

ENGLISH

ESCALATOR

吉林文史出版社

编著 孔德惠

英语阅读过关训练



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序

在世纪之交吉林文史出版社为广大英语学习者刊出了《英语语法过关训练》、《英语词汇过关训练》、《英语阅读过关训练》、《英语写作过关训练》系列丛书,这的确是一件很有意义的事。多极化的世界格局和世界经济一体化的大趋势使信息在国际交往和社会生活中起着越来越重要的作用。自然语言是结构最复杂使用最广泛的信息载体。英语是国际交流的主要语言。英语为官方语言的国家人口达 14 亿,这使英语居世界前 20 种主要语言的首位。英语为母语的人口为 3.5 亿,仅次于汉语为母语的人口数量。当今世界 85% 的文字出版物和音像出版物是用英语出版的。英国文化委员会刚刚结束一项在近百个国家进行的题为 English 2000 的大型调查。据其结果预测,英语在二十一世纪仍将是世界媒介和通讯的主要语言。帮助跨世纪人才掌握这门世界通用语言这一共同目的使吉林文史出版社的同志与东北师范大学外语学院几位教师默契合作,在繁忙的工作之余笔耕不辍,于是才有这套系列丛书及时与读者见面。

从琳琅满目的书架上将此书拿在手中浏览一番的读者定已在英语学习方面走过了一段比较漫长的路程,饱尝了外语学习的艰辛与快慰。或已拿到大学英语四级统考合格证书,或已取得英语大专文凭,这已是可喜可贺的成绩。然而要达到新的目标(过六级,通过国家 WSK 考试,通过研究生入学英语考试,等等)还必须努力攀登一段艰难的历程。外语学习过程常被划分为初级、中级、高级三个阶段,每个阶段有其侧重的学习任务。从语音、语法、语义这三大语言要素来说,初级阶段的首要任务是学好语音语调,中级阶段必须很好地掌握语法结构,高级阶段的重要任务是深入掌握庞大的词汇语义系统,培养综合运用语音、语法、语词、语境来正确理解意图和表达意图的能力。再从语言结构层次来说,初级阶段学习者主要在字、句层次上解构和建构,中高级阶段的学习者是要在语句、语篇层次上解构和建构。一个人的语言水平越高,他/她的思维越严密,表达越准确,理解越透彻。从这个意义上说,中高级阶段的外语学习也是思维方法的训练。

《英语过关训练丛书》针对中高级阶段英语学习者在学习常遇到的困难,采取了先讲解后练习、先单项训练后综合训练的方式帮助读者尽快提高英语水平,突出体现了学习方法训练这一编写宗旨。外语学习成功与否取决于两个最重要因素:一是学习动力;二是学习策略(或称方法。学习策略一词是从事外语学习研究的行家们之间通用的术语)。方法得当,事半功倍。外语学习者无时不在摸索有效的方法。然而摸索总避免不了有盲目的成分。某一方法灵与不灵只能通过自己的学习效果去检验,谁也不能先知先觉。经验是实践后的产物,可供他人借鉴。失败了,吸取教训,鼓起勇气再重头试来当然可以,但必须以宝贵的时间为代价。所以为了少走弯路,少付代价,必须向书本讨教,向前人、他人学习。

这套系列丛书的作者都是英语学习的“过来人”。他们不仅自己都是优秀的英语学习

者也是英语教学效果卓著的教师。凭自身的学习与教学经验他们胜任这套丛书的编著工作。然而个人的经验毕竟带有局限性。他们都是外语教学研究者,多数于不久前从英、美锦衣归故,获英语(作为外语)教学研究硕士学位(对于其中几位作者来说已是第二硕士学位)。他们在访学期间师从著名应用语言学家,潜心钻研外语教学和外语学习最新理论。相信以他们的切身经验和理论素养为底蕴的这套丛书定会帮助广大读者扫除障碍,尽快攀上英语学习的新台阶。

杨 忠
1998年12月

前 言

在诸项外语技能当中,阅读是非常重要的一个方面。通过阅读我们可以获取新的信息,扩充原有知识,丰富自己的思维。在“信息爆炸”的今天,具备利用英语这一工具进行阅读的本领尤为重要。当然,由于外语学习自身的特点,阅读能力在很大程度上受到一个人语言知识水平的制约。正因为如此,英语阅读学习者们都面临着要不断提高语言能力(包括扩大词汇量)的任务。但与此同时我们又不能把后者看作是决定一切的因素而指望阅读能力随之自然而然地去提高。事实证明语言水平与阅读能力之间并非存在着绝对的对应关系。换句话说,阅读能力是应该着意培养的。

那么,阅读能力究竟包括哪些要素呢?目前学术研究的成果表明,它由不受意识支配的技能(如推测、推断、概括等能力)和可受意识支配的技巧(又称为阅读策略,包括预读、略读、浏览等)两大方面构成。前者是通过长期的学习和训练培养积累起来的,是阅读能力的基础。但与此同时,一个人阅读水平的高低往往却体现在后一个方面,那就是阅读者能否根据具体的目的和自己的实际需要,灵活运用不同的阅读技巧,即人们通常所说的阅读方法。这一点是高效率阅读的关键所在。

在实际生活当中,阅读的目的不尽相同。但当我们参加旨在检验我们阅读能力的考试时,要求几乎都是一样的。那就是,阅读者要在有限的时间内尽可能准确地理解文字材料所包含的信息内容。有鉴于此,本书的侧重点放在帮助读者提高理解质量这一方面。考虑到广大英语学习者在学校的泛读课上对常用的阅读技巧已经有所接触(这些技巧一旦掌握并不难加以运用,如预读和浏览),同时也由于本书篇幅所限,因此有关阅读技巧方面的内容就不在此详细讨论了。读者在使用本书时可以根据具体情况(如文章题材、难易程度、篇幅长短等等因素),运用已学到的各种方法加以实践,在保证较高理解质量的前提下,逐渐提高阅读速度。并随着不懈的练习,达到熟能生巧的程度。

本书分为四部分:第一部分是阅读理解训练,重点是针对我国学生在阅读英语文章时经常遇到的难点,集中解决四个方面的问题。它们是:生词词义、指代关系、段落大意和文章主题思想。第二部分介绍目前常用的几种阅读测试方法,目的在于帮助读者扩展视野,提高应付多种考试的能力。第三部分为综合阅读理解练习,其作用在于巩固前两部分所涉及到的内容。第四部分是阅读练习题集,共包括短文理解练习单元 145 个。这里的文章题材多样,内容丰富,难度适中。遇有比较重要的生词(文中划底线部分)在习题之后提供解释,供读者仔细推敲文章内容时参考。短文中的斜体部分一般为外来语、专业术语、或者从上下文之中可以找到解释的词语。遇到这样的生词望读者多动脑筋,锻炼综合分析的能力。各部分之后附有相关习题的参考答案。

本书适合准备参加高校英语四级考试、大学英语六级考试、硕士研究生入学考试、

WSK (原 EPT 考试)及 TOEFL、IELTS 的考生及广大自学英语者复习、自测时使用。

由于本人水平有限,书中不当之处在所难免。恳请读者在使用过程中提出宝贵的批评意见。

孔德惠

1997 年 5 月

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第一部分 阅读理解训练

语言知识是阅读能力的基础。正因为如此,对于广大英语学习者来说,培养用英语这门外语来进行阅读的能力是一件十分艰苦的工作。为了更快地提高阅读水平,我们在不断增进外语知识及能力的同时,还应该积极地从其他方面入手,主动去克服那些不利于我们提高阅读质量及效率的困难与障碍。

在以下的四个小节里,让我们针对阅读过程中经常出现的一些难点和应该注意的问题进行集中的练习,以期增强大家对这些要点的认识及敏感性,达到在日后的阅读实践中能够举一反三的目的。

那么,让我们从广大英语学习者经常遇到的一个难题——生词开始谈起。

一、推测生词词义

对于学习外语的人来说,由于语言知识水平的制约,尤其是词汇量大小的局限,人们在阅读时往往容易把过多的注意力放在对具体词汇的理解上,因而忽略对全篇内容的把握。不少人有这样的体验:在阅读外语文章的时候,每当遇到生词时总想去查一下词典,否则就感觉到难以继续读下去。应该说,查阅词典和其它参考书是好的学习习惯。但是对于某些阅读活动来说,经常停下来查词典会干扰阅读的思路,不利于把握全篇内容,同时也容易冲淡阅读的兴趣。

事实上,在我们平常从事的阅读活动当中,许多情况并非都是人们所称的“精读”。换句话说,阅读者并不需要弄清每个词的意思才能完成特定的阅读任务。在此种情况下,非要弄明白每个词的意思显然是不必要的。而且有些时候这样做也是不可能的,比如说在考试当中就无法这样做。

那么遇到生词,尤其是那些似乎起着关键作用的生词应该怎么办呢?首先我们应该利用上下文提供的语境来推测词义。具体来说可以通过下述几种途径:

(1)寻找上下文当中对生词的现成解释

当我们用英语阅读的时候,最使人头痛的要算是学科术语了。当遇到这样的生词时不用着急。通过上下文,读者有时可以找到较为令人满意的解释,甚至现成的定义。这样的定义或解释一般都跟在术语的后面,用逗号、引号、或者破折号来引导。

请阅读下面的文字,找出文中对一些术语(划线部分)的注解。(答案见本章后)

Passage 1

Save the Jungle - Save the World

1. The so-called Jungle of popular imagination, the tropical rain forest belt stretching

- around our planet at the Equator, has taken some 60 million years to evolve to its present state. It is, quite simply, the most complex, most important ecosystem on earth.
2. Homo Faber, Man the Builder, has tragically always seen the jungle as something *alien*, an environment to be vanquished, replaced with his own constructions. In the past twenty years the rate of *pillage* has increased alarmingly and huge tracts of verdant, beautiful forest – an irreplaceable treasure house of living things – has given way, often, to wasteland. The evidence is that Man will redouble his destructive efforts until the forest ‘system’ is smashed, and the jungle will function no more.
 3. Many experts *gloomily* predict that the tropical rain forests will finally vanish. What then are the burning reasons that drive men to destroy our *monumental* inheritance? The arguments we hear are generally short-term economic ones.
 4. “We need the land for people,” runs an argument. Well, many people already inhabit the tropical forest belt. There, native tribes have their own ‘*low-impact*’ life style, hunting, trapping, practising a little cultivation. Perhaps not idyllic, it is nevertheless a life style that does not endanger the forest ecosystem.
 5. We stress little cultivation because, paradoxically, the forest soil is often infertile; trees and green plants *thrive* on the compost of their fallen foliage, which is rapidly broken down and recycled as nutrients. So when the jungle is cleared to plant crops, there is no means of putting fertility back into the soil. Therefore, the crop yield is *meagre*, and brief: the soil soon makes its point. Erosion and flooding also tend to follow deforestation.
 6. “We need the timber; we need the animals for food, pelts and of course for sport,” is another argument. Well, the forests have always been generous with their riches – so far as they are able. They are not limitless. They are being exhausted – at ever-increasing speed – and the habitats of innumerable other species of both flora and fauna are destroyed as a side effect.
 7. Good husbandry – forest ecology, wisdom in planning, less greed and stupidity – could keep Man and the delicate rain forest relationship in balance indefinitely. This is our last great store house ... our last wonderland.

请在文章中找出作者对下列各短语(划线或斜体部分)的解释,写在每道题的后面。
(答案见本章后)

- a) The so-called Jungle of popular imagination
(paragraph 1)
- b) Homo Faber (paragraph 2)
- c) ‘*low-impact*’ life style (paragraph 4)
- d) Good husbandry (paragraph 7)

其实不仅仅是学科术语,在许多情况下,当用到对读者来说可能是陌生的词汇时,作者常常也会提供解释的。和有关术语的情形相似,注解常常出现在生词的后面。

读下面的文字,找出文中对划线词的解释。(答案见本章后)

Passage 2

Last year 600,000 children in Britain posted letters to Father Christmas. Santa's faithful trustees, the postmen of the Royal Mail, duly carted them off to the North Pole (*aka* an Edinburgh sorting-office), and sent back replies to each one in time for Christmas. The result: another 600,000 satisfied customers for the Post Office.

Passage 3

The chemist and chemical engineer Alfred Nobel made a very important contribution to civilisation a century ago, when he invented dynamite, a safe high explosive incorporating nitro-glycerine, and also invented the blasting cap, a device for detonating high explosives. These inventions have permitted many of the great structures characteristic of our modern civilisation to be made.

把解释放在生词的后面是作者经常使用的方法。但有时生词的涵义也可能提前出现在上文之中。现在请阅读下面的文字,找出划线词语的具体含义。(答案见本章后)

Passage 4

Why should caterpillars evolve to resemble catkins or twigs? Greene believes the camouflage helps protect the caterpillars from predation by birds. (Greene himself had a hard time finding his caterpillars on trees; they blended in so well.) He found that birds chow down heavily on other, non-camouflaged caterpillars in his study area.

以上的例子说明,突破具体单词的局限,以正确的方法全面把握上下文结构和意思对阅读理解的意义是十分重大的。

请继续阅读下面几段文字,并找出作者对划线部分的解释。(答案见本章后)

Passage 5

Most scuba divers learn their basic skills in an ordinary swimming pool. Pool classes familiarise the students with their equipment. In addition, pupils practice the various diving procedures, including the Buddy System, never diving without a partner. What is the meaning of the Buddy System?

Passage 6

Scientists in Maryland are issuing ID tags to smoke particles from coal-fired power

plants. With these environmental vandals tagged, scientists can tell exactly which smokestack each particles came from. They'll be able to measure how much each power plant is contributing to acid rain and other environmental problems.

What does the word vandals stand for?

Passage 7

Automobile accidents are as familiar as the common cold but far more deadly. Yet their cause and control remain a serious problem difficult to solve.

Experts have long recognized that this discouraging problem has multiple causes; at the very least, it is a "driver-vehicle-roadway" problem. If all drivers exercised good judgment at all times, there would be few accidents. But this is rather like saying that if all people were virtuous, there would be no crime.

Improved design has helped make highways relatively much safer. But the tide of accidents continues to rise because of "man-failure" and an enormous increase in the number of automobiles on the road.

Attention is now turning increasingly to the third member of the accident-triangle, the car itself. Assuming that accidents are bound to occur, people want to know how cars can be built better to protect the occupants.

What does the word triangle stand for?

当然,在阅读英语文章时也经常遇到这样的情况,一些对读者来说非常关键的词汇作者并没有提供直接或间接的解释。这时就要求读者依据对全篇内容的理解来进行判断和推测。

读下面的段落,弄清楚关键词 elevator 的确切含义是什么。(答案见本章后)

Passage 8

To American farmers in 1985, a bumper harvest had been a blessing as well as a headache, and it looked as if the 1986 harvest would break records. The manager of the elevator where Tom would sell some of his grain told him that there appeared to be insufficient storage space for the new crop. Commercial elevators were setting their quality standards higher than usual and giving first call on storage space to customers who bought fertiliser from them. This year Tom's elevator wouldn't accept corn with more than 20 percent moisture and would pay less for anything with above 15 percent. From day to day Tom drove to one or another of his fields, where he would pick an ear of corn and shell it into a small canister he carried that contained a battery-powered moisture-testing unit. He wouldn't start combining until the moisture in the corn in his most mature field was below 22 percent.

The elevator in the passage refers to a

- A. store for selling grain and fertiliser
- B. machine for lifting things
- C. company dealing with grain transactions
- D. storehouse for grain

下面谈一谈当生词没有现成解释时应该怎么办。

(2) 依据前后文蕴含的逻辑和语气推测词义

有些生词的意思也许不能一下子搞清楚,但是它们在句子中的含义是肯定的还是否定的,是褒义的还是贬义的,往往能从上下文当中得以领会。弄清楚这些对理解全文也是很有帮助的。

下面这些词是从第一篇文章(Passage 1)当中选出来的,请重新阅读该篇短文,并根据上下文判断以下各词(文中黑斜体部分)的含义是肯定的还是否定的,并在它们前面的括号里填上一个“+”或“-”的符号。(答案及各个词的意思见本章后 Passage 1 部分)

1. () **alien** (paragraph 2)
2. () **pillage** (paragraph 2)
3. () **gloomily** (paragraph 3)
4. () **monumental** (paragraph 3)
5. () **thrive** (paragraph 5)
6. () **meagre** (paragraph 5)

(3) 借助于语言的结构确定生词的词性

为了能够比较准确地猜测生词的意思,首先应该根据前后文字的意思及结构弄清楚具体那个生词在句子中所起的作用。具体来说就是要判断出该词的词性。

请从头到尾阅读下面的短文,尽可能不查任何参考书。

Passage 9

Doodles

Forget psychiatrists – analyse yourself with the help of doodles

1. Most doodles are done unconsciously when you are holding a pen in your hand and just happen to start scribbling. However, there is more to these “diagrams of the unconscious” than meets the eye. Free from the restriction of the conscious mind, they can be a useful insight into your character and personality, revealing many important aspects of your secret hopes, ambitions, fears and dreams.
2. Faces are a sign of sociability or lack of it. If you doodle happy, smiling faces, you have a friendly, out-going disposition which people respond to, and you enjoy an active social life. You also have a tendency to be sentimental. If your faces are **grumpy**, this may in-

indicate anti-social tendencies. Faces looking to the right are a sign of *gregariousness* and anticipation about the future, to the left, a sign of shyness and reserve.

3. Bare or narrow trees show a lack of warmth, while landscapes demonstrate coldness and spiritual weariness. You've probably been disappointed in love or could even be suffering from a minor *ailment* that needs attention.
4. Confused lines and squiggles show that you're a bit of a *muddlehead*, lacking the organisational ability to cope with everyday living. This makes for chaos and a lack of self-control.
5. Houses are wish-fulfilment doodles indicating a desire for a home, family, children and happiness. How you doodle your house is important. If you have curtains at the window, smoke coming out of the chimney, little trees, flowers, figures, a path or a fence, you are seeking emotional security and a happy, fulfilled marriage away from the outside world. Beware of becoming too complacent. If your house is stark and bare with no *embellishments* or signs of life, no door or garden, you're lacking love and warmth in your life.
6. Filled in or shaded doodles with heavy pressure are often a sign of aggression or anger. The heavier the pressure the more angry you feel; the lighter the pressure the more likely you will be to use sarcasm and a highly-developed critical faculty as a defensive measure.
7. If your doodle resembles a web, you are making a cry for help in solving a problem. You feel trapped, and are seeking a way out; perhaps you even want to travel, try out new ideas and spread your wings. But you lack confidence to step out into the world on your own because of the web you've created around you.
8. Knives, daggers, guns, or thin and angular strokes show aggressive behaviour patterns and sometimes even sadistic tendencies. Such things as whips and instruments of torture can reveal *inherent* masochistic tendencies.
9. Heavy lined shapes are often a sign that you've built a barrier between yourself and the external world. You keep your emotions in tight check because you feel that you can't cope with them and yet underneath that carefully erected barrier you know that once you meet the right person all will be well.
10. Hearts, flowers, animals with furry coats, entwined letters and groups of faces indicate that you're in love. You enjoy day-dreaming, and building castles in the air. Sentimental, kind, affectionate and spontaneous in your emotions, you long to belong to someone special.

练习 A. 下面是从文章中选出的几个单词(黑斜体部分)。请根据自己的理解,首先确定这些词的词性,把答案写在每个词前面的括号里。(答案见本章后)

1. () *grumpy* (paragraph 2)

2. () **gregariousness** (paragraph 2)
3. () **ailment** (paragraph 3)
4. () **muddlehead** (paragraph 4)
5. () **embellishments** (paragraph 5)
6. () **inherent** (paragraph 8)

结构问题的解决,为顺利猜出词义创造了必要的条件。下一步就要依靠读者开动脑筋,依据上下文提供的线索来推测生词的意思了。

练习 B. 现在,请在文章中重新找到上面的生词,并根据自己对文章的理解选择下面提供的较为贴切的词义。(答案见本章后)

1) **grumpy** (paragraph 2)

A person who looks grumpy is probably

- a. bad-tempered
- b. cheerful
- c. stupid

2) **gregariousness** (paragraph 2)

Faces looking to the right probably mean the opposite of faces looking to the left. So the word probably means something like...

- a. being careful
- b. being sociable
- c. being pessimistic

3) **ailment** (paragraph 3)

This is probably something which makes you feel...

- a. unhappy
- b. well
- c. ill

4) **muddlehead** (paragraph 4)

Someone who is a muddlehead probably...

- a. is chaotic
- b. copes with everyday living
- c. is very careful

5) **embellishments** (paragraph 5)

A house with no embellishments is one that is stark and bare. So it probably refers to the house's...

- a. shape
- b. decoration
- c. position

6) *inherent* (paragraph 8)

Are the masochistic tendencies characteristic of...

- a. whips, instruments of torture etc. ,
- b. people and their behaviour, or
- c. situations and circumstances?

请再读下面的段落,并根据上下文中的逻辑推测划线单词 murky 的含义。(答案见本章后)

Passage 10

The coastal waters of British Columbia was among the most scenic in the world, both above and below the surface. Looking at the murky waters of the Fraser River mouth, it is hard to believe that the nearby ocean is clear. Often a diver can see as far as fifty metres and observe a surprising variety of marine life.

What does the word murky probably mean?

- A. Clear.
- B. Unclear.
- C. Far.
- D. Near.

以上所述并非否定词典的作用。当遇到在文中起关键作用的生词而又无法猜测其意义时,如果有必要并且条件允许的话,也是可以查一下词典的,只是不要过于依赖词典。

二、明确指代关系

我们在上一节里讨论了应该如何处理我们尚不认识的生词。下面要涉及的却是另外一类词:那些我们非常熟悉,但有时其确切意思反而难以捉摸的具有替代功能的词,如人称代词 they, you, its, us 等等。一般我们对这些替代词语是不必特地去理会的,因为当我们对一段文字进行连贯的处理时,上下文为我们提供了充分的线索和依据。但在某些情况下,尤其是当我们对替代词语的习惯性用法还不太熟悉的时候,我们对文字材料的理解就可能会产生偏差。因此可以说,准确理解这类替代词语也是进行高质量阅读的要素之一。

请阅读下面的文字,弄清楚各个划线词语的指代内容。(答案见本章后)

Passage 11

...This does not mean that intelligent life at our level does not exist somewhere. There is such an unimaginable number of stars that, even at such miserable odds, it seems certain that there are millions of intelligent life forms scattered through space. The

only trouble is, none may be within hailing distance of us. Perhaps none ever will be; perhaps the appalling distances that separate us from our fellow denizens of this universe will forever remain too great to be conquered. And yet it is conceivable that someday we may come across one of them or, frighteningly, one of them may come across us. What would they be like, these extraterrestrial creatures?

1. What does the word none stand for?
2. What do the words us and we stand for?
3. What do the words them and they stand for?

当涉及到人称代词的所指时,我们应该充分注意“数”的线索。一般来说,作者运用替代手段时对词语之间数的对应是很讲究的。在以下这段赞美大树的文字里,作者提到多种自然现象,但却始终用第三人称单数 it 和它的相应形式 its 来指这棵大树。(见划线部分)

For a great tree, death comes as a gradual transformation; its vitality ebbs slowly. Even when life has abandoned it entirely, it remains a majestic thing, sometimes dominating the landscape for miles around. Alone among living things it retains its character and dignity after death: plants wither; animals disintegrate; but a dead tree may be as arresting, as filled with personality, in death as it was in life. Even in its final moments, when the massive trunk lies prone and has mouldered into a ridge, covered with mosses and fungi, it arrives at a fitting and noble end: it enriches and refreshes the earth; and later, as part of other green and growing things, it rises again.

阅读下面各段文字,弄清楚其中每个划线词的具体指代内容。(答案见本章后)

Passage 12

The researchers predict that advance knowledge about a person's potential ailments made possible by the chemical screening process will result in considerable savings in hospital and other medical costs. Thus, they point out, the blood analyses will actually turn out to cost nothing.

What does the word they stand for?

- A. The researchers.
- B. A person's potential ailments.
- C. Savings in hospital and other medical costs.
- D. The blood analyses.

Passage 13

Criticism of research lays a significant foundation for future investigative work, but when students begin their own projects, they are likely to find that the standards of validity