

CET 百篇训练丛书

大学英语四级考试

阅读理解

Reading Comprehension

100

篇

上海外语教育出版社

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前 言

《大学英语四级阅读理解 100 篇》是专为学习英语的学生编写的辅导性读物。

《大学英语教学大纲》把阅读能力的培养放在最重要的位置,提出要“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力”。阅读理解在考试中占的比重最大。我们知道,要提高学生阅读英语的能力,单纯地通过教科书的课文教学是远远不够的。因此,我们根据《大纲》所规定的英语四级考试学生应掌握的词汇量,精选了阅读理解 100 篇,旨在帮助学生迅速提高阅读英语的能力。

文章均选自国外较新的书籍、报刊杂志上的材料,英语地道,题材广泛,并侧重于社会生活和科普类文章,重视语言知识和社会文化知识的有机结合、学习与训练的结合。每篇短文后面,均有理解性选择题供读者练习使用,并附有答案供参考。为了适应最近改变的新题型,在每篇阅读文章中,挑选出一二句句子进行英译汉练习。读者可以在自行翻译的基础上,再看附在后面的参考译文,进行比较,以利提高。编者希望本书能为大学生在达到《大纲》的阅读要求上有所收益,在英语四级统考中提高应试能力。

参加本书编写的人员有王坚、朱士英、祁玲、刘姝、任瑞、余祖英、杨通美、周晓蔷、周常明、傅莲霞、濮宏魁等。

本书的编写出版得到了上海外语教育出版社编辑同志的具体指导和大力帮助,我们在此表示衷心感谢。

由于时间仓促,编者水平有限,本书一定存在着许多不尽如人意之处,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1997.9

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Reading Comprehension

100

Passage 1

When English people use the word 'hunting', they usually mean fox-hunting, a sport which is popular among a small but important minority. There are packs of hounds (猎狗) all over the country, and a 'meet', with the hunt (打猎队伍) all gathered together ready to start, many of the maleriders wearing 'pink' (that is red coats), is a colourful spectacle. Many of the horses are brought to the meet in vans, and on the whole hunting is a sport for the rich. A Master of Fox Hounds has a position of much honour. There are many people who would like to see fox-hunting forbidden by law on the ground that it is cruel, but there is little likelihood that this will be done. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals recognizes that other methods of killing foxes, such as shooting and trapping, may be more cruel than hunting. It includes enthusiastic fox-hunters among its most generous and socially eminent supporters, and is not inclined, as a body, to take steps against hunting. But it has an anti-hunting left wing.

I . Comprehension questions:

1. Which of the following is true?
 - A. Only a small number of people can afford fox-hunting.
 - B. Fox-hunting becomes a sport popular in Britain.
 - C. All the male hunters must be in red.
 - D. The sport of hunting is pursued all over the country.
2. From the passage we may draw the conclusion that
 - A. English people are fox hunters.
 - B. fox-hunting will not be against the law.
 - C. something is to be done to ban fox-hunting.
 - D. the British people like to use the word "hunting".
3. In the passage, the expression "on the ground" can be best replaced by _____.
 - A. on the surface of the earth
 - B. on the base of
 - C. with the reason that
 - D. in the field
4. What does the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals stand for concerning the

killing of foxes?

- A. Hunting foxes on the ground should be forbidden.
- B. Hunting is an acceptable way of killing foxes.
- C. A Master of Fox Hounds owns much honour.
- D. Besides hunting there are other ways of fox-killing.

5. In the passage, the word “meet” has the meaning of _____.

- A. gathering
- B. encounter
- C. conference
- D. seminar

II . Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 2

The transplanting of organs and tissues—hearts, kidneys, lungs, bone marrow—has become such an accepted part of medical practice that it is hard to remember when the technique was considered highly dubious. But as recently as the early 1950s, many doctors thought transplants would never be possible.

Thanks to breakthroughs by a few researchers, the doubts have long since vanished. Last week the Nobel committee recognized two of those early pioneers, both Americans. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine will go to Joseph Murray of Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, who performed the first successful transplant of a human organ—a kidney—in 1954, and to E. Donnall Thomas of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, Washington, who in 1956 was the first to transfer bone marrow from one person to another. They will split about \$ 700 000.

The award was something of a departure for the committee. It usually recognizes basic medical research, like the discovery of the structure of DNA (脱氧核糖核酸), rather than clinical treatments. But in this case, the benefit to humanity, a primary consideration, was clear: Murray's and Thomas's discoveries are “crucial for those tens of thousands of severely ill patients who either can be cured or given a decent life when other treatment methods are without success,” read the committee's citation(公开评语).

I . Comprehension questions:

1. What is implied in the first paragraph?
 - A. Transplants have undergone a very fast development within the last 30 years.
 - B. Sick people are ready to replace their parts of body nowadays.
 - C. Many doctors believe transplants are impossible.
 - D. It is accepted that transplants are the most curative.
2. What is true in the second paragraph?
 - A. Dr. Thomas is head of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre.
 - B. Joseph Murray was the first to transfer bone marrow.
 - C. Both are experts of organ and tissue transplanting.
 - D. Both doctors are regarded as the only two able to transplant human organs.
3. The word “split” in the end of para. 2 is best explained by _____.
 - A. spell
 - B. spend
 - C. award
 - D. divide
4. In which of the following did they make great achievements?
 - A. The basic medical research.
 - B. The clinical treatment.
 - C. The theoretical studying.
 - D. The exploration of the human body.

5. What is implied in the committee's citation?

- A. Both the doctors are lifesavers.
- B. Their discoveries help to cure all the diseases.
- C. Other treatment methods can also manage.
- D. They are able to lead all American patients to a decent life.

II . Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 3

Information that is necessary but would interrupt the flow of the text may be added as a footnote. Footnotes either comment on or further explain the text, or name the specific source of material, especially quoted material.

Several examples of footnotes that comment on the text appear in this book. Examples of footnotes that cite sources appear on the following pages. Most source material comes from books, periodicals, newspapers, or other reports. The purpose of a source citation is to enable a reader to find the original source, wherever it is, whether in the library, or in an agency or company file.

The name of the author is the most direct path to the source and the first of the four elements of a reference listing. The other three elements are: the title of the original book, periodical, newspaper, or report in which the author's work appears; the publishing history of the work; and the volume and page number of the cited material. Where books are concerned, the edition, if there is more than one, also must be listed. All these elements are considered in order below.

I . Comprehension questions:

1. Which of the following is not mentioned as a purpose of a footnote?
 - A. to make comments on the text
 - B. to explain the text
 - C. to tell the source of the material
 - D. to give variety to the writing
2. What footnotes appear on the following pages?
 - A. comment footnotes
 - B. footnotes indicating the origin of the material
 - C. explaining footnotes
 - D. footnotes for further information
3. What is the purpose of source citation?
 - A. To let the reader have the information through the original source.
 - B. The reader is shown how an argument is fully supported.
 - C. So that the context and the question will not be confused.
 - D. To show the reader where the information comes from.
4. What are the first and the third elements of a reference listing?
 - A. The title of the original book and the volume number of the material.
 - B. The name of the author and the publishing history of the book.
 - C. The original source and the page number.
 - D. The author's name and the edition of the book.
5. What is most likely to be discussed in the next part?

- A. The four elements, one by one.
- B. The way of listing the book's edition.
- C. Footnotes commenting on the text.
- D. Common practice in technical papers.

II . Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 4

Between ten and midnight the United States is politically leaderless—there is no center of information anywhere in the nation except in the New York headquarters of the great broadcasting companies and the two great wire services. No candidate and no party can afford the investment on election night to match the news-gathering resources of the mass media; and so, as every citizen sits in his home watching his TV set or listening to his radio, he is the equal of any other in knowledge. There is nothing that can be done in these hours, for no one can any longer direct the great strike for America's power; the polls have closed. Good or bad, whatever the decision, America will accept the decision—and cut down any man who goes against it, even though for millions the decision runs contrary to their own votes. The general vote is an expression of national will, the only substitute for violence and blood. Its verdict is to be defended as one defends civilization itself.

There is nothing like this American expression of will in England or France, India or Russia or China. Only one other major nation in modern history has ever tried to elect its leader directly by mass, free, popular vote. This was the Weimar Republic of Germany(魏玛共和国), which modeled its unitary vote for national leaders on the American practice. Out of its experiment with the system it got Hitler. Americans have had Lincoln, Wilson, two Roosevelts. Nothing can be done when the voting returns are flooding in; the White House and its power will move to one or another of the two candidates, and all will know about it in the morning. But for these hours history stops.

I . Comprehension questions:

1. Between 10 p.m. and midnight the United States has no leader because _____.
A. the president has resigned B. the strike for power has ended
C. the results of the election are not in D. the networks have shut down
2. "The great strike for America's power" in Para. 1 implies _____.
A. the strike of the mass media B. striking while the iron is hot
C. the election campaign D. the strike after the election
3. According to the author only one other major modern nation ever tried to elect its leader by mass, free, popular vote. That nation was _____.
A. India B. Germany C. Russia D. England
4. The author believes the decision at the polls will _____.
A. lead to anarchy B. result in men being cut down
C. cause violence and blood D. be defended by all Americans

5. The passage implies that the expression of the public will is best realized in _____.
A. England B. France C. Germany D. The United States

II . Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 5

In the dark night of the desert a group of U. S. Air Force scientists is testing a new device for guiding a missile to its target. Designed to seek out the heat of an enemy aircraft engine, it is now going through its paces (接受性能方面的检验) by tracing the movement of a flashlight waving thirty feet away in the darkness.

A hundred yards away, unseen by the men, an equally deadly missile is searching out its prey. Sliding between the stones of the desert, a rattlesnake senses a patch (一股) of warmth. Without a sound the snake closes in and strikes for the kill.

Those two incidents dramatize one of the newest and most fascinating investigations of modern science. For the simple fact that the missile's heat seeker, with its few thousand pounds of electronic gadgets (配件), is huge and clumsy compared to the snake's. Although the snake's mechanism is small enough to be packed into a head the size of a walnut, it can detect a change in temperature of one-thousandth of a degree. The men working on the missile finder would dearly love to know how, for no man-made device can equal this.

It is for the purpose of learning from nature that a new science has grown up. It is called bionics. Its aim is, with the help of biology and electronics, to find out how animals' apparatus work so that man can copy them for his own use.

I . Comprehension questions:

1. The best title for the passage is _____.
 - A. The Scientist and the Sensitive Snake
 - B. The Man-made Missile Finder
 - C. How to Learn From Nature
 - D. The Advantage of a New Science
2. According to the passage, what are the scientists doing in the dark night?
 - A. Seeking out the trace of the enemy.
 - B. Moving along the flashlight.
 - C. Conducting a trial experiment.
 - D. Making a device.
3. In the second paragraph, the phrase "strikes for the kill" can be best replaced by _____.
 - A. goes on a strike for the dead
 - B. beats the killer
 - C. strikes the killing snake
 - D. kills the prey
4. What result does this most fascinating investigation show?
 - A. The snake's mechanism is small, but more sensitive.
 - B. The men working on the missile finder would deeply love the snake.

- C. The man-made device can equal the sensitivity of the snake.
D. The investigation can be dramatized into a play.
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the new science “bionics” is the marriage between _____.
- A. physics and mathematics B. biology and electronics
C. modern science and biology D. botany and zoology

II . Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.

Passage 6

The natives of La Gomera can carry on long-distance conversations by whistling. For ordinary conversation they speak Spanish. But when they need to speak over a distance and ordinary speech is impossible, they use the silbo. This is the name of a whistled form of speech.

La Gomera is one of the smaller Canary Islands. It is very mountainous, for it was once a volcano. The island is almost circular in shape, with a high peak in the center. From this peak, deep, narrow gorges, separated by rocky ridges, run down to the coast like the spokes of a wheel. So in spite of the island's small size, walking from one place to another may be a slow and difficult job. That is why the silbo is so useful to the natives. A message can easily be whistled over a couple of miles, while to travel that same distance on foot might take an hour.

A good whistler, or silbador, can be heard and understood five miles away. His whistling can be heard even farther away when conditions are favorable—when there is little or no wind. It was said that the record is about nine miles. Anyone who has heard a first-class silbador will agree that this figure is quite possible.

Not only does a whistle carry farther than a shout, but it is easier to understand. When a person shouts, he cannot pronounce his words well. But in whistling, this problem does not exist. If a whistle is heard at all, it will be heard clearly.

The silbo can be used to say everything—anything that is speakable in Spanish is also “whistleable”. This is true partly because the Spanish language has such a simple sound system. The silbo would not work nearly so well with English.

I . Comprehension questions:

1. The title that best expresses the idea of this passage is _____.
 - A. The Whistle Language of La Gomera
 - B. The Whistle Skill of the Natives of La Gomera
 - C. The Relationship Between the Whistle Language and Spanish
 - D. Messages Carried by Whistling
2. What is the native language of the La Gomera?
 - A. Whistle
 - B. English
 - C. Silbo
 - D. Spanish
3. Why is the whistle language so useful to the natives?
 - A. They have to talk in that language.
 - B. Their island used to be a volcano.
 - C. Close talk is an uneasy job on the island.
 - D. The natives like to talk over a distance.
4. What can we infer from the passage?

- A. Only the natives understand the silbo.
- B. Whistle language will replace spoken language.
- C. It is likely that people will learn whistle language.
- D. A first class silbador can be heard nine miles away.

5. What language is whistled by silbo?

- A. Any languages in the world.
- B. Those with a simple sound system.
- C. The language the natives of La Gomera speak.
- D. The English language only.

II . Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.