

2 分钟快 速阅读丛书

大学英语六级

强化训练

主编：陈亦 杨晨



天津大学出版社
TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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天 津 大 学 出 版 社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语六级强化训练/陈亦,杨晨编. —天津:天津
大学出版社, 2001.8
(2 minutes 快速阅读丛书)
ISBN 7-5618-1478-X

I. 大… II. ①陈… ②杨… III. 英语—高等学校—水
平考试—习题 IV. H310.42-44

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2001) 第 045957 号

出版发行 天津大学出版社

出 版 人 杨风和

地 址 天津市卫津路 92 号天津大学内(邮编:300072)

电 话 发行部:022-27403647 邮购部:022-27402742

印 刷 河北省枣强新华胶印厂

经 销 全国各地新华书店

开 本 880mm × 1230mm 1/32

印 张 11.25

字 数 335 千

版 次 2001 年 8 月第 1 版

印 次 2001 年 8 月第 1 次

印 数 1-5 000

定 价 54.00 元(共三册)

出版说明

学过英语,尤其是达到一定等级(例如四级、六级及研究生以上水平等级)的人都明白阅读在学习和提高英语过程中所占的重要地位。尽管许多人明白这一道理,在日常学习中也阅读了大量的英文材料,但一到考试,总是不能达到自己预想的效果。这其中一条十分重要的原因就是在考试中不仅要充分理解所阅读的文章的内容,更重要的是提高阅读速度。如何做到快而准,达到事半功倍的效果?针对我国大学生中普遍存在的这种现象,我们在英语教学中,根据多年的实践,翻阅了国内外的大量资料同时吸收了国外在此方面的强化手段,精心编写了“2分钟快速阅读”丛书共三册,每册18元。这套丛书包括:

《大学英语四级强化训练》

《大学英语六级强化训练》

《研究生英语强化训练》

本套丛书是我们吸取了美国伊利诺斯州(Illinois)的一所名叫 Veblen 私立学校的教学方法,即在入学或毕业考试中,对学生(尤其是非英语国家的学生)进行简短抽测,采取计算机屏幕触摸选答的形式,时间为一分半钟。每30道题为一组,以此了解学生的阅读理解能力。本丛书所选阅读文章每段100个单词左右,规定时间为2分钟,以快速读,快速答及自测形式对阅读能力进行训练,每100段为一章,每章都含有容易、中等、较难三个层次,三种层次的段落混排,但所占比例相等。每章后附有阅读自测表及答案,每册书后有每章的进度表。本书题材多选自近10年来英美等国的报刊、杂志、教科书等各种书籍,涉及到教育、政治、历史、艺术、宗教、科学技术、商业、体育、工农业及时事等,语言纯正、地道、规范。通过强化训练,学生在提高阅读能力的同时,也可以多方面、多层次地增加自己的知识。

本书既可用作学生能力训练的辅助教材,也可用作教师参考书。由于编者水平有限,经验正在探索和积累,错误及不当之处在所难免,恳请读者批评指正。

编者

2001年7月天津

使用说明

建议读者先阅读本书使用说明,按下列方法自己在阅读之前做出自测计划,争取在最短时间内达到预期效果。

1. 每章给出 100 段短文,每段为不完整短文。短文后给出四个选项,先读短文,然后在选项中选出最佳项来完成短文,使其完整。例如:

The car was completely wrecked, but fortunately no one was

A. saved.

B. known.

C. injured.

D. insured.

通过阅读,我们看出四个选项中 injured 为最佳答案,可以使句子完整且合理。

2. 在阅读前,计划一下自己此次阅读的时间。例如:你想只用 20 分钟进行阅读训练,那么在这段时间内必须完成 10 段短文阅读并将答案写在“本章检测表”上,然后对照其背面的答案,验证自己阅读的结果。

3. 每个单元阅读完毕后,将你检测后的结果记录在书后的“检测进度表”中,以待本书阅读完后检查自己的进度,及时发现问题。

4. 读者可将每章后的“本章检测表”撕下,自己按照书中的样式复制一份,在几个人中互相检测,达到共同进步的目的。



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第一章

001

The publishers of a magazine are interested in including in their publication only those articles that will appeal to their readers. Writers who do not wish to have their work rejected should not send manuscripts to any magazine that merely suits their fancy. They should first select the magazine in which they wish to have an article appear and then write in accordance with

- A. their own ideas of magazine literature.
 - B. the greatest degree of self-expression.
 - C. the highest possible literary standards.
 - D. the editorial requirements of that magazine.
-

002

The low-lying lands around the Amazon River in South America are flooded for so many months of the year that houses cannot be built on the banks. Many houses and stores have to be built

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. in the dry season. | B. on floating rafts. |
| C. in other countries. | D. of moisture-proof brick. |
-

003

The word Pentateuch refers to the first five books of the Old Testament. A pentagon syllabic word has five syllables. A figure having five sides and five angles is called a pentagon. An athletic contest in which each athlete competes in a running long jump, throwing the javelin, a 200-meter race, throwing the discus,



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and a 1500-meter race is

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| A. a track meet. | B. an Olympic game. |
| C. a pentathlon. | D. a combination meet. |
-

004

Boating accidents of that are serious enough to report usually result from collision, capsizing, or fire. Although boating accidents such as deep cuts and sunburn are too minor to be newsworthy, they are often

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| A. fatal. | B. reported. |
| C. prevented. | D. very painful. |
-

005

Servius Tullius, the sixth king of Rome, divided the citizens into five classes according to the amount of property they owned. Certain studies of grammar and literature were considered appropriate for members of the first class but unnecessary for the lower classes. This is believed to be the reason that the term "the classics" came to refer, as it still does today, especially to the

- A. literature of ancient Greece and Rome.
 - B. best education for all Roman children.
 - C. curriculum of public schools.
 - D. philosophy of the Orient.
-

006

The opera singer entered at the height of success, when she was still less than forty years old. She said that for eighteen years she had given up everything



for her singing, and that she now wanted to be free to come and go and do as she pleased. She did not want to return to the exacting standards of her

A. talent.

B. native Italy.

C. career.

D. success.

007

Persons who are not afraid of the sea will soon be drowned, for they will be going out on a day when they should not. But those who are afraid of the sea, are drowned only

A. intentionally.

B. on Sundays.

C. occasionally.

D. in summer.

008

The sheep criticized the pigs because they squealed and screamed when the farmer grabbed them. One pig replied that the sheep could afford not to scream. The farmer wanted only the sheep's wool, but from the pigs the farmer wanted meat. All of us, in much the same way are more afraid of losing our life than of losing our

A. skin.

B. animals.

C. meat.

D. property.

009

If we feel that another person has some privileges that we would like to deny that person, yet we do not want any of our own desires to be thwarted, we are guilty of pursuing personal advantage to extremes. To combat this undesirable



trait, we should adopt the policy of

- A. more uniformity.
- B. stricter control.
- C. the golden rule.
- D. rewarding effort.

010

Birds, which developed relatively late in the geologic time scale, had certain advantages over the fish and reptiles of an earlier age. Compared to scales, feathers provided a warm covering that helped the bird maintain a temperature that is today higher than that of any other animal. Furthermore, feathers are lighter than scales, and the bird could fly over a wide area in search of food and away from its enemies. A principal factor in lifting bird life above its reptilian origin was

- A. lightness.
- B. speed.
- C. warmth.
- D. feathers.

011

Her thinking was direct and rigid; her standards were ever constant. She did not hold with qualifications and exceptions to a moral issue, for to her there was no middle ground. There could be

- A. a possible alternative.
- B. only right and wrong.
- C. a questioning of "truth."
- D. no dogmatism.

012

About a million years ago, during the last ice age, glaciers advanced across



large areas of North America. A glacier pushes the soil ahead of it, much as a bulldozer does. In the wake of the glaciers of the last ice age, central Canada was left barren and rocky, and the midwestern United States gained a double thickness of fertile soil, which supports rich crops. In the Midwest the glaciers

- A. did the most damage.
- B. had their origin.
- C. deposited Canada's soil.
- D. moved more slowly.

013

Throughout history people have modelled clay, cast metal, and carved wood, stone, and ivory. Although *sculpture* literally refers to carving, we use the word to refer to the representation of solid figures, even though they may have been formed by casting or modelling. We use the word *sculpture* for any kind of representation that is

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| A. animal. | B. human. |
| C. decorative. | D. three-dimensional. |

014

The present arrangement of the piano keyboard has been in use for hundreds of years. New arrangements have been designed in modern times that would facilitate playing and enlarge the resources of the instrument, but their use has not been

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| A. understood. | B. adopted. |
| C. publicized. | D. replaced. |



015

Crete, the fourth-largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, was the stepping-stone by which the learning of Asia and of Africa passed to Europe. Excavations on the island have given us the history of a strong, rich, and highly developed civilization that began there about 5,000 years ago. Now, after centuries of disastrous wars, most of the people of Crete are uneducated and poor. As compared with their early ancestors, they are

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| A. more Asiatic . | B. more modern . |
| C. less developed . | D. great travellers . |
-

016

The love of beauty is evident throughout the country in gardens, homes, public buildings, and shrines. Even inexpensive cooking utensils and everyday equipment reflect the good taste of all the people. Throughout that country the people seem not to produce anything that is

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| A. national . | B. artistic . |
| C. expensive . | D. ugly . |
-

017

In the twelfth century, the only European language well enough standardized for the abstract thought of academic learning was Latin. Any European who would claim to be educated at that time thus had to have some knowledge of

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| A. logic and religion . | B. Latin . |
| C. Greek history . | D. mathematics . |



018

Some shades look very different in artificial light from the way they look in natural daylight. Department stores plan the lighting in some departments to simulate daylight as much as possible. Customers who are very particular and want to be sure about a shade often carry objects to

- A. a good judge of fabric.
- B. the brightest light.
- C. an outside window.
- D. the wrapping department.

019

Present studies of the criminal personality are of dubious validity because all of their data are based on prisoners. A large segment of the class of criminals may possess some characteristics that are present in a much greater or lesser degree in prisoners. Prisoners, after all, represent only a selected group of criminals—those who have been

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| A. lawless. | B. electrocuted. |
| C. maladjusted. | D. caught. |

020

Wool filaments are only about 15 centimeters long, but they can be spun together to make pieces of yarn many meters long. The short filaments are twisted together to make yarn. The yarn does not come untwisted because the filaments are covered with tiny scales, something like fish scales. When the filaments are twisted around one another, the scales

- A. hook the filaments together.



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- B. can be sewed together.
 - C. become flat and smooth.
 - D. are twisted off.
-

021

A racehorse owner who wants a horse to be a winner as a three-year-old should be careful not to race the horse too much as a two-year-old. Early and overly intensive racing may well produce physical unsoundness of one sort or another. Many racehorses fail to live up to their initial promise because their owners have failed to

- A. hire jockeys with sufficient skill to win.
 - B. provide adequate veterinary attention.
 - C. provide early racing experience.
 - D. limit their early racing experience.
-

022

Six cities in ancient Palestine served as refuges for people who had killed another person by accident or to protect themselves. No one guilty of deliberate murder was allowed to remain in one of the cities of refuge. A fair trial was given each person who sought refuge. If declared guilty of deliberate murder, the person was

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| A. retried. | B. imprisoned. |
| C. sent away. | D. given refuge. |
-

023

In a criminal case, the lawyers on both sides question the prospective juror.



If the answers show that a person is prejudiced, or has an opinion about the guilt or innocence of the accused, or objects to the penalty that may be inflicted—such as death—then this person is excused from jury duty by the judge. Each side may excuse an agreed-upon number by stating a cause. Trials are often dragged out by the difficulty of

- A. pleasing the judge.
 - B. getting a conviction.
 - C. selecting a jury.
 - D. presenting evidence.
-

024

I have known a vast quantity of nonsense talked about bad people not looking you in the face. Don't trust that conventional idea. Dishonesty will stare honesty out of countenance any day in the week, if there is anything to be got by it. In other words,

- A. honesty is the best policy.
 - B. might makes right.
 - C. evil people may have honest faces.
 - D. honest toil bears a lovely face.
-

025

Lynching is a term applied to punishment meted out by unauthorized groups acting outside the law. The term lynching is believed to have derived from the acts of Judge Charles Lynch, a Virginia justice of the peace, who, during the Revolutionary War, caused British loyalists to be flogged without giving them acts

- A. a chance to pay their fines.



- B. recourse to due process of law.
 - C. the choice of enlistment in the Continental Army.
 - D. the opportunity return to England.
-

026

About one-third of the world's usable land is jungle. Living in the jungle is very difficult, because there are constant threats from disaster and disease. Many of these areas have rich vegetable and mineral resources that will be available for use if the jungle regions can be

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| A. discovered. | B. cooled. |
| C. drained. | D. controlled. |
-

027

Totally new cities that will be built in the future may be better planned than the large cities that already exist. Old cities were not planned for the great growth in population and industry that they have had, and many are in the process of tearing down and rebuilding large sections. This process is helping to improve some old cities—both large and small ones—but it does not give them the choice of complete city designing that will be available to

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| A. richer cities. | B. larger cities. |
| C. foreign cities. | D. new cities. |
-

028

We should not always look with disapproval upon those who try new ways of doing things, some of those who are quite different from us may be great inven-



tors. We do not need to demand

- A. open-mindedness.
- B. that leaders be original.
- C. social experiments.
- D. absolute conformity.

029

In early times, the javelin was used as a hunting tool or as a weapon in battle. It is now thrown for distance in athletic contests. There are definite regulations concerning the length and weight of the javelin, and the javelin must fall within a certain sector. The winner is determined by the

- A. weight of javelin used.
- B. number of targets hit.
- C. distance thrown.
- D. length of javelin used.

030

From the Italian Renaissance of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries until the period after World War II, large public and private buildings in Europe and in the United States were, with a few exceptions, monotone masses of stone, either of white or black marble, granite, brownstone, or sandstone. Decorations were carved in the same stone as was used for the building. After World War II countless large buildings were constructed of materials other than stone and with a wide variety of hues. The centuries-old tradition of using a monotone in architectural design has finally been

A. accepted.

B. copied.