

大学英语

ESP快速阅读教程 (初级)



ESP FAST READING OF
COLLEGE ENGLISH
(BASIC)

总主编 贾爱武

主 编 沈志法

审 订 [美] Chuck Wheeler



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前 言

为了适应我国高等教育发展的新形势,深化教学改革,提高教学质量,满足新时期国家和社会对人才培养的需要,教育部于 2007 年颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求》(以下简称为《课程要求》)。新颁布的《课程要求》将大学阶段的英语教学要求分为三个层次,即一般要求、较高要求与更高要求。每个层次都对学生的英语快速阅读能力提出了具体标准。如在较高要求中,《课程要求》规定:“在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度适中的材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟 120 词。能阅读所学专业的综述性文献,并能正确理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节”。

依据《课程要求》的具体指标,原《大学英语快速阅读》丛书编写组重新组织了一批具有丰富的教学与教材编写经验的一线教师,在原系列教材和省级精品课程建设的基础上,突出创新,强化特色,重新编写了《大学英语 ESP 快速阅读教程》全套教材。力求帮助学生有的放矢地开展快速阅读训练,提高学生对有关专业文献及一般题材的阅读水平与英语交际能力。

本套丛书分为初级、中级、高级,达到《课程要求》规定的较高要求层次。本套丛书选材为国外主流报刊、杂志、网站的最新文章及学术著作、论文。材料来源权威,题材广泛,特别增加了热门专业的英语专业文献及用语,体现了教学及教材专业性、知识性、新颖性、趣味性 & 科学性相结合的特点。教程中的练习均为参编教师自主编写,练习形式与大学英语四、六级考试完全一致,难度适中,具有很强的针对性;本套教程还参考了大学英语一般、较高、更高要求三个层次的词汇表,运用 Antconc 语料检索工具进行了筛选、统计和修改,使选材更具科学性。

本套教材在编写过程中,借鉴了 *The Mirror*, *Time*, *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Reader's Digest*, *Science News For Kids*, *CNN*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Educational Psychology*, www.wikjhow.com, www.amanet.org, www.worldstudy.gov, www.sbs.com, www.foxnews.com, www.ehow.com 等国外主流媒体的文章;所选文章的作者如下: Apryl Duncan, Brad Tuttle, Caleb Hellerman, Chiara Pazzano, Christian Hudspeth, David Lazarus, Dorie Clark, Jacque Wilson, Jeff Durham, John Hechinger, John Santrok, Kenneth Jeyaretnam, Joyce Brothers, Michael Cahill, Michael Crowley, Nathan Wong, Noelle Carver, Patrick Kiger, Rashid Javed, Rhondda Waddell, Tim Arango 等,在此一并表示感谢。

本书为《大学英语 ESP 快速阅读教程(初级)》,共有 15 单元,供大学英语二级以上学生以及程度相当的英语爱好者和自学者使用。遵循由浅到深、由易到难的编排原则。阅读速度从每分钟 85 词过渡到 90 词。每篇文章后面都有专门针对快速阅读的 Skimming and Scanning 练习。课文阅读和快速阅读练习设定了建议完成时间和实际完成时间,便于课堂操作和学生自学。每篇文章后还附有词汇拓展练习,旨在帮助学生巩固所学词汇。

本册书由浙江工商大学外国语学院组织编写。Unit 1 由王甲能编写, Unit 2 由余双全编写, Unit 3、9 由杨盈编写, Unit 4 由钟含春编写, Unit 5 由沈志法编写, Unit 6 由陈培良编写, Unit 7 由朱肖一编写, Unit 8 由李先玉编写, Unit 10 由朱庆编写, Unit 11 由贾爱武编写, Unit 12 由姜渭清编写, Unit 13 由梅桂能编写, Unit 14 由王晓英编写, Unit 15 由刘旭凤编写。本册由沈志法老师统稿, 美籍专家 Chuck Wheeler 审校, 贾爱武教授确定了全套丛书的编写原则并主审了全书稿。

本书的编辑出版得到了浙江工商大学出版社和教务处等有关部门与领导的大力支持和帮助, 谨此一并表示感谢。

囿于编者水平与经验, 教材编写难免留有不足之处, 希望广大读者批评指正。

丛书编委会

2012 年夏

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Unit One

Passage One

How to Raise an A-plus Student

A recent study by Columbia University found American home-schoolers outscoring all other groups on university entrance exams. But home-schooled children aren't the only ones with involved parents. Academically successful kids in traditional schools also get lots of support at home. We met three families facing different circumstances to find out exactly how they've managed to raise A-plus kids.

It All Begins with Books

A slim, even-tempered 12-year-old, Amrita Soon of Kuala Lumpur, has accomplished things that would make any parent proud. She won a computer when she finished second in the Pavillion KL Young Inspirations Award last year and received a distinction for science at the international educational assessment conducted by the University of New South Wales in Australia.

But there's one thing that truly sets Amrita apart. She and her 11-year-old sister, Samanta, are being educated at home. Their mother Chong Wai Leng, a music teacher, and father, Soon Koi Koon, chief executive of an IT company, both 43, share the teaching duties.

Chong knows what her kids should learn — as measured by a national exam that all Malaysian students must take at the end of grade six — but she focuses much of her efforts on something else.

Says Chong, “I expose them to different experiences and try to keep their *inquisitiveness* (好奇心) about the world around them alive.” As a home-schooling parent, she has learned to view the whole world as an educational laboratory. And it all begins with how the home is set up.

Most critical of all, there are books — a home library with all kinds of books for adults and children. Their parents began reading to the children when they were just a few months old, instilling a love of books. “We are *avid readers* (书迷) ourselves, but we do not force them to read,” Chong says. Nevertheless, Amrita followed her parents' example — her mother says she was a very early reader.

Taking a Hard Line

Mabel Balboa, 42, a single mother of three, lives in Tacloban on Leyte Island, Philippines. A library administrator, she can barely afford to send her children to school. But she hasn't let her own economic struggles keep her three kids from succeeding.

The family's two-bedroom apartment provides a home that is cosy and inviting. One thing that keeps it that way is Balboa's strict set of rules. Janella and her 16-year-old sister, Mia, are not allowed to go out when she is working. Instead, they must stay at home and read, and complete all school assignments on time. Her children understand that she is strict with them only because she loves them and is concerned.

Balboa never stops watching. "I try to check on them often," she says. "I will go through their bags before they sleep and make sure they finish all their school assignments. It is important to be in touch with what is happening to your children and see their needs." She understands that being deeply involved in her children's lives has made a difference in their education. To do it, she had to swallow her pride.

Balboa knew she had to get her kids reading early on. So she took them to the local public library. "They borrowed books after their nursery classes and read at home." At night, she read aloud to them despite being tired after a full day of work.

All the effort is paying off. Janella studies independently and works hard at being one of the top students in her class. Mia has just graduated from high school and will study education at a local college. "I am proud of my children," Balboa declares.

Time to Take Charge

Phyllis Lee of Singapore knew something wasn't right. Her younger son, Alex, then six years old, was getting good grades in his private kindergarten classes. But Lee, a deputy general manager at a food manufacturing company, realised something was wrong when Alex came home one day, crying, with "zeroes" on his Chinese spelling test. Lee decided to investigate.

According to Lee, the teacher would frequently describe Alex's Chinese writing as "ghost writings" and made him a laughing stock in class instead of helping him out.

Lee, 46, spent the next 12 months tutoring Alex and still helps him when necessary. She not only taught him the formation of the Chinese words but also their origin so he could understand better, often taking more than an hour to read a simple paragraph. Visits to the library and surfing the Internet kept her up to speed on teaching materials. Alex's grades improved and by the end of Year One, he had become one of the top students in Chinese in his class.

Alex is maintaining an A-plus average in all subjects, and his mother's intense involvement is a big reason behind it. Alex, now 11, recently wrote a book *chronicling* (记录) his struggles with Chinese, which an international tuition centre has published to inspire its students. He also occasionally writes for local student magazines.

To Lee, one of the most valuable things she does is to take turns with her husband to drive Alex to school. “We’d talk along the way. Talking enables me to have a better understanding of my children and alerts me about changes every now and then so that I know when to get involved,” she says.

(887 words)

阅读及练习 1 建议用时: 15 分 25 秒

实际用时: _____

Exercises

I . Skimming and Scanning

Directions: Go over the passage quickly and answer the following questions.

For questions 1~7, select the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.

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

- To achieve academic success, kids in traditional schools also need _____ at home.
A) professional schooling B) extracurricular tutorials
C) parental support D) standardized training
- Which subject may Amrita Soon of Kuala Lumpur be particularly good at?
A) Mathematics. B) Science.
C) Physics. D) Biology.
- As a home-schooling parent, what does Chong Wai Leng focus on to teach her kids at home?
A) Experiences and curiosity. B) Scores in examinations.
C) Physical skills. D) A world-wide horizon.
- How did Amrita become a very early reader?
A) Her parent forced her to read at a very early age.
B) She developed a love for books with the home library.
C) She tried to follow parents’ example to read in the library.
D) She always read adults’ books at the home library.
- What kind of difficulty does Mabel Balboa face to support her children’s education?
A) Overburdened housework. B) A too much busy job.
C) Financial pressure. D) Short of experience in home schooling.
- The family owes its cosy and inviting home atmosphere to Balboa’s _____.
A) hard working B) assignments for home schooling
C) concern about children’s study D) strict set of rules towards children
- According to Balboa, what makes a difference in children’s education at home?
A) Being deeply involved in their lives. B) Continuously watching their behavior.
C) Checking their homework. D) Caring nothing about their needs.
- When Lee felt there might be something wrong with Alex’s score in Chinese spelling test, she took the charge of _____.
- To shorten the teaching time of Chinese words formation and origin to Alex, Lee

always got materials from _____.

10. To get involved with children, Lee always takes turns with her husband to drive Alex to school, and they _____.

II . Expanding Vocabulary

Directions: For each of the underlined words or phrases, four choices are given. Choose the one that best explains or defines the underlined word(s).

- A recent study by Columbia University found American home-schoolers outscore all other groups on university entrance exams.
A) outpointing B) outwitting C) defeating D) conquering
- A slim, even-tempered 12-year-old, Amrita Soon of Kuala Lumpur, has accomplished things that would make any parent proud.
A) assigned B) arranged C) achieved D) stopped
- She received a distinction for science at the international educational assessment conducted by the University of New South Wales in Australia.
A) criticism B) reward C) honor D) glory
- But there's one thing that truly sets Amrita apart.
A) distinguishes B) separates C) isolates D) outshines
- Their parents began reading to the children when they were just a few months old, instilling a love of books.
A) producing B) generating C) cultivating D) initiating
- Her children understand that she is strict with them only because she loves them and is concerned.
A) irritated B) nervous C) annoyed D) anxious
- She not only taught him the formation of the Chinese words but also their origin so he could understand better, often taking more than an hour to read a simple paragraph.
A) derivation B) complexity C) history D) mystery
- Alex's grades improved and by the end of Year One, he had become one of the top students in Chinese in his class.
A) skipped B) dropped C) progressed D) leaped
- Alex is maintaining an A-plus average in all subjects, and his mother's intense involvement is a big reason behind it.
A) active B) frequent C) positive D) repetitive
- "Talking enables me to have a better understanding of my children and alerts me about changes every now and then so that I know when to get involved," she says.
A) now and again B) over time
C) now and forever D) at times

Passage Two

Tips for Your Last Two Years at College

Many students, when thinking about how to do well in college, focus on the first year or two. But there are lots of things you can do in the last two years of college, which will not only make your second half of college go more smoothly, but will put you in the very best position for what comes next: be it a career, or graduate or professional school. Here are our 10 best tips:

1. Take charge of your course selection. You might be used to having someone else (often your adviser) picking your courses from your first two years at college. But now you're a major and you should be setting your own program. Two good ideas are to cluster your courses around some area of the major (say, British history), and to take a few courses with a single professor whom you know to be really good. And if there's one professor who's world-famous in some field, or known to be an especially good teacher, be sure to take something from him or her. You wouldn't want to graduate the school without having taken the best it has to offer.

2. Seek out seminars. One of the best features of work in a major is the opportunity to take seminars, which are small group classes that focus on some single topic or issue and in which students have a major role in preparing the material. Often this is where you get the highest-level—and most hands-on—study of the material and in which you learn best about the field.

3. Polish up your skills. As you do more advanced work in your major, you might discover that you're coming up a little short or some required skill. If you find some deficiency in your training, or even if some related course would just be helpful for your training, now's the time to sign up for what you need. Neglected areas tend to get worse as you work your way deeper into the major.

4. Develop a research interest (or two). In the midst of the 10 or 12 courses you're taking in your chosen major, you should be sure to develop some topic, focus, or question of your own: something that you are thinking about, and developing your own view about, on an ongoing basis. A major is a chance to develop your own "intellectual identity". And if you decide to go to grad school in that field, the first thing they'll ask you, right on the application, is a personal statement of your research interests.

5. Write a thesis. In addition to your coursework, sign up for a senior thesis, if it's available at your school. This is a wonderful opportunity to work one on one with a professor, on a topic of your own choosing, often with weekly (or at least bi-weekly) office meetings. Just be sure to bring some written work, or at least some questions or issues for discussion, to each of the meetings.