



全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材

COLLEGE ENGLISH

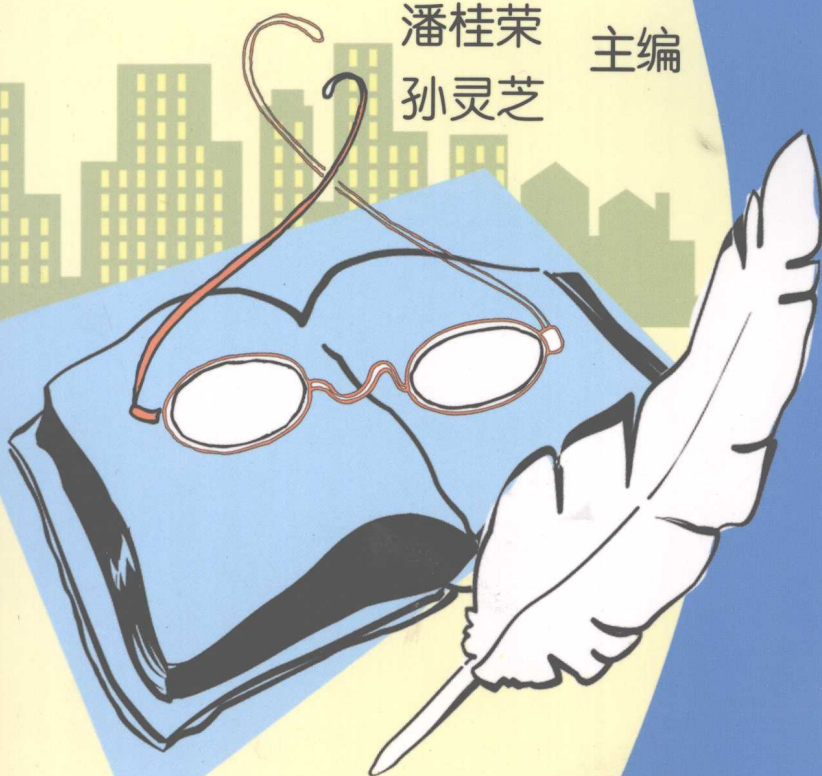
Fast Reading 4

潘桂荣 主编
孙灵芝

大学 英语

快速 阅读

第 4 册



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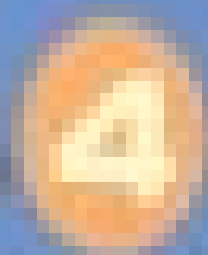
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College English Fast Reading 4

—— 第 4 册 ——

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前 言

快速阅读是指以较快的速度在一定的时间内有目的、有效率地读完一定字数的材料，并从中获得所需的信息。它是培养学生提高阅读速度和阅读能力的基础和最有效的方法之一，而且快速阅读能力还是大部分学生今后工作所需要的主要技能之一。多年以来，培养学生具有较强的阅读能力一直是大学英语教学的主要目标。因此，最近改革的大学英语四级考试新题型中专门增加了对快速阅读能力的考查。为了提高学生快速获取之信息的能力，使其尽快达到《大学英语课程教学要求》对快速阅读能力的要求，我们编写了这套《大学英语快速阅读》。

《大学英语快速阅读》共分4册，每册8个单元，每单元3篇文章。文章篇幅分别为：第1册700~800词，第2册800~900词，第3册900~1,000词，第4册1,000~1,100词。本教材选材广泛，内容生动、有趣，是集文化、语言、生活、人性、哲学、文学等方面。语言清晰、活泼，文章有一定的趣味性，知识性和可思性。

在培养学生英语快速阅读策略和技巧的运用上，本册教材这种具有以下特色：

1. 依照《大学英语课程教学要求》对快速阅读技能要求，每单元中前两篇文章严格按照最新考试样卷题型和时间要求编写，教师可根据情况安排在课上限时训练。第三篇是多项选择题，可让学生课后阅读。

2. 每单元第一篇文章的前三段或前两段表示了意群，以指导学生按意群进行阅读，以克服学生逐字阅读的不良习惯，有效地提高学生的阅读效率。在每个意群中，重点放在实词上，不必过多注意冠词、介词等虚词，这是提高阅读速度的关键。

3. 对文章中出现的文化、知识点，在文章后面进行

了注释，文中插注了少量生词，既能增强学生对短文的理解又有助于拓展学生的知识面。

本册文章以说明文为主，兼顾其他体裁文章。在选材过程中，我们一方面注意题材的广泛性，另一方面注意文章内容的健康性、知识性和趣味性。文章生词量不超过3%，本册阅读词汇量超过27,000。为了适合教学目的，我们对部分内容进行了适当的删改。

本教材适合我国高等院校非英语专业大学一年级和二年级大学英语可使用，也可作为英语阅读强化班的教材，同时适合水平相当的英语自学者。由于编者水平和时间所限，不足之处在所难免，敬请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2007年7月

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Unit 1

Passage 1

Directions: *In this part, you'll have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions followed.*

For questions 1 - 7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8 - 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

How Olympic Torches Work

By Stephanie Watson

Every two years, // people around the world wait in anticipation // as a torch-bearing runner // enters the Olympic arena (竞技场, 运动场) and lights the cauldron (大锅炉, 圣火容器). // The symbolic lighting of the Olympic flame // marks the beginning of another historic Olympic Games. //

The opening ceremony is the end of a long journey // for the Olympic torch. // By the time it arrives in the stadium, // it has traveled thousands of miles. // It may have crossed oceans and deserts // and traversed mountains. // It may have been carried // on planes, trains, bicycles, boats, and even dog sleds. // And it will have passed // through the hands of thousands // of differ-

ent people around the globe. //

History of the Torch

Fire has always held great power for humans. // It cooks our food, // keeps us warm// and lights our way through the dark. //

The ancient Greeks revered (敬畏, 尊敬) the power and fire. // In Greek mythology, // the god Prometheus stole fire //from Zeus and gave it to humans. // To celebrate the passing of fire //from Prometheus to man, // the Greeks would hold relay races. // Athletes would pass a lit torch //to one another until the winner reached the finish line. //

The Greeks held their first Olympic Games in 776 B. C. The Games, held every four years at Olympia, honored Zeus and other Greek gods. The Olympics also marked the beginning of a period of peace for the often warring Greeks. At the start of the Games, runners called "heralds (使者) of peace" would travel throughout Greece, declaring a "sacred truce"(休战) to all wars between rival city-states. The truce would remain in place for the duration of the games, so that spectators could safely travel to the Olympics.

A constantly burning flame was a regular fixture throughout Greece. It usually graced the altars (祭坛) of the Greek gods. In Olympia, there was an altar dedicated to Hera, goddess of birth and marriage. At the start of the Olympic Games, the Greeks would ignite (点燃) a cauldron of flames upon Hera's altar. They lit the flame using a hollow disc or mirror called a skaphia, which, much like the modern parabolic mirror (反射镜), focused the sun's rays into a single point to light the flame. The flame would burn throughout the Games as a sign of purity, reason, and peace.

The Flame

The torch must stay lit the entire length of its journey. It must survive wind, rain, sleet, snow, and a variety of climates (desert, mountain, ocean).

For fuel, early torches burned everything from gunpowder to olive oil. Some torches used a mixture of hexamine (a mixture of formaldehyde (甲醛) and ammonia (氨水) and naphthalene (the hydrogen-and carbon-based substance in mothballs) with an igniting liquid. These substances weren't always the most efficient fuel sources, and they were sometimes dangerous. In the 1956 games, the final torch in the relay was lit by magnesium and aluminum, burning chunks of which fell from the torch and seared the runner's arms.

The first liquid fuels were introduced at the 1972 Munich games. Torches since that time have carried liquid fuels—they are stored under pressure as a liquid, but burn as a gas to produce a flame. Liquid fuel is safe for the runner and can be stored in a lightweight canister (小罐).

The Lighting of the Olympic Torch

The Olympic torch is lit several months before the start of the actual games. The flame begins its journey at the site of the original Olympic Games—Olympia, Greece. It is lit, just as it was in ancient times, at the Temple of Hera.

An actress dressed as a ceremonial priestess, in the robes of the ancient Greeks, lights the torch via the same technique used in the original Games. She uses a parabolic mirror to focus light rays from the sun. The parabolic mirror has a curved shape. When it is held toward the sun, the curvature focuses the rays to a single point. The energy from the sun creates a great deal of heat. The priestess holds a torch in the center of the parabolic mirror, and the heat ignites the fuel in the torch, sparking a flame.

If the sun is not shining on the day of the lighting ceremony, the priestess can light the torch with a flame that was lit on a sunny day before the ceremony.

The flame is carried in a fire pot to an altar in the ancient Olympic stadium, where it is used to light the first runner's torch. For the Winter Games, the relay actually begins at the monument to Pierre de Coubertin (the man who founded the modern Olympic games in 1896), which is located near the stadium.

Then, the relay begins.

The Torch Relay

The Olympic Torch Relay begins with the torch lighting in Olympia, Greece. From there, the journey to the host city varies from year to year. The Olympic Games Organizing Committee (OGOC) determines the route, as well as the theme, modes of transportation for the torch, and the stops that it will take along its way to the Opening Ceremony.

The torch is generally carried from one country to another on a plane. Once it arrives in a city, it usually spends one day being carried from torchbearer to torchbearer on foot. It may also be ferried from place to place by car, boat, bicycle, motorcycle, dog sled, horse, or virtually any other type of con-

veyance.

As in any relay race, each runner carries the torch for only one short leg (旅程的一段) of its trip. As a runner completes a leg, he lights the torch of the next person in the relay.

It is considered a great privilege to be chosen as a torchbearer. Athletes, actors, musicians, sports figures, and politicians have all carried the flame. In 1996, boxing legend Muhammad Ali lit the Olympic cauldron to mark the start of the Games in Atlanta. But the brunt of the running is done by average citizens all around the world.

Each torchbearer is accompanied by a caravan with security personnel, a medical team, the media, and extra torches in case the torch the runner is carrying goes out.

At the end of the relay, the last torchbearer enters the Olympic stadium in the host city. The identity of that torchbearer is usually kept secret until the last moment. The final torchbearer is usually an Olympic athlete, sports figure, or an individual who has made a very special contribution to society. That individual runs around the stadium track once, then lights the Olympic cauldron, signaling the official start of the Olympic games.

(1,085 words)

Questions

- () 1. The Olympic torch will have passed through the hands of thousands of different people before the opening ceremony.
- () 2. The ancient Greeks respect power and fire.
- () 3. In ancient times, the Games was held every four years at Olympia to honor Zeus and other Greek gods.
- () 4. The flame begins its journey at the site where the Olympic Games are held.
- () 5. The torch needn't stay lit the entire length of its journey.
- () 6. The torch must have a bright flame that is visible even on sunny day.
- () 7. The Olympic Torch Relay begins the journey from the host city varies

from year to year.

8. The Olympic torch is lit several months before _____.
9. In 1996, _____ lit the Olympic cauldron to mark the start of the Games in Atlanta.
10. The identity of the final torchbearer is usually _____ until the last moment.

Notes

1. **Premetheus:** 普罗米修斯, 希腊神话中的英雄, 造福于人类之神。他违抗万神之父宙斯的意志, 盗天火给人类。
2. **Zeus:** 宙斯, 希腊神话中的主神, 天堂的统治者, 其他神和人间英雄的父亲。
3. **Hera:** 赫拉, 希腊神话中宙斯神的妻。
4. **Munich:** 慕尼黑, 德国城市, 巴伐利亚州首府。
5. **Muhammad Ali:** 穆罕默德·阿里, 前世界重量级拳王。

Passage 2

Directions: *In this part, you'll have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions followed.*

For questions 1 - 7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

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For questions 8 - 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Introduction to How the Euro Works

By Lee Ann Obringer

National currencies are vitally important to the way modern economies operate. They allow us to consistently express the value of an item across borders of countries, oceans, and cultures. Wealth can be easily stored or transported as currency.

Currencies are also deeply embedded (植入) in our cultures and our psyche. Think about how familiar you are with the price of things. If you've grown up in the United States, you think of everything in "dollars", just like you think about distances in inches and miles.

On January 1, 2002, the euro became the single currency of 12 member states of the European Union. This will make it the second largest currency in the world (the U. S. dollar being the largest). It will also be the largest currency event in the history of the world. Twelve national currencies will evapo-

rate and be replaced by the euro.

In this article, we'll look at the monumental task of changing 12 countries' entire monetary systems to a new, single system, and why this change was implemented.

Where Did the Idea Come From?

The original seed was planted in 1946 when Winston Churchill suggested the creation of the "United States of Europe." His goals were primarily political, in that he hoped a unified government would bring about peace for a continent that had been torn apart by two world wars.

Then, in 1952, six west-European countries took Churchill's suggestion and created the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC 欧洲煤钢联营). These resources were quite strategic to the power of each country, so a requirement of the ECSC was that each country allow their resources to be controlled by an independent authority. Their goal, just as Churchill had intended, was to help prevent military conflict between France and Germany.

In 1957, the Treaty of Rome was signed, declaring the goal of creating a common European market. It was signed by France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

After many false starts, the process of creating the Euro got its real start in 1989, when the Delors Report was published by Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. This important report outlined a three-stage transition plan that would create a single European currency. In the next section, we'll look at the stages.

Planning the Transition

As outlined in the Delors Report, the transition to a single European currency followed a three-stage plan:

Stage one began on July 1, 1990, and immediately abolished (at least in principle) all restrictions on the movement of capital between the member states. It also began the identification of issues that needed to be dealt with and the development of a working program to implement the upcoming changes.

Stage two began on January 1, 1994, and marked the establishment of the European Monetary Institute (EMI 欧洲货币机构). The EMI was responsible for coordinating the monetary policy and strengthening the cooperation of the