



CET-4 Reading Comprehension

四级 全真阅读 100篇

主编 郑天义



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Reading Comprehension for CET-4

四级全真阅读 100篇

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北京·广州·上海·西安

内 容 提 要

本书介绍了作者多年从事催化传感器的研究和应用成果,主要内容包括:催化传感元件的特性分析,补偿元件对催化传感器特性的改善,催化传感器零点偏移的识别和自动校正,催化传感器灵敏度衰减的规律和自动补偿的方法,并介绍了应用研究成果中的一些仪器,如智能恒温甲烷检测仪、定压低温甲烷检测仪等。

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前 言

大学英语教学的目的是要培养学生具备较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力,而作为检测学生英语水平的四级考试,也将阅读作为其重点测试内容,阅读理解题占 40% 的比重。因此,要想在四级考试中取得优异的成绩,就必须在阅读这一项上取得高分,这就要求考生除了课内学习外,还需投入相当的时间和精力进行课外的自我训练。选择与真题难度一致的阅读材料进行考前训练,不失为一条通向成功的“捷径”。有鉴于此,我们特意编写了本书,希望能助广大考生一臂之力。本书具有以下特点:

一、知己知彼,百战不殆

做任何事情都要讲究方法和效率,学习更是如此,否则会事倍功半。本书的编者长期致力于英语教学的研究,积累了丰富的教学经验,对历年的真题进行了潜心的研究和分析,以把握其中的重要规律,如四级阅读理解真题长度均保持在 300 词左右,其间所含四级词汇平均每篇在 25 词左右,超纲词的数量也大体一致。另外,总体难度有逐年增加的趋势,因此,我们在编写本书的时候,既考虑到历年四级考试的平均难度,也适当增加了一些难度,以适应四级考试的不断变化,让考生在真正临考时,会有一种“一览众山小”的感觉。

二、选材得当,贴近真题

我们注重选编最新材料及热点话题,如 9·11 事件、世界杯、恐怖主义等,内容涉及经济、政治、文化、教育、环保、文体、医学、自然地理等四级阅读常考题材。在命题上,严格按照四级考试阅读理解的题型及命题特点出题,包括中心主旨题、推断结论题、细节理解题、词义推测题等,力求在出题思路、难度、数量、形式等方面与真题保持一致,为考生提供一个演练的机会,从而能够正确地评估自己。

三、双语对照,获益匪浅

本书针对每篇文章给出了相应的参考译文,建议大家先做题,后看译

文,这样不仅能加深理解,同时通过中英文对照也可提高自己的翻译水平,增强阅读兴趣,可谓一举多得。

本丛书由郑天义教授主编,清华大学彭秋兰,北京大学陈菁、苏颖,中国人民大学周新生,北京理工大学李冬梅等编著。

由于水平所限且时间仓促,书中难免有不足和不当之处,恳请各位同行及读者予以批评指正。

“一份汗水,一份收获”,我们衷心祝愿广大考生能考出好成绩!

编 者

2003.2 于北大燕园



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UNIT 1

Passage 1

(Start ____ : ____)

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

If you are a loner, you'd better get yourself some friends or else risk losing precious brain cells. That's the suggestion from a study into the brains of songbirds, which found that birds living in large groups have more new *neurons* (神经细胞) and probably a better memory than those living alone.

How the brain stores long-term memory is a mystery, but some researchers think it involves permanent changes in the gene expression of brain cells. So animals like songbirds that have small brains and relatively long lifespans would run out of *neural* (神经的) "space" to store new memories if they didn't grow a constant supply of new cells. Songbirds do grow new neurons, though most of these die within three to five weeks and so can't store memories for long. But those that survive may provide space for new long-term memories.

The researchers found that compared with the other birds, those living in large groups had about 30 per cent more new neurons in a region of the brain involved in sound processing. Even more impressively, the male *zebra finches* (斑胸草雀), who do all the singing, had twice as many new neurons in areas of the brain involved in communication when living in large groups. That could be simply because the birds are trying to remember every other bird's distinctive song, say the researchers in a paper to be published in the journal *Behavioural Brain Research*.

Researchers have noticed before that social animals such as elephants tend to have better memories than loners. But no one had actually seen a change in



the survival of neurons caused solely by the number of companions. There is evidence that adult humans also produce new neurons in their brains, so these results raise the possibility that social interaction could help our neurons survive too. And perhaps that would even boost our memories.

(Total words: 311)

1. Which of the following can be the best title for the passage?
 - A. More Neurons, Better Memories.
 - B. More Socialization, Better Memories.
 - C. How the Brain Stores Long-term Memory.
 - D. How to Have a Better Memory.
2. According to Para 2, what contributes are most have long-term memories?
 - A. Neural space.
 - B. New neurons.
 - C. Brain neurons that can exist long.
 - D. New cells that die shortly after their birth.
3. What does the word "that" (Line 5, Para 3) refer to?
 - A. The fact that birds living in large groups have to remember every other bird's distinctive song.
 - B. The fact that male zebra finches do all the singing.
 - C. The fact that birds living in large groups had more new neurons.
 - D. The fact that birds living in large groups had 30 per cent more new neurons.
4. What is the connection between the size of the elephant group and its member's neurons?
 - A. The larger the size, the more new neurons.
 - B. The larger the size, the more the survival of new neurons.
 - C. There is no connection between them.
 - D. Researchers are not sure about the connection between them.
5. What is the suggestion for human beings made by the researchers?
 - A. Having more communication with others.
 - B. Taking care of your brain neurons.



C. Inventing effective ways to help brain neurons survive.

D. Paying extra attention to loner's life style.

(Finish ____ : ____)

词汇表
WORD LIST

cell	[sel]	<i>n</i> 细胞;小牢房;电池;小组
permanent	[ˈpɜːmənənt]	<i>a</i> 永久(性)的,固定的
survival	[səˈvaɪvəl]	<i>n</i> 幸存,继续生存;幸存者,残存物
distinctive	[dɪsˈtɪŋktɪv]	<i>a</i> 特殊的,有特色的,区别性的
solely	[ˈsəʊli]	<i>ad</i> 惟一地,单独地
boost	[buːst]	<i>vt</i> 提高;推动;宣扬 <i>n</i> 提高,推动
neural	[ˈnjuərəl]	<i>a</i> 神经的,神经系统的
behavioural	[biˈheɪvjərəl]	<i>a</i> 行为的,动作的
lifespan	[ˈlaɪfspæn]	<i>n</i> (动植物的)寿命,预期使用期限

Passage 2

(Start ____ : ____)

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage.

The declining economy has created a large amount of applicants for the nation's schools of business, law, journalism, education and many other graduate programs as laid-off workers and college seniors are deciding to wait out the recession by developing their skills.

The trend is striking. Admission officers at Emory University business school say applications were up 80 percent at the end of the first round in the admissions cycle in December in comparison to the same period last season; those at U. C. L. A. report a 90 percent increase and those at the University of Chicago report a 100 percent jump. Yale University Law School says applications are up 57 percent at this point in the season compared to the same point last year while Vanderbilt says its applications are up 47 percent. Engineering and education schools talk of similar increases. The bars for

