

COLLEGE ENGLISH COLLEGE ENGLISH COL

著名大学英语四、六级考试强化训练丛书

# 新编大学英语 四级考试

## 阅 读 教 程

丛 书 主 编

北 京 大 学 英 语 系  
南 开 大 学 英 语 系  
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# 新编大学英语四级 考试阅读教程

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《著名大学英语四、六级考试强化训练》丛书是根据教育部 1999 年最新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》，由我国著名高等学府——北京大学、南开大学和大连理工大学英语系知名教授组织，由三所名校多年从事大学英语四、六级教学工作的教师共同撰写的。北京大学英语系副教授齐乃政，多年从事英语教学工作；南开大学英语系教授张文起，大连理工大学英语系教授赵亚翘，曾主持过公共英语教研室工作，对英语四、六级考试有独到的研究和丰富的实践经验。他们有多部大学英语四、六级考试的著作行世，受到了广大考生的欢迎，一版再版。

这三所名校以高比例骄人的四、六级过级率为人瞩目。此套《著名大学英语四、六级考试强化训练》丛书的编撰人员皆是这三所大学教授大学英语、研究英语四六级考试的教师，他们各自所编写的部分都是自己长年教学的内容。因此，本丛书的最大特点是紧紧联系考生大学英语四、六级考试的实际。本套《著名大学英语四、六级考试强化训练》丛书是他们同心协力的新贡献。

世界知识出版社

面对 21 世纪的挑战,国家期待培养出跨世纪人才。跨世纪人才需要广博的知识,也需要各个学科领域的知识相互渗透,逐步更新。本教材意在帮助读者开阔视野,拓宽知识面。阅读材料精选于当代英美各类著名的报刊文摘。选文涉及人类环境,自然科学,政治经济,文学历史,文化教育,人物传记,社会问题等等方面。目的是使读者熟悉各种文章的题材,并逐步过渡到能熟练阅读各类英美报刊上的文章。

阅读训练是一种比较复杂的多种技能的综合训练。因此,为了帮助学习者通过阅读扩大词汇量,将英语阅读技能的训练推向一个实用的新高度,我们特编写了这套大学英语四级阅读教程。此书词汇量为 6000 左右,阅读材料的词汇控制在国家教委制定的大学英语教学大纲通用词汇表范围内(大纲要求四级的词汇量为 4200 词,六级为 6000 词),超出大纲要求的词汇在每篇文选后的生字表里加以解释说明。

教程共选 50 篇阅读材料。其安排由浅入深,循序渐进。每篇阅读材料后配有语言注释,其中包括:

- (1)对难词和短语的解释,并附有例句及中文译文。
- (2)对复杂句式的分析。
- (3)对常用语言点的用法说明。
- (4)对长句的中文翻译。

为了帮助读者提高阅读能力和应试能力,我们还编写了阅读理解练习。编写的原则是测试以下内容:

- (1)所读材料的主题思想,作者的观点态度。
- (2)围绕主题思想所阐述的事实和细节。
- (3)理解文章中的隐含意义及深层意义。
- (4)通过概括得出文章的结论。

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# Unit 1

Rhythm in literature is a more or less regular occurrence of certain elements of writing: a word, a phrase, an idea, a pause, a sound, or a grammatical construction. We are also accustomed to this recurrence in the <sup>2, 3, 4, 5</sup>alternate heavy and light beats in music. Our love for rhythm seems to be **innate**: witness the responses of a small child to lively music. Children love to beat on toy drums or empty boxes. They stamp their feet and chant nursery rhymes or nonsense syllables, not unlike primitive dancers. As children grow older, they are taught to restrain their responses to rhythm, but our love of rhythm remains. We live in rhythms; in fact we are governed by rhythms.

Physiologically, we are rhythmical. We must eat, sleep, breathe, and play regularly to maintain good health. Emotionally we are rhythmical, too, for psychologists say that all of us feel alternate periods of relative depression and exhilaration. Intellectually we are also rhythmical, for we must have periods of relaxation following periods of concentration. It naturally follows then that rhythm, a fundamental aspect of our lives, must be a part of any good literary work—whether poetry or prose.

## New Words

recurrence	[riˈkərəns]	n.	再发生, 循环
alternate	[ɔːltəneɪt]	a.	交替的
innate	[ɪˈneɪt]	a.	内在的, 固有的
chant	[tʃɑːnt]	vt.	唱
exhilaration	[ɪgzɪləˈreɪʃən]	n.	高兴
prose	[prəʊz]	n.	散文

## Notes

1. Our love for rhythm seems to be innate: witness the responses of a small child to lively music. (L. 3-4)

这句话的意思是: 我们对节奏的喜爱是生来俱有的, 这点可以从一个小孩对明快音乐的反应上得到证明。innate 指生来固有的。例如: Creative ideas are not innate in the mind. 创造性的思想不是头脑里固有的。

2.... feel alternate periods of relative depression and exhilaration. (L. 10-11)

这个短语的意思是: 感觉到相对低落和兴奋的周期交替。



3. It naturally follows then that rhythm, ... (L. 12-13) It follows 在这里指必然是……的后果。例如: It follows then that he must be innocent. 他最终证明是无辜的。

## Exercises

### 1. Answer the following questions:

- (1) What is the main idea of the passage?
- (2) According to the passage, what is rhythm?
- (3) Why are we rhythmical from the point view of physiology?

### 2. Choose the best answer for each of the following:

- (1) According to the passage, an adult's reaction to rhythm in music would probably be \_\_\_\_

- (A) uninhibited      (C) restrained  
(B) indifferent      (D) responsible

- (2) It can be inferred from the passage that conscious thought plays the most significant part in creating \_\_\_\_.

- (A) physiological rhythms      (C) psychological rhythms  
(B) emotional rhythms      (D) literary rhythms

- (3) According to the passage, which of the following pairs of activities best illustrates intellectual rhythm?

- (A) Studying a science book and then studying a psychology book.  
(B) Learning a poem and then taking a nap.  
(C) Playing ball at the beach and then going swimming.  
(D) Solving a math problem and then solving a chemistry problem.

- (4) What would the next paragraph probably discuss?

- (A) How to write poetry.  
(B) How to understand rhythm in music.  
(C) The kinds of rhythm found in good literature.  
(D) The importance of rhythm in planning our lives.

### 3. Translate the following sentences into Chinese:

- (1) Rhythm in literature is a more or less regular occurrence of certain elements of writing.
- (2) It naturally follows then that rhythm, a fundamental aspect of our lives, must be a part of

any good literary work——whether poetry or prose.

## Unit 2

There are many reasons for the tidal action which is a very complicated phenomenon involving many factors, all of which must be considered to predict tide in any one place at any one time. The alternate rise and fall of the surface of the seas and the ocean is mainly caused by **the attractive force** of the moon alone. When the attraction is great, the tide is high, and conversely when the attraction is minimal, the tide is low. Between the high tide and the low tide is a period of a little over six hours, being called during its rise a flood tide, and during its fall an ebb tide.

The sun also **exerts its effect on** the tide, being a little less than half as much as the moon, although its mass is so much greater. When the moon and the sun are horizontal, the highest high tide occurs and when they are vertical the lowest low tide takes place.

The wind also plays an important part in the modification of the normal rise and fall of the tide. Thus these factors affect each other, either detracting or adding to the attractive forces to add or subtract from the weight of the tide. But the tides still move inexorably on, rising twice a day, getting a little later each day and **posing a problem** of correctly predicting their heights and lows.

### New Words

tidal	[ˈtaɪdl]	a.	潮汐的
conversely	[kənˈvɜːsli]	ad.	相反地
minimal	[ˈmɪnɪml]	a.	最小的
detract	[dɪˈtrækt]	vt.	减损, 转移
subtract	[səbˈtrækt]	vt.	减少
inexorably	[ɪnˈeksərəbli]	ad.	无情地
pose	[pəʊz]	vt.	提出

### Notes

1. There are many reasons for the tidal action which is a very complicated phenomenon involving many factors, all of which must be considered to predict tide in any one place at any one time. (L. 1-2)

这句话的意思是: 潮汐是一种非常复杂的现象, 它的形成有很多原因, 预报不同时候不同地方的潮汐要考虑许多因素。这句话包括两个定语从句。第一个是 which is a very complicated phenomenon, 修饰 the tidal action。第二个是 all of which must be considered to predict

tide, 说明 factors。

2. the attractive force (L. 3-4) 指引力。

3. Between the high tide and the low tide is a period of a little over six hours, being called during its rise a flood tide, and during its fall an ebb tide. (L. 5-6)

这句话的意思是：高潮和低潮之间有六个多小时的周期，周期中在上涨时叫涨潮，在下降时叫落潮。being called 是现在分词做定语，修饰 a period。

4. The sun also exerts its effect on the tide, being a little less than half as much as the moon, although its mass is so much greater. (L. 7-8)

这句中的 being a little less than half as much as the moon 意思是太阳的引力比月亮的引力差不多小一半。动词短语 **exert one's effect on** 的意思是对某事起作用。**exert on (upon)** 是对某事施加影响。例如：My wife has been exerting a lot of pressure on me to change my jobs. 为了让我调动工作，我妻子一直给我施加压力。

5... posing a problem of correctly predicting their heights and lows. (L. 13)

这个短语的意思是：对正确预报高潮点和低潮点构成了一个问题。**pose a problem** 指提出或带来（问题等）。例如：The increase in student numbers poses many problems for the universities. 学生人数的增长给学校带来了许多问题。

## Exercises

### 1. Answer the following questions:

- (1) What mainly caused the alternate rise and fall of the surface of the seas and the ocean? *the attractive force.*
- (2) When does the highest high tide occur?
- (3) What also plays an important part in the modification of the normal rise and fall of the tide?

### 2. Choose the best answer for each of the following:

- (1) Which of the following factors will not affect the time of the tide?
  - (A) The position of the sun and the moon.
  - (B) The mass of the moon. *the*
  - (C) The wind.
  - (D) All of the above mentioned factors.

(2) The principal idea of this article is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) the attraction of the sun and the moon
- (B) the sun, the moon and the wind

- (C) the changing tide  
(D) the factors affecting the tide

(3) If a high tide occurs at 8: 00 A. M. , the following low tide will occur at about \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) 8: 00 P. M.      (C) 2: 30 P. M.  
(B) midnight.      (D) 1: 30 P. M.

(4) It can be concluded from this passage that the attraction of the sun is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) more than half that of the moon  
(B) more than that of the moon  
(C) more than twice that of the moon  
(D) half that of the moon

**3. Translate the following sentences into Chinese:**

- (1) The wind also plays an important part in the modification of the normal rise and fall of the tide.  
(2) Thus these factors affect each other, either detracting or adding to the attractive forces to add or subtract from the weight of the tide.

## Unit 3

Religion can be described as a belief in power beyond that of man. Primitive religions made great use of magical thinking, symbols, rites, and rituals. People prayed for help with all their problems. They were less **uneasy** when taking some action to cope with their environment and its dangers. They believed that **in addition to** his afterlife, each man lived on through his own children. They had no knowledge of the cause of earthquakes, floods, or volcanic eruptions and often thought such occurrences were a punishment for their **misdeeds**. People were always trying to find some **breakthrough** to ease their life in an often hostile environment. Certain natural phenomena were worshipped—the sun, moon, stars, fire, and earth. Primitive people often deified actual kings and rulers, and also had **mythical human or parthuman gods**, and sometimes **sacred animals**. The lion, elephant, and monkey were included among these. Their values included good and evil. Ceremonies were staged to bring on such things as needed rain or to **fend off** disaster. Human and animal sacrifices were offered and fertility rites performed. Frequently, medicine men were thought to be able to present their problems to higher authority, and were considered to have special powers.

## New Words

rite	[rait]	n.	仪式
ritual	['ritjuəl]	n.	宗教仪式
eruption	[ɪ'rʌpʃən]	n.	喷发
deify	['di:ɪfaɪ]	vt.	使神化
mythic(al)	['miθɪk (ə)l]	a.	神话的
sacrifice	['sækrɪfaɪs]	n.	牺牲
fertility	[fə'tɪlɪti]	n.	肥沃

## Notes

1. **uneasy** (L. 3) 指不安。

2. **in addition to** (L. 4) 介词短语 **in addition to** 是除了……之外的意思。例如 In addition to such subjects, the department also taught math and history. 除了这样的科目，系里也开设数学和历史课。

3. ... each man lived on through his own children. (L. 4-5) 这句中的 **live on through** 是度过的意思。

4. **misdeed** (L. 6) 指不端行为。

5. People were always trying to find some breakthrough to ease their life in an often hostile environment. (L. 6-7)

这句话的意思是：人们总是企图找到能使他们的生活在敌对环境里放松的成功方法。**breakthrough** 是突破的意思，但在这里指的是成功的好办法。

6. **mythical human or part human gods** (L. 9) 指神话的人和半人半神。

7. **sacred animals** (L. 9-10) 指神圣的动物。

8. Ceremonies were staged to bring on such things as needed rain or to fend off disaster. (L. 11)

这句话的意思是：举行仪式来祈求某些事物，比如雨水，或是为了躲避灾难。**fend off** 是回避或挡开的意思。例如：He fends off difficult questions. 他避开难回答的问题。

## Exercises

### 1. Answer the following questions:

- (1) With what did primitive people pray for help?
- (2) Why did primitive people think a certain occurrence was regarded as a punishment for their misdeeds?
- (3) What did primitive people often deify?

### 2. Choose the best answer for each of the following:

- (1) Things which people didn't understand were likely to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) cherished (C) resented  
(B) feared (D) set aside
- (2) Why were human and animal sacrifices sometimes performed?  
(A) Because primitive people were cruel.  
(B) To make amends (賠罪) for offending the gods.  
(C) To show their power against their enemies.  
(D) To make big impression on everyone.
- (3) Why did the people have ceremonies and rituals?  
(A) They liked a big show.  
(B) To frighten the gods.  
(C) To show respect to higher powers.  
(D) To prove that they intended to keep out evil powers.

### 3. Translate the following sentences into Chinese:

- (1) Religion can be described as a belief in power beyond that of man.
- (2) Frequently, medicine men were thought to be able to present their problems to higher authority. 在區 神靈

## Unit 4

Does a bee know what is going on in its mind when it navigates its way to distant food sources and back to the hive, using polarized sunlight and the tiny magnet it carries as a navigational aid? Or is the bee just a machine, unable to do its mathematics and dance its language in

any other way? To use Donald Griffin's term, does a bee have "awareness"; or to use a phrase I like better, can a bee think and imagine?

There is an experiment for this or at least an observation, made long ago by Karl von Frisch and more recently confirmed by James Gould at Princeton. Biologists who wish to study such things as bee navigation, language, and behavior in general have to train their bees to fly from the hive to one or another special place. To do this, they begin by placing a source of sugar very close to the hive so that the bees (considered by their trainers to be very dumb beasts) can learn what the game is about. Then, **at regular intervals**, the dish or whatever is moved progressively farther and farther from the hive, in increments of about 25 percent at each move. Eventually, the target is being moved 100 feet or more at a jump, very far from the hive. Sooner or later, while this process is going on, the biologists shifting the dish of sugar will find the bees are out there waiting for them, precisely where the next position had been planned. This is an uncomfortable observation to make.

## New Words

navigate	['nævigeit]	vt.	航海
hive	[haiv]	n.	蜂房
polarize	['pouləraiz]	vt.	磁化
increment	['inkrimənt]	n.	增加

## Notes

1.... when it navigates its way to distant food sources ... (L. 1)

这句话的意思是：当它飞向遥远的食物源地……

2.... unable to do its mathematics and dance its language in any other way? (L. 3-4)

这个短语的意思是：……（蜜蜂）不能做数学运算和用其他方式通过舞蹈来表达语言？

3.... **at regular intervals**, ... (L. 11) 指有规律的间隔。~~at intervals~~ 是间隔的意思。例如：Rain fell at intervals throughout the night. 整个夜里，雨每隔一会儿下一点。

4. ... in increments of about 25 percent ... (L. 12) 指增加了大约 25%。

## Exercises

### 1. Answer the following questions:

(1) What is the purpose of Karl von Frisch's experiment?

(2) Why was sugar used in the study?

(3) What did the result of the experiment explain?

*Bees are able to perform in fitted reasoning tasks.*

**2. Choose the best answer for each of the following:**

- (1) Which of the following is the best **title** for the passage?
- (A) The Beehive Nature: Candy Shop.
  - (B) Testing the Awareness of Bees.
  - (C) Navigational Techniques of Birds and Insects.
  - (D) Behaviorists Versus Biologists: A Zoological Debate.
- (2) The word “awareness” in Line 4 appears in quotation marks in order to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) show the author’s preference for the term
  - (B) indicate that it is being used humorously
  - (C) acknowledge Donald Griffin’s previous use of the term
  - (D) point out that it was used differently earlier in the passage
- (3) Which of the following best describes the format of the passage?
- (A) a response to a criticism.
  - (B) a comparison of two complete theories.
  - (C) a question followed by a possible answer.
  - (D) a position supported by science debate.

**3. Translate the following sentences into Chinese:**

- (1) Does a bee know what is going on in its mind when it navigates its way to distant food sources and back to the hive, using polarized sunlight and the tiny magnet it carries as a navigational aid ?
- (2) Then, at regular intervals, the dish or what is moved progressively farther and farther from the hive, in increments of about 25 percent at each move.

## **Unit 5**

**Washington Irving** was America’s first man of letters, to be known internationally. His works were received enthusiastically both in England and in the United States. He was, in fact, one of the most successful writers of his time in either country, delighting a large general public and at the same time winning the admiration of fellow writers like **Scott** in Britain and **Poe** and **Hawthorne** in the United States. The respect in which he was held was partly owing to the man himself, with his warm friendliness, his good sense, his urbanity, his gay spirits, his artistic in-



tegrity, his love of both the Old World and the New. **Thackeray** described Irving as “a gentleman, who, thought himself born in no very high sphere, was most finished, polished, witty; socially the equal of the most refined Europeans.” In England he was granted an honorary degree from Oxford – an unusual honor for a citizen of a young, uncultured nation – and he received the medal of the Royal Society of Literature; America made him ambassador to Spain.

Irving's background provides little to explain his literary achievements. A gifted but delicate child, he had little schooling. He studied law, but without zeal, and never did practice seriously. He was **immune** to his strict Presbyterian home environment, **frequenting** both social gatherings and the theater.

### New Words

urbanity	[əˈbæniiti]	n.	文雅
integrity	[inˈtegriti]	n.	完整
honorary	[ˈɒnərəri]	a.	纪念性的
ambassador	[æmbæsədə]	n.	大使
zeal	[zi:l]	n.	热情
immune	[iˈmjun]	a.	免除的

### Notes

1. **Washington Irving** (L. 1) 华盛顿·欧文 (1783~1859), 美国作家。

2. **Scott** (L. 4) 司各特 (Walter Scott, 1771~1832), 英国小说家和诗人。

3. **Poe** (L. 4) 坡 (Edgar Allan, 1809~1849), 美国诗人, 小说家, 批评家。

4. **Hawthorne** (L. 5) 霍桑 (Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1804~1864), 美国小说家。

5. The respect in which he was held was partly owing to the man himself ... (L. 5-6)

这句中, 主句是 The respect was partly owing to the man himself. in which he was held 是定语从句, 修饰 the respect, 意为他所拥有的尊敬。

6. **Thackeray** (L. 7) 萨克雷 (William Makepeace Thackeray, 1811~1863), 英国小说家。

7. He was immune to his strict Presbyterian home environment, frequenting both social gatherings and the theater. (L. 14-15)

这句话的意思是: 他丝毫未受到长老会家庭环境的影响, 经常去参加社交聚会和去戏院