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高中英语快速阅读

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西北工业大学出版社

高中级英语快速阅读

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1991年6月 西安

内容简介

本书汇集了英美国家人文、社会、经济、科技等方面的原文 75 篇。为配合快速阅读，每篇文章后均配有理解练习题和生词注释。本书又是一本集知识性、科学性、趣味性于一体的英文读物。

本书可供大学英语四、五、六级学生及研究生作快速阅读教材；也可供广大英语爱好者自学使用，对于参加 EPT，TOEFL 的考生也不无裨益。

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西北工业大学出版社出版发行

(西安市友谊西路 127 号)

陕西省新华书店经销

西北工业大学出版社印刷厂印装

ISBN 7-5612-0304-7/H·20

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开本 787×1092 毫米 1/32 10 印张 218 千字

1991 年 6 月第 1 版

1991 年 6 月第 1 次印刷

印数:1—3100 册

定价:4.20 元

前 言

我们的时代是高速运行的时代，每一个学习英语的人都希望自己能快速阅读，以满足现代人掌握大信息量的要求。国内外广泛运用的快速阅读（Fast Reading）是培养阅读技能、提高阅读水平的重要手段之一。为了适应教学要求，我们选编了这本快速阅读教材，旨在培养学生正确阅读习惯，提高学生的阅读能力和速度，在单位时间内快速获取所需信息的技能。

本书所有文章全部选自原文。选材注意了知识性、科学性、实用性和趣味性。每篇文章长度适当，约为 420 词，生词控制在 3% 左右，以培养学生根据上下文及构词法猜测词义的能力，超出的部分作了注释。本书每篇后均有两部分练习。第一部分为回忆文章事实（Recalling Facts）的练习；第二部分为理解文章（Understanding Ideas）的练习，以测试学生对文章的理解能力。全书共分三个单元，每一单元均为 25 篇文章。可供大学英语四、五、六级学生及研究生使用，也可供有一定英语基础的自学者使用。

本书编写过程中，西北工业大学外语系徐立基副教授对文章选材做了大量工作，王立宁副教授对本书提出了许多宝贵意见。西北工业大学外语系、研究生院培养处领导及大学英语教研室主任张庭季副教授均对本书的编写给予了大力支持，在此一并表示衷心感谢。

我们希望这本书能对读者学习英语有所裨益，它能被读者所接受，这是我们最大的心愿。但限于水平，书中不妥之处在所难免，谨请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1990年5月于西北工业大学

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Part I

(Selection 1—25)

1. Water, Water Everywhere

Most people know that water is unevenly distributed over the earth's surface in oceans, rivers, and lakes. Few realize, however, how very uneven the distribution actually is. It is important to think of the total amount of water on the planet Earth, the areas where the water occurs, and the long-term importance of the findings.

The oceans of the world cover 140 million square miles of the Earth's surface. The average depth of the ocean basins is about 12,500 feet. If the basins were shallow, seas would spread far onto the continents. Dry land areas would consist mainly of a few major island groups with high mountain ranges rising above the sea.

Considered as a continuous body of fluid, the atmosphere is another kind of ocean. Yet, in view of the total amount of rain and snow on land areas in the course of a year, one of the most amazing water facts is the very small amount of water in the atmosphere at any given time. The volume of the lower seven miles of the atmosphere—the realm of weather events—is roughly four times the volume of the world's oceans. But the atmosphere contains very little water. It is chiefly in the form of invisible vapor, some of which is carried over land by air currents. If all vapor suddenly fell from the air onto the earth's surface, it would form a layer only about one inch thick. A heavy rainstorm on a

given area may use up only a small percentage of the water from the air mass that passes over. How, then, can some land areas receive more than 400 inches of rain per year? How can several inches of rain fall during a single storm in a few minutes or hours? The answer is that rainyielding air masses are in motion, and as the drying air mass moves on, new moist air takes its place.

The basic source of most water vapor is the ocean. Evaporation, vapor transport, and precipitation made up a major arc of the hydrologic cycle—the continuous movement of water from ocean to atmosphere to land and back to the sea. Rivers return water to the sea along one chord of the arc. In an underground arc of the cycle, flowing bodies of water discharge some water directly into rivers and some directly to the sea.

1. realm n. 领域
2. precipitation n. 凝结
3. hydrological cycle 水的循环
4. chord n. 弦
5. arc n. 弧

Selection 1: Recalling Facts

1. What is the average depth of the ocean basins?
A. 5,500 feet
B. 12,500 feet

- C. 23,500 feet
2. How high into the atmosphere does weather occur?
 - A. 3 miles
 - B. 5 miles
 - C. 7 miles
 3. The atmosphere is described as a continuous body of
 - A. gases.
 - B. fluid.
 - C. particles.
 4. The basic source of atmospheric is
 - A. rivers.
 - B. lakes.
 - C. oceans.
 5. How much annual rainfall do some areas receive?
 - A. 60 inches
 - B. 250 inches
 - C. 400 inches

Selection 1: Understanding Ideas

6. This article is concerned primarily with
 - A. the atmosphere.
 - B. the ecology of oceans.
 - C. the hydrologic cycle.
7. According to the author, most people realize that
 - A. water is distributed unevenly on the earth.
 - B. precipitation never falls in some parts of the world.

- C. some lakes are deeper than oceans.
8. We may describe the author's style as
- A. factual and informative.
 - B. light-hearted and humorous.
 - C. instructive and helpful.
9. The process of water returning to the atmosphere is called
- A. condensation.
 - B. evaporation.
 - C. precipitation.
10. According to the author, a change in the ocean's depth would have an effect on
- A. the size and shape of dry land areas.
 - B. our water and food supplies.
 - C. the delicate balance of the hydrologic cycle.

2. Setting Up Shop

The key to starting a new business in the plastics industries is to create a product which can be produced and sold and to establish the technical ability to produce it. In some cases, the individual who enters the plastics business may, through his knowledge of another industry, have discovered how a new item can be made in plastics. He may be able to establish the existence of a market for his business. His next

step is to make sure that he can arrange to find the necessary technical ability to produce efficiently and economically.

The person proposing to start such a new business should have some ideas about what he wants to produce and where he can sell it. These ideas should stem from his own experience. It is unlikely that someone can enter the plastics business without previous background in the industry and establish a product line by trial and error afterwards. Moreover, no one would advance money on such a basis.

The starting point, therefore, would be an individual or a group of individuals who have some ideas, based on their own experience, about what they want to produce and to whom they propose to sell their production. The next step is to verify this market. A market survey should be made.

If the product is a new line, samples will be required and visits will have to be made to future customers to determine their reaction to the line and the price at which it can be sold. Prospective customers can give the market surveyor an idea of how many of the items they might expect to purchase at a given price.

If the proposed new business is to provide a variety of products to an existing industry, the market surveyor should canvass proposed accounts within the industry to develop some estimates of the total volume of business, its growth pattern, the competition, and the pricing arrangements. Here again, the information can be used to develop estimates of volume and revenues.

If the individuals proposing to start the new business do not have the technical ability, they should next arrange to acquire a production supervisor. An advertisement in the trade press might secure inquiries from someone who is presently a production supervisor or an assistant. To offer a partnership to such a person, particularly if he is well-experienced, will be a key to success in the business.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. stem (from) | vi. | 起源 |
| 2. prospective | a. | 未来的 |
| 3. surveyor | n. | 调查员 |
| 4. canvass | vt. | 讨论 |
| 5. revenues (pl.) | n. | 总收入 |
| 6. supervisor | n. | 管理人 |

Selection 2: Recalling Facts

1. It is unlikely that someone can enter the plastics business without
 - A. capital.
 - B. a license.
 - C. prior experience.
2. A product line in plastics can be established through
 - A. careful planning.
 - B. trial and error.
 - C. purposeful reading.
3. To verify a potential market, a person should