



第四册

Fast Reading of College English

# 大学英语快速阅读

总顾问 俞凤娣 主 编 刘雪成



同济大学出版社  
TONGJI UNIVERSITY PRESS

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总顾问 俞凤娣

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## 内 容 提 要

大学英语快速阅读丛书是一套针对当代英语教育实际需要而编写的阅读教材,共分为四册,本书为第四册。丛书立足于培养大学生快速阅读浏览能力、快速捕捉信息能力和解题能力,读者对象主要为独立院校“三本”学生。

### 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语快速阅读. 第4册/刘雪成主编. —上海:同济大学出版社,2012.5

ISBN 978-7-5608-4834-1

I. ①大… II. ①刘… III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教材 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2012)第 063602 号

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总顾问 俞凤娣 主编 刘雪成

责任编辑 朱振华 责任校对 徐春莲 封面设计 潘向葵

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出版发行 同济大学出版社 [www.tongjipress.com.cn](http://www.tongjipress.com.cn)

(地址:上海市四平路 1239 号 邮编:200092 电话:021-65985622)

经 销 全国各地新华书店

印 刷 宜兴市佳美彩印有限公司

开 本 787mm×1092mm 1/16

印 张 10.5

印 数 1—6100

字 数 260000

版 次 2012 年 5 月第 1 版 2012 年 5 月第 1 次印刷

书 号 ISBN 978-7-5608-4834-1

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定 价 23.00 元

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## 编者的话

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### 一、编写宗旨

大学英语快速阅读是一套针对当代大学英语教育实际需要而编写的阅读材料。在多年的教学过程中,笔者发现学生普遍存在为通过四、六级考试而盲目集中数月做训练题目应试的情况。作为教师,我们理解学生因就业竞争压力而疲于应试,但这诚然不是大学英语教育的初衷。鉴此,我们组织了一批有多年教学经验的教师,定期与数所大学的一线教师互相交流学习,讨论整理出当下90后学生较为关注的内容及其自身所欠缺的知识面,从而编写了此套阅读教程。换言之,我们为学生筛选出较有意义并吸引他们的材料,让他们每天只花10分钟左右的时间进行快速阅读训练,提高他们的阅读技能即信息捕捉能力以及对英语学习的兴趣,在材料的循循善诱之中,为他们四、六级考试过关打下技能基础。

### 二、本册教材特点

本册教材的各单元是按照阅读练习的难度梯次来排序的,在阅读难度的评测中我们综合考量了文章难度,长度以及题目难度三方面因素。

传统的阅读理解包括信息题、主旨题、推理题、计算题、词汇题等多种题型,而这一册教材主要训练的是信息题、段落主旨题,其他题型只是稍作涉及,主要锻炼的是学生的是skimming和scanning两种技能,这里需要解释的是:这种侧重是我们根据近年来国家四、六级考试快速阅读题型特点(均为长篇幅外加信息题和段落主旨题)而做出的,是为了更好地在平时教学中有针对性地帮助学生备考四、六级,在本册中我们适度地增加了相应题型的份量,提高快速阅读训练的广度和难度。

### 三、编写过程

#### 1. 选材阶段

选材的首要宗旨是把好语言关。我们确保材料都来自英语水平较高的出版物和网络媒体。其次是题材新颖,最新的时事要闻、最热门的新鲜事、最新出现的受人瞩目的事件等。再次是选材内容十分广泛,本册教材的内容包括有“经济危机”、“乔布斯2005年在斯坦福大

学的演讲”、“如何戒烟”，等等，都是富有深意又耐人寻味的文章。最后是难度的控制，我们在材料筛选过程中删去了对背景知识把握度以及思维深度要求较高的文学性、学术性的文章。对较冷僻词汇我们加注了中文或者直接替换。

## 2. 出题阶段

快速阅读的题目考的是略读题干和选项——短时记忆要点，定位词——回文章中定位——理解定位点周围关键句——比对 statement 或选项——微做推理或直接判断，所有题目做完，应对文章整体结构要点有全局性了解，而达到略读而知大意的效果。故我们要求所有编者先做文章的提纲，然后按照行文顺序均匀出题，题目尽量出于有理解难度的中心句上。

最后，衷心感谢为这套教材劳心劳力的诸位老师以及为这套教材提出诸多宝贵意见的各位专家、学者。

编者

2012 年 3 月

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# Unit 1

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## Text A

### Is Your Dog Smarter than a 2-year-old?

*By Alexandra Horowitz, from NY TIMES*

“I heard that, in intelligence, dogs are like 2-year-old children.”

One of my psychology students recently lobbed this statement at me. It’s an assertion I have heard—and dismissed—dozens of times, the reiteration of what must seem a profound, pithy truth about dogs’ mental abilities. From my perspective as a researcher of canine cognition, it at once overstates and understates dogs’ abilities to claim that they are equal in some unifying, cross-species “intelligence” to 2-year-olds.

But then the other day, sitting at home with my family, I was reminded of why the dog-child comparison is so often made. There was my 2-year-old child. Next to him lay our 4-year-old dog. There are undeniable similarities in their behavior.

For instance, they are both moderately impolite: my son stares unyieldingly at the large hairdo on an obese man on the sidewalk; my dog greets my friend at the door with a sniff right in his crotch. They both love many of the same things—squeaking objects, bagels, other dogs—and share a hatred of loud noises.

So I decided to get fully quasi-scientific about it. How are dog and child alike? How are they not? Herewith I report anecdotal instances of their behavior over one week, with some cherry-picked research to complete the story.

MONDAY Child (hereinafter “C”) rolls over in bed and into the dog (hereinafter “D”), also in bed, causing both to jump out of bed and commence running down the hall. In the bathroom, we all look in the mirror together: “Who’s that?” I ask. C identifies himself with a smile. D stands behind us, alert to his own reflection, but not, research indicates, identifying it as himself. Dogs don’t pass the “mirror mark test”, which



examines if a subject looking in the mirror can identify that a secretly placed colored spot on his reflection's head is actually on his own head.

Children pass this test around 18 months of age; it is part of their growing sense of self, of an "I" who is different from other people. C found the sticker I placed on his head one day by looking in the mirror and then touching his head. Dogs either do not care about the mark, or do not realize that the dog in the mirror is themselves.

On the other hand, more ecologically appropriate research—studying a dog's response to yellow snow—has found that dogs spend less time sniffing their own urine than the urine of others. This may reveal a sense of "me" if not a sense of "I". Whether a child would recognize his own urine has yet to be scientifically investigated.

TUESDAY Playing at home, playing in the park. Both C and D engage in lots of play, though of different varieties. Dogs favor rough-and-tumble play, tussling with, chasing and biting other dogs. In this play, dogs follow a basic code of behavior; do not bite too hard or before sending a "play signal", or your playmate will respond with aggression. This morning in the park, D tries out a new play behavior; mounting another dog. It does not go over well. He sits out the next bout.

At home, C excitedly throws a block into my face. He has little idea this is bad behavior, and stops only when the blocks are placed out of his reach; he doesn't know the rules of play yet. On the other hand, he has begun sipping imaginary water from a cup: a kind of "pretend" that is an early stage of developing a theory of mind, the understanding of others' perspectives. D never drinks imaginary water out of a water dish, unless I forget to fill his bowl.

WEDNESDAY One evening when he had just turned 2, C proclaimed "half moon up!" at the half moon rising in the dusk sky. By their second birthdays children may have vocabularies of hundreds of words. Impressed? Recently Chaser, a border collie, was trained to retrieve, nose or paw 1,022 objects by name. Still, Chaser, like all dogs, utters nary a word. C, like many 2-year-olds, speaks a blue streak. It might be that D has told me about the half moon; I just don't understand his dialect.

In the mornings, C not only speaks, he also babbles—a fantastical, meaningless stream of sounds that plays with his burgeoning language. When C toddles off down the hall in search of breakfast, D gives me a look. I know the look: I get it when C is playing too roughly with him or taking all of my attention. I imbue C's babble and D's look with great meaning, based more on my familiarity with them than any evidence of their signifying anything at all.

THURSDAY Until six months ago, C and D were identical in one respect: they both used their mouths as exploratory organs—a habit that C has happily relinquished. Now, on finding a ladybug in the house, D sniffs at it, and then grabs it with his mouth. C does not; he points at it, and then turns to me. Who got more information from his exploration? It's hard to gauge; I doubt that any of us knows what the taste of ladybug can tell us about it.

What this difference reveals is the divergence, growing more profound by the day, in how the dog and the child see the world. And this reflects the fact that the dog's olfactory ability dwarfs ours; just what this means for how they see (smell) the world is only now beginning to be understood. D has located the places that his friends—human and dog—live in the neighborhood entirely by smell. More than once on a walk I have found myself standing at the entrance to a strange building, waiting for my dog to finish sniffing the doorjamb, when someone I know from the dog park walks out.

C, by contrast, is all about vision, and vision leads to visual attention, which leads to communication we can understand. In infants, this burgeoning interest in where people have (visually) gone is what makes peekaboo fun; when I disappear behind a scarf, maybe it really is the case that I am long gone! But then pop! There we both are. For his part, D is bemused by peekaboo.

FRIDAY My son has taken to kissing the scar left by my back surgery. My dog licks my tears when I cry. Neither wants to see me angry. In all cases they are not exhibiting a fully developed, adult understanding of injury, sadness or anger—but something recognizable.

This sure feels empathetic. Do D and C see others as having qualities like sadness or anger—or selfishness? The research suggests they do. Two recent canine studies showed that dogs who eavesdropped on experimenters who were generous or selfish in sharing food with other people chose to interact with the generous ones.

Human infants appear to do something similar as young as 6 months old. By 18 months they may spontaneously, without solicitation, help an adult who is facing a problem in a task, like trying to reach an object that is out of reach or open a door when his hands are full. Dogs can be trained to do this, but they do not appear to see our problems, our intents, the way that infants do.

On the other hand, what dogs may lack in full understanding of us, they make up for in their tolerance of us. Dogs are infinitely patient. C will wait a minute if I request he do so while I finish pouring boiling water. (A “minute” lasts, variably, 6 seconds or 60.) D will wait for hours upon hours for me to return home.

One study found that dogs were able to delay gratification—waiting to trade food-in-mouth for better food—for as long as 10 minutes. This compares favorably with even 4-year-old children, who, as psychologists showed by asking them to wait to eat a marshmallow placed tantalizingly in front of them, averaged about five minutes.

In the end, the dog and the child overlap in many behaviors. They overlap, for that matter, in their roles in our lives. Mine overlap in my lap on the couch right now. But there are myriad subtle differences between them, the summation of which indicates that to equate their intelligences makes no sense. The child is on his way to something else; the dog is, fairly quickly, there. That is why he is “the dog” and the child is “the 2-year-old”.

There is no ruler that measures both dogs and little boys and girls. Just as a child is more than a young adult, a dog is more than—and much different from—a simple human. You are no more doing your dog a kindness by treating him as a child than you would be in treating your child as a dog. Unless your kid really loves liver treats.

*(From <http://www.nytimes.com>, 1503 words)*

**Directions:** For the following statements, write Y for YES, if the statement agrees with the information; N for NO, if the statement contradicts the information; NG for NOT GIVEN, if there is no information on this in the text.

- (     )1. The author thinks that it is hard to compare a dog's intelligence with that of a 2-year-old.
- (     )2. In the author's opinion, it is considered impolite for a dog to stare at someone's weird hairstyle.
- (     )3. D is able to identify himself in the mirror.
- (     )4. C shows his understanding of others' perspectives by pretending to sip.
- (     )5. Scientific research shows that dogs have their own dialects which are not comprehensible to men.
- (     )6. There is evidence to show that both C's babble and D's look signify something meaningful.
- (     )7. C tends to understand the world by seeing.

**Directions:** Complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

- 8. Both C and D show a \_\_\_\_\_ of injury, sadness and anger.
- 9. 18-month infants can help an adult \_\_\_\_\_ while dogs have to be \_\_\_\_\_ to do this.
- 10. Dog show greater \_\_\_\_\_ than children.

## Text B

### India's Fed-up Middle Class

#### Why is India's middle class angry?

It's no longer willing to put up with widespread government corruption. Throughout the summer, tens of thousands of Indians took part in a series of marches and mass protests, as part of what social anthropologist Shiv Viswanathan calls "a revolution of rising expectations" in the world's second most populous country. Corruption is nothing new in India, but several recent scandals have been particularly annoying. It emerged last year that allies of the ruling Congress Party had wasted \$40 billion by awarding telecom contracts to well-connected businessmen offering bribes. Those revelations came on the heels of India's humiliating mismanagement of the 2010 Commonwealth Games, an Olympics-style multisport tournament for the 53 British Commonwealth countries. Some \$10 billion was spent building stadiums and infrastructure that were largely useless for the general public, and much of that money was wasted through corruption, incompetence, and bribery.

#### Is bribery commonplace?

In India, it's a way of life. Whenever Indians encounter government agencies, they have to pay a bribe—to get a marriage license, to go through customs, to get a telephone installed. Some two-thirds of Indians have reported having to grease the palms of government officials, and they've had enough. "I hated it," call-center employee Amit Bhardwaj told *The Washington Post* as he recalled counting out a \$20 bribe to secure a birth certificate for his son. "This was the first thing I did for my newborn son."

#### Who turned this outrage into a social movement?

Anna Hazare, a longtime social activist who models himself after Gandhi. Hazare,

74, has for decades led nonviolent movements around Mumbai to promote farming improvements, end discrimination against untouchables (印度最低层阶级), and attack corruption in local government. But after last year's major scandals, he took his fight to the national level, using Facebook and other social-networking sites to encourage people to come to anti-corruption protests. Millions of Indians supported him in April, when he launched a hunger strike to force the government to create an anti-corruption ombudsman (反贪调查员). The government responded with a less forceful law that exempted (赦免) top-level officials from scrutiny. So in August, the frail and elderly Hazare declared a new fast. The government arrested him and detained 1,200 protesters in New Delhi, but the crackdown backfired spectacularly when tens of thousands of people poured into the streets in cities across India, chanting, "I am Anna!" The government quickly released Hazare, who continued his hunger strike for 13 more days, until authorities finally yielded, passing Hazare's more strict version of the bill unanimously. India is now set to have an independent body called the Lokpal—a Sanskrit term that means "protector of the people"—charged with investigating complaints of corruption involving politicians and government employees.

### **Will that end corruption?**

Not overnight. Officials will keep demanding bribes, so corruption won't end until people refuse to pay them. Hazare has urged his followers to do just that, and activists have encouraged people to put on the simple white cap Hazare wears, known as a *topi* or "Gandhi cap," every time someone asks for a bribe. Sales of *topis* have soared. Finally, says novelist Chetan Bhagat, it's becoming "cool to be clean."

### **Why has Hazare's campaign been so popular?**

Thanks to globalization and technology, the old India is dying, and a new one is being born. Tens of millions of people have moved out of poverty since the early 1990s, when India opened up its centrally planned economy and set off double-digit economic growth and soaring private investment. The old, relatively small middle class was made up of civil servants and bureaucrats who owed their livelihoods to the government. But now, the middle class includes some 200

million people who work in the private sector, in technology and engineering firms, call centers, and factories. Their support for Hazare is a result of “the sense of vague rage they feel at a political system which displays contempt for their priorities,” writes Swagato Ganguly in *The Times of India*. “The theme of corruption is just a metaphorical way of mentioning the question, ‘What are you doing with my money?’ ”

### **What other changes will they demand?**

They want a public sector that works with the efficiency that characterizes India’s growing private sector. The middle class—defined as households with an annual income of at least \$ 4,000—is predicted to make up more than 40 percent of India’s population in 20 years, by which time the country’s urban population is expected to have doubled. That has huge implications for the country’s politics. No longer will Indian politicians be able to secure power by placating(平息) poor rural farmers with subsidies(补助金). They face far more daunting challenges of upgrading the country’s severely overtaxed city services and roads. And in addressing those challenges, politicians will increasingly be held to the standards of a middle class that has advanced through “education, technology, and business savvy,” says investment strategist Mehran Nakhjavani. That sets ever-tighter limits on the nation’s tolerance for “the shenanigans of an incestuous and venal ruling class.”

### **A middle class on a tight budget**

Western luxury brands sell well at the top of India’s market, but the biggest consumer successes are those adapted to the hundreds of millions of Indians on tighter budgets. On the back of the middle class’s growing aspirations, India’s car production increased by 34 percent last year alone; the country’s most popular car is the Maruti Suzuki Alto, which sells for about \$ 4,700. More and more Indians have bought washing machines, but not Western-style monsters; a top seller is a small, \$ 66 model that automatically finishes a wash after one of India’s all-too-frequent power outages(停电). And most Indians are used to either making their clothes or buying them cheaply from a local tailor, not off the rack. So Arvind Mills, the country’s biggest jeans company, offers a “ready to sew” jeans kit to

village tailors. The company sold more than a million of them in two months.

(From <http://theweek.com>, 1018 words)

**Directions:** For the following statements, write Y for YES, if the statement agrees with the information; N for NO, if the statement contradicts the information; NG for NOT GIVEN, if there is no information on this in the text.

- ( ) 1. A series of corruption scandals sparked the mass protests of many Indians.
- ( ) 2. It is wrong for Indians to take the payment for government agencies as a bribe.
- ( ) 3. Anna Hazare used social-networking sites to encourage people to protest against government corruption.
- ( ) 4. The Indian government did not yield to the hunger strike led by Anna Hazare.
- ( ) 5. The fact that sales of topis have soared shows that many Indians support anti-corruption activists.
- ( ) 6. With the development of globalization and technology, more Indians have joined the middle class.

**Directions:** Complete the sentence with the information given in the passage.

- 7. In 20 years, Indian politicians will have to provide public services meeting the standard of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. To achieve biggest business success, marketing should aim \_\_\_\_\_.



## **Automated Theft Machines**

*By Yudhijit Bhattacharjee*

One April evening in 2009, a Gray Nissan truck idled in a parking lot across from a Wachovia Bank in a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., suburb. A man wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap hopped out and walked over to the bank's ATM—but not to withdraw cash, at least not right away. With practiced ease, he quickly glued a magnetic-card reader onto the front of the machine, on top of the ATM's card-reading slot, and changed the light panel above it with one containing a tiny video camera.

He and three accomplices returned several hours later to retrieve the camera and the card-reading device before driving to an apartment in Boca Raton for the next step of their operation. There, they downloaded dozens of ATM-card numbers from the device, matched each with a personal identification number recorded by the camera, and encoded stacks of magnetically striped plastic cards with the stolen information. With these cards in hand, the men could go to ATMs and merrily withdraw thousands of dollars from the accounts of unsuspecting victims.

The FBI managed to catch this Florida foursome, whose members pleaded guilty to charges of debit-card(借记卡) fraud and identity theft and are now in prison. But scores of similar groups, many of them linked to East European crime organizations, are operating throughout the U. S. Their handiwork—known as ATM skimming—is costing banks in the U. S. as much as \$1 billion in losses every year, according to estimates by industry and federal officials.

“We’re seeing it from coast to coast—from California to New York and everywhere in between,” says Kim DeLeo, a supervisory special agent at the FBI's headquarters in Washington. Vacation destinations like New York City, Miami and Los Angeles are hot