

根据教育部《大学英语课程教学要求》编写

3

College English Fast Reading

# 大学英语快速阅读



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

根据教育部最新颁布《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》编写

# College English Fast Reading

## 大学英语快速阅读 3

主 编 杨 跃 郝涂根

副主编 马 刚 徐艳萍  
秦 枫 火传海



北京大学出版社  
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语快速阅读(3)/杨跃,郝涂根主编. —北京:北京大学出版社, 2006.6  
(大学英语立体化网络化系列教材)

ISBN 7-301-09180-X

I. 大… II. ① 杨… ② 郝… III. 英语-阅读教学-高等学校-教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2006)第 012605 号

书 名: 大学英语快速阅读(3)

著作责任者: 杨 跃 郝涂根 主编

策 划: 孙凤兰 张 冰

责任编辑: 孙凤兰

封面设计: 孙 炀 王 弢 周亚婕

标准书号: ISBN 7-301-09180-X/H·1500

出版发行: 北京大学出版社

地 址: 北京市海淀区成府路 205 号 100871

网 址: <http://cbs.pku.edu.cn>

电 话: 邮购部 62752015 发行部 62750672 编辑部 62755217

电子邮箱: [zbing@pup.pku.edu.cn](mailto:zbing@pup.pku.edu.cn)

排 版 者: 华伦图文制作中心

印 刷 者: 北京飞达印刷有限责任公司

经 销 者: 新华书店

787毫米×1092毫米 16开本 9印张 160千字

2006年6月第1版 2006年6月第1次印刷

定 价: 15.00 元

---

未经许可,不得以任何方式复制或抄袭本书之部分或全部内容。

版权所有,翻版必究 举报电话: 010-62752024

电子信箱: [fd@pup.pku.edu.cn](mailto:fd@pup.pku.edu.cn)

# 大学英语立体化网络化系列教材

总 顾 问 李赋宁 胡壮麟

总 主 编 黄必康

网络版主编 李建华

## 编委会名单 (以姓氏笔画为序)

王海啸 (南京大学)

王焱华 (北京师范大学)

刘红中 (北京大学)

孙建民 (河北师范大学)

余渭深 (重庆大学)

宋 黎 (大连理工大学)

李养龙 (北京航空航天大学)

杨 跃 (西安电子科技大学)

赵 雯 (东北大学)

贾国栋 (华南理工大学)

黄必康 (北京大学)

蔡基刚 (复旦大学)

王明舟 (北京大学出版社)

王惠玲 (西北大学)

刘龙根 (吉林大学)

孙秋丹 (北京大学)

吴松江 (福州大学)

李建华 (中国农业大学)

李霄翔 (东南大学)

柯彦玢 (北京大学)

夏纪梅 (中山大学)

梁育全 (云南大学)

蒋学清 (北京交通大学)

黎 宏 (四川大学)

## Acknowledgements

We are indebted, mainly for the reading selections, to many sources. We have put forth the fullest effort to trace each and every source, and their origins and our acknowledgements are indicated within the book. However, a small number of copyright materials remain uncredited because the original copyright holders could not be located, or we were unable to establish communication with them. It may be the case that some unintentional omissions have occurred in the employment of some copyright materials. We are grateful to these authors and sources, and we apologize for not being able to extend our acknowledgements in detail. For any questions concerning copyrights and permissions, please contact

Copyrights Department

Peking University Press

Beijing, 100871

P. R. China

Telephone: +86 10 62752036

Fax: +86 10 62556201

Email: xiena@pup.pku.edu.cn

We are much obliged for any information concerned and will make necessary arrangements for the appropriate settlement of any possible copyright issue.



# 前言

《大学英语快速阅读》(3)是北京大学出版社出版的大学英语立体化网络化系列教材之一,共收录短文 32 篇;内容涉及理想追求、缤纷社会、文化教育、科技博览、世界经济、娱乐集萃、体坛纵横等知识方面,按主题分 8 个单元。

编写此书时,编者除注意到内容的科学性、文化性、可读性和趣味性外,还突出体现了内容的丰富性、新颖性以及语言的地道性和准确性,同时对其实用性也给予了充分的注意,以满足广大院校学生的需求。

此教材旨在帮助读者扩大英语词汇量,提高阅读速度,增强阅读理解能力,从而广泛深入地了解有关历史、文化、经济、风俗以及自然科学和人文科学方面的信息。本套教材着重学生英语快速阅读策略和技巧的培养,通过本教材系统的学习和科学的强化训练,学生的英语阅读速度可在短时间内得到大幅度提高。书中阅读练习完全依据教育部最新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)关于大学英语四、六级学生的快速阅读要求和《关于试点阶段的大学英语四级考试说明》而设计的。在练习设计上编者没有按照以语言为中心的旧模式编写,而是侧重培养学生快速浏览和查读能力,以及正确理解文章的大意、抓住主要事实和有关细节的能力。题型的设计包括是非判断、句子填空和多项选择,练习数量为七题。同时为了便于读者更好地把握阅读速度,编者还给出了每篇文章阅读所需要的参考时间,对于篇幅稍长且难度较大的文章可适当调整阅读速度。

本册教材适合我国高校非英语专业大学二年级第一学期开设快

速阅读课程使用,也适合参加公共英语等级考试和大学四、六级考试的广大读者学习使用。

由于编者水平和时间所限,难免还有不足之处,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2005年12月

# Contents

<b>Unit 1</b> .....	<b>1</b>
✓ Passage 1    The English Character .....	1
✓ Passage 2    Lessons from Overseas .....	5
✓ Passage 3    To Be or Not to Be .....	9
✓ Passage 4    I'm Sorry, I Won't Apologize .....	13
<b>Unit 2</b> .....	<b>17</b>
✓ Passage 1    Two Thanksgiving Day Gentlemen .....	17
✓ Passage 2    A Nine-Year-Old Brush with Magic .....	21
✓ Passage 3    Cupid Goes Hi-Tech .....	25
✓ Passage 4    Turkey .....	29
<b>Unit 3</b> .....	<b>33</b>
✓ Passage 1    American Kids' Leisure Time .....	33
✓ Passage 2    Thin Is "In", Fat Is "Out" .....	37
✓ Passage 3    Confession of a Sports Mom .....	41
✓ Passage 4    Children Play Less the More Toys They Get .....	45
<b>Unit 4</b> .....	<b>49</b>
✓ Passage 1    Biological Parents and Adoptive Parents .....	49
✓ Passage 2    Prolonging Human Life .....	53
✓ Passage 3    Chewing Gum .....	57
✓ Passage 4    Keep Alive the Sense of Wonder .....	61
<b>Unit 5</b> .....	<b>65</b>
✓ Passage 1    The First American .....	65
✓ Passage 2    Martin Luther King .....	69
✓ Passage 3    The Rise of Asian Women .....	73
✓ Passage 4    Clinton Profile .....	77

<b>Unit 6</b>	<b>81</b>
Passage 1   The Music of Fate	81
Passage 2   In Pursuit of Brightness—Helen Keller	85
Passage 3   Don't Fear Failure	89
Passage 4   Pablo Picasso	93
<b>Unit 7</b>	<b>97</b>
Passage 1   The Biological Clock	97
Passage 2   Ways to Improving Reading	101
Passage 3   Learning Science	105
Passage 4   Have You Ever Seen a Flying Saucer?	109
<b>Unit 8</b>	<b>113</b>
Passage 1   “The Business of America Is Business.”	113
Passage 2   Credit Cards	117
Passage 3   Business and Social Responsibility	121
Passage 4   Energy Sense Makes Future Sense	125
<b>Mark Sheet</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Timed Reading Rate Chart</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Key to Comprehension Exercises</b>	<b>131</b>



# Unit 1

## Passage 1 (Time Required: 5'34")

### The English Character

#### Vocabulary Tips

reserved	adj.	矜持寡言的	commuter	n.	通勤者
wit	n.	智者	compartment	n.	列车车厢
breathtaking	adj.	令人兴奋的	understatement	n.	轻描淡写的陈述

Starting Time \_\_\_\_\_ Finishing Time \_\_\_\_\_

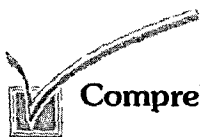
The English, as a race, have the reputation of being very different from all other nationalities, including their closest neighbors, the French, Belgians and Dutch. It is claimed that living on an island separated from the rest of Europe has much to do with it. Whatever the reasons, it may be fairly stated that the Englishman has developed many attitudes and habits which distinguish him from other nationalities.

Broadly speaking, the Englishman is a quiet, shy, reserved person who is fully relaxed only among people he knows well. In the presence of strangers or foreigners he often seems uneasy, even embarrassed. You have only to witness a commuter train any morning or evening to see the truth of this. Serious-looking businessmen and women sit reading their newspapers or having a light sleep in a corner; no one speaks. In fact, to do so would seem most unusual. An English wit, pretending to be giving advice to overseas visitors, once suggested, "On entering a railway compartment shake hands with all the passengers." Needless to say, he was not being serious. There is an unwritten but clearly understood code of behavior which, if broken, makes the person immediately the object of suspicion.

In many parts of the world it is quite normal to show frank extremes of enthusiasm, emotion, passion, etc., often accompanied by appropriate gestures. The Englishman is somewhat different. Of course, an Englishman feels no less deeply than any other nationality, but he tends to display his feelings far less. This is reflected in his use of language. Imagine a man commenting on the great beauty of a young girl. Whereas a man of a more emotional nature might describe her as "an priceless jewel", "extremely

beautiful” or “precious”, the Englishman will flatly state “Um, she’s all right.” An Englishman who has seen a highly successful and enjoyable film recommends it to a friend by commenting: “It’s not bad, you know.” or on seeing a breathtaking landscape he might show his pleasure by saying: “Nice, yes, very nice.” The overseas visitor must not be disappointed by this apparent lack of interest and involvement; he must realize that “all right”, “not bad”, and “nice”, are very often used as superlatives with the sense of “first-class”, “excellent”, “beautiful”. This special use of language, particularly common in English, is known as understatement.

(391 words)



## Comprehension Exercises

UNIT 1

Without referring back to the reading article, do the following exercises.

- ☒ I. Decide whether the statements are true or false. Mark them with the letter "T" or "F".

- ☒ 1. It is probably living on an island separated from the rest of Europe that makes the Englishman very different from all other nationalities. ( )
- ☒ 2. The understatement in the English language shows that the English lack deep feelings. ( )

- ☒ II. Fill in the blanks with the information you've obtained from the reading.

- ☒ 3. The Englishman has developed many attitudes and habits which \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☒ 4. Broadly speaking, the Englishman is a \_\_\_\_\_ person who is fully relaxed only among people he knows well.

- ☒ III. According to the information given in the article, select the best answer from the four options below. Circle the choice.

- ☒ 5. From the passage people can infer that the English are different from other nationalities mainly in \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ A. taste  
☐ B. character  
☐ C. the principle of behavior  
☐ D. all aspects
- ☒ 6. If one doesn't want to be suspected in public, he had better \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ A. behave relaxed  
☐ B. shake hands with all people he meets  
☐ C. talk with others  
☐ D. keep quiet
- ☒ 7. An Englishman's saying "all right" usually has the sense of \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ A. "not bad"  
☐ B. "quite right"  
☐ C. "fairly good"  
☒ D. "very good"

A good book is a good friend.

好书如挚友。





**Lessons from Overseas****Vocabulary Tips**

acupuncture

n. 针灸

insert

vt.

插入

Starting Time

Finishing Time

As world travel increases, nations learn from each other. In the United States today there are many examples of this fact. In the frozen food departments of a market the shopper often finds vegetables prepared in Danish or Mexican style, or several other national varieties.

Italian pizza is enjoyed by a large number of Americans, especially children. Some Americans watch a very popular TV program to learn how French people cook. Many also study the art of flower arrangement, using books from Japan. There is much interest in Eastern religions.

One of the latest imports is acupuncture, the use of needles for treating disease. Although acupuncture has been practiced in China for 2,000 years, its use in the Western world is still very new. Several hospitals in the United States are now experimenting with acupuncture as a way of treating pain.

An American newspaperman who stood beside a patient during an operation in Shanghai recently wrote about the operation and its effects. To keep the patient from feeling pain during the operation, four acupuncture needles were used, each about an inch and a half long. Two needles were inserted under the skin on each side of the patient's neck. The top of the needles was attached to wires which led to a small electrical device.

Throughout the operation the patient talked calmly to those standing around him, insisting that he felt normal. At one point he stretched out his hands and moved his bare toes to show that only his chest and neck were affected.

How does acupuncture work? How is it able to keep a patient from feeling pain? No very satisfactory answer has been given, but there are at least three theories. Some doctors believe that acupuncture somewhat produces an effect upon the central nervous system. Others believe that acupuncture produces a chemical change in the body. Still another theory is that the needles make contact with an unknown system of energy in the body that

travels along certain routes under the skin. The true explanation may be one of these or a combination of more than one, or it may be something entirely different.

Chinese doctors are now trying to unite older Eastern forms of medicine with newer Western forms. The sharing of knowledge should favor people everywhere.

(384 words)



## Comprehension Exercises

Without referring back to the reading article, do the following exercises.

**I. Decide whether the statements are true or false. Mark them with the letter "T" or "F".**

1. As world travel increases, the exchange of knowledge and experience among people of different countries is on the increase. ( )
2. Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese method of stopping pain and curing diseases by using needles. ( )

**II. Fill in the blanks with the information you've obtained from the reading.**

3. Many Americans study \_\_\_\_\_, using books from Japan.
4. Although acupuncture has been practiced in China \_\_\_\_\_, its use in the Western world is still very new.

**III. According to the information given in the article, select the best answer from the four options below. Circle the choice.**

5. During the operation, which an American newspaperman wrote about, \_\_\_\_\_ needles were inserted into the patient's neck.
  - A. 2
  - B. 4
  - C. 6
  - D. 8
6. During the operation, the patient stretched out his hands and moved his bare toes to show that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. he was in pain
  - B. his hands and toes ached
  - C. he felt normal except for his chest and neck
  - D. he wanted to stop the operation
7. What is the writer's attitude to the explanations of the question "How does acupuncture work?"
  - A. He agrees to the first explanation.
  - B. He agrees to the second explanation.
  - C. He agrees to the third explanation.
  - D. He is unsure which is true about the explanation.

Noble deeds are the most lasting monuments.

高尚的行为是永远屹立的丰碑。





## To Be or Not to Be

### Vocabulary Tips

evade	vt.	躲避, 回避	worship	vt.	崇拜, 敬慕
orient	vt.	以……为方向	inevitable	adj.	不可避免的
integral	adj.	构成整体所必需的, 组成的	prior	adj.	在先的, 居前的
frantically	adv.	疯狂地, 胡乱地	budding	n.	发芽

Starting Time \_\_\_\_\_ Finishing Time \_\_\_\_\_

Death is a subject that is evaded, ignored and denied by our youth-worshipping, progress-oriented society. But the fact is that death is inevitable. We will all die; it is only a matter of time. Death is as much a part of human existence, of human growth and development, as being born. It is one of the few things in life we can count on, that we can be assured will occur. Death is not an enemy to be conquered or a prison to be escaped. It is an integral part of our lives that gives meaning to human existence. It sets a limit on our time in this life, urging us to do something productive with that time as long as it is ours to use.

This, then, is the meaning of Death: The Final Stage of Growth. When you're dying, if you're fortunate enough to have some prior warning, you get your final chance to grow, to become more truly who you really live. If you can begin to see death as an invisible, but friendly companion on your life's journey—gently reminding you not to wait till tomorrow to do what you mean to do—then you can learn to live your life rather than simply passing through it.

Whether you die at a young age or when you are older is less important than whether you have fully lived the years you have had. One person may live more in eighteen years than another does in eighty. By living, we do not mean frantically accumulating a range and quantity of experience valued in fantasy by others. Rather, we mean living each day as if it is the only one you have. We mean finding a sense of peace and strength to deal with life's disappointments and pains while always striving to discover vehicles to make more accessible increase, and sustain the joys and delights of life. One such vehicle is learning to