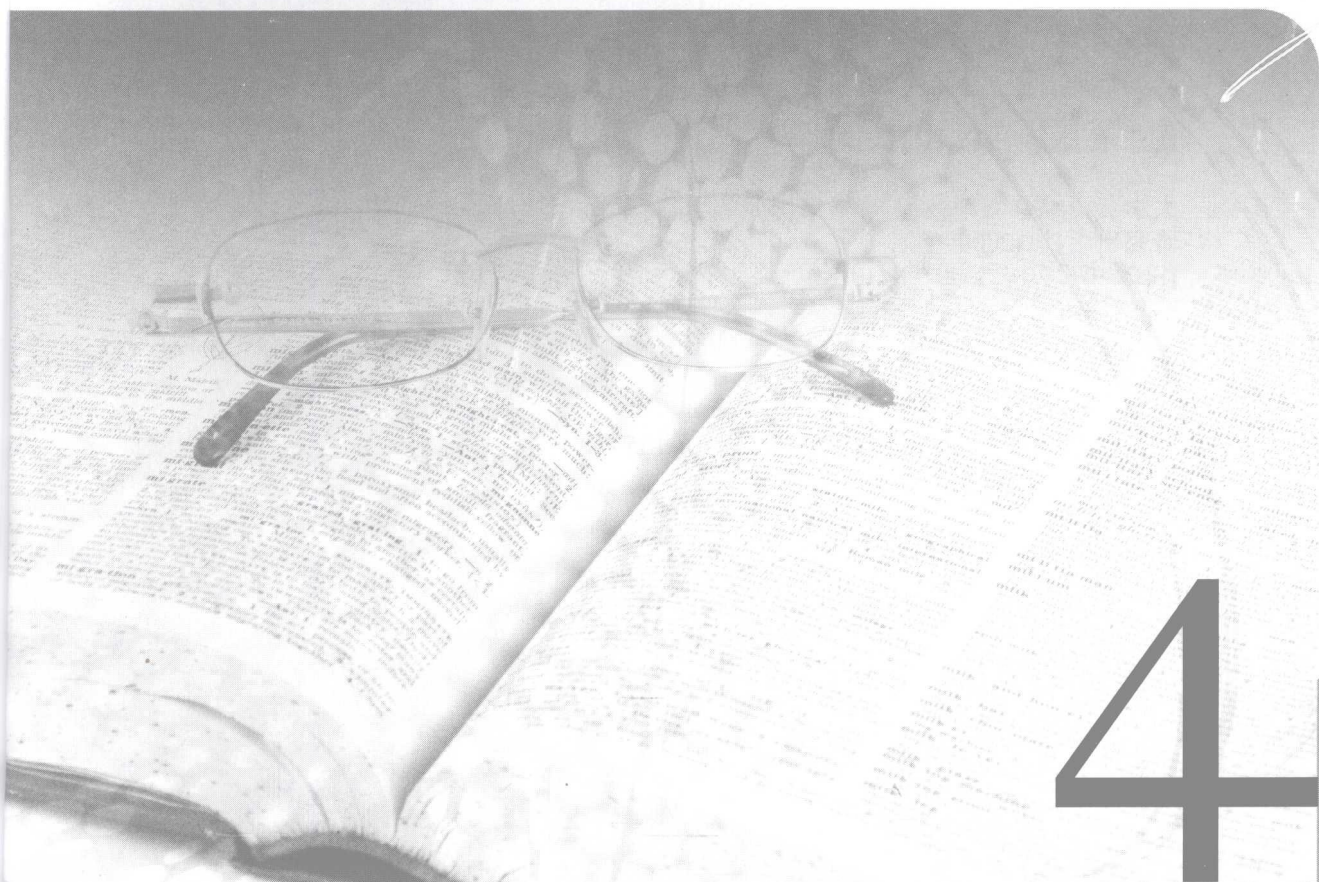


READING

大学英语综合阅读教程

总主编：屠国元 沈金华 主 编：侯先绒 沈金华

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



4

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编写说明

在英语学习中，阅读是打好语言基础、掌握语言知识、获取信息的重要渠道之一，是提高英语应用能力（听、说、读、写、译综合能力）的重要手段。培养学生综合阅读、快速反应和思辨的理解能力，使学生在今后的学习、工作和社会交往中能用英语进行有效地交流正是本教程的所期望达到目标。

新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》对阅读理解能力的要求为：能基本读懂一般性题材的英文文章，阅读速度达到每分钟 70 词；在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时，阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词（较高要求对快速阅读的要求为每分钟 120 词）；能基本读懂国内英文报刊，掌握中心意思，理解主要事实和有关细节；能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料；能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。调查显示，阅读能力是大部分非英语专业学生今后使用英语的主要技能。为了适应这一要求，在改革后的大学英语四、六级考试中，阅读理解部分的测试内容、题型和分值比例仍占很高，为 35% 到 40%。《大学英语综合阅读教程》以敏锐的眼光捕捉到这一变化，始终坚持把阅读能力的培养放在首位，以大量的阅读来体现“精讲多练”的原则，旨在使学生能按“课程教学要求”掌握阅读技巧，能够高效、快速地阅读中等水平和较高水平的一般性题材的英语文章，进行一定的分析、推理和判断，促进应用能力的提高。

本教程共分四册，每册分为八个单元，每个单元由同一主题的五篇文章组成。每篇文章配有生词注释、英文介绍、有关文化背景介绍和阅读理解练习等。练习形式多样，有判断题、选择题、词汇题、翻译题，还有具有总结归纳作用的填空题和查找细节的表格补充信息题。为了方便学生课外自学，我们在书后附有所有练习的参考答案。

本教程的特点如下：

- 1) 本教程从选材到编写、审校等各个环节全部由具有丰富教学经验的教师分工合作，集中了集体智慧编写而成，具有很强的专业性和针对性。
- 2) 本教程在编写过程中充分吸收了我国在英语教学方面长期积累的行之有效的经验和方法，取各家之长，兼收并蓄，能适应大学本科英语教学课的要求。
- 3) 本教程通过把教师课内的“精讲”和学生课外的“多练”结合起来，达到提高学生阅读的主动性、积极性和创造性的目的。
- 4) 本教程选用当代英语中常见语体或文体的典型样本作为素材，内容新颖，文章选材主要来自近年来英美国家出版的报刊、杂志和网络，涵盖了教育、科技、政治、经济、

文化、社会生活等各个方面，具有时代性、可读性、文化教育性和娱乐欣赏性。

- 5) 本教程将阅读教学中的“精读”、“泛读”和“快速阅读”的特点较好地结合起来，对所选文章的生词量和文章长度作了较好的控制，既有利于学生扩大生词量和阅读量，又有利于学生提高阅读速度。
- 6) 本教程在每篇文章的开头都用简短的语言对文章内容作了介绍，既能让学生在阅读初始就了解文章主要内容，也给学生如何总结归纳文章重点做了示范。
- 7) 本教程课后练习题型均按照最新的大学英语四、六级考试的标准和难度设计。题型多样，题量适中，既能较好地帮助学生提高阅读理解能力和写作能力，也能帮助学生逐步熟悉考试形式。
- 8) 本教程每单元的最后都列有与主题相关的词汇，便于学生练习写作和专题对话。

本教程由屠国元、沈金华两位教授担任总主编，从整体上设计了“编写提纲”和“编写要求”；肖立明教授对全书进行了严格审查，并提出了宝贵的修改意见。在本教程的策划、编写和出版过程中，得到了很多兄弟院校的教授专家的支持和帮助，在此一并表示衷心感谢！

编者

2009年5月

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UNIT 1

Man-Made Calamity

Text A-1

New words and expressions

assume *v.* 承担

grieve *v.* (使) 悲痛, (使) 伤心, 忧伤

host *n.* (全称 heavenly host) 日月星辰; 天体; 天象

humanity *n.* 人类, 人性, 博爱, 仁慈

mourn *v.* 哀悼, 忧伤, 服丧

navigate *v.* 航行于, 驾驶

prophet *n.* 先知, 预言者, 提倡者

starry *adj.* 闪闪发光的

President Addresses Nation on Space Shuttle Columbia Tragedy

Introduction

Launched January 16, 2003, the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on February 1, 2003, shortly before it was scheduled to conclude its 28th mission, STS-107 with the loss of all seven crew members. At 14:04 Eastern Standard Time of America, President George W. Bush addressed the United States and assured Americans that the space program would continue.

Text

(The Cabinet Room, 2:04 P.M. EST)

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow Americans, this day has brought terrible news and great sadness to our country. At 9:00 a.m. this morning, Mission Control in Houston lost contact

with our Space Shuttle *Columbia*. A short time later, debris was seen falling from the skies above Texas. The *Columbia* is lost; there are no survivors.

On board was a crew of seven: Colonel Rick Husband, Lt. Colonel Michael Anderson, Commander Laurel Clark, Captain David Brown, Commander William McCool, Dr. Kalpana Chawla, and Ilan Ramon, a Colonel in the Israeli Air Force. These men and women assumed great risk in the service to all humanity.

In an age when space flight has come to seem almost routine, it is easy to overlook the dangers of travel by rocket, and the difficulties of navigating the fierce outer atmosphere of the Earth. These astronauts knew the dangers, and they faced them willingly, knowing they had a high and noble purpose in life. Because of their courage and daring and idealism, we will miss them all the more.

All Americans today are thinking, as well, of the families of these men and women who have been given this sudden shock and grief. You're not alone. Our entire nation grieves with you. And those you loved will always have the respect and gratitude of this country.

The cause in which they died will continue. Mankind is led into the darkness beyond our world by the inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand. Our journey into space will go on.

In the skies today we saw destruction and tragedy. Yet farther than we can see there is comfort and hope. In the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Lift your eyes and look to the heavens. Who created all these? He who brings out the starry hosts one by one and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing."

The same Creator who names the stars also knows the names of the seven souls we mourn today. The crew of the shuttle *Columbia* did not return safely to Earth; yet we can pray that all are safely home.

May God bless the grieving families, and may God continue to bless America.

(END 2:08 P.M. EST)

(385 words)

Exercises

A. Decide on the best choice to answer the question or complete the sentence according to the passage.

1. Where is the most probable location of NASA's Mission Control Center according to the text?

A. In Columbia.

B. In Houston.

C. In Texas.

D. In America.

2. Why were the astronauts willing to take the journey into space?
 - A. Because the space flight had come to seem almost routine.
 - B. Because they overlooked the dangers of travel by rocket.
 - C. Because they knew they had a high and noble purpose in life.
 - D. Because they would be mourned and missed all the more.
3. What leads mankind to explore the outer space according to the speaker?
 - A. The inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand.
 - B. The desire to achieve a high and noble purpose in life.
 - C. The courage and daring and idealism of mankind.
 - D. The curiosity about the words of the prophet Isaiah.
4. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - A. None of the crew of the *Columbia* Shuttle survived the tragedy.
 - B. The President made the speech immediately after the tragedy occurred.
 - C. The tragedy will not stop the U.S.A. from the exploration into space.
 - D. The astronauts still have to assume great risks on their journey into space.
5. The words of the prophet Isaiah were quoted before the end of the speech because _____.
 - A. what was predicted proved to be true
 - B. Isaiah's prophecy is well-known in the Christian world
 - C. God has great power and mighty strength
 - D. the belief in God may bring people who believe in the religion comfort and hope

B. Make the best choice to complete the sentence or to substitute the underlined word or phrase in the sentence.

1. At 9:00 a.m., Mission Control in Houston lost contact with Space Shuttle *Columbia*.
 - A. touch
 - B. connection
 - C. link
 - D. association
2. These men and women assumed great risk in the service to all humanity.
 - A. took for granted
 - B. put on
 - C. took over without justification
 - D. took upon themselves

3. Our entire nation grieves with you.
- A. gives hand to B. stands side by side with
C. experiences grief with D. shows respect to
4. On board of the Space Shuttle Columbia was a _____ of seven.
- A. staff B. crew
C. faculty D. group
5. Captain Cook was responsible for _____ his ship without accident for 100 voyages.
- A. arranging B. driving
C. navigating D. blessing
6. A _____ night is one in which a lot of stars are visible.
- A. starry B. farther
C. mighty D. fierce

Text A-2

New words and expressions

abidance *n.* 遵守

administer *v.* 管理, 执行

at stake 危險

catastrophe *n.* (突如其来的) 灾难

defy v. 藐视, 挑衅, 违抗

divert *v.* 使……转向

fatality *n.* 由事故或灾难引起的死亡; 意外死亡的人

file *v.* 提出 (申请等)

fitting *adj.* 适合的, 相称的, 适宜的

impair *v.* 损伤, 减弱

intoxication *n.* 醉酒

obligation *n.* 义务, 责任

precautionary *adj.* 预防的, 防范的

prescribe v. 规定

prevailing *adj.* 最频繁的, 普遍存在的

refrain *v.* (常接 from) 不做, 避免

Major Causes of Car Collisions

Introduction

Road traffic crashes are one of the world's largest public health and injury prevention problems. According to the World Health Organization more than a million people are killed on the world's roads each year. Contributing factors to car collisions mainly include driver behavior, road design, and vehicle design and maintenance. Actually, motor vehicle collisions are one of the leading preventable causes of death in modern society if people are more aware of the major causes of car collisions.

Text

The prevailing dangers on our roadways are in fact the most dreaded cause of car collisions and accidents that lead to serious injuries and fatalities among the victims.

In fact, in Los Angeles alone, an alarming number of car collision cases have been reported during the last few years resulting in great damages to lives and properties. Thus, no one may declare that he is completely safe from accidents despite his abidance by the traffic rules and other precautionary measures.

Here are some of the major causes of car collisions and accidents:

- **Driver incompetence**—A great number of drivers lack the proper training on road safety. Many of them even defy the traffic regulations such as tail gaiting, over speeding and many more road rules that tend to protect the motorists, including them, from harm.
- **DUI driving or intoxication**—Driving a car after drinking liquor excessively is very dangerous for it impair driving capabilities. Thus, the law strictly prohibits too much intake of alcohol or other illegal substances especially when driving a car.
- **Distractions**—Motorists are expected to exercise extreme concentration in driving. However, so many distractions tend to divert their attentions and make their driving too risky. Examples are active discussions with the passengers; improper use of cell phones; loud car stereos and many others.
- **Heavy rains**—Weather is also a great factor in a safe road travel. The studies show that many car accidents happen during bad weather conditions—making the road surfaces slippery and affecting clear visibility.
- **Poor road design**—The state has the obligation to make sure that our roadways are properly designed and safe for public use. However, there are times that this responsibility is not taken into account and not strictly administered.

As the government sets up road safety signs and equipment, it should always take into priority that these never, in any cases, would cause any unlikely incidents, which put the lives of many individuals at stake.

- **Vehicle defects**—Motorists and car owners should never fail to have an overall check up on the vehicle’s mechanical and technical aspects. Doing these precautions surely lessens the chances of road catastrophes, which are primarily caused by vehicle defects.

Meanwhile, it has been an accepted idea that it is certainly not an assurance or a guarantee that you being disciplined and extra careful can refrain you from experiencing and encountering road accidents and disasters.

Yet, the law prescribes that a person who has been injured due to somebody’s neglect can afford to file a personal injury claim and demand for such fitting damages.

(436 words)

Notes:

Factors on car accidents: A 1985 study by K. Rumar, using British and American car crash reports as data, found that 57% of crashes were due solely to driver factors, 27% to combined roadway and driver factors, 6% to combined vehicle and driver factors, 3% solely to roadway factors, 3% to combined roadway, driver, and vehicle factors, 2% solely to vehicle factors and 1% to combined roadway and vehicle factors. For more information on car accidents, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/car_collision.

Exercises

Fill in the chart with the information according to the passage.

Major causes of car collisions	
Causes	Examples
Driving incompetence	Drivers lack the proper training on road safety or defy (1) _____.
(2) _____	Drivers take too much alcohol or other illegal substances when driving.
Distractions	(3) _____.
Heavy rains	Bad weather conditions like (4) _____.
(5) _____	Improperly designed road safety signs and equipment.
Vehicle defects	(6) _____.

Text B-1

New words and expressions

asphyxiant *adj.* 导致窒息的

blast *n.* 爆炸, 爆破

colliery *n.* 煤矿

convene *v.* 召集, 组织

earmark *v.* 指定 (款项等的) 用途

firedamp *n.* 甲烷, 沼气

malfunctioning *adj.* 发生故障的, 失灵的

methane *n.* 甲烷, 沼气

Mining Accident

Introduction

A mining accident is an accident that occurs in the process of mining minerals. Thousands of miners die from mining accidents each year, especially in the process of coal mining and hard rock mining. Most of the deaths today occur in developing countries and rural parts of developed countries. Nowadays, more and more countries begin to take measures to improve work safety in coal mines.

Text

Causes

Mining accidents can have a variety of causes, including leaks of poisonous gases such as methane or explosive natural gases called firedamp, asphyxiant gases, dust explosions, collapsing of mine stopes, flooding, or general mechanical errors from improperly used or malfunctioning mining equipment.

The United States

In the United States in 2006, 72 miners lost their lives at work, 47 in coal mining. The majority of these fatalities occurred in Kentucky and West Virginia, including the Sago Mine Disaster.

In addition to deaths, many thousands more are injured (an average of 21,351 injuries per year between 1991 and 1999). Overall, there has been a downward trend in deaths and injuries. From 1880 to 1910, mine accidents claimed thousands of fatalities. The US Bureau of Mines was created in 1910 to investigate accidents, advise industry, conduct production

and safety research, and teach courses in accident prevention, first aid, and mine rescue. The Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Acts of 1969 and 1977 set further safety standards for the industry. Where annual mining deaths had numbered more than 1,000 a year in the early part of the 20th century, they decreased to an average of about 500 in the late 1950s, and to 93 during the 1990s.

The deadliest mining disaster in American history took place on December 6, 1907 in Monongah, West Virginia. Three hundred and sixty two men and young boys were killed when an underground explosion took place.

China

China currently accounts for the largest number of coal-mining fatalities, accounting for about 80% of the world's total, although it produces only 35% of the world's coal.

In 2006, according to the State Work Safety Supervision Administration, 4,749 Chinese coal miners were killed in thousands of blasts, floods, and other accidents. For example, a gas explosion at the Nanshan Colliery killed 24 people on November 13, 2006; the mine was operating without any safety license and the Xinhua News Agency claimed the cause was incorrect usage of explosives. However, the 2006 rate was 20.1% less than 2005 despite an 8.1% rise in production.

After the 2005 Sunjiawan Mine Disaster, which killed at least 210 miners, a meeting of the State Council was convened to work on measures to improve work safety in coal mines. The meeting's statement pointed out serious problems such as violation of safety standards and overproduction in some coal mines. Three billion *yuan* were earmarked for technological renovation on work safety, gas management in particular, at state-owned major coal mines. The government also promised to send safety supervision teams to 45 coal mines with serious gas problems and invite colliery safety experts to evaluate safety situations in coal mines and formulate prevention measures.

The worst coal mining disaster in the world took place on April 26, 1942 in Benxihu Colliery, located at Benxi, Liaoning Province, China. A coal-dust explosion killed 1,549 miners working that day.

(478 words)

Note:

The Sago Mine Disaster: a coal mine explosion on January 2, 2006, in the Sago Mine in Sago, West Virginia, USA near the Upshur County seat of Buckhannon. The blast and

ensuing aftermath trapped 13 miners for nearly two days. In the disaster, only one of them, Randal McCloy, survived.

Exercises

A. Give brief answers to the questions according to the passage.

1. In addition to the leaks of poisonous gases, what other causes of mining accidents are listed in the passage?
2. How many people died in coal mining in the US in 2006?
3. What is the trend in the toll in mining accidents in the US?
4. Why did the State Council of China convene a meeting after the 2005 Sunjiawan Mine Disaster?
5. What caused the disaster on April 26, 1942 in Benxihu Colliery?

B. Complete the sentences by translating into English the Chinese given in brackets.

1. Why not go to West Hampstead? You can find _____
(很多好的商店和超市) there.
2. The pattern is characterized by a contracting range in prices coupled with an upward trend in prices or _____ (价格下降趋势).
3. There will be _____ (新的国家标准) for hospital cleanliness.
4. _____ (计算机占5%) of the country's commercial electricity consumption.
5. The government warned that _____ (警察将采取更加严厉的措施) contain the trouble.

Text B-2

New words and expressions

bundle up 使穿暖

crackle *v.* 发出噼啪声

curb *n.* 路边

dispatcher *n.* 调度员

pass out 昏倒, 失去知觉

porch *n.* 门廊, 阳台

raccoon *n.* 浣熊

water hose 水龙带

My First Fire Experience

Introduction

A fire can rapidly spread and endanger human lives; however, with modern firefighting techniques, catastrophes can be often, though not always, avoided. Firefighting, the act of extinguishing destructive fires, is a highly technical profession which requires years of training and education in order to become proficient. A firefighter fights these fires to prevent destruction of life, property and the environment. Here is a firefighter's story about her first experience of firefighting on a Thanksgiving evening.

Text

When I decided to join the Sam Bass Volunteer Fire Department a couple of months ago, I didn't realize that my very first fire would come when I was off duty, and that I would be the first person to respond.

Here is what happened:

On Thanksgiving evening, my niece and I had just gotten home from my brother's house. We clicked on a movie and were sitting there eating popcorn and enjoying the show. All of a sudden I heard my male dog Toby bark at the back door. I didn't pay too much attention to him until he barked again. This time, I also heard a crackling sound. I figured it was probably just a raccoon.

So I got up, went to the back door and opened it, and saw that my neighbor's porch was on fire! It was so windy that night that the flames were spreading fast. I immediately shouted to my niece "FIRE!" and she ran to the back door. I grabbed my water hose and went over the fence to help calm down the fire. But it was just too windy and I wasn't able to get it all with my water hose. The hose was too short for me to reach the whole porch area, and the