

■ 大学英语辅导

English

主 编 陈建生 黄超英

阅读理解·翻译·简答



中南工业大学出版社

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编者的话

在大学英语四级考试中,阅读理解占有十分重要的地位。1996年1月开始实行新题型以来,在阅读理解这一项目上增加了英译汉或简短回答问题的内容,而阅读理解、简答和翻译恰恰是学生们的弱项。为提高学生的阅读能力,使之掌握阅读技巧,适应新题型,在英语基础课教学的同时,每年为学生开办了阅读提高班,而为该班选教材成了老师的一大难题。目前,已出版的阅读书籍大多是旧题型:选择题显然已不适应新形势的需要。因此,我们编写了这本采用新题型,配合针对性较强的练习的阅读书,以解燃眉之急。除此以外,本书可作为大学本(专)科学学生的阅读入门教程,为迎接全国大学英语四级考试,进行强化训练之用,也可供有关人员自学或迎考之用。编写体例如下:

本书共20个单元,每单元由4篇短文(共1200—1500个词汇)组成。

1. Part A: 4篇短文,20个选择题;
2. Part B: 英译汉,五个句子(选自四篇短文中);
3. Part C: 简答题,另选一篇文章、五个句子。

本书编写时间仓促,如有不妥之处,请广大读者指正。

编者

1999年4月

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Unit One

Part A Reading Comprehension

Directions: There are 4 passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage 1

Today's trumpet is one of the world's oldest instruments. It is the result of many centuries of development. Although it looks nothing like its ancestors there are many similarities. All trumpets are hollow tubes. They are all blown. And they all use the player's lips to produce the basic sound.

The trumpet developed as players and makers worked to improve its design, size, shape, material, and method of construction. They wanted to create an instrument that would produce a beautiful and attractive tone, enable the performer to play more difficult music, and, in general, be easier to play well. The remarkable way in which the modern trumpet achieves

these goals is a measure of the success of all those who struggled to perfect this glorious instrument.

The trumpet is actually the leading member of an entire family of related instruments. There are trumpets of several different size, and in several different keys. There are cornets, bugles, fluegelhorns, and a number of others that are all similar to the trumpet in the way they are made and played.

The trumpet family is much more than a group of related instruments that can stir one with their sound, or narrow tubes of metal capable of producing a variety of musical sounds. It is a link to many different periods of history and to people of many cultures. From the use of trumpets in ancient religious ceremonies to the part they play in modern rock bands, the trumpet family of instruments has much to tell about civilization and its development.

1. It can be inferred from the passage that which of the following is needed to make the trumpet produce the sound.

A) Fingers. B) Water. C) Air pressure. D) Beating.

2. According to the passage, all of the following are true except _____.

A) the modern trumpet can produce a beautiful tone

B) the modern trumpet is totally different from its ancestors

C) the modern trumpet can be easier to play well

D) the modern trumpet can produce more difficult tone

3. As used in the passage, the word "cornet" means _____.

A) a musical instrument like a trumpet

- B) the ancestor of the trumpet
 - C) a musical instrument not like a trumpet
 - D) an ancient trumpet maker
4. The trumpet _____.
- A) is usually played in Europe
 - B) is usually played in ancient times
 - C) is only used in modern rock bands
 - D) is the leading member of an entire family of related instruments
5. The trumpet family of instruments _____.
- A) is not developed
 - B) is much more capable of producing a variety of musical sounds
 - C) has nothing to tell about civilization
 - D) has same size and keys

Passage 2

During the past few years, people have been trying to talk to some lively animals that live in the sea. These animals are dolphins(海豚). They are small members of the whale family. Dolphins have always seemed to like people. A tale from Greece tells of a drowning boy. He was saved by a dolphin. About a hundred years ago, dolphins were reported to have led ships through the dangerous waters between the islands of New Zealand.

During the past fifteen years, scientists have been studying

the sound of dolphins. Special instruments were built so that people would be able to hear the dolphins' underwater sounds.

Dolphins make two kinds of sounds. First, there are sounds that they use to find their way around the ocean. There are clicking sounds. Then, using their good hearing, they listen for the echoes that bounce off (反射) things in their path. Although dolphins have tiny eyes, they are able to avoid bumping into things.

The second kind of sounds made by dolphins are those used for "talking". In California, people studying dolphins have heard and recorded tweeting and whistling sounds. They believe that these are sounds of dolphins "talking" to each other. Other animals such as apes, birds, and dogs also use sounds to talk to each other. However, dolphins can make many more sounds than any of these other animals.

Many people now wonder if the dolphins have their own "language". Dr. John Lilly, who worked in the Virgin Islands, believes that they do. In 1965 he trained two dolphins to imitate human sounds. Since then, more work has been done to find a way for people and dolphins to talk to each other.

6. According to the passage, dolphins feel _____ toward people.

A) angry B) shy C) afraid D) friendly

7. What did dolphins lead through the dangerous waters between the islands of New Zealand?

A) A drowning boy. B) Ships.

- C) Whales. D) Apes.
8. Which of the following is true?
- A) Dolphins have their own language.
B) Dolphins cannot hear sounds.
C) Dolphins are nearsighted.
D) Dolphins only make sounds underwater.
9. In the last paragraph, the word "they" refers to _____.
- A) many people B) scientists
C) dolphins D) the Virgin Islands
10. What is the best title for the passage?
- A) Dolphins and Whales B) Sounds Dolphins Make
C) Scientists Trained Dolphins D) Dolphins Help People

Passage 3

Packaging is an important form of advertising. A package can sometimes motivate someone to buy a product. For example, small child might ask for a breakfast food that comes in a box with a picture of TV character. The child is more interested in the picture than in breakfast food. Pictures for children to colour or cut out, games printed on a package, or small gifts inside a box also motivate many children to buy products or to ask their parents for them.

Some packages suggest that a buyer will get something for nothing. Food products sold in reusable containers are examples of this. Although a similar product in a plain container might cost less, people often prefer to buy the product in a reusable

glass or dish, because they believe the container is free. However, the cost of the container is added to the cost of the product.

The size of a package also motivates a buyer. Maybe the package has "Economy Size" or "Family Size" printed on it. This suggests that the large size has the most product for the least money. But that is not always true. To find out, a buyer has to know how the product is sold and the price of the basic unit.

The information on the package should provide some answers. But the important thing for any buyer to remember is that a package is often an advertisement. The words and pictures do not tell the whole story. Only the product inside can do that.

11. As used in the passage, the word "motivate" most probably means _____.
- A) making one excited to take some action
 - B) supplying a thought that makes one take some action
 - C) forcing someone to take some action
 - D) making one hesitate to take some action
12. What does the author mean by saying "A buyer will get something for nothing"?
- A) A buyer will get something useful free of charge.
 - B) A buyer will get nothing at all.
 - C) A buyer will get something by paying much money.
 - D) A buyer will not get what he pays for.
13. People are willing to buy the product sold in a glass or dish

because _____.

- A) they believe the cost of the product container is added to the cost of the product
 - B) the container is too attractive
 - C) they think the quality of the product sold in a glass or dish is better
 - D) they think they can get the container for free
14. According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?
- A) Package plays an important role in advertising.
 - B) The children are more interested in a package of a product than in the product itself.
 - C) On seeing a well-designed container, a buyer often neglects what is inside it.
 - D) A buyer is often made to buy the product according to its size.
15. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?
- A) The size of a package also motivates a buyer.
 - B) Don't buy the product which is sold in a glass or dish.
 - C) The quality of a container has nothing to do with that of the product.
 - D) It is suggested that a buyer should get a product in a plain package.

Passage 4

Linguists are interested in the abilities to understand and

use language that people have. One of the abilities that people have is the ability to learn language. You are using this ability right now in your efforts to learn English as a second language. Most students would like to know how to learn a language more easily. Most linguists and language teachers would also like to know this. Linguists are working on this problem in two ways. First, they are trying to understand how children learn to speak and understand their native language. They are also trying to learn how people learn a second language.

Linguists are not sure how children learn to speak. Some linguists think that children are born with an ability to learn and use a language. This does not mean that you came into the world knowing your native language. It means that, along with many other things, you were born with the ability to learn your native language. One group of linguists feels that with just a little exposure to language, and a little help from your parents, you were able to learn to speak. Another group of linguists does not think this is correct.

This second group of linguists thinks that children learn to use a language from their parents. They believe that a child's parents teach their child to say sounds and words in their language. When the child knows some words, the parents begin to teach their child to say sentences. The linguists do not think that parents teach their children in the same way that people are taught a second language. Instead, parents probably teach their children by talking to them and correcting their use of lan-

guage. These linguists feel that you learn your language mainly from your environment. In this case, your environment is your family and your home. As you see, the first group of linguists disagrees.

16. The word "linguist" in the passage means _____.
- A) a person who teaches language
 - B) a person who learns language
 - C) a person who studies the science of language
 - D) a person who treats patients
17. Who would like to know how to learn a language more easily?
- A) All students.
 - B) Only most students.
 - C) Only linguists and language teachers.
 - D) Most linguists and language teachers as well as most students.
18. How do some linguists think children learn to speak?
- A) Children have known their native language from birth.
 - B) Children are born with an ability to learn and use a language.
 - C) Children learn to use a language from their parents.
 - D) Both B and C.
19. According to the passage, which of the following is true?
- A) The first group of linguists don't think people learn their language mainly from their parents.
 - B) The first group of linguists think that people learn a sec-

ond language in the same way that parents teach their children.

C) The first group of linguists think that children learn to speak in the school.

D) Linguists are sure how children learn to speak.

20. What does the passage mainly discuss?

A) Teaching a language.

B) Linguists and children.

C) Learning a language.

D) Two kinds of linguists.

Part B Translation from English into Chinese

Directions: In this part, there are five items which you should translate into Chinese, each item consisting of one or two sentences. These sentences are all taken from the Reading Passages you have just read in Part A. You are allowed 15 minutes to do the translation. You can refer back to the passages so as to identify their meanings in the context.

21. The trumpet developed as players and makers worked to improve its design, size, shape, material, and method of construction. (Passage 1)

22. From the use of trumpets in ancient religious ceremonies to the part they play in modern rock bands, the trumpet family

of instruments has much to tell about civilization and its development. (Passage 1)

23. Then, using their good hearing, they listen for the echoes that bounce off things in their path. Although dolphins have tiny eyes, they are able to avoid bumping into things. (Passage 2)
-
-

24. Pictures for children to colour or cut out, games printed on a package, or small gifts inside a box also motivate many children to buy products or to ask their parents for them. (Passage 3)
-
-

25. This does not mean that you came into the world knowing your native language. It means that, along with many other things, you were born with the ability to learn your native language. (Passage 4)
-
-

Part C Short Answer Questions

Directions: In this part there is a short passage with five questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage

carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words.

The majority of people —— about nine out of ten —— are right-handed. Until recently, people who were left-handed were considered strange, and left-handed children were encouraged to use their right hands. Today left-handedness is generally accepted, but it is still a disadvantage in a world where most people are right-handed. For example, most tools and implements (scissors, tin-openers, etc.) are still designed for right-handed people.

In sports, by contrast, doing things with the left hand (or left foot) is often an advantage. Throwing, kicking, punching or batting from the “wrong” side may disconcert opponents who are more accustomed to dealing with right-handed players. This is why, in most ball games, the proportion of players who are left-handed is higher than in the population as a whole.

The word “right” in many languages means “correct” or “legal”, whereas words associated with “left” generally have bad meanings. For example, “sinister” (Latin for “left”) means “strange”. Among many primitive peoples, there is a close association between the left hand and death.

In the past, in most Western societies, children were often forced to use their right hands, especially for writing. Often the left hand was tied behind the child's back so that it could not use it.

While growing up, children naturally use both hands for