

马冬 主编

新编大学英语 阅读教程 (第四册)

College
English Reading

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新编大学英语阅读教程

(第四册)

主 编：马 冬

副主编：刘 欢



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举报电话: 010-62752024 电子邮箱: fd@pup.pku.edu.cn

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前 言

阅读是人们获得知识的一种最基本、最重要的途径。阅读可以增加我们的知识,开阔我们的视野,丰富我们的想象,改善我们的思维品质,提升我们的创造能力;阅读可以开启我们的心灵之窗,塑造我们的灵魂,引导我们积极向上,涵养我们的精神;阅读可以丰富我们的情感,使我们更富于人性,更懂得求真、为善和审美;阅读可以改变人们的心境,增加人们的生活情趣,使人们生活得更加充实,更有意义。

针对于大学生这个群体,英语阅读是必不可少的。阅读是一种言语活动。在这过程中所表现出来的能力,被称为“阅读能力”或“阅读理解能力”。要具备这种能力,还必须具备丰富的知识结构,尤其是对中西方不同语言文化背景以及文化差异的广泛了解。一个拥有社会、文化、风土人情、天文地理、历史等方面知识的人,在阅读相关的英文材料时,要比不具备这方面知识的人操作起来轻松得多,对内容的理解也会透彻得多。

《新编大学英语阅读教程》的编写基于这样的理念,遵循《大学英语课程教学要求》,配合大学英语日常教学,同时有针对性地为大学英语四、六级考试进行辅助铺垫,从近年来英、美等国出版的原文作品和报刊书籍中精选内容新颖,趣味性强的文章,涵盖西方社会、历史、地理、风俗等方面内容,通过文体多样的选篇和针对性强的练习帮助学生拓展视野,积累词汇,提高阅读技能,选材体现了“科学性、前瞻性、可操作性”。全书习题由浅入深,循序渐进,旨在引导学生科学、快速、高效地提高英语阅读理解能力。

《大学英语阅读教程》每一册都由两部分组成:本套教程第一册和第二册的第一部分单词量一般保持在450词左右,第二部分单词量在1200词左右;第三册和第四册文章难度加大,单词量也相应增加,第一部分单词量在550—600词之间,第二部分单词量在1500词左右。

本书由马冬担任主编,刘欢担任副主编。其中马冬编写了第一部分的前40篇,约14万字;刘欢编写了第一部分的41—48篇和第二部分的20篇,约14万字。

《新编大学英语阅读教程》是我们在大学英语教学内容和课程体系改革方面所做的一次大胆尝试,目的是帮助学生通过进行大量的课外阅读,扩大词汇量,灵活运用各种阅读技巧,提高阅读速度,最终达到增强阅读理解能力的目的。由于时间紧,编者水平有限,其中必有不当或疏漏之处,敬请广大使用者批评指正。

马 冬

2013年6月

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Part One

Reading in Depth

Passage One

Low-level slash-and-burn farming doesn't harm rainforest. On the contrary, it helps farmers and improves forest soils. This is the unorthodox view of a German soil scientist who has shown that burnt clearings in the Amazon, dating back more than 1,000 years, helped create patches of rich, fertile soil that farmers still benefit from today.

Most rainforest soils are thin and poor because they lack minerals and because the heat and heavy rainfall destroy most organic matter in the soils within four years of it reaching the forest floor. This means topsoil contains few of the ingredients needed for long-term successful farming.

But Bruno Glaser, a soil scientist of the University of Bayreuth, has studied unexpected patches of fertile soils in the central Amazon. These soils contain lots of organic matter.

Glaser has shown that most of this fertile organic matter comes from "black carbon"—the organic particles from camp fires and charred (烧成炭的) wood left over from thousands of years of slash-and-burn farming. "The soils, known as Terra Preta, contained up to 70 times more black carbon than the surrounding soil," says Glaser. Unburnt vegetation rots quickly, but black carbon persists in the soil for many centuries. Radiocarbon dating shows that the charred wood in Terra Preta soils is typically more than 1000 years old.

"Slash-and-burn farming can be good for soils provided it doesn't completely burn all the vegetation, and leaves behind charred wood," says Glaser. "It can be better than manure (粪肥)." Burning the forest just once can leave behind enough black carbon to keep the soil fertile for thousands of years. And rainforests easily regrow after small-scale clearing. Contrary to the conventional view that human activities damage the environment, Glaser says: "Black carbon combined with human wastes is responsible for the richness of Terra Preta soils."

Terra Preta soils turn up in large patches all over the Amazon, where they are highly prized by farmers. All the patches fall within 500 square kilometers in the central Amazon. Glaser says the widespread presence of pottery (陶器) confirms the soil's human origins.

The findings add weight to the theory that large areas of the Amazon have recovered so well from past periods of agricultural use that the regrowth has been mistaken by generations of biologists for "virgin" forest.

During the past decade, researchers have discovered hundreds of large earth works deep in the jungle. They are up to 20 meters high and cover up to a square kilometer. Glaser claims that these earth works, built between AD 400 and 1400, were at the heart of urban civilizations. Now it seems the richness of the Terra Preta soils may explain how such civilizations managed to feed themselves.

1. We learn from the passage that the traditional view of slash-and-burn farming is that ____.

- A. it does no harm to the topsoil of the rainforest
 - B. it destroys rainforest soils
 - C. it helps improve rainforest soils
 - D. it diminishes the organic matter in rainforest soils
2. Most rainforest soils are thin and poor because _____.
- A. the composition of the topsoil is rather unstable
 - B. black carbon is washed away by heavy rains
 - C. organic matter is quickly lost due to heat and rain
 - D. long-term farming has exhausted the ingredients essential to plant growth
3. Glaser made his discovery by _____.
- A. studying patches of fertile soils in the central Amazon
 - B. examining pottery left over by ancient civilizations
 - C. test-burning patches of trees in the central Amazon
 - D. radiocarbon-dating ingredients contained in forest soils
4. What does Glaser say about the regrowth of rainforests?
- A. They take centuries to regrow after being burnt.
 - B. They cannot recover unless the vegetation is burnt completely.
 - C. Their regrowth will be hampered by human habitation.
 - D. They can recover easily after slash-and-burn farming.
5. From the passage it can be inferred that _____.
- A. human activities will do grave damage to rainforests
 - B. Amazon rainforest soils used to be the richest in the world
 - C. farming is responsible for the destruction of the Amazon rainforests
 - D. there once existed an urban civilization in the Amazon rainforests

Passage Two

New figures from France, Germany and Italy—the three biggest economies in the 12 country Euro zone—suggest the continent's economic woes may have been exaggerated. In France, evidence emerged that consumer spending remained solid in July and August, rising 1.4% and 0.6% respectively. Forecasters had generally expected the July figure to show a 0.1% slippage, with August unchanged. But the figures were flattered slightly by a down grade to the June figure, to 0.7% from 1.5%.

With manufacturing in the doldrums across Europe and the US, consumer spending has been increasingly seen as the best hope of stopping the global economic slowdown from turning into a recession. The French government said the news proved that the economy was holding up to the strain of the slowdown.

Meanwhile in Germany, new regional price figures went somewhat towards calming fears about inflation in Europe's largest economy—a key reason for the European Central Bank's reluctance to cut interest 15 states said consumer prices were broadly stable, with inflation falling year on year. The information backed economists' expectations that inflation for the country as a whole is set to fall back to a yearly rate of 2.1%, compared to

a yearly rate of 2.6% in August, closing in on the Euro wide target of 2%. The drop is partly due to last year's spike in oil prices dropping out of the year on year calculation.

The icing on the cake was news that Italy's job market has remained buoyant. The country's July unemployment rate dropped to 9.4% from 9.6% the month before, its lowest level in more than eight years. And a business confidence survey from quasi (类似的) governmental research group ISAE told of a general pick up in demand in the six weeks to early September. But the news was tempered by an announcement by Alitalia, the country's biggest airline, that it will have to get rid of 2,500 staff to cope with the expected contraction as well as selling 12 aero planes. And industrial group Confindustria warned that the attacks on US targets meant growth will be about 1.9% this year, well short of the government's 2.4% target. And it said the budget deficit will probably be about 1.5%, nearly twice the 0.8% Italy's government has promised its European Union partners.

1. We know from the first paragraph that _____.
 - A. new figures from the three European countries show the prediction of forecasters is exactly right
 - B. European economy gets on better than forecasters have predicted
 - C. all of the forecasters expect the fully figure to show a reduction
 - D. in three European countries the consumer spending continues to rise
2. The term "in the doldrums" in paragraph 2 refers to _____.
 - A. in the process of rising
 - B. experiencing a sharp turning
 - C. in the recession
 - D. rising rapidly
3. Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the text?
 - A. The reason for the ECB's unwilling to cut interest rates is inflation was actually expected to fall in Germany.
 - B. In Germany consumer prices were falling.
 - C. Last year's oil prices dropping out of the year on year calculation directly leads to the drop of inflation.
 - D. The European Central Bank is willing to cut interest rate.
4. In this passage, the word "buoyant" in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to the word _____.
 - A. depressing
 - B. gloomy
 - C. active
 - D. calm
5. Industrial group Confindustria warned that _____.
 - A. the attacks on US targets lead to the comparatively lower growth
 - B. the growth had been well short of the government's target
 - C. the budget deficit must be about 1.5%
 - D. the budget deficit will probably be great different from the country's promise

Passage Three

Survey results indicate that smoking and alcohol and marijuana (大麻) use increased

among residents of Manhattan during the 5~8 weeks after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center which took place on September 11, 2001. Almost one-third of the nearly 1,000 persons interviewed reported an increased use of alcohol, marijuana, or cigarettes following the September 11 attacks. The largest increase was in alcohol use. About one-fourth of the respondents said they were drinking more alcohol in the weeks after September 11; about 10% reported an increase in smoking, and 3.2% said they had increased their use of marijuana.

The investigators found survey participants by randomly (随意地) dialing New York City phone numbers and screened potential respondents for Manhattan residents living in areas close to the World Trade Center. Interviews were conducted with 988 individuals between October 16 and November 15, 2001. Participants were asked about their cigarette smoking, alcohol drinking, and marijuana use habits before and after September 11. During the week prior to September 11, 2001, 22.6% of the participants reported smoking cigarettes, 59.1% drinking alcohol, and 4.4% using marijuana. After September 11, 23.4% reported smoking cigarettes, 64.4% drinking alcohol, and 5.7% smoking marijuana. Among those who smoked, almost 10% reported smoking at least an extra pack of cigarettes a week and among those who drank alcohol, more than 20% reported imbibing at least one extra drink a day.

The researchers found that people who reported an increase in substance abuse were more likely to suffer from post traumatic (创伤的) stress disorder (PTSD) and from depression. People who reported an increase in cigarette smoking or marijuana use were also more likely to have both PTSD and depression, while those who reported an increase in alcohol use were more likely to have depression only. Persons who were living closer to the World Trade Center were more likely to increase their cigarette smoking, but other factors such as being displaced from home, losing possessions during the attacks, or being involved in the rescue efforts were not consistently associated with increased substance use. Symptoms of panic attack were associated with an increase in the use of all substances.

Increase in substance abuse did not differ significantly between men and women or among racial or ethnic groups. Demographic factors such as age, marital status, and income seemed to play a more critical role in determining if the events of September 11 led to an increase in substance use.

- The survey results suggest that the largest increase in substance use was _____.
A. alcohol B. marijuana C. cigarettes D. cocaine
- The survey participants were _____.
A. randomly selected United States citizens
B. randomly selected New York City citizens
C. randomly selected Manhattan residents who live close to the World Trade Center
D. randomly selected American citizens who witnessed the terrorist attack
- The author is trying to show that _____.
A. use of substances may vary from time to time
B. abuse of certain substances is harmful for health
C. the attack of September 11 has left incurable harm to people's mental health
D. terrorist attack increase anxiety and sense of insecurity among residents

4. What can be said about substance abuse after September 11?
 - A. People who reported an increase in alcohol use were more likely to have PTSD.
 - B. People who were living closer to World Trade Center were most likely to increase cigarette smoking.
 - C. Displacement from home and involvement in rescue efforts were consistently associated with increased substance use.
 - D. Symptoms of panic attack were unrelated with increased use of substances.
5. What can be inferred from the last paragraph?
 - A. Demographic information such as gender, race and marital status was not collected.
 - B. Gender and race do not have much effect on the amount of substance abuse.
 - C. Age and marital status do not make any difference on substance abuse.
 - D. Income is a better predictor of substance abuse than age.

Passage Four

The entrepreneur, according to French economist J. B. Say, “is a person who shifts economic resources out of an area of lower and into an area of higher productivity and yield.” But Say’s definition does not tell us who this entrepreneur is. Some define the entrepreneur simply as one who starts his or her own new and small business. For our purposes, we will define the entrepreneur as a person who takes the necessary risks to organize and manage a business and receives the financial profits and nonmonetary rewards.

The man who opens a small pizza restaurant is in business, but is he an entrepreneur? He took a risk and did something, but did he shift resources or start the business? If the answer is yes, then he is considered an entrepreneur. Ray Kroc is an example of an entrepreneur because he founded and established McDonalds. His hamburgers were not a new idea, but he applied new techniques, resource allocations (分配), and organizational methods in his venture. Ray Kroc upgraded the productivity and yield from the resources applied to create his fast food chain. This is what entrepreneurs do; this is what entrepreneurship means.

Many of the sharp, black and white contrasts between the entrepreneur and the professional have faded to a gray color. Formerly, professionals such as doctors, lawyers, dentists, and accountants were not supposed to be entrepreneurial, aggressive, or market oriented. They were “above” the market driven world. Entrepreneurs, on the other hand, were the mavericks of society. They were risk takers who aggressively sought to make something happen. Long hours were about all the two worlds had in common. However, increased competition, saturated markets, and a more price conscious public have changed the world of the professionals. Today they need to market their skills, talents, and competencies. Lawyers advertise their services. Doctors specialize in one form of surgery. Accounting firms join with other businesses (e. g. , consulting and law) to serve clients.

Entrepreneurs exhibit many different behaviors; searching for a specific personality pattern is very difficult. Some entrepreneurs are quiet, introverted, and analytical. On the

other hand, some are brash, extroverted, and very emotional. Many of them share some qualities. Viewing change as the norm, entrepreneurs usually search for it, respond to it, and treat it as an opportunity. An entrepreneur such as Ray Kroc of McDonalds is able to take resources and shift them to meet a need. Making the decision to shift resources works better if a person is creative, experienced and confident.

1. According to the first paragraph, who can be regarded as an entrepreneur?
 - A. The CEO of a big company.
 - B. The owner of a profitable restaurant.
 - C. A man who started a new kind of business but eventually failed after 5 years because of some financial problems.
 - D. A successful salesman.
2. Which of the followings are necessary for an entrepreneur?

① a resource shifter ② one who starts a new business
 ③ non professional ④ money gaining ⑤ a risk taker

A. ①②③ B. ①②④⑤ C. ①②⑤ D. ①②③④⑤
3. From the text, we learn that _____.
 - A. an entrepreneur should be very extroverted
 - B. an entrepreneur should be quick to seize opportunities
 - C. change is not norm in an entrepreneur's eyes
 - D. the French economist J. B. Say is the first person who gave the definition of "entrepreneur"
4. The purpose of the author in writing the passage is to _____.
 - A. complete the definition of entrepreneur
 - B. tell the readers what is entrepreneur and the main characteristics of entrepreneurs
 - C. show what kind of people can become entrepreneurs
 - D. illustrate why Ray Kroc can become an entrepreneur
5. What will most possibly follow the text?
 - A. An example of how an entrepreneur operates.
 - B. Another theory about entrepreneurship.
 - C. The bad effects of entrepreneurs.
 - D. The good effects of entrepreneurs.

Passage Five

Modern technology and science have produced a wealth of new materials and new ways of using old materials. For the artist this means wider opportunities. There is no doubt that the limitations of materials and nature of tools both restrict and shape a man's work. Observe how the development of plastics and light metals along with new methods of welding(焊接) has changed the direction of sculpture. Transparent plastic materials allow one to look through an object, to see its various sides superimposed on each other (as in Cubism or in an X-ray). Today, welding is as prevalent as casting was in the past. This

new method encourages open designs, where surrounding and intervening space becomes as important as form itself.

More ambiguous than other scientific inventions familiar to modern artists, but no less influential, are the psychoanalytic studies of Freud and his followers, discoveries that have infiltrated recent art, especially Surrealism. The Surrealists, in their struggle to escape the monotony and frustrations of everyday life, claimed that dreams were the only hope. Turning to the irrational world of their unconscious, they banished all time barriers and moral judgments to combine disconnected dream experiences from the past, present and intervening psychological states. The Surrealists were concerned with overlapping emotions more than with overlapping (相互重叠的) forms. Their paintings often become segmented capsules of associative experiences. For them, obsessive and often unrelated images replaced the direct emotional message of expressionism. They did not need to smash paint and canvas; they went beyond this to smash the whole continuity of logical thought.

There is little doubt that contemporary art has taken much from contemporary life. In a period when science has made revolutionary strides, artists in their studios have not been unaware of scientists in their laboratories. But this has rarely been a one-way street. Painters and sculptors, though admittedly influenced by modern science, have also molded and changed our world. If breakup has been a vital part of their expression, it has not always been a symbol of destruction. Quite the contrary; it has been used to examine more fully, to penetrate more deeply, to analyze more thoroughly, to enlarge, isolate and make more familiar certain aspects of life that earlier we were apt to neglect. In addition, it sometimes provides rich multiple experiences so organized as not merely to reflect our world, but in fact to interpret it.

1. According to the passage, it is true that _____.
 - A. artistic creations seem to be the reproductions of modern technology
 - B. artistic creations have made great strides scientifically
 - C. artistic creations appear to be incapable of ignoring material advances
 - D. artistic creations are the reflection of the material world
2. The welding techniques _____.
 - A. can cause a lot of changes in sculpture arts
 - B. permit details of an object to be seen clearly
 - C. can superimpose multiple sides of sculptor's designs
 - D. can make artists adaptable to be surroundings
3. We can learn from the text that Freud's studies _____.
 - A. are more ambiguous than any other scientific invention
 - B. have influenced other scientific inventions
 - C. cause Surrealism
 - D. have infiltrated Surrealism
4. Which of the following is TRUE about Surrealists?
 - A. They diminished all time barriers and moral judgments to combine disconnected dream experiences.
 - B. They tried to express their subconscious world.
 - C. They could transform real existence into incoherent dreams.
 - D. They wanted to substitute direct expressions for fragmented images.