

大学英语学习考试丛书



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# 四级阅读、简答、翻译



湖南师范大学出版社

大学英语学习考试丛书  
四级阅读、简答、翻译

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## 前 言

提高学生的英语阅读能力是大学英语课教学的主要目标,但是如何提高学生的英语阅读能力却是值得研究的课题。

我们认为要真正培养学生的英语阅读能力离不开两个前提:一是必须具有扎实的语言知识(包括词汇量和语法);二是要具有一定阅读技巧。而知识技能的获得都离不开阅读实践。

基于上述认识,我们编写了这本《大学英语四级阅读、简答、翻译》。我们希望通过本书的学习能够真正提高学生的阅读能力,从而能顺利通过四级英语考试。

本书共分三大部分:第一部分共收集阅读短文 100 篇,每篇都按四级考试的阅读要求配四至五个理解性题目,共 500 题;第二部分选收短文 20 篇,每篇配简答题 5 个,共 200 个题目;第三部分包括单句翻译 100 题,另外还选收了翻译短文 20 篇。全书总阅读量为 140 篇,约 36 万个词(字)。此外为了配合本书的学习,提高学习效果,在每部分内容之前还简要介绍了阅读、简答和翻译的基本要求和技巧,书后还提供了全部练习题目的答案。

本书所用的材料都是按照《教学大纲》和《考试大纲》的要求精选出来,其中大部分已在教学中多次使用并取得了良好的效果,因而具有较好的针对性和适应性。

俗话说:“只有跳入水中才能学会游泳。”同样的道理,要想提高阅读能力就必须进行大量的阅读实践。正是从这层意义上,本书体现出它的价值。

编 者

1999 年 2 月

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## Part I Reading Comprehension

### 第一部分 阅读

#### 一、阅读概述

阅读可以简单地定义为通过识别语言符号,理解文章内容并获取所需信息的语言活动。

阅读能力是英语学习所要掌握的五种基本技能(读写听说译)之一。因此阅读能力的培养在大学英语课教学中占有重要的位置,而阅读理解就成了英语四级考试的最主要的题型之一。

要真正提高英语的阅读能力,特别是要在四级考试中取得好的成绩就必须从两个方面入手:一方面是努力扩大词汇量,牢固系统地掌握英语的句法知识,提高英语的语言能力;另一方面就是掌握行之有效的阅读技巧。无论是语言能力的提高和阅读技巧的掌握都必须靠大量的阅读实践才能达到目的。

#### 二、阅读技巧

大学英语四级考试大纲中规定了阅读理解部分主要测验下述的能力:

- 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意

- 了解说明主旨和大意的事实与细节
- 既能理解个别句子的意义,也要能理解上下文的逻辑联系
- 既能理解字面意义,也要能根据所读材料进行判断和推理

阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力,做题既要求准确也要有一定的速度。根据四级考试对阅读理解的上述要求,这里介绍必须熟练掌握的几项基本技巧:

A. 理解文章的中心思想。

常用技巧有:

- 直接寻找主题句了解中心思想
- 根据文章主要内容概括出中心思想

例如: Television programs change as the tastes of viewers change. Westerns are popular for a while. Then they give way to detective stories. Situation comedies seem to be always popular, but the number of people viewing them varies over time. Talk shows and variety shows have their ups and downs in popularity, too. But game shows seem to remain popular year after year.

这段文章的中心思想就是第一句,根据主题句的安排规律,可以直接找到。又如:

How do you think people catch cold? If you get your feet wet, will you come down with a cold? If you go outdoors on a chilly day without a sweater, will you get a cold? Perhaps, but a greater danger lies elsewhere, according to scientists. A recent study says, "Don't shake hands with a person who has a cold. If you do, wash your hands soon and thoroughly. Don't rub your nose and eyes before washing." The study points out that viruses of the common cold remain dangerous for at least three hours on dry hands. Hand contact may be even more dangerous than coughing or sneezing.

根据文章的主要内容可以概括出中心思想是: Hand contact can

easily spread colds.

B. 快速获取所需信息。

常用的技巧有：

- 利用上下文语境理解词义
- 利用语义关系理解词义
- 辨认主要事实与细节判断正误
- 寻找指代对象

例如：

(1) Sometimes bad luck energizes people, not weakens them.

“energize”与“weaken”构成反义关系，从 weaken 可以推测 energize 的意思是“给人力量”。

(2) In the truck, she had a hammer, a screw-driver, an electric drill, three kinds of saws, and a spokeshave.

根据同类并列可知 spokeshave 也是一种工具。

(3) People today are used to rapidly changing fashions in apparel. One reason for the swift changes in clothing styles today is the great variety of choice available.

根据第二个句子可知 apparel 意为“clothing”。

C. 正确的推理与判断。

- 注意语句的前提假设
- 利用类比法推理
- 利用常识进行判断

例如：

The general filled both glasses, and said, “God makes some men poets. Some he makes kings, some beggars. Me,” he said, “a hunter. My hand was made for the trigger,” my father said. And he owned a quarter of a million acres in the crimea, and he was an ardent sportsman. When I was only five years old, he gave me a little gun, specially

made in Moscow for me, to shoot sparrow with. When I shot some of his prize turkeys with it, he did not punish me. Instead he complimented me on my marksmanship(枪法). I killed my first bear in the casus when I was ten. My whole life had been one prolonged hunt. And for a time I commanded a division of Cossack cavalry, but my real interest was always the hunt. I have hunted every kind of game in every land. It would be impossible for me to tell you how many animals I have killed."

- ① The reader may infer that the general is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. distrustful of others                      B. obsessed with war  
C. bored with killing                        D. impressed with himself
- ② Evidence in the paragraph suggests that the general is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Spanish                                      B. French  
C. Russian                                       D. German
- ③ "It would be impossible for me to tell you how many animals I have killed." suggests that the general \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. regrets having killed so many animals  
B. prides himself on his killing ability  
C. prefers to forget his violent past  
D. appreciates learning and the fine arts

解题分析: ①选D: Since the general mentioned that he killed birds at five, a bear at ten and later commanded a division of cossack cavalry, he must have remembered very well what he had done in the past.

②题选C: Judging from such words as "Moscow", "Cossack" we may infer that the general was a Russian.

③题选B: The general thought that he was born to be a hunter, and killing was a part of his life. This implies that he was proud of his



killing ability.

### 三、难点分析

### ●长句的复杂关系会影响对文章的理解

大纲要求考生能正确理解句内关系,包括各种复杂的修饰结构。因此,在四级阅读中会遇到一定数量的结构比较复杂的长句,如1991年6月份考卷中的第二篇文章,全文共250个词,却只有6个句子,平均每个句子有41.6个词,而其第一段只一个句子就有60个词,现摘录于下:

A breakthrough in the provision of energy from the sun for the European Economic Community (EEC) could be brought forward by up to two decades, if a modest increase could be provided in the EEC's research effort in this field, according to the senior EEC scientists engaged in experiments in solar energy at EEC's scientific laboratories at Ispira, near Milan.

... But he said that with a modest increase in the present sums, devoted by the EEC to this work it was possible that the breakthrough could be achieved by the end of the next decade.

文章中 5 个问答题有 2 个与第一句有关, 请看:

1. The phrase "be brought forward" in line 2 most probably means \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A. be expected                      B. be advanced  
C. be completed                  D. be introduced
2. Some scientists believe that a breakthrough in the use of solar energy depends on \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. sufficient funding                B. advanced technology  
C. further experiments             D. well-equipped laboratories

decades”连用时表示“提前到…”的意思,故 B 是第一题的正确答案。第二题的正确答案应该为 A,因为第二段对第一段所谈及的“modest increase”进行了具体说明,即“... with a modest increase in the present sums”,因而我们可以推断,使用太阳能的突破取决于足够的资金。试想如果没有读懂原文,这两道题是难于答对的。

像上面列举的这种长句在四级英语阅读中还有不少,现以 1993 年 6 月的测试题中的第二篇文章为例进行说明:

... He quickly found that children as young as four months would learn to turn their heads to right or left if the movement “switched on” a display of lights ... and indeed that they were capable of learning quite complex turns to bring about this result, for instance, two left or two right, or even to make as many as three turns to one side.

... Papousek's light display was placed directly in front of the babies and he made the interesting observation that sometimes they would not turn back to watch the lights closely although they would “smile and bubble” when the display came out.

... Papousek concluded that it was not primarily the sight of the lights which pleased them, it was the success they were achieving in solving the problem, in mastering the skill, and that there exists a fundamental human urge to make sense of the world and bring it under intentional control.

美国 Rutgers University 阅读中心的 Edward B. Fry 认为英语阅读的难度主要取决于句子的长短和句中音节的多寡。如果一篇短文中句子长,包孕结构复杂,且单词音节长,语言难度就大,反之难度就小。考生在平时的阅读中应加强对长句的理解。

●对语法、词汇形合手段不熟悉而影响正确理解文章各部分之间的关系

在四级考试的阅读文章中,命题者有时故意选用一些不同的词

汇来表达同一意思,以达到修辞的效果,但同时也增加了阅读文章的难度。如1991年6月四级考试的第三篇文章在谈人造心脏时,就使用了一系列表达“人造心脏”的不同表达方式:Jarvik-7 artificial heart, a metal and plastic pump, the Jarvik-7, the machine, the device, an artificial heart, the banned model, new devices, they, them, 其中有一道题就是测试考生对这种指代关系的理解和识别能力。

Just seven years ago, **the Jarvik-7 artificial heart** was being cheered as the model of human creativeness. The sight of Barney Clark—alive and conscious after trading his diseased heart for a **metal-and-plastic pump**—convinced the press, the public and many doctors that the future had arrived. It hadn't. After monitoring production of **the Jarvik-7**, and reviewing its effects on the 150 or so patients (most of whom got **the device** as a temporary measure) the U.S. Food and Drug Administration concluded that the machine was doing more to endanger lives than to save them. Last week the agency cancelled its earlier approval, effectively banning(禁止) **the device**.

The recall may hurt Symbion Inc., maker of **the Jarvik-7**, but it won't end the request for **an artificial heart**. One problem with the **banned model** is that the tubes connecting it to an external power source created a passage for infection(感染). Inventors are now working on **new devices** that would be fully placed, along with a tiny power pack, in the patient's chest. The first sample products are expected for another 10 or 20 years. But some people are already worrying that **they'll work**—and that America's overextended health-care programs will lose a precious \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion a year providing **them** for a relatively few dying patients. If such expenditures(开支) cut into funding for more basic care, the net effect could actually be a decline in the nation's health.

(1991 年 6 月 CET-4)

The word "them" in line 10, para. 2 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. doctors who treat heart diseases
- B. makers of artificial hearts
- C. American's health-care programs
- D. new models of artificial hearts

从上下文可以看出, "them" 这个词指的是前面提到过的新研制出的人造心脏, 即 "new devices", "an artificial heart", 因此, 这道题的正确答案是 D。

● 语篇中存在的隐性关系影响了对文章的正确理解

一个完整的语篇除了具有连贯的思路, 还需要连句成段, 要有连段成篇的纽带才能使之成为一个有机的整体。大多数起连接作用的标识语是明示的, 如: therefore, so... that, the result is..., because, due to, the reason is... 等, 但是, 如果没有明显标识语时, 文章的难度就随之增大。例如:

A rapid means of long-distance transportation became a necessity for the United States as settlement spread ever farther westward. The early trains were impractical curiosities, and for a long time the railroad companies met with troublesome mechanical problems.

在意义上, 这两句之间存在着一种转折关系, 但是其间并没有诸如 however, but 一类的标识词, 考生要理解到转折这层意思需要较强的语感和较扎实的语言基础。

● 对阅读文章的不同文体、结构、特点不熟悉, 影响了对文章内容的正确理解

任何的阅读文本都有其独特的体裁、构思和风格, 由于内容和体裁的不同, 作者所运用的写作方法也不尽相同, 所以考生在做阅读理解题时, 应该分辨文章的体裁, 注意文本的结构, 以便把握文本在各

个层面上的逻辑关系和语言体系。大学英语四级考试的阅读文章以说明文、议论文为主,描写文为辅,所以考生应尽量多读一些涉及到各种题材的说明文、议论文。例如:

Computers may one day turn night into day — with good, natural sunlight.

Colossal computer — controlled mirrors, thousands of feet across, may one day orbit the earth, reflecting sunlight onto a darkened United States.

Some scientists say that 16 of these mirrors, each about a half mile across, could aim their reflected light at one area on the earth that was about 200 miles by 300 miles. That much light would equal about 56 moons.

The mirrors would be so high that they could catch the sun's light as it was shining on the other side of the earth. The mirrors could orbit — thousands of miles high — at the same speed as the earth turns on its axis. That way, the mirrors would always be over the same spot.

The aluminium-coated, plastic mirrors would be folded up and packed into a spaceship, according to the scientists. Once released a few hundred miles in space, the mirrors, powered by a solarpowered engine, could make the rest of the trip into space on their own.

The scientists say that the computer-controlled mirrors could also be made to tilt slowly, so the reflected sunlight would sweep slowly along the surface of the earth. For example, as night fall, the mirrors could be tilted to light up Boston, later on, as darkness spread slowly westward, Chicago, for example, then San Francisco could be lit up. The reflected sunlight would allow these cities to save up electricity. And in emergencies, such as power failure, the mirrors could light up the affected area.



- D. enable people to work longer hours
5. The writer of the passage \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A. gives an objective account of the mirrors
- B. seems to be much worried about the effect of the mirrors
- C. is in favour of the use of the mirrors
- D. suggests that artificial daylight is harmful to living beings

解题:

1. C, 因为 colossal 所修饰的 mirrors 有 thousands of feet across。
2. B, 因为文章从头至尾并没谈到。
3. D, 因为第六段第一句中说“the computer-controlled mirrors could also be made to tilt slowly”, 这里 tilt 有 adjust their angles 的意思。

4. C, 在第六段的最后两句可以找到: 反射的阳光会使这些城市节省电, 而且在紧急情况下, 如出现电力故障, 这些镜子可以照亮这些受影响的地区。

5. A, 因本文作者只对镜子的利弊作了客观说明, 并没有表达自己的看法。

总之, 阅读不是一件十分简单的事情, 必须通过大量阅读实践才能真正学会阅读。本书的这一部分正是为了这样一个目的, 希望学习者能够认真阅读并完成所有的练习。

#### 四、阅读练习

##### 1.1

Generations of Americans have been brought up to believe that a good breakfast is one of life's essentials. Eating breakfast at the start of the day, we have all been told, and told again, is as necessary as putting

gasoline in the family car before starting a trip.

But for many people the thought of food first thing in the morning is by no means a pleasure. So despite all the efforts, they still take no breakfast. Between 1977 and 1983, the latest year for which figures are available, the number of people who didn't have breakfast increased by 33 percent—from 8.8 million to 11.7 million—according to the Chicago-based Market Research Corporation of America.

For those who feel pain of guilt about not eating breakfast, however, there is some good news. Several studies in the last few years indicate that, for adults especially, there may be nothing wrong with omitting breakfast. "Going without breakfast does not affect performance," said Arnold E. Bender, former professor of nutrition (营养) and Queen Elizabeth College in London, "nor does giving people breakfast improve performance."

Scientific evidence linking breakfast to better health or better performance is surprisingly inadequate, and most of the recent work involves children, not adults. "The literature," says one researcher, Dr. Ernesto Pollitt at the University of Texas, "is poor."

1. The latest year for which information could be obtained is \_\_\_\_\_.

A. the year the author wrote the article

B. 1977

C. any year between 1977 and 1983

D. 1983

2. For those who do not take breakfast, the good news is that \_\_\_\_\_.

A. several studies have been done in the past few years



- B. the omission of breakfast does no harm to one's health  
C. adults have especially made studies in this field  
D. eating little in the morning is good for health
3. "... nor does giving people breakfast improve performance" (in Line 16) means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. anyone without breakfast does improve his performance  
B. not giving people breakfast improves performance  
C. having breakfast does not improve performance, either  
D. people having breakfast to improve their performances, too
4. The word "literature" in the last sentence refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. stories, poems, plays, etc.  
B. written works on a particular subject  
C. any printed material  
D. the modern literature of America
5. What is implied but NOT STATED by the author is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. breakfast does not affect performance  
B. Dr. Pollitt is engaged in research work at an institution of higher learning  
C. not eating breakfast might affect the health of children  
D. Professor Bender once taught college courses in nutrition in London

## ) 1.2

We spend our leisure hours efficiently for higher production, live by the clock even when time does not matter, modernize our homes and speed the machinery of living in order that we can go to the most places and do the most things in the shortest period of time possible. We try