

新世纪大学英语系列丛书

大学英语快速阅读

(1-2级)

Fast Reading (Band I ~ Band II)

文桂华 陈 瑛 黎 宏 编著
杨 光 苏 航

钟华森 审校



四川大学出版社

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前 言

《新世纪大学英语系列丛书》是根据《大学英语教学大纲（文理科用）》编写的一套系列教材，《大学英语快速阅读》是其中之一。

它分为《大学英语快速阅读（1~2级）》和《大学英语快速阅读（3~4级）》两本。《大学英语快速阅读（1~2级）》包括1级和2级，两级共40篇文章。《大学英语快速阅读（3~4级）》包括3级和4级，两级共40篇文章。

《大学英语快速阅读》旨在培养阅读速度，强调在单位时间内快速获取所需信息，因此所编成的各篇材料都提供了不同的信息，如：科学技术、社会知识、地理、人物等。全书内容丰富、语言规范。篇幅长度为300~500单词左右，生词按大纲的要求控制，超纲的词都作了汉语注释。每篇文章后有5~6个练习题，每题有4个选择答案，这恰好和英语4级考试的题型一样，意在让同学们在阅读中得到训练。

建议：老师可根据自己的教学情况安排使用本教材。

由于时间仓促，编者水平与经验有限，教材中不妥之处在所难免，希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2001年7月

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Band I

Unit 1

Grandma Moses is among the most celebrated twentieth-century painters of the United States, yet she had barely started painting before she was in her late seventies. As she once said of herself: "I would never sit back in a rocking chair, waiting for someone to help me." No one could have had a more productive old age.

She was born on a farm in New York State, one of five boys and five girls. ("We came in bunches, like radishes.") At twelve she left home and was in domestic (家务的) service until, at twenty-seven, she married Thomas Moses, the hired hand of one of her employers. They farmed most of their lives, first in Virginia and then in New York State, at Eagle Bridge. She had ten children, of whom five survived; her husband died in 1927.

Grandma Moses painted a little as a child and made embroidery (刺绣) pictures as a hobby, but only switched(转换) to oils in old age because her hands had become too stiff to sew and she wanted to keep busy and pass the time. Her pictures were first sold at the local drugstore and at a fair, and were soon spotted by a trader who bought everything she painted. Three of the pictures were exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art, and in 1940 she had her first exhibition in New York. Between the 1930's and her death she produced some 2,000 pictures : detailed and lively description of the rural life she had known for so long, with a marvelous sense of color and form. "I think really hard till I think of something really pretty, and then I paint it", she said.

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
A) A Biographical(传记的) Sketch(概略) of Grandma Moses
B) The Children of Grandma Moses'

- C) The Best Exhibition of Grandma Moses
 - D) Grandma Moses and other older Artists
2. According to the passage, Grandma Moses began to paint because she wanted to _____.
- A) decorate her home
 - B) keep active
 - C) improve her salary
 - D) gain an international reputation
3. From the description of Grandma Moses' in the first paragraph, it can be inferred that she was _____.
- A) independent
 - B) pretty
 - C) wealthy
 - D) hard
4. Grandma Moses spent most of her life _____.
- A) nursing
 - B) painting
 - C) embroidering
 - D) farming
5. In line 14, the word "spotted" could best be replaced by _____.
- A) broke
 - B) featured
 - C) noticed
 - D) damaged

Unit 2

Are you looking for a good book to read? Do you need information about universities in the United States? Do you want to know the correct price of a used car? Would you like to read newspapers and magazines from different countries? Do you need a quiet place to study? Did you answer “Yes” to any of these questions? Then you should visit “the information place”— your local library.

A library is more than just a place where books are stored. A library is a source of information. That information may come from books from periodicals, from audio-visual material, or even from a computer terminal(终端).

There are as many different library services as there are types of people who use them. Children’s libraries provide materials for young readers. They sometimes have storytellers who read stories to groups of children, and a few have computers for the children to play with. Music lovers can listen to recordings of their favorite musicians in music libraries. Some libraries have painting and sculpture exhibits, and most libraries offer special services for blind people. If you are buying a used car, the reference librarian can show you the Blue Book, which lists the prices of new and used cars. People who need information in a hurry can telephone the reference librarian at many libraries. In the reference room we can find catalogues from many universities in the U.S. and other countries.

Libraries provide entertainment as well as information. Novels and short stories from a library’s fiction collection are a good source of enjoyable reading practice. Public libraries often sponsor lectures on topics of interest to members of the community, and a few even offer concerts and films. No matter what your interests are, you will find that a library can be a great place to enjoy yourself while you learn.

Multiple Choice

1. What is another name for a library?

- A) A bookstore
- B) The periodicals room
- C) The information place
- D) A reference librarian

2. In the reference room of the library you can find _____.

- A) newspapers and magazines
- B) the fiction collection
- C) materials for young readers
- D) university catalogues

3. Which of the following is NOT an example of a library service?

- A) Art exhibits
- B) Used cars
- C) Children's storytellers
- D) Musical records

4. "A library can be a great place to enjoy yourself you learn." This means you can _____
__ in a library.

- A) talk and laugh as much as you want
- B) play with computers
- C) find entertainment and information
- D) have a lot of rooms to work in

5. What is the main idea of the text?

- A) There are many kinds of libraries.
- B) A library is a place where books are stored.
- C) Libraries provide entertainment.
- D) Libraries offer many different services.

Unit 3

It was once believed that a person was in great danger when he sneezed(打喷嚏). People imagined that the soul could escape from the body at the moment of sneezing. "God bless you" was a prayer(祈祷语) for assistance in keeping the soul where it belonged.

The German word Gesundheit (good health) is a variation of this prayer; the Irish deseal and the Italian felicite are similar prayers. Indians say a word that means "live", and when a Mohammedan(回教徒) sneezes, he praises God.

The Zulus of South Africa, far of being afraid of sneezes, believe that a sneeze signifies a friendly spirit's blessing. Whenever a child sneezes, they shout "Grow!" hoping the friendly spirit that roused the sneeze will help the child grow tall and strong. The ancient Hebrews also believed that a sneeze was good. A sneeze indicates life; the dead never sneeze.

The Japanese say that if you sneeze once, someone is saying good things about you; if you sneeze twice, bad things are being said about you; if you sneeze three times, you have caught a cold.

Multiple Choice

1. "God bless you" was said in order to _____.
 - A) make children grow tall and strong
 - B) ensure good health
 - C) keep the soul in the body
 - D) prevent someone from saying evil things about the sneezer
2. In the second paragraph, what do the words "deseal" and "felicite" mean?
 - A) sneeze

- B) good health
 - C) good lunch
 - D) cough
3. The Zulus believe that sneezing is caused by _____.
- A) a good spirit
 - B) a bad spirit
 - C) illness
 - D) children
4. It would be reasonable to conclude that _____.
- A) many people say prayers when they sneeze
 - B) a prayer keeps the soul where it belongs
 - C) all people were afraid of sneezes
 - D) the moment of sneezing is very dangerous
5. The best title for this selection is _____.
- A) Why We Sneeze
 - B) All Kinds of Sneezes
 - C) Why People Say "God Bless You"
 - D) Evil Spirits and Good Spirits

Unit 4

The greatest recent social changes have been in the lives of women. During the twentieth century there has been a remarkable shortening of the proportion of a woman's life spent in caring for children. A woman marrying at the end of the nineteenth century would probably have been in her middle twenties, and would be likely to have seven or eight children, of whom four or five lived till they were five years old. By the time the youngest was fifteen, the mother would have been in her early fifties and should expect to a further twenty years, during which custom, opportunity and health made it unusual for her to get paid work. Today women marry younger and have fewer children. Usually a woman's youngest child will be fifteen when she is forty-five and can be expected to live another thirty-five years and is likely to take paid work until retirement at sixty. Even while she has the care of children, her work is lightened by household appliances and convenience foods.

This important change in women's life-pattern has only recently begun to have its full effect on women's economic position. Even a few years ago most girls left school at the first opportunity, and never returned to it. Today the school-leaving age is sixteen, many girls stay at school after that age, and though women tend to marry younger, more married women stay at work at least until shortly before their first child is born. Very many more afterwards return to full or part-time work. Such changes have led to new relationship in marriage, with the husband accepting a greater share of the duties and satisfactions of family life, and with both husband and wife sharing more equally in providing the money, and running the home, according to the abilities and interests of each of them.

Multiple Choice

1. For women at the beginning of the twentieth century, the amount of time spent taking care

- of children _____.
- A) was shorter than in previous centuries
 - B) was longer than in previous centuries
 - C) was considered to be surprisingly long
 - D) was regarded as a great part of their lives
2. According to the passage, around the year 1900 most women married _____.
- A) at about twenty-five
 - B) in their early thirties
 - C) as soon as possible after they were fifteen
 - D) at any age from fifteen to forty-five
3. One reason why the woman of today may take a job is that _____.
- A) she is younger when her children are old enough to look after themselves
 - B) she does not like children herself
 - C) she need not worry about food for her children
 - D) she can retire from family responsibilities when she reaches sixty
4. Many girls, the passage claims, are now likely to _____.
- A) give up their jobs for ever after they are married
 - B) leave school as soon as they can
 - C) marry so that they can get a job
 - D) continue working until they are going to have a baby
5. According to the passage, it is now quite usual for women to _____.
- A) stay at home after leaving school
 - B) marry men younger than themselves
 - C) start working again later in life
 - D) marry while still at school

Unit 5

There are different ideas about pets in different parts of the world. In most cultures, animals have an inferior position to human beings. In most instances, however, people treat their pets like members of their families, or perhaps better. In the United States, and Europe, where pets are very popular, there are special shops that sell jewelry, clothing, and gourmet food for cats and dogs. There are shops on fashionable streets in New York City, for example, that sell gold and diamond collars, fur jackets, hats and mittens for pets.

In many countries of the world, there is special food for pets. It is common for supermarkets in many places to sell cat food and dog food. However, in Nice, France, there is a special restaurant for dogs. Dogs are the only customers. There is seating for twenty of them.

On the menu, there is a variety of special gourmet dishes for dogs to choose from. There is a sausage dish, a turkey dish, and a pasta dish, among other. For dessert, there is an assortment (品种齐全) of French cheeses and, of course, dog biscuits.

In the United States, there is a very rich cat who can afford to go to any restaurant he chooses. His name is Kitty Cat. Kitty Cat inherited (继承遗产) one hundred thousand dollars when his owner died. In addition, the owner left Kitty Cat a beautiful mansion to live in. There is a person who comes to the mansion every day to feed and take care of Kitty Cat.

Of course, in most parts of the world, pets don't live in such wealth and luxury. There is a more practical and functional attitude towards pets. People own cats and dogs because they keep away mice and other unwanted animals. Certainly, owners generally have their affectionate feelings for their pets. However, they do not see