

Comprehension & Translation Exercises for  
College Students

# 大学英语

## 阅读理解与翻译

主 编

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# III

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大学英语学习丛书

# 大学英语阅读理解与翻译Ⅲ级

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## 前 言

本书是根据全国《大学英语教学大纲》的教学和考试要求而编写的。

《大学英语》是高等学校课程中最主要的课程之一。人们常说：“写作常常是从阅读那儿学来的”；也有人说：“听力常常是从阅读那儿学来的”。在《大学英语》的各级考试中，阅读理解题所占的分量都是最大的；因此，《大学英语》这门课程的学习能否成功，阅读理解起着至关重要的作用。

为了加强学生的阅读理解能力的培养，增加学生的阅读量，扩大学生的知识面；同时，按照《大学英语》各级考试题中的题型要求进行阅读理解练习、阅读理解翻译练习，做到既打好基础又进行适应性训练，我们根据教学的实际情况和要求特地编写了这本《大学英语阅读与翻译（Ⅲ级）》一书，供大学本、专科第三学期学习、使用。

本书中所选的九十篇文章均按照《大学英语三级考试大纲》中考试内容的要求设计，每篇文章后有五个问题和两句翻译，并列有生词（组）和疑难词（组）表。所选文章具有题材广泛、体裁多样、语言难度适中等特点。全部文章均与大学英语三级考试难度相当或略高于大学英语三级考试的难度。书后附有阅读理解练习答案、阅读理解翻译练习参考答案。

《大学英语》课程只有通过大量的实践练习才能真正掌握一定的英语单词和短语以及相关的阅读技能技巧。愿该书能为学习《大学英语》（3级）的读者提供有价值、有意义的帮助，这正是编者的初衷。

本书由李跃平、裴光兰、杜平同志担任主编，贾智勇、杨廷君、楚军同志任副主编。参加编写工作的还有（以姓氏笔画为序）：王天发、谢芬、胡兰英等同志。上海外语教育出版社汪义群教授、广西师范大学柏敬泽教授认真地审阅了全书，并对本书的编写工作提出了宝贵的建议，上海外语教育出版社杨自伍老师为本书的付梓付出了辛勤的劳动，在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于时间仓促和编者水平的局限，书中恐有不足之处，欢迎使用者提出宝贵的意见。

编者

2001年元月于桂林

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# **PART ONE**

## *Reading Comprehension and Translation*





# 1 Don't Fear Making Mistakes

In order to learn a foreign language well, it is necessary to overcome the fear of making mistakes. If the primary goal of language use is communication then mistakes are secondary considerations that may be dealt with gradually as awareness of those mistakes increases. On the other hand, students should not ignore their mistakes. The language learner may observe how native speakers express themselves, and how native expressions differ from the way the learner might say them. For example, a Spanish speaker who has been saying "I do it" to express intention of doing something in the immediate future could by interacting with native speakers of English observe that native speakers actually say "I'll do it". The resulting difference can serve as a basis for the student to modify his way of using the present tense in English. But a student who is unwilling to interact in the first place would lose this opportunity to learn by trial and error.

## Comprehension of the Text

1. According to the passage, the present tense in English is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) not the most difficult problem for foreign students
  - B) only used to express willingness
  - C) basically the same in English as it is in Spanish
  - D) not used to express a desire to do something in the near future
2. Language learners can avoid as many mistakes as possible by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) speaking without paying attention to native speakers
  - B) comparing their speech with that of native speakers
  - C) reading good books in the original
  - D) asking native speakers for explanation
3. Foreign language students who do not interact with native speakers will NOT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) take advantage of available language models
  - B) learn about the history of the foreign language
  - C) have to worry about making mistakes
  - D) learn much about foreign culture
4. A language learner should not worry too much about making mistakes because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) too many mistakes will bring benefit to him
  - B) native speakers pay less attention to his mistakes
  - C) communication is of primary importance in language learning
  - D) mistakes are unavoidable in language learning
5. In the author's opinion the function of mistakes in foreign language learning is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) native speakers often do not tell foreign learners about their mistakes
  - B) making mistakes can help the learner discover the rules of the language
  - C) mistakes are not important in the process of learning a language
  - D) learners are often very afraid of making mistakes

## Translation

### 1. (Para. 1)

In order to learn a foreign language well, it is necessary to overcome the fear of making mistakes.

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### 2. (Para. 1)

But a student who is unwilling to interact in the first place would lose this opportunity to learn by trial and error.

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## New Words and Expressions

communication	交流, 交往	to deal with	应付, 对付
awareness	意识	to ignore	忽视
to differ from	不同于, 有别于	to serve as	作为
to modify	修改	to interact	相互作用, 相互交流

## 2 Titles Before People's Names

Almost everyone knows the meanings of "Mr.", "Mrs.", and "Miss". "Mr." is used before the names of gentlemen. "Mrs." is for married women and "Miss" is for single women. But what is "Ms."?

For some time, businessmen in the United States have used "Ms." before a woman's name when they do not know whether or not the woman is married. Today, however, many women prefer to use "Ms." rather than "Mrs." or "Miss". The word "Mr." does not tell us whether a man is married or not. Many women think this is an advantage for men. They want to be equal to men in this way. These women feel that it is not important for people to know whether or not they are married.

There are some problems with "Ms.", however. Not all women like it. Some like the older ways of doing things. Some find it difficult to pronounce. ("Ms." sounds like [miz].) Generally, young women like it better than older women do. It is difficult to know whether "Ms." will be used by more American women in the future or not. What do you think of this change?

### Comprehension of the Text

1. The word "Ms." is used before the name of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) any person
  - B) any woman
  - C) an unmarried woman
  - D) a married woman
2. "Ms." was first used \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) in school
  - B) among workers
  - C) among young women
  - D) by shopkeepers
3. Many young women prefer to use "Ms." because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) it doesn't tell whether they are married or not
  - B) the word sounds more pleasant than "Mrs." does
  - C) they think themselves as good as men
  - D) the word has been used for a long time
4. You may infer that the word "Ms." appeared \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) after "Mrs." and "Miss", but before "Mr."
  - B) before "Mrs." and "Miss", but after "Mr."
  - C) after "Mr.", "Mrs." and "Miss"
  - D) before "Mr.", "Mrs." and "Miss"
5. According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE?
  - A) Men like to use "Ms." better than "Mrs." or "Miss".
  - B) Older women don't like to use "Ms." because most of them are married.
  - C) Many women don't like others to interfere in their private affairs.
  - D) More and more American women will accept the use of "MS." in the future.

## Translation

1. (Para. 2)

For some time, businessmen in the United States have used “Ms.” before a woman’s name when they do not know whether or not the woman is married.

---

2. (Para. 3)

There are some problem with “Ms.”, however. Not all women like it. Some like the older ways of doing things. Some find it difficult to pronounce.

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## 3 Speaking the Truth

Four clergymen, taking a short breather from their heavy duties, were on a park seat, chatting and enjoying a spring day.

“You know, since all of us are such good friends,” said one, “this might be an ideal time to discuss the problems that are disturbing us.” They all nodded in agreement.

“Well, I would like to share with you the fact that I drink to excess,” said one.

There was a gasp from the other three. Then another spoke up, “Since you were so honest, I’d like to say that my big problem is gambling. It’s terrible, I know, but I can’t stop. I’ve been even tempted to take donations from the collection plate.”

Another gasp was heard, and the third clergyman spoke, “I’m really troubled, brothers, because I’m growing fond of a woman in my church — a married woman.”

More gasps. But the fourth man remained silent. After a few minutes the others coaxed (诱导, 引诱) him to open up. “The fact is,” he said, “I just don’t know how to tell you about my problem.” “It’s all right, brother. Your secret is safe with us.” “Well, it’s this way,” he said, “I’m an incurable gossip.”

## Comprehension of the Text

1. A clergyman is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) a minister of a church  
B) a worker  
C) a tailor  
D) a special teacher
2. One of them was prepared to share with the others that he drank to excess. This means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) he was going to drink more  
B) he wanted to give his drink to them  
C) he wanted to reveal to them that he drank too much  
D) he wanted to drink together with them
3. The second clergyman liked gambling. He even \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) stole money from people's safes  
B) wanted to get money from people's contributions  
C) didn't want to get money from the church  
D) was given money by church-goers
4. "After a few minutes, the others coaxed him to open up." What does "open up" mean here?  
A) Open the Bible.  
B) Tell them how to solve their problems.  
C) Open his money pocket.  
D) Tell them what his problem was.
5. "Your secret is safe with us" may mean \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) they would not let others know what was going to be told to them  
B) the man would not run any risk  
C) he would not lose face  
D) the others would not speak ill of the man

## Translation

### 1. (Para. 1)

Four clergymen, taking a short breather from their heavy duties, were on a park seat, chatting and enjoying a spring day.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 2. (Para. 6)

But the fourth man remained silent. After a few minutes the others coaxed him to open up.

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### New Words and Expressions

clergymen	牧师	ideal	理想的
to disturb	困扰	excess	过量
gasp	喘息,喘气	to tempt	诱惑,引诱
donation	捐助,捐献物	to be fond of	喜爱
to coax	诱导,引诱	incurable	不可救药的
gossip	饶舌者		

## 4 Take the Same Medicine

A farmer who lived in a small village suffered from severe pain in the stomach. The doctor in the village had tried a number of treatments but been unable to cure him. The farmer decided to see a doctor in the nearest town. As he loved money badly and spent as little as possible, he thought he would find out what he would have to pay this doctor. He was told that a patient had to pay three pounds for the first visit, and one pound for the second visit.

The farmer thought about this for a long time. As he came into the doctor's room, he said, "Good morning, doctor. Here I am again." The doctor was a little surprised. Then he asked the farmer a few questions, examined his chest and took the pound which the farmer insisted on giving him. The doctor said with a smile, "Well, sir. There is nothing new. Please continue to take the same medicine I gave you the first time you came to see me."

### Comprehension of the Text

1. The farmer went to see a doctor in the town because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) the doctor in the village refused to treat him again  
B) the doctor in the village had failed to cure him  
C) he wanted to pay less money  
D) the town was not far from his home
2. Why was the doctor surprised when the farmer said, "Here I am again"?



- A) The farmer was seriously ill.
  - B) He seldom had patients from the countryside.
  - C) He had never seen the farmer before.
  - D) He did not expect that the farmer would come.
3. Why did the farmer insist on giving the doctor one pound?
- A) He wanted to make the doctor believe that it was his second visit to the doctor.
  - B) The doctor thought it unfair to accept the money since he had done nothing.
  - C) The doctor never accepted money from a poor patient.
  - D) He was thankful that the doctor had cured him.
4. How much should the farmer have paid the doctor?
- A) Nothing.
  - B) Two pounds.
  - C) One pound.
  - D) Three pounds.
5. Was the farmer successful in saving money?
- A) The story does not say.
  - B) He is successful in a way.
  - C) No, he wasn't.
  - D) Yes, he was.

### Translation

1. (Para. 1)

A farmer who lived in a small village suffered from the severe pain in his stomach. The doctor in the village had tried a number of treatments but been unable to cure him.

---



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2. (Para. 2)

Then he asked the farmer a few questions, examined his chest and took the pound which the farmer insisted on giving him.

---



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### New Words and Expressions

severe  
to cure

剧烈的  
治愈

treatment  
to insist on

医治, 处理  
坚持要, 强调

## 5 The World Population

According to the best historical evidence, it is estimated that it took about 800 thousand to 1 million years for the earth's population to reach the 250 million total which existed at the end of the first century after Christ. For some time after that, disease, disaster, and war kept the population increase down to a fraction of 1 percent a year so that more than 15 centuries passed before the population reached 500 million. But in the next 25 years, up to 1850, the population of the world shot up to the 1 billion mark, and today it has reached 5 billion. It is predicted by United Nations investigators that the population of the world will reach almost 7 billion by the year 2000.

When experts are asked what are the most effective measures to deal with the problems which overpopulation poses, they reply that at least three measures can be considered: (1) increasing sources and supply of food for developing countries; (2) increasing the industrialization of developing countries; (3) regulating conceptions and births. The experts add, however, that none of the proposed measures can be effective by itself, and that all must be combined into an integrated program. They also agree that without some regulation of conceptions and births, any other measures are doomed to failure.

### Comprehension of the Text

1. Our information about the population of the earth before the first century after Christ comes mainly from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) written records and cultural remains  
B) estimates based on previous population growth  
C) references in literature  
D) estimates based on current population growth
2. The population of the world doubled between the year \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) 1 and the year 100  
B) 1850 and today  
C) 100 and the year 1600  
D) 100 and the year 1400
3. By the year 2000, the earth's population will probably exceed its present population by \_\_\_\_\_.