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大学英语

四、六级阅读及词汇

卢琅华 主编

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前 言

为帮助广大读者顺利通过大学英语四、六级考试，编者根据《大学英语四级考试大纲》、《大学英语六级考试大纲》的要求，参照已公布的考试样题编写了《大学英语四、六级阅读及词汇》一书。

全书编集了数十篇短文，其内容广泛，难易程度合适，且富有趣味性，体裁多样，长短适宜。文章后面加有必要的汉英双项注释，和充足的阅读理解练习。结合每篇短文还选出四、六级常用词编成词汇练习。经编者精心设计，通过贯穿始终的不同形式的练习对读者进行阅读理解及词汇掌握与应用的综合性训练。

本书简明实用。编者不仅就大学英语四、六级试题中阅读理解和词汇两个重要部分对读者进行了有针对性的训练，并且科学地将单纯的阅读与词汇训练紧密结合起来，从而在对读者进行上述训练的同时，也加强了对读者四、六级考试应试综合能力的培养。

《大学英语四、六级阅读及词汇》一书是大学生、硕士生以及同等水平读者的理想的语言技能训练读本。也可供大学英语教师教学参考使用。书中难免有错误和不当之处，敬请广大读者和使用本书的英语教师批评指正。

编 者

1993年6月

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Passage 1

If you have chosen the right, fairly easy, sort of book for your general reading practice, you will not need to use a dictionary for such an exercise. If you really must know the dictionary meaning of all the words you meet (a doubtful necessity), jot them down on a piece of paper to look up later. Actually, the meanings of many words will be clear from the sentences around them — what we call the “context”. Here is an example. Do you know the word “sou’wester”? It has two meanings in English as the following sentences indicate:

- a) In spite of the fact that the fishermen were wearing sou’westers, the storm was so heavy they were wet through.
- b) An east or north-east wind brings cold, dry weather to England, but a sou’wester usually brings rain.

You should have guessed very easily that in sentence a) the word sou’wester refers to some kind of waterproof clothing, presumably quite thick and heavy since it is worn by fishermen in storms. In sentence b) it is clearly a kind of wind, coming from a SOUTH westerly direction. Incidentally, you would have had the greatest difficulty in Finding this word in

most dictionaries since it often appears a long way down among the secondary meanings of SOUTH. If you did not know that sou' meant "south" in the first place you could only have found the word by the merest chance.

Most paragraphs have a "topic sentence" which expresses the central idea. The remaining sentences expand or support that idea. It has been estimated that between 60 and 90% of all expository^① paragraphs in English have the topic sentence first. Always pay special attention to the first sentence of a paragraph; it is most likely to give you the main idea.

Sometimes, though, the first sentence in the paragraph does not have the FEEL of a "main idea" sentence. It does not seem to give us enough new information to justify a paragraph. The next most likely place to look for the topic sentence is the last sentence of the paragraph. Take this paragraph for example:

"Some students prefer a strict teacher who tells them exactly what to do. Others prefer to be left to work on their own. Still others like a democratic discussion type of class. No one teaching method can be devised to satisfy all students at the same time. "

Remember that the opening and closing paragraphs of a passage or chapter are particularly important. The opening paragraph suggests the general direction and content of the

① expository: giving information 说明的; 阐述的

piece. While the closing paragraph often summarizes the very essence of what has been said.

Comprehension Questions

1. The use of a dictionary is _____.
 - a. advisable for speed reading practice
 - b. unnecessary for speed reading practice
 - c. essential for speed reading practice
 - d. of no help in improving general reading ability
2. You can avoid the need for reference books by _____.
 - a. learning many vocabulary items in advance
 - b. choosing a fairly easy book
 - c. asking a friend
 - d. simply ignoring unknown words
3. If you really want to know what all the words mean, _____.
 - a. make a note and check later
 - b. use a bigger dictionary
 - c. ask your instructor
 - d. read more slowly
4. To understand a general reading book, a knowledge of the meaning of every single word in that book is _____.
 - a. doubtfully necessary
 - b. absolutely unnecessary
 - c. absolutely necessary
 - d. most advisable
5. Even if you don't know a word you can often get the meaning by _____.

- a. wild guessing
 - b. working it out mathematically
 - c. working it out from the context
 - d. comparing it with similar words
6. Words like **SOU'WESTER** are often difficult even to **FIND** in a dictionary. They may be _____.
- a. spelled wrongly
 - b. listed under another word
 - c. only put in by chance
 - d. taken from another language
7. The topic sentence of an expository paragraph in English _____.
- a. usually comes in the middle
 - b. is most likely to be found at the end
 - c. is most often at the beginning
 - d. is usually omitted in expository writing
8. Most expository paragraphs in English have a clearly defined topic sentence. In such paragraphs the topic sentence comes first _____.
- a. in about 40% of cases
 - b. in about 80% of cases
 - c. in about 20% of cases
 - d. very rarely
9. Sometimes we know the first sentence is not the topic sentence because _____.
- a. it does not seem to give us enough new information
 - b. it is not long enough
 - c. it does not come at the beginning

- d. it does not make complete sense
10. The closing paragraph of a piece of writing _____.
a. is not really very important
b. is often unnecessary repetition
c. often comes at the end
d. often summarizes the essence of the passage

Vocabulary Exercises

- C 1. He did not act _____ towards me. (00) (10) (11) (12)
a. exactly b. slightly c. fairly d. profitably
2. She _____ the main points that the lecture was giving.
a. jotted up b. kept down
c. wrote out d. jotted down
3. She _____ many studies that show Rapid Eye Movement sleep is important for brain growth.
a. directed to b. implied to c. referred to d. reflected
4. _____ there's a good reason for her absence, as she doesn't usually stay away from work.
a. Pretendedly b. Expectedly
c. Probably d. Presumably
5. The parents are very _____ with their children.
a. severe b. rigorous c. harsh d. strict
6. The company is run on _____ lines, and all the staff are involved in making decisions.
a. reasonable b. democratic c. lawful d. equal
7. Some people are very hard to _____.

a. satisfy b. signify c. ingratiate d. appreciate

8. The _____ of his religious teaching is love for children.

a. centre b. essence c. rewards d. quality

Passage 2

Aristotle, the Greek philosopher, summed up the four chief qualities of money approximately 2,000 years ago. It must be lasting and easy to recognize, to divide, and to carry about. In other words it must be, "durable, distinct, divisible and portable". When we think of money today, we picture it either as round, flat pieces of metal which we call coins, or as printed paper notes. But there are still parts of the world today where coins and notes are of no use. They will buy nothing, and a traveller might starve if he had none of the particular local "money" to exchange for food.

Among isolated peoples, who are not often reached by traders from outside, commerce usually means barter. There is a direct exchange of goods. Perhaps it is fish for vegetables, meat for grain, or various kinds of food in exchange for pots, baskets, or other manufactured goods. For this kind of simple trading, money is not needed, but there is often something that everyone wants and everybody can use, such as salt to flavour food, shells for ornaments, or iron and copper to make into tools and vessels. These things ——— salt, shells or metals ——— are still used as money in out-of-the-way parts of the world today.

Salt may seem rather a strange substance to use as money, but in countries where the food of the people is mainly vegetable, it is often an absolute necessity. Cakes of salt, stamped to show their value, were used as money in Tibet until recent times, and cakes of salt will still buy goods in Borneo and parts of Africa.

Cowrie sea shells have been used as money at some time or another over the greater part of the Old World. These were collected mainly from the beaches of the Maldivé Islands in the Indian Ocean, and were traded to India and China. In Africa, cowries were traded right across the continent from East to West. Four or five thousand went for one Maria Theresa dollar, an Austrian silver coin which was once accepted as currency in many parts of Africa.

Metal, valued by weight, preceded coins in many parts of the world. Iron, in lumps, bars or rings is still used in many countries instead of money. It can either be exchanged for goods, or made into tools, weapons or ornaments. The early money of China, apart from shells, was of bronze, often in flat, round pieces with a hole in the middle, called "cash". The earliest of these are between three thousand and four thousand years old — older than the earliest coins of the eastern Mediterranean.

Nowadays, coins and notes have supplanted nearly all the more picturesque forms of money, and although in one or two of the more remote countries people still hoard it for future use

on ceremonial occasions such as weddings and funerals, examples of primitive money will soon be found only in museums.

Comprehension Questions

1. Aristotle said money should be _____.
 - a. made of metal
 - b. durable, distinct, divisible and portable
 - c. 2,000 years old
 - d. made of high-quality materials
2. Nowadays we think of money as _____.
 - a. made of either metal or paper
 - b. pieces of metal
 - c. printed notepaper
 - d. useful for starving travellers
3. In some parts of the world a traveller might starve _____.
 - a. even if his money was of the local kind
 - b. even if he had no coins or notes
 - c. if he did not know the local rate of exchange
 - d. even if he had plenty of coins and notes
4. Barter usually takes the place of money transactions where _____.
 - a. there is only salt
 - b. the people's trading needs are fairly simple
 - c. metal tools are used
 - d. money is unknown
5. Salt is still used as money _____.

- a. in Tibet
 - b. in the Maldivian Islands
 - c. in several countries
 - d. only for ceremonial purposes.
6. Four or five thousand cowrie shells used to be _____.
 a. as valuable as a Maria Theresa dollar
 b. valued because they were easy to carry
 c. useful currency in South America
 d. the maximum one man could carry
7. Lumps of iron or iron bars are _____.
 a. a substitute for money in some places
 b. never exchanged for goods nowadays
 c. exchanged for tools, weapons or ornaments
 d. called "cash" in China
8. One type of early Chinese money was _____.
 a. made from bones
 b. called "cash"
 c. better than eastern Mediterranean coins
 d. in the form of bronze bars
9. The earliest known coins from the eastern Mediterranean _____.
 a. are as old as the earliest known Chinese coins
 b. are older than the earliest known Chinese coins
 c. are not as old as the earliest known Chinese coins
 d. were much larger than their Chinese equivalents
10. Primitive types of money are sometimes used _____.

- a. to replace more picturesque forms
- b. in museums, as entrance fees
- c. at country markets
- d. at weddings and funerals

Vocabulary Exercises

1. In this way I disposed of approximately sixty copies.
 - a. some
 - b. not as many as
 - c. a few more than
 - d. a little
2. The photograph showed a distinct image.
 - a. separate
 - b. portable
 - c. long-lasting
 - d. recognizable
3. They tried to starve the soldiers out.
 - a. neglect
 - b. drive away
 - c. cause to die from hunger
 - d. cause to suffer from disease
4. We bought ornaments for the Christmas tree.
 - a. ribbons and jewels
 - b. decorations
 - c. charming things
 - d. originaive objects
5. The title was stamped in gold on the book.
 - a. pressed down
 - b. trodden upon
 - c. cut
 - d. imprinted
6. That row of fine old house was supplanted by ugly modern buildings.
 - a. given way to
 - b. placed
 - c. superseded
 - d. buried in the ground
7. The artist was fascinated by this picturesque scene.
 - a. bearing a picture
 - b. painted by artists