

大学英语训练与考试系列

COLLEGE ENGLISH
FAST READING



孙玉洁 高四霞 刘春堂 主编

大学英语
快速阅读训练

青岛海洋大学出版社

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前 言

《大学英语教学大纲》对阅读速度规定了两项指标:一项是在较长时间内阅读中等难度的材料时要求达到的平均速度(基本要求为 50wpm);另一项是在较短时间内高度集中精力阅读难度略低、生词不超过总词数 3% 的材料时要求达到的平均速度(基本要求为 80wpm)。只有努力抓好第二项指标的培养,才能保证第一项指标的实现。为此,本书编者浏览了多种英文期刊及教材,精选短文 100 篇,涉及英、美等国家政治、经济、历史、地理、风俗习惯及教育、科普、名人轶事等诸多方面。文章内容新颖,难易适中,突出趣味性、可读性、科学性。可供普通高等院校非英语专业本科生或相当水平的英语爱好者使用。书末附有答案。

本书共分四级,难度由浅入深,循序渐进,具体编排如下:

级 别	篇 数	每篇字数 (约)	生词量	阅读速度 期望值	理解准确率 期望值
Band I	30	300	<3%	70wpm	70%
Band II	30	300	<3%	70wpm	70%
Band III	30	400	<3%	80wpm	70%
Band IV	10	400	<3%	80wpm	70%

本书特请美籍教师审阅并提出宝贵意见,谨此致谢。

由于时间仓促及水平所限,不妥之处,请读者批评指正。

编 者
1997 年 3 月

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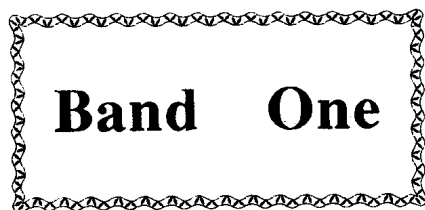
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PART I

A rectangular decorative border with a repeating geometric pattern of small triangles and diamonds.

Band One

Passage 1

April Fool's Day is the first day of April. The sport of the holiday is to play silly but harmless jokes on family members, co-workers, and friends. A victim of one of these pranks (玩笑, 恶作剧) is called an April fool. If one succeeds in tricking someone, one laughs and says, "April Fool", and then the person who has been tricked usually laughs, too.

This holiday originated in France. When the French first adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1564, some people continued to use the old calendar to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1. These people were called April Fools. The custom of playing tricks on this day became popular in France and then spread to many other countries. April Fool's jokes are as ingenious, humorous, or cruel as the people who perform them.

Here are some typical pranks:

- Telling somebody to call the zoo and ask to speak to Mr. Fox.
- Putting salt in the sugar bowl.
- Setting the clock back an hour.
- Saying to friends, "Oh my! You have four holes in your coat —— buttonholes!"
- Tying a string to a wallet and leaving the wallet in the middle of the sidewalk. When someone stops to pick it up, the pranker yanks it out of reach.

In the United States today, April Fool's jokes are mostly played by children, who enjoy the holiday immensely. (308 words)

Multiple Choice:

1. On whom are April Fool's jokes NOT played?
A. Family members. B. Colleagues.
☒ C. Strangers. D. Acquaintances.
2. Who are called "April Fools"?
A. People who play good-humored tricks.
B. People who play April Fool's jokes.
C. People who do not celebrate New Year's Day.
☒ D. People who fail to recognize April Fool's jokes.
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an April Fool's joke?
☒ A. Putting other people's wallets in the middle of a street.
B. Setting the clock back an hour.
C. Phoning the zoo, asking to speak to a fox.
D. Putting salt in the sugar bowl.
4. Which of the following has nothing to do with the origin of April Fool's Day?
☒ A. France and the French people.
B. Adoption of a new calendar.
C. Sports.
D. Celebration of New Year's Day.
5. What is the victim of an April Fool's trick supposed to do?
A. To say "April Fool". B. To play a trick back.
C. To get angry. D. To join in the laughter.

Passage 2

Most dog owners feel that their dogs are their best friends. Almost everyone likes dogs because they try hard to please their owners. One of my favorite stories is about a dog who wanted his owner to please him.

One of my friends has a large German shepherd named Jack. These dogs are often very intelligent. Every Sunday afternoon, my friend takes Jack for a walk in the park. Jack likes these long walks very much.

One Sunday afternoon, a young man came to visit my friend. He stayed a long time, and he talked and talked. Soon it was time for my friend to take Jack for his walk, but the visitor didn't leave. Jack became very worried about his walk in the park. He walked around the room several times and then sat down directly in front of the visitor and looked at him. But the visitor paid no attention. He continued talking. Finally, Jack couldn't stand it any longer. He went out of the room and came back a few minutes later. He sat down again in front of the visitor, but this time he held the man's hat in his mouth.

German shepherds aren't the only intelligent dogs. Another intelligent dog is a Seeing Eye dog. This is a special dog which helps blind people walk along the streets and do many other things. We call these dogs Seeing Eye dogs because they are the "eyes" of the blind people and they help them to "see". Seeing Eye dogs generally go to special schools for several years to learn to help blind people. (310 words)

Multiple Choice:

1. The writer tells the story about the dog Jack to show that _____.
 - ☒ A. it, like many other dogs, always tried to please its own master
 - ☐ B. it, unlike many other dogs, always wanted its master to please it
 - ☐ C. it was more intelligent than many other dogs
 - ☐ D. it was the most faithful dog of his friend's
2. Jack came to sit in front of the visitor in order to _____.
 - ☐ A. please him
 - ☐ B. be pleased
 - ☒ C. ask him to leave immediately
 - ☐ D. invite him for a walk
3. "Finally, Jack couldn't stand it any longer." This means that Jack _____.
 - ☒ A. could no longer put up with the visitor
 - ☐ B. could no longer stand but he might sit down
 - ☐ C. was very tired and wanted a rest
 - ☐ D. was very angry with the visitor
4. Seeing Eye dogs _____.
 - ☐ A. are more intelligent than German shepherds
 - ☐ B. have only one **eye**
 - ☒ C. help blind people go to special schools
 - ☐ D. help and see for blind people
5. Which of the following titles would be the most suitable for this passage?

- A. Dogs —— A Great Help to People
- B. Dogs —— Our Faithful Companions
- C. An Introduction to Dogs
- D. Famous Dogs in Germany

Passage 3

Do you know the old Arab story about a bird called the phoenix? First it burned to death. Then it came back to life. That doesn't sound believable, does it? But there is an example of the phoenix in our own time: The United Nations. In 1945, it brought the dream of world peace back to life again after World War II.

Since the day of its birth, the United Nations has been the subject of much debate. Some people attack the organization because they think it is too powerful. Others think that it is too weak. We can better understand this debate if we learn more about the UN and its history.

The UN was started for two reasons. First, when the idea was born, people all over the world were tired of war. They felt that there must be peaceful answers to the world's problems. They felt that only an international organization could keep world peace.

The second reason was that modern science had developed new bombs and airplanes. These weapons made it almost impossible for a country to defend itself. National borders were beginning to lose their meaning. There was also a feeling that this was

only the beginning. Science would develop even more dangerous weapons in the future. Only an international organization would be able to control modern science.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was President of the United States at the time, believed that the Allies should plan for peace before the war ended. On December 1, 1943, Roosevelt, Winston Churchill of Great Britain, and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union agreed to start an organization for world peace. They asked all countries, large and small, to join them. (358 words)

Multiple Choice:

1. The United Nations is regarded as the symbol of ____.
A. an international organization B. a phoenix
C. peace D. dream
2. The United Nations is compared to ____.
A. phoenix
B. the world in one building
C. the dream of world peace
D. the subject of much debate
3. The UN was re-organized ____.
A. before World War II B. in 1943
C. in 1939 D. in 1945
4. The UN was started because ____.
A. people were tired of war
B. people wanted to control modern science
C. there were no national borders
D. both A and B
5. "National borders were beginning to lose their meaning" be-

cause ____.

- A. bombs and airplanes attacked the borders
- B. new and dangerous weapons were much too powerful
- C. people failed to defend the borders
- D. World War II was going on

Passage 4

This is an SOS Children's Village. The letters stand for "Save Our Souls", which means "Please help us!" An SOS Children's Village gives help to children who have lost their parents.

In Europe many people died during the Second World War. As a result, at the end of the war there were many homeless children there. A man called Hermann Gmeiner wanted to help these children. His idea was simple. He wanted the orphans to have a home. And he wanted them to have the care and kindness of parents. Gmeiner asked people to give him some money. With this money he built the first SOS Children's Village at last in Austria. It opened in 1949. This was how the SOS Children's Village started.

Hermann Gmeiner's idea for helping orphans soon spread all over the world. By 1983 there were 170 SOS Children's Villages in the world. People in many countries gave money to help the villages. Today the children from the first villages have grown up, and some of them are working in other SOS Children's Villages.

In SOS Villages orphans live in family groups. There are

several houses in each village. The biggest villages have 40 or 50 houses. Between seven and ten children live in a house. A woman lives with each group of children and looks after them. She cooks for them and makes a comfortable, happy home for them.

Of course, the children don't spend all their time in the village. They go to school, they go out with their friends and they go into town. But the village gives them a home —— sometimes for the first time in their lives. (336 words)

Multiple Choice:

1. What do the letters "SOS" originally stand for?
A. Save Orphans' Souls. B. Save Our Souls.
C. Save Our Sons. D. Save Our Ships.
2. What is the main purpose of setting up an SOS Children's Village?
A. To save children's souls.
B. To provide food for homeless children.
C. To help orphans learn a trade.
D. To let orphans enjoy family happiness.
3. When and where did the first SOS Children's Village open?
A. After World War II, in Germany.
B. Immediately after the Second World War, in Austria.
C. In 1949, in Austria.
D. In 1983, in the United States.
4. How did the SOS Children's Village get started?
A. People donated money to Hermann Gmeiner who wanted to help the orphans from the Second World War.
B. Hermann Gmeiner received a grant from the United Na-