

READING MATERIALS

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大学英语

阅读

席爱玲 主编



黄河水利出版社

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前言

最新《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》规定,大学英语的教学目的是培养学生的综合应用能力,特别是听说能力,使他们在今后工作和社会交往中能用英语有效地进行口头和书面的信息交流,同时增强其自主学习能力,提高综合文化素养,以适应我国社会发展和国际交流的要求。阅读能力为教学要求的六种技能之一,由此可见提高阅读能力的重要性。各项技能是相互关联、互为影响的。就拿英语而言,读得多了,不但增强了自己的语感,同时也会使自己更容易听懂别人的意思,并在需要的时候脱口而出,在写的时候更如行云流水般自然,阅读和背诵名篇佳作为的就是这个目的。语言的学习离不开一定量的名篇佳作的背诵和记忆。为了扩大视野,全方位地提高学生的阅读能力,我们经过精心的策划与设计,编写了这本《大学英语阅读》,它具有以下几个特点。

1. 围绕教学大纲,选材力求做到有的放矢,最大限度地覆盖四级考试的目标词(target word)。

2. 选材丰富,内容多样,兼顾文理大学生的知识层面。

3. 集知识性、趣味性和欣赏性于一体,内容包罗万象,十分丰富,所涉猎的范围和领域包括:工作、情感、健康、政治、文化、教育、消遣、环保等,既有历史经典片段的

回顾,又有现代生活的挑战和感悟。

4. 文章的风格融时尚与经典于一身,既选摘了最新的时文佳作,让读者学习到最新、最时尚的英语表达方法,同时又穿插了历史文化和政治名人的演说和代表作品。

5. 本文编者特意为每单元第一、第二篇编写了导读、注释和阅读理解练习,并为其提供了答案与解题技巧,第三篇为背诵篇,附有译文和生词注释。

我们已进入了 21 世纪,新世纪对大学生提出了更高的要求。本书通过严谨的课本形式,使大学生或英语爱好者在提高英语阅读能力的同时,也能得到生活的感悟、人生的启迪,对于提高大学生的英语语言运用能力和综合素质,使其成为适应时代要求的新型人才将起到一定的作用。

由于我们的经验不足,水平有限,书中有诸多不当之处,望广大读者和同仁不吝指正。

编 者

2005 年 11 月

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Unit One

1.1 On the Study of the Performance of Some Top Referees of World Cup

关于世界杯顶级裁判行为的研究

本文介绍了一名研究人员对一些顶级裁判的裁决评分行为进行了研究,其研究结果大大出乎人们意料;指出裁判在比赛中应该处于的最佳位置和其运动的最佳速度。

Long after the 1998 World Cup was won, disappointed fans were still cursing the disputed refereeing(裁判)decisions¹ that denied victory to their team. A researcher was appointed to study the performance of some top referees.

The researcher organized an experimental tournament(锦标赛) involving four youth teams. Each match lasted an hour, divided into three periods of 20 minutes during which different referees were in charge².

Observers noted down the referees' errors, of which there were 61 over the tournament. Converted to a standard match of 90 minutes, each referee made almost 23 mistakes, a remarkably high number.

The researcher then studied the videotapes to analyze the

matches in detail. Surprisingly, he found that errors were more likely when the referees were close to the incident. When the officials got it right, they were, on average, 17 meters away from the action. The average distance in the case of errors was 12 meters. The research shows the optimum(最佳的)distance is about 20 meters.

There also seemed to be an optimum speed. Correct decisions came when the referees were moving at a speed of about 2 meters per second. The average speed for errors was 4 meters per second.

If FIFA, football's international ruling body, wants to improve the standard of refereeing at the next World Cup, it should encourage referees to keep their eyes on³ the action from a distance, rather than rushing to keep up with the ball, the researcher argues.

He also says that FIFA's insistence that referees should retire at age 45 may be misguided. If keeping up with the action is not so important, their physical condition is less critical.

Notes:

1. the disputed refereeing(裁判)decisions 有争议的裁判决定
2. were in charge 负责
3. keep their eyes on 把注意力放在……

Happiness lies, first of all, in health.

★ Curtis

幸福首先在于健康。

★ 柯蒂斯

Comprehension

I . Answer the following questions.

1. Were disappointed fans still cursing the disputed refereeing decisions long after the 1998 World Cup was won?
2. What was a researcher appointed to do?
3. What does the research show?
4. What does FIFA want to improve at the next World Cup?

II . Choose the best answer for each of the following statements.

1. The experiment conducted by the researcher was meant to _____.
 - A) review the decisions of referees at the 1998 World Cup
 - B) analyze the causes of errors made by football referees
 - C) set a standard for football refereeing
 - D) reexamine the rules for football refereeing
2. The number of refereeing errors in the experimental matches was _____.
 - A) slightly above average
 - B) higher than in the 1998 World Cup
 - C) quite unexpected
 - D) as high as in a standard match
3. The findings of the experiment show that _____.
 - A) errors are more likely when a referee keeps close to the ball
 - B) the farther the referee is from the incident, the fewer the errors
 - C) the more slowly the referee runs, the more likely will errors occur
 - D) errors are less likely when a referee stays in one spot

4. The word "officials" (Line 3, Para. 4) most probably refers to _____.
- A) the researchers involved in the experiment
 - B) the inspectors of the football tournament
 - C) the referees of the football tournament
 - D) the observers at the site of the experiment
5. What is one of the possible conclusions of the experiment?
- A) The ideal retirement age for an experienced football referee is 45.
 - B) Age should not be the chief consideration in choosing a football referee.
 - C) A football referee should be as young and energetic as possible.
 - D) An experienced football referee can do well even when in poor physical condition.

1.2 Advantages and Disadvantages of Uniforms

穿制服的益处与弊端

虽然美国人以多样化和个性为荣,但却对穿制服情有独钟,这真让人感到不可思议。在大多数人眼中,制服比百姓的服装看起来更职业化,但也有人反对穿制服,原因是制服缺乏多样化,使人丧失了个性。本文论述了美国人喜欢制服的原因,同时也指出了制服所带来的问题。

Americans are proud of their variety and individuality, yet they love and respect few things more than a uniform, whether it is the uniform of an elevator operator or the uniform of a five-star general. Why are uniforms so popular in the United States?

Among the arguments for uniforms, one of the first is that in the eyes of most people they look more professional than civilian(百姓的) clothes. People have become conditioned to expect superior quality from a man who wears a uniform. The television repairman who wears uniform tends to¹ inspire more trust than one who appears in civilian clothes. Faith in the skill of a garage mechanic is increased by a uniform. What easier way is there for a nurse, a policeman, a barber, or a waiter to lose professional identity(身份) than to step out of uniform?

Uniforms also have many practical benefits. They save on other clothes. They save on laundry bills. They are tax-deductible(可减税的). They are often more comfortable and more durable² than civilian clothes.

Primary among the arguments against uniforms is their lack of³ variety and the consequent loss of individuality experienced by people who must wear them. Though there are many types of uniforms, the wearer of any particular type is generally stuck with it, without change, until retirement. When people look alike, they tend to think, speak, and act similarly, on the job at least.

Uniforms also give rise to some practical problems⁴. Though they are long-lasting, often their initial expense is greater than the cost of civilian clothes. Some uniforms are also expensive to maintain, requiring professional dry cleaning rather than the home laundering possible with many types of civilian clothes.

Notes:

1. tends to 往往
2. more durable 耐穿
3. lack of 缺乏
4. give rise to some practical problems 产生一些实际问题

He laughs best who laughs last.

★ Scott

谁笑到最后, 谁就笑得最美。

★ 司各脱

Comprehension

Choose the best answer for each of the following statements.

1. It is surprising that Americans who worship variety and individuality _____.
A) still judge a man by his clothes
B) hold the uniform in such high regard
C) enjoy having a professional identity
D) will respect an elevator operator as much as a general in uniform
2. People are accustomed to think that a man in uniform _____.
A) suggests quality work
B) discards his social identity
C) appears to be more practical
D) looks superior to a person in civilian clothes
3. The chief function of a uniform is to _____.
A) provide practical benefits to the wearer

- B) make the wearer catch the public eye
 - C) inspire the wearer's confidence in himself
 - D) provide the wearer with a professional identity
4. According to the passage, people wearing uniforms _____.
A) are usually helpful
B) have little or no individual freedom
C) tend to lose their individuality
D) enjoy greater popularity
5. The best title for this passage would be _____.
A) Uniforms and Society
B) The Importance of Wearing a Uniform
C) Practical Benefits of Wearing a Uniform
D) Advantages and Disadvantages of Uniforms

1.3 On Studies

论读书

本文作者弗朗西斯·培根(Francis Bacon, 1561~1626)是英国著名的唯物主义哲学家和科学家,也是第一个提出“知识就是力量”的人。培根在文艺复兴时期的巨人中被尊称为哲学史和科学史上划时代的人物。读一本好书如同交一个好友。读书能陶冶人的性情,增长人的知识。古今中外,文人学者对读书都有许多精辟的论述。培根的论读书是人们耳熟能详的经典中的经典,即使今日读来,依然有指点迷津之大家气势。

Studies serve for delight, for ornament¹, and for ability. Their