

Reading

# 高中英语 能力激活

顾立宁 主编

戴志隆 等编

短文阅读

1

高考英语听力阅读难题攻关

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# 高中 英语能力激活

## ——短文阅读 1

顾立宁 主编  
戴志隆 等编

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# 前言

这套《高中英语能力激活》，是根据教育部制订的普通高中英语课程标准、并按照现行高考试卷的题型编写的，目的在于帮助高中学生迅速提高英语听力和阅读能力，顺利通过高考。

在目前英语高考有关听力和阅读部分的各类考题中，短文的听力测试和阅读测试是难度最高的。如果高中学生通过系统训练，将英语短文的听读能力激活，那么其他方面的问题就会迎刃而解了。

展现在读者面前的这套《高中英语能力激活》，正是以英语短文的听读训练为特色，旨在能力培养，帮助学生正确理解语言难度中等的三四百字左右的英语短文，通过一定的分析、推理和判断，掌握中心大意，了解作者观点。这对提高学生的英语理解能力至关重要，也是取得高考优异成绩必不可少的一种训练。

这套《高中英语能力激活》的又一特色是，用于听读训练的短文均选自美国之音(Voice of America, VOA)的原版英语教学节目，内容丰富，语言地道，并配有VOA资深播音员朗读的MP3原声光盘。在美式英语广泛应用的今天，这对广大高中学生提高英语听读能力十分有益，也为日后大学英语的外台听力要求奠定基础。

参加这套书策划和编写的有上海师范大学英语系的教授和格致中学、延安中学、市西中学等名校的高级教师，他们长期工作在英语教学第一线，富有经验。为体现循序渐进的训练要求，各书第二分册的短文篇幅略长，词汇略深，读者可以先从第一分册着手。相信这套《高中英语能力激活》将成为广大高中学生准备高考的好帮手！

顾立宁

2005年8月30日



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## 1. *SpaceShipOne*



How could you like to take a rocket ship into space? The flight this week that won the ten million dollar Ansari X Prize could launch new chances for space travel. Faith Lapidus explains—oh, and if you would like to buy a ticket, you might have to save money now.

On Monday, a rocket plane named SpaceShipOne<sup>1</sup> entered the part of space just above the Earth's atmosphere<sup>2</sup>. It was released from an airplane over the Mojave Desert in California. Pilot Brian Binnie was at the controls. It was the second flight of SpaceShipOne in six days.

To win the ten million dollars, a spacecraft had to be built without government help. It had to make two flights within two weeks. And each time, it had to reach a height of one hundred kilometers. It also had to carry the pilot and enough weight to equal<sup>3</sup> to offer rides into space two passengers. Burt Rutan designed SpaceShipOne. His company, Scaled Composites, built the rocket plane in an effort to win the X Prize.

Peter Diamandis is an official with the X Prize Foundation. He says the prize was an effort to do for space flight what early prizes did to build the airplane industry. The goal now is to develop lower-cost space vehicles, like SpaceShipOne.

British businessman Richard Branson has an agreement with Burt Rutan and Paul Allen, Mister Rutan's business partner. Mister Branson will pay for the right to build rocket planes similar to SpaceShipOne. He will also start a new company to offer rides into space. The company will be called Virgin Galactic.

Mister Branson wants Virgin Galactic to offer two-hour space riders. The price of a ticket? It could be as much as one hundred ninety thousand dollars.

### Note

1. SpceShipOne 太空一号飞船
2. atmosphere 大气层
3. equal 相等的

### Reading Comprehension

1. How much does a ticket to space cost? \_\_\_\_\_  
A. \$190,000                      B. \$1,900,000  
C. \$1,000,000                  D. \$10,000,000
2. To win the right to travel in space, what requirements should the spaceship fill? \_\_\_\_\_  
A. The spaceship should successfully get the financial support from the government.  
B. On average, the spaceship can make a successful travel to space every week.  
C. The spaceship can fly up to 10,000 meters.  
D. The spaceship has to carry the pilot and two passengers.
3. Richard Branson \_\_\_\_\_  
A. was the man who designed SpaceShipOne  
B. was the pilot who controlled the spaceship in the first flight  
C. is a British businessman who wants to start a new company to offer rides into space  
D. is the boss of Scaled Composites company



4. What is the present aim of the X Prize foundation? \_\_\_\_\_
- A. To encourage businessmen to start a company to build spaceship.
  - B. To help the investors to build the airplane industry.
  - C. To develop space vehicles at low costs.
  - D. To provide financial support for space flight.
5. What can we infer from the passage? \_\_\_\_\_
- A. A desert is a fit place to launch a spaceship.
  - B. SpaceShipOne can make two space travels every week.
  - C. Peter Diamandis is an official who will run a company to offer rides into space.
  - D. Both A and B.



## 2. *Mother's Day*

Sunday, May Eighth, is Mother's Day in the United States. It is a special day when Americans honor<sup>1</sup> their mothers. Faith Lapidus tells us about it.

Writer Julia Ward made the first known suggestion for a Mother's Day in the United States. That was in eighteen seventy-two. She said it should be a day to celebrate peace. For several years, she held a yearly Mother's Day meeting in June in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mother's Day as it is celebrated now began with a woman named Anna Jarvis. She started a campaign<sup>2</sup> for a national observance<sup>3</sup> in the early nineteen hundreds. She wrote thousands of letters to public officials. She urged that the second Sunday in May be declared<sup>4</sup> Mother's Day.

In nineteen fourteen, President Woodrow Wilson and the United States Congress<sup>5</sup> finally agreed. After that, the second Sunday in May became a day to express love for mothers throughout the country.

On Mother's Day, children of all ages give their mothers special gifts. Popular gifts include flowers, jewelry or candy. Children also do nice things so their mother will not have to do any work on her special day. They might bring her breakfast in bed or clean the house.

Children who no longer live at home may travel to visit their mothers on Mother's Day. The whole family may go to a restaurant for a holiday meal. Children who cannot be with their mother on the holiday send a special card with a message of love. They also call their mother

on the phone to wish her a happy day. Mother's Day is one of the busiest days of the year for telephone use in the United States.

So, you may ask, do Americans have a special day to honor their fathers? The answer is yes. Father's Day is in June, but that is a story for another time!

### Note

1. honor 尊敬
2. campaign 运动
3. observance 仪式
4. declare 宣布
5. the United States Congress 美国国会

### Reading Comprehension

1. Which statement is correct about Mother's Day? \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. Mother's Day is celebrated in the United States on May Eighth every year.
  - B. The first modern Mother's Day happened in eighteen seventy-two.
  - C. Writer was the first who suggested there should be a day to celebrate peace.
  - D. Modern Mother's Day began with a writer named Julia Ward.
2. The word *urge* in the third paragraph can be substituted by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. advise strongly
  - B. require
  - C. command
  - D. order

3. The first modern Mother's Day happened \_\_\_\_\_ years away from the first one to celebrate peace.
- A. 14                      B. 40  
C. 42                      D. 50
4. The following can all be the most popular gifts except \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. flowers                B. candles  
C. jewelry                D. candy
5. Besides presenting gifts to mothers, what else do children always do to express their love? \_\_\_\_\_
- A. The whole family may go to a restaurant for a holiday meal.  
B. Children who stay with their mother send a special card with a message of love.  
C. They also call their mother on the phone to wish her a happy day.  
D. Both A and C

### 3. *Pale Male*



Pale Male and Lola are red-tailed hawks<sup>1</sup>, large hunting birds that eat small animals and other birds. Pale Male<sup>2</sup> built a nest<sup>3</sup> on the side of a tall building. This is a building where people live in apartments that cost millions and millions of dollars. It is across the street from Central Park, a nature area in the middle of the city.

Pale Male arrived in nineteen ninety-three. Since then, he and his mates have raised more than twenty young hawks. Thousands of people have watched the activity. The hawks became movie stars.

But recently, the people who own the building decided they no longer wanted the nest on the side of their property<sup>4</sup>. They said they were tired of finding dropped remains<sup>5</sup> of pigeons and other creatures near the front of the building. They ordered workers to take down<sup>6</sup> the nest. They also ordered the workers to fix the building so the nest could not be rebuilt.

Other New Yorkers immediately began to protest. Hundreds of people demonstrated<sup>7</sup> outside the building along Fifth Avenue. The story of Pale Male made news far beyond New York. People around the world wrote letters of protest.

We are happy to report that the building owners quickly changed their minds. They ordered workers to undo the changes<sup>8</sup> to the building, so the hawks can rebuild their nest.

Bird watchers say Pale Male and Lola continue to fly around the area. They have been seen several times where their nest used to be.

However, the bird watchers say the two hawks have not yet begun to rebuild their home.

## Note

1. red-tailed hawk 红尾鹰
2. Pale Male 雄性红尾鹰
3. nest 窝
4. property 财产(此处指大楼)
5. remains 粪便
6. to take down 拆除
7. to demonstrate 示威
8. to undo the changes 恢复旧貌

## Reading Comprehension

1. We can guess that the building where the nest was built is \_\_\_\_\_ Central Park.  
A. far from  
B. near  
C. on this side of  
D. beyond
2. \_\_\_\_\_, Pal Male built the nest and since then he and his mates have raised \_\_\_\_\_ young hawks.  
A. More than ten years ago, more than twenty  
B. More than ten years ago, twenty  
C. Ten years ago, more than twenty  
D. About twelve years ago, more than twenty

3. The owner of the building had the nest taken down because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. they were tired of hearing the birds' cooing
  - B. they were tired of the birds flying around
  - C. they were tired of noticing dropped wastes of the birds
  - D. they were tired of finding the birds flying nearby
4. All the following statements are false except \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. only New Yorkers began to protest
  - B. only Americans began to protest
  - C. not only Americans but people around the world began to protest
  - D. all the New Yorkers began to protest
5. From this report, we can infer \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. more and more people have realized the importance of the protection of wild birds
  - B. less and less people have realized the importance of the protection of wild birds
  - C. all the people have realized the importance of the protection of wild birds
  - D. more and more people have taken too much care of wild birds



## 4. *Texas Rangers*

Our question this week comes from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Desta Terefe would like to know about the Texas Rangers<sup>1</sup>. There is a team in baseball with that name. But our listener means the famous group of law enforcement officers. Over the years, those Texas Rangers have been the subject of books, movies and television programs.

In the city of Dallas, at Love Field Airport, there is a large statue<sup>2</sup> of a man. On his head is a cowboy hat. On his hip<sup>3</sup> is a large pistol<sup>4</sup>. His hand is not near the gun, but it is easy to tell that he could reach for it quickly. Near the bottom of the statue are the words "One Riot<sup>5</sup>, One Ranger!"

The Texas Rangers is one of the oldest law enforcement organizations in North America. The first group was organized in eighteen twenty-three. In the early history of the state, the Texas Rangers acted somewhere between a police force and a military force. Their main task was to protect settlers from Indian attacks.

Today, the main job of the Texas Rangers is to investigate and capture wanted criminals<sup>6</sup>. They do this by working with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

About one hundred eighteen officers work as Texas Rangers. They are divided into a headquarters<sup>7</sup> group, six companies<sup>8</sup> of Rangers and a special team that investigates unsolved crimes.

Those who want to become a Texas Ranger must not only have police experience. They must also have at least eight years' experience



dealing with major crimes<sup>9</sup>. It is not unusual for two hundred police officers to apply for<sup>10</sup> one or two openings<sup>11</sup> in the Texas Rangers.

### Note

1. Texas Ranger 德州巡警
2. statue 雕像
3. hip 臀部
4. pistol 手枪
5. riot 叛乱分子
6. wanted criminal 通缉犯
7. headquarters 总部
8. company 连(军队单位)
9. major crime 重罪
10. to apply for 申请
11. opening 缺额

### Reading Comprehension

1. There have been lots of \_\_\_\_\_ about Texas Rangers.  
A. novels  
B. films  
C. TV programs  
D. All the above
2. All the following statements are false except \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the Texas Rangers is a part of army  
B. the Texas Rangers is a part of National Guards  
C. the Texas Rangers is a part of local police  
D. something between a police force and a military force