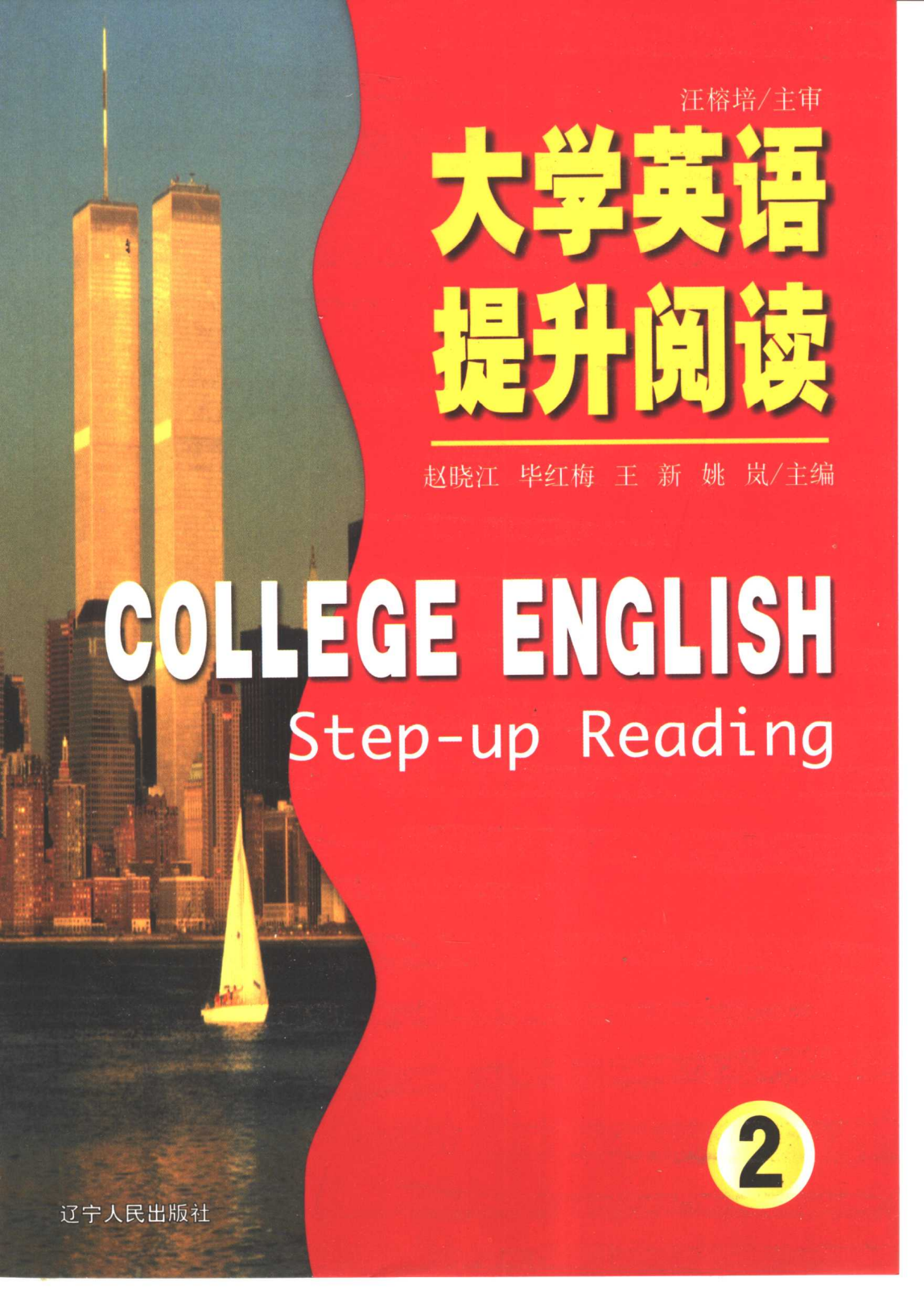




汪榕培/主审

大学英语 提升阅读

赵晓江 毕红梅 王 新 姚 岚/主编

COLLEGE ENGLISH Step-up Reading

2

辽宁人民出版社

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语提升阅读.2/赵晓江,毕红梅,王新,姚岚主编. - 沈阳:辽宁人民出版社,2001.9

ISBN 7-205-05152-5

I. 大… II. ①赵… ②毕… ③王… ④姚… III. 英语 - 阅读教学 - 高等学校 - 教学参考资料 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2001)第 061177 号

辽宁人民出版社出版、发行

(沈阳市和平区十一纬路 25 号 邮政编码 110003)

沈阳新华印刷厂印刷

开本:880×1230 毫米 1/32 字数:260 千字 印张:8%

印数:1—10,000 册

2001 年 9 月第 1 版

2001 年 9 月第 1 次印刷

责任编辑:王桂山 刘永淳 责任校对:永 淳

封面设计:刘冰宇 版式设计:王珏非

定价:14.20 元

《大学英语提升阅读》编委会

主 审：汪榕培

总 主 编：张 宜 张绮思

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张 勤 张 宜 赵晓江

本册主编：赵晓江 毕红梅 王 新

姚 岚

作 者：（姓氏汉语拼音序）

毕红梅 丁 颖 顾骁南

黄 莉 姜 捷 李 丹

潘海鸥 王 新 王瑶瑶

姚 岚 于晓丽 张 隽

张 莉 赵晓江

前言

阅读是打好语言基础、获取所需信息的重要途径，大量阅读是从根本上提高英语综合能力的最基本手段。大学英语四、六级考试中，阅读理解试题占总分的 40%，而其他部分试题也有赖于考生拥有较强的阅读理解能力。因而，无论是教师教英语，还是学生学英语，都应把提高阅读理解能力放在突出位置。

为了帮助广大学生全面提高英语阅读理解能力，系统了解并掌握四、六级考试中阅读理解、简答、翻译等方面的内容和技能，我们在总结长期教学经验与教训、广泛研究现行各版本大学英语教材的基础上，精心策划、编写了这套《大学英语提升阅读》(1~4 册)。目的是为广大读者提供一套既符合读者认知特点，又有助于培养读者驾驭语言能力，增强四、六级考试信心和实力的阅读理解教材。

该套书选材广泛，内容新颖，体裁多样，既注重知识性、信息性，又不失趣味性与实用性。内容涵括科普知识、科幻小品、网络知识、生物趣闻、世界奇迹、名人轶事、异域文化、社会热点、历史事件等方方面面。全套书共选编短文 320 篇，每册 80 单元。每单元由(1)文章正

文；(2)旁注；(3)背景知识；(4)练习题；(5)练习题答案；(6)谚语、诗歌、幽默故事等六部分组成。第一册词汇量为 1700~2000 词；第二册为 2000~2500 词；第三册为 2500~3500 词；第四册为 3500~4800 词。全书按循序渐进、梯度提升的方式进行编排，书中材料互有联系，语汇复现率高，便于读者联想和记忆。为提高学习效率，建议广大读者独立完成练习后再查阅答案。该套书可作为高校本科生的阅读教材，教学需 72 学时，供 2 学年使用，也可作为广大英语爱好者的自学用书。全套书由多所高校富有经验的专家、学者集体编写。由张宜、张绮思负责统稿。在全书编写过程中，我们参阅了国内外大量相关资料；著名专家、大连外国语学院院长汪榕培教授对这套书的设计、选材作了全面的指导和审定，在此，我们一并深表感谢！

限于编者的水平和经验，书中疏漏和不妥之处在所难免，恳请广大读者批评指正！

编 者

2001 年 7 月

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Passage 1

Mermaids

People the world over tell tales of *sirens*¹ and *mermaids*². In Germany strange, beautiful women — only part human — are said to sit on rocks in *the Rhine River*³, singing sweet songs. Any man who listens to them will go out of his mind. In Italian legends, mermaids come ashore, marry men, and *bear*⁴ them children. But in time these mermaid wives desert their husbands and take their children away to the depth of the ocean. The Chinese say the mermaids pass their time *weaving*⁵. When they weep, their tears turn into pearls.

(1) Despite all stories, no one has ever captured one of these strange beings — alive or dead. A man once claimed to have found a mermaid. The creature he displayed did indeed look half human, half fish. (2) But closer inspection showed that it was *nothing but*⁶ the head and shoulders of a dried monkey and the tail of a fish — sewn together by the cunning *faker*⁷!

1. *siren*
[ˈsaɪərən] *n.*
塞壬（希腊神，半人半鸟的妖怪，常以美妙歌声诱惑经过的海员而使航船触礁毁灭）
2. *mermaid*
[ˈmɜːmeɪd] *n.*
美人鱼
3. *the Rhine River* *n.*
莱因河（欧洲）
4. *bear*
[beə] *v.*
生育
5. *weave*
[wiːv] *v.*
纺织
6. *nothing but*
只是
7. *faker*
[ˈfeɪkə] *n.*
伪造者

背景知识

美人鱼 (mermaid), 雄性称为人鱼 (merman), 是传说中的半人半鱼, 栖息在大海或其他内陆水域。在欧洲民间传说中, 美人鱼和人鱼都是自然界生物, 但像神仙一样, 有法术, 能预言。它们爱音乐, 常唱歌, 虽然长寿, 仍不免一死, 并且没有灵魂。从外表上看, 胸部以上是人。胸部以下是鱼。许多民间故事记述美人鱼 (能变人形) 与人婚配。美人鱼和人鱼尽管有时是友善的, 通常却对人类十分危险。他们的礼物会带来厄运, 如果冒犯他们, 就会造成洪水或其他灾害。

Comprehension of the passage

I. Multiple choice

- Some tales suggest that mermaids and sirens have _____.
A. no interest in men
B. harmful effects on men
C. a great fear of men
D. no power over men
- Mermaids seem to have no effect on people in the stories told by the _____.
A. Germans B. Danes
C. Italians D. Chinese
- The writer suggests that he would believe in mermaids if he _____.
A. read more stories about them
B. saw a picture of one
C. met a fisherman who had seen one
D. none of the above
- A man once claimed to have found _____.
A. a husband deserted by a mermaid
B. a monkey swimming in the ocean
C. a dead mermaid's body

D. the child of a mermaid

5. Close inspection showed that the creature was really _____.

A. a being with a human head

B. parts of two creatures

C. a monkey with a fish's head

D. a large sea lion

II. Translate the underlined sentences into Chinese

- (1) _____
- (2) _____

Key to Passage 1

I. Multiple choice

1. B 见第一段第二、三、四、五句。在德国，塞壬以歌声诱惑人们使其发狂；根据意大利传说，美人鱼把人类丈夫的孩子带到深海中。

2. D 见第一段后两句，美人鱼纺织，哭时，眼泪变成珍珠，因此，他们对中国人没有 effect。

3. D 第二段第一句为答案。答案 A 错，因为作者不相信 stories，尽管有很多。B 项没提到。答案 C 错在：根据本段第一句，作者只相信捉到的实物，所以他不会相信 a fisherman who had seen one 告诉他的。

4. C 见第二段第二句。因为要证明的是 mermaid 是否存在，答案只能是 C。claim 意为声称，自称如何如何。实际怎样就不好说了。

5. B 根据最后一句，经过检查看出，head 和 shoulders 是猴子的；tail 是鱼的。

II. Translation

(1) 尽管有那么多传说，没有人抓到过一只这样奇怪的生物。

(2) 但是，更仔细的检查表明，它只是一只干枯猴子的头、肩和一条鱼的尾巴的拼凑物——被这名狡猾的造假者缝合在一起的。

Famous quotation

Cultivation to the mind is as necessary as food for the body.

——Cicero, ancient Roman statesman and orator

学习对于头脑，如同食物对于身体一样不可缺少。

——西塞罗（古罗马政治家、演说家）

Passage 2

Sun Stones

Between A. D. 700 and 1100, northern **rovers**¹ called **Vikings**² explored most of the known world. They even crossed the Atlantic and reached the shores of North America. Yet they had no compasses or other modern instruments. How did they find their way?

The Vikings stayed near coasts whenever they could. In open seas they navigated by the sun. On cloudy days they used sun stones. Sun stones were probably pieces of a crystal now called **cordierite**³. This substance has the power to filter sunlight. **Peering**⁴ through a sun was and thus plot his ship's latitude.

(1) Today sky compasses are used to guide some **Scandinavian**⁵ jets across polar regions, where a magnetic compass would be of no use.

(2) Though more complex, the sky compass works in the same way as the sun stones used by the Vikings more than a thousand years ago.

1. rover
[ˈrəʊvə] n.
海盗, 流浪者
2. Viking
[ˈvaɪkɪŋ] n.
(8 到 10 世纪时劫掠欧洲海岸的) 北欧海盗
3. cordierite
[ˈkɔːdiəraɪt] n.
堇青石
4. peer
[piə] v.
凝视
5. Scandinavian
[ˌskændiˈneɪviən] n.
斯堪的纳维亚人(的)

背景知识

1. 堇青石 (cordierite) 是蓝色的硅酸盐矿物。以晶体或颗粒形式产生于火山岩中, 是岩浆受铝质沉积物的混染作用的结果。

2. 罗经 (compass) 是在地球上航行的基本测向仪器。船舶上使用的称航海罗经。用于飞机、地上车辆和测量的罗经在结构形式上和航海罗经略有不同, 但作用原理则一样。罗经可分为三大类: 利用地磁场的作用力带动磁针指示方向的磁罗经、由地球的旋转作用指示方向的回转罗经、利用太阳或可见恒星指示方向的太阳罗经。

Comprehension of the passage

I. Multiple choice

- The Vikings traveled mostly _____.
A. by aircraft B. in ships
C. on foot D. on horseback
- Coastlines often helped the Vikings _____.
A. discover good hunting areas
B. hide from their enemies
C. keep away from rocks
D. find their way
- Sun stones were used when _____.
A. the night was dark
B. the day was clear
C. clouds hid the sun
D. no winds blew
- Sky compasses are used in polar regions because _____.
A. radar is useless at the poles
B. the days are so short
C. magnetic compasses won't work there
D. sun stones are no longer available

5. The last paragraph shows that _____.
- A. a principle used by the Vikings is still in use today
 - B. cordierite is composed of three different metals
 - C. the Vikings lived in what is now Scandinavia
 - D. the Vikings usually followed the lines of latitude to their destinations

II. Translate the underlined sentences into Chinese

(1)

(2)

Key to Passage 2

I. Multiple choice

1. B 见第一段第一、二句。他们是海盗，横穿大西洋到达北美，可见他们是乘船的
2. D 第二段第一句表示，海盗尽量靠海岸行船及后边说在其他情况下如何认路。
3. C 根据第二段第三句，在 cloudy days 他们使用太阳石。
4. C 第三段第一句表明，天空指南针是在极地使用，因为在那儿磁性指南针没有用
5. A 第三段最后一句说，天空指南针的工作方法与一千多年前北欧海盗使用的太阳石方法是一样的

II. Translation

- (1) 今天，天空指南针被用于指引一些斯堪的纳维亚喷气式飞机穿越极地，因为磁罗盘在那儿没有用
- (2) 尽管天空指南针更复杂，但是它的工作原理与一千多年前北欧海盗使用的太阳石原理是一样的

Famous quotation

When you want knowledge like you want air and then you will get it.

——Socrates

当你需要知识就像你在水底需要空气时，你准能得到它

——苏格拉底

Passage 3

Eye Contact

Eye contact is important because insufficient or *excessive*¹ eye contact may create communication *barriers*². It is important in relationships because it serves to show *intimacy*³, attention, and influence.

As with facial expressions, there are no specific rules governing eye behavior except that it is considered rude to stare, especially at strangers. It is, however, common for two strangers to walk toward each other, make eye contact, smile and perhaps even say "Hi." The strangers may immediately look away and forget that they even had any contact. This type of glance does not mean much; it is simply a way of *acknowledging*⁴ another person's presence. (1) In a conversation too little eye contact may be seen negatively because it conveys lack of interest, inattention, or even mistrust. (2) The relationship between mistrust and lack of eye contact is stated directly in the expression, "Never trust a person who can't look you in the eyes."

1. excessive
[ik'sesiv] a.
过多的
2. barrier
['bæriə] n.
障碍
3. intimacy
['intiməsi] n.
亲密
4. acknowledge
[ək'nɒlɪdʒ] v.
承认

Comprehension of the passage

I. Multiple choice

1. Eye contact is important because _____.