

# 大学 英语

## 阅读教程

COLLEGE ENGLISH  
READING COURSE

主 编 马 冬  
副主编 白 姣 王 楠 (第四册) 修订版



哈尔滨工业大学出版社

# 大学英语阅读教程(四)

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# 前 言

英语阅读理解是大学英语学习中的重中之重,既是同学们夯实基础的关键又是各类英语考试的拿分大项,同时英语阅读理解的技能学习和掌握往往是难中之难,日常学习和应试把握常常无从下手,颇有“成也阅读败也阅读”的势态。新版《大学英语阅读教程》的编写基于这样一个理念:紧扣大学英语教学目标的要求,配合英语教师的日常教学,同时有针对性地为大学英语四、六级考试进行辅助和铺垫。试题材料主要选自近几年英、美等国出版的原文作品和报刊文章,选题紧紧围绕“代表性、科学性、前瞻性和操作性”的主题,由众多经验丰富的一线教师精心设计。全书试题由浅入深,循序渐进,内容新颖,趣味性强,旨在引导读者少走弯路,科学、快速地提高英语阅读理解能力,高效率地学习英语。

新版《大学英语阅读教程》每一分册都由阅读和快速阅读两部分组成。本套教程第一和第二分册的阅读部分一般保持在500词左右,快速阅读单词量在1200词左右;第三和第四分册,文章难度加大,单词量也相应增加,阅读部分单词量在550~600词之间,快速阅读在1500词左右。

语言和文化密不可分。语言具有丰富的文化内涵,文化意识也是语言综合运用能力的一个组成部分。新版《大学英语阅读教程》的选材具有浓厚的英语文化色彩,学习这套教材,不仅可以提高学生的英语阅读能力,更可让学生领略丰富多彩的异域文化,加深学生对英语文化的了解。

新版《大学英语阅读教程》是我们在大学英语教学内容和课程体系改革方面所做的一次大胆尝试。我们的目标是让学生通过自身实践,认真体会,积极思考和亲身体验,培养一定的语感,以期有效地提高他们的英语阅读能力。编写中定会存在不当和疏漏之处,敬请使用者批评指正。

马 冬  
2009年7月

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# 第一部分 阅 读

## Passage One

Sign has become a scientific hot button. Only in the past 20 years have specialists in language study realized that signed languages are unique — a speech of the hand. They offer a new way to probe how the brain generates and understands language, and throw new light on an old scientific controversy: whether language, completed with grammar, is something that we are born with, or whether it is a learned behavior. The current interest in sign language has roots in the pioneering work of one rebel teacher at Gallaudet University in Washington, D. C., the world's only liberal arts university for deaf people.

When Bill Stokoe went to Gallaudet to teach English, the school enrolled him in a course in signing. But Stokoe noticed something odd: among themselves, students signed differently from his classroom teacher.

Stokoe had been taught a sort of gesture code, each movement of the hands representing a word in English. At the time, American Sign Language (ASL) was thought to be no more than a form of pidgin English (混杂英语). But Stokoe believed the “hand talk” his students used looked richer. He wondered: Might deaf people actually have a genuine language? And could that language be unlike any other on Earth? It was 1955, when even deaf people dismissed their signing as “substandard”. Stokoe's idea was academic heresy (异端邪说).

It is 37 years later. Stokoe — now devoting his time to writing and editing books and journals and to producing video materials on ASL and the deaf culture is having lunch at a cafe near the Gallaudet campus and explaining how he started a revolution. For decades educators fought his idea that signed languages are natural languages like English, French and Japanese. They assumed language must be based on speech, the modulation (调节) of sound. But sign language is based on the movement of hands, the modulation of space. “What I said,” Stokoe explains, “is that language is not mouth stuff — its brain stuff.”

- ( ) 1. The study of sign language is thought to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. an approach to simplifying the grammatical structure of a language  
 B. an attempt to clarify misunderstanding about the origin of language  
 C. a challenge to traditional views on the nature of language  
 D. a new way to look at the learning of language
- ( ) 2. The present growing interest in sign language was stimulated by \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. a leading specialist in the study of liberal arts  
 B. an English teacher in a university for the deaf  
 C. some senior experts in American Sign Language  
 D. a famous Scholar in the study of the human brain
- ( ) 3. According to Stokoe, sign language is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. an international language  
 B. a substandard language  
 C. an artificial language  
 D. a genuine language
- ( ) 4. Most educators objected to Stokoe's idea because they thought \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. a language should be easy to use and understand.  
 B. sign language was too artificial to be widely accepted  
 C. a language could only exist in the form of speech sounds  
 D. sign language was not extensively used even by deaf people
- ( ) 5. Stokoe's argument is based on his belief that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. language is a product of the brain  
 B. language is a system of meaningful codes  
 C. sign language is derived from natural language  
 D. sign language is as efficient as any other language

## Passage Two

A is for always getting to work on time.

B is for being extremely busy.

C is for the conscientious (勤勤恳恳的) way you do your job.

You may be all these things at the office, and more. But when it comes to getting ahead, experts say, the ABCs of business should include a P, for politics, as in office politics.

Dale Carnegie suggested as much more than 50 years as hard work alone doesn't ensure



Career advance men. You have to be able to sell yourself and your ideas, both publicly and behind the scenes. Yet, despite the obvious rewards of engaging in office politics—a better job, a raise, praise—many people are still unable or unwilling—to “play the game”.

“People assume that office politics involves some manipulative (攻于心计的) behavior,” says Deborah Comer, an assistant professor of management at Hofstra University. “But politics derives from the word polite. It can mean lobbying and forming associations. It can mean being kind and helpful, or even trying, to please your superior, and then expecting something in return.”

In fact, today, experts define office politics as proper behavior used to pursue one's own self-interest in the workplace. In many cases, this involves some form of socializing within the office environment — not just in large companies, but in small workplaces as well.

“The first thing people are usually judged on is their ability to perform well on a consistent basis,” says Neil P. Lewis, a management psychologist. “But if two or three candidates are up for a promotion, each of whom has reasonably similar ability, a manager is going to promote the person he or she likes best. It's simple human nature.”

Yet, psychologists say, many employees and employers have trouble with the concept of politics in the office. Some people, they say, have an idealistic vision of work and what it takes to succeed. Still others associate politics with flattery (奉承), fearful that, if they speak up for themselves, they may appear to be flattering their boss for favors.

Experts suggest altering this negative picture by recognizing the need for some self-promotion.

- ( ) 1. “Office politics” (Line 2, Para. 4) is used in the passage to refer to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. the political views and beliefs of office workers  
 B. the interpersonal relationships within a company  
 C. the various qualities required for a successful career  
 D. the code of behavior for company staff
- ( ) 2. To get promoted, one must not only be competent but \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. avoid being too outstanding  
 B. get along well with his colleagues  
 C. honest and loyal to his company  
 D. give his boss a good impression
- ( ) 3. Why are many people unwilling to “play the game” (Line 4, Para. 5)?  
 A. They are not good at manipulating colleagues.  
 B. They feel that such behavior is unprincipled.  
 C. They think the effort will get them nowhere.  
 D. They believe that doing so is impractical.
- ( ) 4. The author considers office politics to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. unwelcome at the workplace  
 B. bad for interpersonal relationships

- C. an important factor for personal advancement  
 D. indispensable to the development of company culture
- ( ) 5. It is the author's view that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. self-promotion does not necessarily mean flattery  
 B. hard work contributes very little to one's promotion  
 C. many employees fail to recognize the need of flattery  
 D. speaking up for oneself is part of human nature

## Passage Three

While still in its early stages, welfare reform has already been judged as a great success in many states — at least in getting people off welfare. It's estimated that more than 2 million people have left the rolls since 1994.

In the past four years, welfare rolls in Athens County have been cut in half. But 70 percent of the people who left in the past two years took jobs that paid less than \$6 an hour. The result: The Athens County poverty rate still remains at more than 30 percent — twice the national average.

For advocates (代言人) for the poor, that's an indication much more needs to be done.

"More people are getting jobs, but it's not making their lives any better," says Kathy Lairn, a policy analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington.

A center analysis of US Census data nationwide found that between 1995 and 1996, a greater percentage of single, female-headed households were earning money on their own, but that average income for these households actually went down.

But for many, the fact that poor people are able to support themselves almost as well without government aid as they did with it is in itself a huge victory.

"Welfare was a poison. It was a toxin (毒素) that was poisoning the family," says Robert Rector, a welfare-reform policy analyst. "The reform in changing the moral climate in low-income communities. It's beginning to rebuild the work ethic (道德观), which is much more important."

Mr. Rector and others argued that once "the habit of dependency is cracked," then the country can make other policy changes aimed at improving living standards.

- ( ) 1. From the passage, it can be seen that the author \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. believes the reform has reduced the government's burden  
 B. insists that welfare reform is doing little good for the poor

- C. is overenthusiastic about the success of welfare reform  
D. considers welfare reform to be fundamentally successful
- ( ) 2. Why aren't people enjoying better lives when they have jobs?  
A. Because many families are divorced.  
B. Because government aid is now rare.  
C. Because their wages are low.  
D. Because the cost of living is rising.
- ( ) 3. What is worth noting from the example of Athens County is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. greater efforts should be made to improve people's living standards  
B. 70 percent of the people there have been employed for two years  
C. 50 percent of the population no longer relies on welfare  
D. the living standards of most people are going down
- ( ) 4. From the passage we know that welfare reform aims at \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. saving welfare funds  
B. rebuilding the work ethic  
C. providing more jobs  
D. cutting government expenses
- ( ) 5. According to the passage before the welfare reform was carried out, \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the poverty rate was lower  
B. average living standards were higher  
C. the average worker was paid higher wages  
D. the poor used to rely on government aid

## Passage Four

Resources can be said to be scarce in both an absolute and relative sense: the surface of the Earth is finite, imposing absolute scarcity; but the scarcity that concerns economists is the relative scarcity of resources in different uses. Materials used for one purpose cannot at the same time be used for other purposes; if the quantity of an input is limited, the increased use of it in one manufacturing process must cause it to become less available for other uses.

The cost of a product in terms of money may not measure its true cost to society. The true cost of, say, the construction of a supersonic jet is the value of the schools and refrigerators that will never be built as a result. Every act of production uses up some of society's available resources; it means the foregoing of an opportunity to produce something else. In deciding how to

use resources most effectively to satisfy the wants of the community, this opportunity cost must ultimately be taken into account.

In a market economy the price of a good and the quantity supplied depend on the cost of making it, and that cost, ultimately, is the cost of not making other goods. The market mechanism enforces this relationship. The cost of, say, a pair of shoes is the price of the leather, the labor, the fuel, and other elements used up in producing them. But the price of these inputs, in turn, depends on what they can produce elsewhere—if the leather can be used to produce handbags that are valued highly by consumers, the prices of leather will be bid up correspondingly.

- ( ) 1. What does this passage mainly discuss?
  - A. The scarcity of manufactured goods.
  - B. The value of scarce materials.
  - C. The manufacturing of scarce goods.
  - D. The cost of producing shoes.
- ( ) 2. According to the passage, what are the opportunity costs of an item?
  - A. The amount of time and money spent in producing it.
  - B. The opportunities a person has to buy it.
  - C. The value of what could have been produced instead.
  - D. The value of the resources used in its production.
- ( ) 3. According to the passage, what is the relationship between production and resources?
  - A. Available resources stimulate production.
  - B. Resources are totally independent of production.
  - C. Production increases as resources increase.
  - D. Production lessens the amount of available resources.
- ( ) 4. What determines the price of a good in a market economy?
  - A. The cost of all elements in production.
  - B. The cost of not making other goods.
  - C. The efficiency of the manufacturing process.
  - D. The quantity of materials supplied.
- ( ) 5. Which of the following examples BEST reflects a cost to society as defined in the passage?
  - A. A family buying a dog.
  - B. Eating in a restaurant instead of at home.
  - C. Using land for a house instead of a park.
  - D. Staying at home instead of going to school.

## Passage Five

When Rupert Murdoch sees beams of light in the American advertising market, it is not necessarily time to reach for the sunglasses. Last October, when the impact of September 11th was only beginning to tell, the boss of NewsCorp, a media group, had already identified “strong rays of sunshine”. With ad sales still languishing, Mr Murdoch declared last month that “there are some hints of a modest upswing in the US advertising markets.” His early optimism turned out to be misplaced. Now, however, other industry observers are beginning to agree with him.

Advertising usually exaggerates the economic cycle: falling sharply and early in a downturn, and rebounding strongly once the economy has begun to recover. This is because most managers prefer to trim their ad budgets rather than their payrolls, and restore such spending only once they feel sure that things are looking up. Last year, America’s ad market shrank by 9.8%, according to CMR, a research firm. Although ad spending has not yet recovered across all media, some analysts now expect overall ad spending to start to grow in the third quarter.

The signs of improvement are patchy, however. Ad spending on radio and television seems to be inching up—advertising on American national radio was up 2% in January on the same period last year, according to Aegis—while spending on magazines and newspapers is still weak. Even within any one market, there are huge differences; just pick up a copy of one of the now-slimline high-tech magazines that once bulged with ads, and compare it with the hefty celebrity or women’s titles. Advertisers in some categories, such as the travel industry, are still reluctant to buy space or airtime, while others, such as the car and movie businesses, have been bolder. The winter Olympics, held last month in Salt Lake City, has also distorted the spending on broadcast advertising in the first quarter.

Nonetheless, there is an underlying pattern. One measure is the booking of ad spots for national brands on local television. By early March, according to Mr Westerfield’s analysis, such bookings were growing fast across eight out of the top ten advertising sectors, led by the financial and motor industries. UBS Warburg now expects the “upfront” market, which starts in May when advertisers book advance ad spots on the TV networks for the new season in September, to be up 4% on last year. On some estimates, even online advertising could pick up by the end of the year.

- ( ) 1. What does the author mean by “it is not necessarily time to reach for the sunglasses” (Para. 1)?

A. The sunshine is not terribly strong.

- B. It is not good time to develop advertising.  
C. There is no need to worry about economy now.  
D. The real economic recovery has yet to take place.
- ( ) 2. Mr. Murdoch's early market estimation was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. exaggerating the situation  
B. being too cautious  
C. underestimating the development  
D. probably describing the reality
- ( ) 3. Which of the following is true according to the text?  
A. Advertising is a sensitive marker of economic change.  
B. Managers will first cut salary during economic downturn.  
C. CMR was wrong about last year's U. S. ad market.  
D. Advertising spending has started overall growing.
- ( ) 4. Signs of improvement are visible in the advertising of \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. high-tech magazines and sports industry  
B. celebrity magazines and travel industry  
C. women's magazines and car industry  
D. movie industry and high-tech magazines
- ( ) 5. What is the author's view of the prospect of U. S. advertising market?  
A. Recovery will be slow but sure.  
B. There will be a big jump.  
C. Patchy improvement will occur.  
D. The situation will remain pessimistic.

## Passage Six

More attention was paid to the quality of production in France at the time of Rene Coty. Charles Deschanel was then the financial minister. He stressed that workmanship and quality were more important than quantity for industrial production. It would be necessary to produce quality goods for the international market to compete with those produced in other countries. The French economy needed a larger share of the international market to balance its import and export trade.

French industrial and agricultural production was still inadequate to meet the immediate needs of the people, let alone long-ranged developments. Essential imports had stretched the national credit to the breaking point. Rents were tightly controlled, but the extreme inflation

affected general population most severely through the cost of food. Food costs took as much as 80 percent of the workers' income. Wages, it is true, had risen. Extensive family allowances and benefits were paid by the state, and there was full-time and overtime employment. Taken together, these factors enabled the working class to exist but allowed them no sense of security. In this precarious(不稳定的) and discouraging situation, workmen were willing to work overseas for higher wages.

The government was reluctant to let workers leave the country. It was feared this immigration of workers would deplete the labor force. The lack of qualified workers might hinder the improvement in the quality of industrial products produced. Qualified workers employed abroad would only increase the quantity of quality goods produced in foreign countries. Also the quantity of quality goods produced in France would not be able to increase as part of its qualified labor force moved to other countries.

- ( ) 1. According to the passage, the French workers were \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. better paid than the workers in any other European countries  
 B. able to save more money with the increase in their wages  
 C. anxious to work abroad  
 D. often unable to find work in France
- ( ) 2. Rene Coty and Charles Deschanel were both interested in \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. better quality in production  
 B. increasing quantity in production  
 C. having the government raise tariffs on foreign imports  
 D. eliminating unions in France
- ( ) 3. The French government was reluctant to let the workers leave the country because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. it would enlarge the working force  
 B. it would hinder the improvement of quality in industrial production  
 C. it would hinder the increase in quantity of exports  
 D. it would damage the imports
- ( ) 4. Rents in France \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. were extremely high  
 B. were extremely controlled  
 C. took as much as 80 percent of the workers' income  
 D. had doubled in two years
- ( ) 5. According to the passage, the French government \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. prohibited French to work abroad  
 B. reduced taxes to fight inflation  
 C. paid family allowances and benefits  
 D. prohibited the French workers to join labor unions

## Passage Seven

Dogs are social animals and without proper training, they will behave like wild animals. They will soil your house, destroy your belongings, bark excessively, fight other dogs and even bite you. Nearly all behavior problems are perfectly normal dog activities that occur at the wrong time or place or are directed at the wrong thing. The key to preventing or treating behavior problems is learning to teach the dog to redirect its normal behavior to outlets that are acceptable in the domestic setting.

One of the best things you can do for your dog and yourself is to train it obedient. Obedience training doesn't solve all behavior problems, but it is the foundation for solving just about any problem. Training pens up a line of communication between you and your dog. Effective communication is necessary to instruct your dog about what you want it to do.

Training is also an easy way to establish the social rank order. When your dog obeys a simple request of "come here, sit", it is showing obedience and respect for you. It is not necessary to establish yourself as top dog or leader of the pack(群) by using extreme measure. You can teach your dog its subordinate(从属的) role by teaching it to show submission to you. Most dogs love performing tricks for you to pleasantly accept that you are in charge.

Training should be funny and rewarding for you and your dog. It can enrich your relationship and make living together more enjoyable. A well-trained dog is more confident and can more safely be allowed a greater amount of freedom than an untrained animal.

- ( ) 1. Behavior problems of dogs are believed to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. be just part of their nature  
B. worsen in modern society  
C. occur when they go wild  
D. present a threat to the community
- ( ) 2. The primary purpose of obedience training is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. teach the dog to perform clever tricks  
B. make the dog aware of its owner's authority  
C. provide the dog with outlets for its wild behavior  
D. enable the dog to regain its normal behavior
- ( ) 3. Effective communication between a dog and its owner is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. essential to solving the dog's behavior problems  
B. the foundation for dogs to perform tasks



- C. a good way to teach the dog new tricks  
D. an extreme measure in obedience training
- ( ) 4. Pet dogs love performing tricks for their masters \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. to avoid being punished  
B. to show their affection for their masters  
C. to win leadership of the dog pack  
D. to show their willingness to obey
- ( ) 5. When a dog has received effective obedience training, its owner \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. can give the dog more rewards  
B. will enjoy a better family life  
C. can give the dog more freedom  
D. will have more confidence in himself

## Passage Eight

Engineering students are supposed to be examples of practicality and rationality, but when it comes to my college education I am an idealist and a fool. In high school, I wanted to be an electrical engineer and, of course, any sensible student with my aims would have chosen a college with a large engineering department, famous reputation and lots of good labs and research equipment. But that's not what I did. I chose to study engineering at a small liberal-arts(文科) university that doesn't even offer a major in electrical engineering. Obviously, this was not a practical choice. I came here for more noble reasons. I wanted a broad education that would provide me with flexibility and a value system to guide me in my career. I wanted to open my eyes and expand my vision by interacting with people who weren't studying science or engineering. My parents, teachers and other adults praised me for such a sensible choice. They told me I was wise and mature beyond my 18 years, and I believed them.

I headed off to college; sure I was going to have an advantage over those students who went to big engineering "factories" where they didn't care if you have values or were flexible. I was going to be a complete engineer: technical genius and sensitive humanist(人文学者) all in one.

Now I'm not so sure. Somewhere along the way my noble ideals crashed into reality, as all noble ideals eventually do. After three years of struggling to balance math, physics and engineering courses with liberal-arts courses, I have learned there are reasons why few engineering students try to reconcile(协调) engineering with liberal-arts courses in college.

The reality that has blocked my path to become the typical successful student is that