

能力·训练·提高
英语系列丛书(一)
阅读理解练习
100篇

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说 明

本书旨在培养学生正确的阅读习惯,提高学生的阅读能力与速度。

全书共有 100 篇练习,前 10 篇练习对学生进行一定的阅读技巧的训练;后 90 篇练习为短文,篇幅跨度为 100—400 左右词汇,包含一定的学生可猜出的生词。本书可供教师课堂使用,也可作为课外练习。每篇文章后面有词汇数,以便于教师与学生本人掌握与提高阅读速度。每次练习后学生应及时记录阅读短文与回答问题分别占用的时间,供日后进行自我评估。

编 者

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Passage 1

The best way to improve your reading ability is, of course, to read. The student must make a real effort to improve his speed, and if necessary his comprehension(理解), with each exercise. Too many students read passages passively and without judgement: they simply start at the first word and read through to the end. You should read a passage actively, selectively and purposely (有目的地). You must believe that you indeed have the ability to read faster and understand more, and that you will

Reading, like everything else in life, is best done when you're relaxed. The key to improve it is concentration (集中). You must be willing to break some old habits and form new ones. Extra body movement, such as turning the head from side to side, pointing at the line with a finger or pencil, or moving the lips, should be stopped immediately. Reading is mostly a mental process (过程) and body movement helps neither speed nor comprehension. Then you should see words as part of a whole sentence or paragraph, not just in isolation. This is why a slow, word-by-word student often understands far less, or miss much of the joy and excitement of reading.

The student must learn to improve reading skills on their own, and not just when a teacher is looking over his shoulder. Reading improvement takes discipline and effort. Don't give up.

- () 1. The best title for this passage is _____.
- A. Reading Faster B. Understanding Better
- C. How to Improve Your Reading D. Don't Give Up
- () 2. The phrase "in isolation" in the second paragraph probably means _____.
- A. in a word B. separately
- C. one word D. slowly
- () 3. You may conclude that whether you can improve your reading depends on _____.
- A. your attitude (态度) B. your good habits of reading
- C. discipline D. all of the above
- () 4. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
- A. When reading, you'd better point at the line with a pencil.
- B. When reading, you should turn your head from side to side.

- C. When reading, you should pay attention to the basic unit of meaning, that is, a phrase or a sentence that contains an idea.
- D. Body movement will help you to improve reading.
- () 5. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT true?
- A. Reading skills must be practised not only within the classroom but also at home.
- B. You should recognize that noticeable improvement in reading will not happen overnight.
- C. You can do best work when you're relaxed.
- D. It doesn't matter moving your lips when you read.

Passage 2

There are many words in the English language. You will never know the meaning of every word in English. When you read, you will often find many words that you do not know. You will not have enough time to stop reading and try to find every new word in a dictionary.

Sometimes you can guess a new word because you know some of the parts of the new word. For example, if a word ends in the letters -er, that word might be the name for a person or thing that does a certain action. A writer is a person who writes. Sometimes it is not enough to know the parts of a new word to understand it, but it will help you many times.

Read the following sentences very carefully and try to guess the meaning of each underlined word.

- () 1. They chose an unfrequented spot to put up the tent.
A. 不吵闹的 B. 不潮湿的 C. 不常去的 D. 不平坦的
- () 2. The disobedient students were forced to leave school.
A. 淘气的 B. 学习差的 C. 不听话的 D. 不做作业的
- () 3. I need to open the can of beans. Where is the can opener?
A. 开门人 B. 开罐器 C. 开关 D. 更开放的
- () 4. The box of chocolates was irresistible.
A. 不抵制 B. 无压力的 C. 极为诱人的 D. 无高压的
- () 5. Won't you reconsider your decision to leave the club?
A. 考虑一下 B. 再考虑 C. 认为 D. 重新认为

- () 6. The visitor gave us a lengthy talk.
A. 没意思的 B. 重要的 C. 很短的 D. 冗长的
- () 7. They are marching courageously forward in the teeth of difficulties.
A. 匆忙地 B. 勇敢地 C. 镇定地 D. 坚决地
- () 8. What characterizes the current world situation is the danger of war.
A. 特点 B. 性格 C. 人物 D. 显示...的特点
- () 9. I heard the news indirectly.
A. 直接 B. 间接 C. 直通 D. 时间不长
- () 10. He has everything he wants; he's an enviable young man.
A. 看不见的 B. 有本事的 C. 能钻营的 D. 值得羡慕的

Passage 3

When you read English, you will sometimes find a word that you do not know. If you do not know a word, what should you do? You might stop reading in order to look up every new word in your dictionary, but that will take a lot of your time.

Another quick, excellent method of finding the meaning of a new word is by using the context. The context means the other words around your new word.

Example, do you know the word "knob"? Read this sentence and then you may have guessed the meaning.

Please turn the knob on the left until you find an FM station that plays good music.

The important words in this example are "turn, on the left, FM, and music". Now you should know that a knob is the part of the radio that you turn to find a station.

Read the following sentences carefully and find the meaning of each underlined word by using the context.

- () 1. After Mrs. Brown put the letter in the envelope, she sealed it and put a stamp on it.
A. open B. closed C. sent D. put
- () 2. I forgot to put the bread back in the bag, and now it is stale.
A. white B. soft C. hard D. nice
- () 3. Her real name is Margaret, but everyone calls her Margie. Margie is her nick-name.
A. short name B. full name C. first name D. last name
- () 4. This kind of flower thrives in this area because the weather is warm, the soil is

excellent, and there is a lot of rain.

- A. grows well B. makes a few flowers
C. doesn't grow D. dies

() 5. The capital of that country was Antigua, but later it was moved to Guatemala City. Today Guatemala City is the permanent capital.

- A. most important B. very big
C. very famous D. lasting for a long time or for ever

() 6. I like the colour of this shirt, but I do not like the way the fabric feels.

- A. material B. price C. color D. pattern

() 7. John dreads his final history test tomorrow. He knows that it will be extremely difficult.

- A. knows he will pass B. reads
C. knows the answer of D. is afraid of

() 8. Everyone agreed that the woman in the photo was gorgeous. It was easy to see why she had won the beauty contest.

- A. angry B. beautiful C. ugly D. careful

() 9. Today was a very hectic day for me. I woke up late, hurried to the office, worked until four, went to the store, cooked dinner, and washed clothes. I'm certainly very tired.

- A. lucky B. unlucky C. interesting D. busy

() 10. John gave his sister a pair of large green and black shoes for her birthday. It was really an odd present.

- A. expensive B. strange C. nice D. good

Passage 4

In order to do reading exercises very quickly and very accurately (精确), you must be able to find an answer for a question rapidly. If you read the paragraph very carefully, you can find the answer easily. However, you need to learn to find the correct answer as quickly as you can. It is very important to be both correct and fast.

Questions for reading exercises often ask the same kinds of questions. These questions often ask who, what, when, where, why, which or how. You must know what kind of information each question is asking for.

For practice, read each question word and then circle the letter of the correct answer.

- () 1. **What...?**
 A. in 1835 B. a new car
 C. the day after tomorrow D. with great speed
- () 2. **Why...?**
 A. last week B. for some ice
 C. very carefully D. my mother tongue
- () 3. **Which...?**
 A. at seven o'clock B. the fourth
 C. all over the world D. on the first floor
- () 4. **Where...?**
 A. New York B. Greek
 C. French D. Canadian
- () 5. **How...?**
 A. \$ 1000 B. with the help of others
 C. a sharp knife D. careless
- () 6. **How much...?**
 A. in fifteen minutes B. £ 3,500
 C. five metres long D. the population of the country
- () 7. **When...?**
 A. all over the table B. in the southern area
 C. ten days before the test D. once a month
- () 8. **How soon...?**
 A. in several weeks B. on Monday morning
 C. after that D. shortly after his death
- () 9. **Who...?**
 A. a cooker B. a poster C. a savage D. a tanker
- () 10. **How hot...?**
 A. slight hot B. terribly hot C. a few hot D. much hot

Passage 5

Understanding a given sentence is often the key to understanding an entire paragraph. For this reason, sentence study is an important reading skill to master. In the following exercise, you will learn how to find the details in the sentences by answering ques-

tions about them and how to form conclusions about them.

- () 1. You must fill out the second and third questions, but you should leave the first question out.
How many questions do you have to answer?
A. Zero. B. One. ☒ C. Two. D. Three.
- () 2. Tom and Mike asked Paul to play basketball, but he was too tired.
Who probably did not play?
A. Tom. B. Mike. C. Paul. D. Mike and Paul.
- () 3. The answers to the questions which were in part 4 of the first English test that we had were quite easy for most of the students.
How many parts did the test have?
A. First. B. ~~Only~~ four. ☒
C. At least four. D. Probably more than four.
- () 4. There are a dozen books on the reading list for the students in that English class, but a student does not have to read more than half.
How many books might a student have to read?
A. 6. B. 7. C. 11. D. 12.
- () 5. Mr Smith was offered a flight on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday but turned down the first two because of previously scheduled (预先安排好的) appointments and the weekend as well.
When did he probably fly somewhere?
A. Monday. B. Wednesday. C. Friday. D. Saturday.
- () 6. The doctor gave my sister some medicine, but it didn't change her condition.
A. My sister didn't like the medicine.
B. My sister took the medicine.
C. The medicine made my sister sick.
D. The medicine changed her condition.
- () 7. When I tried to mail my letter to Japan today, I didn't have enough money because I didn't know the post office changed the price of a stamp.
A. It is impossible to mail a letter to Japan.
B. I don't know where I lost my money.
C. The price of postage went up.
D. The post office was closed today.
- () 8. Mr and Mrs Brown's son makes good grades, but Mr and Mrs Smith's don't.
A. The Browns have more than one son.
B. The Smiths have more than one son.
C. The Smiths' son is more handsome.

- D. Mrs Brown is a good teacher.
- () 9. The TV set costs about two hundred dollars more than I have at present; in fact, I must be crazy (疯) to agree to pay six hundred dollars for one TV set.
- A. My present TV does not work well.
 B. I'm buying a TV set as a present.
 C. The TV set costs four hundred dollars.
 D. I have to get two hundred more dollars.
- () 10. The painting on the right wall is of a forest in which there are several small, colorful birds in the greenish background; however, the painting on the left wall is of a modern city in which you can see many tall buildings against a colourless sky.
- A. The sky in the forest painting is very colourful.
 B. The city painting lacks a lot of colour.
 C. The birds in the forest painting are green.
 D. The city painting is on the right wall.

Passage 6

In this exercise, you'll read some more sentences and form a conclusion about each sentence. Pay special attention to the tough ones.

- () 1. Tom arrived at seven o'clock, which was fifteen minutes after the film had begun. He has been there for an hour now.
- What time is it now?
- A. 7 B. 7:15 C. 6:45 D. 8
- () 2. So although the weather was very changeable and in some cases caused us serious inconvenience (不便), on the whole our holiday, which we had planned in great detail several months before, turned out to be satisfactory.
- What turned out to be satisfactory?
- A. The weather. B. We. C. Our holiday. D. On the whole.
- () 3. It must not be forgotten that the willingness with which a person will move from the house where he has lived all his life and settle in an old people's home is an important factor (因素) in planning for the aged.
- What is an important factor in planning for the aged?
- A. The willingness. B. A person.

C. The old people.

D. The aged.

- () 4. The film she told me about and advised me to see when we met the other week at---I think---Celia's party turned out to be very dull.
What turned out to be very dull?
A. Celia's party. B. The film.
C. She and her party. D. The other week.
- () 5. Most of the cars that Beth likes, such as the Mercedes-Benz and the Rolls Royce, are unbelievably expensive, and they are difficult to repair as well.
What kind of car does Beth have?
A. A Mercedes-Benz. B. A Rolls Royce.
C. One that is difficult to repair. D. We don't know.
- () 6. So far we have completed fewer than half of the twenty lessons in the same reading book that their class has almost finished.
A. We have done ten lessons of the book.
B. The book has about ten lessons in it.
C. The other class has done more than half.
D. Fewer than half of the lessons are the same.
- () 7. Dan talks a great deal about moving from his present home in Houston to a smaller town; however, that is the same thing he has been saying since he moved there six years ago.
A. He is still living in Houston.
B. He wants to leave his small town.
C. He has been in a small town for six years.
D. He moved to Houston after living in a small town.
- () 8. The blue book, which discusses politics, costs twenty-two dollars, but the red book, which also discusses politics, costs less than half as much.
A. The four books cost about thirty-three dollars.
B. The red book is less expensive than the blue one.
C. Each blue book costs exactly eleven dollars.
D. Each red book costs exactly eleven dollars.
- () 9. President Mack was first elected in 1940 and then reelected five years later; however, his term in office ended when he suddenly died with a year still remaining as president.
A. He died in 1944. B. He died in 1946.
C. He died in 1949. D. He died in 1951.
- () 10. Mr. Brown bought chicken for dinner because beef was too expensive, pork too fatty, and turkey too difficult to cook.
A. Chicken was cheaper than turkey.

- B. He thinks beef costs too much.
- C. Turkey will make you get fat.
- D. He does not know how to cook pork.

Passage 7

Idioms---in which prepositions are frequently concerned---are peculiarities (特性) of language whose "rightness" or "wrongness" is based on usage, not on logic or etymology (词源). Foreigners often have trouble with idioms like "hard up", which is an English idiom meaning to lack money.

Read the following dialogues quickly and discover the hidden meaning of each idiom.

- () 1. Half a loaf (黑面包) is better than none.

Sam: Did you get a part in the new play?

John: Well, I tried out for the biggest part, but I didn't get it. I got a very small part instead.

Sam: Did you feel bad about that?

John: Not really. I wanted to be in it so much that I'm glad to have any part.
Half a loaf is better than none.

- A. I prefer half a loaf.
- B. It is better to have half a loaf.
- C. Even a little is better than nothing.
- D. None of the above.

- () 2. Take that with a grain of salt.

Bob: What's Uncle Charley's latest invention?

David: He says he's built a helicopter (直升飞机) that will fly to the moon.
He says he's leaving for the moon on Saturday.

Bob: Do you think he'll really get there?

David: Well, you know Uncle Charley's inventions never work. You have to take everything he says with a grain of salt.

- A. You have to think over what he says.
- B. You must consider everything he says seriously.
- C. What he says is true.
- D. You can't believe anything he says.

- () 3. Now the shoe is on the other foot.

John: What's that terrible smell?

Kate: Oh! I forgot about the chicken! It must be burning! I'll take it out.

John: Well, we can't eat that for dinner. You thought it was funny when I put too much salt in those cookies. But now the shoe is on the other foot.

A. This is the wrong shoe.

☒ B. Now it's someone else's turn to be treated in a particular way.

C. I've taken the wrong shoe.

D. Look! The shoe is on the other foot.

() 4. Hold your horses!

Don: Come on, Kate. Hurry up. We'll miss the ferryboat.

Kate: Oh, Don. Hold your horses. We have plenty of time. The ferryboat doesn't leave yet.

A. Your horses are trying to get away. B. Stop your horses!

☒ C. Don't be in such a hurry. D. Shut up!

() 5. That's a horse of a different colour.

Ruth: Do you want to go to the movies on Saturday, Bob?

Bob: I can't. I have my music lessons on Saturday afternoon.

Ruth: I didn't mean Saturday afternoon. I meant Saturday evening.

Bob: Oh, that is a horse of a different colour. I'd like to go on Saturday evening.

A. There's more than one choice.

B. I'd like a horse which is different in colour.

☒ C. It is a completely different thing.

D. I have no choice but to agree to go on Saturday evening.

Passage 8

Every good paragraph contains several sentences that are about the same subject or topic. Every sentence is connected to the others. All these sentences describe or explain one important idea.

A good reader can read a paragraph and recognize the most important idea. The idea is called the main idea. The main idea is the most important point of a paragraph.

Now look at the paragraphs that follow. Read them and then choose the main idea of each paragraph.

() 1. Tennis is not a difficult game to play, and you do not need a lot of equipment

to play it. There must be two or four players. Each player should have a comfortable tennis racket. The players will also need some tennis balls. Of course, it is necessary to have a tennis court!

The main idea is _____.

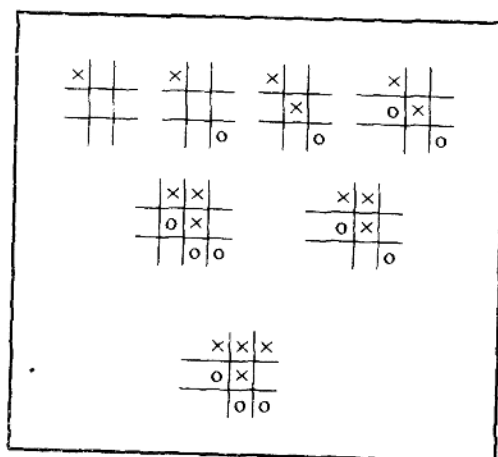
- A. Players need tennis rackets.
- B. You play tennis on a tennis court.
- C. Players need a court, rackets, and tennis balls.
- D. Two players will need two rackets to play this game.

- () 2. Karen is a flight attendant (服务员) for a large airline. She says she enjoys her job for several reasons. She likes meeting new people every day. She likes to travel, and she really enjoys travelling by plane. As a flight attendant, she receives tickets for free flight, so she can take small vacations (假期) to many different places. Karen says that the best part of her job is her schedule (计划) because she often has a great deal of free time.

The Main idea is _____.

- A. Karen likes her work schedule very much.
- B. Karen enjoys her job for several good reasons.
- C. Flight attendants meet many new people every day.
- D. Flight attendants must enjoy travelling by plane.

- () 3. To play tic-tac-toe, first you must draw a grid. You can do this by drawing two vertical (垂直的) lines and then drawing two horizontal (横的) lines across them. You now have a grid with nine spaces. One player puts an X in any square, and then the other player puts an O in one of the open spaces. The goal of the game is to be the first player to have three marks (X or O) in the same line.



The main idea is _____.

- A. Three players cannot play tic-tac-toe at the same time
- B. First you must draw a grid to play tic-tac-toe
- ☒ C. Tic-tac-toe is an easy game to play
- D. A tic-tac-toe has only nine spaces

Passage 9

Read some more paragraphs to discover the author's main idea of each paragraph. Read them quickly. The main idea is the idea that the whole or complete paragraph discusses.

- () 1. George Crum was a cook at a hotel in the small town of Saratoga Springs, New York. One day in 1853 a customer (顾客) complained because his fried potatoes were too thick. Crum got angry. In fact, he got so angry that he decided to cut some potatoes very, very thin. When the waiter took the thin slices to the customer, Crum thought that the customer would be angry. However, much to Crum's surprise, the stubborn customer liked the thin potato slices. These new thin slices caught on quickly and soon developed into a whole new business. Today Americans eat millions of dollars worth of potato chips every year.
- A. Crum tried to make the customer angry.
 - ☒ B. Potato chips had a very interesting beginning.
 - C. Potato chips are cheap and Americans eat a lot of them.
 - D. Americans really like potato chips very much.
- () 2. The telegraph was invented in 1837 by Samuel Morse. The telegraph is an instrument for sending messages between distant places by an electric current (流). To operate a telegraph, you push a special key and then release (放开) it. This action closes and opens the electric circuit (电路). The telegraph makes use of a special code, called the Morse code. A message sent on a telegraph is called a telegram. In the 1800s, the telegraph was extremely important until it was replaced by the radio and the telephone.
- ☒ A. The telegraph was a very important invention for communication.
 - ☒ B. Telegrams are sent on telegraphs.
 - C. It is not very difficult to operate a telegraph.

- D. The radio was a more important invention than the telegraph.
- () 3. The United Nations was officially set up on October 24, 1945, at a special meeting in San Francisco, California. The idea of the U.N., as the United Nations is often called, was proposed by Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt. The U.N. which has more than 130 nation members, tries to keep world peace, help countries to be friends, encourage countries to respect each other, improve living conditions, and set up a good system of international law.
- A. The United Nations began in 1945.
 B. The United Nations has 130 members.
 C. The United Nations was begun by Churchill and Roosevelt.
 D. The United Nations is a large international organization.
- () 4. There are more than two hundred million people in the United States today. People who live in the U.S. are commonly called Americans. Most Americans are descendants of people who came from Europe one or two hundred years ago. Of the people who came from Europe, most of those came from Germany, Italy, England, Ireland, and Austria. Many others came from the Scandinavian nations, such as Sweden and Denmark. Many blacks came to the U.S. in the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries as slaves. Today there are more than twenty million blacks in the U.S. In other words, one out of every ten Americans is black.
- A. More Americans came from Germany than from Austria.
 B. American families first came from many different nations.
 C. The first blacks came to the U.S. as slaves.
 D. Sweden and Denmark are Scandinavian countries.

Passage 10

When you do reading exercises, you are often asked to make a choice of a title of a passage. A title is a name given to a passage.

Read the following passages carefully and then choose the titles which suit.

- () 1. According to the dictionary, the word "library" comes from the Latin word "liber", meaning "book". Thus the library is a place where a collection of books is kept. But the modern library is much more than that. It is the place where man's inventions, discoveries, travels and dreams are kept. It has been