

Advanced  
Reading Test Preparation  
高级英语应试阅读系列

Reading  
For CET-6  
六级阅读

(第二版)

朱 篱 编著

CET-6  
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PETS-5  
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清华大学出版社

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## 内 容 简 介

本书第一版是深受读者喜爱的畅销书。为了打造精品，本书作者在第一版特色的基础上又进行了完善，使全书的实用性、针对性和指导性进一步增强。

本书的特点是：所选 80 篇文章全部是未经简化的原汁原味的英文；既有 64 道阅读理解练习题也有 4 份模拟测试题；既有答案又有问题解答和难点注释，方便实用，仿真性强，因此颇受读者欢迎。

与本书配套使用的录音磁带请另外购买，并认准“第二版”字样。

读者对象：准备参加英语六级（CET-6）和全国公共英语五级考试（PETS-5）的读者。

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## 再版前言

《高级英语应试阅读系列——六级阅读（第二版）》问世了。该书同第一版相比有如下特色：

一、本书紧跟近几年六级考试阅读理解走向，在选材、题量和问题设计上较第一版都进行了改动，使之更接近真题。

二、问题的设计经过精心推敲，可以说是千锤百炼，信度和效度都有提高，在难易度和区分度上也有改进。

三、改进后的问题解答和语言注释使读者可以精读每一篇文章，掌握更多的词汇和句法，在提高阅读技能的基础上提高语言水平。

四、每篇文章经过精心挑选，并更新了16篇文章，更符合大纲对文章体裁的要求，内容更新，可读性更强。

《高级英语应试阅读系列——六级阅读》是继《高级英语应试阅读系列——四级阅读》之后为大学英语六级考试编写的一本阅读教材。

许多同学想知道怎样才能尽快提高英语水平并在考试中取得好成绩。国内外有许多学者认为，除非有机会在英语国家生活，提高英语水平的最好方法就是阅读。通过阅读一方面可以获得大量的语言信息，学到很多有用的词汇和句法结构，另一方面又为语言的输出如写作和口头表达打下坚实的基础。

阅读的重要性也体现在考题本身。大学英语六级考试阅读部分的得分权重最大，而且除了阅读理解部分外，其他题目类型大多与阅读有密切关系。大学英语六级考试中的完形填空、词汇与结构多项选择、英译中、简短问答题等都与阅读有关。

阅读理解能力的培养也是十分重要的。阅读的过程并不是传统意义上的被动地接受知识，而是读者与文本之间进行互动交流、主动积

极地获取信息的过程。除了理解文章字面意义，还应该理解和归纳文章的要旨和中心思想，理解和辨析支撑文章中心思想的细节内容，从字里行间推断文章的深层含义，揣测作者的意图、观点和态度，根据上下文推测词义、理解上下文的逻辑关系等。以上这些阅读技能也只有阅读实践中得到提高。

因此，无论是作为输入语言材料的手段，还是在考试得分中所占的比重，还是提高阅读技能，阅读都是至关重要的。《高级英语应试阅读系列——六级阅读》正是基于这样的考虑而编写的，使读者通过广泛的阅读实践，从而提高英语语言技能和阅读技能。

另外，根据教育部考试中心有关全国公共英语等级考试的级别定位的说明，该书也适用于准备参加全国公共英语五级考试的读者。

本书紧扣《大学英语教学大纲》和大学英语考试委员会的命题要求，在选材和问题设计上下了很大功夫。具体说来有以下特色。

1. 本书的语言材料在难度和量方面略微高于考试中使用的阅读材料，这使读者能够在以后的考试中驾轻就熟。

2. 本书的材料大部分都是近期发表的文字资料，读者可以从中获得最新的信息，接触到最新的语言材料。所选文章除了涉及英语国家的文化以外，还有大量关于现代科技方面的内容。历年考试中所使用的文章，不外乎这两方面的内容。熟悉这些内容可为以后的阅读打下基础，也可为应试做好准备。

3. 本书采用的文章是 100% 的原文，在词汇和句法结构上未作任何简化处理，真实地反映了当今英语国家人们使用英语的现状。以往考试中的阅读理解文章为了把难度限制在一定范围以内，对文章的语言作了大规模的简化处理。而这些被替换的单词和词组是英语国家人们经常使用的、具有丰富表达力的语言手段。这或许是许多人虽然通过了六级考试，却仍看不懂原文的症结所在了。但是，为了方便读者，每篇文章后面增加了单词表，并对文章中的难点进行注释。

4. 本书对各篇章中出现的语言现象作了较详细的注释，这包括词汇、短语、惯用法、语法知识等。在注释过程中，还使用来自于 BNC

和 Brown 等著名语料库中的近千个原文例句，每个例句都辅以中文翻译，因此这些例句本身就提供了丰富的语言材料。

本书共有 76 篇文章，其中 16 篇用于测试。文章按难度梯度排列。每隔 15 篇文章进行一次测试，每次四篇文章。为了取得最佳阅读效果，我们认为在阅读时应注意以下几个方面：

1. 首先要熟悉单词表中的生词。由于是原文，词汇量比较大，所以一定要在了解单词表中生词的大概意思后再进行阅读。

2. 阅读和答题要在规定的时间内完成，每篇文章限制在 9 分钟以内。阅读不仅要有正确的理解，还要有一定的速度。因此，在规定的时间内完成阅读任务是十分重要的。

3. 具体阅读方法因人而异。但一般的阅读方法是，首先快速浏览全文，接着回答问题，然后再有针对性地读第二遍或第三遍。

4. 查阅问题解答，如果有错，应该知道错在哪里。在完成阅读理解任务以后，可以仔细阅读全文和后面的注释，做到基本掌握文章中出现的单词、词组和句法结构。

在本书的编写过程中得到同事和朋友的支持和帮助，谨此致谢。书中难免有疏漏之处，敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2002 年 10 月

# Contents \*

<b>Part I</b> .....	1
<b>Passage 1</b> Temperatures and Sex Ratio	
气温与性别差异 .....	1
<b>Passage 2</b> Online Clinics	
网上看病 .....	5
<b>Passage 3</b> Multiple Causes of a Disease	
引起疾病的复杂因素 .....	9
<b>Passage 4</b> Looks Matter in Job Market	
相貌影响收入 .....	15
<b>Passage 5</b> The Meaning of Sleep	
睡眠的意义 .....	19
<b>Passage 6</b> The Paradox of Computerized Appliances	
程控电器的悖论 .....	23
<b>Passage 7</b> Seahenge	
海上木阵 .....	29
<b>Passage 8</b> OZ Technology	
飞行仪表的革命 .....	34
<b>Passage 9</b> Working Women and Crime Rate	
妇女就职与犯罪率 .....	39
<b>Passage 10</b> The Newly-discovered Planets	
新发现的行星 .....	43

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\* 目录中的标题是编者加的，目的是便于读者检索。正文里的各 Passage 没有标题，这与正式考试题型一致。

Passage 11	Essay-grading Software 论文批改软件 .....	48
Passage 12	The Evolution of Clocks 时钟的演变 .....	53
Passage 13	The Returns of College Education 大学教育的回报 .....	60
Passage 14	Venomous Creatures in Australia 澳洲的有毒动物 .....	64
Passage 15	Symmetry and Mate Selection 对称与配偶选择 .....	70
<b>Test One</b>	.....	75
<b>Part II</b>	.....	85
Passage 16	Women Poets 女性诗人 .....	85
Passage 17	Company's Intangible Assets 公司的无形资产 .....	89
Passage 18	How I Look at the E-book? 电子图书之我见? .....	94
Passage 19	Coco Chanel—Harbinger of Fashion Design Coco Chanel——时装设计的先驱 .....	98
Passage 20	Are Chickens Conscious Animals? 鸡有意识吗? .....	102
Passage 21	The Workings of Fear 恐惧的原理 .....	107
Passage 22	Can Animals Imitate? 动物的模仿能力? .....	112
Passage 23	True Mirror 真实的镜子 .....	116
Passage 24	Gambling in America 赌博在美国 .....	121



---

Passage 25	Rethinking the Nobel Prize 重新思考诺贝尔奖 .....	128
Passage 26	Gesture and Language 手势与语言 .....	133
Passage 27	Advance Directive 生前医疗嘱咐 .....	138
Passage 28	Deflation 通货紧缩 .....	144
Passage 29	Not Until Thirty 三十岁后才明白 .....	148
Passage 30	Why Are We Right-handed or Left-handed? 造成左右手倾向的因素? .....	151
<b>Test Two</b>	.....	157
<b>Part III</b>	.....	167
Passage 31	Cosmetic Surgery 整容手术 .....	167
Passage 32	Romantic Love 浪漫爱情 .....	172
Passage 33	The Path of Evolution 进化的轨迹 .....	175
Passage 34	The Magic of the Suit 西服的魅力 .....	180
Passage 35	Patenting DNA 申请基因专利 .....	186
Passage 36	News Only Makes Us Dumb 新闻使我们更愚昧 .....	191
Passage 37	Gamma-ray Bursts in the Universe 宇宙中的 $\gamma$ 射线爆发 .....	197
Passage 38	Manners and Goodness 礼貌与善良 .....	201

---

Passage 39	Women in Science and Technology Professions	
	科技界的妇女 .....	206
Passage 40	Alexander Hamilton	
	汉密尔顿 .....	212
Passage 41	Rembrandt's Self-portraits	
	伦布朗的自画像 .....	216
Passage 42	DNA and Car Advertisements	
	基因与汽车广告 .....	221
Passage 43	Hypertension and Race	
	高血压与种族的关系 .....	226
Passage 44	Wicked Stepmothers	
	邪恶的后娘 .....	229
Passage 45	Jane Goodall on Chimpanzees	
	珍·古德尔论猩猩 .....	234
<b>Test Three</b>		239
<b>Part IV</b>		249
Passage 46	Who Have Greater Impact on Children, Parents or Peers?	
	谁对孩子的影响更大, 父母还是同龄人? .....	249
Passage 47	The Buying Motives of Consumers	
	消费者的购买动机 .....	253
Passage 48	My View of Ballet	
	芭蕾之我见 .....	257
Passage 49	My Three Boyfriends	
	我的三个男友 .....	260
Passage 50	On Forgiveness	
	论宽容 .....	266
Passage 51	Emily Dickinson's Letters	
	Emily Dickinson 的书信 .....	271
Passage 52	Difficult Science	
	深奥的科学 .....	274

---

Passage 53	Impressionist Paintings	
	印象派绘画 .....	278
Passage 54	Amazing Sense of Smell	
	神奇的味觉 .....	281
Passage 55	Why Are Blacks Overrepresented in American Popular Music?	
	为什么黑人在美国流行乐坛独领风骚? .....	285
Passage 56	Can Animals Feel?	
	动物有感觉吗? .....	290
Passage 57	Differing Views on Assimilating Immigrants in America	
	有关同化美国移民的争论 .....	294
Passage 58	Laying off Employees	
	解聘雇员 .....	299
Passage 59	Chekhov's Characters	
	契可夫笔下的人物 .....	304
Passage 60	Why Do We Like Watching Tragedies?	
	人们为什么爱看悲剧? .....	308
<b>Test Four</b>		314
<b>Key to Comprehension Questions</b>		324
<b>Explanations to Comprehension Questions</b>		327

# Part I

## Passage 1

Biologists have long suspected that there are seasonal variations in the ratio of boys to girls born in any population. Alexander Lerchl of the University of Münster reported last year that more boys are born in Germany between April and June, and significantly fewer in October. Experiments with rats and bats had hinted that environmental temperatures could affect the sex ratio of offspring. Lerchl hoped to find out whether this is also true for people.

He looked at average monthly temperatures in Germany between 1946 and 1995, using data sets from the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. He also calculated which months were unseasonably cold or hot. Then, using German birth records from the same 50-year period, he looked to see if there were any correlations between air temperature and the sex ratios of babies born.

Sex ratio seemed to correlate with temperature about one month before conception. Hot summers or unseasonably warm patches during this period yielded more boys, while unusually cold weather favoured girls. Temperature deviations of just a few degrees centigrade had an impact.

The timing suggests temperature may affect processes within the testes, Lerchl says. Temperature seems to play its part when the father-to-be's sperm start maturing. Lerchl speculates that hot spells may damage

sperm carrying an X chromosome more than sperm carrying a Y, so more boys are conceived.

The finding doesn't mean that people from hot climates have a disproportionate number of sons. While the skin temperature of the scrotum varies with the season, it doesn't vary greatly between one place and another because people adapt their clothing to the climate. "And the scrotum has the highest density of sweat glands and the highest capacity to cool," says Lerchl.

But the sex bias, although small, could have large-scale consequences. Lerchl speculates that global warming might further increase the ratio of males to females, which already favours boys by a few percent.

But it's also possible that the effect of temperature is indirect and that balmy weather just makes people have more sex. Frequent sex increases a woman's chance of conceiving as soon as she ovulates. This produces more sons, possibly because sperm carrying a Y chromosome are faster though less robust than X-carriers, which stand a better chance if they have to wait for ovulation.

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. We can conclude from the passage that the sex of a baby is decided by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) the father-to-be's sperm
  - (B) the quality of ovulation
  - (C) temperature
  - (D) the age of the couple
2. We learn from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) warm patches and cold patches differed by a few degrees centigrade
  - (B) sex ratio was not affected by extreme temperatures

- (C) sex ratio may have favored boys in seasons other than summer  
(D) there were as many unseasonably warm patches as cold ones
3. We can infer from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) sperm start maturing one month before conception  
(B) sperm are more sensitive to warm weather than cold weather  
(C) the time taken for sperm to mature differs from person to person  
(D) sperm carrying an X chromosome matures more quickly than sperm carrying a Y
4. People from hot climates do not necessarily produce more boys because in these places \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) people wear less clothing  
(B) the skin temperature of the scrotum varies from person to person  
(C) the scrotums have much higher density of sweat glands than elsewhere  
(D) sperm carrying an X chromosome have adapted to the climates
5. Which of the following sayings best explains the fact that the frequent sex produces more boys?  
(A) More haste, less speed. (欲速则不达)  
(B) Like father, like son. (有其父必有其子)  
(C) The early bird catches the worm. (捷足先登)  
(D) Easy come easy go. (来得容易去得快)

### Word List

patch	n. 一阵
chromosome	n. 染色体
testes	n. 睾丸
scrotum	n. 阴囊
gland	n. 腺
balmy	a. (气候) 温和的
ovulation	n. 排卵

## Notes

- [1] Sex ratio seemed to correlate with temperature...: 性别比例似乎与温度相关

**to correlate with...** 意为“与……有关联”。例如：

*The number of feet into a store the customer walks is correlated with the number of items purchased.* 顾客在商店内走动的距离与所买货物的数量成正比。

*California, New York and Florida have each seen enormous increases in immigrant populations, and attempts to correlate the phenomena with a host of urban ills continue to preoccupy researchers and policymakers.* 加州、纽约和佛罗里达的移民人口剧增，试图将这一现象与一系列城市弊病联系起来仍然是研究人员和决策人员关心的主要事情。

- [2] ...global warming might further increase the ratio of males to females...: 全球变暖有可能增加男女性别的比例

**might** 用来表示未来的可能性，例如：

*In the future, terrorists might set loose deadly pathogens.* 未来，恐怖分子有可能传播致命的病原体。

*Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.* 将我的血献给一个车祸中受伤的少年，以便他有可能活下来，看到自己的孙儿孙女们玩耍。

- [3] ...sperm carrying a Y chromosome are faster though less robust than X-carriers, which stand a better chance if they have to wait for ovulation.: 载有 Y 染色体的精子虽然不如载有 X 染色体的精子那么有活力，但速度较快，但后者在等待排卵时机会更多。

该句中的 which 代替 X-carriers。

**to stand a chance** 表示有机会做成某事。例如：

*I suppose that way if I was hit I might stand a chance of only losing one arm or one leg.* 我想如果我遭受这样打击的话，我也许有可能只失去一只胳膊或一条腿。

*Since the session normally ends in July, a bill which is not on its way by May or June may stand little chance of passing into law.* 由于会期一般在七月结束，五月或六月以后提出的议案不大有可能被批准成为法律。

## Passage 2

Can the Internet help patients jump the line at the doctor's office? The Silicon Valley Employers Forum, a sophisticated group of technology companies, is launching a pilot program to test online "virtual visits" between doctors at three big local medical groups and about 6,000 employees and their families. The six employers taking part in the Silicon Valley initiative, including heavy hitters such as Oracle and Cisco Systems, hope that online visits will mean employees won't have to skip work to tend to minor ailments or to follow up on chronic conditions. "With our long commutes and traffic, driving 40 miles to your doctor in your hometown can be a big chunk of time," says Cindy Conway, benefits director at Cadence Design Systems, one of the participating companies.

Doctors aren't clamoring to chat with patients online for free; they spend enough unpaid time on the phone. Only 1 in 5 has ever E-mailed a patient, and just 9 percent are interested in doing so, according to the research firm Cyber Dialogue. "We're not stupid," says Stirling Somers, executive director of the Silicon Valley employers group. "Doctors getting paid is a critical piece in getting this to work." In the pilot program, physicians will get \$20 per online consultation, about what they get for a simple office visit.



Doctors also fear they'll be swamped by rambling E-mails that tell everything *but* what's needed to make a diagnosis. So the new program will use technology supplied by Healinx, an Alameda, Calif.-based start-up. Healinx's "Smart Symptom Wizard" questions patients and turns answers into a succinct message. The company has online dialogues for 60 common conditions. The doctor can then diagnose the problem and outline a treatment plan, which could include E-mailing a prescription or a face-to-face visit.

Can E-mail replace the doctor's office? Many conditions, such as a persistent cough, require a stethoscope to discover what's wrong—and to avoid a malpractice suit. Even Larry Bonham, head of one of the doctors groups in the pilot, believes that virtual doctor's visits offer a "very narrow" sliver of service between phone calls to an advice nurse and a visit to the clinic.

The pilot program, set to end in nine months, also hopes to determine whether online visits will boost worker productivity enough to offset the cost of the service. So far, the Internet's record in the health field has been underwhelming. The experiment is "a huge roll of the dice for Healinx," notes Michael Barrett, an analyst at Internet consulting firm Forrester Research. If the "Web visits" succeed, expect some HMOs to pay for online visits. If doctors, employers, and patients aren't satisfied, figure on one more E-health start-up to stand down.

### Comprehension Questions

1. If the pilot program is successful, the benefit for the employers is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) employees can seek medical help while working
  - (B) employees have access to first-class medical professionals
  - (C) the cost of medical service will be greatly reduced