

大学英语

六级强化训练手册

陶红英 主编

上海交通大学出版社

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前 言

《大学英语六级强化训练手册》是以《大学英语教学大纲》对大学英语六级读、听、写的要求为依据而进行编写的,目的在于使学生通过各种六级考试题型的强化训练,帮助学生复习和巩固已经掌握的各项解题技能,提高学生在读、听、写诸方面的能力,以达到大纲所规定的要求。同时,通过本手册学习,以帮助学生能够顺利地通过大学英语六级的考试。

本手册共分为听力(Listening Comprehension)、阅读(Reading Comprehension)、写作(Writing Practice)、词汇与结构(Vocabulary and Structure)和改错(Error Correction)五个部分,每个部分由若干个技能要点讲解和综合技能训练所组成,此种安排既有利于教师结合学生实际需要有选择地使用,又便于学生课外自学。

本手册的语言材料选自原版外文资料,大部分材料内容新颖,练习针对性强,训练量大。本手册还配有详尽的教师手册,便于教师组织教学。听力部分配有录音磁带。

本手册由陶红英主编。听力部分由陶红英、刘晖、陈琳丽、徐艳凤编写;阅读部分由陶红英、章黄、毛悦勤编写;写作部分由潘晓燕编写;词汇与结构部分由宣安编写;改错部分由陶红英编写。全书由李永宁审阅。

何宏英、郑敏轶担任了本手册的全部打字工作。

在本手册的编写过程中,得到了有关专家和领导郑树棠与赵蒙疆的大力支持和帮助,对此深表感谢。

由于编者水平有限,经验不足,疏漏错误之处在所难免,祈盼读者提出宝贵意见,以便改进。

编 者

1998年10月

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1 Listening Comprehension

1.1 Familiarity with the English Language

The Listening comprehension section is intended to test the students' ability to catch oral information. Therefore, good performance is impossible without thorough familiarity with spoken English, namely, correct pronunciation, falling and rising intonation, sentence stress, the speaker's tone, the special features of American pronunciation, etc. Here are some examples of the differences in pronunciation between American(A) and British English(BE):

	A	BE
can't	[kænt]	[kɑ:nt]
clerk	[klɜ:k]	[klɔ:k]
tomato	[tə'meɪtəʊ]	[tə'mɔ:təʊ]
vase	[veɪz]	[vɑ:z]
last	[læst]	[lɑ:st]
fast	[fæst]	[fɔ:st]
either	['i:ðə]	['aɪðə]
leisure	['li:ʒə]	['leɪʒə]

The following points are worth noticing in listening comprehension:

1) Grammar

A good command of English grammar will help students understand what they hear. For example, "It's high time you went to bed" means "It's time for you to go to bed." Many students fail to perceive the correct meaning of the sentence due to poor grammar.

2) Vocabulary

A smaller vocabulary is involved in listening than in reading. However, students still have to master as many words and phrases as possible. For example, "pick up" has several shades of meaning: You can pick up a book on the floor. /Pick up the laundry on your way back home. /Pick up your friend at the street corner. /Pick up French during your stay in Paris. /Your car may pick up speed, etc.

3) Special Patterns and Idioms

In addition to words and phrases, there are many fixed patterns and idioms frequently used in colloquial English. Students must be very familiar with these patterns before they can respond spontaneously to them at an actual test. Here are some examples:

- (1) I can't agree with you more.
(I completely agree with you.)
- (2) I don't teach because teaching is easy.
(I teach not because teaching is easy.)
- (3) You can never be too careful while crossing a busy street.
(Be as careful as possible while crossing a busy street.)
- (4) Jenny has her hands full with that report.
(Jenny is busy with that report.)
- (5) Joe worked round the clock.
(Joe worked all day and all night.)
- (6) We've sold out.
(All the tickets, etc. have been sold out.)
(None is left.)

4) Influence from Reading Comprehension

Listening is not an isolated skill. Besides the above-mentioned vocabulary, grammar and fixed patterns, another essential factor is reading comprehension. The listening test is conducted in the form of multiple choice questions, in which the students are asked to compare the four given choices and choose the best

one. But if the students do not have enough time to finish reading the four printed choices, or fail to understand them fully and correctly, errors are inevitable. Hence, increasing reading speed and accuracy may also contribute to successful listening comprehension.

1.2 Understanding the Western Culture

This is a not-too-rare problem: the students catch and understand every word in a conversation or passage, but they feel puzzled and cannot locate the right answer. Why? One of the explanations can be the culture gap.

English-speaking countries have their own way of life and social practice. For instance, telephone plays a great role in life. Reservation on the phone is a popular practice in the United States. Americans call in advance to book air tickets, restaurant seats and hotel rooms. They also call to arrange business appointments. If they cannot make it, they call to postpone or cancel them. Long distance calls can be made either directly or through an operator. There are also person-to-person calls and collect calls. Another feature of American life is the wide use of automobiles. In fact, the United States is nicknamed "Country on Wheels". For this reason, students often hear talks about cars, such as selling, buying, repairing, hiring or borrowing a car. Another topic often mentioned in conversations is school life. American students enjoy more freedom in selecting their own courses, arranging their own timetables and criticizing the professors' lectures.

In conclusion, language is an inalienable part of the culture where it exists. Therefore, understanding the background of the language and customs of English-speaking nations will help English learners to avoid potential misunderstandings. Listed below are some of the

main national holidays in the United States.

New Year's Day	Independence Day
April Fools' Pay	Halloween
Easter Sunday	Thanksgiving Day
Mother's Day	Christmas
Father's Day	

1.3 Knowing the Question Types

Questions in the listening comprehension usually fall into one of the following categories.

1) Catching Information

This type of questions ask the students to catch specific information the speakers have mentioned, such as a name, a place, a number, etc.

2) Making Inferences

In this type of questions, students are asked to find out what is implied rather than stated in the listening material, such as the speaker's attitude, hidden messages, etc.

3) Drawing Conclusions

This type of questions demand overall understanding of the whole talk. Students may be asked to identify the relationship between the two speakers, the place where the conversation takes place, the main idea of the passage, or the best title for the passage.

4) Numerical Calculations

In this type of questions, students need to do some simple mathematical computations, adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing.

1.4 Test-shooting Strategies

1) Global instead of local comprehension

Students often find themselves unable to catch up with the speaker. That is because they linger too long on some specific information. The correct way to listen is to follow the speaker through to the end of the talks, ignoring the one or two puzzling details, which may clear up by themselves at the end of the talk. In this way, they get the general idea of the talk, which can help make up for the points they have missed.

2) Anticipation

Anticipation means predicting the possible topic of the forthcoming talk. It may be done in two ways:

(1) Use the given choices as a cue.

Take a few seconds to glance at the four choices printed in the test paper before listening. You do not have to read carefully. A glimpse at the key words is enough. For example, you may read:

- A) He thinks the boss is terrible.
- B) He thinks the boss is cunning.
- C) He thinks the boss is frank.
- D) He thinks the boss makes a lot of mistakes.

The key words here are “boss”, “terrible”, “cunning”, “frank” and “mistakes”. Then you learn that the conversation is about a man’s attitude toward his boss. Let’s look at another example. You will read:

- [1] A) 1890 B) 1847
 C) 1864 D) 1900
- [2] A) Iowa B) Missouri
 C) Washington D) Ohio
- [3] A) Edison graduated from Iowa State college.
 B) Carver burned down a barn while he was conducting an experiment.
 C) Edison’s mother taught him at home.
 D) As a young boy, Edison loved school and was a very good student.

A glance at the choices quickly reveals that the passage is probably about Edison's childhood, and it involves a place and time. Thus, you will listen with a purpose and be alert for when and where something happened.

(2) Use the context as a cue

The first sentence of a passage can often help you predict what will come next.

For example, you will hear: "Telephone books in the United States have white, blue and yellow pages." Then you can expect the speaker to talk about telephone directories, telephone services, charges or anything relating to telephone.

Let's look at another example. You will hear: "In recent years, many Americans of both sexes and various ages have become interested in improving their bodies. They have become devoted to physical fitness." Then you learn that this passage is probably about the health movement in the United States. You may expect to hear about sports, diet, diseases, etc.

1.5 Listening Practice

Directions of Listening Comprehension

Section A Short Conversations

Directions

In this section you will hear 10 short conversations. At the end of each conversation, a question will be asked about what was said. Each conversation and question will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four suggested answers marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line

through the center.

Example

You will hear :

(Man) When shall we start our work, Jane?

(Woman) Tomorrow at 9 o'clock. But we must work quickly, for we have to finish everything before 2 in the afternoon.

(Question) For how long can they work?

You will read :

A) 2 hours.

B) 3 hours.

C) 4 hours.

D) 5 hours.

From the conversation we know that the two are talking about some work they will start at 9 o'clock in the morning and have to finish at 2 in the afternoon. Therefore, D) "5 hours" is the correct answer. You should choose answer [D] on the Answer Sheet and mark it with a single line through the center.

Sample Answer [A] [B] [C] [~~D~~]

Section B Passages

Directions

In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the center.

Listening Practice One

Section A: Short Conversations

1. A) He will talk to Bill.
B) He agrees with the woman.

- C) Bill is always like that.
D) The woman should be happy.
2. A) Buy a parrot.
B) Talk to her parrot.
C) Teach the parrot to talk.
D) Find someone to care for her parrot.
3. A) He likes reading novels now.
B) He likes his literary history class.
C) His teacher is a bad writer.
D) He doesn't like his literacy class because he has to read so many novels.
4. A) He won't go because he has not enough money.
B) By train.
C) By bus.
D) By air.
5. A) He feels sick.
B) He hates the woman.
C) He expected his suit to be ready.
D) He backed up into another car.
6. A) Get off the plane.
B) Stop at Chicago.
C) Kick his legs.
D) Take a plane to Chicago.
7. A) Teacher — Student.
B) Parent — Child.
C) Host — Guest.
D) Passenger — Receptionist.
8. A) In a university.
B) In a street.
C) By a river.
D) In front of a building.
9. A) She feels uneasy.
B) She wants to get out.

Passage Three

Questions 17 to 20 are based on the passage you have just heard.

17. A) There was no way of controlling them.
B) There was not much wind.
C) They were too heavy.
D) It was hard to get off the ground.
18. A) A French clockmaker.
B) Hindenberg.
C) Count von Zeppelin.
D) Blimp.
19. A) The US.
B) Great Britain.
C) France.
D) Germany.
20. A) The airships were used for wartime purposes.
B) They were difficult to control.
C) The newer models were too small.
D) They were afraid because of the tragedy of the Hindenberg.

Listening Practice Two

Section A: Short Conversations

1. A) She stayed home.
B) She went to a hospital.
C) She went to New York.
D) She went to a magic performance.
2. A) At 2:00. B) At 2:20.
C) At 3:00. D) At 2:40.
3. A) At a wedding. B) At an airport.
C) In Hawaii. D) On a honeymoon.
4. A) Student — Teacher.
B) Employee — Employer.
C) Patient — Doctor.
D) Client — Lawyer.

5. A) By air. B) By car.
C) By ship. D) By train.
6. A) Disappoint Mary again.
B) Go home.
C) Attend a birthday party.
D) Avoid attending a party.
7. A) She's an apartment manager.
B) She's a maid.
C) She's a real estate agent.
D) She sells stoves and refrigerators.
8. A) At the office.
B) On the way to the post office.
C) At home.
D) With his wife.
9. A) The man and woman will eat together.
B) The woman will go home for supper.
C) The woman won't go to the theater.
D) The man and woman will go home before going to the theater.
10. A) She plans to do a lot of reading.
B) She plans to teach in Venice.
C) She plans to write a book.
D) She plans to stay home and rest.

Section B: Passages

Passage One

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the passage you have just heard.

11. A) He was an English policeman.
B) He was a visitor to Britain.
C) He was a politician.
D) He was the first cop of Britain.
12. A) They never do anything important.
B) They are friendly and helpful.