

A Selection of Graded Readings

大学英语 分级阅读 理解精编

(五、六级)(修订版)

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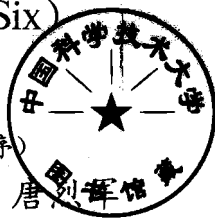
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大学英语分级阅读理解精编 (五、六级)

A Selection of Graded Readings
(Band Five and Band Six)

本册编写(按姓氏笔划排序)

李 玲 周晓莉 郭 翠



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内 容 简 介

本书根据《大学英语教学大纲》编写,并根据1996年7月30日全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会颁布的《关于全国大学英语六级考试采用新题型的通知》予以修订改版。本套书分册出版,本册包括五、六级,每级有14个单元,每个单元有5篇阅读文章,并配有20道选择题和5道简答题。本书选材广泛,包括文化、教育、科技、经济、法律、人物传记、科普常识、风土人情等。体裁多样,有叙述文、说明文、议论文、应用文等。书末附有选择题答案及简短回答问题的参考答案。

本书可供学生自读自测,也可作为教师的教学辅助教材。

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本书是根据《大学英语教学大纲》编写,并根据 1996 年 7 月 30 日全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会颁布的《关于全国大学英语六级考试采用新题型的通知》修订的。

本书共分三册,本册包括五级和六级。每级由 14 个单元组成,每个单元包括 5 篇文章,其内容深浅程度相近,体裁相似,内容关联密切,其字数由五级的 1200 字左右到六级的 1400 字左右,逐渐增加。阅读每个单元 4 篇文章,并完成 20 道选择题,时间为 35 分钟。这次修订时,在“阅读理解”部分之后增加了“简短回答题”。每个单元为一篇文章,文章后有 5 个问题或不完整的句子。要求在阅读文章之后用简短的英语(可以是句子,也可以是单词或短语)回答所提的问题或补足不完整的句子,时间为 15 分钟。完成每个单元的时间合计为 50 分钟。

修订本选材更加广泛,内容更加新颖,集趣味性、知识性、实用性于一体,有科普常识、异国风土人情、人物传记、日常知识、社会、文化、教育、经济、法律等。体裁多样,有叙述文、说明文、议论文、应用文等。文章由浅入深,循序渐进。

本书旨在培养学生的下述能力:掌握所读材料的主旨大意;了解说明主旨大意的事实和细节;既理解字面的意思,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;既理解个别句子的意义,也理解上下文的逻辑关系,并就文章的内容进行判断、推理和信息转换。“简短回答题”主要考核读者对英语书面材料的确切理解能力。

本书可供学生自读自测,也可供教师作为辅助教材穿插使用。

全书由杨荣泉教授总策划,本册由杨荣泉主编,李玲和郭翠为副主编;由杨荣泉、李玲、郭翠、周晓莉和唐烈军编写。全书由张彦

斌教授、刘鸿章教授主审。对参加第一版编写的刘学云、田桂荣和马克勇同志表示诚挚的感谢。

由于编者水平有限,编写时间仓促,谬误疏漏之处在所难免,切望广大读者及同行专家不吝赐教。

编 者

1997年8月

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BAND FIVE

Unit One

Passage 1

Becket not only travelled light, he lived light. In all the world he owned just the clothes he stood up in, a full suitcase and a bank account. Arriving anywhere with these possessions, he might just as easily put up for a month or year as for a single night. For long stays, not less than a month, he might take a furnished flat, sometimes even a house. But whatever the length, he rarely needed anything he did not have with him. He was, he liked to think, a self-contained person.

Becket had one occasional anxiety; the suspicion that he owned more than would fit comfortably into the case. The feeling, when it came, was the signal for him to throw something away or just leave it lying about. This was the automatic fate of his worn-out clothes for example. Having no use for choice or variety, he kept just a raincoat, a suit, a pair of shoes and a few shirts, socks and so on; no more in the clothing line. He bought and read many books, and left them wherever he happened to be sitting when he finished them. They quickly found new owners.

Becket was a professional traveller, interested and interesting. He was not one to 'do' a country in a week or a city in three days. He liked to get the feel of a place by living in it, reading its newspapers, watching its TV, discussing its affairs. He always tried to make a few friends—if necessary even by stopping a suitable-looking person in the street and talking to him. It worked well in about one case in ten. Though Becket's health gave him no cause for alarm, he made a point

of seeing a doctor as soon as he arrived anywhere. "A doctor knows a place and its people better than anyone," he used to say. He never went to see a doctor; he always sent for one; that, he found, was the quickest way to confidences, which came out freely as soon as he mentioned that he was a writer.

Becket was an artist as well. He painted pictures of his places and, when he had gathered enough information, he wrote about them. He sold his work, through an agent, to newspapers and magazines. It was an agreeable sort of life for a good social mixer, lived nearly always in fine weather; and as Becket never stayed anywhere for long, he enjoyed the satisfying advantage of paying very little in tax.

Multiple Choice :

1. What do we know about Becket's possessions?
 - a. He had enough baggage to stay for one night.
 - b. He carried all of them around with him.
 - c. He had thrown or given them away.
 - d. He left most of his things at home when he traveled.
2. Becket took over a flat when _____.
 - a. there were no suitable hotels
 - b. he meant to stay somewhere for several nights
 - c. he was sure of staying a year or more
 - d. he expected not to move on for a month at least
3. If anything worried Becket, it was _____.
 - a. the thought of having too much baggage
 - b. his habit of leaving things lying about
 - c. the fact that he owned so little
 - d. the poor state of his clothes
4. What was the usual result when Becket talked to strangers in the street?
 - a. People thought he was ill and sent for a doctor.
 - b. He made many new friends that way.

- c. The people he spoke to felt annoyed with him.
d. The approach often failed in its purpose.
5. We understand from the passage that Becket was _____.
- a. a travel agent
b. a journalist
c. a spy
d. a social worker

Passage 2

At sixteen Ron Mackie might have stayed at school, but the future called to him excitedly. "Get out of the classroom into a job," it said, and Ron obeyed. His father, supporting the decision, found a place for him in a supermarket. "You're lucky, Ron," he said. "For every boy with a job these days, there's a dozen without." So Ron joined the working world at twenty pounds a week.

For a year he spent his days filling shelves with tins of food. By the end of that time he was looking back on his schooldays as a time of great variety and satisfaction. He searched for an interest in his work, with little success. However, Fridays came around unfailingly and with them Ron's pay; but the best thing about the place was Judy on the cash desk. Ron got on well with all the girls when the manager was not around. They liked him too, though he did not see that.

One fine day instead of going to work Ron got a lift on a lorry going south. With nine pounds in his pocket, a full heart and a great longing for the sea, he set out to make a better way for himself. That evening, in Bournemouth, he had a sandwich and a drink in a cafe run by an elderly man and his wife. Before he had finished the sandwich, the woman had taken him on for the rest of the summer, at twenty pounds a week, a room upstairs and three meals a day. The ease and speed of it rather took Ron's breath away. At quiet times Ron had to

check the old man's arithmetic in the records of the business.

At the end of the season, he stayed on the coast. He was again surprised how straightforward it was for a boy of seventeen to make a living. He worked in shops mostly, but once he took a job in a hotel for three weeks. Late in October he was taken on by the sick manager of a shoe shop, where a woman and two girls also worked. Ron soon found himself in charge there; he was the only one who could keep the books. He and the girls shared a flat above the shop. By this time he knew there was something about him that women of all ages liked. He was not sure what it was, except that he felt warm and playful and sensitive towards them.

Multiple Choice:

6. Why did Ron Mackie leave school at sixteen?
 - a. His father made him leave.
 - b. He had reached the age when he had to leave.
 - c. He left because he was worried about the future.
 - d. He left because he wanted to start work.
7. What did Ron's father think about his leaving school?
 - a. He thought his son was doing the right thing.
 - b. He advised him to stay at school to complete his education.
 - c. He did not like the idea, but he helped Ron to find work.
 - d. He knew there was a job for every boy who wanted one.
8. It took about a year for Ron to realize that _____.
 - a. he worked well because he was interested in the job
 - b. his work at the supermarket was dull
 - c. being at work was much better than going to school
 - d. the store manager wanted to get rid of him
9. At the cafe, Ron was very surprised when _____.
 - a. he was sent upstairs to eat his meal
 - b. he found he could do the old man's arithmetic

- c. the woman took the sandwich away from him
 - d. the woman offered him a job
10. Ron was able to take over the shop because _____.
- a. he got on well with the women there
 - b. he was able to keep accounts of the business
 - c. he had had experience of selling books
 - d. he had a flat above it

Passage 3

Bill Jarvis took over our village newsagency at a time of life when most of us only want to relax. He just thought he would like something but not too much to do, and the newsagency was readymade. The business produced little enough for him, but then Bill was a chap who only wanted the simplicity and order and regularity of the job. He had been a long-serving sailor, and all his life had done everything by the clock.

Every day he opened his shop at six a. m. to catch the early trade; the papers arrived on his door-step before that. Many of Bill's customers were city workers, and the shop was convenient for the station. Business was tailing off by ten o'clock, so at eleven sharp Bill closed for lunch. It was hard luck on anybody who wanted a paper or magazine in the afternoon, for most likely Bill would be down on the river bank, fishing, and his nearest competitor was five kilometres away. Some time in the afternoon, the evening papers landed on the door-mat, and at four o'clock Bill reopened. The evening rush lasted till seven, and it was worth while.

He lived in a flat above the shop, alone. Except in very bad weather, you always knew where to find him in the afternoons, as I have said. Once, on a sunny afternoon, I walked home along the river

bank from a shopping trip to the village. By my watch it was three minutes past four, so I was astonished to see Bill sitting there on his little chair with a line in the water. He had had no luck, I could see, but he was making no effort to move.

“What’s wrong, Bill?” I called out from the path.

For answer, he put a hand inside his jacket and took out a big, golden object. For a moment I had no idea what it could be, and then it suddenly went off with a noise like a fire engine. Stopping the bell, Bill held the thing up and called back: “Ten to four, you see, and this is dead right.” He stood up then and began to wind in his line.

I had never known anyone carrying a brass alarm clock round with them before.

Multiple Choice:

11. Bill Jarvis became a newsagent when _____.
 - a. he needed the money
 - b. he decided to take things easy
 - c. he was quite an old man
 - d. he gave up clock-repairing
12. What does the passage tell us about the newsagency?
 - a. It was an easy job with fixed hours.
 - b. It was opened specially for Bill Jarvis.
 - c. It was a very profitable business.
 - d. It belonged to the railway and was part of the station.
13. Why did Bill open the shop so early in the day?
 - a. He liked to do as much as possible before he went to work.
 - b. The shop had to be open when the morning papers came.
 - c. Bill was never sure of the time.
 - d. It was then that he did a lot of business.
14. Why was the writer surprised when he saw Bill Jarvis?

- a. He thought Bill was already late for his afternoon business.
 - b. He thought Bill was ill, because he was not moving at all.
 - c. Bill had not caught anything, and that seemed strange.
 - d. He was surprised because Bill stayed in his flat in the afternoon.
15. From the information given in the passage, who—or what—do you think was wrong?
- a. The bell was; it must have gone off at the wrong time.
 - b. Bill was; he had dropped off to sleep.
 - c. The writer's watch was probably fast.
 - d. Bill's clock was wrong; it was very old.

Passage 4

Somewhere up in the high forests between England and Wales I had been walking for hours and, not for the first time, I had lost my way. All tracks seemed to lead west when it was clear from map and compass that I should be heading north. Down in the valley an old man explained in elaborate detail how I'd strayed miles off course. In any case, he said, there wasn't much worth seeing even had I got to where I intended to spend the night.

He asked me where I had come from. When I told him I had walked all the way from Cornwall he shook his head sadly and said: "Then all I can say is it's a pity you couldn't be doing something useful."

You can't win. Go to deserted parts of Africa and walk around some lake or other and people say you were darned lucky to get the chance. It looks like an exotic stunt. They reckon it's just a matter of being able to raise the cash. Some point out you could have hired a Land-Rover instead of camels and got there in a tenth of the time.

If, on the other hand, you decide, as I did, to walk across your

own native land they tell you it's been done many times before. Men have set off on foot, on bicycles, on tricycles. Somebody has even pushed a pram from one end of the country to the other. But all that, of course, was done on the roads I tried to avoid.

For me the question wasn't whether it could be done, but whether I could do it. I'm fifty. I'm interested in biology and pre-history. They are, in fact, my business. For years I've had the notion of getting the feel of the country in one brisk walk; mountains and moorlands, downlands and dales. Thick as it is with history and scenic contrast, Britain is just small enough to be walked across in springtime. It seemed an attractive idea. There was a challenge in the prospect. But to see the best of what's left I knew I should have to set off pretty soon. Each year the country in every sense of the word gets a bit smaller. Already there are caravans in some of the most improbable places. Long-distance walkers are becoming rare. You can regard what follows as the reminiscences of one of the last.

I set off with the intention of avoiding all roads. I meant to keep to cross-country tracks and footpaths all the way. In places this turned out to be practically impossible for notwithstanding what's been written about the ancient by-ways, many of them are now hopelessly overgrown; others have been enclosed, ploughed up, or deliberately obstructed in one way or another. But I tried to keep to out-of-the-way places, especially the highlands and moors.

Multiple Choice:

16. Down in the valley the walker met an old man who _____.
a. tried to persuade him to stay in his village for the night
b. seemed to know the surrounding countryside very well
c. thought the walker was on his way to see a famous landmark