



大学英语学习丛书

READING COMPREHENSION TEST
COLLEGE ENGLISH-BAND 2

陈文英

周力

主编

大学
英语二级
· 阅读理解 ·
测试

世界图书出版公司

大学英语学习丛书

大学英语 二级阅读理解测试

隋文英 周 力 主编



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前 言

我们相信，大凡学过英语的人都会有这样的认识，要想真正提高英语阅读水平和写作水平，没有一定的阅读量是万万不可能的。然而在大学英语教学过程中，由于课时偏紧，教学内容过重，所以大多数教师都只能把注意力放在精读上，一个星期，有的甚至两个星期才能完成那么一篇短短的文章，阅读量实在有限得很。为弥补这一缺陷，各高校纷纷编了各种各样的四、六级阅读书籍，但遗憾的是，二级这一层次却被忽略了。这大概是国家教委只组织了四、六级考试之故吧。

万丈高楼平地起，要提高阅读水平，也应从低级到高级，逐级提高，循序渐进，为此目的，我们编写了这本《大学英语二级阅读理解测试》。

本书所选短文，曾经在广州地区三所高校中使用过，原为100篇，这次正式出版前，再次遴选出92篇。该书内容丰富，囊括了政治、经济、历史、地理、人文、科普等方方面面，且文字地道，浅显，学生阅读时容易激起兴趣。全书读完，不仅阅读能力会提高，而且对英语写作、惯用法的掌握都会大有裨益，甚至对丰富知识阅历也有帮助。我们相信，使用本书的读者，一定会有所得的。

本书由隋文英、周力任主编，参加编写的还有孔倩华、周炳坚、叶秀兰等教师。全书由楚至大教授审阅。

我们希望本书能为广大高校新同学和同等层次的广大读者所共爱，更祈盼同行专家的不吝赐教。

周力

1996. 3.

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Passage 1

How do you learn English? Or French, Russian, German or any other language? Most people go to classes regularly, and study at home with a book. But the problem for adult learners is that they are busy people who find it hard to come to classes at a fixed time. They miss a few classes and then decide that they have fallen too far behind the other students. Eventually they drop out of the class altogether.

The Polytechnic (工艺学校) of the South Bank in London had this problem, but has now found a solution. There are no pre-arranged classes. The students come when they have time. This is ideal for businessmen, or anyone who has a busy timetable.

There are various resources available which the students can use alone or in a small group. There is a language laboratory. There are microcomputers with games and other programmes designed for language learning; there are videocassettes which teach students about the life and language of a country; and there are individual tutorials (指导课). A tutorial gives students a chance to talk to a teacher on a one-to-one basis. Danielle, a French woman studying English, says: "For me the most important thing is a tutorial, because I can explain everything I don't understand to the teacher and he can correct my pronunciation."

At present there are few colleges which offer students the chance to study in this way, but the system is so popular that in future there may be many colleges who will try it.

Comprehensions:

1. According to the author, the trouble for adult learners is that he, A.
 - A) finds it hard to have a regular timetable
 - B) finds it hard to keep up with other students
 - ☒ C) often misses the classes.
 - D) has to drop out the class eventually
2. How does the Polytechnic of the South Bank solve the problem?
 - A) It provides fixed time classes.
 - B) It provides a very good language laboratory.
 - ☒ C) Students may come to their classes when they are free.
 - D) It doesn't give any tests.
3. Which of the following resources is not mentioned in the passage?
 - ☒ A) Radio programmes
 - B) A language laboratory.
 - C) Computers and videocassettes
 - D) Tutors
4. Individual tutorials mean A.
 - A) a private instructions to one pupil

- B) brief and exact explanations
 - C) public instructions
 - (D) correction of one's pronunciation
5. The author's purpose of writing this passage is
D_____.
- A) to start a discussion of how to learn a foreign language
 - (B) to praise the Polytechnic of the South Bank
 - C) to criticize the old way of learning a language
 - D) to recommend a new way of learning a language

Passage 2

Have you ever noticed advertisements (广告) which say "Learn a foreign language in 6 weeks, or your money back! From the first day your pronunciation will be excellent. Just seen..." and so on? Of course, it never happens quite like that. The only language that is easy to learn is the mother tongue. And think how much practice that gets! Before the Second World War people usually learnt a foreign language in order to read the literature of the country. Now speaking the foreign language is what most people want. Every year many millions of people start learning one. How do they do it?

Some people try at home, with books and records or tapes; some use radio or television programmes; others go to evening classes. A few people try to learn a language fast by studying for 6 or more hours a day. It is clearly easier to learn the language in the country where it is spoken. However, most people cannot afford this, and for many it is not necessary. They need the language in order to do their work better. For example, scientists and doctors chiefly need to be able to read books and reports in the foreign language. Whether the language is learnt quickly or slowly, it is hard work. Machines and good books will help, but they cannot do the student's work for him.

Comprehensions :

1. The advertisement says it would be easy C.
 - A) to speak your own language better
 - ☒ B) to pay nothing to learn a foreign language
 - C) to learn a foreign language fast
 - D) to spend a lot of money on learning a language
2. Which of the following is not mentioned in the passage? D
 - A) In the past people learn a foreign language to read the literature of the country.
 - ☒ B) Now most people learn a foreign language in order to speak the language.
 - C) Some people study a foreign language to read books and reports in the language.
 - D) In order to go abroad many people want to study foreign languages.
3. Most people need to study a foreign language because they _____.
 - A) want to go abroad
 - B) read the story books in the original
 - ☒ C) have a desire to do the work well
 - D) report in the foreign language
4. In the first paragraph "the mother tongue" means _____.
 - A) the mother sound

- B) the mother talk
- C) the mother language
- ☒ D) the native language

5. The main purpose of this passage is _____.

- ☒ A) to describe a course
- B) to advertise a course
- C) to announce a lecture
- ☒ D) to argue that learning a foreign language is not easy work

Passage 3

English is the native or official language of one-fifth of the land area of the world. It is spoken in North America, Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. In South Africa and India it is one of the official languages.

More people study English than any other language. In many countries, the textbooks in universities are in English. Many university classes are taught in English even though the native language is not English.

English is the language of international (between nations) communication. It is the language of international business, research, and science. More than three-fourths of the world's mail is written in English. More than three-fifths of the world's radio stations use English. More than half of the scientific and research journals are in English. Most other languages have borrowed many English words.

Why did English become the international language? In the middle of the nineteenth century, French was the international language. Then Britain became very powerful in the world. England started colonies in North America and India in the seventeenth century. By 1900 England also had colonies in other parts of Asia, Africa and the South Pacific. The people in the colonies had to use English. Slowly it became more important than French internationally. After

the Second World War, the United States became very powerful, and even more people began to learn English.

Is English a good international language? It has more words than any other language. The grammar is simpler than in the other major languages. However, English spelling is difficult. Foreigners all have trouble spelling English. So do native speakers!

Since 1880, people have invented over fifty artificial (not natural) languages. No one speaks them as a native language. However, none of them has ever become popular. Some people don't want to study English, but it is the international language. There is no way to change that now.

Comprehensions:

1. English is the native language of _____.
A) south Africa
B) Australia
C) all of Canada
D) Malaysia
2. More than _____ of the world's radio stations are in English.
A) 20%
B) 60%
C) 80%
D) 40%
3. England started a colony in India in the _____.