

English

大学生 英语阅读理解

——四级以上水平适用

石春祯 主编



中国经济出版社

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前 言

本书是为帮助大学英语四级水平的大学生进一步提高阅读理解能力编写的。

不少同学在学完大学英语四级课程,或者通过大学英语四级考试后,觉得很困惑,不知道应该再阅读什么英文书籍,以便进一步提高自己的英语阅读水平。实际上,不少同学虽然通过了大学英语四级考试,也能读懂一些英文了,但是他们的真实英语阅读水平离进一步学习和工作所需要的英语阅读理解能力之间还有比较大的差距。比如,阅读外刊上的英文文章依然困难重重,读到研究生入学英语考试的某些阅读理解或要求英译汉的文章,感到莫名其妙,不知所云;更不用说真正读懂 GRE 考试阅读理解部分的文章了。

这说明大学生学完大学英语四级课程,或者通过大学英语四级考试以后,还需要继续提高自己的英文阅读理解能力。所选择的英文阅读材料的难度必须略高于大学英语四级水平、而且应该由浅入深,循序渐进。《大学生英语阅读理解》就是为了满足这种需求而编写的。

本书共分两大部分,每部分 15 单元,每单元 3 篇文章。编写的基本原则是:以大学英语四级水平为起点,由浅入深、循序渐进。每篇课文后面的“Vocabulary and Notes”只选注文章中出现的大学英语四级水平以上的词汇和短语。至于大学英语 1~4 级的词汇,如果需要,请查看《大学英语教学大纲词汇表》。每篇课文后面都附有用以自我检查对文章理解准确程度的练习题。书后的“附录一”给出了所有练习题的答案;“附录二”给出了所有练习题的答案注释。

本书课文全部选自美、英等国出版的最新书刊。本书内容丰富,选材面较广,涉及科普、经济、法律、史地、人生哲理、文化、音乐、影视和社会生活等方方面面。每个单元的 3 篇文章均为同一个方面的专题。读者只需浏览一下目录,对本书囊括的题材就会一目了然。

不少同学通过大学英语四级考试后,还希望顺利通过大学英语六级、研究生入学英语考试、TOEFL、GRE 等考试。有些同学把成功仅仅寄希望于应试复习,仅靠临阵磨枪、或寄希望于侥幸。但是,只靠做模拟题或靠应试技巧,效果往往并不理想。任何一种英语考试要想获得高分,靠的是实实在在的英语听说读写能力。而实在的英语阅读理解能力只有靠真正读懂一篇篇越来越难的文章,日积月

累,才能逐步培养出来。学习贵在坚持、贵在持之以恒,绝对不能间断,只有通过量变的积累才能实现质变。恐怕,大家对这一点均无疑义。

北京大学大部分本科生入学时的实际英语水平就超过了国家大学英语四级考试要求的水平。北京大学大学英语三级、四级的同学迫切需要一本能进一步帮助他们提高英语阅读水平的教材。本书也正是为了适应北京大学大学英语课的这种需要而编写的。北京大学修读大学英语课的同学必须通过“北京大学大学英语四级证书考试”,本书是该考试的必读教材。

当然,本书不仅可以用作北京大学大学英语课程的教材,对于任何一位大学英语四级水平以上的大学生,要想进一步提高英语阅读水平,也同样适用。

本书是在《新编大学英语泛读 120 篇》的基础上改编而成的。该书曾于 2000 年 9 月开始,陆续被北京大学用作大学英语四级和三级课的教材,受到同学们的普遍欢迎。有相当多的同学反映,该书虽然难度较大,但是,学完之后感觉自己真实阅读水平有了明显提高。再读大学英语四、六级考试,或研究生入学英语考试阅读理解部分的文章,就觉得容易多了。在此特向参与该书编写的鲁显生、方圆、范丹和张一凡表示诚挚的感谢。并向对本书编写工作提出宝贵建议的北京大学英语系傅国英副教授,以及使用本书作为教材的北京大学英语系的各位教师表示感谢。

如果本书能帮助各位读者进一步提高英文阅读理解能力,我将感到十分欣慰。

石春祯
于北大燕园



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《大学英语》杂志编委。长期从
事大学英语的教学及研究工作。



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Part One

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Unit 1

Text 1-1

The Early Development of Internet

A worldwide network of computers, the Internet had its origin in the 1960s, when the U. S. Department of Defense and a group of U. S. universities established ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network) as a way of communicating information in the event of a breakdown in normal communications channels. It gradually grew into an international network, but access remained to those who had knowledge about the exact locations of the interconnected computers and an understanding of computer language to make the necessary links. In the late 1980s Tim Berners-Lee, a British computer scientist working at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) near Geneva, devised a new way of providing access to the information on the Internet through a graphic user interface (GUI) that used point-and-click links on highlighted items he dubbed hypertext. He named his creation the World Wide Web and released it to the internet community in late 1990, along with the first Web browsers, GUI software that provides the! point-and-click link through which users with little or no knowledge about computers can move easily across the network. By 1996 the Web was the fastest-growing subset of the Internet, with an abundance of textual, graphic, and multimedia information available to all. Many of the fastest-growing companies in the computer/hightech industries were those that provided Internet access or wrote Web software.

By July 1995 there were an estimated 6.4 million host computers on the Internet, with more than 4.5 million in North America and 1.5 million in Western Europe. At least 30 million people used the Internet in mid-1995, and the number was growing daily. One reason for this was the increasing availability of Internet access through commercial on-line providers. The three largest access providers—America On-line(AOL), CompuServe, and Prodigy—offered browser software, electronic mail(E-mail), on-line discussion groups, and other services to some 10 million users. In early 1996 AOL and CompuServe announced plans to convert their content to Hypertext Markup Language(HTML), the system of formatting tags used on the Web to create the pages and links.

Companies that offered effective software for use on the Web were among the most successful in the business, particularly Netscape Communications, Inc., which captured most of the attention during the year for its browser, Netscape Navigator, and for its spectacular rise on Wall Street from an opening price of \$ 71 per share in August to a high of \$ 174 when the stock split.

Spyglass, Inc., which marketed the first successful browser, Mosaic, did almost as well. By early
 30 1996 more and more companies and individuals found it expedient to have an E-mail address and a
 hypertext-linked home page(a personal Web site) that people could access from almost anywhere
 in the world, while new software such as Page Mill from Adobe Systems Inc. made it possible for
 individuals to create a personal home page without a knowledge of HTML.

The next significant software development for the Internet was likely to be Sun
 35 Microsystems' Java, a computer programming language to be used to write "applets"—mini-
 applications such as limited-function spreadsheets or word processors—that can be transmitted
 across the Net, do—unloaded onto a computer by means of any operating system (such as
 Windows, Apple Computer's Mac OS, or UNIX), and used separately or in combination with
 other applets. By 1996 most other developers, including Netscape, IBM Corp, Oracle Systems
 40 Corp., and Microsoft, had agreed to license Java and use it to create future applets.

[580 words]

Vocabulary and Notes

interconnect	['intəkə'nekt]	v.	互相联络
graphic	['græfik]	n.	图表
interface	['intəfeis]	n.	接口
highlighted	['haɪlaɪtɪd]	a.	加亮的
dub	[dʌb]	n.	命名为
hypertext	['haɪpətɛkst]	n.	超级文本
release	['rɪliːs]	v.	让渡
browser	['braʊsə]	n.	浏览器
subset	['sʌbset]	n.	子集;子集合
hightech	['haɪtek]	a.	高科技的
prodigy	['prɒdɪdʒɪ]	n.	天才;(文中指)公司
markup	['mɑ:kʌp]	n.	涨价;增值
format	['fɔ:mæt]	v.	安排;设计
navigator	['nævɪgeɪtə]	n.	领航者
spyglass	['spaɪglɑ:s]	n.	单管望远镜;(文中指)公司
mosaic	['məzeɪɪk]	n.	马赛克;拼花;(文中用于指)一家公司
expedient	['ɪkspi:djənt]	a.	方便的
Java	['dʒɑ:vɑ:]	n.	网络语言的一种
applet	['æplɪt]	n.	请求,帖子
oracle	['ɒrəkl]	n.	智者;预言者;(文中指)公司
UNIX	['juniks]	n.	一种多用户的计算机操作系统
CERN	abbr.	European Laboratory for Particle Physics 欧洲粒子物理研究所	
HTML	abbr.	Hypertext Markup Language 超文本链接标示语言	
AOL	abbr.	American On-line 美国在线服务公司	