

READING

高校英语专业 中级阅读

段云礼 主编

TEM4 TEM4 TEM4

TARGET ENGLISH READING FOR TEM 4



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高校英语专业中级阅读

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前 言

为帮助高等学校英语专业学生及应试者迅速提高英语整体水平,顺利通过英语专业四、八级考试,南开大学外语学院英语系的几位多年从事高校英语专业教学和考级考试辅导的教师,精心编写了高校英语专业四、八级辅导考前训练系列教材。(该系列之一的《高校英语专业四级听力突破》,《高校英语专业八级听力突破》已经出版。)

本书《高校英语专业中级阅读》是高校英语专业四、八级辅导系列教材之一。编者以多年来教授高校专业英语课程和考级辅导所积累的丰富经验,依据教育部颁布的高校英语专业教学大纲的要求,从近几年国外出版的大多为国内尚无使用的书籍、报刊中精选了一批内容丰富,题材新颖,涉猎面广,语言精练生动,富有一定特色,紧扣四级考试要求的阅读材料。为了使读者易于理解文章内容,编者在第一部分的30课里独具匠心设计了词汇详解和练习题。模拟试题为本书的第二部分内容,其难易程度与专业四级考试相当,其题型形式与四级考卷相似。这样的编排非常有利于考生熟悉题型,提前进入考试模拟训练。

听、说、读、写、译是专业英语学习的五大基本功。阅读既是重点,也是难点,只有大量的阅读,才能积累丰厚的英语学习基础。高校英语专业四、八级考试,是莘莘学子们经过艰苦学习,迈向更高英语殿堂的必然阶梯。

我们所设计和编写的这套“高校英语专业四、八级辅导”系列丛书一定会为有志在英语世界里驰骋的学子们带来丰硕的成果。

编 者

2001年11月于南开大学

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Lesson One

In ancient Greece athletic festivals were very important and had strong religious associations. The Olympian athletic festival, held every four years in honor of Zeus, eventually lost its local character, became first a national event, and then, after the rules against foreign competitors had been waived, international. No one knows exactly how far back the Olympic Games go, but some official records date from 776 B. C.

The Games took place in August on the plain by Mount Olympus. Many thousands of spectators gathered from all parts of Greece, but no married woman was admitted even as a spectator. Slaves, women and dishonored persons were not allowed to compete. The exact sequence of events is uncertain, but events included boys' gymnastics, horse-racing, field events such as discus and javelin throwing, and the very important foot races. There was also boxing and wrestling and special tests of varied ability such as the pentathlon, the winner of which excelled in running, jumping, discus and javelin throwing and wrestling. The evening of the third day was devoted to sacrificial offerings to the heroes of the day, and the fourth day, that of the full moon, was set aside as a holy day.

On the sixth and last day, all the victors were crowned with holy garlands of wild olive from a sacred wood. So great was the honor that the winner of the foot race gave his name to the year of his victory. Although Olympic winners received no prize money, they were, in fact, richly rewarded by their state authorities. The public honor also made the strict discipline of the ten-month training period worthwhile. In spite of the lengthy training, runners were known to drop dead from strain at the winning post. How their results compared with modern standards, we unfortunately have no means of telling.

After an uninterrupted history of almost 1 200 years, the Games were abolished in A.D. 394, the Christian era, because of their pagan origin. It was over 1 500 years before there was another such international athletics gathering. The Greek institution was revived in 1896 and the first small meeting took place in Athens. After the 1908 London Olympics, success was re-established and nations sent their best representatives. In times of peace, the Games have taken place ever since at four-yearly intervals. In Munich in 1972, competitors from more than 120 countries were watched by huge crowds.

Nowadays, the Games are held in different countries in turn. The host country provides vast facilities, including a stadium, swimming pools and living accommodation, but competing countries pay their own athletes' expenses. Athletic contests are still the main feature, but now many more sports are represented, women compete, the ancient pentathlon, for example, has been modified into a more comprehensive test, and the marathon races, initiated in 1896, are now a celebrated event.

The Olympics start with the arrival in the stadium of a torch, lighted on Mount Olympus by the sun's rays. It is carried by a succession of runners to the stadium. The torch

symbolizes the continuation of the ancient Greek athletic ideals, and it burns throughout the Games until the closing ceremony. The well-known Olympic flag, however, is a modern conception; the five interlocking rings symbolize the uniting of all five continents participating in the Games.

Glossary

1. Olympic Games: (1) modern international sports events held once every 4 years in different countries
(2) sports events held in ancient Greece once every 4 years
2. Olympic: of or concerned with the Olympic Games
3. Zeus: (Greek Mythology) the chief deity, son of Cronus and Rhea and husband of Hera
4. waive: to give up willingly (a right, a rule, etc.)
5. Olympus: (1) (Mount O~) mountain in Northern Greece, between Thessaly and Macedonia
(2) (in Greek Mythology) the home of the gods
6. discus: a heavy plate of wood, metal or stone, which is thrown as far as possible, as a sport
7. javelin: a light spear for throwing, now used mostly in sport
8. pentathlon: a type of sports event in which those taking part have to compete against each other in 5 different sports (running, swimming, riding, shooting and fencing)
9. sacrificial: of related to, or being (a) sacrifice
10. garland: a circle of flowers, leaves, or both, esp. to be placed round the neck for ornament or as a sign of victory
11. olive: a type of tree grown in the Mediterranean countries, which has a small egg-shaped fruit
12. pagan: (1) (used esp. of the ancient Greeks and Romans) a person who believes in 异教 many gods
(2) of or connected with pagans or paganism
13. Athens: capital of Greece. A~ became established as the center of Greek culture in the 5th century B.C., when it was the capital of ancient Attica.
14. Munich: city in Germany; capital of the state of Bavaria
15. modify: to change (something, such as a plan, an opinion, a condition, or the form or quality of something), esp. slightly
16. marathon: a running race of about 26 miles, esp. at the Olympic Games
17. initiate: to start (something) working
18. interlock: to fasten or be fastened together, esp. in a certain order, so that movement of one part causes movement in others

Comprehension I

Complete these sentences by choosing the best alternative (A, B, C or D) under each.

1. The first Olympic Games took place _____.
A. in the seventh century A.D. B. certainly before 700 B.C.
C. over three thousand years ago D. a thousand years ago
2. In the final stages of the ancient Olympic Games, any competitor had to be _____.
A. Greek B. male
C. unmarried D. neither a slave nor a foreigner
3. The order of athletic events at the ancient Olympics _____.
A. has not definitely been established
B. varied according to the full moon
C. was decided by Zeus, in whose honor the Games were held
D. was considered unimportant
4. During the Games, on the evening ~~before~~ the moon was full, _____.
A. heroes were sacrificed to Zeus
B. large sums of prize money were distributed to the heroes
C. all the victors were crowned with garlands
D. the heroes were honored with sacrificial offerings
5. Competitors had to train _____.
A. for four years
B. for ten months
C. until they collapsed exhausted
D. for periods determined by their state authorities
6. Modern athletes' results cannot be compared with those of the ancient runners because _____.
A. details such as times were not recorded in the past
B. they are much better
C. the ancient runners fell down dead
D. the Greeks had no means of telling the time
7. The continuity of the Olympic Games _____.
A. was broken in the year A.D. 1 200 B. has never been broken
C. was interrupted for over 1 500 years D. was broken in 1896
8. Nowadays, the athletes' expenses are paid for _____.
A. out of the national funds of competing nations
B. out of the prize money of the winners
C. by the athletes themselves
D. by commercial organizations
9. At the beginning of the Games in the host country _____.
A. a torch is ignited at sunrise

- B. a lighted torch is brought into the stadium
 - C. relays of runners light their torches in the stadium
 - D. a torch is ignited by the Greek ambassador
10. The modern Olympics compared with the ancient ones are _____.
 A. inspired by the same ideals
 B. completely different in every respect
 C. more restricted in the variety of events
 D. too much concerned with international rivalry

Comprehension II

Tell whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. The Olympian athletic festival eventually became a national, and then international event. ()
2. People know exactly how far back the Olympic Games go. ()
3. Many thousands of spectators, including married women, gathered together from all parts of Greece. ()
4. The forth day of the event was the full moon day. ()
5. The Olympian athletic festival lasted for 7 days. ()
6. The Olympic winners were not rewarded by the state authorities because they received prize money. ()
7. The Games were not interrupted for almost 1 200 years. ()
8. More than 120 countries participated in the Games in 1972. ()
9. Nowadays, the host country provides vast facilities, and pays the athletes' expenses. ()
10. Like the torch, the well-known Olympic flag is a modern conception. ()

Comprehension III

Answer the following questions according to the facts of the text.

1. When did the Olympian athletic festival become international?
2. Who were not allowed to compete?
3. What was the fourth day?
4. Did Olympic winners receive prize money?
5. How long was the training period?
6. When were the Games abolished?

7. Where were the Games held in 1972?
8. Where are the Games held nowadays?
9. How is the Olympic torch lighted?
10. What do the five interlocking rings symbolize?

Vocabulary I

For each italicized word or phrase, choose the best alternative (A, B, C or D) under each.

1. The rules against foreign competitors had been *waived*.
A. accepted B. shaken C. abolished D. displayed
2. The winner of the pentathlon *excelled in* running, jumping, discus and javelin throwing and wrestling.
A. was best overall at B. chose between
C. was excessive in D. was restricted to
3. All the victors were crowned with holy garlands of wild olive from a *sacred* wood.
A. picturesque B. of religious significance
C. frightened D. carved with a knife
4. Olympic winners were, in fact, richly *rewarded* by their state of authorities.
A. paid B. prized C. gifted D. valued
5. The Games were abolished in A. D. 394, the Christian era, because of their *pagan* origin.
A. evil B. irreligious C. heathen D. pageant-like
6. The Greek *institution* was revived in 1896 and the first small meeting took place in Athens.
A. museum B. custom C. school D. building
7. The host country provides vast *facilities*, including a stadium, swimming pools and living accommodation.
A. opportunities B. buildings and equipment
C. entertainments D. installations
8. And the marathon races, *initiated* in 1896, are now a celebrated event.
A. run B. continued C. began D. accepted into adulthood
9. The well-known Olympic flag, however, is a modern *conception*.
A. birth B. beginning C. idea D. instrument
10. The five *interlocking* rings symbolize the uniting of all five continents participating in the Games.
A. linked B. international C. doubled D. touching

Vocabulary II

Match the following with their definitions on the right.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
| 1. eventually | _____ | a. to bring to an end |
| 2. sequence | _____ | b. a place to live |
| 3. holy | _____ | c. at last; in the end |
| 4. strain | _____ | d. a (typical or noticeable) part or quality |
| 5. abolish | _____ | e. of God or religion |
| 6. accommodation | _____ | f. to take part or have a share in an activity or event |
| 7. feature | _____ | g. the order in which things or esp. events follow one another |
| 8. torch | _____ | h. a state of tension |
| 9. symbolize | _____ | i. a mass of burning material tied to a stick and carried by hand to give light |
| 10. participate | _____ | j. to be a symbol of |

Vocabulary III

Fill in each blank with one of the given phrases or expressions from the text in their proper form.

in honor of	take place	excel in	be devoted to	set aside
be crowned with	be likely to	in turn	start with	participate in

1. When did the contest _____?
2. She _____ her husband.
3. The day _____ bad news, and looks like getting worse.
4. They sang on the stage _____.
5. I've _____ the whole weekend for house hunting.
6. Professionals cannot _____ the tournament.
7. There is a party tonight _____ our new president.
8. It _____ rain tonight.
9. His work _____ success.
10. She _____ swimming.

Lesson Two

Auctions are public sales of goods, conducted by an officially approved auctioneer. He asks the crowd assembled in the auction-room to make offers, or "bids", for the various items on sale. He encourages buyers to bid higher figures, and finally names the highest bidder as the buyer of the goods. This is called "knocking down" the goods, for the bidding ends when the auctioneer bangs a small hammer on a table at which he stands. This is often set on a raised platform called a rostrum.

The ancient Romans probably invented sales by auction, and the English word comes from the Latin *auctio*, meaning "increase". The Romans usually sold in this way the spoils taken in war; these sales were called sub hasta, meaning "under the spear", a spear being stuck in the ground as a signal for a crowd to gather. In England in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries goods were often sold "by the candle"; a short candle was lit by the auctioneer, and bids could be made while it stayed alight.

Practically all goods whose qualities vary are sold by auction. Among these are coffee, hides, skins, wool, tea, cocoa, furs, spices, fruit and vegetables and wines. Auction sales are also usual for land and property, antique furniture, pictures, rare books, old china and similar works of art. The auction-rooms at Christie's and Sotheby's in London and New York are world-famous.

An auction is usually advertised beforehand with full particulars of the articles to be sold and where and when they can be viewed by prospective buyers. If the advertisement cannot give full details, catalogues are printed, and each group of goods to be sold together, called a "lot", is usually given a number. The auctioneer need not begin with Lot 1 and continue in numerical order; he may wait until he registers the fact that certain dealers are in the room and then produce the lots they are likely to be interested in. The auctioneer's services are paid for in the form of a percentage of the price the goods are sold for. The auctioneer therefore has a direct interest in pushing up the bidding as high as possible.

The auctioneer must know fairly accurately the current market values of the goods he is selling, and he should be acquainted with regular buyers of such goods. He will not waste time by starting the bidding too low. He will also play on the rivalries among his buyers and succeed in getting a high price by encouraging two business competitors to bid against each other. It is largely on his advice that a seller will fix a "reserve" price, that is, a price below which the goods cannot be sold. Even the best auctioneers, however, find it difficult to stop a "knock-out", whereby dealers illegally arrange beforehand not to bid against each other, but nominate one of themselves as the only bidder, in the hope of buying goods at extremely low prices. If such a "knock-out" comes off, the real auction sale takes place privately afterwards among the dealers.

Glossary

1. auction: public sale of goods to the person who offers the most money
2. auctioneer: a person who is in charge of an auction and who calls out the prices as they are reached
3. rostrum: a raised place for a public speaker, conductor, etc.
4. practically: very nearly (but not quite); almost
5. lot: an article or a number of articles sold together, as in an auction sale
6. rivalry: competition; (a case of) being rivals
7. nominate: to appoint (someone) to a position, office, etc.

Comprehension I

Complete these sentences by choosing the best alternative (A, B, C or D) under each.

1. Auctioned goods are sold _____.
☒ A. for the highest price offered B. only at fixed prices
C. at a price less than their true value D. very cheaply
2. The end of the bidding is called "knocking down" because _____.
A. the auctioneer knocks the buyer down
B. the auctioneer knocks the rostrum down
C. the goods are knocked down on to the table
☒ D. the auctioneer bangs the table with a hammer
3. The Romans used to sell by auction _____.
☒ A. spoil goods B. old worn-out weapons
C. property taken from the enemy D. spears
4. A candle used to burn at auction sales _____.
A. because they took place at night ✓
B. as a signal for the crowd to gather
C. to keep the auctioneer warm ✗
D. to limit the time when offers could be made ✓
5. An auction catalogue gives prospective buyers _____.
A. the current market values of the goods
B. details of the goods to be sold
C. the order in which goods must be sold ✓
D. free admission to the auction sale
6. The auctioneer may decide to sell the "lots" out of order because _____.
A. he sometimes wants to confuse the buyers
B. he knows from experience that certain people will want to buy certain items
C. he wants to keep certain people waiting
D. he wants to reduce the number of buyers

7. An auctioneer likes to get high prices for the goods he sells because _____.
 A. then he earns more himself
 B. the dealers are pleased
 C. the auction-rooms become world-famous
 D. it keeps the customers interested
8. A clever auctioneer encourages _____.
 A. knock-out deals
 B. rivals to compete in high bidding
 C. the seller to accept the lowest price offered ✓
 D. dealers to buy from each other
9. "Knock-outs" are illegal agreements _____.
 A. between auctioneers and dealers
 B. between the seller and the auctioneer
 C. among the dealers only
 D. among the sellers only
10. A "knock-out" is arranged _____.
 A. to keep the price in the auction-room low
 B. to allow one dealer only to make a profit
 C. to increase the auctioneer's profit
 D. to help the auctioneer

Comprehension II

Tell whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. Auctions, conducted by an officially approved auctioneer, are the public purchase of goods. ()
2. The highest bidder is finally named as the buyer of the goods. ()
3. The word auction comes from a Latin word meaning "increase". ()
4. In Rome in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the auctioneer lit a short candle and the buyer could make bids while the candle remained alight. ()
5. Land and property, antique furniture, pictures, rare books, old china and similar works of art are also sold by auction. ()
6. Each group of goods to be sold is given a number, and is arranged to sell in numerical order. ()
7. The auctioneer has a direct interest in the bidding price as he is paid in the form of a percentage of the price the goods are sold for. ()
8. The auctioneer doesn't know at all the prevailing market price of the goods to be sold. ()
9. Generally speaking, the auctioneer will not start the bidding low. ()
10. In a "knock-out", dealers illegally appoint one of themselves as the only bidder, attempting to buy goods at extremely low prices. ()

Answer the following questions according to the facts of the text.

- ## Vocabulary

For each italicized word or phrase, choose the best alternative (A, B, C, or D) under each.

- 10

7. The auctioneer's services are paid for in the form of a **percentage** of the price the goods are sold for.
A. one-hundredth B. proportion C. 10% D. half
8. The auctioneer therefore has a direct interest in **pushing** up the bidding as high as possible.
A. raising B. rising C. growing D. exceeding
9. The auctioneer must know fairly accurately the **current** market values of the goods he is selling.
A. electrical B. up-to-date C. useful D. flowing
10. If such a "knock-out" **comes off**, the real auction sale takes place privately afterwards among the dealers.
A. goes wrong B. is successful C. is taken away D. can be removed

Vocabulary II

Match the following with their definitions on the right.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. approve | _____ a. to agree officially to |
| 2. assemble | _____ b. (to cause to) knock, beat or push forcefully, often with a loud noise |
| 3. bang | _____ c. an animal's skin esp. when removed to be used for leather |
| 4. spoil | _____ d. being old and therefore valuable |
| 5. hide | _____ e. to make (oneself or someone) familiar with |
| 6. spice | _____ f. to gather or collect together |
| 7. antique | _____ g. things taken without payment, as by an army from a defeated enemy or place |
| 8. produce | _____ h. any of various vegetable products used esp. in powder form for giving a taste to other foods |
| 9. acquaint | _____ i. to show, bring out, or offer for examination or consideration |
| 10. reserve | _____ j. a price limit below which something is not to be sold |

Vocabulary III

Fill in the numbered blanks from the selection of words given below.

An auction is a (1) of goods. The auctioneer asks the crowd gathered to make (2). The (3) bidder is the person who eventually buys the goods. Among products sold (4) auction are coffee, furs and wine as well as property, furniture and works of art. The auctioneer urges the bidding as high as possible (5) he (6) a percentage of the price obtained. He knows the dealers but cannot prevent a group of them (7) in a "knock-out".

- | | | |
|---------------|---------|-----------|
| 1. A. sell | B. sale | C. dealer |
| 2. A. bidders | B. bids | C. goods |