版。本书由江苏科技大学外国语学院具有多年大学英语教学经验的教师所编写, 由

朱慧敏担任总主编，由王令坤教授主审。参加本书编著工作的教师有：

第一册主编：王建忠，编委：王栋，朱红英；

第二册主编：万石建，编委：华小培，诸培英，张荣梅；

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第四册主编：葛纪红，编委：常留英，周琨，张雪琴。

本书在编写和出版过程中得到了江苏科技大学有关领导、江苏科技大学教材科、中国农业出版社等单位和个人的大力支持，在此一并致谢。本书在有关文献中选用了部分材料，谨向这些文献的作者致以崇高的谢意。

由于编者水平有限，书中若有疏漏及不妥之处，恳请读者提出批评与宝贵意见。

编 者

2005年5月

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Unit 1

Passage 1

As a creature, I eat; as a man, I read. Although one action is to meet the primary need of my body and the other is to satisfy the intellectual need of my mind, they are in a way quite similar.

To keep ourselves alive, we need all kinds of nutrition. Eating is the most important way by which we can get starch, protein, vitamin, sugar, fat, and some trace elements. On the other hand, we eat not only because we have to do so, but also because we enjoy doing so. Having satisfied our hunger, eating can then be a kind of enjoyment. Very often we eat some food not because it is nourishing^① but simply because we like it. There are many people, however, who do not eat the food they dislike and consequently suffer from malnutrition^②. So, for the sake of health, we have to eat some even though we may not like it.

Similarly, to enrich our minds, we need information and knowledge, which can be obtained through reading. Reading is one of the most important ways of learning. Without reading our minds will become empty like that of an animal. Sometimes, we take reading as a pastime, and we relax and learn at the same time. Since recreation is involved, we will naturally have a partiality^③ for some

① nourish: to cause to stay alive or grow by giving food, water, etc.

② malnutrition: (bad health resulting from) lack of food, or the wrong kind of food

③ partiality: the quality of being partial; bias

particular kinds of books, just as we do for certain kinds of food. It is all right if we read some more books on history than books on literature. But suppose we focus on one subject only and pay no attention to anything else, we will face the problem of imbalance. Nutrition for our minds should be as comprehensive as the nutrition for our bodies. An educated person is a person who knows a lot of things about something and something about a lot of things. One's mind needs all kinds of nourishment, whether they are to one's liking or not.

So, eat sensibly and read sensibly to give yourself a strong body and a healthy mind.

Answer or complete each of the following questions or sentences with the best choice:

1. Which of the following is not what we get from eating?
A. Literature
B. Sugar
C. Carbohydrate
D. Starch
2. According to the writer, people read to _____.
A. kill time
B. satisfy the intellectual need of their mind
C. meet the primary need of their body
D. relax themselves
3. Why do people eat according to the passage?
A. To satisfy their body.
B. To enjoy eating.
C. To enrich their minds.
D. Both A and B.
4. An educated person is one who _____.
A. knows a lot of things about something
B. knows something about a lot of things
C. neither a nor b
D. both a and b
5. Our minds need _____.
A. balanced nourishment
B. literature
C. relaxation
D. partiality

Passage 2

As more people today have access to use of the Internet through careers, school, or home computers, the trend^① of communicating online is on the rise. With the increasing popularity of this form of relationship, some individuals do not often consider this to be a potentially dangerous situation. However, there are people and places on the Internet to be cautious of, as my own experience clearly shows.

While taking a break from working on my home computer, I logged onto a chat room and quickly joined in on the room discussion. I began chatting with a male individual on this particular day, under my fake user name. I felt a strange connection on this person while speaking with him. We enjoyed all the same hobbies and activities. We had similar careers and both of us were happily married and had children. In the midst of a conversation one day this man told me he was in love with me. The rational side of me said he was crazy. After all, we had only known each other for a few weeks. Still, I wanted to continue talking with him.

A short time later, he began talking about leaving our families to be together. I decided it was time to end this cyber^② relationship, as I had never had any intention of actually meeting this person. I was very polite and simply explained my position to him. That evening we received the first of many prank^③ phone calls, until we finally had to change our phone number. Unfortunately, this wasn't enough of a hint for this person.

① trend; general direction; tendency

② cyber; network

③ prank; a playful but foolish trick, not intended to harm (恶作剧)

He preceded to inform my husband about our “fling”^①. My husband and I eventually worked things out, but there will probably always be a sense of distrust between us. I have spoken to many people who assure me this does not always happen with cyber relationships. However, my experience certainly taught me a lesson and I only hope that others realize that not everyone is what they seem to be on the Internet.

Answer the following questions briefly:

1. What's story about told by the narrator?

2. What did the narrator feel after she talked on line with the man for a short time?

3. What did the man suggest after they got to know each other for just a few weeks?

4. Why did the narrator and her husband decide to change their phone number?

5. How was the narrator's tone when telling the story?

Passage 3

Thousands of travelers were facing long delays at Sydney airport last night after a fire broke out in its new multi-million-dollar air traffic control tower.

All incoming and outgoing flights were held up, and pilots were forced to land without the normal technical support. Firemen were called when acrid^② smoke from a computer began to fill the main work area. The smoke was believed to have been caused by some

① fling: a short, often wild time of satisfying one's own desire 放纵

② acrid: bitter; causing a stinging sensation

electrical fault. Staff were evacuated^① from the building and ferried to the old control tower, where flight controllers were able to work at a limited capacity. But they were unable to halt disruption to Australia's national and international airline schedules.

The knock-on effect caused delays for thousands of people waiting at other airports in the country. An airport spokesman said it would take some hours before planes would be running on schedule again. But the control tower was not expected to be fully operational before mid-evening.

The fire, which forced the evacuation of staff from the control tower, could not have come at a worse time.

This is the busiest period of the year for the airport with thousands of travelers using the terminal for their Christmas holiday. It was estimated that the airport's international terminal was preparing to service 35 000 passengers per day over the next few days before Christmas, a 35 percent increase compared to the same festive period last year. The increase in passenger traffic is largely due to publicity following the Olympic Games and the launch of two new airlines, analysts said.

The Airport Co-ordination Authority predicts a 25 percent increase in flights over the next year. The bulk of visitors to Australia is from New Zealand, with tourists from Japan in second place.

The fire was the third major incident at the airport this year. Equipment failure led to chaos and serious flight delays on two occasions just before the commencement of this September's Sydney Olympics.

Answer or complete each of the following questions or sentences with the best choice:

① evacuate: to take all the people away from; to move out of danger

1. Thousands of travelers were faced with _____.
 - A. dangers from a fire
 - B. a disastrous rush of a large crowd of passengers
 - C. failures to reserve any air tickets
 - D. long delays because of a fire
2. Airport staff were asked to leave _____.
 - A. the terminal
 - B. the incoming airplane
 - C. the new control tower
 - D. the old control tower
3. Because of the incident, planes would not be running on schedule _____.
 - A. until next afternoon
 - B. in a few hours
 - C. in a week
 - D. in a few weeks
4. The fire came at the worst time, because _____.
 - A. it was the peak time of the year when Christmas was approaching
 - B. it occurred at a newly launched airport
 - C. it was a cold winter
 - D. it was during the Sydney Olympic Games
5. The delay caused by the fire was _____.
 - A. the first major incident this year
 - B. the worst incident this year
 - C. the third major incident this year
 - D. one of the two incidents this year

Passage 4

Ants have outsmarted me on more than one occasion. In particular, there was a weekend last summer when an ant scientist was a guest at our cottage. I boasted to my naturalist friend that I could store food in an open container for a whole week and keep it safely out of the reach of house ants.

Sunday night the experiment got under way. I put a large wooden tub on the kitchen floor of our cottage. After filling it to about the three-quarters mark with water. I placed a high wooden stand in the middle of it. On top of the stool, I put a saucer containing the bait: three or four pieces of rich chocolate candy.

Then I painted a wide band of very slow-drying glue around the outside of the wooden tub. With that, I stood back and admired my ant trap, fully confident that the bait would be untouched upon my return to the cottage the following weekend.

When my naturalist friend and I entered the cottage just six days later, ants were swarming over the bait!

Here's how they put me to shame. Single files of ants had marched head-on into the band of glue around the outside of the wooden tub. A handful of them had endured martyrdom, for they had embedded themselves end to end, and made causeways of their bodies.

The tempting bait on top of the stool must have caused the little creatures to use their brains to the limit. Ants hate water, but they had been courageous enough to build a highway across the stretch of water to a leg of the stool. They had assembled tiny pieces of grass and bits of wood no longer than a thirty-second of an inch, and had glued them together with saliva^① until their bridge extended from shore to island. Once they reached the leg of the wooden stool, traffic was almost all one way toward to chocolate bait.

But there were some show-off fellows around, too; they were doing things which ants have been known to do very rarely. We noticed that a half dozen or so were walking across the ceiling, and when they came directly over the bait they let themselves fall squarely into the middle of their merry brothers.

① saliva: the natural watery liquid produced in the mouth

It is little wonder that I have been on the trail of ants ever since, trying to trip them up or at least learn some of the special tactics^① that they use.

Answer the following questions briefly:

1. What did the writer want to convince his friend?

2. What did the writer and his friends find after they entered the cottage six days later?

3. How did the ants manage to get over the glue?

4. What was the “highway” across the water made of?

5. To the writer, how was the result of the experiment?

Passage 5

A good marriage means growing as a couple but also growing as individuals. This isn't easy; marriage has always been difficult. Why then are we seeing so many divorces at this time? Yes, our modern social fabric^② is thin, and yes, the permissiveness of society has created unrealistic expectations and thrown the family into disorder. But divorce is so common because people today are unwilling to exercise the self-discipline that marriage requires. They expect easy joy, like the entertainment on TV, the thrill of a good party.

Marriage takes some kind of sacrifice^③, not dreadful self-sacrifice of the soul, but some level of compromise. Some of one's

① tactics: the art of arranging military forces so as to gain success in battle

② fabric: cloth made of threads woven together

③ sacrifice: offering to God or a god; esp. of an animal by killing in a ceremony.

fantasies^①, some of one's legitimate^② desires, have to be given up for the value of the marriage itself. "While all marital partners feel shackled at times, it is they who really choose to make the marital ties into confining chains or supporting bonds," says Dr. Whitaker, "Marriage requires sexual, financial and emotional discipline. A man and a woman cannot follow every impulse, cannot allow them to stop growing or changing".

A divorce is not an evil act. Sometimes it provides salvation^③ for people who have grown hopelessly apart or are frozen in patterns of pain or mutual unhappiness. Divorce can be like the first cut of the surgeon's knife, a step toward new health and a good life. On the other hand, if the partners can stay past the breaking up of the romantic myths into the development of real love and intimacy^④, they have achieved a work as amazing as the greatest cathedrals of the world. Marriages that do not fail but improve, that persist despite imperfections, are not only rare these days but offer a wondrous shelter in which the face of our mutual humanity can safely show itself.

Decide whether the following statements are True or False:

- () 1. According to the author, an ideal marriage life is only an illusion in today's society.
- () 2. The second paragraph is mainly about the importance of self-restraint on the parts of the husband and the wife.
- () 3. In the author's opinion, a divorce is not an evil act if it leads to a more worthwhile life for the two persons.
- () 4. The author believes the real cause for the increase of divorces today lies in that people do not want to be confined by marital ties.
- () 5. A good marriage means growing as a couple but independent on each other.

① fantasy: (a creation of) imagination

② legitimate: according to law; lawful or correct

③ salvation: the saving or state of being saved from sin 救世

④ intimacy: close friendship

Unit 2



It was not yet eleven o'clock when a boat crossed the river with a single passenger who had obtained his transportation at that unusual hour by promising an extra fare. While the youth stood on the landing-place searching in his pockets for money, the ferryman lifted a lamp, by the aid of which, together with the newly risen moon, he took a very accurate survey of the stranger's figure. He was a young man of barely eighteen years, evidently brought up in the country, and now as it seemed, on his first visit to town. He was wearing a rough gray coat, which was in good shape, but which had seen many winters before this one. The garments under his coat were well constructed of leather, and fitted tightly to a pair of long legs; his blue stockings must have been the work of a mother or sister, and on his head was a three-cornered hat, which in its better days had perhaps protected the grayer head of the young man's father. In his left hand was a walking stick, and his belongings were completed by a leather bag which hung on his strong shoulders. Brown, curly hair, well-shaped features, bright, cheerful eyes were nature's gifts. The youth, whose name was Robin, paid the boatman, and then walked forward into the town with a light step, as if he had not already traveled more than thirty miles that day. As he walked, he surveyed his surroundings as eagerly as if he were entering London or Madrid, instead of the little town of a New England colony.

Answer or complete each of the following questions or sentences with the best