

Comprehension & Translation Exercises for
College Students

大学英语

阅读理解与翻译

主 编

李 跃 平

杨廷君 裴光兰



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主 编 李跃平 杨廷君 裴光兰

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前 言

本书是根据 1999 年 9 月新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语考试大纲》的教学和考试要求而编写的。

《大学英语》是高等学校课程中最主要的课程之一。人们常说:“写作常常是从阅读那儿学来的”;也有人说:“听力常常是从阅读那儿学来的”。在大学英语阶段的各级考试中,阅读理解题所占的比例份量都是最大的;因此,《大学英语》这门课程的学习能否成功,阅读理解起着较为重要的作用。

为了加强学生的阅读理解能力的培养,增加学生的阅读量,扩大学生的知识面;同时,按照大学英语各级考试题中的题型要求进行阅读理解练习、阅读理解翻译练习,做到既打好基础又进行适应性训练,我们根据教学的实际情况和要求特地编写了这本《大学英语阅读理解与翻译》(2 级),供大学本、专科第二学期学习、使用。

本书中所选的九十篇文章均按照《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语考试大纲》中考试内容的要求设计,每篇文章后有五个问题和二句翻译,并列有生词(组)和疑难词(组)表。所选文章具有题材广泛、体裁多样、语言难度适中等特点。全部文章均与大学英语二级考试难度相当或约高于大学英语二级考试的难度。书后附有阅读理解练习答案、阅读理解翻译练习参考答案。

《大学英语》课程只有通过大量的实践练习才能真正掌握一定的英语单词和短语以及相关的阅读技能技巧。愿该书能为学习《大学英语》(2 级)的人员提供有价值、有意义的帮助,这正是编者的初衷。

本书由李跃平、杨廷君、裴光兰同志担任主编,贾志勇、杜平、张晋林同志担任副主编,参加编写工作的还有(以姓氏笔画为序):刘玉梅、孙兴文、谢芬等同志。广西师范大学柏敬泽教授认真地审阅了全书并对本书的编写工作提出了宝贵的建议,上海外语教育出版社责任编辑杨自伍为本书的付梓付出了辛勤的劳动,在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于时间仓促和编者水平的局限,书中难免有不足之处,热忱欢迎使用者提出宝贵的意见,以便进一步完善。

编者

2001 年 9 月于桂林

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PART ONE

*Reading Comprehension
and Translation*

1 **How to Use a Dictionary**

The dictionary is often used merely to determine the correct spelling of words, or to find out the accepted pronunciation. But such use is perhaps not the most important from an intellectual point of view. Dictionaries may, however, have social importance. It is often a matter of some concern to the person using the dictionary that he should not suggest to others, by misspelling a word in a letter, of mispronouncing it in conversation, that he is not educated.

Yet, despite familiarity with the dictionary, the average person is likely to have many wrong ideas about it, and no real concept of how to use it profitably. For example, it is often believed that the mere presence of a word in a dictionary is evidence that it is acceptable in good writing. Though most dictionaries have a system of marking words as obsolete, or in use only as slang, many people, more especially if their use of a particular word has been challenged, are likely to conclude, if they find it in a dictionary, that it is accepted as being used by writers of established reputation. This would certainly have been true of dictionaries a hundred years ago. For a long time after they were first firmly established in the eighteenth century, their aim was to include only what was used by the best writers, and all else was suppressed and the compiler frequently claimed that his dictionary contained no "low" words. Apparently this aspect of the dictionary achieved such importance in the mind of the average person that most people today are unaware of the great change which has taken place in the compilation of present-day dictionaries.

Comprehension of the Text

1. Dictionaries may have social importance in that _____.
 - A) they are often a matter of some concern to a person
 - B) their users do not want others to know the dictionaries
 - C) misspellings often appear in letters
 - D) misspellings would mean that the writer is not educated
2. One of the wrong ideas the average person has about the dictionary is that _____.
 - A) no one is actually familiar with dictionaries
 - B) words in a dictionary are taken from good writings

- C) he has little idea of how to use it profitably
 D) people know little about how dictionaries interpret words
3. From an intellectual point of view _____.
 A) the dictionary should not be used to determine the correct spelling.
 B) to determine the correct spelling is not the most important use of a dictionary
 C) dictionaries have social importance
 D) the accepted pronunciation is not as important as the correct spelling
4. We can infer from this passage that present-day dictionaries _____.
 A) are always changing
 B) are greater than old ones
 C) contain "low" words
 D) do not suit the average person
5. Dictionaries are usually compiled _____.
 A) to contain words and their usage
 B) to suppress cultural development advanced by ordinary writers
 C) by the best writers
 D) by the average person

Translation

1. (Para. 1)

The dictionary is often used merely to determine the correct spelling of words, or to find out the accepted pronunciation. But such use is perhaps not the most important from an intellectual point of view.

2. (Para. 2)

Yet, despite familiarity with the dictionary, the average person is likely to have many wrong ideas about it, and no real concept of how to use it profitably.

New Words and Expressions

profitably	有利的, 有益的	obsolete	废弃
slang	俚语	established	已经确立的
reputation	名声, 名誉	to suppress	抑制, 查禁
compiler	编者	apparently	显然地, 明显地

2 Sources of Knowledge

Reading is not the only way to acquire knowledge of preceding work. There is another large reservoir which may be called experience, and the college student will find that every craftsman has something he can teach and will generally teach gladly to any college student who does not look down upon them. The information from these quarters differs from that in textbooks and papers chiefly in that its theoretical part — the explanations of why things happen — is frequently quite fantastic. But the demonstration and report of what happens, and how it happens, are sound even if the reports are in completely unscientific terms. Presently the college student will learn, in this case also, what to accept and what to reject. One important thing for a college student to remember is that if Aristotle could talk to the fisherman, so can he.

Another source of knowledge is the vast store of traditional practices handed down from father to son, or mother to daughter, of old country customs, of folklore. All this is very difficult for a college student to explore, for much knowledge and personal experience is needed here to separate good plants from wild weeds. The college student should learn to realize and remember how much of real value science has been found in this wide, confused wilderness and how often scientific discoveries turned out to be re-discoveries of what had existed in this wilderness long ago.

Comprehension of the Text

1. The phrase “this wide, confused wilderness” (Lines 4 – 5, Para. 2) most probably means _____.
 - A) wild weeds among good plants
 - B) the information from craftsmen
 - C) personal experience
 - D) traditional practices
2. According to the passage, one can say that _____.
 - A) it's difficult for college students to tell wild weeds from good plants
 - B) college students should spend more time with craftsmen
 - C) only sincere students can receive instruction from craftsmen
 - D) college students find it hard to learn from craftsmen in a scientific way
3. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

- A) scientific discoveries are based on personal experience
 - B) discoveries are the most important source of knowledge for college students
 - C) one should find more sources other than books to acquire knowledge
 - D) traditional practices are more important than knowledge learnt from books.
4. The author advises the college students to _____.
 A) show respect only to the skilled craftsmen
 B) learn the craftsmen's experience with a critical eye
 C) compare knowledge from books with that from craftsmen
 D) help the craftsmen learn to use scientific terms
5. Which of the following can be said of craftsmen?
 A) They are willing to demonstrate skills to anyone.
 B) They know more scientific terms than students.
 C) They are eager to convey to students their experience.
 D) They respect those who respect them.

Translation

1. (Para. 2)

Another source of knowledge is the vast store of traditional practices handed down from father to son, or mother to daughter, of old country customs, of folklore.

2. (Para. 2)

All this is very difficult for a college student to explore, for much knowledge and personal experience is needed here to separate good plants from wild weeds.

New Words and Expressions

preceding	先前的	reservoir	(知识)宝库
craftsman	匠人,能工巧匠	quarters	领域
to explore	探究,探索	to look down upon	看不起,轻视
to differ from	与……有区别	to hand down	(一代一代)传下来
in that	因为,在于		

3 The Information Place

If you want to look for a good book to read or some information, you should visit “the information place” — your local library.

A library is more than just a place where books are stored. A library is a source of information. That information may come from books, from periodicals, from audio-visual material or even from a computer terminal.

Students go to libraries to study and to write research papers. The periodicals room of a university library is where foreign students often find newspapers and magazines from their countries. In the reference room, they can find catalogs from many universities in the U.S. and other countries. If you are buying a used car, the reference librarian can show you the Blue Book, which lists the prices of new and used cars. People who need information in a hurry can telephone the reference librarian at many libraries.

There are as many different library services as there are types of people who use them. Children’s libraries provide materials for young readers. They sometimes have storytellers who read stories to groups of their favorite musicians in music libraries. Some libraries have painting and sculpture exhibits, and most libraries offer special services for blind people, such as books in Braille, “talking” books, and Kurzweil Reading Machines.

Libraries provide entertainment as well as information. Novels and short stories from a library’s fiction collection are a good source of enjoyable reading practice. Public libraries often sponsor lectures on topics of interest to members of community, and a few even offer concerts and film. No matter what your interests are, you will find that a library can be a great place to enjoy yourself while you learn.

Comprehension of the Text

1. What is another name of a library?
 - A) A bookstore.
 - B) A reference librarian.

- C) An information place.
D) A periodicals room.
2. In the periodicals room of a library you can find _____.
A) the fiction collection
B) university catalogs
C) newspapers and magazines
D) materials for young readers
3. Which of the following is NOT an example of a library service?
A) Used cars
B) Children's storytellers
C) Art exhibits
D) Kurzweil Reading Machines
4. "A library can be a great place to enjoy yourself while you learn." This means you can _____ in a library.
A) play with computers
B) have a lot of rooms to work in
C) talk and laugh as much as you want
D) find entertainment and information
5. What is the main idea of the whole text?
A) There are many kinds of libraries.
B) A library is a place where books are stored.
C) Libraries provide entertainment.
D) Libraries offer many different services.

Translation

1. (Para. 2)

A library is more than just a place where books are stored. A library is a source of information.

2. (Para. 5)

No matter what your interests are, you will find that a library can be a great place to enjoy yourself while you learn.

New Words and Expressions

to store

收藏

periodical

期刊

audio-visual material 视听材料

terminal

终端

sculpture
to sponsor

雕塑品
主办

Braille
community

盲文
社区

4 Learn from Stamps

The stamp collector can learn a great deal from the colorful pieces of paper he puts in his album. In addition to learning some basic things about organization and systematic arrangement, the stamp collector can receive a good course in history and geography from stamps. As a collector progresses and becomes more specialized, stamps teach him some basic facts about engraving, paper, and printing.

Stamps are excellent sources of historical information. Almost every nation celebrates its military heroes and political leaders on its postage stamps. But scientists and artists, from Einstein to Beethoven, also grace the stamps of the world. Famous battles are often commemorated, as well as buildings and scenes which have historical significance. Several of the world's stamps are beautiful, full-color reproductions of the artistic masterpieces of different historical periods.

Stamps also offer instruction in geography. It doesn't take long before a beginning collector checks the location of the countries from which his stamps come. Nations like Liechtenstein, San Marino, Andorra, Gabon, Ghana, and Afghanistan, while unknown to many, are usually quite familiar to stamp collectors. Moreover, each country tries to use stamps to advertise its natural wonders. Such famous attractions as Yosemite National Park, Victoria Falls, Mount Everest, and the Bay of Fundy appear on the stamps of the nations within whose borders they lie.

Comprehension of the Text

1. The first paragraph tells us _____.
 - A) stamp collectors should be more specialized
 - B) what stamps can bring to stamp collectors
 - C) what are printed on separate pieces of stamps
 - D) how to keep stamps in a scientific way
2. A country may employ stamps to make known its _____ to the outside world.
 - A) scientists and artists
 - B) geography

- C) natural scenery
D) artistic works
3. The author writes the passage to _____.
A) speak for stamp collectors
B) show how important stamps are
C) advertise stamp
D) enrich readers' knowledge of stamp collecting
4. From the passage we can surely say that _____.
A) a lot of other information should be printed on stamps
B) everybody should develop interests like stamp-collecting
C) collecting stamps is an instructional hobby
D) more and more colorful stamps are needed
5. The word "album"(Line 1, Para.1) most probably means a book _____.
A) on how to arrange stamps
B) to keep stamps
C) to deal with stamps
D) on how to collect stamps

Translation

1. (Para. 1)

In addition to learning some basic things about organization and systematic arrangement, the stamp collector can receive a good course in history and geography from stamps.

2. (Para. 3)

It doesn't take long before a beginning collector checks the location of the countries from which his stamps come.

New Words and Expressions

album	集邮簿	systematic	系统的,系统化的
specialized	专业的	engraving	雕刻术
military	军事的,军用的	to commemorate	纪念,庆祝
to be unknown to	为……所不熟悉的	to be familiar to	为(某人)所熟悉的