

上海交通大学

潘晓燕 主编



新编大学英语

4级阅读180篇

180

TOPWAY

180 PASSAGES
TO DEVELOP
READING
COMPREHENSION



世界图书出版公司

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TOPWAY

主 编: 潘晓燕

副主编: 汪 欢 赵学延

编 者: 潘晓燕 汪 欢 赵学延 沈亚丽

张雪珍 王 星 贾 婷 薛 梅



世界图书出版公司

广州·上海·西安·北京

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新编大学英语 4 级阅读 180 篇/潘晓燕主编. —广州:广东世界图书出版公司,2002.8

ISBN 7-5062-5606-1

I. 新… II. 潘… III. 英语—阅读教学—高等学校—水平考试—自学参考资料 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 062853 号

新编大学英语 4 级阅读 180 篇

出版发行: 广东世界图书出版公司

(广州市新港西路大江冲 25 号 邮编: 510300)

电 话: 020 - 84451969 84453623

经 销: 各地新华书店

印 刷: 江门市棠下中学印刷厂 邮编: 529085

版 次: 2003 年 2 月第 2 版

2003 年 9 月第 3 次印刷

开 本: 850×1168 32 开本

印 张: 12

印 数: 26001~33000 册

ISBN 7 - 5062 - 5606 - 1/H · 0343

出版社注册号: 粤 014

定 价: 12.00 元

如发现因印装质量问题影响阅读,请与承印厂联系调换

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前 言

全国大学英语四、六级考试自1989年设立以来,日益成为衡量大学毕业生英语水平的一个主要标准。提高英语阅读能力则是通过四、六级考试并提高综合英语水平的突破口。

设在上海交通大学的全国大学英语四、六级考试中心历年来在推动全国高校英语教学、普遍提高高校学生英语水平方面做出了巨大贡献。上海交通大学同时又是全国大学英语四、六级阅卷中心之一。

《新编大学英语4级阅读180篇》的编者不仅工作在上海交通大学外国语学院教学第一线,而且具有多年阅卷经验,对于命题思想、考生误区等有较深入的了解。《新编大学英语4级阅读180篇》旨在帮助读者在尽可能短的时间内掌握最核心的阅读技巧,迅速提高阅读能力,轻松通过大学英语四级考试。

本书结构科学地分为举一反三、考点突破、难点突破、极限难度、强化阅读五大板块:

第一篇《标准阅读20篇与举一反三》采用一题7问式强化解决方案,前5问严格按照四级考试各类考点与难点比例出题,第6、7问从不同的角度启发读者对文章的要点及难点进行思考,从而提高读者的应试能力。

第二篇《标准阅读20篇与考点突破》(7问)第6、7问重点考察读者对《大纲》规定的考点类型的适应能力,使读者能够清楚地把握住四级考试的大方向。

第三篇《提高难度阅读20篇与难点突破》(7问)在语言及题目的难度方面均略高于标准难度,其中6、7问重点考察读者对出题手段及难点设置的洞察能力,使读者由浅到深地逐步提高自己的阅读水平。

第四篇《极限难度阅读20篇》(5问)在语言、生词量及题目的难度方均有较大提高,读者只要运用正确的阅读技巧也可以推断出正确的答案,旨在考察读者的综合阅读能力。

第五篇《强化阅读100篇》(5问)旨在让学有余力的读者,经过前四篇系统学习后,做强化训练使用。

本书选材新颖、内容广泛、体裁多样,具有极强的可读性,并且每篇文章后附(1)词汇注释(2)答案解析,既可作为强化训练教材,又可供备考者自学自测使用。

如果不能成为一盏指路的明灯,本书编者愿在广大读者成功之路上作一块铺路石。不周之处,欢迎指正。

编 者

2002年10月

于上海交通大学

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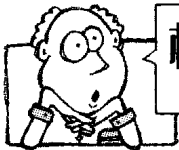
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标准阅读 20 篇与 举一反三

Passage

1

Because helicopters¹ can go almost anywhere, they have been especially useful to explorers. In the jungles of South America they have helped explorers looking for new places to sink oil wells². First of all the helicopters lift the geologists³ and mineralogists⁴ into the heart of jungle, trying first one area and then another, and when they find a place that seems likely to yield oil, the helicopters *can bring in* drilling equipment. They can bring in huts in pieces, and very nearly everything that may be needed. If a telephone is needed from the jungle outpost⁵ back to the main base, then the wires themselves can be laid across the jungle treetops. All the helicopter has to do is to fly close over the trees unreeling⁶ the cable from a big drum as it goes.

It is very comforting for explorers in such places to know that if they are injured or fall ill, they can be flown back to hospital in a few hours. Only twenty years ago a sick man prospecting⁷ in the heart of the jungle might have faced a journey of several weeks, traveling part of the way on a bumping stretcher carried by natives, and part of the way in a slow-moving canoe.

Big helicopters can lift loads up to about ten tons. As they can go everywhere and can hover over any chosen spot, these helicopters make excellent flying cranes. Before the days of helicopters, the task of building a radio station on top of a high mountain might have meant building a road or a cable railway first. But a helicopter can carry all the building materials and the workmen up into position quite easily.

Putting a new top on a high structure like a lighthouse used to mean that a scaffolding⁸ even higher than the lighthouse had to be built first of all. Now a helicopter can be used to fly over and lower the part gently into position. A helicopter has been used to lower a new cross on to the spire⁹ of a church in the same way.

Helicopters have saved thousands of people from the sea and they have saved people from mountaintops. They are already doing all kinds of useful things but their story has hardly begun. (379ws)

1. The helicopter now can help us do many things; which of the following is not mentioned by the author?

A. It can help people build new bridges.



- B. It can save people from mountaintops.
 C. It can lower a new cross onto the spire of a church.
 D. It can put a new top on a high building.
2. What does "they" (Para. 1, Line 4) refer to?
 A. Helicopters. B. Explorers. C. Jungles. D. Oil wells.
3. The word "make" in which of the following sentences is close in meaning to "make" in Para. 3, Line 2?
 A. Milk bottle tops are made of tin foil.
 B. Cruelty and injustice often make our blood boil.
 C. The train makes 10 miles an hour.
 D. If you work hard, you will make a good sailor.
4. What does the word "prospect" (Para. 2, Line 2) mean?
 A. Persist. B. Expect. C. Explore. D. Perceive.
5. What does the author mean by saying that "...but their story has hardly begun"? (Para. 5, Line 2)
 A. They are helping us in all fields.
 B. They will be replaced soon.
 C. They will do more useful things in the future.
 D. They will be upgraded to help us better.

举一反三



6. What can we infer from the second paragraph?
 A. Nowadays, it is more comfortable for explorers to live in the heart of a jungle.
 B. Nowadays, with the help of helicopters, a sick explorer will be treated quickly.
 C. Nowadays, helicopters can lift loads to explorers in a jungle.
 D. Nowadays, helicopters can help explorers build huts in a jungle.
7. Which of the following may serve as the best title for this passage?
 A. Helicopter: A Flying Crane B. Helicopter: Rescuing People
 C. Helicopter: A Helper to Explorers D. Helicopter: An Efficient Helper

(一) 词汇注释

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. helicopter <i>n.</i> 直升(飞)机 | 2. well <i>n.</i> 井 |
| 3. geologist <i>n.</i> 地质学者 | 4. mineralogist <i>n.</i> 矿物学者 |
| 5. outpost <i>n.</i> 前哨, 边区村落 | 6. unreel <i>vt.</i> 解开 |
| 7. prospect <i>vi.</i> 寻找, 勘探 | 8. scaffolding <i>n.</i> 脚手架 |
| 9. spire <i>n.</i> 尖顶 | |

(二) 答案解析

1. [A]事实细节题。此题可用排除法。B可参见第五段第一句话, C可参见第四段第三



句话, D 可参见第四段第二句话。

2. [B]事实细节题。仔细阅读这句话, 首先, 直升飞机把地质学者和矿物学者送到丛林的中心地带, 测试一个又一个地方, 当他们找到一个可能产石油的地方后, 直升飞机就把钻井设备送进来。所以这句话中的 they 指代的是 the geologists and mineralogists, 概括为 explorers。
3. [D]语义题。make 在第三段中的意思是“成为”, 所以选项 D 的意思(如果你肯努力, 你将成为一个好水手)和文章中的意思最为接近。
4. [C]语义题。prospect 的意思是“寻找”、“勘探”, 所以选项 C 的意思和它最为接近。
5. [C]判断推理题。在最后一段中, 作者说它们已经在做各种有用的工作, 但是它们的故事还刚刚开始。故作者的意思是将来它们会有更多的用处。
6. [B]判断推理题。第二段的主要意思是现在如果一个在丛林的中心地带勘探的人生了病, 直升飞机会马上把他送到医院去, 而以前他可能要经过几个星期的艰难旅程, 才能得到治疗。
7. [D]主旨大意题。本文的中心思想是: 直升飞机能够到几乎任何一个地方去, 它们已经帮助人们做了各种有用的工作, 将来它们会有更多的用处。



2

Insurance companies provide a service to the community by protecting it against expected and unexpected disasters. Before an insurance company will agree to insure anything, it collects accurate figures about the risk. It knows, for example, that the risk of a man being killed in a plane accident is less than the risk he takes in crossing a busy road. This enables it to quote¹ low figures for travel insurance. Sometimes the risk may be high, as in motor-racing or mountaineering. Then the company charges a much higher price. If too many climbers have accidents, the price rises till further. If the majority of climbers fall off mountains, the company will refuse to insure them.

An ordinary householder may wish to protect his home against fire or his property against burglary². A Shopkeeper may wish to insure against theft³. In normal cases, the company will check its statistics and quote a premium⁴. If it is suspicious, it may refuse to quote. If it insures a shop and then receives a suspicious claim, it will investigate the claim as a means of protecting itself against false claims. It is not unknown for a businessman in debt to burn down his own premises so that he can claim much money from his insurance company. He can be sure that the fire will be investigated most carefully. Insurance companies also accept insurance against shipwreck or disaster in the air. Planes and ships are very expensive, so a large premium is charged, but a reduction is given to companies with an accident-free record.

Every week, insurance companies receive premium payments from customers. These payments can form a very large total running into millions of dollars. The



company does not leave the money in the bank. It invests in property, shares, farms and even antique paintings and stamps. Its aim is to obtain the best possible return on its investment. This is not as greedy as it may seem, since this is one way by which it can keep its premiums down and continue to make a profit while being of service to the community. (350ws)

1. The main idea of the first paragraph is that _____.
 - A. insurance companies protect the community against disasters
 - B. insurance companies often collect accurate figures about the risk
 - C. insurance companies base their decisions on the risk involved
 - D. insurance companies charge different prices in different cases
2. The insurance company usually will investigate a suspicious claim to _____.
 - A. refuse to quote the insurance fee
 - B. make sure that the claim is justifiable
 - C. decide how much the company should pay
 - D. find out how the accident happened as a routine
3. The word "premise" in Paragraph 2 most probably means "_____".
 - A. land and buildings
 - B. insurance policy
 - C. debt receipt
 - D. financial charges
4. The author's attitude towards customers' premium payments being used by insurance companies is _____.
 - A. critical
 - B. doubtful
 - C. neutral
 - D. positive
5. The purpose of this passage is to _____.
 - A. explain how insurance companies operate
 - B. encourage people to invest in insurance companies
 - C. persuade people to insure against unexpected disasters
 - D. advise people how to insure their life and property

举一反三



6. Why do insurance companies charge a large premium for disasters in the air?
 - A. Because it is more dangerous to travel by air.
 - B. Because there are more people killed in air crashes.
 - C. Because airplanes themselves are very expensive.
 - D. Because traveling by air is much more expensive.
7. What do insurance companies do with customers' premium payments?
 - A. They deposit the money in the bank.
 - B. They buy antique painting and stamps for customers.
 - C. They make investments so as to provide better services.
 - D. They share the money with the community.



(一) 词汇注释

1. quote *v.* 报(价), 引用, 引证, 提供, 提出
2. burglary *n.* 盗窃, 入室盗窃
3. theft *n.* 偷, 行窃, 偷窃的事例, 偷窃行为
4. premium *n.* 保险费, 额外费用, 奖金, 奖赏

(二) 答案解析

1. [C]主旨大意题。根据文章第一段可知 C 为正确答案, 其他几项均在文中提到, 但不是全段的大意, 故选答案 C。
2. [B]判断推理题。根据文章第二段 If it is suspicious, it may refuse to quote. If it insures a shop and then receives a suspicious claim, it will investigate the claim as a means of protecting itself against false claims. 可推断出目的是为了保证索赔是合理的, 从而避免错误的赔偿, 因此选答案 B。
3. [A]语义题。premise 意为“房屋及其周围的房基地”, 根据常识也可推断有些商人想烧毁房子从而获得赔偿, 故选答案 A。
4. [D]观点态度题。根据全文及文章最后一句可知作者对保险公司利用客户的保险金从而提供更好的服务是持肯定态度的。故选答案 D。
5. [A]主旨大意题。综观全文可知本文是介绍保险公司如何操作的, 答案 A 符合此意。
6. [C]事实细节题。根据文章第二段 Planes and ships are very expensive, so a large premium is charged 可知答案 C 符合题意。
7. [C]事实细节题。根据文章第三段 This is not as greedy as it may seem, since this is one way by which it can keep its premiums down and continue to make a profit while being of service to the community. 可知答案 C 符合题意。



3

U.S. college students are increasingly burdened with credit card debt, according to a study released Tuesday, and the consequences can be serious—ranging from higher drop-out rates, to future employment problems and even suicide. The study, by Georgetown University sociologist¹ Robert Manning, blamed credit card issuers for actively targeting students and colleges for allowing them to do so, sometimes in return for a cut of the profits. “The unrestricted marketing of credit cards on college campuses is so aggressive that it now poses a greater threat than alcohol or sexually transmitted diseases,” Manning told a news conference in Washington. “If we don not swiftly address² this pernicious³ problem, the coats will continue to escalate⁴, with social consequences far more tragic than mere dollars and cents.”

Based on hundreds of face-to-face interviews and surveys with students, Manning concluded both the number with credit card debt and their indebtedness⁵



had been “systematically underreported” in previous studies—which failed to reflect the “survival strategies” many used to cope with their debts. These included the use of federal student loans to pay off credit cards, effectively shifting the debt, appeals to parents for loans, cutting back on course work to increase time at paid jobs, or even dropping out altogether to work full time.

“Official drop-out rates include growing numbers of students who are unable to cope with the stress of their debts and/or part time jobs for servicing their credit cards,” the study said. “Student credit card debts are increasingly scrutinized⁶ during the recruitment process and may be an important factor in evaluating prospective⁷ employees,” it noted. O'Donnell and Manning agreed students should bear some responsibility for reckless use of credit, but said credit card companies also had to be held accountable⁸ for making it so easy for them to get into debt over their heads. Manning said one of the most disturbing aspects of the student credit card issue was “the seduction⁹ of college and university administrators by the credit card industry.” (331ws)

1. Socialist Robert Manning's study shows that _____.
 - A. the number of American college students using credit cards on campus is increasing
 - B. more and more American college students with credit cards overdraw their accounts
 - C. more and more American colleges encourage students to use credit cards to make profits
 - D. credit card issuers will run into debt for encouraging college students to use credit cards
2. What does Manning think of previous studies of the student credit card issue?
 - A. They didn't employ effective means to get useful first-hand data.
 - B. They failed to reveal the real dimensions of the problem.
 - C. They failed to put forward any solutions to this problem.
 - D. They didn't go to depth to find the root cause of the problem.
3. The author's feeling towards those college students with credit card debts is _____.
 - A. discouraged and pessimistic
 - B. sympathetic and critical
 - C. indifferent and disapproving
 - D. negative and doubtful
4. The author implies all of the following should be accountable for this problem EXCEPT _____.
 - A. credit card issuers
 - B. college authorities
 - C. parents of the students
 - D. students themselves
5. The word “reckless” in Paragraph 3 can be best replace by “_____”.
 - A. inconsiderate
 - B. frequent
 - C. crude
 - D. regular



举一反三



6. Which of the following is NOT true of the credit card problem?
- A. Students with credit card debts must find part-time jobs to service their debts.
B. The social consequences of credit card debts can be tragic.
C. Those students with credit card debts are likely to have other problems too.
D. Employers care more and more about credit card debts of potential employees.
7. Which may serve as the best title for this passage?
- A. Misuse of Credit Cards by College Students
B. Credit Cards Go Too Far
C. Credit Cards Are Against College Students
D. Students Troubled by Credit Card Debts

(一) 词汇注释

1. sociologist *n.* 社会学家, 社会学者 2. address *v.* 对付, 处理
3. pernicious *a.* 有害的
4. escalate *v.* 逐步升高, 逐步增强, 使逐步上升
5. indebtedness *n.* 受恩惠, 亏欠, 债务 6. scrutinize *v.* 细察; 细阅; 仔细审查
7. prospective *a.* 将来的, 未来的; 盼望中的; 预期的; 有希望的
8. accountable *a.* 应负责的, 有责任的, 可解释的
9. seduction *n.* 诱惑; 勾引; 诱奸; 吸引力; 诱惑力

(二) 答案解析

1. [B]事实细节题。根据文章第一段 U.S. college students are increasingly burdened with credit card debt, according to a study released Tuesday 可知许多美国大学生背上了透支信用卡的包袱。选项 B 符合此意。
2. [B]判断推理题。根据文章第二段可得知 B 为正确答案。
3. [B]观点态度题。根据全文可知作者对透支信用卡的学生是既同情他们的这种遭遇, 又批评他们这种行为太过于轻率, 选项 B 符合此意。
4. [C]事实细节题。根据文章第三段 students should bear some responsibility for reckless use of credit... credit card companies also had to be held accountable for making it so easy for them to get into debt over their heads ...one of the most disturbing aspects of the student credit card issue was "the seduction of college and university administrators by the credit card industry." 可知选项 C 符合题意。
5. [A]语义题。reckless 意为“轻率的”、“鲁莽的”; 根据上下文也可猜到此意, 选项 A 与此意最接近。
6. [A]事实细节题。根据文章第三段及句子 Official drop-out rates include growing numbers of students who are unable to cope with the stress of their debts and/or part time jobs for servicing their credit cards. 可知选项 A 符合题意。



7. [D]主旨大意题。通读全文可知本文主要是讲美国大学生如何被信用卡透支所折磨和困扰,选项 D 符合此意。

Passage 4

An Israeli inventor has developed a revolutionary system of robot controlled farming, which he believes could change the fame of modern agriculture.

The system, called Grow-Tech2000, grows vegetables and other crops inside standard metal shipping containers¹ using hydroponics², in which water replaces soil as the bed for the roots of the plant. Each unit operates under a robotic system, which controls everything from planting the seeds to watering the crop, and to harvesting the roped foodstuff³.

Because the containers are sealed and controlled, there is no need for pesticides⁴ or any potentially harmful chemicals. The food crops are sterile⁵ and can be completely organic. Inside each unit, the atmosphere, humidity, light, heat and water are carefully controlled by the robots, which move the crops around on a large frame, where they can be fertilized, transplanted and harvested more efficiently. All that is needed is a power source.

The demand for food in industrialized countries is growing and the area for growing it is decreasing, while labor costs are rising. So, these machines will be sold in places where there are difficult weather conditions, high labor costs and rising demand for food.

In future, the same technology could be applied to develop machines to help other agricultural problems in areas such as Africa where food supplies are scarce. Shipping containers are cheap, which can be moved around easily and can be piled on top of each other to create a farm yielding⁶ very high amounts using only a limited area and very little labor.

Because the system is sealed⁷ and needs no chemicals, it is environmentally friendly. It uses a minimum supply of water and produces oxygen instead of toxic⁸ gases, which are the by-product of pesticides.

The invention will provide a way of meeting the rapidly growing demand for organic products at a time when traditional agriculture is declining swiftly. (308ws)

1. Which is the most critical factor for the new farming system?
A. Atmosphere, light, and water. B. Computerized robot.
C. A power source. D. Fertilizer.
2. Why is the new invention expected to apply in Africa?
A. There is a serious shortage of food.
B. There is not enough labor for planting.
C. There is a cheap transportation.



- D. There is limited area for planting.
3. Which is NOT the advantage of Grow-Tech 2000?
- A. Good adaptation to bad weather condition.
B. Lower labor cost.
C. High yield on a limited area.
D. Stimulus of crops' growing speed.
4. Why is this new technology environment friendly?
- A. It needs no fertilizer. B. It saves labor cost.
C. It causes less pollution. D. It uses less water.
5. What's the author's attitude towards the application of this new invention?
- A. Pessimistic. B. Optimistic. C. Neutral. D. Indifferent.

举一反三



6. Which is the best title of this passage?
- A. A Revolutionary Invention—Grow-Tech 2000
B. An Important Way to Meet Starvation Problem
C. Swift Declining of Traditional Agriculture
D. Robot-controlled Farming in the Future
7. What's the main idea of the passage?
- A. The new invention can compensate the shortcoming of traditional agriculture.
B. The new invention can satisfy the growing demands of modern food problems.
C. The new invention can help to solve the agricultural problems in Africa.
D. The new invention can greatly improve the yield of crop.

(一) 词汇注释

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. container <i>n.</i> 容器;集装箱 | 2. hydroponics <i>n.</i> 水床培植法 |
| 3. foodstuff <i>n.</i> 食物,食品原料 | 4. pesticide <i>n.</i> 杀虫剂,农药 |
| 5. sterile <i>a.</i> 无菌的 | 6. yield <i>v.</i> 生产 |
| 7. seal <i>v.</i> (密)封 | 8. toxic <i>a.</i> 有毒的 |

(二) 答案解析

1. [C]事实细节题。从第三段最后一句话(All that is needed is a power source.)中可得到答案。
2. [A]事实细节题。本题可用排除法,答案可在第五段中找到。
3. [D]事实细节题。根据第四段的最后一句话可推断出正确答案。
4. [C]判断推理题。可从第六段推断出正确答案。
5. [B]判断推理题。综合全文并参照全文最后一句话,可知作者的态度应为积极的。
6. [A]主旨大意题。B、C、D 都不够准确,都只提到了某一方面而不能概括全文的内容。
7. [B]主旨大意题。从全文整体来看,尤其是最后一句话,可以断定 B 是正确答案。



Passage

5

Between 1815 and 1914, the world witnessed the greatest peaceful migration in its history: 35 million people, mostly Europeans, left their homelands to start new lives in America. Why did these people risk everything by leaving their homes and families to see what the New World had to offer? There are both push and pull factors which we should consider.

First, what forced emigrants¹ to make the decision to leave? One major cause of the exodus² among European peasants was the rise in population, which in turn led to land hunger. Another was politics. Nationalism saw increased taxation and the growth of armies, and many young men fled Europe to avoid being conscripted³. Also, the failure of the liberal revolutions in Europe caused the departure of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Physical hunger provided another pressing reason. Between 1845 and 1848, the terrible potato famine in Ireland ended in the deaths of one million Irish people and emigration of a further million who wished to escape starvation. Religion also encouraged million to leave the Old World.

In short, people chose to leave their homes for social, economic and religious reasons. As a result, by 1890 among a total population of 63 million, there were more than nine million foreign-born Americans.

But what were the attractions? First of all, there was the promise of land which was so scarce in Europe. Next, factories were calling out for labor, and pay and conditions were much better than back home. Men were needed to open up the West and build the long-railroads, and settlers were needed to populate⁴ new towns and develop commerce. There was the space for religious communities to practice their faith in peace and comparative isolation.

As we know, there were losers. To start with, there were those unwilling immigrants, the slaves who had been used as a source of cheap labor for the tobacco plantations⁵ of the South. Nor should we forget the equally awful fate of the American Indians. By 1860 there were 27 million free whites, four million slaves and a mere 488,000 free blacks. (349ws)

1. What does "exodus" most probably mean in Para. 2?

- A. Living a poor life in remote villages.
- B. Leaving the motherland in great numbers.
- C. Increasing the population in homeland.
- D. Remaining peasants in Europe.

2. What does "being conscripted"(Para. 2) mean according to the context?

- A. Being forced to leave home.
- B. Being involved in liberal revolution.