

揭 开 英 语 阅 读 的 奥 秘

阅读理解解密

Reading Comprehension

英语四级分册

主编 周小勇



阅读理解解密——英语四级分册

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本书严格按照大学英语考试大纲进行编写,分析了四级阅读理解命题规律和特点,并对四级考试中阅读理解各种题型进行了归纳和总结,概括出在文中定位答案的4种语言再现形式:同形再现、同义再现、同根再现及同义异性再现,配以大量的全真分类练习和综合练习,并结合练习,突出考试重点,提高广大考生的阅读理解能力。

本书旨在增强大学英语四级考生的阅读理解技能,提高考生的考试成绩和英语学习技能。

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前 言

近年来,随着考生人数的不断增加,大学英语四六级考试及研究生入学考试的试题越来越难,覆盖面越来越广,对考生灵活运用所学知识的能力要求也越来越高。因此,对考生而言,除了平时的点滴积累之外,还须针对考试内容积极备考。无论是四级、六级还是研究生入学考试,阅读理解都是一个必考项目,且所占分值最大,但目前专门介绍阅读理解技巧的参考书可谓少之又少。有鉴于此,我们策划编写了阅读理解解密——英语四级分册、六级分册和考研分册,旨在帮助考生走出题海,突破阅读理解难关,扫清解题障碍,取得理想高分。

本书有以下3大特点:

一、突出技巧。本书的作者都是长期从事大学英语教学和应试辅导的资深教师,通过对历年考题的深入研究和长期的考前辅导实践总结出了独到的阅读理解的解题技巧,并按题型分为同形再现、同义再现、同根再现等项。这些技巧在教学实践中都被证明是切实有效的,可在短时间内帮助考生取得成效,为考得高分打下坚实基础。

二、贴近考生。四、六级考试及研究生入学考试的试题都经过严格的出题程序,在题材、体裁和题干、题支的设置方面都是一般的模拟题所不能比的。历年考试留给考生最宝贵的财富就是真题。本着对考生负责的态度,本书所选实例皆来源于全真试题,力求在选材上最大程度地贴近考生。

三、技巧和背景兼顾。本书精心挑选了各种题材的背景阅读材料,旨在帮助考生熟悉阅读理解的题材。

本书详细分析了四级阅读理解的命题规律和特点,对四级考试中阅读理解各种题型进行了归纳和总结,概括出了在文中定位答案的4种语言再现形式:同形再现、同义再现、同根再现及同义异性再现,并配以大量的全真分类练习和综合练习,每条练习都有详细的解释,力求使考生在考试时得心应手,胸有成竹。

在编写过程中,得到机械工业出版社的大力支持,邹晓洁在录入工作上给予了具体帮助,在此表示感谢。

限于水平,书中难免有疏误之处,恳请读者批评指正。

作 者

2003年5月于上海

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第1章 阅读理解命题特点

四级考试的试题是由专家组成的专门委员会命题，每套题都经过了严格的推敲，整体而言相当科学。大学英语四、六级考试委员会以3个考试中心为基础建立了相当稳定的命题员网络。命题员都经过专门训练，熟悉客观题和主观题的命题原则。命题员送交的客观题在题眼的确定、题干和选择项的设计等方面都要符合多项选择题的基本技术指标。此外，考试委员会还对各部分试题提出了具体的命题要求，从考核什么语言技能到怎么考核有关语言技能，都提出了明确的可以操作的要求，以保证考试的效度。

阅读理解部分的目的旨在测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力。包括掌握所读材料的主旨和大意；了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节；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，理解文章的深层含义。阅读理解不但要求准确，而且要有一定的速度。

阅读理解的选材原则是：

- (1) 题材广泛，可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普常识等，但是所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解；
- (2) 体裁多样，可以包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等，应体现学术英语(English for Academic Purposes)的特点；
- (3) 语言难度及词汇量符合教学大纲规定的范围。阅读理解能力包括3个层次：句子层次、语篇层次以及推理判断层次，命题时应考虑到各个层次的阅读能力要有一定的比例。

既然阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力，因此考生们首先要做的就是捕捉信息的具体位置。笔者在教学过程中发现，考生们普遍缺乏准确定位信息的能力，而各种四级考试辅导教材也忽视了这一方面的微技能训练。所以常常有学生反映这样一个问题：他们做了大量的阅读理解练习，可一到考试时阅读理解这一项得分还是很低。这其中的关键在于：他们所做的

题和四级考试的全真题存在着很大的差距。在任何一家书店，考生们都会发现市面上有各种名目的仿真试题，这些试题无一例外都标榜具有仿真性强和信度高的特点。面对众多的参考资料，读者往往觉得无所适从，往往在做这些材料上的练习时才发现，根本不是那么回事。有些粗制滥造的辅导材料甚至漏洞百出，错误层出不穷。这些滥竽充数的辅导材料对考生而言有百害而无一利。我们在给考生辅导四级考试时，也曾经用过一些模拟试题，但效果不是很理想。最后还是选用了历年的全真试题。

下面就来比较一下某些仿真题和全真题的区别，这种区别主要在于题干的设计上，全真试题很少直接在题干里告诉考生该题答案在文章中的位置。考生必须首先分析题眼，英文为 *destination phrase*。题眼通常为题干的主要成分，这些成分有助于考生迅速、准确地在文中定位答案。所以考生在解题时碰到的第一个问题就是如何在文章当中定位答案。而很多模拟题在选材方面，在题干和题支的设计方面存在着明显的不足。就题干而言，主要是题眼过于明显，降低了解题难度。

首先看一篇模拟题：

Mrs. Lester kept on asking her husband to take her to the ballet. Mr. Lester hates the ballet, but when his employer invited him and his wife, he could not get out of it. As they drove to the theatre that evening, the fog got worse and worse. The traffic slowed down to a walking pace and almost stopped. When they eventually got to the theatre, the ballet was over. Mrs. Lester could not work out how it had taken them so long to get there, even taking the fog into account. The theatre was within walking distance of their house. It took her a long time to get over the disappointment.

A month later, Mrs. Lester found out what had happened. Mr. Lester told a friend of his that he had taken wrong turning on purpose. This friend told his wife, and the wife immediately went around to tell Mrs. Lester. The two women began to plan a revenge. One day, when Mr. Lester was not in, they broke into his study, which he always locked. His hobby was collecting old coins. Mrs. Lester had already worked out how much his collection was worth: \$850! They were taking some coins out of the case when they heard a car pull up outside the house. Mrs. Lester quickly switched the light off, and they waited, holding their breath. The front door opened and Mr. Lester came in. They heard him take his coat off. He walked

towards the study door and opened it. There was no chance for the women to get away without being seen. Mr. Lester switched the light on and was astounded to see his wife standing there with a handful of valuable coins. It took both husband and wife a long time to get over this.

1. Which of the following is correct?
 - A) Mr. Lester likes to watch ballet.
 - B) Mrs. Lester likes to watch ballet.
 - C) Both of them like to watch ballet.
 - D) Neither of them likes to watch ballet.
2. It was quite _____ when they drove to the theatre.
 - A) rainy
 - B) stormy
 - C) cloudy
 - D) foggy
3. The theater is _____ from Mr. and Mrs. Lester's.
 - A) an hour-driving
 - B) in the other side of the city
 - C) very near
 - D) half an hour of bicycle riding
4. The wife of Mr. Lester's friend is a _____.
 - A) social worker
 - B) house cleaner
 - C) baby sitter
 - D) gossip
5. How many persons are mentioned in this story?
 - A) Three
 - B) Four
 - C) Five
 - D) Six

这样的一道阅读理解题相信高中生都能做得出来。就文体而言，这篇文章采用的是四级考试中几乎不会出现的记叙文体。就题干而言，设计也过于简单。四级考生做这样的题除了能增加一些信心外，对解题水平几乎没有什么帮助。

下面再看一篇全真试题，以做比较。

Sport is not only physically challenging, but it can also be mentally challenging. Criticism from coaches, parents, and other teammates, as well as pressure to win can create an excessive amount of anxiety or stress for young athletes (运动员). Stress can be physical, emotional, or psychological and research has indicated that it can

lead to burnout. Burnout has been described as dropping or quitting of an activity that was at one time enjoyable.

The early years of development are critical years for learning about oneself. The sport setting is one where valuable experiences can take place. Young athletes can, for example, learn how to cooperate with others, make friends, and gain other social skills that will be used throughout their lives. Coaches and parents should be aware, at all times, that their feedback to youngsters can greatly affect their children. Youngsters may take their parents' and coaches' criticisms to heart and find a flaw (缺陷) in themselves.

Coaches and parents should also be cautious that youth sport participation does not become work for children. The outcome of the game should not be more important than the process of learning the sport and other life lessons. In today's youth sport setting, young athletes may be worrying more about who will win instead of enjoying themselves and the sport. Following a game many parents and coaches focus on the outcome and find fault with youngsters' performances. Positive reinforcement should be provided regardless of the outcome. Research indicates that positive reinforcement motivates and has a greater effect on learning than criticism. Again, criticism can create high levels of stress, which can lead to burnout.

1. An effective way to prevent the burnout of young athletes is _____.
 - A) to reduce their mental stress
 - B) to make sports less competitive
 - C) to increase their sense of success
 - D) to make sports more challenging
2. According to the passage sport is positive for young people in that _____.
 - A) it can help them learn more about society
 - B) it enables them to find flaws in themselves
 - C) it can provide them with valuable experiences
 - D) it teaches them how to set realistic goals for themselves
3. Many coaches and parents are in the habit of criticizing young athletes _____.
 - A) believing that criticism is beneficial for their early development
 - B) without realizing criticism may destroy their self confidence
 - C) in order to make them remember life's lessons

- D) so as to put more pressure on them
4. According to the passage parents and coaches should _____.
A) pay more attention to letting children enjoy sports
B) help children to win every game
C) train children to cope with stress
D) enable children to understand the positive aspect of sports
5. The author's purpose in writing the passage is _____.
A) to teach young athletes how to avoid burnout
B) to persuade young children not to worry about criticism
C) to stress the importance of positive reinforcement to children
D) to discuss the skill of combining criticism with encouragement

这是2001年6月试卷的一篇文章。仅从以上五道题干来看，不经过分析，考生就无法判断该题的答案应该出现在第几段第几行。因而考生要做的第一件事，就是要准确定位该题答案在文中的位置，解题难度明显高于模拟试题。

针对考生在这方面缺乏系统训练的问题，我们从确定题眼及分析题干和题支在文中的再现两个方面着手，加强阅读理解解题技巧的训练，帮助考生提高解题速度和解题正确率。

第2章 阅读理解中的语言再现

2.1 题眼(destination phrases)的确定

题眼也称定位词，所谓的语言再现就是指题眼在文章中的再现。那么，题干中的哪些词或词组能够帮助我们定位答案的题眼呢？

通常说来，题眼的确定有以下几种方式：

1. 数字和时间

当题干中出现数字、时间或年代时，通常该题在文章中的答案就出现在这些数字、时间或年代的周围的一两个句子中。

Five hundred critically ill patients were investigated with the main purpose of

_____.

What is said about the over 100 aircraft incidents in the past 15 years?

In the 1950s, classroom violence _____.

Early fitness spas were intended mainly for _____.

Recent studies have suggested that weight training _____.

2. 专有名词类词眼

某些在题干中第一次出现的人名、地名、国家或机构名可看作题眼。

London could soon replace New York as the center of PR because _____.

What lesson might the PR industry take from Ted Turner of CNN?

According to the passage, many Third World countries _____.

The significance of Brocklehurst's research is that _____.

What is worth noting from the example of Athens County is that _____.

It can be learned from the passage that the Ouchidas' house _____.

Professor Elshtain is pleased to see that Americans _____.

The results of Holmes-Rahe's medical research tells us _____.

3. 专有名词作为题眼还必须注意以下两点：

(1) 专有名词只有在题干中第一次出现才能作为题眼。

(2) 如果某个专有名词是整篇文章所指对象, 通常该专有名词不能作为词眼。

如题干本身为名词性词组或从句, 该词组或从句的中心词即为题眼。有时这类题干中会含有简单的动词如 is、can、should、show、is to 等。

The building of the first transcontinental system ____.

The elders of contemporary Americans ____.

The smart buildings discussed in the passage ____.

Eagerly watching the child's acquisition of new skills ____.

In the process of children's learning new skills parents ____.

Raising children, in the author's opinion, is ____.

Regarded as a kind of art form, toys ____.

The expert's research on the problem of erosion can ____.

According to the passage parents and coaches should ____.

The score of the Holmes-Rahe test shows ____.

题干如为主系表结构或主谓宾结构, 则题干中首次出现的实意词即为题眼。题眼必须同时满足“首次出现”和“实意”两个条件, 否则不称其为题眼。四级考试中的大部分试题都是这种类型的题干, 其难度也相对要大一些。

Teachers encourage the use of dictionaries so that ____.

Some scientists believe that a breakthrough in the use of energy depends on ____.

Children in America today are denied the chance ____.

It can be inferred from the passage that major universities are trying to tighten their grading standards because they believe ____.

Plant will emit an increased amount of heat when they are ____.

Farmers can save a considerable amount of pesticide by ____.

A modern newspaper is remarkable for all of the following except its ____.

4. 此外, 考生们还应该注意:

有一种类型的题干中已经非常明确地给出了定位词。

The word “carbon” (Line 3, Para.2) stands for ____.

The first paragraph tells us that a new product is ____.

下列类型的题干为综合型题, 即考查考生对文章的整体把握能力, 而非考查捕捉细节信息方面的能力, 所以不需要去定位答案。因为答案暗含在整篇文章内, 此类试题通常要放到最后再做。

The major point discussed in the passage is ____.

In this passage, the author is primarily concerned with ____.

In the passage, the author argues that ____.

Which of the following is not/is true?

The best title of the passage that ____.

The author's purpose in writing this passage is to ____.

It may be concluded/inferred from the passage that ____.

What is the author's overall attitude toward fudges?

The tone of the passage is ____.

2.2 Exercise One

指出下列题干中的题眼:

1. The major problems with America's railroad system in the mid 19th century lay in ____.
2. The studies on stress in the early 1970's led to ____.
3. The research done by the Dement Commission shows that Americans ____.
4. Japan is described in the passage as a country that attaches importance to ____.
5. London could soon replace New York as the center of PR because ____.
6. What lesson might the PR industry take from Ted Turner of CNN?
7. According to this passage, some animals have the gift of ____.
8. The function of the computer mentioned in the passage is to ____.
9. The smart building discussed in the passage ____.
10. Psychologists are divided with regard to their attitudes toward ____.
11. Learning to use a computer is getting easier all the time because ____.
12. According to the author, a bachelor resists marriage chiefly because ____.
13. Which of the following group of people still differ in their views on diversity?
14. High corporate leaders seem to be in favor of promoting diversity so as to ____.
15. According to the passage, the reason why no two people really read the same newspaper is that ____.
16. Nurturing societies as mentioned in the passage refer to societies that ____.

-
17. According to the passage diversity can be achieved in American society by _____.
18. According to the passage, Brazil has cut back its population growth _____.
19. It can be inferred from the passage that the drop in Amtrak readership was due to the fact that _____.
20. The chief function of a uniform is to _____.
21. Effective communication between a dog and its owner is _____.
22. Why do pet dogs love performing tricks for their masters?
23. A note in the pocket can hardly serve as a reminder because _____.
24. The underwater listening system was originally designed _____.

第3章 同形再现

3.1 阅读解密

确定了题干中的题眼 (destination phrases) 之后, 下一步的任务是阅读文章。此时的阅读也是有技巧的。与平时的阅读不同的是, 此时考生所应用的阅读技巧是浏览 (scanning), 要求考生迅速通读全文。目的是发现题眼在文章中的再现, 而不是逐字逐句的理解含义。发现题眼在文章中的再现后, 就在该词组下划线做个记号。题眼的再现有同形再现、同义再现、同根异性再现、同义异性再现 4 种形式。本节着重讲解第一种形式——同形再现。同形再现是指题眼在文章中没有任何变化, 在题干中是什么词形, 在文章中还是什么词形。考试中以此种情况居多。

Passage 1 (2002.1)

The decline in moral standards—which has long concerned social analysts—has at last captured the attention of average Americans. And Jean Bethke Elshtain, for one, is glad.

The fact that ordinary citizens are now starting to think seriously about the nation's moral climate, says this ethics (伦理学) professor at the University of Chicago, is reason to hope that new ideas will come forward to improve it.

But the challenge is not to be underestimated. Materialism and individualism in American society are the biggest obstacles. "The thought that 'I'm in it for me' has become deeply rooted in the national consciousness," Ms. Elshtain says.

Some of this can be attributed to the disintegration of traditional communities, in which neighbors looked out for one another, she says. With today's greater mobility and with so many couples working, those bonds have been weakened, replaced by a greater emphasis on self.

In a 1996 poll of Americans, loss of morality topped the list of the biggest problems facing the U.S. And Elshtain says the public is correct to sense that: Data show that Americans are struggling with problems unheard of in the 1950s, such as

classroom violence and a high rate of births to unmarried mothers.

The desire for a higher moral standard is not a lament (挽歌) for some nonexistent “golden age,” Elshtain says, nor is it a wishful (一厢情愿的) longing for a time that denied opportunities to women and minorities. Most people, in fact, favor the lessening of prejudice.

Moral decline will not be reversed until people find ways to counter the materialism in society, she says. “Slowly, you recognize that the things that matter are those that can’t be bought.”

1. Which of the following characterizes the traditional communities?
 - A) Great mobility.
 - B) Concern for one’s neighbors.
 - C) Emphasis on individual effort.
 - D) Ever-weakening social bonds.
2. In the 1950s, classroom violence _____.
 - A) was something unheard of
 - B) was by no means a rare occurrence
 - C) attracted a lot of public attention
 - D) began to appear in analysts’ data
3. According to the author, the current moral decline may be reversed _____.
 - A) if people can return to the “golden age”
 - B) when women and men enjoy equal rights
 - C) when people rid themselves of prejudice
 - D) if less emphasis is laid on material things

首先分析一下题眼，以上三题中的题眼分别如下划线所示：

Which of the following characterizes the traditional communities? (动宾结构)

In the 1950s, classroom violence _____. (年代)

According to the author, the current moral decline may be reversed _____. (主谓结构)

确定了题眼后，应迅速扫读(scan)文章，画出题眼在文章中的再现形式，本文都是同形再现形式。扫读课文的同时也了解了文章的大意。此时应注意对一些复杂的难句不要着急去理解，只要不影响对整篇文章的理解就行了。下文中

的黑体下划线部分即为题眼在文中的再现。

The decline in moral standards—which has long concerned social analysts—has at last captured the attention of average Americans. And Jean Bethke Elshtain, for one, is glad.

The fact that ordinary citizens are now starting to think seriously about the nation's moral climate, says this ethics (伦理学) professor at the University of Chicago, is reason to hope that new ideas will come forward to improve it.

But the challenge is not to be underestimated. Materialism and individualism in American society are the biggest obstacles. “The thought that ‘I’m in it for me’ has become deeply rooted in the national consciousness,” Ms. Elshtain says.

Some of this can be attributed to the disintegration of **traditional communities**, in which neighbors looked out for one another, she says. With today's greater mobility and with so many couples working, those bonds have been weakened, replaced by a greater emphasis on self.

In a 1996 poll of Americans, loss of morality topped the list of the biggest problems facing the U.S. And Elshtain says the public is correct to sense that: Data show that Americans are struggling with problems unheard of in the **1950s**, such as classroom violence and a high rate of births to unmarried mothers.

The desire for a higher moral standard is not a lament (挽歌) for some nonexistent “golden age,” Elshtain says, nor is it a wishful (一厢情愿的) longing for a time that denied opportunities to women and minorities. Most people, in fact, favor the lessening of prejudice.

Moral decline will not be reversed until people find ways to counter the materialism in society, she says. “Slowly, you recognize that the things that matter are those that can't be bought.”

题眼在文章中的再现确定之后，下一步就是解题了。各题的答案通常就出现在题眼所在的句子周围或题眼所在的句子中，即下面所示区域中。

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