高等学校教材

英语教程

（理工科用）

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快速阅读

FAST READING

附册

BOOK 4

说　明

本练习册为《英语教程(理工科用)》第四册的附册，供学生在课堂上作快速阅读练习使用。“快速阅读”是本书新增加的一种练习形式，旨在训练学生的阅读速度及在较短时间内理解文章大意的能力。本册文章选材范围较宽，多为带故事性情节的短文。

为配合课本的12课课文，共汇编了12个练习(16篇短文)，每篇短文后均有供检查理解程度的练习题。练习1—6(6篇)篇幅较短，语言难度较小，练习7—12(10篇)篇幅逐渐增加，难度也适当加大。

本练习册应由教师统一保管，每次使用时发给学生，但应注意：

1. 每个练习要求在课堂上由教师指导于限定时间内完成；
2. 阅读前不作预习；
3. 要求不查阅辞典。文中少量较难的词已有注释，其他生词的词义要求学生联系上下文进行推测；
4. 每次练习后要作阅读时间、速度和理解程度的统计记录：
   a) 开始时间 (STARTING TIME)
   b) 结束时间 (FINISHING TIME)
   c) 阅读速度——计每分钟词数(WORDS PER MINUTE)
   d) 理解程度——计百分比 (% COMPREHENSION)
   为了便于统计，每行末都标有词的累计数(WORDS)。
5. 阅读时应尽量记住文章主要情节，作练习题时就不能再翻阅所读短文。

学期结束时可利用附录的记录总表(Record Sheet)，综合12个快读练习作一次比较统计，以了解理解能力的提高程度和阅读速度的增长率。

“快速阅读法”在国外已使用多年，是一种使用范围较广的练习形式。这种方法在我国外语教学中正逐渐开始使用。由于缺乏经验和水平所限，一定有许多不完善之处，欢迎批评指正，以便改进提高。

参加本书编写工作的还有王维霞、李运。

编　者　1982年5月

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Exercise 1

STARTING TIME _____

Machine Intelligence	WORDS
Since the 18th century, a great amount of energy	9
has been devoted to creating imitations (模仿) of	16
human, rather than simply animal, activity. In	23
1736 a French inventor built a mechanical musi-	30
cian (音乐家) that could play 12 songs on his	38
musical instrument. Not only did this machine put	46

its fingers in the right places on the instrument, 55
it moved its lips (唇) to control the flow of wind 64
into it. In 1774 another French inventor aston- 71
ished (使…惊讶) Europeans with a machine about 77
the size of a young boy, that could sit down and 88
write on a piece of paper. 94

But these were only machines doing a few pro- 102
grammed things. Men continued to try to create 108
another kind of machine, one that could play chess 117
against a human. In 1769 all of Europe was aston- 126
ished to see such a machine. It won most of its 136
games as it traveled through Europe and, later, 144
the United States. Among the famous people who 152
played against the machine were Frederick the 159
Great (腓特烈大帝) and Napoleon (拿破仑). But no 164
one could believe in the existence of a machine 173
that really worked in this way. The great Ameri- 181
can writer Edgar Allan Poe (爱伦坡) wrote a story 189
for the newspapers, saying that the chess player 197
was a trick (骗局). He was right. It was not a 207
"thinking" machine at all, but instead was a well- 215
constructed piece of machinery controlled by a very 223

good chess player hidden within. 228

FINISHING TIME _____

Fill in the blanks with suitable words according to the passage:

1. Men have tried hard to make machines that mimicked men since ____.
2. The first mechanical musician was made by ____ in 1736.
3. The mechanical musician could move ____ and ____ and play ____.
4. The second machine was a writing machine about the size of a ____.
5. Later, men tried to build machines that could ____.
6. The chess-playing machine appeared in the year ____.
7. The chess-playing machine won ____ the games in Europe and the United states.
8. Edgar Allan Poe was a famous ____ writer.
9. ____ believed the chess-playing machine to be a true "thinking" machine.
10. ____ was hidden in the chess-playing machine.

WORDS PER MINUTE ____

% COMPREHENSION ____

Exercise 2

STARTING TIME ———

Starships

WORDS

A

One day the human race will begin its greatest 9
adventure (冒险活动) — the journey to the stars. 15
Already space probes are on their way out of the 25
solar system. But even at their speed, it would 34
take 100,000 years to get to the nearest star which 43
is just over four light years away. Perhaps future 52
star journeys will last as long as that. Space trav- 61

elers might be kept unconscious (失去知觉的) in deep-freeze during that time with their breathing, heart rate and body functions slowed down. They would be revived (苏醒) automatically when they arrived, and their bodies would have aged very little. Alternatively (另一个办法是), huge colony (移民) ships could be sent on such a journey. Thousands of generations would live, have children and die during the journey. 67 74 82 88 96 100 108 115 120

B

It may be possible to build faster ships, but scientists believe that they couldn't travel as fast as light. So they would still have long journeys ahead of (在…前面) them. To get to the bright star Capella (御夫座 α) would take over 45 years at the speed of light. According to present theories, time would slow down on board a ship moving near this speed. Clocks and all body processes would run slower on the ship. Although a speed-of-light expedition (远征) to Capella would make the round trip in 90 years by Earth calendars (日历), to the crew it would seem as if only a few years had passed. Yet when they returned, they would find that nearly a century had passed on Earth since they had left. So the space travelers of the 128 138 147 154 162 170 179 187 195 201 209 221 229 238 248

future will also be time travelers. 254

FINISHING TIME ——

True or False:

A

1. Man will someday start his star travel and place his foot onto the surface of the stars.
2. It is estimated that the future journeys to the stars may last as long as 1,000 years.
3. The travelers on board the huge colony ships would not get old at all during the travel.

B

4. None of the starships could travel at the speed of light.
5. It would take the space probes over 45 years to reach the bright star Capella.
6. Although a speed-of-light trip to Capella would take 90 years, to the crew it would seem only a few years.
7. The space travelers of the years to come may well be called time travelers.

WORDS PER MINUTE _____

% COMPREHENSION _____

Exercise 3

STARTING TIME ———

Animals Up in the Air **WORDS**

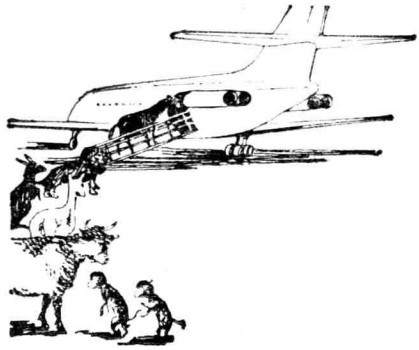
You may have heard about a dog being flown to its new home, or a lion (狮子) to a zoo (动物园). But do you know that planes now fly even more animals than people? The airlines have men who are trained to take care of animals. "Animalports" at airports can care for anything — from fish to elephants. 10 19 29 37 44 53 54

In a plane or at an airport, each kind of animal needs special care. The caretakers must know 64 72

just what to do for each kind. 78

Monkeys are flown in large numbers because 85
scientists in many countries want to study them. 92
Before each flight, a caretaker watches to see which 100
monkeys are the troublemakers. He puts these 107
monkeys into separate cages (笼). 111

For one thing, monkeys are very good at open- 119
ing cage doors. Once, a pilot had to radio to the 129
control tower, "Need to land immediately. Mon- 134
keys loose on plane." When the big plane came 143
sliding down the runway, there was a monkey 151



looking out of each window! 156

Airlines do not ship monkeys on a plane with 165
race horses (比赛用的马). You can't have a 172
$100,000 race horse upset by the cry of a $3.50 184
monkey! Yet certain animals like the company of 192
another kind of animal. Some race horses travel 200

better when a dog goes along with them. 208

Many fish are flown from the Far East. Some 217
travel in plastic bags partly filled with water. 225
Others are sent packed in dry ice. When they 234
arrive, about four out of five live, a good score 244
(成绩) for a long trip. 248

The men who take care of animals in the air 258
and at an airport like and understand them. And 267
fliers have fun with their animal passengers. 274

One pilot was asked to bring a parrot (鹦鹉) 281
to the head of his airline company (公司). On the 290
trip, the men taught the parrot to talk. When 298
handed to his new owner, the bird cried, "More 307
pay (工资) for air crews!" 311

FINISHING TIME ——

True or False:

1. Aeroplanes used to have more animal passengers than people.
2. During each flight monkeys are all put into separate cages.
3. The plane had to land immediately because the monkeys had opened the cage doors and were all running about.
4. Race horses and dogs mustn't be shipped together.
5. Most of the fish flown from the Far East are alive when they arrive at their destination.
6. Airline pilots often enjoy their animal passengers.

WORDS PER MINUTE ——

% COMPREHENSION ——

Exercise 4

STARTING TIME ——

Getting to Europe	WORDS
To swim the English Channel takes at least nine	8
hours. It's hard work and it makes you short of	19
breath (呼吸短促). To fly over the Channel takes	25
only twenty minutes (as long as you're not held	35
up (阻挡) at the airport), but it's an expensive	44
way to travel. You can travel by hovercraft if	52
you don't mind the noise, and that takes forty	62
minutes. Otherwise, you can go by boat, if you	71

remember your sea-sickness pills (晕船药丸). All these means of transport have their problems, and the weary (困乏的) traveller often dreams of being able to drive to France in his own car. 'Not possible', you say. Well, wait a minute. People are once again considering the idea of a Channel tunnel or bridge.

This time, the Greater London Council (市议会) is looking into the possibility of building a Channel link (连接线) straight to London. A bridge would cost far more than a tunnel, but you would be able to go by rail or by car on a bridge, whereas a tunnel would provide a rail link only.

Why is this idea being discussed again? Is Britain becoming more conscious (意识到的) of the need for links with Europe as a result of joining the EEC (欧洲经济共同体)? Well, perhaps. The main reason, though, is that a tunnel or bridge would reach the twenty square kilometres of London's disused dockland (船坞地区). A link from London to the continent (欧洲大陆) would stimulate (促进) trade and would make London a main trading centre in Europe. With a link over the Channel, you could buy your fish and chips (油煎土豆片) in England and be able to eat them in