much of the country is en-
closed by fences, the covered
wagon has been replaced by
the automobile and modern
cities have taken the place of
frontier settlements. The cab-
ins of the pioneers and miners

are gone.
A few "old – time" cow-
boys remain, but many of
the cowboys' sons are stu-

dents at a university or
state agricultural school.

武汉工业大学出版社

许之所　曹凤婷　主编

大学英语
阅读技巧精编

The West is traditionally the
land of glamour and romance in
America – the land of the pio-
neers and the cowboys, of the
gold rush and the land rush,
where fortunes could be easily
made and lost and made again
in cattle or land or mining. Now

大学英语阅读技巧精编

主　编　许之所　曹凤婷

副主编　朱汉雄　吴汉梅

编　委　许之所　朱汉雄

　　　　吴汉梅　陈万钦

　　　　曹凤婷

前　言

在每个人的一生中,人们所能耳闻目睹,亲临其境的经历是微少的、有限的,而人类的生活,我们的宇宙却是丰富的,无限的。人类的智慧来自生活的积累和知识的传播,阅读是我们获得信息和交流思想的重要途径。随着现代科技和信息工业的飞速发展,我们面临着一个日新月异的时代。为了适应社会的发展,迎接新世纪的挑战,作为中国栋梁之材的大学生们必须掌握英语阅读的技巧和具备良好的阅读习惯。为了帮助英语教师和广大学生达到这一目的,我们编写了这本《大学英语阅读技巧精编》(English Reading Skills and Practice),其中详细介绍了阅读英语时常用的和适用的各类技巧,并在提供理论性指导的同时,又有针对性地挑选了各类文体的阅读材料,配以形式多样的问答练习,帮助学生巩固、消化理论知识,达到学以致用的目的。

本书的编排遵循了阅读的一般规律,由浅入深,由易渐难,首先介绍了阅读中出现的难字,生词的处理方法,又分别阐述了快速阅读中常用的方法,比如略读(Skimming),扫读(Scanning),预读(anticipating)等等,共分为十五个单元。每个单元中分别包括三个部分:

　Ⅰ. 技巧概述

　Ⅱ. 实例评述

　Ⅲ. 练习

本书的编写坚持理论与实践相结合的方针,力求理论易懂、易用,选材广泛,内容新颖,题目设置不拘一格,旨在启发和提高学生的阅读理解能力。因此本书适用性广,既适合英语专业学生作为泛读的辅助性教材,亦是非英语专业学生学习英语的良师益友,对参

加全国英语四、六级水平考试,研究生入学考试,托福及各类中高级英语水平测试都有指导性的作用。

在编写本书的过程中,我们参阅了大量国内外传统的和最新的有关英语学习、阅读方法、应试技巧等方面的书刊资料,从中得到了宝贵的启示。我们也非常感谢武汉工业大学教务处和外语系老师对该项研究的大力支持和帮助。虽然我们力求明确、准确,但书中错误在所难免,仍希望读者不吝指正。

编　　者

1996 年 7 月于武汉工业大学

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Unit One

Overlooking Inessential Words

Ⅰ. 技巧概述

　　字词（Words）是构成文章的最基本要素，我们在阅读文章时，实际上也就是通过词语获取信息，然后由我们的大脑去综合分析和接收。英语词汇按词性分为名词（noun）、动词（verb）、代词（pronoun）、形容词（adjective）、副词（adverb）、介词（preposition）、连词（conjunction）、和感叹词（interjection）。其中名词和动词是构成句子的基本要素（essential words），因此也是我们阅读中应细心对待的词汇；而对句子的主干部分进行补充、说明、定度等辅助作用的其他的词（inessential words），我们则可以有选择性地快速略过。这种阅读方法（overlooking inessential words）是提高阅读速度，正确理解文章内容的一个重要方法，本单元将就如何略过不重要的词进行一些探讨。

　　首先在阅读一个句子时，我们知道主语（subject）和谓语（predicate）是它的主干，此外它还可能带有宾语（object），补语（compliment），限制语（modifier），同位语（appositive）等等辅助成分，而构成主干的主语、谓语往往是由名词和动词来承担的，那么理解了一个句子的主要成分，其他成分就可以快速略过。此外，我们还应了解，英语中除了简单句（simple sentence）外，还有结构更复杂的复合句（complex sentence）及并列句（compound sentence），

· 1 ·

在这一些句子中，仍应先了解主句的内容，才能有效、迅速地理解全句。阅读中常常会遇到的生词，我们也可以根据它在句子中的地位来决定是否要理解它或是不理睬它。下面我们分别举例说明略过不重要的词的几种阅读法。

Ⅱ. 实例评述

1. 略过复合句中不重要的部分

例 1　John，who was becoming more and more ill at ease and embarrassed，told Mary，who was busily engaged in giving her opinion of what was wrong with the people sitting at the next table，that if she went on talking like that he was going to leave the restaurant.

这是一个复合句，很显然，在这个句子中，并不是每一个字都同等重要。碰到这样的句子，关键是找出主句，因为主句会告诉读者主要事件，主句就像一个 box，其他的部分都可放在 box 里，需要时再一个一个拿出来，不需要时就让他们躺在里面。现在我们来看看这个 box。

John told Mary that he was going to leave the restaurant，if she went on talking like that.

至于盒子里关于 Mary 和 John 的介绍似乎就不必拿出来了。

例 2　One way of deciding what to do when you have difficulty in choosing the best course of action is to toss a coin.

问：What is the subject of the verb 'is'？

答：One way of deciding what to do

由此找到了 box：One way of deciding what to do is to toss a coin.

而 when you have difficulty in choosing the best course of action 可以略过不看放在盒子里。

例 3　Arthur was not sure which way to go,for he had been left alone by his friend,and,when an old man came along the road accompanied by a little boy,said 'Excuse me,sir.'

问：Who said 'Excuse me,sir?'?

答：Arthur said 'Excuse me,sir.'

Arthur was not sure which way to go and said 'Excuse me, sir.'when an old man came along the road. 其余部分都可视为可略过放进 box 里的不重要部分。因为主句已回答："Who said 'Excuse me,sir'?"

2. 略过句子中不重要的生词

例 1　I've never met anybody as boorish as you are _____ what you said to me yesterday was absolutely unforgivable.

单词 boorish 是一个生词，或者说是一个不太重要的生词，因为即便不知道 boorish 是什么意思，读者也能理解主要内容：'What you said was absolutely unforgivable.'并且从作者不能原谅 'What you said yesterday' 可以猜出 boorish 的大概意思，很可能是粗鲁,不讲礼貌之义,否则他的行为不会 'unforgivable'.

例 2　You pick a dead gaff——a house you know or think is empty——sound the drum by knocking at the front door to make sure. Stroll round the back,get in through a window and turn the place over.

问：What does it mean by "picking a dead gaff"?

答：It means Burglary.

词组'dead gaff'是一个较偏的说法。然而在阅读中,读者可以跳过'dead gaff',既不用查字典(一般的字典没有收入这个词组),也不用请教他人,因为破折号后的同位语明确告知读者 dead gaff 即 empty house.

例 3 California Peter had thirty-four notches(刻痕)on his gun: one for each sheriff he had killed.

问:How many sheriffs(行政司法长官) had he killed?

答:Thirty-four.

也许,即便是在回答了问题之后,读者对"notch"和"sheriff"还是不甚了解,但这并不妨碍对主要内容的理解:即"one notch for one sheriff",答案是显而易见的"thirty-four notches for thirty-four sheriffs he killed"。

3. 略过句中的关系代词

复合句中的关系代词往往会使已经复杂的句子更加复杂。为了提高阅读速度,读者可以略过关系代词,使自己的阅读更成熟、老练。

例 1 The medicines with which she is being supplied are very probably causing her actual harm.

原句可读成:The medicines she is being supplied with are very probably causing her actual harm.

例 2 The document on which I was asked to put my name was a sort of contrast.

原句可读成:The document I was asked to put my name on was a sort of contrast.

例 3   The woman who is talking with the teacher is Mrs. Brown.

原句可读成：The woman talking with the teacher is Mrs. Brown.

4. 阅读下列句子并回答问题。

例 1   The film she told me about and advised me to see when we met the other week at——I think——Celias party turned out to be very dull.

Question：What was dull?

Answer：The film.

主干部分是 The film …… be very dull.

例 2   What I remember most vividly，most fondly，and with some envy，is that my mother（pregnant at the time）spent all afternoon，every afternoon，sitting on the dock sunning herself and reading novels while she kept an eye on her chicks splashing in the lake.

Question：What did he remember?

Answer：His mother spent all afternoon sitting on the dock sunning herself and reading novels.

例 3   Ping-pong，or table tennis，as it is officially called，has had a shorter and more international history than many of our popular game.

Question：What has a shorter and more international history?

Answer：Ping-pong.

5. 阅读下面的文章,并回答问题

Living with children is one of the few situations where virtue is rewarded. Though it sounds intolerably priggish to say so, parents who think first what's best for the children really do have an easier, more comfortable life than those who do what they like and make the children fit in.

The key decision is : should both parents go out to work? Dr Spock takes the standard line: if a mother realizes how vital her care is to a young baby, it may make it easier for her to decide that the extra money she might earn, or the satisfaction she might receive from an outside job, is not so important after all.

The evidence is, as usual, more confused. All research agrees on consistent loving care and a high level of stimulation as essential ingredients in optimal child development. But there's increasing doubt that the 24 hours a day, seven days a week mum is the best way to provide it.

Two recent, as yet unpublished, London studies have quite independently come up with the same result: 40 per cent of mothers who stay at home with children under five are clinically depressed, although the depression is not necessarily caused by staying at home. Dr Michael Rutter, of the Maudsley Hospital, and Dr G. Stewart Prince, among others, have shown that depressed mothers produce depressed, neurotic and backward children. There are many other mothers who, without being depressed, are oppressed by the unending repetitive task of caring for a young baby, or the unceasing chatter of a toddler, and so get less pleasure from their children than they might.

Extra money is not to be despised. It buys automatic washers, tumble driers, dish washers to make life easier and give more real attention-time to the children. It buys time off, excursions, holidays. It may make the difference between a town flat and a house with a garden, a better environment for bringing up children.

For professional women there is another difficulty. To give up or even work parttime, probably means climbing painfully back on to the bottom rung of the ladder at 35 or 40 in galling subordination to younger and perhaps less able men.

Assuming the still normal situation mother at home there are ways to guard against the imprisoned feeling. Any arrangement will do as long as it's regular and doesn't involve renegotiation every time.

For instance, once a week, a completely free day and evening during which the mother is relieved of all responsibility. She can visit friends, or go to a museum, spend all morning buying a pair of shoes and needn't come back until she feels like it. The only rule is she must go out, not hang around catching up on household jobs. It's best of all if combined with a regular night out for parents together. You can employ another woman to stand in for the day, set up a reciprocal arrangement with another family, or make it a Saturday when Father can take over but that's less good.

The split Saturday works well for some families. Father has morning off. Mother afternoon, to do what they like unencumbered by children. Much nicer for them, too, than the family shopping expedition, which soon makes small children tired and fractious.

Child-free weekends every few months are very restorative, and well worth the money. Family exchanges are fun for older children.

Advertise if you don't know a suitable family, but get well acquainted before you go off.

A word of caution: work which can be done at home is superficially attractive Rhona and Robert Rapport's book Dual-Career Families describes several households coping with this situation. But there is good evidence that withdrawal of attention is more harmful to children than physical absence which is one reason why the switch-off phenomenon associated with maternal depression is so damaging.

Anyone with a toddler knows how he will play happily while you cook, wash up or make beds, but no sooner do you sit down with a book, pick up a complicated piece of knitting or take out your violin than he becomes demanding and tiresome. In our house 'Mum's writing an article' is a signal for unusual gloom, whereas 'Mum's off for the weekend' is excellent news. (But it's not a good idea to leave a child for very long between the ages of 9 months and 2 years old).

For each question below, there are two possible answers. choose the one that best expresses the meanning.

(1) According to Dr. Spock's point of view, if a mother realizes how vital her care is to a young baby, on what way does she decide?

　　a. She should earn some extra money.

　　b. She thinks the extra money is not so important after all.

(2) How does the writer feel about Dr. Spock's view?

　　a. He agrees on it.

　　b. He doubts about it.

(3) How many women are depressed while staying at home with

children under five?

a. 40 percent

b. working mothers as a whole

(4) Who have shown that depressed mothers produce depressed, neurotic and backward children?

a. other doctors

b. doctor Michael Rutter and Dr. G. Stewart Prince

(5) What may happen to other mothers?

a. They are also depressed.

b. They are oppressed.

(6) What is nicer for the father and mother?

a. the split Saturday off

b. the family shopping expedition

答案及说明：

以上练习旨在帮助读者跳过一些不重要的部分而迅速找到一句话的主干,因此比较容易找到答案。

(1)答案为 B. 文章第二段回答了这个问题。

(2)答案为 B. 文章第三段可见答案。

(3)答案为 B. 文章第四段作了明确的说明。

(4)答案为 B. 答案能在第四段找到。

(5)答案为 B. 答案也能在第四段找到。

(6)答案为 B. 文章第九段给出了答案。

Notes to the text：

optimal　　a. 最适宜的

priggish　a. 自命不凡的

repetitive　重复的

excursion　n. 短途旅行

galling [gɔːliŋ] a. 烦恼的

reciprocal a. 互惠的

restorative a. 恢复体力的

Ⅲ. 练习

1. 阅读下列短文，然后回答问题

At this university we offer three different programs for students who have children. For those of you with very young children, we have a day care program that takes infants form 3 months to 30 months. We have another program for children between two and five years of age. And we also have an after-school program for school-aged children. This program offers sports, crafts, outings and tutoring during after-school hours. Enrollment in these child care programs is limited and early application is essential, since our programs often have waiting lists. The fees are on an hourly basis. If any of you new students need these services, please let me know right away so I can get you an application form.

1) How many programs does this university offer for students who have children?

2) What is the main purpose of this announcement?

    a. To demonstrate tutoring techniques.

    b. To explain school policies.

    c. To recruit childcare workers.

    d. To explain a service.

3) What does the speaker recommend?

a. Give your child extra tutoring.

b. Take your child to the program today.

c. Apply as soon as you can.

d. Pay next month.

2. 下列短文已省略不重要的部分，看后迅速回答问题

James Joyce ··· born ··· February 2, 1882, ··· Dublin. ··· grew up ··· a large family ··· 17 children, ··· went on to study languages and philosophy ··· the Dublin college. ··· spent ··· early life ··· Ireland. ··· 1904 ··· married, ··· left for Zurich and Trieste, ··· taught languages ··· Berlitz school.

(1) When and where was he born?

(2) In what kind of family did he grow up?

(3) What did he study in the Dublin college?

(4) Where did he spend his early life?

(5) When did he marry?

(6) What did he do in Berlitz school?

3. 下列短文中划线字是生词，但不重要不会影响对短文的理解，读后回答问题

Walt Disney started creating cartoon animations in 1920, but it was 1928 when his best known character, Mickey Mouse, came into life. Disney also created the first sound cartoon, which he called Steamboat Willie. It was in this cartoon that he introduced Mickey to the public. In 1937 Walt Disney made movie history again with the first full-length cartoon film, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. In the 1950s, Walt Disney created a series of nature films.