



Advanced  
Reading Test Preparation  
高级英语应试阅读系列

**Reading**  
**For CET-6**  
**六级阅读**

朱 篱 编著

**CET-6**  
**CET-6**

**PETS-5**  
**PETS-5**



清华大学出版社

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### 内 容 简 介

本书从 100% 的原文资料中精选了 76 篇文章, 由易到难编排成 60 篇阅读理解题和 4 份测试题。练习题的设计兼顾到各种阅读技能, 给读者提供了充分的练习和测试机会。阅读理解题配有问题解答和语言注释, 帮助读者全面理解文章的内容和语言结构。

与本书配套使用的录音磁带和 CD-ROM 光盘请另外购买。

读者对象: 准备参加英语六级 (CET-6) 和全国公共英语五级考试 (PETS-5) 的读者。

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## 前 言

《高级英语应试阅读—六级阅读》是继《高级英语应试阅读—四级阅读》之后为大学英语六级考试编写的一本阅读教材。

许多同学想知道怎样才能尽快提高英语水平并在考试中取得好成绩。国内外有许多学者认为，除非有机会在英语国家生活，提高英语水平的最好方法就是阅读。通过阅读一方面可以获得大量的语言信息，学到很多有用的词汇和句法结构，另一方面又为语言的输出如写作和口头表达打下坚实的基础。

阅读的重要性也体现在考题本身。大学英语六级考试阅读部分的得分权重最大，而且除了阅读理解部分外，其它题目类型大多与阅读有密切关系。大学英语六级考试中的完型填空、词汇与结构多项选择、英译中、简短问答题等都与阅读有关。

阅读理解能力的培养也是十分重要的。阅读的过程并不是传统意义上的被动地接受知识，而是读者与文本之间进行互动交流、主动积极地获取信息的过程。除了理解文章字面意义，还应该理解和归纳文章的要旨和中心思想、理解和辨析支撑文章中心思想的细节内容、从字里行间推断文章的深层含义、揣测作者的意图、观点和态度、根据上下文推测词义、理解上下文的逻辑关系等等。以上这些阅读技能也只有在阅读实践中得到提高。

因此，无论是作为输入语言材料的手段，还是在考试得分中所占的比重，还是提高阅读技能，阅读都是至关重要的。《高级英语应试阅读—六级篇》正是基于这样的考虑而编写的，使读者通过广泛的阅读实践，从而提高英语语言技能和阅读技能。

另外，根据教育部考试中心有关全国公共英语等级考试的级别定

位的说明，该书也适用于准备参加全国公共英语五级考试的读者。

本书紧扣《大学英语教学大纲》和大学英语考试委员会的命题要求，在选材和问题设计上下了很大功夫。具体说来有以下特色。

1. 本书的语言材料在难度和量方面略微高于考试中使用的阅读材料，这使读者能够在以后的考试中驾轻就熟。

2. 本书的材料大部分都是近期发表的文字资料，读者可以从中获得最新的信息，接触到最新的语言材料。所选文章除了涉及英语国家的文化以外，还有大量关于现代科技方面的内容。历年考试中所使用的文章，不外乎这两方面的内容。熟悉这些内容可为以后的阅读打下基础，也可为应试做好准备。

3. 本书采用的文章是 100% 的原文，在词汇和句法结构上未作任何简化处理，真实地反映了当今英语国家人们使用英语的现状。以往考试中的阅读理解文章为了把难度限制在一定范围以内，对文章的语言作了大规模的简化处理。而这些被替换的单词和词组是说英语国家人们经常使用的、具有丰富表达力的语言手段。这或许是许多人虽然通过六级考试，却仍看不懂原文的症结所在了。但是，为了方便读者，每篇文章后面增加了单词表，并对文章中的难点进行注释。

4. 本书对书中出现的语言现象作了较详细的注释，这包括词汇、短语、惯用法、语法知识等。在注释过程中，还使用来自于 BNC 和 Brown 等著名语料库中的近千个原文例句，每个例句都辅以中文翻译，因此这些例句本身就提供了丰富的语言材料。

本书共有 76 篇文章，其中 16 篇用于测试。文章按难度梯度排列。每隔 15 篇文章进行一次测试，每次四篇文章。为了取得最佳阅读效果，我们认为在阅读时应注意以下几个方面：

1. 首先要熟悉单词列表中的生词。由于是原文，词汇量比较大，所以一定要在了解单词列表中生词的大概意思后再进行阅读。

2. 阅读和答题要在规定的时间内完成，每篇文章限制在 9 分钟以内。由于阅读不仅要有正确的理解，还要有一定的速度。因此，在规定的时间内完成阅读任务是十分重要的。

3. 具体阅读方法因人而异。但一般的阅读方法是，首先快速浏览全文，接着回答问题，然后再有针对性地读第二遍或第三遍。

4. 查阅问题解答，如果有错，应该知道错在哪里。在完成阅读理解任务以后，可以仔细阅读全文和后面的注释，做到基本掌握文章中出现的单词、词组和句法结构。

在本书的编写过程中，得到朱研、承亚非、路明、鲁曙明、史丹吉、张小钢、陈怡、孙新宇、李惠等同志的支持和帮助，谨此致谢。

书中难免有疏漏之处，敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2001年5月

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# Part I

## Passage 1

Biologists have long suspected that there are seasonal variations in the ratio of boys to girls born in any population. Alexander Lerchl of the University of Münster reported last year that more boys are born in Germany between April and June, and significantly fewer in October. Experiments with rats and bats had hinted that environmental temperatures could affect the sex ratio of offspring. Lerchl hoped to find out whether this is also true for people.

He looked at average monthly temperatures in Germany between 1946 and 1995, using data sets from the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. He also calculated which months were unseasonably cold or hot. Then, using German birth records from the same 50-year period, he looked to see if there were any correlations between air temperature and the sex ratios of babies born.

Sex ratio seemed to correlate with temperature about one month before conception. Hot summers or unseasonably warm patches during this period yielded more boys, while unusually cold weather favoured girls. Temperature deviations of just a few degrees centigrade had an impact.

The timing suggests temperature may affect processes within the testes, Lerchl says. Temperature seems to play its part when the father-to-be's sperm start maturing. Lerchl speculates that hot spells may damage

sperm carrying an X chromosome more than sperm carrying a Y, so more boys are conceived.

The finding doesn't mean that people from hot climates have a disproportionate number of sons. While the skin temperature of the scrotum varies with the season, it doesn't vary greatly between one place and another because people adapt their clothing to the climate. "And the scrotum has the highest density of sweat glands and the highest capacity to cool," says Lerchl.

But the sex bias, although small, could have large-scale consequences. Lerchl speculates that global warming might further increase the ratio of males to females, which already favours boys by a few percent.

But it's also possible that the effect of temperature is indirect and that balmy weather just makes people have more sex. Frequent sex increases a woman's chance of conceiving as soon as she ovulates. This produces more sons, possibly because sperm carrying a Y chromosome are faster though less robust than X-carriers, which stand a better chance if they have to wait for ovulation.

### Comprehension Questions

1. We can conclude that the most important factor affecting the sex of a baby is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) the father-to-be's sperm
  - (B) the mother-to-be's egg
  - (C) the age of the couple
  - (D) the place where the couple live
2. The word "disproportionate" (para. 5) most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (A) similar
  - (B) small

- (C) enormous  
(D) unchangeable
3. The passage does NOT support which of the following statements?  
(A) The sex ratio may favor boys in seasons other than hot summers.  
(B) It takes about one month for sperm to mature.  
(C) The current sex bias has reached alarming proportions.  
(D) The current sex ratio could continue in the future.
4. Which of the following sayings best explains the fact that the frequent sex produces more boys?  
(A) The early bird catches the worm. (捷足先登)  
(B) More haste, less speed. (欲速则不达)  
(C) Like father, like son. (有其父必有其子)  
(D) Fast bind, fast find. (藏得好, 找得到)
5. The author mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) how to balance the sex ratio  
(B) the effect of seasonal temperatures on the ratio of boys to girls  
(C) temperature variations and the success of conception  
(D) the relationship between temperature and sexuality

### Word List

correlation	n. 相关
patch	n. 一阵 (风)
deviation	n. 偏差
chromosome	n. 染色体
testes	n. 睾丸
scrotum	n. 阴囊
gland	n. 腺
balmy	adj. (气候) 温和的
robust	adj. 精力充沛的

ovulation      n. 排卵

### Notes

- [1] Sex ratio seemed to correlate with temperature...: 性别比例似乎与温度相关

**to correlate with...** 意为“与……有关联”。例如:

*The number of feet into a store the customer walks is correlated with the number of items purchased.* 顾客在商店内走动的距离与所买货物的数量成正比。

*California, New York and Florida have each seen enormous increases in immigrant populations, and attempts to correlate the phenomena with a host of urban ills continue to preoccupy researchers and policymakers.* 加州、纽约和佛罗里达的移民人口剧增，试图将这一现象与一系列城市弊病联系起来仍然是研究人员和决策人员关心的主要事情。

- [2] ...global warming might further increase the ratio of males to females...: 全球变暖有可能增加男女性别的比例

**might** 用来表示未来的可能性，例如:

*In the future, terrorists might set loose deadly pathogens.* 未来，恐怖分子有可能传播致命的病原体。

*Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.* 将我的血献给一个车祸中受伤的少年，以便他有可能活下来，看到自己的孙儿孙女们快乐地玩耍。

- [3] ...sperm carrying a Y chromosome are faster though less robust than X-carriers, which stand a better chance if they have to wait for ovulation.: 载有 Y 染色体的精子虽然不如载有 X 染色体的精子那么有活力，但速度较快，因此在等待排卵时机更多。

**to stand a chance** 表示有机会做成某事。例如：

*I suppose that way if I was hit I might stand a chance of only losing one arm or one leg.* 我想如果我遭受这样打击的话，我也许有可能只失去一只胳膊或一条腿。

*Since the session normally ends in July, a bill which is not on its way by May or June may stand little chance of passing into law.* 由于会期一般在七月结束，五月或六月以后提出的议案不大有可能被批准成为法律。

## Passage 2

Rarely do major diseases have a single cause. They are usually the result of a complex interaction between many factors, including genetic, environmental and lifestyle components. Many media reports, however, can lead us to believe that if we gave up something which we might otherwise enjoy, we could completely escape that particular affliction.

Clearly, this is not the case. Vegetarians die of cancer of the colon. Tee-totallers die of liver complaints, including cirrhosis. People who never go out in the sun contract skin melanomas. Always, there are other factors at work than the single element being examined in a scientific study.

Quite often the alleged benefits of a particular nutritional element are the result not so much of the element itself but of the lifestyle and general diet of the people who consume it most. People who eat lots of "healthy" foods, including fibre, carrots, broccoli etc. also tend to drink less alcohol, take more exercise, avoid too many fatty foods and smoke less. Only when a study can rule out all of these other factors - and often we do not know what these factors might be - can we say that there is a causal link between two things. That is not to say that things like fibre



and broccoli have no beneficial effects at all. But those with sedentary lifestyles cannot expect these foods to make them healthy.

There is, however, one thing which increases the likelihood of dying relatively young, even when all of the other factors have been taken into account. It is one of the biggest killers even among those who lead lifestyles which, by any criteria, are clearly healthy ones. This single, incontrovertible risk-factor is that of being poor. A recent report from the Cancer Research Campaign suggested that 12,700 deaths could have been avoided between 1986 and 1990 if inequalities in cancer care did not exist in England and Wales. Comparing cancer survival rates, the study found that England and Wales fared unfavourably with Europe and the US, but the most affluent regions of these two countries exhibited similar figures to the European average.

In an attempt to counter this disparity the government has announced plans for the provision of Health Action Zones which seek to encourage greater co-operation between health and social services, targeting both rural and inner city areas. The emphasis of this new scheme however appears to focus on inadequacies within health education in these areas, rather than attacking the broader issues of social inequality.

### Comprehension Questions

1. According to the first paragraph, what are we likely to read in many media reports?
  - (A) A particular disease is associated with a single cause.
  - (B) We should enjoy as many things as possible.
  - (C) We can never understand how different factors interact to cause a disease.
  - (D) A disease is caused more by genes than by lifestyles.