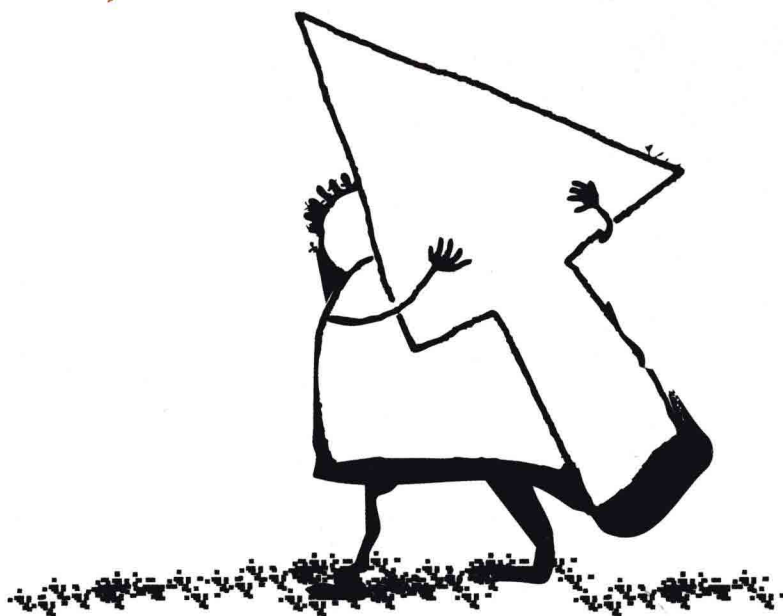


高职英语

应用能力阅读教程

ENGLISH

总主编 薛水明



上册



天津大学出版社

TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

《高职英语应用能力阅读教程》编委会

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本书是《高职英语应用能力》系列教材之一，旨在提高高职学生的英语阅读能力，为后续课程学习和实际应用打下基础。

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2004年5月于苏州

《高职英语应用能力阅读教程》编写说明

根据国家教育部颁发的《高职高专英语课程教学基本要求》的指导精神,结合目前高职院校英语阅读教学的现状,我们组织编写了《高职英语应用能力阅读教程》。该教程面向高职学生。每册的课文内容主要反映当前的热点话题,突出阅读材料的实用性和可读性。每册包含8个单元,每个单元由3篇阅读材料组成,分别从不同的角度阐述同一语篇话题。

《高职英语应用能力阅读教程》融时代性、实用性和灵活性于一体。选文题材广泛,体裁多样,是一本实用的英语应用能力等级考试的应试宝典。学生通过阅读《高职英语应用能力阅读教程》可以掌握日常生活中的基本词汇、短语、基本语法概念,从而顺利通过英语应用能力等级考试,并为日后通过大学英语四级打下坚实的基础。

本教程具有以下鲜明的特色。

第一,全面模仿历年全国英语应用能力等级考试阅读方面的题型,将同类话题的内容汇总成简易的阅读材料,并将培养学生快速阅读能力的意识贯穿于全书。

第二,每单元的习题与英语应用能力等级考试的阅读试题完全接轨,针对性强,习题量适中,具有较强的可操作性。

第三,循序渐进,由易到难,内容丰富,覆盖面广,有的放矢,实用性强。重点针对英语应用能力等级考试的阅读要求进行分析讲解,所提供的应试策略方向明确,易于操作,相关的阅读文章既是提高阅读应试能力的辅导材料,又是英语四级作文的范例素材。

本教程由硅湖职业技术学院外语系主任薛水明教授担任总主编。全书的编写出版工作得到了天津大学出版社的有关领导和编辑的大力支持与协助,在此表示衷心的感谢。同时对编写本书的过程中付出了智慧与辛劳的老师们表示由衷的钦佩。

由于编者水平所限,错误之处在所难免,恳请学界同仁和广大读者批评指正。

编者

2008年5月于苏州

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Unit One Housing Problem

Part A Housing Problems in Urban Areas

Pre-reading Activity

- Have you heard of organizations that aim to help people with housing problems before? If yes, what are they?
- What mainly causes people's housing problems in your mind?
- What do you think of the expanding of cities? Is it good or bad?



Housing Problems in Urban Areas

It doesn't matter if you live in Bangkok, Hongkong, or Mexico City, housing problems exist and can be seen in everyday life. These housing problems will be apparently diverse although every different city has similar population densities.

Some big cities with large populations suffer from low-income poverty housing, while other big cities have problems with what some have termed mega-urban regions. Mega-urban regions are more common in Asian countries as cities grow and expand at alarming rates. Tokyo is one of the world's largest and most well-established mega-urban regions. The city itself has expanded and has almost joined itself with four other surrounding cities.



Shenzhen is one of the largest mega-urban areas in China. In a little over two decades, this small village grew from nearly nothing to home for about twelve million people. When

Reading Questions

- Do housing problems exist only in China?
- Which city is one of the most well-established mega-urban regions in the world?
- What problems will be created when cities grow?

cities like this blossoming and growing, they create unique problems. Public transportation becomes more crowded, and the water and sanitation conditions are sometimes substandard.

How to solve housing problems in big cities? Firstly, the government should encourage people to live in the suburban areas. This can be achieved by moving big factories and companies to the suburbs. The second answer lies in the development of areas around big cities. This may attract part of population in big cities to the surrounding areas and decentralize city population.

Last but not the least, improvement of traffic situation may help relieve the housing pressure of big cities, due to the possibility of living far from working sites.

All in all, one of the prices of development is change. Governments must carefully regulate this change for the good of their people, and for the future of their nations.

● How many solutions does this text mention?

● Who should regulate the changes for the good of people?

Words & Phrases

housing	[ˈhaʊsɪŋ]	n.	住房, 住房供给
urban	[ˈɜːbən]	adj.	城市的, 都市的
mega-urban		adj.	大都市的, 大城市的
apparently	[əˈpærəntli]	adv.	显然
diverse	[daɪˈvɜːs]	adj.	不同的, 多种多样的
density	[ˈdensɪti]	n.	密集, 稠密; 密度, 浓度
alarming	[əˈlɑːmɪŋ]	adj.	使人惊恐的
well-established	[ˌwelɪˈstæblɪʃt]	adj.	树立起声誉的, 得到确认的
blossom	[ˈblɒsəm]	v.	兴旺, 变得更繁荣
sanitation	[ˌsæniˈteɪʃn]	n.	卫生设备, 卫生设施体系
substandard	[ˌsʌbˈstændəd]	adj.	不够标准的, 不合格的
regulate	[ˈregjuleɪt]	v.	调节, 控制, 管理

Language Points

① It doesn't matter if you live in Bangkok, Hongkong, or Mexico City, housing problems exist and can be seen in everyday life.

无论你生活在曼谷, 香港还是墨西哥城, 住房都是你每天生活中不可忽视的一个问题。

It doesn't matter if: 无论

e.g. It doesn't matter if you are a freshman or a senior student, you should take part in the activity.

It doesn't matter if you are an adult or a child, you should make responsible decisions.

- ② These housing problems will be **apparently** diverse although every different city has similar population densities.

尽管每一座城市有着相似的人口稠密问题，但显然这一问题在不同的城市里有着不同的表现形式。

apparently: adv. 显然

e.g. He apparently escaped by bribing an official.

Apparently she was fed up with the tedious job, and couldn't help shrieking when knowing that she would have to bear it for another two weeks.

diverse: adj. 不同的，多种多样的

e.g. Her diverse interests enable her to know a lot; meanwhile she cannot concentrate as a result of her character.

There are diverse ways of approaching the problem.

- ③ Some big cities with large populations **suffer from** low-income poverty housing.

一些人口众多的大城市被低收入人群的住房问题所困扰。

suffer from: 遭受

e.g. He suffers from headache.

She's suffering from loss of memory.

- ④ Mega-urban regions are more common in Asian countries as cities grow and expand at **alarming** rates.

大都市在亚洲国家很常见，因为该地区的城市在以惊人的速度发展和扩张。

at alarming rates: 以惊人的速度

e.g. Children can learn at alarming rates.

As the world's population is increasing at alarming rates, the problem of food shortage is becoming more and more serious.

- ⑤ One of the **prices** of development is change.

发展的代价之一是变化。

price: n. 价格，价钱，代价

e.g. Loss of freedom was a high price to pay for affluence.

Being recognized wherever you go is the price of rising to fame.

- ⑥ Governments must carefully **regulate** this change for the good of their people, and for the future of their nations.

政府必须慎重地引导这种变化，为人民的利益和国家的未来服务。

regulate: v. 调节，控制，管理

e.g. There should be laws to regulate the activities of credit banks.

There are strict rules regulating the use of chemicals in food.

Part B Housing Price

Pre-Reading Activity

- What do you think of the exceptionally high house prices at present?
- In what way do you think the house prices can be reduced?
- What's your ideal house like? What's your future plan to purchase a house?



Housing Price

Reading Questions

- What is the main reason of soaring housing price?

- What is the second reason?

The price of housing is skyrocketing in recent years for several reasons as follows.

The first is the less housing supply. Residential housing shortage is the main reason why housing price is soaring. The final report on the first half of the year about the Guangzhou real estate market issued by a Guangzhou real estate market says that the residential housing supply level has been low. At the same time, people no longer take a wait-and-see attitude toward the market, which has increased demand and pulled up the prices while the supply is insufficient.

The second is the imbalance in the supply structure. Since the last year, the supply structure of the Guangzhou property market has been in a state of imbalance. The market is full of big expensive apartments, while the low-cost flats are almost out of supply. The high-priced buildings further raised prices.

The third is inadequate supply of land. Tao Huang, the general manager of Zhongyuan Real Estate Property Project, said that even though the Guangzhou Government pledged to



increase the supply of operating residential land, the first half of this year only sells about 419,000 square meters of land which is 8.4 percent of the year's plan.

The fourth has to do with

the unavailability of new regulatory policies on housing. Insiders said that in May of this year, the market was widely rumored that the government would issue new regulatory policies. At that time, developers worried and buyers took a wait-and-see attitude. However, the government did not declare any severe controlling policies. Therefore, developers began to drastically lift sale prices, hoping maximizing profits.

All above are the reasons why the price of housing is increasing rapidly.

● What attitude do the developers and buyers hold?

Words & Phrases

skyrocket	['skaiɹokit]	v.	(价格等) 飞涨, 猛涨
shortage	['ʃɔ:tɪdʒ]	n.	缺少, 不足, 短缺
soar	[sɔ:r]	v.	急速升入高空, 比喻物价飞涨
estate	[i'steit]	n.	地产
residential	['rezi.denʃl]	adj.	住宅的
imbalance	[im'bæləns]	n.	不平衡, 不均衡
rumor	['ru:mə]	n.	传说, 谣言
rumored		adj.	传说的, 谣传的
declare	[di'kleər]	v.	正式宣布, 表明
drastically	['dræstikli]	adv.	激烈地, 猛烈地
maximize	['mæksimaiz]	v.	使(某事物)增至最大限度

Language Points

- ① At the same time, people no longer take a **wait-and-see** attitude toward the market.

同时, 人们对于楼市不再持观望态度。

wait-and-see: 等等看, 耐心等待

耐心等待

e.g. We shall just have to wait-and-see, there is nothing we can do at the moment.

Don't take a wait-and-see attitude towards this situation.

- ② The market is full of big expensive apartments, **while** the low-cost flats are almost out of supply.

市场上到处是高价位住房, 而低价房供不应求。

while: 引导并列句

e.g. English is understood all over the world while Turkish is spoken by only a few people outside Turkey itself.

I like black while he prefers white.

- ③ The high-priced buildings further raised prices.

高价房助长了房屋价格的攀升。

price: *v.* 定价

e.g. Even the cheapest cup was priced at 5 dollars.

The agent priced the car at the average level of the market.

- ④ The fourth has to do with the **unavailability** of new regulatory policies on housing.

第四点是因为新的房屋调控政策并未起到应有作用。

unavailability: *n.* (un-否定前缀) 无用 **availability**, 可用性

e.g. You will be informed when the book becomes available.

This was the only available room.

Part C Housing Security System

Pre-Reading Activity

- What will happen if the government fails to solve the housing problem for low-income families?
- In what way do you think the housing problem can be banlanced between the rich and the poor?



Housing Security System

China plans to have solved the housing problem of some 10 million low-income families by 2010. This is the first time for China to include the housing problem of low-income families into the government's public service system.

The statement was made by Qi Ji, Vice Minister of Construction, on Thursday.

"China is at a transitional period when many conflicts emerge in society. If the government can't solve the housing problem for low-income families, this may lead to some new social conflicts and may affect social stability. Solving the housing problem for low-income families should be regarded as an important



Reading Questions

- What is government's public service system included?
- What does China meet at a transitional period?
- Where is the government's housing reform going?

part of the government's housing reform and a good way to protect the interests for the masses", he said.

Based on the current situation, China has 10 million low-income families. The per capita living space for people in these families is less than 10 square meters and these people should be included into the housing security system. By the end of 2006, there were 512 cities in China that had set up the low-rent system. However, only 268,000 people across China had actually benefited from the low-rent housing system, accounting for 6.7% of the people that were covered by the minimum living allowance scheme, accounting for 2.7% of the total number of families with housing problems, and only 0.15% of the total families in cities across China.

- By the year 2006, how many cities will set up the low-rent system?

Words & Phrases

transitional	[tʃæn'ziʃənəl]	adj.	过渡的, 转变的
income	['ɪŋkʌm]	n.	收入
Vice Minister of Construction	[kən'strʌkʃən]		建设部副部长
conflict	['kɒnflikt]	n.	冲突
emerge	[i'mə:dʒ]	v.	出现, 显现
stability	[stə'biləti]	n.	稳定性
interests for the masses			人民群众的利益
housing security system	[si'kjʊərəti]		住房保障体系
low-rent system		n.	廉租房制度
allowance	[ə'laʊəns]	n.	津贴, 补助

Language Points

- ① This is the first time for China to **include** the housing problem of low-income families into the government's public service system.

这是中国第一次将低收入家庭的住房问题纳入政府的公共服务体系。

include: v. 纳入, 包括, 包含

e.g. All prices are included in the latest price list.

The housing agent includes low-income families into its housing rent system.

- ② This may lead to some new social conflicts and may affect social stability.

这会导致某些新的社会冲突的产生, 影响社会稳定。

lead to: 导致

e.g. This misprint led to great confusion.

Your carelessness may lead to the failure in the exam.

- ③ Based on the current situation, China has 10 million **low-income** families.

根据当前形势，中国有 1 000 万个低收入家庭。

low: 低的，低于通常水平或数量的

可组成合成词：**low-born** 出身低微的

low-paid 工资低的

low-brow 无文化修养的

- ④ ...**accounting for** 2.7% of the total number of families with housing problems...

……占家庭住房问题总数的 2.7%。

account for: 占有，占据

e.g. His income **account for** 70% of the total number of the family.

Chinese firms **account for** 14% of firms listed in Singapore.

Part D Practice

I Reading Comprehension Test



Task One

Directions: After reading Part A again, you will find FIVE questions or unfinished statements, numbered 1 to 5. For each question or statement there are FOUR choices marked A, B, C, and D. Please make the correct choice.

- Where do housing problems exist?
 - Housing problems almost exist everywhere in the world and can be seen in everyday life.
 - Housing problems exist in developing countries.
 - Housing problems almost exist in everyday life.
 - Housing problems exist everywhere in the developed nations.
- Do different cities with similar population densities have the same housing problems?
 - Not really, housing problems are common.
 - No, housing problems are diverse.
 - Yes, housing problems are everywhere.
 - Yes, housing problems are different.

3. What are the diverse housing problems in general?
 - A. Low-income problems with mega-urban regions.
 - B. Low-income poverty housing with mega-urban regions.
 - C. Low-income poverty housing and problems with mega-urban regions.
 - D. Mega-urban regions more common in Asian countries.
4. What problems are created as cities expand?
 - A. Public transportation, water and sanitation conditions are sometimes substandard.
 - B. Public transportation becomes more crowded, and water and sanitation conditions are essential.
 - C. Public transportation becomes important, and water and sanitation conditions are sometimes substandard.
 - D. Public transportation becomes more crowded, and water and sanitation conditions are sometimes substandard.
5. What is the responsibility of governments?
 - A. Governments must regulate this change for the good of their people, and for the future of their nations.
 - B. Governments must reduce the side effects of development.
 - C. Governments must ensure the tendency of the future of their nations.
 - D. Governments must regulate this change of the future of their nations.



Task Two

Directions: After reading Part B again, you should complete the information by filling in the blanks marked 6 to 10 in not more than 3 words in the table below.

Reasons for High Housing Price

The first reason:

the first is the 6.

The second reason:

the imbalance 7.

The third reason:

inadequate supply of 8.

The fourth reason:

the 9 of new regulatory 10.



Task Three

Directions: After reading Part C again, you are required to find the items equivalent to those given in Chinese in the table below. Then you should put the corresponding letters in the brackets, numbered 11 to 15.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| A employment agency | K real estate |
| B mortgage | L trivialities |
| C credit notes | M boardroom |
| D bank loan | N low-income families |
| E communication facilities | O vice Minister of Construction |
| F office building | P social stability |
| G property consultancy | Q interests for the masses |
| H retain clients | R housing security system |
| I memorable slogan | S low-rent system |
| J reception area | T living allowance scheme |

Example

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| (R) 住房保障系统 | (D) 银行贷款 |
| 11. () 低收入家庭 | () 建设部副部长 |
| 12. () 影响社会稳定 | () 人民群众的利益 |
| 13. () 廉租房制度 | () 最低生活保障 |
| 14. () 抵押贷款 | () 房地产 |
| 15. () 写字楼 | () 职业介绍所 |

II Translation Test

Directions: This part numbered 16 through 20 is to test your ability to translate English into Chinese. After each sentence of number 16 to 20, you will read four choices of suggested translations. You should choose the best translation and mark the corresponding letter.

16. Some large cities that have large populations suffer from low-income poverty housing, while other big cities have problems with what some have termed mega-urban regions.
- A. 一些人口众多的大城市被低收入人群的住房问题所困扰, 而另一些大城市则被所谓的“都市化”的问题困扰。
- B. 一些人口众多的大城市被低收入人群的住房问题所困扰, 而另一些大城市则面临着所谓的“都市化”的问题。
- C. 一些大城市人口众多, 低收入人群的住房问题突出, 而另一些大城市则面临着所谓的“大都市区域”的问题。
- D. 一些人口众多的大城市被低收入人群的住房问题所困扰, 而另一些大城市则面临着所谓的“大都市区域”的问题。
17. The city itself has expanded and has almost joined itself with four other surrounding cities.
- A. 这座城市迅速扩张它的规模, 以致于它几乎已经与四个周边城市接近了。