


大学英语

阅读教程

COLLEGE ENGLISH
READING COURSE

主 编 马 冬
副主编 肖长生 王海燕 (第三册) 修订版

 哈尔滨工业大学出版社

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修订版

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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 1 200 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 1 500 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

George Washington is an American hero whose fame is infinitely great. When he was a child his father had taken a great deal of pride in his blooded horses, and his mother afterward took pains to keep the stock pure. She had several young horses that had not yet been broken, and one of them in particular. No one had been able to do anything with it, George was determined to ride this colt (马), and told his friends that if they would help him catch it, he would ride and tame it. Early in the morning the boys managed to surround the horse. Washington sprang upon its back, the boys dropped the bridle, and away flew the angry animal. Its rider at once began to command. The horse resisted, backing about the field. The boys became alarmed, but Washington kept his seat, never once losing his self-control. The struggle was a sharp one; when suddenly, the creature leaped into the air with a big bound. It was its last. The noble horse fell dead. The boys were called to breakfast and the mistress of the house, knowing that they had been in the fields, began to ask after her stock. "Pray, young gentlemen," said she, "have you seen my blooded colt?" The boys looked at one another, and no one liked to speak. "The horse is dead, madam," said her son, "I killed him." And then he told the whole story. They said that his mother flushed with anger, as her son often used to, and then, like him, controlled herself, and said quietly: "It is well; but while I regret the loss of my favorite, I rejoice in my son who always speaks the truth."

- () 1. Why did the boys manage to surround the horse in the morning?
- A. Because they wanted to ride the horse themselves.
 - B. Because they had the order from George's mother.
 - C. Because they wanted to help George to ride the horse.
 - D. Because they wanted to kill the horse.

- () 2. Who was "the mistress of the house"?
- A. A woman worker in his house
 - B. George's mother
 - C. George's grandmother
 - D. Mother of George's friend
- () 3. No one liked to speak when the boys were asked about the horse because _____.
- A. they were so sad that the horse was dead
 - B. they were dishonest
 - C. they knew George had a good fame
 - D. they were afraid that she would be angry
- () 4. When George's mother knew about the truth, _____.
- A. she wasn't angry at all
 - B. she praised for Gorge's honesty
 - C. she beat him for the loss
 - D. she rejoiced in the death of the horse
- () 5. What would be the best title for the text?
- A. Young George and the Colt
 - B. George's Mother and the Colt
 - C. George's Parents
 - D. Young George's Friends

Passage Two

Open University is the best university in the country—according to its students. The National Student Survey, launched on a new website today, asked 170 000 of last term's finalists how they rated their tutors, library resources and courses. The results turn traditional tables on their heads. The top end of the table compiled by Education Guardian. co. uk from the results is dominated by Open University, then a handful of specialist colleges.

The statistics have some caveats (说明). Oxford, Cambridge and Warwick all refused to take part, and Scotland is not covered. And although the website provides some information about courses at the University of East London, South Bank University and Luton University, the return wasn't more than 50% of all their students, meaning they don't appear in our rankings either. The Higher Education Funding Council for England, which oversaw the survey along with the National Union of Students, nevertheless insists that the individual course information will help

students when they are deciding which university to go to. The University of the Arts is the least popular with its students—but then arts students, all in all, seem to be dissatisfied. In a separate table, which rates how satisfied students are subjected by subject, art and design lie at the bottom. Bill Rammell, the higher education minister, said that courses students don't like will have to improve or close. Welcome to the brave new world of the higher education market. Performance indicators for the sector are also out, and they name and shame the universities with the worst drop-out rates, lowest state schools pupil intake and best research ratings.

- () 1. Which is not included in the survey according to the passage?
 A. Tutors B. Study subjects C. Finance D. Library materials
- () 2. Why doesn't Luton University appear in the ranking?
 A. Because it has been at the top end.
 B. Because the website has no information about the course in the university.
 C. Because there weren't enough student replies.
 D. Because it lies at the bottom.
- () 3. The Higher Education Funding Council for England agrees that _____.
 A. Arts students seem to be dissatisfied, all in all
 B. Individual course introduction can influence students' decisions
 C. The University of the Arts is the least popular with its students
 D. Art and design lie at the bottom
- () 4. Which of the following statements is false?
 A. The higher education market will meet the needs of the students.
 B. The worst universities this year would not appear in ranking next year.
 C. The course which wasn't popular in students has to improve or stop.
 D. The survey includes the drop-out pupil intake research and so on.
- () 5. The best title for this text would be _____.
 A. University Challenge B. University Tutors
 C. Arts In University D. University Benefit

Passage Three

FRANKFURT, Germany (Reuters) — Google Inc. unveiled on Wednesday a Web site dedicated to literacy, pulling together its books, video, mapping and blogging services to help teachers and educational organizations share reading resources.

While the service seeks to combine a rich set of resources to combat global illiteracy,

“Google’s business was born out of a desire to help people find information,” said Nikesh Arora, vice president of Google’s European operations. “We hope this site will serve as a bridge to even greater communication and access to important information about literacy problems — and solutions,” he added.

More than 1 billion people around the world over the age of 15 are considered illiterate, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The project, at google.com/literacy and google.de/literacy, also serves as a fresh way for Google to expand and differentiate its fledgling video service, which is playing catch-up against popular sites such as YouTube.

Google has asked literacy groups around the world to upload video segments explaining and demonstrating their successful teaching programs. Among the first few hundred to be posted is a same-language subtitle project from India that uses Bollywood films to teach reading. A nonprofit group in New York called 826NYC is helping a group of six-to-nine-year-olds make a video tutorial for Google, while a set of older kids is filming a claymation short.

“When our students see the Web as something they can contribute to — rather than just browse through — they’re inspired to think bigger, write more and film more,” said Joan Kim, the group’s director of education.

- () 1. According to the passage, the final aim of Google for the website is to _____.
 A. pull together all the books all over the world
 B. overcome the illiteracy all over the world
 C. earn money for better business
 D. upload wonderful videos from different cultures
- () 2. According to the passage 3, we know _____.
 A. Google is the first to help overcome the illiteracy
 B. Most of the people in the world are illiterates
 C. Youtube is very famous in video service
 D. Google only has videos in this website of literacy
- () 3. Google advises people to give the video programs to _____.
 A. show the good teaching methods and projects for illiterates
 B. give a chance for children to show themselves
 C. enjoy different views of countries all over the world for illiterates
 D. explain how to make a video program for illiterates
- () 4. According to the passage, which of the following is FALSE?
 A. This literacy website will improve communication between countries
 B. About one billion people are considerate illiterate all over the world
 C. Many literacy groups contribute to the literacy website
 D. Students will browse and think more when they know the website better
- () 5. The best title for this text would be _____.
 A. Google Launches Literacy Project

- B. Video Helps Overcome Illiteracy
- C. Students Can Share the Videos
- D. Google Compete with Youtube

Passage Four

BACKGROUND: A new study reveals an EEG combined with computer software can now identify the earliest hints of Alzheimer's disease. The process is easy undergo and inexpensive, allowing doctors to identify the disease at patient's signs of memory loss. The ability to identify the disease at its earliest stages could enable treatment to delay or prevent its progress from memory loss into dementia(痴呆).

HOW IT WORKS: An electroencephalogram (EEG) measures the brain's electrical activity. The electrical signals coming from the brain are recorded and analyzed by a computer. Brain cells make very weak electrical signals, so the equipment amplifies them more than 10 000 times in order to see the patterns of the brain's electrical rhythms. EEGs look like a mass of lines but those lines are actually mathematical descriptions of the electrical signals based on how their frequency changes over time.

WHAT THEY FOUND: The NYU researchers were able to determine which EEG lines indicated normal aging and which ones indicated dementia or early Alzheimer's(老年痴呆症). Then they developed a computer program to help other doctors detect the same patterns. Their method proved almost 95-percent accurate in identifying those who would decline in terms of brain function, and those who would not. For instance, a brain wave called theta was much more prominent in people likely to decline, and was especially abnormal in the frontal regions of the brain. **WHAT'S NEXT:** The new EEG method will likely become an important tool in evaluating someone's likelihood for developing Alzheimer's disease. Before that can happen, however, the NYU results must be replicated with similar results, repeatedly, in much larger studies in order to validate the method for widespread use.

() 1. EEG with computer software is used to identify the hints of Alzhemimer because

- A. doctors can try to protect the patients from being more serious
- B. the process is difficult but inexpensive
- C. it can give better treatment to the patients in dementia
- D. people can know how much memory has been lost exactly through this

- () 2. The computer can analyze the signals from _____.
A. computer patter B. brain cells
C. mathematical descriptions D. EEG
- () 3. The computer program can _____.
A. make the weak electrical signals become strong
B. give the patients better treatment
C. test all the brain troubles through the theta brain wave
D. test those patients who have poor brain functions
- () 4. The underlined word “validate” in paragraph 4 means _____.
A. prove B. doubt C. quit D. decline
- () 5. Which of the following statements is true?
A. EEG identifying process is long and hard.
B. EEG lines can describe the electrical signals in mathematics.
C. The NYU researchers can't determine which EEG lines indicate dementia
D. Their EEG method proves completely accurate in identifying brain function.

Passage Five

Most people are surprised to learn that we have a very large pet overpopulation problem in the United States. There are so many animals born DAILY! This is a nightmare problem that doesn't ever seem to get better. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that there are over 70 000 puppies and kittens born every twenty-four hours. That is a whole lot of babies! To even attempt to place those numbers of animals is impossible. There are about seven animals to every human born. The sad fact is that just is not possible to place them all. . Every year over 20 million animals end up in a shelter. Over 15 million of them are killed. Of those animals 61% of the dogs and 75% of the cats are killed. Very few of these are claimed and there are many more that die from disease, starvation, animal attacks and cars! Tremendous as the problem of pet overpopulation is, it can be solved if each of us takes just one small step, starting with not allowing our animals to breed. Spaying and neutering (绝育) is the first step to a solution. Also America needs to establish stricter laws for pet owners and breeders. People who purchase a cat or dog for breeding should have a license to do so and treat the animal in a humane way. Most States require people who own a pet to have them licensed. So, why not require all cats and dogs purchased as a pet to be spayed or neutered no later than four months of age? Communities that have implemented such programs have already seen positive results. Those results are proof that

people working together can and hopefully will, one day solve the pet overpopulation problem.

- () 1. The pet overpopulation _____.
 - A. is getting better gradually day by day
 - B. means most animals can be placed well
 - C. leads many pets to be killed every year
 - D. means cats can live only in the shelter
- () 2. What is the better methods according to the passage?
 - A. Spaying and neutering and laws.
 - B. Killing more animals to keep others well.
 - C. Spaying and neutering and more shelters.
 - D. Spaying and neutering and more communities.
- () 3. The writer suggests _____.
 - A. we should buy more animals
 - B. we should solve the pet population problem as soon as possible
 - C. pets are spayed or neutered no later than four months of age
 - D. people should have licenses to kill the animals
- () 4. Communities results show that _____.
 - A. how important we treat the animals in a human way
 - B. people can deal with the pets problem efficiently
 - C. community is the best method for the pets overpopulation
 - D. shelters are best homes for animals
- () 5. Which of the following statements would the writer agree to?
 - A. Every year about 61% of the dogs can live on.
 - B. There are about seven animals to every human.
 - C. A lot of animals die from human factors.
 - D. People can have the animals without the license.

Passage Six

Design of all the new tools and implements is based on careful experiments with electronic instruments. First, a human "guinea pig" is tested using a regular tool. Measurements are taken of the amount of work done, and the buildup of heat in the body. Twisted joints and stretched muscles can not perform as well, it has been found, as joints and muscles in their normal positions. The same person is then tested again, using a tool designed according to the suggestions

made by Dr. Tichauer. All these tests have shown the great improvement of the new designs over the old.

One of the electronic instruments used by Dr. Tichauer, the myograph (肌动记器), makes visible through electrical signals the work done by human muscle.

Another machine measures any dangerous features of tools, thus proving information upon which to base a new design. One conclusion of tests made with this machine is that a tripod stepladder is more stable and safer to use than one with four legs.

This work has attracted the attention of efficiency experts and time-and-motion-study engineer, but its value goes far beyond that. Dr. Tichauer's first thought is for the health of the tool user. With the repeated use of the same tool all day long on production lines and in other jobs, even light manual work can put a heavy stress on one small area of the body. In time, such stress can cause a disabling disease. Furthermore, muscle fatigue is a serious safety hazard.

Efficiency is the by-product of comfort, Dr. Tichauer believes, and his new designs for traditional tools have proved his point.

- () 1. What are involved in the design of a new tool according to the passage?
- Electronic instruments and a regular tool.
 - A human "guinea pig" and a regular tool.
 - Electronic instruments and a human "guinea pig".
 - Electronic instruments, a human "guinea pig" and a regular tool.
- () 2. From the passage we know that joints and muscles perform best when _____.
- they are twisted and stretched
 - they are in their normal positions
 - they are tested with a human "guinea pig"
 - they are tested with electronic instruments
- () 3. A "myograph" (Para 2, Line 1) is an electronic instrument that _____.
- is able to design new tools
 - measures the amount of energy used
 - enable people to see the muscular movements
 - visualizes electrical signals
- () 4. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
- a stepladder used to have four legs
 - it is dangerous to use tools
 - a tripod is safer in a tool design
 - workers are safer on production lines
- () 5. Dr. Tichauer started his experiments initially to _____.
- improve efficiency
 - increase production
 - reduce work load
 - improve comfort

Passage Seven

More and more, the operations of our businesses, governments, and financial institutions are controlled by information that exists only inside computer memories. Anyone clever enough to modify this information for his own purposes can reap big reward. Even worse, a number of people who have done this and been caught at it have managed to get away without punishment.

It's easy for computer crimes to go undetected if no one checks up on what the computer is doing. But even if the crime is detected, the criminal may walk away not only unpunished but with a glowing recommendation from his former employers. Of course, we have no statistics on crimes that go undetected. But it's disturbing to note how many of the crimes we do know about were detected by accident, not by systematic inspections or other security procedures. The computer criminals who have been caught may have been the victims of uncommonly bad luck.

Unlike other lawbreakers, who must leave the country, commit suicide, or go to jail, computer criminals sometimes escape punishment, demanding not only that they not be charged but that they be given good recommendations and perhaps other benefits. All too often, their demands have been met.

Why? Because company executives are afraid of the bad publicity that would result if the public found out that their computer had been misused. They hesitate at the thought of a criminal boasting in open court of how he juggled (诈骗) the most confidential (保密) records right under the noses of the company's executives, accountants, and security staff. And so another computer criminal departs with just the recommendations he needs to continue his crimes elsewhere.

- () 1. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
A. it is still impossible to detect computer crimes today
B. people commit computer crimes at the request of their company
C. computer criminals escape punishment because they can't be detected
D. computer crimes are the most serious problem in the operation of financial institutions
- () 2. It is implied in the third paragraph that _____.
A. most computer criminals who are caught blame their bad luck
B. the rapid increase of computer crimes is a troublesome problem
C. most computer criminals are smart enough to cover up their crimes
D. many more computer crimes go undetected than are discovered

- () 3. Which of the following statements is mentioned in the passage?
- A. A strict law against computer crimes must be enforced
 - B. Companies usually hesitate to uncover computer crimes to protect their reputation
 - C. Companies will guard against computer crimes to protect their reputation
 - D. Companies need to impose restrictions on confidential information
- () 4. What may happen to computer criminals once they are caught?
- A. With a bad reputation they can hardly find another job.
 - B. They may walk away and easily find another job.
 - C. They will be denied access to confidential records.
 - D. They must leave the country to go to jail.
- () 5. The passage is mainly about _____.
- A. why computer criminals are often able to escape punishment
 - B. why computer crimes are difficult to detect by systematic inspections
 - C. how computer criminals manage to get good recommendations from their former employers
 - D. why computer crimes can't be eliminated

Passage Eight

In a family where the roles of men and women are not sharply separated and where many household tasks are shared to a greater or lesser extent, notions of male superiority are hard to maintain. The pattern of sharing in tasks and indecision makes for equality and this in turn leads to further sharing. In such a home, the growing boy and girl learn to accept equality more easily than did their parents and to prepare more fully for participation in a world characterized by cooperation rather than by the "battle of the sexes"

If the process goes too far and man's role is regarded as less important—and that has happened in some cases—we are as badly off as before, only in reverse. It is time to reassess the role of the man in the American family. We are getting a little tired of "Momism"—but we don't want to exchange it for a "neo-Popism". What we need, rather, is the recognition that bringing up children involves a partnership of equals. There are signs that psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and specialists on the family are becoming more aware of the part men play and that they have decided that women should not receive all the credit—nor the blame. We have almost given up saying that a woman's place is in the home. We are beginning, however, to analyse man's place in the home and to insist that he does have a place in it. Nor is that place

irrelevant to the healthy development of the child.

The family is a co-operative enterprise for which it is difficult to lay down rules, because each family needs to work out its own ways for solving its own problems.

Excessive authoritarianism(命令主义) has unhappy consequences, whether it wears skirts or trousers, and the ideal of equal rights and equal responsibilities is pertinent(相关的,切题的) not only to a healthy democracy, but also to a healthy family.

- () 1. The ideal of equal rights and equal responsibilities is _____.
 A. fundamental to a sound democracy
 B. not pertinent to healthy family life
 C. responsible for Momism
 D. what we have almost given up
- () 2. The danger in the sharing of household tasks by the mother and the father is that _____.
 A. the role of the father may become an inferior one'
 B. the role of the mother may become an inferior one
 C. the children will grow up believing that life is a battle of sexes
 D. sharing leads to constant arguing
- () 3. The author states that bringing up children _____.
 A. is mainly the mother's job
 B. belongs among the duties of the father
 C. is the job of schools and churches
 D. involves a partnership of equals
- () 4. According to the author, the father's role in the home is _____.
 A. minor because he is an ineffectual parent
 B. irrelevant to the healthy development of the child
 C. pertinent to the healthy development of the child
 D. identical to the role of the child's mother
- () 5. With which of the following statements would the author be most likely to agree?
 A. A healthy, co-operative family is a basic ingredient of a healthy society.
 B. Men are basically opposed to sharing household chores.
 C. Division of household responsibilities is workable only in theory.
 D. A woman's place in the home—now as always.