

主编 冯大雄 史蓓琪

■ 中学英语300训练系列

基础卷

高中英语阅读 300篇

300篇

ENGLISH READING PASSAGES



上海交通大学出版社
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(基础卷)

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内 容 提 要

本书收集了 300 多篇短文,分文化教育、科普常识、卫生保健、风土人情、风云人物、世界各地、动物植物、兴趣活动、微型故事、应用信息、段落大意共 11 个单元。文章题材广泛,语言规范,难度适中,适合读者扩大知识面、提高阅读水平的要求,起到了巩固知识、指导学习的目的。书末附有全部练习参考答案。

本书可供广大高中生课外阅读;也可作为参加高考复习的学生及指导教师的阅读材料。

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前 言

这是一套旧书,从中学英语 300 训练丛书自第一本《中级英语阅读 300 篇(高中卷)》初版算起,已有十多个年头了。现在,整套丛书已有近 20 种书,市场反应热烈,多次重印,总印数超过百万。丛书中有的单本印数已超过了 20 万册,并有数本书获“全行业优秀畅销书”奖,深受广大中学生读者的欢迎。

这又是一套新书,因为现在呈现在读者面前的,是为 2010 世博会以后的学生读者重新修订与增补的全新的“300 系列”丛书。时代是在发展的,这套丛书当然也必须随着时代的发展而发展,随着教育的发展而变化。这十多年来,教育事业,特别是英语教学有了很大的变化。随着新课标在全国各地的推广,英语教学更加重视基础、重视实用。反映在考试中,是更加强调基础性和实用性。正是在这样的形势下,丛书的编者决定对其实行改版。

首先,是更换了部分较陈旧的题型和题目,更换了某些略嫌过时的内容,而代之以更新鲜的话题和内容。其次,考虑到考试的实际情况,将原先分别出书的语法,词汇及基础知识三册书合而为一,作为《词汇和语法 300 题》出版。

此外,为了让更多读者结合自身的学习情况有更多的选择,一个很重要的变动是除了听力和写作外,其余各册都推出“基础卷”和“提高卷”。读者可以根据学习的进度和深度,在使用“基础卷”感到学有余力时,选用“提高卷”。

英语学习中最重要、学生花时间最多的、也是考试中分值最多的部分,是阅读。在这方面,再怎样重视都不为过。近年来国家教育部和上海市教委分别编制、并已付诸实践的新《英语课程标准》对英语阅读能力给出了明确的规定,特别是不约而同地对课外阅读

量作了具体要求。国家教育部的课程标准对高中毕业生的阅读要求是累计 33 万词,而上海市的课程标准中,根据将上海建成国际大都市的要求,对在校生提出了更高的要求:小学生 10 ~ 12 万词,初中生 20 ~ 23 万词,高中生 30 ~ 45 万词,累计达 60 ~ 80 万词。

基础卷在原书的基础上修订而成,阅读材料略低于高考的水平,因此每节的最后,我们集中编选了几篇全国各地高考的实考卷中的阅读理解题的文章,以其中的 A 篇 B 篇为主,数量少则 3 篇,多则 6 ~ 7 篇。

提高卷则全部重新编纂。所选材料坚持以原创为主,当然也参考并选用了少量我们同事或同行编写的一些材料,特别是为了让学生体验并积累中、高考的实战经验,我们还适当选编了适量中、高考实考卷的精彩材料,每节可能有 6 ~ 7 篇,而且多选的是其中的 D、E 诸篇,也不再集中编排,而散见于各节中,显然更适于读者高考前做好准备,获取高分。

所谓“基础”与“提高”,当然因人而异,因此应该根据同学们自己的水平选择。但总的来说,我们推荐一般读者从高一或高二开始使用“基础卷”,在高三使用“提高卷”。这样可能更符合循序渐进的原则。

应邀参加本书编写的,多是活跃在教学第一线的中青年骨干教师,他们根据教学实践及辅导学生应考的经验,选用最新的英语原文编写了这些阅读材料。

本次改版还对原书中的错漏之处作了修订和增补,希望新版丛书能给读者带来帮助,并得到广大读者一如既往的喜爱和支持。

编 者

2010 年 3 月

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At School 文化教育



When we do some reading, we often come across these names: the British Isles, Britain, Great Britain, the United Kingdom. These different name are often used to mean the same thing. But do you know the difference between them?

The British Isles is made up of two large islands: one is called Ireland and the other Britain. Britain, or Great Britain, is the larger of these two islands and it is divided into three parts: Scotland, Wales and England. It does not include Northern Ireland.

The United States is the name used at the United Nations: in full, this is “the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland”. It is that part of the British Isles ruled over by the Queen. It is made up of Scotland, Wales, and England (that is the whole of Britain) and also the Northern part of England.

England is the largest, more populous, and, generally speaking, the richest section. It is only a part of Great Britain. The importance of England is so great in Britain that some foreigners just say “England” when they mean Britain. In fact, England, Great Britain and the British Isles ought only to be used as geographical names.

Multiple Choice

1. Great Britain does not include _____.
A. Scotland
B. Wales
C. England
D. Northern Ireland
2. The United States is the name used at the _____.
A. UN
B. UK
C. US
D. UR
3. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is ruled over

by _____.

- A. the King B. the Queen
C. the Emperor D. the Empress
4. Some foreigners just say “England” to mean Britain because “England”
is _____.
A. very large B. very rich
C. very important D. very popular

2

Most people think that the older you get, the harder it is to learn new languages. That is because they believe that children learn more easily and efficiently than adults. Thus, at some point in our lives, maybe around age 12 or 13, we lose the ability to learn languages well. Is this idea a fact or a myth?

Is it true that children learn a foreign language more efficiently than adults? On the contrary, research studies suggest that the opposite may be true. One report, on 2,000 Danish children studying Swedish, concluded that the teenagers learned more, in less time, than the younger children. Another report, on Americans learning Russian, showed a direct improvement of ability over the age range tested; that is, the ability to learn increased as the age increased, from childhood to adulthood.

There are several possible explanations for these findings. For one thing, adults know more about the world and therefore are able to understand meanings more easily than children. Moreover, adults can use logical thinking to help themselves see patterns in the language. Finally, adults have more self-discipline than children.

All in all, it seems that the common idea that children are better language learners than adults may not be a fact, but a myth.

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- A. Teenagers are more difficult to teach than adults.

- B. Danish teenagers can learn Swedish faster than younger children can.
- C. Adults are more logical than children are.
- D. The ability to learn languages increases with age.
2. According to the writer of the passage, _____.
- A. people might lose the ability to learn foreign languages well at about 13
- B. the younger a child is, the cleverer he is in language learning
- C. it is easier for grown-ups to master foreign languages than teenagers
- D. it is a good idea to let people learn foreign languages when they get old
3. All of the following were mentioned in the passage about the advantages that adults have when they learn foreign languages except that _____.
- A. adults know more about the world
- B. adults can use logical thinking
- C. adults have more self-discipline
- D. adults can read better
4. In the last paragraph of the passage, the phrase “all in all” means _____.
- A. all the people, including the old and the young
- B. in spite of
- C. on the whole
- D. on the contrary
5. This talk claims that _____.
- A. the ability of learn decreases with age
- B. children are better language learners than adults
- C. adults are able to learn more efficiently than children
- D. teenagers learn less, in the same amount of time, than younger children



There is a public library in every town in Britain. There are branch

libraries in many villages. Anyone may borrow books, and it costs nothing to borrow them. In some places you may borrow as many books as you need, but in others you are limited to a certain number of books, including novels. You may keep the books for several weeks so that you can have enough time to finish all the books you have borrowed.

The latest novels are always in great demand, and nonfiction books, for example, books on history, science and gardening are also very popular.

If the book you want is out, you may ask for it to be kept for you, and if you pay the cost of sending a postcard, the librarian will let you know when the book has been returned and is ready for you.

Most public libraries also have a reading-room, there are tables and desks at which you can sit and read the daily newspapers and all the other important periodicals(期刊): weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies. In the reference library there are encyclopedias(百科全书), dictionaries, atlases(地图册) and other useful books. But you can only use these books there, you cannot take them out.

Multiple Choice

1. The central idea of the first paragraph is _____.
 - A. there is a public library in every town in Britain
 - B. there are branch libraries in many villages
 - C. it costs nothing to borrow books from the libraries
 - D. There are libraries, big and small, everywhere in Britain and people can borrow books there without pay
2. The general idea of the second paragraph is _____.
 - A. people like to borrow novels best
 - B. some people like to read books on history
 - C. people like to borrow novels as well as nonfiction books
 - D. books on history, science and gardening are very popular
3. Paragraph three tells us _____.
 - A. you can ask the librarian to keep the book you want for you if you pay him some money
 - B. you must pay the cost of sending a postcard if you want the book to be kept for you

- C. the librarian will tell you when to come and borrow the book if you give him some money
 - D. even the book you want is out, the librarian will help you to borrow it in many ways
4. We learn from the last paragraph that _____.
- A. there are desks and tables in the reading-room
 - B. you can find a reading-room and a reference library in most libraries
 - C. periodicals are usually kept in the reading-rooms
 - D. you cannot take any books out of the reference library
5. The main idea of this passage is _____.
- A. England is a country with many libraries
 - B. English people like to read novels and nonfiction books very much
 - C. English libraries have reading-rooms and reference libraries
 - D. It is not difficult for English people to read books in the libraries or borrow books from them



How often one hears children wishing they were grown up, and old people wishing they were young again. Each age has its pleasures and its pains, and the happiest person is the one who enjoys what each age gives him without wasting his time in useless regrets.

Childhood is a time when there are few responsibilities to make life difficult. If a child has good parents, he is fed, looked after and loved, whatever he may do. It is impossible that he will ever again in his life be given so much without having to do anything in return. In addition, life is always presenting new things to the child—things that have lost their interest for older people because they are too well-known. But a child has his parents? He is not so free to do what he wishes to do; he is continually being told not to do things or being punished for what he has done wrong. When the young man starts to earn his own living, he can no longer expect others to pay for his food, his clothes, and his room, but has to work if he wants to live comfortably. If he spends most of his time playing about in the way that he used to as a child, he will go hungry. And if he breaks the

laws of society as he used to break the laws of his parents, he may go to prison. If, however, he works hard, keeps out of trouble and has good health, he can have the great happiness of building up for himself his own position in society.

Multiple Choice

1. According to the second paragraph, the writer thinks that _____.
 - A. life for a child is comparatively easy
 - B. a child is always loved whatever he does
 - C. if much is given to a child, he must do something in return
 - D. only children are interested in life
2. After a child grows up, he _____.
 - A. will have little time playing
 - B. has to be successful in finding a job
 - C. can still ask for help in time of trouble
 - D. should be able to take care of himself
3. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?
 - A. People are often satisfied with their life.
 - B. Life is less interesting for old people.
 - C. Adults are freer to do what they want to do.
 - D. Adults should no longer rely on others.
4. The main idea of the passage is _____.
 - A. life is not enjoyable since each age has some pains
 - B. young man can have the greatest happiness if they work hard
 - C. childhood is the most enjoyable time in one's life
 - D. one is the happiest if he can make good use of each age in his life
5. The paragraph following this passage will most probably discuss _____.
 - A. example of successful young men
 - B. how to build up one's position in society
 - C. joys and pains of old people
 - D. what to do when one has problems in life

When American students graduate from college, they must find jobs themselves. But often they get help from their college or university. Every college has a career counseling office. The people who work there help students learn about different kinds of jobs and the chances for employment. Students can discuss their situation with a career counselor (职业指导教师) as early as in their first year of college. Some use the information a counselor gives them when deciding what subjects for study.

For example, a girl student wants to be an engineer, but she does not know what kind. The counselor can tell the girl that, when she graduates in four years, there will be more jobs for structural engineers than for chemical engineers. Therefore, the student may study structural engineering.

The career counseling office also communicates with local and national companies. Company officials often visit the university to talk to students who want to work for them. The counseling offices arrange these meeting for the company and the students. They also have classes for students. They teach the students how to find a job, such as what to say a company official and how to write letters telling about themselves.

Experts say that American students who are hired when they finish college usually find jobs in their own field of study. Those who must search for months after graduation usually take lower-pay jobs, and their jobs are not connected to what they studied in college. The experts foretell that in the coming years there will be more jobs for health workers, financial experts, teachers and computer scientists.

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. When American students graduate from college, they can find jobs all by themselves.
 - B. Only with the help of their college or university can American students find jobs.
 - C. A career counselor can decide what subject American students

should study.

- D. A career counselor gives American students some advice on how to find a better job after graduation.
2. In order to find a better job after graduation American students must _____.
- A. get to know counselors and they had better give them something valuable
- B. go to career counseling offices for help after graduation
- C. go to career counseling offices for advice as soon as possible
- D. study hard in college
3. From this passage we can see _____ after graduation.
- A. all American college students can get their satisfying jobs
- B. all American college students can't get their satisfying jobs
- C. only a few of them can get their satisfying jobs
- D. all of them have to wait at home for months
4. Which of the following statements is wrong?
- A. Career counseling offices give college students information about different kinds of jobs.
- B. Career counseling offices communicate with local and national companies.
- C. Career counseling offices have classes for students.
- D. A career counseling office is in charge of sending students to companies.
5. After graduation each of American college students _____.
- A. wants to find a job connected to what he studied in college
- B. wants to find a job not connected to what he studied in college
- C. wants to find a lower-pay job
- D. thinks it doesn't matter whether he gets a job or not



About 35% of all high school graduates in America continue their education in an institution of higher learning. The word college is used to refer to either a college or a university. These institutions offer four-year

programs that led to a Bachelor of Arts (B. A) or Bachelor of Science(B. S.) degree. Some students attend a junior college(providing only a two-year program) for one to two years before entering as four-year college as a sophomore(大学二年级学生) or junior.

It is generally easier to be accepted at a state university than at a private one. Most private schools require strict entrance examinations and a high grade point average(GPA) , as well as specific college prep classes in high schools. Private schools cost considerably more than colleges , and famous private schools are very expensive. Poorer students can sometimes attend , however , by earning scholarships. Some college graduates go on to earn advanced masters or doctoral degrees in grad (graduate) school. Occupations in certain fields such as law or medicine require such advanced studies.

Since college costs are very high , most students work at part-time jobs. Some have full-time jobs and go to school part-time. Often some will take five or more years to complete a four-year program because of money / job demands on their time.

While the college and work demands take up the great part of a student ' s time , most still enjoy social activities. Sports , dances , clubs , movies , and plays are all very popular. However , gathering together for long , philosophical(哲学上的) talks at a favorite meeting place or near the university is probably the most popular activity.

Multiple Choice

- College education is _____ in America.
A. quite common B. very rare
C. something difficult D. almost impossible
- Usually after four years of college study one will get _____.
A. a Bachelor ' s degree B. a Master ' s degree
C. a Doctor ' s degree D. a scholarship
- Only _____ can enter private schools.
A. rich students B. poor students
C. hard-working students D. college graduates
- Most students in America pay for their college study _____.
A. by their parents B. by themselves

- C. by the government D. with the scholarships they get
5. The American college students like to _____ most of all.
- A. discuss problems on philosophy
B. play balls
C. earn enough money
D. go to the cinemas or theatres



In Mount Berry, George, people find a group of schools built specially for mountain children. The schools, as well as the mountain itself, are named after Martha Berry, herself a daughter of a Georgian mountainer.

Martha Berry was born in 1866. Luckier than most Georgian mountain children, she received an education. But she never forgot other children of the mountains whose parents couldn't afford to send them to school. In 1902 Martha Berry started a school for these children. It was housed in a single small log cabin and was attended by only five pupils. Now, eighty years later, there are a score of Berry schools in the area, with a total of over one thousand students and a waiting list of about five thousand.

Martha Berry in her later years received many medals and honors for what she had done for the poor mountain children of Georgia, and in 1931 she was named one of the twelve most important women in the United States. She never stopped working for the mountain children till her death in 1942.

Multiple Choice

1. The Berry Schools have a history of _____.
A. half a century B. over three quarters of a century
C. about a quarter of a century D. a whole century
2. The first Berry School was founded _____.
A. to honor Martha Berry
B. in memory of Martha Berry
C. by the efforts of Martha Berry

- D. in Martha Berry's own house
3. In Mount Berry there are now _____.
A. enough schools for all the local children
B. still not enough schools for all the local children
C. more than enough schools for all the local children
D. schools for local children as well as children from other parts
4. Martha Berry was named one of the twelve most important women in the US because _____.
A. she had helped develop one of the most backward(落后的) areas
B. she had never stopped working till death
C. she had received many medals and honors
D. she had helped set up some of the most advanced schools
5. This passage mainly tells us _____.
A. the history of the Berry Schools
B. about a poor area in the United States
C. Mount Berry's development in education
D. Martha Berry's work and achievement



We find that bright children are rarely held back by mixed-ability teaching. On the contrary, both their knowledge and experience are enriched. We feel that there are many disadvantages in streaming(把……按能力分班) pupils. It does not take into account the fact that children develop at different rates. It can have a bad effect on both the bright and the not-so-bright child. After all, it can be quite discouraging to beat the bottom of the top grade! Besides, it is rather unreal to grade people just according to their intellectual(智力的) ability. This is only one aspect for their total personality.

We are concerned to develop the abilities of all our pupils to the full, not just their academic(学术的) ability. We also value personal qualities and social skills, and we find that mixed-ability teaching contributes to all these aspects of learning.

In our classrooms, we work in various ways. The pupils often work in