

主题英语 快速阅读

*New Requirements:
Topical English Speed-reading*

第2册

总主编：马广惠 主编：陈红

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江苏工业学院图书馆
藏书章

总主编: 马广惠
主 编: 陈 红
副主编: 邵元生 林 健
编 者: 王月芳 卞臻雄 张琪安 束金星
金秀颖 周笃义 金春霞 殷 华

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS
北京 BEIJING

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

主题英语快速阅读 = New Requirements: Topical English Speed-reading: 第2册 / 马广惠总主编. —北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2006.2

ISBN 7-5600-5392-0

I. 主… II. 马… III. 英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2006) 第 011490 号

出 版 人: 李朋义

责任编辑: 刘 倩

封面设计: 孙莉明

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京冶金大业印刷有限公司

开 本: 787×1092 1/16

印 张: 8

版 次: 2006 年 3 月第 1 版 2006 年 3 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7-5600-5392-0

定 价: 9.90 元

* * *

如有印刷、装订质量问题出版社负责调换

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前 言

《主题英语快速阅读》是根据《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》编写而成,旨在帮助大学英语学习者提高快速阅读能力。

快速阅读能力指的是在短时间内迅速从阅读材料中获取所需信息的能力,包括略读(skimming)、跳读(scanning)以及根据上下文猜测词义等能力。人们通常在两种情况下需要进行快速阅读,一是在众多的信息中寻找最有用和最感兴趣的信息,例如人们在阅读报纸时,常常是首先快速浏览各版面的标题和部分内容,然后再决定详细阅读的内容;二是在有时间限制的情况下,快速寻找所需信息,例如考试状态下的阅读理解测试。快速阅读的目的很明确,就是在短时间内迅速捕捉到需要的各类信息。为了实现这一目的,人们常用略读和跳读等快速阅读技巧。略读的目的是要在很短的时间里迅速获取文章的要点,包括段落大意和中心思想,不要求读者理解读物的全部内容。跳读的目的是要从读物中迅速查找读者所需要的信息,例如人名、地名、时间、号码等,即寻找特定信息、查找具体事实。为了能够快速理解读物大意,人们对于遇到的生词,往往会利用上下文猜测词义。本套书在编写上特别注意了这些阅读技巧的运用。

本套书共分4册,每一册由10个单元组成,每个单元一个主题,如家庭、读书、爱情、名人轶事等。每一个主题有4篇短文。以主题的形式编排各单元,是考虑到阅读速度与主题知识的关系。人们在阅读某种类型的读物时,对其主题了解得越多,就越有助于提高阅读速度;反之则会影响阅读速度。我们选择了那些大家熟悉的主题,希望能够有助于读者提高阅读速度。

本套书对各册词汇的分布做了严格的限制,因为词汇也是影响阅读速度的重要因素之一。读物中的生词越少,越有利于提高阅读速度,越有利于培养快速阅读技巧。本书的编写参照英语高频词表、普通高中英语课程标准词表和大学英语课程教学要求词表,利用澳大利亚学者 Paul Nation 的词汇分布分析软件,经过多重筛选,使各册书中的词汇分布得到有效控制。用一位业内人士的话说,本书的编写“采用了一个量杯”,即采用科学的手段,使词汇的分布不但在很大程度上能够保证选文适合于快速阅读,而且使词汇有很高的复现率,有利于词汇习得和巩固。对于个别超出规定的词汇,要么加以注解,要么用于猜测词义练习。

每篇短文的前面都有导读。导读是编者读后和编后的感悟,是选文的提要,旨在帮助读者快速进入阅读状态,更好、更快地理解原文。

书中的选文均选自英美国家最近几年出版的报纸、杂志及教材,题材广泛,体裁多样,语言鲜活真实;内容兼具健康性、趣味性、信息性、时代性与实用性。本书旨在有效地帮助学生提高阅读理解能力、运用语言结构和词汇的能力、分析判断和逻辑推理的能力以及迅速捕捉信息的能力。由于水平有限,书中难免有疏漏之处,敬请各位读者及同行批评指正。

马广惠

2005年7月16日于南京仙林

Contents

Unit 1	Animals	1
Passage 1	Garfield	1
Passage 2	Singing of Birds	3
Passage 3	Mammals	5
Passage 4	Tribute to a Dog	7
Unit 2	Cars	9
Passage 1	My First Car	9
Passage 2	A Brief Introduction of Ford Company	11
Passage 3	Audi	13
Passage 4	Charlie's Dream	15
Unit 3	The Individual and Society	19
Passage 1	Bring Love Back to New York	19
Passage 2	It's Never Too Late	22
Passage 3	Practice Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty	25
Passage 4	The Individual and Society	27
Unit 4	Famous Places	29
Passage 1	Terra Cotta Warriors of the Qin Dynasty	29
Passage 2	Hot Death Valley	31
Passage 3	Tower Bridge of London	35
Passage 4	The Louvre	37
Unit 5	Movies	41
Passage 1	<i>A Parody of Journey to the West</i> —A Movie That Defines an Era	41
Passage 2	History of SIFF	44
Passage 3	<i>The Terminal</i>	47
Passage 4	Cinematypes	50
Unit 6	Friendship	53
Passage 1	What Is Friendship?	53
Passage 2	Friendship: Soul to Soul	56
Passage 3	Varieties of Friends	59
Passage 4	Stages of Friendship	61

Unit 7 Safety	65
Passage 1 School Security and Safety	65
Passage 2 How to Protect Yourself	67
Passage 3 Defensive Driving	71
Passage 4 Home Fire Escape	74
 Unit 8 Fashion	 77
Passage 1 An American in Sunglasses	77
Passage 2 Reaching a Reasonable Clothing Compromise	80
Passage 3 It's All in the Jeans	83
Passage 4 The Best Men's Suits	86
 Unit 9 Persistence and Success	 89
Passage 1 Abraham Lincoln Didn't Quit	89
Passage 2 It's Never Too Late for Success	92
Passage 3 Follow Your Dream	95
Passage 4 Success	98
 Unit 10 Business	 103
Passage 1 Holiday Shopping Season in the U. S.	103
Passage 2 Shopping Online Safely	106
Passage 3 Home Shopping	109
Passage 4 My Junk, Your Treasure	112
 Key	 115

Passage 1 Garfield^①

[Lead-in]

加菲猫并非一只真正意义上的动物猫,而是一只很多人喜欢的动画猫。那么人们喜欢它的原因是什么,读完下面的短文您或许就会明白。

[Questions]

1. What makes Garfield popular?
2. What kind of cat is Garfield?

[Reading Passage]

Target Speed: 100 wpm**Length of Text:** 301 words**Target Time:** 3 minutes

Garfield was born in the kitchen of Mama Leone's Italian restaurant in 1978. He was then sold to a pet shop where Jon Arbuckle bought him. Since then he simply grew larger. His favorite food is, well, just about anything except **raisins**^②. Here is what he enjoys doing: eating, sleeping, watching TV, biting the mailman, playing with Pooky (his favorite toy bear), singing and doing stand-up comedy on the fence, kicking Odie off the table, and waking up Jon.

So what makes this cat so popular? Simply because people can relate to him, "He's a human in a cat suit," as creator Jim Davis likes to say. He loves TV and dislikes Mondays. He prefers to **pig out**^③ than to work out; in fact, his strong liking for food and sleep is matched only by his hatred for diet and exercise (he prefers lay-downs to sit-ups). He'd like mornings better if they started later and he believes that coffee is the only way to start the day. What could be more human?

People also share with, and enjoy greatly, Garfield's brand of humor. Garfield is quick-witted and the first to admit it. He never hesitates to say the things that people—young or old—would like to say, in a way they'd like to say them. But he's never socially unacceptable...

But Garfield is not always rude and sarcastic; he also has a tender side. He really

① Garfield: 加菲猫

② raisin: 葡萄干

③ pig out: (俚)狼吞虎咽地大吃

»» New Requirements: Topical English Speed-reading

loves his toy bear, Pooky, and deep down, he loves Jon and Odie, too (just not as much as he loves himself, of course).

It's easy to see that Garfield is a well-rounded character. Whether he's feeding his face, taking a nap, or just hastening to speak out funny words, Garfield is classic—and classics are always in fashion.

[Exercise]

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

- () 1. Garfield's favorite food is raisins.
- () 2. Garfield is a cat of multiple personalities.
- () 3. People dislike Garfield's brand of humor.
- () 4. Garfield prefers to get up early in the morning.
- () 5. People, like Garfield, enjoy working all day long and having no play.

[Word Families]

- 1. fashion—fashionable—fashionably—fashioner—fashionist
- 2. haste—hasten—hasty—hastily—hastiness
- 3. popular—popularly—popularity—popularize
- 4. suit—suitable—suitably—suitability
- 5. tender—tenderly—tenderness

Passage 2 Singing of Birds

[Lead-in]

“春眠不觉晓，处处闻啼鸟。”鸟的歌声婉转、悦耳，给诗人带来春的遐思。然而，科学家们感兴趣的却是鸟的歌声的作用、鸟的发声机制和特点，以及鸟是如何认知歌声的。

[Questions]

1. What are the functions of the singing of birds?
2. How many kinds of birds are mentioned in the passage?

[Reading Passage]

Target Speed: 100 wpm

Length of Text: 302 words

Target Time: 3 minutes

Birds sing to mark their territory and to attract mates. As though they were posting “No **Trespassing**^①” signs around their nests, birds sing songs that others of their species recognize and respect. The singing sounds beautiful and lighthearted but is serious business for the birds.

In most bird species, the male does all the singing (one exception is the Northern Cardinal, in which both sexes sing). The time of greatest activity is spring and early summer—the nesting season. Songs not only attract females, but also scare away other males. Scientists think birds developed songs to spread their message over a long distance, even in forests where the birds are hidden.

Birds of the open country combine songs with courtship flights. If you are in a field where bobolinks nest, you’ll see one male after another bounce into the air, circle on quivering wings, and sing a bubbling version of their name while **gliding**^② to earth.

Often the only way to tell birds apart is by their songs. To remember the songs, most birders put words to them—for example, the whichity-whichity-whichity of a Common Yellowthroat or the American Robin’s rolling cheerily-cheery-me. But not all birds sing their own songs. Some are **mimics**^③, imitating the songs of other species. Northern mockingbird, brown thrasher, gray catbird, starling, and yellow-breasted chat are all mimics. A brown thrasher may sing 1,000 different songs.

Bird song comes from an organ in the throat called the **syrinx**^④, which has two sides that vibrate. Some birds, like the wood thrush, can sing two different notes at the same time.

① **trespass**: 擅自进入

② **glide**: 滑行

③ **mimic**: 模仿者

④ **syrinx**: 鸣管

Scientists believe it's partly instinct and partly learned—when a young bird hears an adult singing its species' song, something is triggered in its brain, allowing it to sing the same melody.

[Exercise]

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

- () 1. Singing is used by birds to mark territory and attract mates.
- () 2. The birds sing more in the nesting season.
- () 3. All birds can sing unique songs that distinguish them from others.
- () 4. Birds can only sing one note at a time.
- () 5. Young birds are born to sing its own species' song.

[Word Families]

- 1. instinct—instinctive—instinctively—instinctual—instinctually
- 2. scare—scared—scarer—scary—scarily
- 3. science—scientific—scientifically—scientist—scientism
- 4. territory—territorial—territorially—territorialize
- 5. vibrate—vibratile—vibratility—vibration—vibrational

Passage 3 Mammals^①

[Lead-in]

蝙蝠、鲸鱼和人类一样,都属于哺乳类动物。哺乳类动物有哪些区别于其他类动物的特征,您或许早已知晓。读完下面的文章,您或许会有更进一步的认知。

[Questions]

1. What is a mammal?
2. What distinguishes mammals from other animals?

[Reading Passage]

Target Speed: 100 wpm**Length of Text:** 314 words**Target Time:** 3 minutes

All mammals, from bats to whales, share a number of important traits that make them different from other animals. For one thing, mammals spend much more time raising and training their young than other animals do.

Almost all mammals give birth to live young, rather than laying eggs, as birds do. Female mammals are the only animals on earth that make milk for their young. The milk is rich in vitamins, minerals, and all the other nutrients a young animal needs.

Unlike the cold-blooded **reptiles**^②, which often need to lie in the morning sun to warm up, the warm-blooded mammals are always ready to go. Their bodies make enough heat for them to stay at the same temperature and work right at all times.

Mammals have larger, more well-developed brains than other animals. Most mammals have memories and are able to learn new things. This means that mammals can learn to survive in new situations and in new places if they need to. This is called adapting.

Scientists believe that large marine mammals like whales and dolphins have brains much like those of humans. They are able to communicate, follow instructions, and figure things out.

Mammals are the only animals with hair. A mammal's hair, which we often call fur, protects it from wind, rain, sun, cold, insects, and other things. Most mammals have a fur coat with two distinct layers: an undercoat of shorter dense hair and an outer coat of longer stiffer hair.

The polar bear has fur on the pads of its feet, both to keep its feet warm and to help it get a good grip on icy surfaces. The hairs of its thick waterproof coat are hollow, which means that air gets trapped inside each hair. The trapped air holds in body heat and also helps the bear float when it swims.

① **mammal**: 哺乳动物

② **reptile**: 爬行动物

[Exercise]

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

- () 1. There are some common important traits that differentiate mammals from other animals.
- () 2. Not all mammals give birth to live young.
- () 3. Mammals' brains are of the same size as those of the other animals.
- () 4. Most mammals' hairs are made of two layers.
- () 5. The fur of the polar bear helps it keep warm.

[Word Families]

- 1. adapt—adaptation—adaptable—adaptability—adaptive
- 2. dense—densely—denseness—density
- 3. protect—protection—protective
- 4. stiff—stiffly—stiffness—stiffen
- 5. survive—survivor—survival

Passage 4 Tribute^① to a Dog

[Lead-in]

无论你是兴旺发达还是穷困潦倒,无论你是身强体壮还是疾病缠身,无论你身处顺境还是逆境,它都会对你忠心耿耿,不离不弃,陪伴你左右。这就是狗,人的忠实朋友。

[Question]

Why is the dog considered to be man's best friend?

[Reading Passage]

Target Speed: 100 wpm

Length of Text: 340 words

Target Time: 3.5 minutes

The best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter that he reared with his loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name may become **traitors**^② to our faith. The money that a man has may be lost. It flies away from him, perhaps when he needs it most.

A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are willing to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us, may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The only absolutely unselfish friend that man may have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in fortune and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, when the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he may be at his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer. He guards his poor master as if he were a king.

When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings, and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth, the faithful dog asks no higher right than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its hold and his body is laid away in the cold ground—no matter if all other friends pursue their way—there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true—even to death.

①tribute: 颂辞, 称赞

②traitor: 叛徒



[Exercise]

There are THREE paragraphs in the reading passage. Please write a most suitable heading for each of the paragraphs.

Para. 1 _____

Para. 2 _____

Para. 3 _____

[Word Families]

1. danger—dangerous—dangerously
2. faith—faithful—faithfully—faithfulness
3. noble—nobly—nobility
4. repute—reputed—reputedly—reputable—reputably—reputation
5. sacrifice—sacrificial—sacrificially—sacrificer

Passage 1 My First Car

[Lead-in]

汽车已成为美国人生活中不可或缺的一部分。见识过无数豪华名车的福特汽车公司副董事长卢罗斯在这里给我们讲述了一辆破旧不堪的 Plymouth 车的故事。

[Questions]

1. How does the passage show that the car has become the second nature of American people?
2. Why did the author buy the car?

[Reading Passage]

Target Speed: 100 wpm

Length of Text: 473

Target Time: 5 minutes

My first car was a 13-year-old 1937 Plymouth with a bumper held on with **bailing wire**^①, a **clutch**^② that **scraped**^③ like chalk against a blackboard, and an inability to go to bed at night without first being tucked in.

That's right. It had to be tucked in at night. That's because it was more than a little sensitive to night dew, or rain, or anything that felt like moisture. It made a pretty good **barometer**^④, now that I think of it, for it would tell you when it was going to rain by a complete refusal to start.

The memories that surround that car are the remembrances of paying for the car—the total price of \$75, insurance, repairs, and operating costs. And they include the memories of how the car paid me back with interest.

I was 18 years old and a freshman at Wayne State University. I was the first one ever in my family to go to college, so the family was proud; but my father was a Detroit City policeman, and with two other kids at home, there wasn't any budget for college tuition, books, and least of all, the purchase of a car.

Yet then, as now, a car seemed like a practical necessity. I had to get up at 6 a.m. A car could save me hours every day, and give me the flexibility to take on additional weekend odd-jobs.

① **bailing wire**: 箍线

② **clutch**: (汽车等的)离合器

③ **scrape**: 刮擦出刺耳声

④ **barometer**: 气压计

So when I took my first summer job at Ford's Assembly Plant, getting a car was a wish, followed just behind the demand of earning my fall tuition.

Not only did I earn the money that summer, but I learned a respect for assembly work that I carry with me to this day. It was tough! I had been a college football and baseball player in high school. And that job took every bit of my physical strength and more to survive.

At summer's end, I was back on the city bus to school when we passed a 1937 Plymouth on the street with a sign in the window—"For Sale, \$75". I got off the bus and bought it immediately.

For six months I got to school in that car, and saved an hour and a half a day, as I expected. Much of that time, however, was spent in keeping it running, becoming truly close with the Plymouth under the hood^⑤. And, there was a few minutes every night to tuck it in with blanket and poncho^⑥.

The car actually paid for itself, for I was at my wife-to-be Carolyn's house one day when a TV repair truck backed into the parked Plymouth and damaged the bumper. The insurance company paid me \$75. I kept on driving the car with the dangling bumper, and a couple of years later sold it for \$25.

[Exercise]

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

- () 1. When the author got his first car, a 13-year-old 1937 Plymouth, he was unable to go to bed at night before he himself was tucked in.
- () 2. The car had a very good barometer to measure air pressure.
- () 3. The author had interesting memories of how the car helped him get the money back.
- () 4. The author's father could afford to buy his son a car, but he didn't want to buy one for him.
- () 5. The author took his first summer job at Ford's Assembly Plant with the purpose of buying a car as well as earning his fall tuition.
- () 6. That summer the author learned a respect for assembly work that he carried with him for a long time.
- () 7. The job at Ford's Assembly Plant is very tough.
- () 8. The author bought a new car after his Plymouth was damaged.

[Word Families]

- 1. assemble— assembler— assembly
- 2. complete— completely— completeness— completion— incomplete— incompletely
- 3. moist— moistly— moisture— moisten
- 4. operate— operation— operator— operational— operative
- 5. refuse— refusal— refusable

⑤ hood: 汽车发动机罩

⑥ poncho: 雨布

Passage 2 A Brief Introduction of Ford Company

[Lead-in]

福特公司从一个人的梦想开始,以 28,000 美元起家,在亨利·福特的“我要制造一辆适合大众的汽车,价格低廉,谁都买得起”这种理念的指导下,逐步发展成为一个全球性的跨国汽车制造集团。

[Questions]

1. In which aspects does Ford Motor Company enjoy the uncommon success?
2. What led to the Ford Motor Company's global expansion in the 20th century?

[Reading Passage]

Target Speed: 100 wpm **Length of Text:** 474 **Target Time:** 5 minutes

Ford Motor Company entered the business world on June 16, 1903, when Henry Ford and 11 business associates signed the company's **articles of incorporation**^①. With \$28,000 in cash, the pioneering industrialists gave birth to what was to become one of the world's largest corporations. Few companies are as closely identified with the history and development of industry and society throughout the 20th century as Ford Motor Company.

As with most great corporations, Ford Motor Company's beginnings were modest. The company had anxious moments in its infancy. The earliest record of a shipment is July 20, 1903, approximately one month after incorporation, to a physician. With the company's first sale came hope—the young Ford Motor Company took its first step.

Perhaps Ford Motor Company's single greatest contribution to car manufacturing was the moving assembly line. First implemented at the Highland Park Plant (in Michigan, U. S.) in 1913, the new technique allowed workers to stay in one place and perform the same task repeatedly on multiple vehicles that passed by them. The line proved tremendously efficient, helping the company far surpass the production levels of other companies and making the vehicles more affordable.

Henry Ford insisted that the company's future lay in the production of affordable cars for a mass market. Beginning in 1903, the company began using the first 19 letters of the alphabet to name new cars. In 1908, the Model T was born. 19 years and 15 million Model T's later, Ford Motor Company was a giant industrial complex that spanned the globe. In 1925, Ford Motor Company acquired the Lincoln Motor Company, thus branching out into luxury cars, and in the 1930s, the Mercury division was created to center on mid-priced cars. Ford Motor Company was growing.

① **articles of incorporation:** 合并条款