

汪氏英语 —— 快速阅读系列

EASIER  
**FAST**  
READING FOR ENGLISH  
**初级英语快速阅读**

(第二版)

汪士彬 / 主编



南开大学出版社

汪氏英语——快速阅读系列

# EASIER FAST READING FOR ENGLISH

## 初级英语快速阅读

(第二版)

主 编 汪士彬

副主编 韩 冰 宁 静

编 者 (以姓氏笔画为序)

刘佳欣 李颖娜 汤宏亮 陈 英

黄广哲 章成成 魏 颖

南开大学出版社

天 津

**图书在版编目(CIP)数据**

初级英语快速阅读 / 汪士彬主编. —2 版. —天津:  
南开大学出版社, 2011.1

(汪氏英语. 快速阅读系列)

ISBN 978-7-310-03606-6

I. ①初… II. ①汪… III. ①英语—阅读教学—教学  
参考资料 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2010)第 246700 号

**版权所有 侵权必究**

**南开大学出版社出版发行**

**出版人:肖占鹏**

地址:天津市南开区卫津路 94 号 邮政编码:300071

营销部电话:(022)23508339 23500755

营销部传真:(022)23508542 邮购部电话:(022)23502200

\*

天津泰宇印务有限公司印刷

全国各地新华书店经销

\*

2011 年 1 月第 2 版 2011 年 1 月第 3 次印刷

787×960 毫米 16 开本 15.125 印张 280 千字

**定价:26.00 元**

如遇图书印装质量问题,请与本社营销部联系调换,电话:(022)23507125

# 前言

快速阅读是一种积极的、创造性的学习、理解和记忆过程，是读者从字里行间高效率地吸收有用信息的思维方法。现在，世界进入了经济全球化、科学技术一体化时代，人类所创造的知识提供的信息量正以几何级数增长。所以，一个人如果不能高速度地获取人类创造的新知识、新成果，并以此来充实自己，势必会跟不上时代的步伐。对于大多数学生来说，学习英语的主要目的是以它为工具，通过阅读帮助自己搞好专业学习、研究和工作的。而培养快速阅读能力，能使学生高效地阅读各种文章，从而迅速地、充分地从材料中获取有用信息。

《初级英语快速阅读》(Easier Fast Reading for English)(第二版)由南开大学出版社出版,是与该社以前出版的《中级英语快速阅读》、《中级英语快速阅读辅导》、《高级英语快速阅读》(上下册)及《中级科普英语快速阅读》等配套的“汪氏英语——快速阅读系列”之一。本系列经过多次修订再版,已经成为深受广大师生和英语爱好者欢迎的英语快速阅读培训教程,可谓一本历经时间考验的“经典”教材。编者以教育部颁布的《大学英语教学要求》为纲,以《高中英语新课程标准词汇表》规定的词汇(3500个单词)为依据,完成了本书的编写。本书选材范围广泛,语言地道精彩,练习重点突出,适用于具有高中基础和高自考、职大、夜大及普通高校的低年级学生。特别适用于近年蓬勃发展起来的独立院校,其中的多数学生英语基础较弱,尤其需要在阅读上狠下功夫。认真抓好他们的快速阅读训练是当务之急,也是为他们今后顺利通过全国英语四、六级考试做好充分准备。

此次再版，本书在继承传统的同时，还与时俱进，进行了创造性的修改，再版的新书具有以下几大特色：

选材广泛，内容丰富，题材多样。阅读英语应当并且可以做到轻松愉快。要做到这一点，阅读材料的选择至关重要。也就是说，要选择生动、有趣、富有吸引力而又能启发心智的材料。这类材料具有以下几个共同特点：一、可读性强，读后让人立即产生继续阅读的欲望，一旦上手，就放不下了，不会感到学英语是沉重的负担了。二、容易读，不会产生阅读障碍。三、有助于扩大知识面，提高文化素养。本书中收录的文章内容新颖，均来自国内外近十年的原版报刊、杂志、网站、实用文件和其他文选，内容涉及文化、科技、经贸、教

育、体育、生活等多个领域，适合不同专业学生的学习需求。所选文章遣词造句文从字顺、语言规范，力图使学生在浩瀚的知识海洋中多方汲取营养，以满足实用性英语教学的需求。另外，文章内容集知识性、科普性、娱乐性于一体，能够满足学生汲取原汁原味英语的需求。

编排巧妙，难易适中。本书在文章编排上，力求由简入繁，由浅入深，循序渐进，引导学生一步步夯实基础，提高技能，感受到在进步中学习的喜悦。同时，每篇主课文均配有图片，使本书图文并茂，以提高视觉效果，增加学习兴趣，增强对课文内容和词汇的理解、记忆。书中每个单元练习中还提供了一至两篇与主课文难度相当、题材一致的阅读短篇，其目的是增加词汇的复现率，易读、易懂、易记忆，以达到学习的最佳效果。

练习形式多样，技能锻炼全面。所谓熟能生巧，就是经过大量持续的实战练习，掌握快速阅读的技巧，做到又快又好地阅读。因此，本书的一大亮点是为学生精心编写了形式多样、针对性强的课后练习，提高理解能力的同时逐步掌握快速阅读的技巧。为了更有效率地利用这些练习，提高学习效果，我们在这里对练习的构思和目的进行简单的描述。

练习 I (Reading Comprehension) 采用单选题和填空题两种形式。单选题考查学生对文章主旨的把握和细节的理解情况，引导学生在提高阅读速度的同时兼顾理解的准确性。填空题则旨在锻炼学生概括总结和运用关键词的能力。

练习 II (Content Review) 列出了课文中的超纲词汇（本书以超《高中英语新课程标准词汇表》为准，在课文中以黑体形式出现），并配以对应的英文解释，以加深学生对词汇含义的理解，同时可以锻炼读者通过上下文猜词义的能力。

练习 III (Contextual Reference) 旨在通过大量的阅读训练，锻炼学生利用上下文对陌生词汇进行推测的能力。该练习所选的短文都与所在单元的主题保持一致。

练习 IV (Timed Word Selection/Increasing Reading Speed) 设置两种形式的练习，要求学生在诸多看似相近的词汇或短语中，迅速找出指定的词汇或短语。该练习旨在训练学生眼睛的扫视速度，提高阅读的敏感度，锻炼扫视获取信息的能力和成组阅读的能力。

练习 V 以三种题型，即 **Phrase Recognition Drills** 或 **Translation** 或 **Blanked Cloze** 的形式出现。**Phrase Recognition Drills** 意在训练眼睛成组视读的能力，改变逐字阅读的不良习惯，做到一眼同时扫视几个单词（一个意群或几个意群），增加眼睛视野的宽度，从而达到逐步提高阅读速度的目的。**Translation** 练习是为帮助学生应对大学英语四级考试的翻译题型而设置的，同时对于文中出现的表达方式加以练习。而 **Blanked Cloze** 练习则旨在帮助学生加强对语篇逻辑的把

握能力和词汇的运用能力。Phrase Recognition Drills 和 Blanked Cloze 练习中所选短文也与所在单元的主题保持一致。

书中错误与疏漏之处，敬请读者批评指正。

编 者

2010 年 10 月

## 目 录

Unit One	Hummingbirds: the “Flying Jewels” of the Americas	/ 1
Unit Two	True Love	/ 8
Unit Three	The United Nations	/ 15
Unit Four	X-Sports	/ 21
Unit Five	Touring in London	/ 29
Unit Six	National Parks	/ 37
Unit Seven	Are You Too Shy to Succeed?	/ 44
Unit Eight	British Public School	/ 52
Unit Nine	New Exercise Goal: 60 Minutes a Day	/ 59
Unit Ten	The Golden Gate Bridge	/ 65
Unit Eleven	Monkey Math	/ 72
Unit Twelve	Greener Diet	/ 79
Unit Thirteen	Behind the Closed Door	/ 86
Unit Fourteen	Mother’s Day—the 2nd Sunday in May	/ 92
Unit Fifteen	The Communication Style of Americans	/ 99
Unit Sixteen	How to Pick a Great Book	/ 108
Unit Seventeen	Pet Talk: Seer Farms Keeps Pets Temporarily for Owners in Crisis	/ 115
Unit Eighteen	The Rifle	/ 122
Unit Nineteen	Obesity in Children	/ 129
Unit Twenty	The Importance of Trade	/ 137
Unit Twenty-one	High School versus College Life	/ 144
Unit Twenty-two	Money	/ 152
Unit Twenty-three	How Much Babies Know	/ 159
Unit Twenty-four	To Break Fashion Rules	/ 167
Unit Twenty-five	Internet Generation	/ 175
Unit Twenty-six	Getting Enough Sleep	/ 182
Unit Twenty-seven	Working at Home: Family-friendly?	/ 189
Unit Twenty-eight	The King of Rock and Roll	/ 197

Unit Twenty-nine Gulf Coast Oil-spill Disaster / 205

Unit Thirty How Culture Affected Shakespeare, and He Affected Culture? / 213

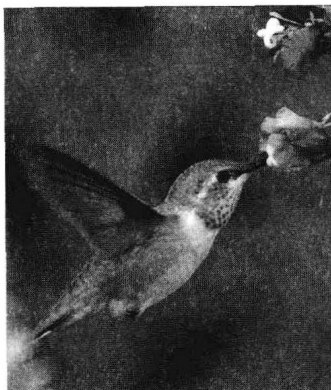
Answer Keys / 222

符号与缩略语表 / 233



# Unit One

Starting Time: \_\_\_\_\_



(—From <http://hi.baidu.com/luhuxiximen/album/item/e88b20e99c4f7a1bb90e2d6a.html>)

## Hummingbirds: the “Flying Jewels” of the Americas

When early Spanish explorers in the Americas saw *hummingbirds* for the first time, they called them “flying jewels.” Today, these tiny birds, with brilliant colors and lightning-fast movements, still **capture** people’s imaginations. The birds, also called hummers, are named for the sound produced by their rapidly moving wings.

Hummingbirds can be hard to spot. But if you do, you’ll notice their long, **slender beaks** and rainbow-like colors. Hummers normally fly from 15 to 30 miles per hour, though they can drive at around 60 miles per hour! In normal flight, a hummer’s wings beat about 18-80 times per second, depending on the size of the bird.

Their flight abilities set them apart from all other birds. They can fly forward, backward, upside down and even **hover** in mid-air. This hovering action allows these birds to stay over a flower long enough to suck out all the **nectar** they want (or need).

Hummers' wings beat non-stop, and all of this movement burns lots of energy. For that reason, the birds need to eat every 15-20 minutes all day long. When it turns dark, their bodies go into an inactive state, so they don't require as much energy while they sleep. One bird may drink from 1,000 flowers and eat between 400 and 500 insects in a single day.

Hummingbirds live in the Americas, spending most of their time in the warmer southern climates. But at certain times of the year, all hummingbirds **migrate**. When the days become longer, they fly north for the summer. And as days become shorter in the fall, they journey south once again. Researchers believe that some hummingbirds fly non-stop over the Gulf of Mexico. This **unbelievable** 500-mile flight takes from 18 to 20 hours! But the Rufous Hummingbird migrates the longest distance, from Mexico to Alaska and back, totaling 5,000 miles.

Based on banding studies, some researchers believe the birds follow the same route every year. And some homeowners insist that they see the same birds return **annually**.

Have you ever seen a hummingbird? If you happen to hear a humming sound and see a flash of color **whiz** by... who knows? It could be a hummingbird. But you'll have to look fast! Otherwise you'll miss the world's tiniest bird!

—From *Studio Classroom* (吉林省空中英语教室杂志社) 2007-09

Finishing Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ 380 words / \_\_\_\_\_ minutes = \_\_\_\_\_ wpm

**Note:**

**Hummingbird:** a small brightly colored bird that lives in warm countries and that can stay in one place in the air by beating its wings very fast, making a continuous low sound (= a humming sound) 蜂鸟

## EXERCISES

### I. Reading Comprehension

*Answer the following questions according to the information given in the passage. For questions 1-4, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C, and D. For questions 5-6, complete the sentence with the information given in the passage.*

### III. Contextual Reference

*Looking up unfamiliar words in a dictionary is time-consuming and should only be done as a last resort. Circle the words in the following passage that give clues to the meaning of the underlined words. Then choose the correct meaning for each item.*

This very small bird is found throughout the world. There are many different species of sparrow. There are about fifty different species of sparrows living in North and South America. Sparrows are only about four to six inches in length. Many people appreciate their beautiful song.

Sparrows prefer to build their nests in low places. Their nests are usually built on the ground, clumps of grass, low trees, and low bushes. In cities, they build their nests in building nooks and other holes. They rarely build their nests in high places. Sparrows build their nests out of twigs, grasses, and plant fibers. Their nests are usually small and well-built structures.

Female sparrows lay four to six eggs at a time. The eggs are white with reddish-brown spots. The eggs hatch within eleven to fourteen days. Both the male and female parents care for the young. Insects are fed to their young after hatching. Young sparrows are ready to leave the nest eight to ten days after hatching. The large feet of the sparrow are used for scratching seeds. Adult sparrows mainly eat seeds.

Sparrows can be found almost anywhere there are humans. Some species of sparrows prefer to live in deserts, prairies, swamps, marshes, forests, and other bushy areas. Some sparrows in northern North America will migrate south in winter, although most stay in one area year-round. The older adult males of the migrating sparrows usually spend their winters near their breeding area. Many people throughout the world enjoy these delightful birds.

—From <http://www.abcteach.com/directory/basics/science/animals/birds/#8211>

1. **sparrow:**
  - A. a small brown and grey bird
  - B. a mammal
  - C. a household pet
2. **clump:**
  - A. a group or cluster (esp. of trees, shrubs, or plants)
  - B. an entertainer who wears funny clothes and a large red nose
  - C. a piece of evidence
3. **nook:**
  - A. a long thin strip of pasta

# Unit Two

Starting Time: \_\_\_\_\_



(—From <http://images.google.com.hk/images?hp&hl=zh-CN&q=romance&aq=f>)

## True Love

A man and his girlfriend were married. It was a large celebration.

All of their friends and family came to see the lovely **ceremony** and to give their best wishes. All had a wonderful time.

The bride was **gorgeous** in her white wedding gown and the groom was very **dashing** in his black **tuxedo**. Everyone could tell that the love they had for each other was true.

A few months later, the wife came to the husband with a **proposal**, “I read in a magazine, a while ago, about how we can strengthen our marriage,” she offered, “Each of us will write a list of the things that we find a bit annoying with the other person. Then, we can talk about how we can fix them together and make our lives happier together.”

The husband agreed. So each of them went to a separate room in the house and

### III. Contextual Reference

*Looking up unfamiliar words in a dictionary is time-consuming and should only be done as a last resort. Circle the words in the following passage that give clues to the meaning of the underlined words. Then choose the correct meaning for each item.*

Moses Mendelssohn, the grandfather of the well-known German composer, was far from being handsome. He was rather short, and had an ugly humpback.

One day he visited a merchant in Hamburg who had a lovely daughter named Frumtje. Moses fell hopelessly in love with her. But Frumtje was repulsed by his ugly appearance.

When it came time for him to leave, Moses gathered his courage and climbed the stairs to her room to take one last chance to speak with her. She was a vision of heavenly beauty, but caused him deep sadness by her refusal to look at him. After several attempts at conversation, Moses shyly asked, "Do you believe marriages are made in heaven?"

"Yes," she answered, still looking at the floor. "And do you?"

"Yes I do," he replied. "You see, in heaven at the birth of each boy, the Lord announces which girl he will marry. When I was born, my future bride was pointed out to me. Then the Lord added, 'But your wife will be humpbacked.'

"Right then and there I called out, 'Oh Lord, a humpbacked woman would be too sad. Please, Lord, give me the hump and let her be beautiful.' "

Then Frumtje looked up into his eyes and was touched by some deep memory. She reached out and gave Mendelssohn her hand and later became his devoted wife.

—From [http://e.3edu.net/xljt/E\\_31275.html](http://e.3edu.net/xljt/E_31275.html) 2007-05-06

1. **composer:**
  - A. sb who is ugly
  - B. sb who writes music as a profession
  - C. a merchant
2. **humpback:**
  - A. a person whose back is hunched because of abnormal upper spine
  - B. a person whose hair is short
  - C. a person who has a small brownish spot on the skin
3. **repulse:**
  - A. to attract into
  - B. to touch or move sb
  - C. to cause to move back by force or influence

4. **vision:** A. the perceptual experience of seeing  
B. the accumulation of knowledge  
C. the state of mind
5. **devoted:** A. to a small degree or extent  
B. dedicated entirely to a purpose or use  
C. unwilling

#### IV. Timed Word Selection

*Do the word recognition drill below. Note the words by the number; then underline it every time it appears in the same form on the line. No regression, no vocalization. Try to finish in 15 seconds or less.*

1. <b>celebration</b>	celebrity	ceremony	selection	celebration	celebratory
2. <b>bride</b>	beard	bribe	bread	bored	bride
3. <b>gown</b>	grown	dawn	grow	gown	mown
4. <b>separate</b>	specific	decorate	separate	separable	stimulate
5. <b>decided</b>	decider	decoded	decided	beside	devoted
6. <b>reply</b>	report	really	repel	rifle	rely
7. <b>annoying</b>	anointing	annoying	appointing	annotating	announcing
8. <b>depressed</b>	deprived	redressed	digressed	degreased	depressed
9. <b>waste</b>	paste	baste	west	waste	vase
10. <b>announce</b>	denounce	pronounce	announce	renounce	enounce

#### V. Phrase Recognition Drills

*Students usually need to read quickly because they have to read a lot of material. Reading speed is important to students. Also, fast readers usually understand reading material better than slow readers.*

*Slow readers usually read one word at a time.*

Example:

True love means understanding. One trusts another more than himself and feels ready to satisfy every little need of a partner.

*Average readers usually read a few words together (short phrases) at a time.*

Example:

True love means understanding. One trusts another more than himself and feels ready to satisfy every little need of a partner.

*Fast readers usually read several words (longer phrases) at a time.*

Example:

True love means understanding. One trusts another more than him/herself and feels ready to satisfy every little need of a partner.

**A. Read the following passage in phrases, as shown.**

Jealousy stands out of the true love. How can one be jealous if there's so much love and faithfulness? Real love doesn't long for power, it doesn't want to hurt, doesn't want to punish for mistakes; it's self-sacrificing and ready to forgive other and other again. But it's wrong to think that true love is always a suffering, it only means that you take a person as he or she is and don't expect the one you love to be perfect.

**B. Read the following passage in phrases (short phrases or longer phrases). There are several correct possibilities. Separate the phrases with slashes.**

In most cases we think: this is true love, when in fact it is not. But then if this isn't love then what it is? There are plenty of things that we confuse with love.

It could be just the basic instinct. The feelings can be passionate and crazy, but in fact both people may want only sex. And after it all the misunderstanding starts, and once *infatuated* (head over heels, in love) lovers will find out that they have nothing in common and sometimes they don't even know what to talk with each other.

But then what does real love look and feel like? Maybe it's when two people seem to know each other for ages and even in their previous lives. They can go on talking and talking and conversation never lacks topics and never gets dull. Or people don't have to say anything because they understand each other without words. And those moments, minutes and even hours of silence are never

uncomfortable. True love is when partners complete one another, when they're together it's peaceful, the whole other world with its sufferings and problems doesn't exist and nothing even matters.

True love means understanding. One trusts another more than him/herself and feels ready to satisfy every little need of a partner. Two people don't stop for a second looking into each other's eyes.

—From *<http://peoplerelationships.syl.com/loverelationships/truelove>* 2009-06



# Unit Three

Starting Time: \_\_\_\_\_



(—From <http://tclehner.files.wordpress.com/2009/12/un-flag-square.png>)

## The United Nations

In 1945 leaders from 51 countries met in San Francisco, California, and organized the United Nations (often called the UN). World War II had just ended. Millions of people had died, and there was **destruction** everywhere. People hoped they could build a future of world peace through this new organization.

The United Nations has four main goals and purposes:

1. To work together for international peace and to solve international problems;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations;
3. To work together for human rights for everyone of all races, religions, languages, and of both sexes;
4. To build a center where nations can work together for these goals. Today almost every country in the world is a member of the UN.

Each country has signed an agreement that says:

1. All members are equal.
2. All members promise to solve international problems in a peaceful way.