

大学英语阶梯阅读

(第四册)

THE MORE
COMPETENT
THE BETTER

(BOOK 4)

夏晓梅 李秋明 主编
大连理工大学出版社

PROGRESSIVE READING

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大学英语阶梯阅读

(第四册)

The More Competent the Better

主审	张旭	
主编	夏晓梅	李秋明
编委	钱进	于风军
	时真妹	张静

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本丛书是根据《大学英语教学大纲》的要求和指导思想编写的,可用做大学英语基础教学阶段的泛读教材或课外阅读教材。

外语水平及外语应用能力是 21 世纪的大学毕业生最基本的素质之一。“阅读”又是提高外语水平的关键环节之一,因为大量的阅读有助于扩大词汇量,有助于提高阅读速度,有助于提高理解能力,也有助于听、说、译、写能力的提高。总之,大量的阅读可以使外语水平达到从量变到质变的飞跃,得到升华。

从现在开始,坚持天天读、快读、多读、有目的地读,你的英语水平一定会不断提高。

这套丛书提供了大量的阅读素材,其文章都经过了大量的筛选;难度、阅读量符合《大学英语教学大纲》的要求;涉猎内容广泛,有政治经济、社会生活、历史地理、风土人情、名人轶事、社会热点、现代科技等有关题材;文章体裁多样,有记叙文、说明文,也有应用文、诗歌、演说辞,具有知识性、趣味性、欣赏性。在第四册,我们还选用了 10 篇已暴光的四、六级考试阅读理解文章的原题,以供读者了解四、六级考试阅读理解试题,并进行自我测试。

这套丛书按阅读理解能力的培养与提高分成四册,一册一个台阶。

第一分册所选文章的内容及文字都比较简单,主要是让读者快速获取文章大意,克服不良阅读习惯,养成“reading in thought groups”的习惯,并且逐渐“broadening eye span”,以提高阅读速度——“*The Faster, the Better*”。

第二分册逐步加大阅读材料的难度,帮助学生在快读获取文章大意的基础上,逐步过渡到获取“specific information”和“relevant information”以及“implied information”,同时加大阅读量,提高阅读质量——“*The More, the Better*”。

第三分册再上一个台阶。文章均有一定难度,更注重文章的深层次涵义的理解,要求学生积极思维、深入阅读,读懂文章字里行间隐含的意思——“*The Deeper, the Better*”。

第四分册注重阅读综合能力的训练和培养。经过前三个阶段的阅读,读者已具备了一定的阅读速度和词汇量,并且对阅读技能技巧已有所领悟,第四分册加大了主观测试试题的分量,帮助

读者把这些技能变成自己的熟练技巧,进一步熟练、提高、升华——“*The More Competent, the Better*”。

这四册书构成一个完整的阅读环节,一步一个脚印,一步一个台阶,步步提高。

为了不因词汇问题而影响阅读速度,文中对超纲词汇及部分读者尚未掌握的四级词汇直接给出中(英)文释义;释义逐渐减少,随之逐渐增加“猜词”能力的训练。在文中需“猜”的词后留有括号,读者可在阅读过程中根据上下文直接填入词义。

每篇文章后编有与文章内容有关的或阅读理解选择练习,或提出问题要求简短回答,或要求翻译句子,也有少量词汇练习。凡需读者完成的练习均留有做题空间,可直接做在书上,既方便读者,也便于教师检查。此外,每篇文章后还配有“Useful Expressions”,为读者提供一定量的短语、词组、习语、句子等,以巩固、扩大词汇量,增长知识面,提高英、汉互译的能力。在读懂一篇文章之后,再能活用文中的一个词,这无疑是个不小的收获。日积月累,你不难发现这将大有裨益。

该丛书各分册均由15个单元组成。每个单元安排了5篇~6篇必读文章(每篇字数在200~450左右),另外配有1篇~2篇阅读欣赏材料,供学有余力的学生自由选读。以每学期15周计算,恰好每周一个单元,每天读一篇文章。每天花上5分钟~10分钟读一篇英语短文,培养一种兴趣并作为消遣,天长日久,积少成多,终有一天你会发现“You have found enjoyment in reading”,而且你的阅读能力已有了长足的进步。

在本书的编写出版过程中,我们得到了孔庆炎教授、张丽美教授的支持和帮助;在定稿阶段张艳敏同志协助做了大量工作,在此我们表示诚挚的谢意。

最后,我们本着对读者负责的态度,为了更好地完善这套丛书,欢迎广大读者及专家多提宝贵意见和建议,以便于我们修订时改进。

编者

1997年10月

Contents

Unit One	1
1. Bonsai 矮种树	1
2. Of Language Ability 语言技能	4
3. Future Man; Like This...? 未来的人类会是这个样子吗?	6
4. How to Complain 如何投诉	8
5. How to Teach Your Baby to Read 怎样教孩子读书	11
▲ Life without Fuel 没有燃料的生活	14
Unit Two	16
1. Air Bags 充气袋	16
2. The College Experience 大学的经历	18
3. How to Go through Customs 怎样过海关	21
4. The Vicious Circle 恶性循环	24
5. Elimination of Television 废除电视	27
▲ A. The Music of the Night 夜半歌声	30
▲ B. How Television Programs Are Born 电视节目的制作	31
Unit Three	34
1. Eating Habits 饮食习惯	34
2. Seeking a Job 谋职	36
3. Winter Driving 冬季驾车	38
4. Radio and Television 无线电与电视	40
5. Positive and Negative Ions 正负离子	43
▲ The Man and the Snake 人与蛇	46
Unit Four	49
1. Jobs of the Future 未来的工作	49
2. The Train Journey 一次火车旅行经历	52
3. Rebuilding London 重建伦敦	54
4. Only a Game 仅仅是比赛	57
5. Fairy Tales 神话故事	60
▲ A. A Race against Death 与死亡抗衡	63
▲ B. My Time in a Bottle 在我酗酒的日子里	65
Unit Five	68
1. Nutrition in Food 食物中的营养	68
2. Jockeys 职业赛马骑师	71

3. Who Doesn't Grumble at Times? 谁不时常抱怨工作?	73
4. The Dangers of Space 太空危险	76
5. Computer Data Files 数据库使用带来的问题	78
▲ The Voices of Time 时间之声	81
Unit Six	83
1. The Murder of Gandhi 甘地遇刺	83
2. Of Libraries 关于图书馆	85
3. What Will the Future Be like? 未来是什么样?	88
4. Opting Out 逃避现实	91
5. 试题 1 4DSH2 (1990 年 1 月)	94
▲ A. I Have a Dream 我有一个梦	97
▲ B. The Dream Horse and the Dining-room Table 梦中马与餐桌	98
Unit Seven	100
1. Humorous Selections 幽默选段	100
2. The Disease Detectives 霍乱病	104
3. Prolonging Human Life 延长人类寿命	107
4. Stress 压力	110
5. 试题 2 4FSH1 (1991 年 6 月)	113
▲ Coping with Stress 如何对付压力	116
Unit Eight	119
1. Earthquakes 地震	119
2. Getting to Know Your Opponents 知己知彼	121
3. Hot Air Balloons 热气球	123
4. Man Versus Virus 人类与病毒之战	126
5. 试题 3 4GSH2 (1993 年 6 月)	128
▲ A. To Build a Fire 生火	131
▲ B. College Work 大学生打工	133
Unit Nine	136
1. Accident and Sickness Procedure 事故与疾病的应急处理	136
2. Choosing a Career 选择职业	138
3. Division of Labour 劳动分工	140
4. Environment and Heredity 环境与遗传	142
5. 试题 4 4ISH1 (1995 年 6 月)	145
▲ The Man Who Made Mickey Mouse 迪斯尼与米老鼠	148

Unit Ten	151
1. Hospital Teaching 在医院里受教育	151
2. When You Have an Accident 交通事故发生后你该怎么办?	154
3. Advertisement 一则广告	157
4. Late-writing Biography 迟迟未写的传记	160
5. 试题 5 4ISH1 (1995 年 6 月)	163
▲ A. Just before Going to Bed 睡觉前	166
▲ B. Walking 散步	169
Unit Eleven	171
1. Problems of Health Care in USA 美国的医疗保健	171
2. It's a Mugger's Game in Manhattan 曼哈顿——行凶、贩毒的场所	174
3. Let Children Learn by Themselves 让孩子自己学	177
4. Discussion about Careers 择业的探讨	180
5. 试题 6 4KSH2 (1997 年 6 月)	183
▲ A. High Blood Pressure 高血压	186
▲ B. Room for One More 情暖人心	187
Unit Twelve	190
1. Can War Be Abolished? 战争能废除吗?	190
2. Is It Love or Infatuation? 是爱还是恋?	193
3. Protection for Wildlife 保护野生动物	196
4. The Importance of Good Record Keeping 记好账的重要性	199
5. 试题 7 6DSH2 (1990 年 1 月)	201
▲ The Letter 信	205
Unit Thirteen	208
1. If Avalanche Hits ... 如果发生雪崩	208
2. Our First Words 初始语	210
3. The Missing Rembrandt 一起名画被盗案	213
4. Motorcars and City Planning 汽车与城市规划	216
5. 试题 8 6DSH2 (1990 年 1 月)	219
▲ A. Why Don't Girls Think like Boys? 为什么女孩不像男孩那样思维?	222
▲ B. The Ghost Train 幽灵列车	224
Unit Fourteen	226
1. Computer 计算机	226
2. Tit for Tat 针锋相对	229

3. Are Test-tube Babies Healthy? 试管婴儿健康吗?	232
4. Boys Are Teachers' Pets 男孩是教师的宠儿	234
5. 试题 9 6GSH2 (1993 年 6 月)	237
▲ Reflections on My Brother's Murder 由我弟弟的死所想到的	240
Unit Fifteen	243
1. Knowing What the Left Hand Is Doing?	
想知道左手能做些什么吗?.....	243
2. Mental Activity 大脑活动	246
3. Respiratory Process 呼吸过程	249
4. A So-called Bestseller 一本所谓的畅销书	252
5. 试题10 6KSH2 (1997年6月)	255
▲ A. Pity for a Stranger 对一个陌生人的同情	258
▲ B. I Have a Dream 我有一个梦	260

Unit One

1. Bonsai 矮种树

The art of growing dwarf trees, or “bonsai” as their Japanese creators call them, is increasing in popularity in the United States. Growing bonsai can make a fascinating hobby for anyone who enjoys plants and creating beautiful effects with them; (1) elaborate equipment is not required to grow these lovely and tiny trees, but time, patience, and a sense of natural beauty are.

There are four important guidelines (准则) to follow in growing bonsai. First, one must be careful in choosing the type of tree. Not all species of trees can be made into bonsai, since the growing conditions are unusual. Varieties of pine with small needles and hardwood trunks are especially suitable.

Second, one must be careful in choosing the size of the container the bonsai will be in. This is necessary because the major growth of bonsai is kept confined to the tree's trunk and leaves, not its root system—a process quite unlike what is done with other plants.

Another thing the bonsai-grower must do is trim (修剪) the roots and branches of the tree periodically. Unless this is done, the plants will not have the proper proportions and will look unnatural. The Japanese ideal for bonsai is to have trees which are just like normal trees in everything but size.

The last thing one must do is to be careful to keep the miniature (小型的) trees well-watered. Because bonsai are grown in smaller-than-usual containers, they often need more water than ordinary houseplants do.

As one can see from the above, the art of bonsai-growing is one which requires a certain amount of time and effort. The satisfactions that growing bonsai brings can be great, however. Imagine a stately (高贵的) pine tree, 100 years old, standing two feet high; imagine having such a tree in your living room and passing it down through several generations of your family. (2) That is actually what bonsai-growing is all about; establishing a tradition of beauty which lasts for years and years and is a symbol of the beauties of the natural world.

(322 words)

1. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?

- A “Japanese Art Forms”.
- B “Bonsai—A Marriage of Art and Nature”.

- C "The Problems of Growing Bonsai".
 D "Four Ways to Grow Bonsai".
2. What is the implied meaning of a certain amount of time and effort in lines 20 and 21?
 A More time and effort than ordinary houseplants do.
 B A definite and exact amount of time and effort.
 C More time and effort than most people can expend.
 D A constantly changing amount of time and effort.
3. Translate the underlined sentences into Chinese.
- 1) _____

- 2) _____

Useful Expressions

proportion *n.*

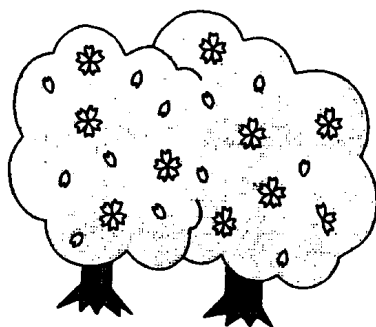
a large (small) proportion of the wages	工资的大(小)部分
the proportion of a room	房间的大小
the proportion of births to the population	人口出生率
an athlete of magnificent proportions	身材魁梧的运动员
a building of grand proportions	宏大的建筑物
a girl of fair physical proportions	身材匀称的女孩
combining proportion	化合比例
constant proportion	定比, 恒比
corresponding proportion	相应部分
direct (inverse/indirect) proportion	正(反)比例
due / proper proportion	适当的比例
geometric proportion	几何比
harmonic proportion	调和比例
natural proportion	自然比例
nutritive proportion	营养比例
proportion by weight	重量比
proportion of mixture	混合比
in proportion	按比例; 相称, 如实地
in equal proportion	按相等的比例
in direct proportion to	与……成正比
in inverse proportion to	与……成反比

in the proportion of
out of proportion to
with a small proportion of

按……的比例
与……不成比例/不相称
含有少量的……

to alter the proportion of
to make a large proportion of
to preserve due proportion

改变……的比例
占很大比例
保持适当的比例



Key: B A

2. Of Language Ability 语言技能

Once you realise that no method of language teaching is going to give you the ability to speak a foreign tongue to business standards in a few weeks, the selection of a system of teaching becomes a simple calculation of time, money and need.

There are three levels of language ability—tourist, social and fluent—and the gaps between them are huge. Most of us are aware that the schoolboy German that gets us into hotels and through supermarkets is not sufficient to keep up a pleasant dinner party conversation. Similarly the ability to join in such a conversation, which is about as much as most of us could hope to achieve, is a long way from a full intelligent grasp of the language and its culture.

For a quick introduction to the basis I prefer the cassette/book system. Language books alone cannot offer the necessary pronunciation skills, skills which you are going to need in order to understand, for example, the train announcements on the Moscow underground. The cassette, however, has proved a great aid for the language student.

The essential requirement when learning a language, even at that level, remains effort. (1) The more willingness which the student brings to the task the easier the course will be. For European languages that effort comes a little easier. The Londoner learning French or the Parisian learning English can readily find newspapers, radio stations and restaurants where the language is used and can thus become familiar with that culture before his visit. If the tongue is to be Tamil or Serbo-Croat the task is a little more difficult. With languages such as French and German it is also possible to listen to, or record, the BBC Schools programmes, which are always helpful.

(2) There is no question, however, that the best teaching, and obviously the most expensive, is in the classroom, the very best being a one-to-one teaching basis. For this you will be paying a few hundred pounds per week and it is important to check carefully on the chosen place of learning. Language teaching attracts some dishonest establishments. Watch out for the school that promises an ability to “reach the moon” after a couple of hours in the language lab!

(358 words)

1. The main differences between the three types of linguistic knowledge are

2. Why does the author prefer the cassette /book system for a quick introduction?

3. By far the best way of learning a language is _____

4. Translate the underlined sentences into Chinese.

(1) _____

(2) _____

Useful Expressions.

task *n.*

basic task

基本任务

current task

当前任务

daily maintenance task

每日保养(日常维修)工作

developmental task

发展阶段任务

holiday task

假期作业

main /major task

主要任务

practical task

实习作业

supplementary task

补充习题(作业)

uphill task

费力的工作,艰巨的任务

an exacting task

费力的工作

a profitless task

无益的工作

a task of great difficulty

一件十分困难的工作

too burdensome a task

负担过重的工作

task of design

设计任务

to abandon this task

放弃这项工作

to accomplish /fulfil a task

完成一项任务

to assign (set) sb. a task

分配(给)某人一项任务

to be at one's task

正在做着工作

to bend one's back to the task until one's dying day

鞠躬尽瘁,死而后已

to carry out a task

执行一项任务

to impose a heavy task on sb.

把一项艰巨的任务强加给……

to set about a task

着手一项工作

to take /call/bring sb. to task

责备某人,申诉某人

to take up an urgent task

担负一项紧急任务

3. Future Man: Like This...? 未来的人类会是这个样子吗?

What will man be like in the future—in 5,000 or even 50,000 years from now? We can only make a guess, of course, but we can be sure that he will be different from what he is today. For man is slowly changing all the time.

Let us take an obvious example. Man, even five hundred years ago, was shorter than he is today. Now, on average, men are about three inches taller. Five hundred years is a relatively short period of time, so we may assume that man will continue to grow taller.

Again, in the modern world we use our brains a great deal. Even so, we still make use of only about 20% of the brain's capacity. As time goes on, however, we shall have to use our brains more and more—and eventually we shall need larger ones! (1) This is likely to bring about a physical change too: the head, in particular the forehead, will grow large.

Nowadays our eyes are in constant use. In fact, we use them so much that very often they become weaker and we have to wear glasses. But over a very long period of time it is likely that man's eyes will grow stronger.

On the other hand, we tend to make less use of our arms and legs. These, as a result, are likely to grow weaker. At the same time, however, our fingers will grow more sensitive because they are used a great deal in modern life.

But what about hair? This will probably disappear from the body altogether in course of time because it does not serve a useful purpose any longer. In the future, then, both sexes are likely to be bald!

Perhaps all this gives the impression that future man will not be a very attractive creature to look at! This may well be true. (2) All the same, in spite of all these changes, future man will still have a lot in common with us. He will still be a human being, with thoughts and emotions similar to our own. (344 words)

1. Future man is likely to be different from us in many aspects. What are the differences?

2. What do you think causes the differences besides the natural changes of time?

3. Translate the underlined sentences into Chinese.

1) _____

2) _____

4. Put the following sentences into English.

1) 平均每年大连地区的降雨量为 800 毫米。(on average 平均)

2) 我们应当充分利用大脑的潜能。(make use of 利用)

Useful Expressions

assume *v.* **assumption** *n.*

to assume a leading position

担任领导职务

to assume a new name

用新名字, 用化名

to assume a new aspect

呈现新面貌

to assume an air of innocence

摆出一付无辜的样子

to assume great airs

神气活现, 摆架子

to assume office

就职

to assume responsibility

承担责任

to assume the reigns of government

执政, 开始掌权

measuring-unit assumption

计量单位的采用

similarity assumption

相似假定

on the assumption that

以……的设想为依据

Assuming that our request is rejected, what shall we do?

如果请求被拒绝, 我们该怎么办?

I assumed him (to be) able to analyse the causes of the failure.

我假定他能够分析这次失败的原因。

The motion of matter always assumes certain forms.

物质的运动总是表现为一定的形式。

Our assumption that we would win was wrong.

我们会赢的假定是错误的。

He passed by with an assumption of indifference.

他假装漠不关心地走了过去。

A typical example: you buy a pair of shoes in a sale. A week later a strap comes right away making the shoes unwearable. What should you do?

Although there is no obligation on you to return the goods, it is best to take them back as soon as you discover the defect. If it is impractical for you to return to the shop at once, perhaps because you live a long way off, or because the goods are bulky (庞大的), write to say that you are dissatisfied with the product and ask for collection arrangements to be made. Any unexplained or unreasonable delay will weaken your case.

(1) Many people believe that the initial complaint about faulty goods should be made to the manufacturer. This is not the case. Your contract is with the retailer, the party who sold you the goods, and so it is to him that your complaint should be made.

HOW TO COMPLAIN

Make your complaint to the right person

It is always a good idea to ask for the manager in a shop or the departmental manager in a large store. In asking for a person in authority you also show that you mean business right from the start. Don't be fobbed (搪塞) off with the common response that the manager is "in a meeting" or "away". Insist that someone must have been left in charge and that you'll see that person. Failing that, register your complaint with the assistant and make an appointment to call back and see the manager at a mutually convenient time.

Be polite but firm

When making your complaint it is important that you adopt the right tone. The last thing you want to do is antagonise (怨恼) the person you are dealing with. You should try to be polite but firm and to give a generally businesslike impression. Maintain this approach and avoid having a row.

Know what you want

It is remarkable how many people return faulty products to the seller not having the faintest idea what they want to happen. Do you want a full refund (偿还额), a repair, a credit note or an exchange? You may not get what you want but you should decide beforehand.

Take a receipt

(2) Wherever possible try to take your receipt back with the goods. A receipt can prove that the goods were bought from a particular shop or store. A shop will want to make sure that the goods were bought there before considering your complaint. However, you are not