



新世纪英语丛书
New Century English



主 编/严 筠
副主编/徐启龙 汪 俭
审 校/杨慧敏

大学英语六级 标准阅读600题



华东理工大学出版社

EAST CHINA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PRESS



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Preface

前言

2004年初发布的《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)(以下简称《教学要求》)对大学英语的教学目标规定为:“培养学生英语综合应用能力,特别是听说能力,使他们在今后工作和社会交往中能应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的能力、提高综合文化素养,以适合我国经济发展和国际交流的需要。”在《教学要求》的三个层次,即一般要求、较高要求和更高要求中都对阅读题材、阅读速度、快速阅读速度、阅读目标、阅读策略等做了定性、定量的要求。

《大学英语六级标准阅读600题》是依据《教学要求》的精神,根据国家教委颁布的《大学英语教学大纲通用词汇表》(1—6级)的要求,参照“大学英语六级考试”中阅读理解题型、题量编写而成,力求与大学英语六级考试的要求一致。读者可以通过每一篇阅读理解的训练,摸索出答题的思路和方法,以便在应试中驾轻就熟。

实际上,阅读理解题目只是短文考试的一种形式,听力题、语法题、改错题和写作等都是短文考试的变体。因此阅读速度和实际应用语言的能力,对考试成绩有着举足轻重的影响作用。

阅读是提高英语水平的最好途径。阅读能扩大词汇量,从上下文理解词义、用法。多读、常读,使读者熟悉英语中常见的句型结构和句式。通过阅读内容,读者可以获取知识,获得信息,对西方(主要是英美)的文化、历史、风土人情、科技动态有更多的了解。

随着读者阅读实践的增多,其阅读速度会逐步加快,效率也会逐渐提高。

本书由严筠教授主持编写。编者均是多年在教学第一线工作的教师,分别来自不同的院校。他们不但了解当前考试的趋势特点,而且对学生可能遇到的各种问题和教学的重点、难点极其熟悉,他们精心选材,编写了本书。文章来自最新的英语报刊、近年的英语图书以及部分正规的网站。文章长度适宜,部分文章难度略高于六级的阅读材料,语言流畅、规范;内容具有知识性和趣味性。

这本书不仅可以帮助读者拓展阅读面,扩大阅读量,提高阅读能力,而且可以训练读者阅读理解的解题能力,可收到一石二鸟之功,提高阅读能力与应试备考两不耽误。为方便读者,我们在书后附有根据文章内容而分类的中英文索引。

我们相信读者在使用本书后会取得更大的进步。

在本书的编写过程中得到了何璇、何逊、盛佳昀、陆若以的具体帮助,在此表示感谢。

本书编写过程较仓促,疏漏与不足之处在所难免,恳请读者和同行不吝指正。

严 筠

2004 年 12 月

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Unit 1



Passage

1

The orange towers of the Golden Gate Bridge—probably the most beautiful, certainly the most photographed bridge in the world—are visible from almost every point of elevation in San Francisco. The only crack in Northern California's 600-mile continental wall, for years this mile-wide strait was considered unbridgeable. As much an architectural as an engineering feat, the Golden Gate took only 52 months to design and build, and was opened in 1937. Designed by Joseph Strauss, it was the first really massive suspension bridge, with a span of 4,200 ft, and until 1959 ranked as the world's longest. It connects the city at its northwesterly point on the peninsula to Marin County and Northern California, rendering the hitherto essential ferry crossing redundant, and was designed to withstand winds of up to a hundred miles an hour and to swing as much as 27 ft. Handsome on a clear day, the bridge takes on an *eerie* (神秘的) quality when the thick white fogs pour in and hide it almost completely.

You can either drive or walk across. The drive is the more thrilling of the two options as you race under the bridge's towers, but the half-hour walk across it really gives you time to take in its

enormous size and absorb the views of the city behind you and the headlands of Northern California straight ahead. Pause at the midway point and consider the seven-or so suicides a month who choose this spot, 260 ft up, as their jumping-off spot. Monitors of such events speculate that victims always face the city before they leap. In 1995, when the suicide toll from the bridge had reached almost 1,000, police kept the figures quiet to avoid a rush of would-be suicides going for the dubious distinction of being the thousandth person to leap.

Perhaps the best loved symbol of San Francisco, in 1987 the Golden Gate proved an *auspicious place* (风水宝地) for a sunrise party when crowds gathered to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. Some quarter of a million people turned up (a third of the city's entire population); the winds were strong and huge numbers caused the bridge to *buckle* (使弯曲), but fortunately not to break.

(375 words)

1. What is TRUE of the Golden Gate Bridge?

- A. It is certainly the world's most beautiful bridge.
- B. It is far from San Francisco.
- C. It is a feat neither architecturally nor engineeringly before 1960.
- D. It was the world longest bridge.

2. What do you know further about the Golden Gate Bridge?

- A. It is over a strait where no bridge could have been built before the 1930s.
 - B. It is the first massive bridge designed by Joseph Strauss.
 - C. It appears white in the thick white fogs.
 - D. It connects Marin County with Northern California.
3. Of the two exercises, the drive over the bridge is more hard.

4. Those who attempt to suicide often jump from the midway point of the bridge probably because they want to die quietly.
5. What would be the best title for the text?
- A. The World's Most Beautiful Bridge
B. The World's Most Photographed Bridge
C. The World's First Suspension Bridge
D. The Golden Gate Bridge

Passage

2

A naked mole rat colony, like a beehive, wasp's nest, or *termite mound* (防蚁丘), is ruled by its queen, or reproducing female. Other adult female mole rats neither *ovulate* (排卵) nor breed. The queen of the largest member of the colony, and she maintains her breeding status through a mixture of behavioral and, presumably, chemical control. Queens have been long-lived in captivity, and when they die or are removed from a colony one sees violent fighting for breeding status among the larger remaining females, leading to a takeover by a new queen.

Eusocial (群居的) insect societies have rigid *caste* (等级的) systems, each insect's role being defined by its behavior, body shape, and physiology. In naked mole rat societies, on the other

hand, differences in behavior are related primarily to reproductive status (reproduction being limited to the queen and a few males), body size, and perhaps age. Smaller non-breeding members, both male and female, seem to participate primarily in gathering food, transporting nest material, and tunneling. Larger non-breeders are active in defending the colony and perhaps in removing dirt from the tunnels. One work has suggested that differences in growth rates may influence the length of time that an individual performs a task, regardless of its age.

Cooperative breeding has evolved many times in *vertebrates* (脊椎动物), but unlike naked mole rats, most cooperatively breeding vertebrates (except the wild dog, *Lycaon pictus*) are dominated by a pair of breeders rather than by a single breeding female. The division of labor within social groups is less pronounced among other vertebrates than among naked mole rats, colony size is much smaller, and mating by subordinate females may not be totally suppressed, whereas in naked mole rat colonies subordinate females are not sexually active, and many never breed. (315 words)

1. Which of the following most accurately states the main idea of the passage?

- A. Naked mole rat colonies exhibit social organization based on a rigid caste system.
- B. Behavior in naked mole rat colonies may well be a close vertebrate analogue to behavior in eusocial insect societies.
- C. The mating habits of naked mole rats differ from those of any other vertebrate species.
- D. Naked mole rat colonies are the only known examples of cooperatively breeding vertebrate societies.

2. According to the passage, the following explanatory variables

accounts for naked mole rat behavior EXCEPT _____.

- A. age
- B. size
- C. growth rate
- D. reproductive status

3. In which of the following ways does the performance of tasks in naked mole rat colonies differ from task performance in eusocial insect societies?

- A. In naked mole rat colonies, all tasks are performed cooperatively.
- B. In eusocial insect societies, reproduction is limited to a single female.
- C. In naked mole rat colonies, breeding is limited to the largest animals.
- D. In naked mole rat colonies, the performance of tasks is less rigidly determined by body shape.

4. Which of the following is a supposition rather than a fact concerning the queen in a naked mole rat colony?

- A. She exerts chemical control over the colony.
- B. She is the largest member of the colony.
- C. She mates with more than one male.
- D. She is the only breeding female.

5. What can you infer from the passage about breeding among *Lycaon pictus*?

- A. An individual's ability to breed is related primarily to its rate of growth.
- B. Breeding is the only task performed by the breeding female.
- C. Breeding in the social group is not cooperative.
- D. Breeding is not dominated by a single pair of dogs.



Prince William is eager for throne, but media prying into his love life doesn't amuse him. Britain's Prince William believes he was born to be king, takes his royal duties seriously and views his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, as a role model.

In interviews released over the weekend to mark his 21st birthday, William crushed that he does not want to be crowned. "It's not a question of wanting to be, it's something I was born into and it's my duty," he said. "But those stories about me not wanting to be king are all wrong. It's a very important role and it's one that I don't take lightly."

Newspapers had speculated that "Wills", the second in line to the throne, would shun his royal duties and move to New York on graduation. William, who marked his coming of age on Saturday with an African-themed party at Windsor Castle, is viewed as the modern face of British royalty—a sporty young man who dresses casually in jeans, shops and cooks for himself and enjoys a pint of cider(苹果汁). Studying for a degree in art history at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, William has opted against the "formalities" of using the title *His Royal Highness* as it's "not needed for the time being". But that revealed his admiration for the queen and virtues he hoped to emulate. "It's all about helping people and dedication and loyalty which I hope I have, I know I have. I think particularly nowadays the monarchy plays a very important role. You only have to look at my grandmother and see the amazing things she's done. That to me is a huge inspiration. The monarchy is something that needs to be there. It's a form of stability and I hope

to be able to continue that.”

Since the death of their mother, Princess Diana, William and his brother, Harry, have been insulated from intense press coverage. But he said curiosity about whether he had a girlfriend could be trying. “There’s been a lot of speculation about every single girl I’m with and it actually does quite irritate me after a while, more so because it’s a complete pain for the girls,” he said, adding that he is without a steady girlfriend. (382 words)

1. Prince William believes that his grandmother _____.
 - A. plays the least important role in her country
 - B. is a good model of her people
 - C. performs her royal duties too seriously
 - D. is a good example for him to follow
2. From the text we can infer that Prince William _____.
 - A. fails to play the role of King in his country
 - B. refuses to play the role of King in his country
 - C. intends to play the role of King in his country
 - D. rejects to play the role of King in his country
3. “His coming of age” (Line 3, Para. 3) refers to the age _____.
 - A. around 10
 - B. around 15
 - C. around 20
 - D. around 25
4. According to Prince William, the existence of the King in his country symbolizes that of _____.
 - A. government
 - B. rule
 - C. stability
 - D. turmoil
5. Prince William told the world there had always been speculation about him having _____.
 - A. several girlfriends
 - B. many girlfriends
 - C. a girlfriend
 - D. a boyfriend

Passage

4

One day they're crawling around in the sandbox; the next day they're *prowling* (巡游) the alleys of the castle. The teens like to think of themselves as all grown up—but they still need plenty of support and guidance from parents. Here are some tips:

Girls may begin to develop breasts as early as eight, and some now get at ten. To prepare for *puberty* (青春期), many boys' and girls' bodies also bulk up in teen years. Experts warn against putting children on diets or making them feel about their weight. Instead, reassure kids that there's a wide definition of "normal" at this age.

Classes get harder and homework increases as kids move to middle school and junior high. If they're trying hard but still not doing well, parents should talk to teachers about potential learning disabilities that may require special instruction. Overall, parents should coach and support children in homework, but should never be trapped into actually doing it. For general catch-up, after-school tutors can help.

For young children, family is the center of the universe. But friends and peer approval become increasingly important during teen years. *Cliques* emerge and fashion begins to define what's "cool". Still, parents continue to exert the biggest influence on children when it comes to morals and lifelong goals. Get to know your children's friends and their parents. Ask your kids about peer pressure, rather than waiting for them to raise the issue themselves. And act as a role model, exhibiting the kind of behavior around friends and family that you hope to foster in your kids.

Teens have one foot in childhood, the other in adolescence. But they're eager to grow up. Experts say the rush is partly due to popular media—especially teen magazines and television shows. It can also accelerate their desire for independence if they're raised by single parents or in families where both parents work. Parents should not expect to have absolute control over their teens, but they should set limits. Regulate the number of hours kids watch TV, and monitor movies; say no to too much violence or graphic sexuality. Make sure you know what they're doing online as well.

Peer pressure and new academic challenges can overwhelm teens. Look for symptoms of stress: headaches, stomachaches, sleeping or eating problems. Shifts in *hormone* (荷尔蒙) levels as teens advance toward puberty can also cause temporary mood swings. Don't ignore or punish teens when they become emotional; encourage them to air their feelings. Internalizing sadness or anger is unhealthy. Some teens can even be clinically depressed. Early signs: feelings of hopelessness, withdrawal and irritability. Parents should intervene and seek professional counseling. (451 words)

- The author thinks that parents should _____ when they find classes are hard to their kids.
 - do homework for kids
 - give kids more time for games
 - coach children in homework
 - forbid kids to watch TV
- The word "cliques" (Line 3, Para. 4) refers to _____.
 - a small group of friends
 - a group of fashion models
 - a kind of behavior around friends
 - clothes in fashion