



教育部推荐使用大学外语类教材  
 全国高等学校第二届优秀教材特等奖  
 国家教委高等学校第二届优秀教材一等奖

第三版  
 Third Edition

# 大学英语 快速阅读

# College English

总主编 董亚芬

FAST READING

# Book 2

主 编 黎 宏



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 外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS  
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# Book 1

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 上海外语教育出版社  
外教社 SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

大学英语快速阅读. 第1册 / 黎宏主编. —3版.

—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2011

(大学英语系列教材)

ISBN 978-7-5446-2187-8

I. ①大… II. ①黎… III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教材 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2011) 第045409号

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本书封底印有版纹印刷防伪图标。如对版本真伪存有疑问, 请致电本社反盗版办公室: 021 6536 6698

出版发行: **上海外语教育出版社**

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 刘 璟

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印 刷: 江苏省扬中市印刷有限公司

开 本: 787×1092 1/16 印张 3.5 字数 88千字

版 次: 2011年4月第1版 2011年4月第1次印刷

印 数: 80 000册

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书 号: ISBN 978-7-5446-2187-8 / H · 0985

定 价: 13.00元 (附光盘)

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换



# 总 序

《大学英语》是遵照 1986 年国家教委审定的《大学英语教学大纲(文理科本科用)》编写的一套系列教材,分精读、泛读、听说、快速阅读和语法与练习五种教程,由全国六所重点大学合作编写。教材于 1986 年出版试用本,1992 年出版正式本,并于同年 9 月荣获全国高等学校第二届优秀教材特等奖,以及国家教委高等学校第二届优秀教材一等奖。

1998 年,在广泛征求意见的基础上,《大学英语》系列教材根据《大学英语教学大纲(高等学校本科用)》进行了第一次修订。修订本更加注意文、理、工、农、医等各科的通用性,力求给学生打好“宽、厚、牢”的语言基础。

为了推进大学英语教学改革,适应社会各界对大学生英语能力的要求,教育部于 2004 年颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》(以下简称《课程要求》)。遵照《课程要求》对大学英语提出的教学目标,即“培养学生的英语综合应用能力”,编者于 2004 年决定对教材进行第二次修订,以满足新时期国家和社会对人才培养的需要。

## 本次修订原则:

1. 教材的定位不变。《大学英语》是综合教育型(English for integrative purposes)而非特殊目的型(English for specific purposes)的教材,旨在帮助大学本科各专业学生进一步打下扎实的语言基础。

2. 选材原则不变。正因为《大学英语》是综合教育型的,选材必须做到题材广泛,体裁多样,语言规范,有利于打好语言基础。选材遵循三性原则,即趣味性、知识性、可思性,以激发学生学习英语的兴趣。

3. 在更新课文时注意经典性与时代性的融合,科普性与文学性的融合,使选文内容经得起时间考验,文字经得起反复咀嚼。这两个融合是教材可教性与可学性的保证,也是教材生命力之所在。

4. 本次修订按照《课程要求》所提出的培养“英语综合应用能力”这一目标,着重考虑增强听与说的训练,提高听与说尤其是说的要求。

## 本次修订重点:

### 精读:

1. 更新部分课文。选用一些时代感更强、更贴近现代生活、语言更地道的文章取代部分相形见绌的课文。

2. 梳理全教程的练习。除了设置新的听、说练习外,还针对近年来学生在口、笔试中经常出现的语言错误设计了用法方面的练习,以提高学生在使用英语时的准确性。

3. 为了帮助学生集中精力学好基本词语,这次修订继续遵循前次修订时的方法,把全书单词分为三类:(1)words to drill(通过反复操练能熟练掌握其用法的单词);(2)words to remember(能记住其形、音、义的单词);(3)words to have a nodding acquaintance with(能于再次出现时根据上下文识别其词义的单词),并进一步调整各项练习,以确保常用词语的复现率。

4. 为了提高学生的写作能力,这次修订还强调微观与宏观的写作技能同时发展,即一方面训练学生如何写好各类句子,同时从第一课开始就要求学生写成段的文章。

#### 泛读:

在第一次修订的基础上进一步选用时代感较强、故事情节动人的文章取代内容相对陈旧的课文。丰富了练习类型(如增加了词汇练习和翻译练习),以帮助学生在提高阅读理解能力的同时适当扩大词汇量。

#### 听说:

除了大幅度更新听力材料,适当提高听力理解的要求之外,这次修订还有针对性地增强了说的训练。根据不同话题提供了丰富的口语素材,并通过多种练习方式为培养学生具有实质性的口语能力打下基础。

#### 快速阅读:

除了原有的版本继续发行之外,还另外编写了一套全新的快速阅读教程,内容侧重科普,供各类院校选择使用。

#### 语法与练习:

把原有四册书删繁就简为两册,以便于学生携带。删除部分章节,增补和替换了大量例句和练习。为方便学生自学,例句都附有中文译文。本教程既可作为语法参考书,也可作为补充练习手册。

#### 精读(预备级)、泛读(预备级)、听说(预备级):

分别将精读(预备级)和泛读(预备级)由原来的各两册修订成各一册。精读(预备级)为重新设计编写,不仅课文与练习是全新的,对听与说的要求也比原书有较明显的提高。泛读(预备级)和听说(预备级)也作了相应的更新与改进。

本教材的起点为1800单词,从这个起点开始要为学生打下扎实的语言基础并达到培养英语综合应用能力这一目标,教材除了必须提供丰富的语言素材之外,还必须编写出多种口笔头练习以保证学生有足够的语言实践机会。因此本教材的精、泛读教程仍坚持每册编写10单元。但目前大学英语的有效授课时间有限,各校可以根据学生的具体情况制定自己的教学计划,灵活选用练习,不必每题必做。与此同时还应当尽可能争取合理的周学时并充分调动学生课外自学的积极性。如果师生双方能共同努力,相互配合,认真学习好每一单元,则必能取得良好的教学效果。

《大学英语》从试用本问世到本次修订本完稿历时20余载,跨越两个世纪。使用者一度遍及全国千余所高等院校,受到了师生们的广泛欢迎。教材之所以有这样的规模和影响力主要可以归结为以下几个原因:

(1) 一支优秀的编写队伍:《大学英语》的编者为来自全国六所重点大学的骨干教师,他们都有长期的大学英语教学经历,具备深厚的英、汉语功底与高度负责的工作态度。这是本套教材获得大学英语教学界普遍认同的基础。

(2) 精心挑选的精、泛读课文和听力材料:课文为教材之本,能否为读者提供理想的课文是教材成功的关键。不少人认为当前选材自由度很大,各类原版的素材铺天盖地,俯拾即是,

选材不存在困难。然而事实证明,选材却是编写工作中最为辛苦费力的环节。《大学英语》的编者虽然长期积累了大量素材,但为了找出更合适的内容,往往需要翻阅数十篇甚至上百篇文章才能筛选出一段文字优美纯正,内容引人入胜的选文材料,正是这样,才确保了课文的趣味性、知识性和可思性。

(3) 科学设计和认真编写的练习:在编写和历次修订的过程中,本书编者不仅重视练习的针对性和实用性,还十分注重练习的语言质量。几乎每个例句都经过了集体讨论、反复推敲和论证,以确保语言规范、内容完整和难易度适中,使学生能够在轻轻松松的课堂气氛中进行语言操练。

(4) 审稿层层把关:为了使教材更完善,在正式定稿前,约请了多位中外专家多次审阅和润饰。

除了上述各点外,本教材经久不衰的另一重要原因是广大读者多年来的支持和关爱。他们通过文章、书信和座谈等渠道,在充分肯定我们教材的同时,还向我们提出了不少宝贵的意见和建议,对我们的再修订工作助益颇丰。对此,我代表编写组全体成员向他们表示最诚挚的感谢,并衷心希望他们能够一如既往地支持我们的教材,随时向我们反馈各种意见和建议。

《大学英语》系列教材(第三版)由复旦大学、北京大学、华东师范大学、南京大学、四川大学、苏州大学等高校的资深教授、英语教学专家通力合作,修订编写而成。英籍专家 Anthony Ward 协助编写与审阅。出版社的同志协助编写组安排修订日程,随时提出改进的意见和建议,协调有关编写和编辑工作,为保证这次修订工作的顺利完成付出了辛勤的劳动。在此一并致以诚挚的感谢。

总主编 董亚芬  
2006年3月

## 编者的话

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《大学英语》系列教材(第三版)快速阅读教程依据教育部2004年颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》,并结合目前我国大学英语的实际情况编写。本教程旨在培养学生正确的阅读习惯和有效的阅读方法,提高学生浏览、阅读和查读的能力。

本教程取材于近年来英美和其他英语国家出版的书籍和报刊杂志,内容涵盖了当前社会经济、文化、科技、政治、教育等方面,使本教程具有时代性、趣味性、知识性和广泛性等特点。

本书为快速阅读教程第一册,共20课。为了保证快速、有效地阅读,课文篇幅在300~500词左右,生词量不超过总词数的3%。本教程每课练习安排有多项选择、是非判断或句子填空等题型,以检查学生快速阅读理解和获取信息的能力。本教程可配合精读教程使用,也可作为快速阅读专项训练材料单独使用。使用时应规定阅读时间,以每分钟100词为宜。

本教程由四川大学外国语学院负责编写。黎宏任主编,石坚任主审。参加本册编写的有杨光和翁晓红。

在本书的编写过程中,美籍专家 Eleanor Ward 和英籍专家 Anthony Ward 审阅了全书,并提出了许多宝贵的意见,在此一并表示谢意。

由于编者水平和经验有限,教材中难免有疏漏和不当之处,敬请广大使用者批评指正。

编者

2006年3月

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# 1. The Earth's Atmosphere

Unless it's raining or the wind is blowing, we don't usually pay much attention to the atmosphere, the blanket of air that surrounds the Earth. Yet, without the atmosphere, the Earth would be a desolate (荒芜的) planet with no signs of life!

The atmosphere plays several roles in helping to make life possible. First, the atmosphere provides the three gases necessary for life: oxygen (氧气), nitrogen (氮气), and carbon dioxide (二氧化碳). All animals, including ourselves, breathe oxygen. Nitrogen and carbon dioxide are both needed for plant growth. Less important atmospheric gases include argon (氩), neon (氖), helium (氦), and hydrogen (氢).

Second, the atmosphere also protects us from most of the sun's high-energy ultraviolet light rays (紫外线), which are harmful to life. Although these rays are only a small part of the sunlight striking the Earth, they are known to be very dangerous. However, 99 percent of all ultraviolet rays are absorbed before they reach the Earth's surface. They are absorbed by an atmospheric gas, called ozone (臭氧), a type of oxygen gas. The ozone layer surrounds the Earth but is much thinner over the North and South Poles than over other regions of the Earth.

The one percent of the ultraviolet light in the atmosphere that does reach

the Earth's surface is known to cause sunburn and is now believed to also cause skin cancer in many people. Because of this, doctors recommend that people limit the amount of time they spend in direct sunlight and wear a suntan lotion (防晒油) that blocks the ultraviolet rays when they do sunbathe.

Finally, the atmosphere generates all types of weather such as clear blue skies and storms. It acts as a huge energy machine, changing sunlight into other forms of energy such as heat and wind. As part of this role, the atmosphere regulates the temperature at the Earth's surface. First it allows only 46 percent of the sunlight striking it to pass through and actually reach the Earth's surface. Second, carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere controls the amount of warmth on the Earth's surface that is allowed to radiate (发散) back into space. By these two controlling devices, the atmosphere regulates the Earth's surface temperature.

(354 words)





## Comprehension Exercises

**I.** Choose the best answers to the following questions.

- Which of the following is true according to the passage?
  - The ozone layer is much thicker over North America than over the North Pole.
  - Ozone is a type of nitrogen gas.
  - Ozone can absorb some ultraviolet rays before they reach the Earth's surface.
  - Ozone can protect us from anything harmful to our life.
- The main idea of the third paragraph is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - the Earth is surrounded by a layer of ozone
  - 99 percent of all ultraviolet light rays that reach the Earth's surface are absorbed by the ozone layer
  - the ozone layer protects people from the sun's high-energy ultraviolet light rays
  - ozone is an atmospheric gas which surrounds the earth
- According to the article, carbon dioxide \_\_\_\_\_.
  - is a less important atmospheric gas
  - controls the amount of warmth on the Earth's surface
  - allows only 46 percent of sunlight to reach the Earth's surface
  - acts like a huge energy machine
- Doctors suggest that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - people should stay away from the sunlight to protect themselves from sunburn
  - people should block the ultraviolet rays when they do sunbathe
  - people should wear a suntan lotion under direct sunlight
  - people should know that skin cancer results from sunbathing
- The Earth would be a desolate planet without the atmosphere because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - the atmosphere is mainly composed of oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen, which are indispensable to our life
  - the atmosphere plays several roles in making life possible
  - the atmosphere allows only harmless rays to reach the Earth
  - the atmosphere controls the amount of warmth on the Earth's surface

**II.** Complete the following sentences with the information given in the passage.

- The ozone layer over other regions of the Earth is \_\_\_\_\_ than that over the North and South Poles.
- It is \_\_\_\_\_ that changes sunlight into other forms of energy.
- Although \_\_\_\_\_ are mostly absorbed by the ozone layer, doctors suggest that people should limit the amount of time spent in direct sunlight.
- Compared with argon, neon and hydrogen, \_\_\_\_\_ are more important in helping to make life possible.
- The purpose of wearing a suntan lotion is to \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Is El Nino Back?

There are signs that El Nino, the massive warming of the Pacific Ocean that affects the world's weather, may be forming again.

A satellite (卫星) orbiting 600 miles above the Pacific Ocean picked up a streak (条, 带) of warm water forming along the equator (赤道) — an early sign of the phenomenon felt around the world when it last appeared, just four years ago.

It is more than 3,000 miles long. The water in it is nine degrees warmer than in surrounding areas — a substantial (相当大的) number to oceanographers (海洋学家). The warm pool is growing and has caused government forecasters to put out an advisory (气象报告).

“It's a heads-up in advance so that people can properly be prepared for this event.” said Vernon Kousky of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

If a full-blown El Nino does form, Americans would most likely start to feel its effects next fall and winter.

The government called the forecast very preliminary (初步的) — but the warning allows emergency agencies to make plans.

“Right now, we can't predict whether it will be weak, moderate (中等的) or strong in intensity (强度),” said Kousky.

Some scientists say it's too early to predict anything at all. “I'd be very careful,” said one who asked not to be named. “There is indeed a very large anomaly (反常状态) in the Pacific right now, and we need to watch it. But these things are very difficult to forecast.”

El Ninos can be both good and bad, depending on where you are. Even a relatively small one can bring about significant changes by shifting the wind patterns from the Pacific Ocean that pass over the United States.

During the last El Nino, in 1997 and 1998, rainfall doubled in California, causing a \$1 billion in storm damage. On the other hand, in Florida, forest fires were put out by the extra rain.

(308 words)



*Comprehension Exercises*



**I.** Choose the best answers to the following questions.

1. What can be regarded as an early sign of El Nino?
  - A. A 3,000-mile long water streak.
  - B. A water streak that is warmer than surrounding areas.
  - C. A streak of water forming along the equator.
  - D. A huge warm water streak along the equator.
2. "The warm pool" in the third paragraph refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the Pacific Ocean
  - B. the 3,000-mile long warm water streak
  - C. the Atlantic Ocean
  - D. a new El Nino
3. Why is it necessary to forecast the coming El Nino?
  - A. Because it would affect Americans next fall and winter.
  - B. Because scientists will be able to know whether it will be weak, moderate or strong in intensity.
  - C. Because emergency agencies will be able to make plans to prepare for it.
  - D. Because scientists will be able to observe the formation of the El Nino.
4. What is the main idea of the last two paragraphs?
  - A. El Nino can be both beneficial and harmful to us, depending on where it happens.
  - B. Even a small El Nino can bring about great changes.
  - C. An El Nino caused one billion dollars' worth of damage to California in 1998.
  - D. An El Nino put out forest fires in Florida.
5. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to "heads-up"(Paragraph 4)?
  - A. Rise.
  - B. Warning.
  - C. Threat.
  - D. Indicator.

**II.** Judge whether or not the following statements agree with the information given in the passage, and mark Y for YES, N for NO, or NG if information is not given in the passage.

- ( ) 1. Judging from the evidence, scientists have made the forecast that a new El Nino is forming.
- ( ) 2. When an El Nino is coming, people cannot feel its effects straight away.
- ( ) 3. When an El Nino is coming, people can take proper precautions against it.
- ( ) 4. The rain in California in 1997 was two times more than that in 1996.
- ( ) 5. El Nino is the warming of a massive water body that can heavily influence the world's weather.



### 3. Wildlife Conservation

In my children's lifetimes, I believe gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans (猩猩) will all become extinct (灭绝) in the wild. So the question we have to ask ourselves is this: do we want our children to see only in zoos what used to exist in the real world? It is the great apes that will disappear first, because there are so few of them left, and because they're so vulnerable (易受...的影响) to changes in their habitats.

Many of the threats to these animals result from a global economy and not local pressures. The threat to the orangutans in Indonesia, for example, is largely a result of deforestation and the risks to apes and chimpanzees in Africa result from the timber trade and the demand for bush-meat. The two work together: logging (伐木) opens up the forest, which means that the bush-meat can be got out fast, to Kinshasa or to London.

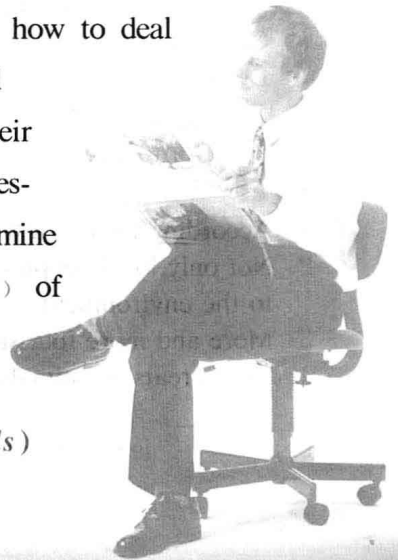
If we want to avoid the disaster, people in developed countries will have to take a global perspective and accept responsibility for the damage export crops, such as timber, coffee, cut flowers or even green beans, do to the environment. The chal-

lenge is to avoid simply imposing (把...强加于) Western attitudes on local peoples.

Already there are no truly wild places left in the world. Looking at wildlife has become the preserve of the middle classes over the last 20-odd years, and as wild animals become even rarer, so more tourists want to see them. But tourism alone plainly cannot conserve the world's animals; economic development is the priority (优先考虑的事).

For the future, I suspect that if you really want to do something about wildlife conservation, you would be better off putting your money into women's education rather than just into the protection of flagship species. Women often bear the direct costs of wildlife conflict; their knowledge of how to deal with conflict and how to control their own reproductive destinies may yet determine the survival (生存) of many threatened species.

(325 words)





## Comprehension Exercises

7. Choose the best answers to the following questions.

1. Why will the great apes become extinct in the wild first?
  - A. Because the great apes are moving away from the wildlife conservation areas.
  - B. Because the great apes are unable to survive any natural disasters.
  - C. Because more and more great apes are kept in zoos.
  - D. Because the great apes are unadaptable to changes in the environment.
2. In the second paragraph, the word "deforestation" means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the process of hunting for wildlife in forests
  - B. adventures in forests
  - C. the process of removing forests from a place
  - D. the exploration of forests
3. According to the passage, all of the following statements are true except \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the development of tourism helps to conserve wildlife
  - B. developed countries should be aware of the damage export crops do to the environment
  - C. all the threats to animals result from local pressures alone
  - D. the timber trade and the demand for bush-meat risk the lives of primates (灵长类动物) in Africa
4. We can infer from the fourth paragraph that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. it is the middle class that should take more responsibility for animal conservation
  - B. compared with economic development, tourism is more important in animal conservation
  - C. in order to conserve wild animals, economic development should be put above everything else
  - D. tourism cannot conserve wildlife; it will only do harm to the environment
5. The author suggests in the last paragraph that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. one would be richer if he puts money into women's education
  - B. to put money into women's education is more important in wildlife conservation than to put money into flagship species protection
  - C. women know how to determine the survival of many threatened species
  - D. women often bear the direct costs of wildlife conflict

8. Complete the following sentences with the information given in the passage.

1. According to the author, the extinction of wild animals will be mainly a result of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Not only local people, but also \_\_\_\_\_ should be responsible for the damage export crops do to the environment.
3. More and more tourists want to see wild animals because \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The threats to animals in Indonesia and Africa result largely from the demand for timber and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is important in wildlife conservation. So more money should be put into it.

## 4. Pets

There are different ideas about pets in different parts of the world. In most cultures, animals have an inferior (低一等的) position to human beings. In most instances, however, people treat their pets like members of their families, or perhaps better. In the United States, and Europe, where pets are very popular, there are special shops that sell jewelry, clothing, and gourmet (美味的) food for cats and dogs. There are shops on fashionable streets in New York City, for example, that sell gold and diamond collars, fur jackets, hats and mittens for pets.

In many countries of the world, there is special food for pets. It is common for supermarkets in many places to sell cat food and dog food. However, in Nice, France, there is a special restaurant for dogs. Dogs are the only customers. There is seating for 20 of them.

On the menu, there are varieties of special gourmet dishes for dogs to choose from. There is a sausage dish, a turkey dish, and a pasta dish, among others. For dessert, there is a variety of French cheeses and, of course, dog biscuits.

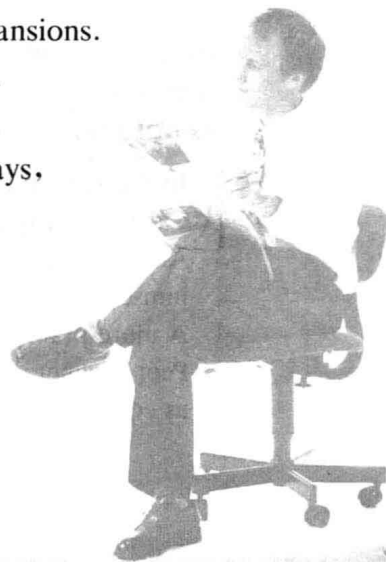
In the U.S., there is a very rich cat who can afford to go to any restaurant he chooses. His name is Kitty Cat. Kitty Cat

inherited (继承) 100,000 dollars when his owner died. In addition, the owner left Kitty Cat a beautiful mansion to live in. There is a person who comes to the mansion every day to feed and take care of Kitty Cat.

Of course, in most parts of the world, pets don't live in such wealth and luxury. There is a more practical and functional (实用的) attitude towards pets. People own cats and dogs because they keep away mice and other unwanted animals. Certainly, owners generally have their affectionate (亲切的) feelings for their pets. However, they do not see them as equal to family members. In most places in the world, there isn't any special clothing, or jewelry, or gourmet food for animals. There aren't special restaurants for dogs. There are no rich cats who live in mansions.

Pets around the world live in a great variety of ways, just as people do.

(360 words)



Comprehension Exercises



7. Choose the best answers to the following questions.

1. The special restaurant in Nice offers \_\_\_\_\_ for dogs.
  - A. roast turkeys
  - B. toast and noodles
  - C. fried chicken
  - D. different kinds of cheeses
2. Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
  - A. Pets enjoy special treatment in the U. S. and Europe.
  - B. Dogs and cats never wear clothing.
  - C. In most parts of the world, pets live a comfortable life.
  - D. Kitty Cat inherited one million dollars from his owner.
3. Which of the following is not mentioned in this passage?
  - A. Kitty Cat is a very rich cat.
  - B. The special restaurant in Nice has seats for 20 dogs.
  - C. Some pet shops in New York sell gold to pets.
  - D. People own cats and dogs mainly to keep away mice and other unwanted animals.
4. In most parts of the world, animals \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. are treated as equal to their owners' family members
  - B. have a superior position to their owners' family members
  - C. have an inferior position to their owners' family members
  - D. are treated better than their owners' family members
5. What's the main idea of this passage?
  - A. Dogs enjoy living in mansions.
  - B. Kitty Cat can afford luxury food in any restaurant.
  - C. In different parts of the world people treat pets in different ways.
  - D. It is not necessary to have special food, clothing, and jewelry for animals.

77. Judge whether or not the following statements agree with the information given in the passage, and mark Y for YES, N for NO, or NG if information is not given in the passage.

- ( ) 1. In the United States and Europe, some pets have a superior position to human beings.
- ( ) 2. Cat food, dog food, and seating for pets can be easily found in supermarkets.
- ( ) 3. Although 100,000 dollars and a mansion were left to Kitty Cat, he had to take care of himself.
- ( ) 4. A more practical attitude to pets is commonly accepted in most parts of the world.
- ( ) 5. People generally have a nice feeling towards their pets, but they don't usually treat pets as equals to their family members.