



普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材  
大学英语立体化网络化系列教材

李 平 王 庆 / 总主编

上

# 大学英语快速阅读

刘军显 / 主 编  
张国钢 / 副主编

College English Fast Reading



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

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主 编 刘军显

副主编 张国钢

编 者 焉王波 赵云峰 卢 兵



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电子邮箱: [fd@pup.pku.edu.cn](mailto:fd@pup.pku.edu.cn)

# 前 言

《大学英语快速阅读》(上、下册)是根据教育部大学英语教学改革目标以及《大学英语课程教学要求》中对快速阅读能力的要求,参照最新大学英语四、六级考试模式和训练形式编写。全书(上、下册)共有120篇文章。每册分为四部分:技巧导航、篇章阅读、词语速查和练习答案。其中,“词语速查”是此次修订新增内容,目的是方便学生阅读时的生词查阅。本套教程在继承《大学英语快速阅读教程》(上、下册)的优点的基础上,在修订版的答案部分增加了“答案定位”,可以帮助学生快速找到答案依据。此外,本套教材更换了部分时代性更强、内容更新的文章。

本教程具有以下四大特点:

第一,注重能力培养。

本教程充分考虑到大学英语课程特点,突出学生自主学习能力的培养。专设了技巧导航章节。本着“管用,易懂,实用”的原则,归纳整理出常用快速阅读技巧,旨在帮助学生系统了解快速阅读的概念、要求和方法,以便在篇章阅读阶段中能够进行科学有效的自我快速阅读训练。

第二,选材丰富新颖。

本教程所选文章内容涵盖人文科学、社会科学和自然科学,题材多样,可读性强。文章体现出较强的知识性、科学性、趣味性和时代性,使学生在获取信息、训练自我的同时,还可以开阔视野、增强跨文化意识、提高素质、激励人生。

第三,内容编排系统。

本教程在编排上体现了循序渐进学习原则。首先,在技巧导航(I)介绍了快速阅读的相关知识,然后,在技巧导航(II)列举了常用阅读技巧,如猜词技巧等。篇章阅读部分的安排由浅入深、梯度合理,过渡适宜。练习设计也是先易后难。

第四,练习紧扣考试。

本教材将平时训练与考试模拟相结合,紧扣近几年四级考试中快速阅读部分的题型变化和要求。练习进一步突出阅读速度和要点理解。学生可以把日常训练与考试模拟合二为一,有一举两得之功效。

《大学英语快速阅读》可以作为各类高校大学英语快速阅读训练教材。

教程编写组

2011年7月

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# Unit 1

## Text A

### Christmas Morning

(1) A light drizzle<sup>1</sup> was falling as my sister Jill and I ran out of the Methodist Church, eager to get home and play with the presents that Santa had left for us and our baby sister, Sharon. Across the street from the church was a Pan American gas station where the Greyhound bus stopped. It was closed for Christmas, but I noticed a family standing outside the locked door, huddled under the narrow overhang<sup>2</sup> in an attempt to keep dry. I wondered briefly why they were there but then forgot about them as I raced to keep up with Jill.

(2) Once we got home, there was barely time to enjoy our presents. We had to go off to our grandparents' house for our annual Christmas dinner. As we drove down the highway through town, I noticed that the family was still there, standing outside the closed gas station. My father was driving very slowly down the highway. The closer we got to the turnoff<sup>3</sup> for my grandparents' house, the slower the car went. Suddenly, my father U-turned in the middle of the road and said, "I can't stand it!"

(3) "What?" asked my mother.

(4) "It's those people back there at the Pan Am, standing in the rain. They've got children. It's Christmas. I can't stand it." When my father pulled into the service station, I saw that there were five of them: the parents and three children—two girls and a small boy. My father rolled down his window.

(5) "Merry Christmas," he said.

(6) "Howdy," the man replied.

(7) He was very tall and had to stoop slightly to peer into the car. Jill, Sharon, and I stared at the children, and they stared back at us.

(8) "You waiting on the bus?" my father asked. The man said that they were going to Birmingham, where he had a brother and prospects of a job.

(9) "Well, that bus isn't going to come along for several hours, and you're getting wet standing here. Winborn is just a couple miles up the road. They've got a shed with a cover there, and some benches," my father said. "Why don't y'all get in the car and I'll run you up there." The man thought about it for a moment, and then he beckoned<sup>4</sup> to his family. They climbed into the car. They had no luggage, only the clothes they were wearing. Once they settled in, my father looked back over his shoulder and asked the children if Santa had found them yet. Three glum faces mutely gave him his answer.



(10) “Well, I didn’t think so,” my father said, winking<sup>5</sup> at my mother, “because when I saw Santa this morning, he told me that he was having trouble finding all, and he asked me if he could leave your toys at my house. We’ll just go get them before I take you to the bus stop.” All at once, the three children’s faces lit up, and they began to bounce<sup>6</sup> around in the back seat, laughing and chattering.

(11) When we got out of the car at our house, the three children ran through the front door and straight to the toys that were spread out under our Christmas tree. One of the girls spied Jill’s doll and immediately hugged it to her breast. I remember that the little boy grabbed Sharon’s ball. And the other girl picked up something of mine. All this happened a long time ago, but the memory of it remains clear. That was the Christmas when my sisters and I learned the joy of making others happy.

(12) My mother noticed that the middle child was wearing a short-sleeved dress, so she gave the girl Jill’s only sweater to wear. My father invited them to join us at our grandparents’ for Christmas dinner, but the parents refused. Even when we all tried to talk them into coming, they were firm in their decision. Back in the car, on the way to Winborn, my father asked the man if he had money for bus fare. His brother had sent tickets, the man said. My father reached into his pocket and pulled out two dollars, which was all he had left until his next payday. He pressed the money into the man’s hand. The man tried to give it back, but my father insisted.

(13) “It’ll be late when you get to Birmingham, and these children will be hungry before then. Take it. I’ve been broke before, and I know what it’s like when you can’t feed your family.”

(14) We left them there at the bus stop in Winborn. As we drove away, I watched out the window as long as I could, looking back at the little girl hugging her new doll.

(791 words)

### 【词语速查】

- |            |    |     |             |    |                 |
|------------|----|-----|-------------|----|-----------------|
| 1. drizzle | n. | 毛毛雨 | 2. overhang | n. | 屋檐              |
| 3. turnoff | n. | 岔道  | 4. beckon   | v. | (用头或手的动作)示意, 召唤 |
| 5. wink    | v. | 递眼色 | 6. bounce   | v. | 跳动, 蹦           |

### Reading Comprehension

For questions 1–7, choose the best answer for each exercise.

For questions 8–10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

- Who would play with the gifts that Santa had left?
 

A. Jill and Sharon.	B. Jill, Sharon and I.
C. Jill and I.	D. Jill and I.

2. Why did the father say, "I can't stand it!"?
  - A. They got fewer presents from Santa.
  - B. The weather was miserable.
  - C. The children stood in the rain at Christmas.
  - D. The traffic was so heavy.
3. Why were the family going to Birmingham?
  - A. The man's brother had found a job for him.
  - B. The man's brother invited them to go there.
  - C. They had ever lived there.
  - D. The man was likely to get a job.
4. After getting home, we hadn't enough time to enjoy our presents in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. go off to our grandparents' house for our annual Christmas dinner
  - B. look after the family standing outside the locked door
  - C. send the tickets for the family
  - D. go sightseeing in Birmingham
5. The car went more slowly when we were close to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Birmingham
  - B. Winborn
  - C. the turnoff for my grandparents' house
  - D. a Pan American gas station
6. My father winked at my mother in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. make the three children believe that Santa was having trouble finding all people
  - B. let her know that the three children had misunderstood Santa
  - C. relax the tense atmosphere
  - D. encourage the three children to get the presents from Santa immediately
7. The most important thing the author has got from this experience is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. receiving so many gifts from Santa
  - B. learning the joy of making others happy
  - C. Santa's being considerate
  - D. developing good relationship with the family
8. The man was so tall that he had to stoop slightly to \_\_\_\_\_.
9. After their settling in, my father looked back over his shoulder and asked the children if \_\_\_\_\_.
10. When they left Winborn, I tried to look back at the little girl carrying \_\_\_\_\_.

Text B

## Welcome to Our Bank

(1) “I wish Central Bank would be robbed,” George Pickens said to himself. He had been making this wish daily from the time he had started work as a teller<sup>1</sup> at the bank. All over the country banks were being robbed, George thought sourly. Why not this bank? Were robbers scornful of its four million-dollar capital? Were they afraid of Mr. Ackerman, the old bank guard, who hadn’t pulled out his gun in twenty-two years? Of course, George had a reason for wanting the bank to be robbed. After all, he couldn’t simply take the thick bundles of bills that were under his hands all day long. So he had thought of another way to get them. His plan was simple. It went like this: If Bank Robber A holds up Bank Teller B....

(2) And if Bank Teller B gives Bank Robber A a certain amount of money, what is to prevent Bank Teller B from keeping all the money left and claiming that it was stolen by Bank Robber A?

(3) There was only one problem. Where was Bank Robber A?

(4) One morning George entered the bank feeling something was about to happen. “Good morning, Mr. Burrows,” he said cheerfully. The bank president muttered<sup>2</sup> something and went into his office.

(5) At two o’ clock Bank Robber A walked in. George knew he was a bank robber. For one thing, he slunk<sup>3</sup> in. For another thing, he wore a mask.

(6) “This is a holdup<sup>4</sup>,” the man said roughly. He took a pistol from his pocket. The guard made a small sound. “You,” the bank robber said, “lie down on the floor.” Mr. Ackerman lay down. The robber stepped over to George’s cage.

(7) “All right,” he said. “Hand it over.” “Yes, sir,” said George. “Would you like it in ten or twenty-dollar bills?”

(8) “Just hand it over!”

(9) George reached into his cashbox and took all the bills from the top section—close to six thousand dollars. He passed them through the window. The robber snatched them, stuffed them into his pocket and turned to leave.

(10) Then, while everyone watched Bank Robber A, Bank Teller B calmly lifted off the top section of the cashbox and slipped bills from the bottom section into his pockets.

(11) The door swung and the bank robber was gone. George fainted. When he woke he smiled up at the worried faces looking down at him. “I am all right,” he said bravely.

(12) “Perhaps you should go home, George,” Mr. Bell, the chief auditor said.

(13) As soon as he was safely behind his bedroom door, George took the money

from his pockets and counted it. He had seven thousand dollars. He was very happy.

(14) The next morning when George arrived at the bank, it was not open for business. But everyone was there, helping to examine the bank's records for the special audit<sup>5</sup> Mr. Bell was taking.

(15) George was called into Mr. Burrows's office. The bank president seemed strangely cheerful. "George," he said, "I want you to meet Mr. Carruthers, who used to be president of our bank."

(16) "Good morning, George," said Mr. Carruthers. "I was sorry to hear you fainted yesterday. Are you all right now?"

(17) "Yes, sir, just fine, thanks."

(18) "I'm glad to hear it. That was quite an adventure. It just goes to show how easy it is to rob our bank."

(19) "Sir?" said George, confused.

(20) "George, I was sorry to give you a hard time yesterday, but with all the banks being robbed these days I thought it would be a good idea to prove that our little bank can be robbed too. I have retired, but I haven't stopped thinking. That's why I played my little game yesterday, just to keep everybody on his toes<sup>6</sup>."

(21) "I don't understand," said George. "What game?"

(22) The old man laughed and whipped out<sup>7</sup> a mask. He placed it over his face and said, "All right. Hand it over!" Mr. Burrows laughed but George did not.

(23) "And the money?" George asked in a faint voice.

(24) "Don't worry," Mr. Carruthers said. "I put it all back in your cashbox—all six thousand. We're just finishing up the audit now." George turned cold with fear.

(25) Behind them, the door opened and Mr. Bell, the chief auditor, put his head into the room. "Mr. Burrows," he said gravely, "may I see you a moment?"

(569 words)

### 【词语速查】

1. teller	<i>n.</i>	出纳员	2. mutter	<i>v.</i>	轻声低语
3. slink	<i>v.</i>	鬼鬼祟祟地走进	4. holdup	<i>n.</i>	劫盗
5. audit	<i>n.</i>	审计, 查账	6. on one's toes		警觉的
7. whip out		迅速出示			

## Reading Comprehension

For questions 1–7, choose the best answer for each exercise.

For questions 8–10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

1. Why did George think that the bank would be sooner or later robbed?
  - A. Because the robbers wouldn't look down on the bank's four million-dollar capital.
  - B. Because with many banks being robbed these days, this bank shouldn't be an exception.
  - C. Because he thought that Mr. Ackerman, the old bank guard would retire later.
  - D. Because one person he was familiar with had made a detailed plan to rob the bank.
2. How did Mr. Burrows respond to George's greeting one morning?
  - A. He said something to George cheerfully.
  - B. He muttered something and went into his office.
  - C. He ignored George and went into his office.
  - D. He looked at George with arrogance.
3. Why did nobody notice George taking money for himself?
  - A. Because they were all focusing on the robber.
  - B. Because George was brave enough to fight against the robber.
  - C. Because they all lay down on the floor.
  - D. Because George held a pistol with his two hands at that moment.
4. How much did George steal from his bank?
  - A. Close to six thousand dollars.
  - B. Four million dollars.
  - C. Seven thousand dollars.
  - D. About Seven thousand dollars.
5. George wished the bank he worked for to be robbed so that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. he would have the chance to become a hero
  - B. he would play his little game with the robber
  - C. he could take advantage
  - D. he would revenge the retired president
6. George, who worked as a teller at the bank, couldn't bear \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the others' not respecting him
  - B. the old bank guard's having not pulled out his gun in twenty-two years
  - C. all over the country banks having been robbed
  - D. taking the thick bundles of bills under his hands all day long
7. George did not know who the robber really was until \_\_\_\_\_ explained it to him.
  - A. his closest friend
  - B. Mr. Bell
  - C. Mr. Burrows
  - D. Mr. Carruthers

8. George was sure that the man coming into the bank was a robber because he slunk in and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. After \_\_\_\_\_ the money George had handed to him into his pocket, the robber turned to leave.
10. When Mr. Carruthers explained what had been happening the day before, George was at first \_\_\_\_\_.

### Text C

## Advertisers Perform a Useful Service to the Community

(1) Advertisers tend to think big and perhaps this is why they're always coming in for criticism. Their critics seem to resent them because they have a gift for self-promotion and because they have so much money to throw around. "It's not fair" they say, "that this entirely unproductive industry (if we can call it that) should absorb millions of pounds each year. It only goes to show how much profit the big companies are making. Why don't they stop advertising and reduce the price of their goods? After all, it's the consumer who pays..."

(2) The poor old consumer! He'd have to pay a great deal more if advertising didn't create mass markets for products. It is precisely because of the heavy advertising that consumer goods are not so cheap. But we get the wrong idea if we think the only purpose of advertising is to sell goods. Another equally important function is to inform. A great deal of the knowledge we have about household goods derives largely from the advertisements we read. Advertisements introduce us to new products or remind us of the existence of ones we already know about. Supposing you wanted to buy a washing machine, it is more than likely you would obtain details regarding performance, price, etc., from an advertisement.

(3) Lots of people pretend that they never read advertisements, but this claim may be seriously doubted. It is hardly possible not to read advertisements these days. And what fun they often are, too! Just think what a railway station or a newspaper would be like without advertisements. Would you enjoy gazing at a blank wall or reading railway regulations while waiting for a train? Would you like to read only closely printed columns of news in your daily paper? A cheerful, witty<sup>1</sup> advertisement makes such a difference to a dull wall or a newspaper full of the daily ration of calamities<sup>2</sup>.

(4) We must not forget, either, that advertising makes a positive contribution to our pockets. Newspapers, commercial radio and television companies could not survive without this source of revenue. The fact that we pay so little for our daily paper, or can enjoy so many broadcast programmes is due entirely to the money spent by advertisers.

Just think what a newspaper would cost if we had to pay its full price!

(5) Another thing we mustn't forget is the "small ads", which are in virtually every newspaper and magazine. What a tremendously useful service they perform for the community! Just about anything can be accomplished through these columns. For instance, you can find a job, buy or sell a house, announce a birth, marriage or death in what used to be called the "hatch<sup>3</sup>, match and dispatch" column but by far the most fascinating section is the personal or "agony" column<sup>4</sup>. No other item in a newspaper provides such entertaining reading or offers such a deep insight into human nature. It's the best advertisement for advertising there is!

(524 words)

## 【词语速查】

- |          |               |                   |       |
|----------|---------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1. witty | a. 机智的, 言辞巧妙的 | 2. calamity       | n. 灾难 |
| 3. hatch | v. 生孩子        | 4. "agony" column | 私事广告栏 |

## Reading Comprehension

For questions 1-8, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. We can see by reading the passage that the attitude of the author toward advertisers is appreciative.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The reason why the critics criticize advertisers, according to the passage, is that customers are encouraged to buy more than necessary.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The author believes that advertising is something that can make our life colorful.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Advertisers, according to the author, are all good psychologists who can read consumers' minds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. It is generally accepted that advertising is mostly misleading with useless information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Without advertisements, newspapers would be sold to us at a much more reasonable price.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. For some people "hatch, match and dispatch" are what most ads about.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The main idea of this passage is the advantages and the disadvantages of advertisement.



For questions 9–15, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

9. The reason why advertisers often receive \_\_\_\_\_ is that they often exaggerate.
10. Though advertising is an \_\_\_\_\_ that does not produce anything real, it absorbs millions of pounds every year.
11. It is generally accepted that it is \_\_\_\_\_ who pay for advertising.
12. One of the most important functions of advertising, besides promotion, is to \_\_\_\_\_.
13. It is surely doubted when some people say they never read \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The author believes that advertising makes a \_\_\_\_\_ contribution to our pockets.
15. The author views "small ads" as a useful \_\_\_\_\_ for community.

### Text D

## Stricter Traffic Law Can Prevent Accidents

(1) From the health point of view we are living in a marvelous age. We are immunized from<sup>1</sup> birth against many of the most dangerous diseases. A large number of once fatal illnesses can now be cured by modern drugs and surgery. It is almost certain that one day remedies will be found for the most stubborn remaining diseases. The expectation of life has increased enormously. But though the possibility of living a long and happy life is greater than ever before, every day we witness the incredible slaughter of men, women and children on the roads. Man versus the motor-car! It is a never-ending battle which man is losing. Thousands of people the world over are killed or horribly killed each year and we are quietly sitting back and letting it happen.

(2) It has been rightly said that when a man is sitting behind a steering wheel, his car becomes the extension of his personality. There is no doubt that the motor-car often brings out a man's very worst qualities. People who are normally quiet and pleasant may become unrecognizable when they are behind a steering-wheel. They swear, they are ill-mannered and aggressive, willful as two-year-olds and utterly selfish. All their hidden frustrations, disappointments and jealousies seem to be brought to the surface by the act of driving.

(3) The surprising thing is that society smiles so benignly on the motorist and seems to tolerate his behavior. Everything is done for his convenience. Cities are allowed to become almost uninhabitable because of heavy traffic; towns are made ugly by huge car parks; the countryside is desecrated<sup>2</sup> by road networks and the mass annual slaughter becomes nothing more than a statistic, to be conveniently forgotten.

(4) It is high time a world regulation were created to reduce this senseless waste of human life. With regard to driving, the laws of some countries are notoriously<sup>3</sup> lax and

even the strictest are not strict enough. A code which was universally accepted could only have a dramatically beneficial effect on the accident rate. Here are a few examples of some of the things that might be done. The driving test should be standardized and made far more difficult than it is; all the drivers should be made to take a test every three years or so; the age at which young people are allowed to drive any vehicle should be raised to at least 21; all vehicles should be put through stringent<sup>4</sup> strict annual tests for safety. Even the smallest amount of alcohol in the blood can impair<sup>5</sup> a person's driving ability. Present drinking and driving laws (where they exist) should be made much stricter. Maximum and minimum speed limits should be imposed on all roads. Governments should lay down safety specifications for manufacturers, as has been done in the USA. All advertising stressing power and performance should be banned. These measures may sound inordinately<sup>6</sup> harsh. But surely nothing should be considered as too severe if it results in reducing the annual toll of human life. After all, the world is for human beings, not motor-cars.

(533 words)

### 【词语速查】

1. be immunized from	对……免疫	2. desecrate	v. 亵渎, 玷污
3. notoriously	ad. 声名狼藉地	4. stringent	a. 严格的, 严厉的
5. impair	v. 削弱	6. inordinately	ad. 非常地

### Reading Comprehension

For questions 1–7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. We can see by reading the passage that the attitude of the author is appealing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The main idea of this passage is that the laws of some countries about driving are too lax.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The author thinks the society condones (容忍) the drivers' rude driving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. When the author says: "his car becomes the extension of his personality", he means to say that driving can show his real self.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. According to the passage building more highways is the most effective way mentioned against traffic accidents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. To reduce traffic accidents, we should give pre-drivers more practice to pass driving tests.