



PETS

Level 4

# 全国英语考试 教程

第四级

(另配世图音像电子出版社的听力、口试磁带)

主编 北京大学 索玉柱 博士

本书的最后一页有  
购本书赠全国英语等级考试  
第四级考前全真模拟命题  
预测试卷、答案及解析  
的“回执卡”。

中国人事出版社



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主 编 北京大学 索玉柱 博士

副主编 朱漱珍 姚金红

编 者 温来纲 李 琪 王 筠

薛 莉 张 琳

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## 前言

全国英语等级考试(简称 PETS),是教育部考试中心设计开发的面向“社会的、开放的、非学历性英语等级考试”。一般而言,考生只要具备 PETS 第四级的水平,就可以参加这一级别的考试。全国英语等级考试能全面、客观地检测出应试者的英语水平,并将逐步取代现有的自学考试等英语考试。

全国英语等级考试(PETS)第四级(Level 4)是五个级别中的中上级,其标准相当于我国学生普通高中毕业后在大学至少又学习了三至四年的英语或自学了同等程度英语课程的水平。准备参加该级考试的考生,一般应在二十二岁以上,或打算攻读普通高校非英语专业硕士研究生学位或已有同等学历从事各种专业技术工作或高级管理工作。通过该级考试的考生,其英语水平基本满足攻读高等院校硕士研究生非英语专业的需要,基本符合一般专业技术人员或研究人员、现代企业经理等工作对英语的基本要求。

全国英语等级考试(PETS)第四级(Level 4)由五个部分组成:听力理解、英语知识运用、阅读理解、写作及口试。

为了帮助广大考生系统、全面地复习各门应试课程,我们特聘请北京大学索玉柱(应用语言学、英语测试学博士)担纲主编了《全国英语等级考试第四级教程》。本教程共有十七个单元,每单元有一个交际话题,严格按照教育部考试中心制订的《全国英语等级考试第四级考试大纲》要求进行编写。其首页有“目标与要求”,简要介绍该单元内考生主要练习的内容和情景。每单元包括:

► **会话** 依据各交际话题所涉及的交际情景,提供两段对话。会话力求构思精练、巧妙,选材新颖,语境贴切,语言地道、得体,主要用来训练学习者的听说能力。每段对话前有一句或两句话点明情景。

► **课文** 课文的长度平均在 1000~2500 字左右,是该单元交际话题的相应阅读材料。每单元有两篇文章。为帮助学习者加深对课文的理解,每篇课文附有若干个问题。

► **单词和短语** 单词和短语是各单元会话和课文中新出现的单词和短语,

原则上不包括第一级、第二级和第三级教程中已出现过的。该部分还给出了单词的国际音标、词性、中文释义及短语的中文释义。

► **会话和课文注释** 包括三方面的内容：一是从语法、词汇等方面点拨会话和课文中的疑点、难点；二是补充交际中与该课内容有关的其他日常用语及习惯用语，以扩大学习者的知识面；三是介绍相关的文化背景知识，加深学习者对会话和课文的理解。

► **练习** 练习是针对各单元的重点内容而设计的，题型与考试大纲基本一致，以便于学习者备考。

► **补充读物** 为增加学习者对相关交际话题的接触，并激发他们学习英语的兴趣，在每一单元的最后附有一篇 1200~2000 字左右的补充读物。

本教程最后的附录包括：各章听力练习录音稿；各章练习题答案；五套四级笔试模拟题、听力原文及答案。

相信本书能为你的成功助一臂之力！

编者

2003 年 4 月 18 日于北京

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# Unit One Greetings



## 目标与要求

►能够将自己或别人介绍给对方,做到把自己的意图概括地或具体地明确表达。

►要求语言连贯、符合情景、自然过渡。并且能够熟练地掌握运用问候、告辞、告别、感谢、应答、祝愿和祝贺等的习惯用法及虚拟语气。

### Conversations:

I. Hagop meets his classmate Ravi in the street.

**Hagop:** Do you really intend to take a job next semester? How can you hope to work and study too?

**Ravi:** It won't be a full-time job. I asked Dr. Martin to advise me on part-time work. His advice was helpful, and I don't like to decide these things by myself.

**Hagop:** What does he want you to do?

**Ravi:** He urged me to wait another semester, until the summer sessions.

**Hagop:** Did you agree to do it?

**Ravi:** Yes, I did. I don't expect to have many courses this summer.

**Hagop:** They'll force you to pay an income tax, won't they?

**Ravi:** "Yes, both state and federal. I hate to pay out money, though."

**Hagop:** What kind of visa do you have? It's a J visa?

**Ravi:** "No, it's an F. Do you have one yourself?"

**Hagop:** Yes, and With F visas we both have Temporary Entry Permits. But what does that require us to do?

**Ravi:** We need to report our address to Justice Department every January. Failure to report is pretty serious.

**Hagop:** I'll have to remind myself to do it. What about course work?

**Ravi:** With an F visa we've got to put ourselves down for at least twelve points each term.

**Hagop:** And so Dr. Martin told you not to look for a job now. That's understandable.

**Ravi:** You had a problem too, didn't you? Wasn't it something to do with customs regulations?

**Hagop:** Yes. I sent a few gifts to my family last week. I spent only about ten or fifteen dollars on them. But I wanted to find about the customs duty at home.

**Ravi:** Who did he advise you to contact?

**Hagop:** Nobody in particular. He did some telephoning and I finally left there with instructions

to write to my embassy.

**Ravi:** By the way. I mean to ask him another question. Will they order us to do military service?

**Hagop:** Not with F or J visas. That I know.

**Ravi:** That's a relief. I don't even know how to march.

II. *Some people are talking about the pronunciation of some words, as well as some strange sayings.*

**Phan:** I can't help saying "sorry" [sori]. They consider it to be good English in Rochester, and that's where I studied it.

**Caleb:** What I keep hearing is everybody's funny pronunciation of words like "ear" [iyə], "care" [kæə], and "four" [foə], say them again, Phan.

**Phan:** Ear [iyr], care [ker], four [for], what's matter with that? Do you want for me to talk with a Boston accent like yours? It sounds all right to me.

**Caleb:** Say that again.

**Phan:** Say what?

**Caleb:** What you just finished saying.

**Phan:** Do you wait for me to...?

**Caleb:** Is that! supposed to be good English? Shouldn't it be "do you want for me to...?"

**Phan:** I'll have you know that I've travelled a lot in the south and I help people use sentences like that all the time. There is nothing the matter with it.

**Manong:** That's true. What's regarded as correct in Texas isn't necessarily what's correct in California or Ohio.

**Sushila:** Yesterday I saw a student from North Carolina write "It's a quarter to eleven" on the blackboard.

**Manong:** I noticed them using "to" all over the country. But you often hear "quarter of" in the east, although some people object to saying that.

**Sushila:** In Pennsylvania, I even heard people saying "quarter till".

**Caleb:** This is confusing! You're helping me forget what I used to know. This'll make me have to learn English all over again.

**Phan:** One of my tutors insisted on teaching "It's he, It was I" and so on. I guess you can't avoid using those forms in formal writing.

**Manong:** Yes, but do you remember even using them in a conversation?

**Phan:** No. As a matter of fact, once when he knocked on somebody's door, he caught himself answering, "It's me." But then he said, "Don't let me catch you saying that."

**Sushila:** You know, a moment ago when you said "can't" [kent] for [kænt], I imagined you to be from Tennessee or Alabama.

**Phan:** But now you are not sure.

**Sushila:** Yes, when I heard things like roof [ruf] for [ruwf] and "hung up" [hʌŋgəp] for [hæp].

**Caleb:** That makes him a collector of accents. He probably studied English in three or four different places. Personally, I believe in learning one representative dialect.

**Manong:** The funniest thing I heard was out in Colorado. People say "I feel like an apple." How does an apple feel?

**Sushila:** You hear that everywhere. It's the same as "I feel like eating an apple."

**Caleb:** One thing is certainly clear from all this: you will never manage to find only one kind of English that can be called "Standard American."

### Passage I

#### No One Stops to Say "Thank You" Anymore

I'm sitting in a local restaurant offering takeout home-style meals, surrounded by exhausted but happy shoppers, families out for Friday night dinner and students taking a break from college exams. The warm room buzzes with conversation. A well-known local homeless man—very untidy but clean—comes in, places an order, pays for it, then sits quietly waiting for his dinner. All talk stops. No one looks at him and several diners leave. He is aware of the general discomfort his presence has caused. When his takeout is ready, he gathers up his numerous bags and his dinner and, laden down, advances to the door to go back to the streets. Just as he reaches the door and begins to shift bundles to free a hand, a well-dressed man coming to the restaurant steps aside and holds the door for him. The homeless man stops and says, "Thank you very much."

What struck me about this encounter was not the wealthier man helping out the less fortunate one. It was the homeless man stopping to thank him despite being desperate to escape a room full of disapproving people. No doubt he also thanked the young people behind the counter who dished up mashed potatoes for them. Had I taken a poll of the room, though, I bet everyone there would have considered themselves as having more manners than a person who lives on the streets.

But how many of us are truly well-mannered? Some observations have been surprising.

When I let someone into my lane of traffic, men almost always acknowledge this courtesy with a wave of the hand; women (the "polite" sex) hardly ever do. More women than men (the "chivalrous" sex) hold open doors for those behind them; teenage boys commit this nicety the least. And I no longer see mothers instructing a child, boy or girl, to hold open a door when several people are approaching—something expected of all boys when I was growing up.

Manners are a tool to remind us of others around us. Our actions affect each other; there is always "give and take". However, if youth today are any indication, we are truly destined to become a society of people who think only of themselves. Maybe it sounds cliché, but my parents would have killed me had I done some of the things I endure from today's youth.

I never ran in public, much less between and around the legs of people in stores. One scream and I would have been taken to the car and lectured on my behavior. Whenever I was rude in public, I was made to apologize; my parents didn't do it for me. These embarrassing moments

didn't harm me! Rather, they caused me to become aware that there were others inhabiting this world besides myself and my actions affected them.

I have yet to receive an apology from a child who just ran over my foot while chasing a sibling and only half the time have the parents apologized. Often they simply gather up the children, making no eye contact, and take them to another part of the store to run around. If a child isn't made to deal with a minor situation, how will one ever handle a major faux pas (which we all inevitably commit at some point)?

I have noticed that children are not even being schooled in social graces. At a Sunday brunch; a clown was making balloon animals for the children. My friend's daughter, Sarah, stood by me waiting her turn. One by one the children grabbed their balloons and—yes—ran. I was the only adult present who prompted “what do you say?” When the clown handed Sarah her balloon. The clown beamed at us, grateful he had actually been acknowledged.

I don't blame the children, however. They emulated what they see. And what they are seeing is a society focused solely on acquisition—be it the dream house or another drink in a restaurant or a space on a crowded freeway—without ever stopping to thank the source.

Rude language is now so commonplace that it is accepted behavior. And I'm not talking about the obviously blue vocabulary in books and movies, or that damn is considered harmless compared to what else has become acceptable. I'm referring to inconsiderate word choice. For example, while discussing a story idea with an editor, a very young staff member asked if I was the “chick” who had called for information. I said nothing, knowing that a show of displeasure would have labeled me oversensitive rather than him rude.

Most people today feel proud to have built a society that treats the races, sexes, and economic classes more equally than ever before. And, yes, we have made real strides in these areas. But isn't it ironic that these same people don't find it necessary to say “Excuse me” to an older couple walking very slowly in front of them, before zooming around the couple?

It's not necessary to provide yet another analysis of the disintegration of the family or the breakdown of the social fabric or the price of democracy to explain what has happened to our society. The matter at hand is simply to thank the next person who provides a helping hand when needed.

In a crowded world, manners are of vital importance. Small, friendly human interactions help ease the everyday stress of having to hurry, trying to squeeze into a crowded thoroughfare, standing in one more line to deal with a clerk of some kind, or calling a customer service representative for the third time about a mistake on a bill. Manners make us aware that everything we have derives from a source. Are we really so pressured that we cannot stop to observe simple courtesy?

#### Questions:

1. Have you noticed any changes in manners in China?
2. When you were a child, what manners did your parents teach you?

3. The author says that "In a crowded world, manners are of vital importance." Do you agree? Why?
4. What's the main idea of paragraph 10?
5. Why did the author write this article?

## Passage II

### Whatever Happened to Manners?

Do you remember a time when people were a little nicer, a little softer, a little gentler with each other? I certainly do. And I feel that much of the world has somehow gotten away from that. I see such a difference in New York City, for example, from when I first moved here more than 20 years ago: people rushing into elevators without giving those inside a chance to get off first, never saying "thank you" when others hold a door open for them, or please when they want a co-worker to hand them something, never giving a wave or nod of appreciation when another motorist lets them pull out into traffic.

We get lazy, and in our laziness we think that something like a simple "thank you" doesn't really matter. But it can matter very much. The fact is that no matter how nicely we dress, how beautifully we decorate our homes, or how lovely our dinner parties are, we can't be truly stylish without good manners.

In fact, I think of good manners as a sort of hidden beauty secret. Haven't you noticed that the kindest, most generous people seem to keep getting prettier? They become Cary Grant or Lauren Bacall right before our eyes. It's funny how that happens, but it does.

The habit of saying "thank you" has long been lost. Wearing a little lipstick or making sure your hair is neat, getting into the habit of saying "thank you" can make you feel better about yourself, and then you look better to everyone around you. A gracious manner not only sets an excellent example for your children and grand children but it adds priceless panache to your image.

Positive Thanking. Of course, saying "thank you" does wonders for the person on the receiving end too. I recently got a thank-you note from a guest who attended a 40th birthday party that Frank and I hosted for Frank's daughter-in-law. The note was lovely enough, but even lovelier was the fact that the guest had also included a recipe for a dish I'd complimented her on at an earlier gathering, it was a sweet gesture that made me feel terrific and put me in a great mood. What a gift!

Many of us know we should write thank-you notes, but we think we don't have the time or energy. Now, I know we all have busy lives, but I bet the note my guest sent me didn't take long to write. If you feel like a fool because you've put off sending a card, write a note that says, "I should have done this two weeks ago, but I didn't want to let another day go by without telling you how much I enjoyed your party." It's much better than not writing at all.

Magic Words. Just as powerful as a thank-you note is the simple phrase "excuse me." Don't

you just hate it when someone knocks an enormous carry-on bag into your head when he's barreling down the aisle to board an airplane—and then doesn't bother to say he's sorry? But when someone does stop and turn around and genuinely apologizes, doesn't it melt away most—if not all—of the irritation you felt?

Some are for holding the door open for others when you see their hands are full. I'll even do this for a hotel bellman carrying my luggage. Just because his job is to carry my bags doesn't mean he doesn't appreciate a little gesture that makes life a wee bit easier. And punctuality is not a thing of the past, either. Being on time for lunch dates, for example, shows the person we're meeting that we value his or her precious time as much as we do our own.

Bring Manners Home. And for heaven's sake, we shouldn't forget to use good manners with our own families. That's where it counts the most because those are the people we love the most. How lovely it would be to put a card on your spouse's pillow at night to say "thank you" for some dear thing he or she did for you or even just to say I love you.

Similarly, bringing home the most insignificant little presents for people you cherish will go a long way. It shows they're a husband, how long has it been since you walked in the door with a rose for your wife? Or maybe her favorite candy—even if it's just a Snickers bar? You'd sure get my attention if you brought me a snickers! I firmly believe spouses should be gracious about the routine things they expect each other to do. Show that you don't take the other person for granted. He or she is much more likely to treat you the same way.

Good manners are infectious. Now, if we could just get everyone to catch them!

#### Questions:

1. What does the article talk about?
2. Tell us the organization of this passage.
3. What does "Bringing Manners Home" mean?
4. In China, are people today generally well-mannered?
5. Give examples of what you mean by good manners?

#### Words and Expressions:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. buzz [bʌz] with         | be full of excited talk, gossip or rumours 充满兴奋的谈话声、闲话或谣言                                 |
| 2. bundle ['bʌndl]         | collection of things fastened or wrapped together 束、捆、扎                                   |
| 3. step aside              | 让开一点  |
| 4. encounter [in'kaʊntə]   | sudden or unexpected meeting 突然的或意外的相遇  |
| 5. desperate ['despəɪt]    | feeling or showing great despair and ready to do anything regardless of danger 拼命的, 不顾一切的 |
| 6. mashed potatoes         | 马铃薯泥  |
| 7. lane of traffic         | 车道  |
| 8. acknowledge [ək'nɒlɪdʒ] | accept the truth of (sth.); admit (sth.) 承认(某事物)  |

- 属实;供认(某事物)
9. courtesy ['kɜ:təsi] *n.* good manners 礼貌;客气
10. chivalrous ['ʃivlrəs] *a.* (of men) courteous and considerate towards women (指男子)对女子谦恭有礼及体贴殷勤的,有骑士风度的
11. nicety ['naisəti] *n.* accuracy; precision 准确;精确
12. give and take 公平交换;(言词等)交谈;彼此谦让
13. destined ['destind] *a.* having a future which has been decided or planned beforehand 命中注定;预定
14. cliché ['kli:ʃei] *n.* phrase or idea which is used so often that it has become stale or meaningless 陈词滥调
15. inhabit [in'hæbit] *v.* live in(sth); occupy 居住于;占据
16. sibling ['sibliŋ] *n.* any one of two or more people with the same parents; brother or sister 兄弟姐妹
17. faux pas [fəu'pɑ:] (French) embarrassing mistake; indiscreet remark. etc. 失态;失礼
18. brunch [brʌntʃ] *n.* late morning meal eaten instead of breakfast and lunch 早午餐(早餐和午餐并作一顿吃)
19. prompt [prɒmpt] *v.* help a speaker by suggesting the words that could or should follow 给(发言者)作提示;激励
20. emulate ['emjuleit] *v.* try to do as well as or better than sb. 赶超某人;与某人竞争
21. acquisition [ækwi'ziʃn] *n.* action of acquiring 获得;得到
22. damn [dæm] *a.* expressing disapproval, anger, impatience 表示不满、愤怒、不耐烦等
23. stride [straɪd] *n.* make good, fast progress 进步很大;很快
24. zoom [zu:m] *v.* (of aircraft, cars etc) move very quickly, esp. with a buzzing or humming noise (指飞机,汽车等)急速移动(尤指发出嗡嗡声或轰轰声)
25. disintegration [disɪntɪ'greɪʃn] *n.* cause sth to become less strong or united (使某物)瓦解,分崩离析
26. fabric ['fæbrɪk] *n.* structure of sth. (某事物)结构
27. vital ['vaɪtəl] *a.* essential to the existence, success or operation of sth(对某事物)极重要的,必不可少的
28. squeeze [skwi:z] *v.* fit by forcing, pressing or crowding 挤入,挤过
29. thoroughfare ['θʌrəfeə] *n.* the main road through place such as a city or town 大街,大道
30. go away 离开,走开
31. elevator ['eliveɪtə] *n.* 电梯
32. pull out 离开