

大学英语阶梯阅读

(第二册)



THE MORE
THE BETTER

(BOOK 2)

于风军 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

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The More the Better

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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

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Unit One

1. Read for a Purpose (1)—Skimming

有目的地阅读(1)——略读

It is sometimes useful to obtain a general impression of a book, article, or story before deciding whether or not to read more carefully. To skim is to read quickly in order to get a general idea of a passage. Unlike scanning, which involves searching for details or isolated facts, skimming requires you to note only information and clues that provide an idea of the central theme or topic of a passage.

When you skim, it is necessary to read only selected sentences in order to get the main idea. You should also use textual clues such as italicized or underlined words, headlines or subtitles, spacing, paragraphing, etc. Do not read every word or sentence.

Once you have a general idea about an article, you may decide whether you should read the entire selection carefully.

1. If you want to know whether the material is what you want, you should _____.

- A read it carefully
- B read its headline only
- C search for some details in it
- D skim it

2. You must skim the following passage in one minute to decide if a careful reading would provide information on the topic given. Indicate your answer by checking Yes or NO.

Would you want more information about the Dionne Quintuplets if you were interested in social and governmental reaction to multiple births?

—Yes.

—No.

DIONNE QUINTUPLETS(五胞胎), the five daughters born in Callander, Ontario, on May 28, 1934, to Oliva and Elzire Dionne, who already had six children. The quintuplets, Annette, Emilie, Yvonne, Marie, and Cecile, were delivered at the Dionne farmhouse (now preserved and restored). They were cared for by Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe, a local general medical practitioner. The Canadian Red Cross provided them with incubators(保育早产婴儿的恒温箱) and nursing care, and the Dafoe Memorial Hospital was built nearby by public subscription(捐款) as a nursery. In 1935 the Ontario legislature(立法机关) made them wards

of the province to avoid exploitation(利用)by theatrical managers and show producers, their father regained custody(监护)in 1941.

In 1943 a new family home was built, and the quintuplets were educated there until they entered Nicolet College in 1952. Marie (Mrs. Florian Houle) died in Montreal on Feb. 27, 1970. Emilie died of an epileptic seizure on Aug. 6, 1954, in Ste.-Agathe-des-Monts, Quebec. Yvonne trained as a nurse and spent several years in convents. Annette married Germain Allard of Montreal, and Cecile married Philippe Langlois of Quebec.

(123 words)

3. Skim the following passage in two minutes and then choose the best title for it.

- A The "Post Paid" Error.
- B The Twopenny Blue.
- C A London Printer's Error.
- D How Mauritius Became Famous.

How can a single postage stamp be worth \$16,800?

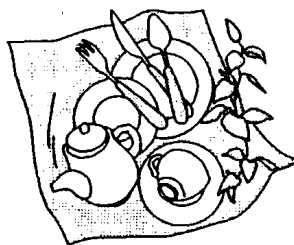
Any mistake made in the printing of a stamp raises its value to stamp collectors. A mistake on one inexpensive postage stamp has made the stamp worth a million and a half times its original value.

The mistake was made more than a hundred years ago in the British colony of Mauritius, a small island in the Indian Ocean. In 1847 an order for stamps was sent to a London printer—Mauritius was to become the fourth country in the world to issue stamps.

Before the order was filled and delivered, a ball was planned at Mauritius' Government House, and stamps were needed to send out the invitations. A local printer was instructed to copy the design for the stamps. He accidentally inscribed (题刻) the words "Post Office" instead of "Post Paid" on the several hundred stamps that he printed.

Today there are only twenty-six of these misprinted stamps left—fourteen One Penny Orange-Reds and twelve Twopenny Blues. Because of the Twopenny Blue's rareness and age, collectors have paid as much as \$16,800 for it.

(182 words)



Key: D; yes; A

2. Public Transportation

公共交通运输

In many American cities public transportation is a political issue(问题). So many people live in these cities that it is impossible for them all to drive cars. Besides, many of them cannot afford cars. Many people want to ride fast, clean subways and buses, but nobody wants to pay for them. This is a problem for city politicians, who want to be elected and reelected. Some cities pay for part of the cost of public transportation from taxes. However, the costs go up as the price of fuel increases, and the politicians do not want to increase taxes. The rest of the cost has to come from fares that the passengers pay.

The fare system differs in different cities. In some, such as New York, every passenger pays the same amount, whether he or she takes a short ride or a long one. In other cities, such as Washington, there is a system of zones. A passenger who only wants to go a short distance pays one amount. A passenger who goes through more zones pays more.

In all systems, passengers complain that politicians let fares get too high. Other people complain that politicians let taxes get too high. Everybody blames the politicians.

(203 words)

1. The main idea of "Public Transportation" is stated in _____.

- A the first sentence in paragraph one
- B the first sentence in paragraph two
- C the first sentence in paragraph three

2. Are the following true or false?

- A True False Americans reelect politicians because they help increase taxes.
- B True False Subway fares depend partly on the cost of fuel.
- C True False Many poor people need to use public transportation.
- D True False Both taxes and fares pay for public transportation.
- E True False In all American cities there is a system of zones for paying the bus fare.

Useful Expressions

transport *vt. n.*

transportation *n.*

air transport

空运, 空运业

all-weather transport

全天候运输

ambulance transport

救护[运输]船, 伤员运输

cargo transport

货运, 运货船

clipper transport

快捷运输

combined rail and road transport

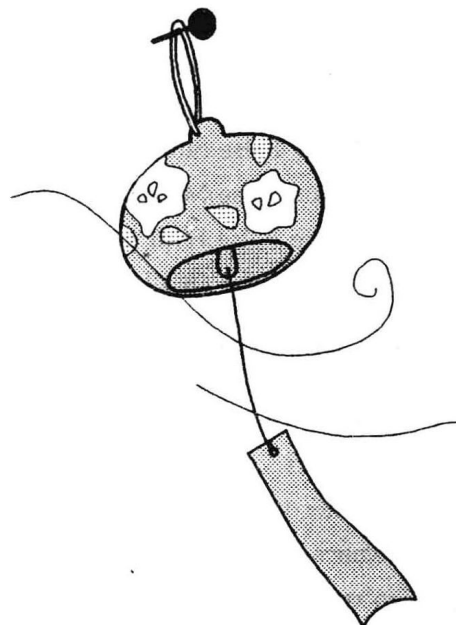
铁路公路联合运输

high-speed mass transport
 heat transport
 hired transport
 hydraulic/water/waterway transport
 inland/inner water transport
 magnetic tape transport
 marine/maritime transport
 mechanical transport
 ocean/sea transport
 petroleum transport
 priority transport
 railway(road) transport of passenger(goods)
 surface transport
 through transport

bus transportation
 highway transportation
 overland transportation
 pipe-line transportation
 suburban(urban) transportation
 to transport mail by train

高速大量运输
 热交换, 传热
 租赁运输工具
 水运
 内陆/内河运输
 磁带传送
 海上运输船, 海上运输
 机械化运输, 汽车运输
 远洋[海洋]运输, 海运
 石油输送
 优先运输
 铁路(公路)客运(货运)
 水陆运输
 直达运输, 联运

公共汽车运输
 公路运输
 陆路运输, 横贯陆地运输
 管道运输
 郊区(城市)交通运输
 以火车运邮件



Key: 1. A 2. F T T T F

3. Crime Cycles throughout the Year

一年中犯罪的周期性

Crime has its own cycles, a magazine reported some years ago. Police records that were studied for five years from over 2,400 cities and towns show a surprising link between changes in the season and crime patterns.

The pattern of crime has varied very little over a long period of years. Murder reaches its high during July and August, as do rape (强奸) and other violent attacks. Murder, moreover, is more than seasonal; it is a weekend crime. It is also a nighttime crime; 62 percent of murders are committed between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m. .

Unlike the summer high in crimes of bodily harm, burglary (盗窃) has a different cycle. You are most likely to be robbed between 6 p. m. and 2 a. m. on a Saturday night in December, January, or February. The most uncriminal month of all? May—except for one strange statistic (统计资料). More dog bites are reported in this month than in any other month of the year.

Apparently our intellectual seasonal cycles are completely different from our criminal tendencies. Professor Huntington, of the Foundation for the Study of Cycles, made extensive studies to discover the seasons when people read serious books, attend scientific meetings, make the highest scores on examinations and propose the most changes to patents. In all instances, he found a spring peak and an autumn peak separated by a summer low. On the other hand, professor Huntington's studies indicated that June is the peak month for suicides (killing oneself) and admissions to mental hospitals. June is also a peak month for marriages!

Possibly, soaring (高升的) thermometers and high humidity (湿度) bring on our strange and terrifying summer actions, but police officials are not sure. "There is, of course, no proof of a connection between humidity and murder," they say. "Why murder's high time should come in the summertime we really don't know."

(305 words)

1. The main idea of paragraph 1 is _____.
 - A there is a link between changes in the seasons and crime patterns
 - B crime is not linked to the changes in season
 - C 2,400 towns were studied for five years
 - D police records should be studied
2. The subject of paragraph 2 is _____.
 - A murder
 - B summer crime
 - C burglary
 - D rape
3. In paragraph 3, what is the one strange statistic for May?
 - A There are more robberies in May.
 - B There are more dog bites in May.

- C There is the most crime in May.
D There are more murders in May.
4. In paragraph 4, sentence 2 gives examples of _____.
A criminal tendencies B summer low
C intellectual activities D leisure trends
5. In paragraph 4, why is there an exclamation point (!) after the last sentence?
A Because the author is surprised that so many people marry in June.
B Because the author is surprised that the marriage peak occurs in the same month as the suicides and mental hospital peak.
C Because the author doesn't understand why the peak for suicides and marriage is in the same month.
D Because the author is surprised that so many people commit suicide in this month.
6. The information in paragraph 5 says _____.
A there may be a connection between murder and hot weather
B there is a definite connection between murder and hot weather
C there is no connection between murder and hot weather
D high humidity definitely causes murder

Useful Expressions

season *n.*

booming/busy/high/rush season 旺季

busy farming season 农忙季节

close (closed fishing) season 禁猎(禁止捕
鱼)季节

dry (wet; rainy) season 旱(雨)季

dead (a dull; an off) season in trade 营业的
淡季

early season 比赛季节的初期

festive season 欢乐季节

flood season 洪水期

low/slow season 淡季

season-ticket/commutation ticket 长期票,
定期车票

silly season 无聊的季节, 新闻业的淡季

the height of the season (流行的) 极盛时
期

the social season 社交季节

the strawberry season 草莓旺季

at all seasons 一年四季, 一年到头

at seasons 时时, 不时地

for a season 一时, 一会儿, 暂时

in due season 在适当的时候

in good season 尽早, 及早

in season 1. 时机正好, 恰合时宜 2. 尽早,
及早 3. (水果等) 正旺, 应时 4. (狩猎) 在
猎期 5. (动物) 在发情期中

in season and out of season 一年到头, 始终
不断, 无论何时

out of season 1. 过时 2. 失去时机 3. 在禁
猎期

to come into season 上市

The last three years have been a good season
for the company. 过去三年一直是公司的
兴旺时期。

There is a season for work and for play. 玩
也好, 工作也好, 都有个时候。

Key: A A B C B A

4. Speech

说话能力

Speech—the act of uttering (发出) sounds to convey meaning—is a kind of human action. Like any other constantly repeated action, speaking has to be learned, but once it is learned, it becomes a generally unconscious (无意识的) and apparently automatic process.

As far as we can determine, human beings do not need to be forced to speak; most babies seem to possess (have) a sort of instinctive drive to produce speechlike noises. How to speak and what to say are another matter altogether. These actions are learned from the particular society into which the baby is born; so that, like all conduct that is learned from a society—from the people around us—speech is a patterned activity.

The meandering (闲聊的) babble (咿咿呀呀) and chatter of a young child are eventually channeled by imitation into a few orderly grooves (习惯) that represent the pattern accepted as meaningful by the people around him. Similarly, a child's indiscriminate (不加选择的) practice of putting things into his mouth becomes limited to putting food into his mouth in a certain way.

The sounds that a child can make are more varied and numerous than the sounds that any particular language utilizes (uses). However, a child born into a society with a pattern of language is encouraged to make a small selection of sounds and to make these few sounds over and over until it is natural for him to make these sounds and no others.

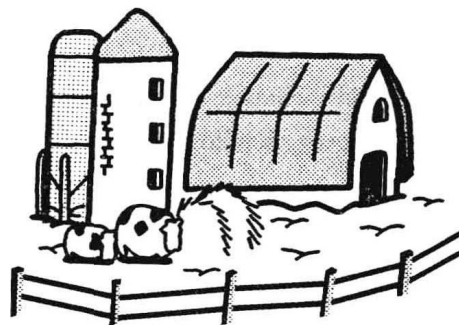
(233 words)

1. For an adult, the process of speaking usually involves _____.
A conscious selection of sounds B imitation of those around him
C a drive to make noises D unconscious actions
2. Conduct that is learned from a society may be called _____.
A instinctive drive B selection
C automatic activity D patterned activity
3. A child's chatter becomes speech when it _____.
A begins to follow meaningful patterns B contains enough sounds
C becomes natural to him D begins to be repeated
4. The most important factor in a child's learning to speak is probably _____.
A instinct B selection
C variety D imitation
5. The sounds that a child is able to make are _____.
A not as varied as those used in language
B more varied and numerous than those in any language

- C far fewer than those needed to form a language
 D completely different from the sounds of language
6. The society around a child determines _____.
 A what kind of sounds he will make
 B whether his speech will become automatic
 C what sounds will be considered meaningful
 D how many sounds he will be able to make

Useful Expressions

vary v.	varied a.	various a.
to vary one's life 使生活丰富多彩		various views 各种观点
to vary one's plan 改变计划		riots in various places 各地的暴动
to vary one's teaching method 改变教学方法		the peoples of various countries 各国人民
		too various to form a group 种类繁多难成 一类
to vary directly as 和……成正比而变化		for various reasons 因种种理由
to vary inversely as 和……成反比而变化		
to vary from ... to ... / between ... and ... 从 ……到……不等; 在……到……之间变 动		Opinions vary on this point. 在这一点上 意见各不相同。
to vary with 照……变化, 跟着……变化		The temperature varies from time to time. 温度常常变化。
varied opinions 各种不同的意见		They never vary from the law of nature. 他们从不违反自然规律。
a varied career 多变化的生涯		
the varied scenes of life 生活中各式各样的 情景		There are various ways of getting to the station. 去车站有各种不同走法。
various opinions 种种意见		
various shapes 不同的形状		



Key: D D A D B C