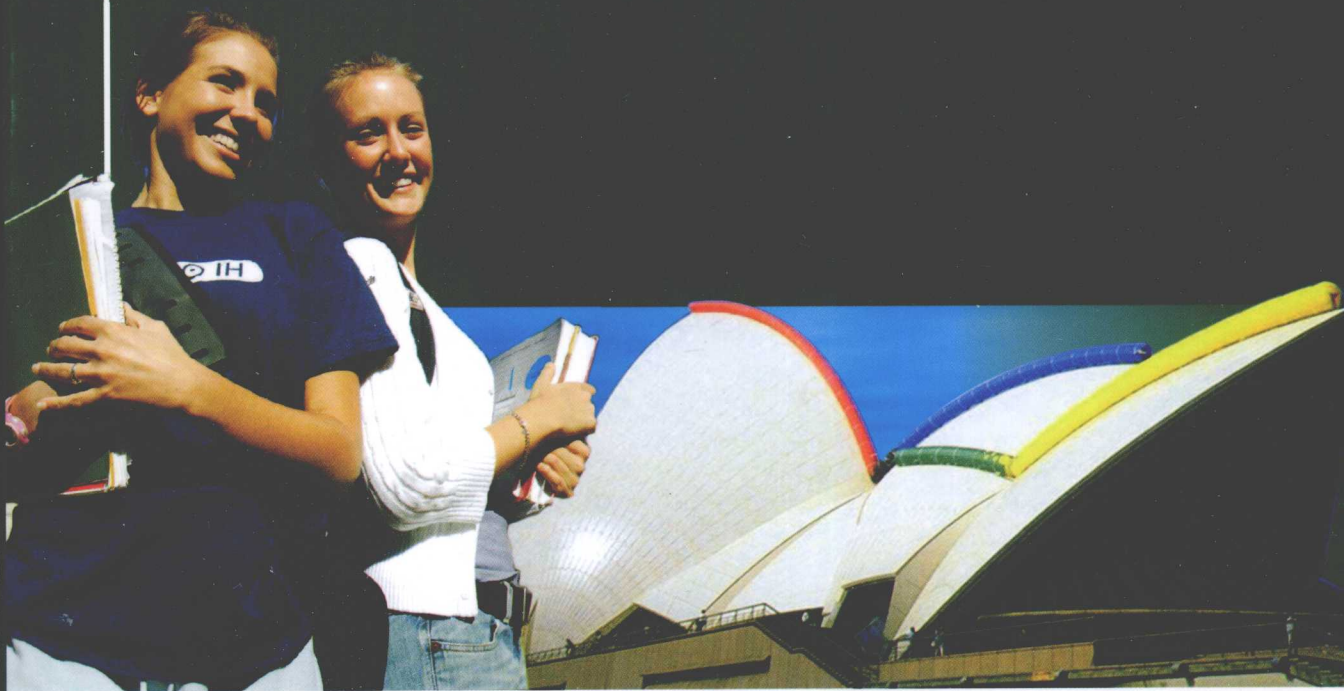


第 **3** 册

主编◎张祝祥

大学英语 快速阅读

COLLEGE ENGLISH FAST READING



大连理工大学出版社

第

3

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前 言

《大学英语快速阅读》(第3册)根据教育部新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》编写而成,适用于大学二年级(上)非英语专业学生或具有同等英语水平的阅读爱好者。

本册教材编写目的是,通过积极主动的快读训练,帮助学生扩大英语词汇量,提高快速浏览能力、准确猜词能力、独立分析能力和归纳总结能力。

本册教材编写严谨,具有高度的科学性、合理性和实用性。全书共设10个单元,每单元4篇文章(全书共40篇),每篇文章字数为800~1000词。文章的材料大多选自近年来国外报刊和杂志,在语言规范、原汁原味的基础上,突出选文的科学性、可读性和趣味性;文章的体裁分为“记叙文、议论文和说明文(主要指科技类)”等主要文体;文章的题材广泛、内容丰富,各单元主题包括以下几个方面:

(1)文化教育类;(2)高校学生学习、生活类;(3)风土人情类;(4)英美等国家历史类;(5)社会热点话题、社会掠影和时事聚焦;(6)政治经济类、人口和经济发展与现代生活;(7)能源发展、科技发展与生存环境;(8)科技类(或科普类);(9)风云人物类;(10)现代生活。

本册教材的练习设计强调实训性,每篇文章后都附有“填空题、判断正误题和选择题”三种题型,基本涵盖了710分大学英语四级考试中的快读题型,问题设计合理、巧妙,期望通过这种训练,提高学生快速阅读能力。

本册教材的主编是辽宁工业大学张祝祥教授,副主编是马锦然副教授和贾清艳副教授,参编人员都是经验丰富、一直坚守在教学第一线的教师。具体的编写分工为:王超执笔 Unit 1、Unit 2;贾博执笔 Unit 3、Unit 4;刘燕侠执笔 Unit 5、Unit 6;曲永锋执笔 Unit 7、Unit 8;贾清艳执笔 Unit 9;马锦然执笔 Unit 10。我们真诚希望学习者能从本教材中获得最大的收益,也欢迎广大同仁多提宝贵意见。

编 者

2009年6月

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Unit 1

Passage 1

University of Southampton

Vocabulary Tips

civic *a.* 城市的

advisory *a.* 咨询的

vibrant *a.* 有活力的

marina *n.* (私人小艇的) 码头

affordable *a.* 负担得起的

encompass *v.* 包括

forge *v.* 发展

bustling *a.* 繁忙热闹的

spontaneous *a.* 自发的

offset *v.* 补偿

General Introduction

The University of Southampton is a forward-thinking university with a diverse student population. Its main Highfield campus is located two miles from the center of Southampton, with other sites spreading across Southampton and Winchester. Originally founded in 1862 as the Hartley Institute, Southampton University has grown into a large **civic** university with over 24,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and 5,000 staffs.

An International Culture

Students joining Southampton University from other countries will find that there is a multicultural feel to Southampton and the university. There are societies, clubs, and groups to support many cultures and nationalities as well as many places of religious activity and worship. Art, culture, leisure, recreational and sporting activities and events cover a wide range of interests. A wide range of shopping facilities include food shops and stocking ingredients from around the globe. Students here can take part in a variety of social and leisure activities.

Academic Research

Southampton University is one of the top 10 research universities in the UK and has achieved consistently high scores for its teaching and learning activities. The experts in this university regularly pioneer new approaches and techniques relevant to the world today. Some of these have evolved into world-leading research centers and institutes. The university has over 40 research centers and institutes grouped into the three faculties listed below:

Faculty of Engineering, Science and Mathematics

Faculty of Law, Arts and Social Sciences

Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences

The discipline base in the university is broad, **encompassing** all the major academic subjects. But the university also has an unique commitment to innovation, which is evidenced both in its outstanding research and scholarship at the leading edge, and also in its ability to pioneer new approaches and techniques relevant to the world today.

Scholarships

A wide range of scholarships are available to aid the students' studies at Southampton University. The university offers a large number of scholarships for individual courses and there are several agencies offering funds to help study in the UK.

Most scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit and all are competitive. If the student is serious about his desire to study with a scholarship, he should investigate all scholarships open to him and put in a strong application for each one.

Accommodation

During the first year, the students will be getting used to the new environment, making new friends and adapting to university life. The university wants the transition to be as smooth as possible for the students. Hall life is likely to be a central part of the students' university experience and a variety of safe, secure, well-appointed and professionally managed accommodation with a full range of complementary services to suit differing needs and priorities is to be provided to them.

All new international undergraduate students from outside EU (except those bringing their partners or dependents) are guaranteed the offer of a room in a University Residence for the full duration of their course. The Accommodation Office works all year round to

Unit 1

find lodgings, flats and houses for students to rent. There is a free and confidential **advisory** service covering general housing matters, tenancy law and other related issues.

Southampton has a good supply of private rented properties within walking distance of all the campus sites, many of which are owned by landlords who have a long-standing relationship with the university. A comprehensive bus service links the university campuses and the areas of the city where students tend to live.

Neighborhood

The university recognizes that, as a large organization, occupying a number of sites and with many thousands of staffs and students, it will have a significant impact upon its local neighborhood. It is committed to acting as a good neighbor and ensuring that as far as possible its activities are undertaken with due consideration for local residents.

Southampton is one of the safest cities in the UK in which to live, work and study and the university wants to keep it that way. The relationship between the university and the residents in the local neighborhood is very important and the university is trying to maintain close links with local residents associations, community groups, the police and other agencies all the time.

Southampton University Students' Union works hard to **forge** relationships with the local community. Many students make a valuable contribution to the local community, through volunteering projects. Though, with such a very large number of students living in the locality, there is sometimes a small minority who are less than considerate towards their neighbors.

Southampton City

Southampton University is located in Southampton city, which is one of the most lively and dynamic cities in the south of England. It offers a **vibrant** and varied nightlife, numerous leisure facilities, superb heritage attractions, **bustling marinas**, beautiful parks and great places to eat and drink. There is something for everyone and Southampton is the perfect blend of old and new.

Southampton is one of the UK's greenest cities with several large parks situated throughout the center. Four of Southampton University campuses are next to Southampton Common—326 acres of managed woodland—perfect for walking, jogging or a **spontaneous** game of football.

Southampton is an **affordable** place to go out in and was placed as the 3rd “best value student city” in the UK by the Royal Bank of Scotland Student Living Index, 2004. The survey looked at the average weekly expenditure of living and accommodation costs throughout 21 cities in the UK. Southampton was praised for being “cost effective, with income from part-time work largely **offsetting** day-to-day student living costs”.

Southampton is really a great place to live in—there’s a huge choice of things to do and places to live in. (950 words)

Exercises

Without referring back to the reading article, do the following tasks.

I. Fill in the blanks with the information you obtained from the reading.

1. There is a _____ student population in the University of Southampton, whose main Highfield campus is _____ two miles from the center of Southampton.
2. In addition to the broad discipline base, the university also has an unique commitment to _____, which is shown not only in its _____ research and scholarship at the leading edge, but also in its ability to pioneer new approaches and techniques _____ to the world today.
3. A wide range of _____ are offered for individual courses, most of which are awarded on the basis of _____ merit and all are _____.

II. Decide whether the following statements are true (T), or false (F).

4. Southampton University was founded in 1862, when it was named Hartley Institute.
()
5. Students from other countries find that there is a multicultural feel to the university, and they can take part in a variety of social and leisure activities. ()
6. If the student is serious about his desire to study with a scholarship, he should know all scholarships available, and can get them with ease. ()

III. Choose only one correct answer from the four options given.

7. According to the passage, what will the students do during the first year?

Unit 1

- A. Get used to the new environment. B. Make new friends.
C. Adjust to university life. D. All of the above.
8. The university provides the students with a variety of safe, secure, well-appointed and professionally managed accommodation with a full range of complementary services to _____.
- A. guarantee the offer of a room B. find lodgings and flats
C. cater for different needs and priorities D. cover general housing matters
9. What is the university's attitude towards local residents?
- A. Considerate. B. Negative. C. Indifferent. D. Cautious.
10. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE about Southampton city?
- A. It is one of the most lively and dynamic cities in the south of England.
B. It has an area of 326 acres of 3 managed woodland.
C. It is the perfect combination of old and new.
D. It is one of the UK's greenest cities with several large parks situated throughout the center.

Passage 2

How Do U. S. Colleges & Universities Evaluate Foreign Transcripts

Vocabulary Tips

transcript *n.* 学生成绩报告单

chronological *a.* 按年月顺序排列的

syllabus *n.* 课程大纲

selective *a.* 细心挑选的

credential *n.* 证件; 资格

autonomy *n.* 自治(权)

Since educational systems vary from country to country, there are many challenges in understanding what educational records to submit when applying to a U. S. college or university and how they are evaluated.

“What should I submit?”

International students usually submit transcripts when they apply for admission to a

U. S. college or university. Most U. S. schools want official transcripts, which generally means that transcripts must be sent directly to the U. S. school from the foreign school or exam board. In some cases, the U. S. school may accept original copies hand-carried by the student. A transcript shows courses, grades or exam marks, years of attendance, and the title of the diploma earned, if any. It usually contains signatures or seals. Students who have only completed high school or secondary school should have the transcripts of their high school or secondary school courses sent, as well as any final exam marks that demonstrate completion of the secondary level; in some cases transcripts of completed upper/higher secondary courses/exams are appropriate. Students who have completed some courses or a degree at a university should send those transcripts, and may also be asked to send secondary school transcripts as well. In most cases, U. S. schools want the transcript in the original language, but may also ask for a translation. Remember, most U. S. schools want these transcripts directly from the issuing school or exam board, rather than the student's personal copy.

U. S. schools use transcripts for two purposes. The first purpose is to determine admission. The admission officer will look at the level of the previous education, the type of preparation, and the quality of the achievement in order to make an admission decision. Some schools are very **selective**; other schools are more flexible.

The second purpose is to determine if the student should receive advanced standing at the U. S. school. Another phrase for advanced standing is "transfer credit". It means that the U. S. college or university may accept previous coursework completed in the home country as meeting some of the requirements at the U. S. school. For example, some U. S. schools may accept "A" level exams as equivalent to some first year courses so that the international student does not have to repeat them. Some U. S. colleges and universities will tell a student whether or not he/she has any advanced standing or transfer credit in their letter of admission; others may wait until the student arrives in the U. S.

In order to have a smooth admission process, international students should list all of their educational levels in clear **chronological** order, including dates of attendance, the name of the school(s), and any diplomas, degrees or exams that have been completed. Students should pay special attention to obtaining and submitting complete official transcripts. A copy of a diploma is usually not sufficient. Instead, a proper transcript

Unit 1

contains a complete list of courses, exams, grades and dates and the title of any diploma or degree awarded. Students should read the admission requirements carefully to determine if they should have transcripts sent from their previous (or current) school, or if it is acceptable to obtain them in a sealed envelope and attach the envelope to their application, along with the financial statement and/or other material required for admission. In some cases, the admissions officer or **credential** evaluator will request a **syllabus** (a complete course description) in order to determine the level and content of previous coursework, so the student should be ready to obtain that from his/her school.

“How are my transcripts evaluated?”

Many schools in the U. S. evaluate the transcript themselves, and have resources and policies on their campus for doing so. Though many evaluators follow evaluation guidelines published in educational books (called “Council Recommendations”), it is possible that their college or university may have specific guidelines of its own in certain circumstances. Higher education in the U.S. is not nationally centralized, and, in general, U.S. colleges and universities are able to exercise **autonomy** regarding their evaluations of what credentials qualify for admission and advanced standing.

Some colleges and universities require students to have their transcripts evaluated by an independent agency in the U.S. There are a number of professional agencies, and students should select one recommended by the college or university they plan to attend. There is usually a substantial fee for this service, about \$100-200. Once the credential evaluation is done by the agency, the college or university interprets it and makes its own decision about admission and/or transfer credit.

U. S. colleges and universities welcome international students and attempt to publish clear directions about how to apply as well as what documents and transcripts must be submitted. In general, it is a good idea to apply to a U. S. college or university at least 4-8 months in advance in order to assure that all documents are submitted and evaluated in time for admission, visa application, and arrival. Students are encouraged to contact the Admissions Office if they have any questions about what to submit and about how their credentials will be evaluated. Address your questions to the “International Admissions Officer” at the school(s) of your choice, and include your e-mail address, if you have one.

(857 words)

Exercises

Without referring back to the reading article, do the following tasks.

I. Fill in the blanks with the information you obtained from the reading.

1. When a foreign student is applying to a U. S. college or university, he/she should know what educational records to _____ and how they are _____, because educational systems _____ from country to country.
2. Most U. S. schools require that transcripts be sent _____ to them from the foreign school or exam _____. Sometimes they may accept _____ copies hand-carried by the student.
3. A transcript includes _____, grades or exam marks, years of _____, and the title of the _____ earned, if any. It usually contains _____ or seals.

II. Decide whether the following statements are true (T), or false (F).

4. Students who have completed some courses or a degree at a university should send those transcripts as well as secondary school transcripts. ()
5. Most U. S. schools prefer to have these transcripts sent by the issuing school or exam board, rather than the student's personal copy. ()
6. The admission decision is based on the level of the previous education, the type of preparation, and the quality of the achievement shown in the transcript. ()

III. Choose only one correct answer from the four options given.

7. What are the purposes for which transcripts are used?
 - A. To accept students' previous coursework.
 - B. To make an admission decision.
 - C. To decide if the student should receive transfer credit at the U. S. school.
 - D. Both B and C.
8. The admissions officer or credential evaluator will determine the level and content of previous coursework through _____.
 - A. a diploma
 - B. a degree
 - C. a syllabus
 - D. exams

Unit 1

9. If students are required to have their transcripts evaluated by an independent agency in the U. S. , _____.
- A. they will wait for a long time before the result comes out
 - B. they will only have to pay a small amount of money for it
 - C. the agency will make the decision about admission and/or transfer credit
 - D. they should select one suggested by the college or university they plan to attend
10. If students have any questions about what to submit and about how their credentials will be evaluated, they may _____.
- A. apply to the college or university in advance
 - B. contact the Admissions Office
 - C. turn to their teacher for help
 - D. contact the evaluators

Passage 3

Public and Private Schools in the U. S.

Vocabulary Tips

superintendent *n.* 负责人

denomination *n.* 教派

unruly *a.* 难控制的

parochial *a.* 教区的

subsidize *v.* 给津贴

elite *n.* 精英

The United States has an education system decentralized by state. There are no national schools. K-12 (K is for kindergarten, 12 is for twelfth grade) students in most areas have a choice between free tax-funded public schools, or privately-funded private schools. Public schools are funded from tax revenue and most commonly administered to some degree by the government or local government agencies. This usage is synonymous with its British English equivalent, state school. Private schools, also known as independent schools, are not administered by local, state, or national governments; thus they retain the right to select their students and are funded in whole or in part by charging their students tuition, rather than relying on public (state) funds.

Public school systems are supported by a combination of local, state, and federal government funding. Because a large portion of school revenues come from local property taxes, public schools vary widely in the resources they have available per student. Class size also varies significantly from one district to another. Curriculum decisions in public schools are made largely at the local and state levels; the federal government has limited influence. In most districts, a locally elected school board runs schools. The school board appoints an official called the **superintendent** of schools to manage the schools in the district. The largest public school system in the United States is in New York City, where more than one million students are taught in 1,200 separate public schools. Because of its immense size—there are more students in the system than residents in eight U.S. states—the New York City public school system is nationally influential in determining standards and materials, such as textbooks.

Admission to individual public schools is usually based on residency. To compensate for differences in school quality based on geography, school systems serving large cities and portions of large cities often have “magnet schools” that provide enrollment to a specified number of non-resident students in addition to serving all resident students. This special enrollment is usually decided by lottery with equal numbers of males and females chosen. Some magnet schools cater to gifted students or to students with special interests, such as the sciences or performing arts. Admission to some of these schools is highly competitive and based on an application process.

Private schools in the United States include **parochial** schools (affiliated with religious **denominations**), non-profit independent schools, and for-profit private schools. Private schools charge varying rates depending on geographic location, the school's expenses, and the availability of funding from sources, other than tuition. For example, some churches partially **subsidize** private schools for their members. Some people have argued that when their child attends a private school, they should be able to take the funds that the public school no longer needs and apply that money towards private school tuition in the form of vouchers; this is the basis of the school choice movement.

Private schools have various missions; most of them take sports very seriously and recruit athletes heavily, some cater to college-bound students seeking a competitive edge in the college admissions process; others are for gifted students, students with learning

Unit 1

disabilities or other special needs, or students with specific religious affiliations. Some cater to families seeking a small school, with a nurturing, supportive environment. Unlike public school systems, private schools have no legal obligation to accept any interested student. Admission to some private schools is highly selective. Private schools also have the ability to permanently expel persistently **unruly** students, a disciplinary option not always legally available to public school systems. Private schools offer the advantages of smaller classes, under twenty students in a typical elementary classroom, for example; a higher teacher/student ratio across the school day, greater individualized attention and in the more competitive schools, expert college placement services. Unless specifically designed to do so, private schools usually cannot offer the services required by students with serious or multiple learning, emotional, or behavioral issues. Although reputed to pay lower salaries than public school systems, private schools often attract teachers by offering high-quality professional development opportunities, including tuition grants for advanced degrees. According to **elite** private schools themselves, this investment in faculty development helps maintain the high quality program that they offer. Some examples of successful private schools are Deerfield Academy, Phillips Academy Andover and St. Paul's School.

On August 17, 2000 article by the *Chicago Sun-Times* refers to the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago Office of Catholic Schools as the largest private school system in the United States. (749 words)

Exercises

Without referring back to the reading article, do the following tasks.

I . Fill in the blanks with the information you obtained from the reading.

1. There are _____ public schools and _____ private schools in the U.S.. The former is _____ to some extent by government or local government agencies, while the latter is funded in whole or in part by charging their students _____.
2. Public schools _____ widely in the resources _____ for students and class _____.
3. In public schools the _____ government has limited influence in _____ decisions, which are made largely at the _____ and state levels.