

大学英语六级 阅读特训

新东方考试研究中心 编著

- ✓ 精选最新时文，全面涵盖阅读题型
- ✓ 按照题材分类，文章难度逐步进阶
- ✓ 精选核心词汇，边读边记，提高效率
- ✓ 长难句点津，助考生排除阅读障碍

新东方
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大学英语四、六级考试已经全面改革,计分体制改为了710分标准分制。为了帮助考生全面了解并能从容应对2007年6月开始全面实施的改革后的六级考试,新东方考试研究中心特根据《样卷》编写了“冲击710分”系列丛书。本丛书紧扣六级考试改革要求,深入剖析六级考试新题型,是集指导、练习于一体的特训练习册。

《大学英语六级阅读特训》紧扣六级考试改革要求,结合最新六级考试样卷和最新真题进行编写,准确把握六级出题脉络,选材新颖,能迅速帮助广大考生提高阅读水平。本书特点归纳如下:

阅读题型,涵盖全面

本书依照六级改革方案,囊括所有阅读题型——快速阅读和仔细阅读,其中仔细阅读包括常规阅读以及篇章问答。题型涵盖全面,为考生备战六级阅读提供切实有效的练习。

此外,我们还以六级真题中的快速阅读为例,详细分析了命题人如何选编快速阅读的文章,并分析命题规律,使考生对新题型有更深刻的了解。

题材分类,步步进阶

本书常规阅读部分将所选文章按历年阅读真题题材分为人文、科技、经济和环境四类,并按这四类题材在六级真题中的分布比例进行选材,让考生将各个题材的文章逐一攻破。本书还依据题材,把文章按其难易度分为“预备篇”(略低于真题难度)、“标准篇”(与真题难度相当)和“提高篇”(略高于真题难度)三个级别。所选文章及题目难度逐步增加,让考生在练习时产生不断进阶的成就感,增强考试信心。

核心词汇,边读边记

大纲中的六级核心词汇是六级阅读考查的重点之一,也是令考生感到头疼的难点之一。本书精选的80篇常规阅读文章涵盖了六级考试中经常出现的核心词汇及短语,在文中重点标出,并在每一篇文章后面的“阅读小帮手”中列出其在文

章中的词义。既增强考生对文章的理解,又帮助考生在阅读中牢记核心词汇,可谓一举两得。更在每章最后以“词汇大本营”的形式汇总本章出现的核心词汇,方便考生回顾复习。

难句点津,排除障碍

长难句是考生面临的又一个难点,句子读不懂既影响做题又影响情绪。本书充分考虑到考生的需求,在“阅读小帮手”中特设“难句译文”,给出文章中长难句的精准译文,并对这些句子中出现的词或短语的特殊用法进行点津。这样做的目的是为了帮助考生更好地理解文章,并加深对有特殊用法的词或短语的记忆,使考生真正感受到无障碍阅读的乐趣。

以人为本,试在必得

阅读理解不仅考查考生的英语水平,同时也考查考生的知识面和知识结构,所以本书在某些文章后提供了实用的背景知识,既能增强考生对短文的理解,又有助于拓展考生的知识面。

另外,本书常规阅读后的“答案解析”前都附有“答案速查”,方便考生在做完题后迅速核对答案。在“答案速查”表内还有专门的区域,供考生总结自己的错误类型或错题原因,方便日后进行针对性复习。

本书得以顺利完成,要特别感谢世纪友好工作室的金利、蒋志华、何静、李岩岩等老师。他们对英语教学和研究的热爱和投入才使得本书能在第一时间与考生见面。

相信考生们在深入了解了六级阅读题型且掌握了重要考点及有效的技巧后,定能从容应对六级考试!最后祝所有备战六级的考生征途顺利,马到成功!

新东方考试研究中心

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第一部分 快速阅读
与篇章问答



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第一章 技巧大点兵

第一节 快速阅读

快速阅读要求考生在15分钟内完成一篇长度在1,000词以上的文章和后面的10道题目。该题答题时间非常紧迫，而题目难度又相对较大，在备考过程中，考生务必要有意识地训练自己的快速阅读及解题能力，以便有效地应对该部分的测试。

下面这篇六级考试真题中的快速阅读理解是一篇长度为1,098词的文章，主要介绍了太空旅行的相关内容。

编者研究发现，这篇快速阅读文章选编自国外网站(<http://www.howstuffworks.com>)上一篇主题为太空旅行的科技类文章，其长度为1,520词。其原文如下（文中划线部分为六级真题中快速阅读理解的正文内容，括号内标灰色底纹的部分是命题者添加或改编的内容，蓝色字体为设题点）：

How Space Tourism Works

by Kevin Bonsor

Make your reservations now. The space tourism industry is officially open for business, and tickets are going for a mere \$20 million for a one-week stay in space. Despite reluctance from NASA, Russia made American businessman Dennis Tito the world's first space tourist. Tito flew into space aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket that arrived at the International Space Station on April 30, 2001. The second space tourist, South African businessman Mark Shuttleworth, took off aboard the Russian Soyuz on April 25, 2002, also bound for the ISS. Greg Olsen, an American businessman, became tourist number three to the ISS on October 1, 2005.

On September 18, 2006, Anousheh Ansari, a telecommunications entrepreneur, became the first female space tourist and the fourth space tourist overall. She was also the first person of Iranian descent to make it into space.

(Lance Bass of 'N Sync was supposed to be the third to make the \$20 million trip, but he did not join the three-man crew as they blasted off on October 30, 2002, due to

lack of payment. Probably the most incredible aspect of this proposed space tour was that NASA approve of it.)

These trips are the beginning of what could be a lucrative 21st century industry. There are already several space tourism companies planning to build suborbital vehicles and orbital cities within the next two decades. These companies have invested millions, believing that the space tourism industry is on the verge of taking off.

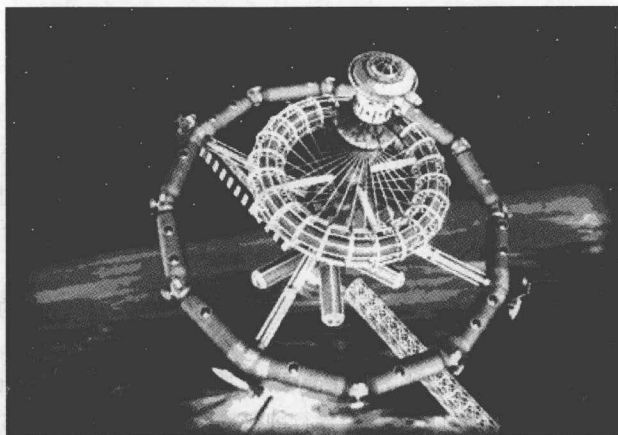


Photo courtesy Space Island Group

Space hotels might be popular vacation spots in 20 years.

In 1997, NASA published a report concluding that selling trips to space to private citizens could be worth billions of dollars. A Japanese report supports these findings, and projects that space tourism could be a \$10 billion per year industry within the two decades. The only obstacles to opening up space to tourists are the space agencies, who are concerned with safety and the development of a reliable, reusable launch vehicle.

If you've ever dreamed of going to space and doing what only a few hundred people have done, then read on. In this article, you'll learn about the spacecraft being designed as destinations for space tourists, and how you may one day have a chance to cruise through the solar system.

On Being a Space Tourist

Anousheh Ansari has invested in her interest in space before—she and another relative contributed to the \$10 million X Prize, and she hopes that her experience on the ISS will help her to develop spacecraft that make space tourism more affordable. Ansari dislikes the term “space tourist”, because she and the first three explorers had to go through rigorous training to make the trip. “I think tourists are people who basically decide to go to some place and put a camera around their neck, and basically buy a

ticket and go there. They don't prepare...I spent six months (training in Russia), and had to learn many different systems, and many new different technologies to take this journey, so I don't think tourism does justice to this event," Ansari said. You can learn more about Ansari and read about her adventure on her Web site.

Space Accommodations

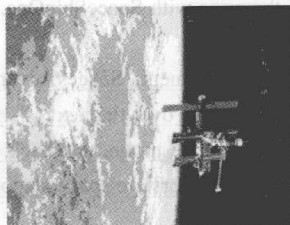


Photo courtesy NASA

Mir was to become a tourist attraction before it was deorbited in March 2001.

Russia's Mir space station was supposed to be the first destination for space tourists. But in March 2001, the Russian Aerospace Agency brought Mir down into the Pacific Ocean. As it turned out, bringing down Mir only temporarily delayed the first tourist trip into space.

The Mir crash did cancel plans for a new reality-based game show from NBC, which was going to be called Destination Mir. The Survivor-like TV show was scheduled to air in fall 2001. Participants on the show were to go through training at Russia's cosmonaut training center, Star City. Each week, one of the participants would be eliminated from the show, with the winner receiving a trip to the Mir space station. Mir's demise rules out (The Mir crash has ruled out) NBC's space plans for now. NASA is against beginning space tourism until the International Space Station is completed in 2006.

Russia is not alone in its interest in space tourism. There are several projects underway to commercialize space travel. Here are a few of the groups that might take you to space:

- Bigelow Aerospace, formed by Budget Suites of America hotels owner Robert Bigelow, hopes to make "habitable space stations affordable for corporate communities".
- Space Island Group is going to build a ring-shaped, rotating "commercial space infrastructure" that will resemble the Discovery spacecraft in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey". Space Island says it will build its space city out of empty NASA space-shuttle fuel tanks (to start, it should take around 12 or

so), and place it about 400 miles (644 km) above Earth. The space city will rotate once per minute to create a gravitational pull one-third as strong as Earth's.

- The X Prize is a national contest that offered \$10 million to the first private company to develop a reusable launch vehicle (RLV) capable of carrying the general public into space. In October 2004, Scaled Composites, a California based company, won the prize with SpaceShipOne. See How SpaceShipOne Works to learn more.
- According to their vision statement, Space Adventures plans to “fly tens of thousands of people in space over the next 10-15 years and beyond, both orbital and suborbital, around the moon, and back, from spaceports both on Earth and in space, to and from private space stations, and aboard dozens of different vehicles...”
- Even Hilton Hotels has shown interest in the space tourism industry and the possibility of building or co-funding a space hotel. However, the company did say that it believes such a space hotel is 15 to 20 years away.

Initially, space tourism will offer meager accommodations at best. For instance, if the International Space Station is used as a tourist attraction, guests won't find the posh (luxurious) surroundings of a hotel room on Earth. It has been designed for conducting research, not entertainment. However, the first generation of space hotels should offer tourists a much more comfortable experience.



Photo courtesy Space Island

This space hotel could be one of many commercial ventures located within Space Island's space city.

In regard to a concept for a space hotel initially planned by Space Island, such a hotel could offer guests every perk (convenience) they might find at a hotel on Earth, and some they might not. The small gravitational pull created by the rotating space city

would allow space tourists and residents to walk around and function normally within the structure. Everything from running water to a recycling plant to medical facilities would be possible. Additionally, space tourists would even be able to take space walks.

Many of these companies believe that they have to offer an extremely enjoyable experience in order for passengers to pay thousands, if not millions of dollars to ride into space. So will space create another separation between the haves and have-nots? In the next section, you'll find out if you'll be able to go to space even if you don't have a million dollars to spend on a vacation.

Who Gets To Go? (The Most Expensive Vacation)

Will space be an exotic retreat reserved for only the wealthy? Or will middle-class folks have a chance to take their families to space? Make no mistake about it, going to space will be the most expensive vacation you ever take. Prices right now are in the tens of millions of dollars. Currently, the only vehicles that can take you into space are the space shuttle and the Russian Soyuz, both of which are terribly inefficient. Each spacecraft requires millions of pounds of propellant to take off into space, which makes them expensive to launch. One pound of payload costs about \$10,000 to put into Earth orbit.



Photo courtesy NASA

The CEV could provide a new means for space travel.

NASA and Lockheed Martin worked on (are currently developing) a single-stage-to-orbit launch space plane, called the VentureStar, that supposedly would've been launched for about a tenth of what the space shuttle costs to launch. However, the program was canceled in late 2001 after a prototype suffered problems during testing as well as scheduling issues and cost overruns. Perhaps NASA's latest spacecraft project, the Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle, will replace the shuttle as a means to transport tourists to space. Check out How the Orion CEV Will Work to learn more. (If the VentureStar takes off, the number of people who could afford to take a trip into space would move into the millions.)

In 1998, a joint report from NASA and the Space Transportation Association stated that improvements in technology could push fares for space travel as low as

\$50,000, and possibly down to \$20,000 or \$10,000 a decade later. The report concluded that at a ticket price of \$50,000, there could be 500,000 passengers flying into space each year. While still omitting many people, these prices would open up space to a tremendous amount of traffic.

If you don't want to wait for space hotels and cruise ships, Space Adventures offers passengers an array of options, such as:

- Zero-gravity flight program
- MiG-25 Edge of space program
- MiG-21 High-G flight program
- Spacewalk adventure program

Although most of these programs also include a two- or three-night stay in Moscow, prices start at close to \$10,000 and go higher. Still too much money for your budget? Some, including Apollo 11 astronaut and ShareSpace Foundation chairman Buzz Aldrin, have proposed a space-trip lottery system to give everyone a chance to go.

Since the beginning of the space race, the general public has said, "Isn't that great—when do I get to go?" Well, our chance might be closer than ever. Within the next 20 years, space planes could be taking off for the Moon at the same frequency as airplanes flying between New York and Los Angeles.

下面我们将从如何删改原文和如何设题、解题这两个方面分析攻克六级快速阅读理解题的制胜之道。

如何删改原文

从上文可以看出,原文是一篇科技类说明文,其中包括3个小标题,第一个和最后一个小标题下又分别包含若干项并列的小点,刚好符合六级快速阅读理解的选文要求,即提供指引信息(如小标题等)以保证考生可以在15分钟内读完一篇1,000词以上的文章并完成后面的10道题。为了使选文更加适合作为六级快速阅读理解的考查文章,命题者对原文进行了如下删改:

1. 删除第二个小标题下的内容:原文中第二个小标题下主要介绍的是有关太空旅行者的内容,删除后不会影响到文章的连贯性和完整性,因此命题者为了缩减文章词数删除了该部分的内容。

2. 删除过于详细的细节信息:删除细节信息也是出于缩减词数的考虑,但所删除的细节信息都不会影响到文义的表达。命题者首先删除了第三、四位太空旅行者的信息;接下来删除了旨在引起读者兴趣的过渡段落;在列举对太空旅行感兴趣的各个组织时,有选择性地删除了读者不太熟悉的两点;最后还删除了有关太空旅行备选方案的内容。

3. 改写原文中过难的单词: demise、posh和perk这几个单词对于大多数考生来说都是生词,为了便于考生理解,命题者将上述单词分别换成了crash、luxurious和convenience。

4. 为切合主题而添加或改写部分内容:命题者删去了两位太空旅行者的信息,但却添加了没能登上太空的超级男孩组合一位成员的信息,使得文章内容更贴近考生;在提到VentureStar项目时,命题者并未采用原文所用的一般过去时(worked on),而是改用了现在进行时(are currently developing),而且命题者删掉了有关该项目被取消的信息,转而添加了该项目成功后可能促进太空旅行行业的内容,虽然改变了原文内容,但却没有改变文义的完整性。

如何设题和解题

从原文标蓝色字体部分的位置可以看出,设题点分布得较为平均,文章开头部分有三个设题点,每个小标题下又分别有三四个设题点。而命题者所选取的设题点基本上都是细节信息,大部分题目都可以根据题干中的信息词定位到原文相关细节,进而确定答案。具体题目如下:

1. Lance Bass wasn't able to go on a tour of space because of health problems.

解题:本题可根据原文内容直接确定答案。根据题干中的信息词Lance Bass定位到原文第三段的首句,可知超级男孩组合的成员兰斯·巴斯原本应该是第三个花费两千万美元进入太空旅行的人,但他由于没有付够钱而没能进入太空,并不是由于身体原因而没能进入太空旅行,可见题干所述原因与原文不符,故该表述错误。

2. Several tourism companies believe space travel is going to be a new profitable industry.

解题:本题需要对原文内容进行推理判断才可确定答案。根据题干中的信息词tourism companies和industry定位到原文第四段的后两句,可知已经有几家航空旅行公司计划在未来二十年间建造亚轨道飞行器 and 轨道城市,这些公司已经投资了数百万美元,他们认为太空旅行行业即将飞速发展,由此推断,他们认为太空旅行将成为回报丰厚的产业,故该表述正确。

3. The space agencies are reluctant to open up space to tourists.

解题:本题需要对原文内容进行推理判断才可确定答案。根据题干中的信息词space agencies和open up space定位到原文第五段的最后,可知向旅行者开放太空的惟一障碍就是航天局,他们关心安全问题,以及开发可靠的和可再次利用的运载火箭的问题,由此推断,航天局不愿向旅行者开放太空,该表述符合原文。

4. Two Australian billionaires have been placed on the waiting list for entering space as private passengers.

解题:本题需要结合全文内容进行判断。原文提到,至今有一位美国商人和一

位南非商人进行过太空旅行,但并未提到有两位澳大利亚的亿万富翁正等待着以私人乘客的身份进入太空。

5. The prize for the winner in the fall 2001 NBC TV game show would have been _____.

解题: 本题需要结合原文中多个细节信息方可确定答案。根据题干中的信息词fall、2001和NBC定位到第二个小标题下的第二段,可知美国国家广播公司(NBC)原本打算在2001年秋季推出一档新的游戏节目,其获胜者将赢得到米尔空间站旅行的机会,由此可知答案为a trip to the Mir Space Station。

6. Hilton Hotels believes it won't be long before it is possible to build a _____.

解题: 本题需要对原文内容进行推理判断才可确定答案。根据题干中的信息词Hilton Hotels定位到第二个小标题下第三段下的最后一点,可知希尔顿酒店对太空旅行业以及建造或合资建造太空酒店的可能性表现出兴趣,该公司表示,他们觉得这样的太空酒店将在15到20年后建成,由此推断,希尔顿酒店觉得在不久的将来有可能建成太空酒店,故答案为space hotel。

7. In order for space tourists to walk around and function normally, it is necessary for the space city to create a _____.

解题: 本题需要对原文内容进行推理判断才可确定答案。根据题干中的信息词walk around and function normally和space city定位到第二个小标题下倒数第二段的第二句,可知旋转的太空城所制造的微小引力,将使得太空游客和居民可以在太空城内正常行走和生活,由此推断,太空游客正常行走和生活的前提是太空城制造出微小的引力,故可得答案small gravitational pull。

8. What makes going to space the most expensive vacation is the enormous cost involved in _____.

解题: 本题需要对原文内容进行推理判断才可确定答案。根据题干中的信息词the most expensive vacation定位到第三个小标题,再由going to space和cost定位到该小标题下的第一段,可知现在进入太空的费用高达数千万美元,只有航天飞机和俄国的Soyuz火箭能带人进入太空,而两者都需要数百万磅的燃料才能起飞进入太空,这使得发射变得非常昂贵,由此推断,太空旅行费用高昂是由太空飞船所需燃料的高额费用造成的,故可得答案the fuel of spacecraft。

9. Each year 500,000 space tourists could be flying into space if ticket prices could be lowered to _____.

解题: 本题可根据原文内容直接确定答案。根据题干中的信息词500,000和ticket prices定位到第三个小标题下倒数第四段的倒数第二句,可知如果票价是五万美元,每年就将有50万乘客飞入太空,由此可得答案\$50,000。

10. Within the next two decades, _____ could be as common as intercity air travel.