



English Reading for College

大学英语阅读教程

总 主 编◎张学锋 本册主编◎董 勋 刘晓康 副 主 编◎逯 曼 崔新红

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新思维

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内容提要

本教材基于《大学英语课程教学要求》,紧扣最新全国大学英语四级考试大纲,以全新思维针对英语阅读中普遍存在的"短板"问题,围绕阅读新题型的特点精心编著而成。

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前言

阅读理解是衡量语言能力的主要标准之一,并在大学英语四级考试中处于重要的地位。如何在新大纲指导下有效提高英语阅读能力是很多学生关注的问题,常常有学生苦恼自己阅读能力薄弱,询问英语学习是否有捷径可走?事实上,最好的答案来自中国一句古话:不积跬步无以至千里。因此,养成良好的阅读习惯,广泛涉猎不同题材的文章,在大量阅读中提高阅读理解力是一种水到渠成、行之有效的方法。本书正是在此理念的指导下,紧扣最新全国大学英语四级考试大纲,针对英语阅读中普遍存在的"短板"问题,围绕阅读新题型的特点精心编著而成。本书主要特点如下:

1. 设计合理,循序渐进

本书为《新思维大学英语阅读教程》的第 2 分册,由 8 个单元组成,每一单元分两部分,根据阅读新题型的特点,设计了一系列关于选词填空、段落信息匹配、深度阅读三种题型的强化训练,阅读难度则随着单元变化循序渐进。

2. 选材新颖,题材多样

本书所选阅读素材均是近年来最新的英文材料,题材多样,兼顾时代感、知识性与趣味性。既有热门话题的文章,如环保、食品安全、太空旅行,又有趣味与知识并存的科普文章,如探讨颜色对产品销售的影响、人工智能 Siri 的工作原理等。同时还有对求职面试、语言学习等生活实践进行指导的文章。总之,选材做到鱼渔兼授,让读者在掌握阅读技巧的同时享受阅读的乐趣。

3. 讲解清晰,点拨到位

每篇文章均提供主旨大意,帮助读者更好地把握文章内容及逻辑层次。每一道题均给出详细讲解,对试题考点进行剖析,帮助读者迅速定位解题的关键所在,并揭示解题思路和技巧。

本书主要为大学英语四级考生编写,也适合各类英语爱好者和自学者学习之用。衷心希望本书能切实有效地帮助大家提高阅读理解能力,让大家爱上阅读,顺利通过大学英语四级考试。

由于作者水平有限,本书虽经反复修改、审校,但仍可能有不妥或疏漏之处,在此恳请广大读者及同行惠予批评指正。

编 者 2015年6月

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Unit 1

Section A

Passage 1

Is Our Earth Overpopulated?

Everyone knows that the world has too many people. But how many people are too many? By what standard is the Earth overpopulated? Certainly not in terms of living space. The world's entire population could fit into Jacksonville, Florida, in the USA, with everyone having standing room. ______ cities are often surrounded by nearly empty countryside. For overpopulation to be real there must be conditions that are undesirable and unmistakably caused by the presence of a certain number of people. If such indications cannot be found, we are entitled to ______ the claim of overpopulation.

In arguing their case, believers in 3 make references to a vague standard known as "carrying capacity", colorfully illustrated with stories about bacteria and herds of zebras (anything but human beings). Famine, deepening poverty, disease, environmental degradation and resource depletion. Yet on no account is there evidence to support the claim of overpopulation.

In fact, during the 20th century there has been no __4__ that has not been caused by wars, irrational economic policies or natural disasters. Food is __5_ and is becoming cheaper and more plentiful. That good news is due __6_ to technological advances (the "green revolution") that have provided better seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and methods of farming. The only obstacles to agricultural progress are those created by governments. Imagine what the world would be like today if the fertile farmland of India or Russia had been in productive private hands operating in free markets for the past several decades. Since permitting market incentives in agriculture, India has become a net food exporter and China has experienced a boom in agricultural production.

Catastrophists argue that the bright past does not imply a bright future; they __7_ that mankind has crossed some fateful threshold. Those who annually predict imminent

famine seize on any change as evidence that man's alleged strain on the environment is finally beginning to show. Thus, if the price of seafood 8, they announce that the seas are nearing exhaustion. They never consider the more 9 possibilities, such as the shift in diet from meat to fish, the 10 of the Russian industry during the political break-up of the Soviet Union, or the lack of property rights in the world's oceans and lakes.

(372 words)

Select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage.

A) decline	I) dismiss	
B) overpopulation	J) dense	
C) famine	K) expensive	
D) society	L) plausible	
E) support	M) abundant	
F) shortage	N) largely	
G) rises	O) accordingly	
H) assert		

Future World

- A) This week some top scientists, including Nobel Prize winners, gave their vision of how the world will look in 2056, from gas-powered cars to extraordinary health advances. John Ingham reports on what the world's finest minds believe our futures will be.
- B) For those of us lucky enough to live that long, 2056 will be a world of almost perpetual youth, where obesity is a remote memory and robots become our companions. We will be rubbing shoulders with aliens and colonizing outer space. Better still, our descendants might at last live in a world at peace with itself.
- C) Will we really, as today's scientists claim, be able to live for ever or at least cheat the ageing process so that the average person lives to 150? Of course, all these predictions come with a scientific health warning. Harvard professor Steven Pinker says: "This is an invitation to look foolish, as with the predictions of domed cities and nuclear-powered vacuum cleaners that were made 50 years ago."
- D) Living longer: Anthony Atala, director of the Wake Forest Institute in North Carolina, believes failing organs will be repaired by injecting cells into the body. They will naturally go straight to the injury and help heal it. A system of injections without needles could also slow the ageing process by using the same process to "tune" cells.
- E) Bruce Lahn, professor of human genetics at the University of Chicago, anticipates the ability to produce "unlimited supplies" of transplantable human organs without the need for human donors. These organs would be grown in animals such as pigs. When a patient needed a new organ, such as kidney, the surgeon would contact a commercial organ producer, give him the patient's immunological profile and would then be sent a kidney with the correct tissue type.
- F) Aliens: Colin Pillinger, professor of planetary sciences, says: "I fancy that at least we will be able to show that life did start to evolve on Mars as well as Earth." Within 50 years he hopes scientists will prove that alien life came here in Martian meteorites (陨石). Chris McKay, a planetary scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center, believes that in 50 years we may find evidence of alien life in the ancient permanent frost of Mars or on other planets. He adds: "There is even a chance we will find alien life forms here on Earth. It might be as different as English is to Chinese."
- G) Colonies in space: Richard Gott, professor of astrophysics at Princeton, hopes man will set up a self-sufficient colony on Mars, which would be a "life insurance" policy

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against whatever catastrophes, natural or otherwise, might occur on Earth. "The real space race is whether we will colonize off Earth on to other worlds before money for the space programme runs out."

- H) Spinal injuries: Ellen Heber-Katz, a professor at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, foresees cures for injuries causing paralysis such as the one that afflicted Superman star Christopher Reeve. She says: "I believe that the day is not far off when we will be able to prescribe drugs that cause severed (断裂) spinal cords to heal, hearts to regenerate and lost limbs to regrow."
- I) Obesity: Sydney Brenner, senior distinguished fellow of the Crick-Jacobs Center in California, won the 2002 Nobel Prize for Medicine and says that if there is a global disaster some humans will survive and evolution will favor small people with bodies large enough to support the required amount of brain power. "Obesity", he says, "will have been solved."
- J) Robots: Rodney Brooks, professor of robotics at MIT, says the problems of developing artificial intelligence for robots will be at least partly overcome. As a result, "the possibilities for robots working with people will open up immensely."

(635 words)

Identify the paragraph	from	which	the	information	is	derived.	You	may	choose	a	paragraph
more than once,											

- 1. Harvard professor Steven Pinker holds the view that predictions about the future may not come true.
- () 2. Richard Gott, a professor of Princeton University, expresses his hope that man will set up a self-sufficient colony on Mars for possible disasters on Earth.
- 3. According to John Ingham's report, some top scientists talked about their vision of the future world in 2056.
- 4. Bruce Lahn of the Chicago University pointed out that animals would replace human beings as the organ transplants donors.
- () 5. Rodney Brooks, professor of robotics at MIT, predicted that people would be accompanied with many robots in the future.
- () 6. It is believed that the life span will be expanded by repairing failing organs in the future.

American Drunken Driving

Drunken driving—sometimes called America's socially accepted form of murder—has become a national <u>epidemic</u>. Every hour of every day, about three Americans on average are killed by drunken drivers, adding up to an incredible 250,000 over the past decade.

A drunken driver is usually defined as one with a 0.10 blood alcohol content or roughly three beers, glasses of wine or shots of whisky drunk within two hours. Heavy drinking used to be an acceptable part of the American macho image and judges were lenient in most courts, but the drunken slaughter has recently caused so many well-publicized tragedies, especially involving young children, that public opinion is no longer so tolerant.

Twenty states have raised the legal drinking age to 21, reversing a trend in the 1960s to reduce it to 18. After New Jersey lowered it to 18, the number of people killed by 18 to 20-year-old drivers, more than doubled, so the state recently upped it back to 21.

Reformers, however, fear raising the drinking age will have little effect unless accompanied by educational programs to help young people to develop "responsible attitudes" about drinking and teach them to resist peer pressure to drink.

Tough new laws have led to increased arrests and tests and, in many areas already, to a marked decline in fatalities. Some states are also penalizing bars for serving customers too many drinks. A tavern in Massachusetts was fined for serving six or more double brandies to a customer who was "obviously intoxicated" and later drove off the road, killing a nine-year-old boy.

As the fatalities continue to occur daily in every state, some Americans are even beginning to speak well of the 13 years of national prohibition of alcohol that began in 1919, what President Hoover called the "noble experiment". They forget that legal prohibition didn't stop drinking, but encouraged political corruption and organized crime. As with the booming drug trade generally, there is no easy solution.

(323 words)

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1. According to the context, the word "epidemic" in paragraph 1 probably means
 - A. disease
- B. problem
- C. rumor
- D. curse
- 2. Why is the public no longer tolerant about the drunk driving?
 - A. Because drunken drivers are younger.
 - B. Because judges often show tolerance to those drunken drivers.
 - C. Because those drunken drivers couldn't resist peer pressure to drink.
 - D. Because there is a dramatic increase in tragic accidents caused by drunken slaughter.
- 3. What does the statistics issued in New Jersey suggest?
 - A. The statistics suggest that young people are not good drivers.
 - B. The statistics suggest that reducing the legal drinking age would not lead to the reduction of tragedies caused by drunken driving.
 - C. The statistics suggest that raising the legal drinking age would increase the number of victims in drunken driving.
 - D. The statistics suggest that many drunken drivers are not of legal age.
- 4. Laws recently introduced in some states have taken the following effects EXCEPT
 - A. increasing the alcoholic tests for drivers
 - B. increasing the arrests of the drunken drivers
 - C. preventing bars from serving drivers
 - D. resulting in fewer fatalities of traffic accidents
- 5. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - A. Drunken drivers are very dangerous in transportation.
 - B. Active measurements are made to solve the problem of drunken driving in America.
 - C. Raising the drinking age has little effect on the reduction of drunken driving in America.
 - D. National prohibition of alcohol would be an effective solution to drunken driving.

Section B

Passage 1

My Love for Animals

Most of the people have no idea of the hard work of collecting those <u>1</u> birds and animals that they pay to see in the zoo. One of the questions that is always asked of me is how I <u>2</u> an animal collector in the first place. The answer is that I have always been interested in animals and zoos.

According to my parents, the first word I was able to say with any clarity was not the conventional "mamma" or "daddy", but the __3__ "zoo", which I would repeat over and over again with a shrill __4__ until someone, in order to shut me up, would take me to the zoo.

(252 words)

Select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage.

A) voice .	I) easy
B) word	J) fascinating
C) experience	K) spare
D) news	L) difficult
E) became	M) relaxed
F) finance	N) regularly
G) ranging	O) exceedingly
H) collecting	