

汪士彬 编



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英语快速阅读

English Speed Reading

南开大学公共外语教学部

汪士彬 编

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前言

本书是供高等院校文科和理工科高年级学生使用的快速阅读 教材。共选入快速阅读课文 36 篇,书后附补充读物 20 篇,每课 编练习 5 题。全书教学需 40 学时,可供一学年使用。

在"使用说明"里,介绍了如何进行快速阅读教学的技术和技巧问题,供教师参考。

为了满足广大自学读者的需求,书后附有练习参考答案。为了养成独立思考的习惯,检查个人的实际水平,务请独立完成练习之后,再去查阅答案。

本书课文内容涉及面较广,包括科普知识、科幻小品、名人轶事、生物趣闻、世界奇迹,以及反映英美国家风土人情和生活习俗等的短文。

在选材方面,注意难易适中(生词量控制在二十分之一以内),力求语言规范、结构严谨、内容丰富、体裁多样,同时顾及知识性、趣味性和科学性。

本书承南开大学公共外语教学部傳静君同志审校。在南开大学工作的美籍教师费念华 (Roland Fischer)和费英 (Rachal Fischer)审阅了本书初稿,提出了修改意见和建议。南开大学公共外语教学部主任张成祎也审阅了本书。对此,编者一并表示衷心感谢。

限于编者的水平和经验,书中疏漏不妥之处在所难免,切望读者予以批评指正。

编 者 1984年12月·天津

使 用 说 明

快速阅读课本与精读课本在编写原则上有很大差别,故教授快速阅读课时,不能沿用传统的教学方法,即逐字逐句分析、理解、翻译和补充例句的方法。需采用新的教学法,在快速阅读中理解课文内容,获得文章中传达的各种信息。

如何进行快速阅读教学

每次上课之前,教师在黑板上写出每间隔 15 秒 的一串数字: 0·15; 0·30; 0·45; 1·00; 1·15; 1·30; 1·45; …, 该数字写到哪里为止,视阅读文章的长短而定。例如,第一篇共 492 个单词,估计最慢速度为每分钟读 50 个单词,就写到 10 分钟为止。要求学生不在课前对课文和练习做任何 准备。教师宣布"开始",全班同时开始阅读。每隔 15 秒依次擦去黑板上的一个时间数字。当某一学生读完全篇,抬头看黑板,黑板上剩下的第一个数字,就是该学生所花的时间,然后将这一时间数字填入公式"Time: "的空白处。用阅读本篇短文的字数除以阅读所用的时间,就算出了每次阅读的速度。

阅读完毕,就可以做下一页多项选择填空练习了。在做练习时,<u>不允许</u>再看前一页的阅读材料,要求学生在尽可能短的时间内做完该组练习。最后跟学生对答案,并作简短讲评,要求学生答对 70%以上,只有这样才能说明读懂了文章,掌握了大意。如

果学生对文章理解达到70%-80%,就要鼓励他们加快速度。 如果学生答对50%以下,就要提醒他们还要在理解上下功夫。

在进行快速阅读时,要求学生注意力高度集中,排除一切杂念。要保持室内的安静,任何一点响动都会影响学生的速度,发现影响速度的不良习惯就要及时纠正。譬如:有的学生一面阅读,嘴唇一面动;有的还发出轻微的读声。嘴唇的活动无疑会影响眼睛扫视的速度。"一个有效率的读者能够只要看到印刷符号,就直接获得意思,而不经过声音阶段。"(Fry, Edward, 1963, Teaching Faster Reading, Cambridge University Press)有的学生手指着要读的单词,并且一个词一个词地往前移动,有时停顿下来,或回过来指一些已读过的词;有的用尺子比着,一行一行地向下移动;有的一面阅读一面玩弄钢笔、尺子之类的东西,不时发出响声;有的在阅读时头部随着眼睛的移动而轻微摆动;还有的停止下来翻字典,查生词等等。这些都是影响阅读速度的因素,这些不良习惯应及时地、尽早地在课堂教学中加以纠正。

本书的单词与词组不单独列出,而是以练习形式出现(练习二),通过做练习掌握本课出现的生词与词组,必要时可查阅英文词典。每课后的练习三、练习四(小部分)是属于英语基本功练习,教师可引导学生独立完成,重点与难点可做适当讲解,练习四(大部分)是通过上下文猜词意,这是快速阅读的一项重要技巧,要尽量少查词典,教师可根据本班实际情况,补充必要的例句,促使学生尽快掌握这一技巧;练习五是综合填空(Cloze Test),这种测试法是 L. Tailor 于 1953 年发明的。 它的理论依据是"格式塔完形心理学"(Gestalt Psychology)。意思是人类具有填补空白的心理倾向和下意识的能力。书中主要以语法结构、词汇固定搭配(动词词组搭配,形容词与介词搭配,介词短语的用法等)来则去有关单词,留下空白让学生填空。

"Cloze"测试法有两种评分方法。第一种是要求所填单词必须与原文中删去的单词一样, 否则不记分, 称为 "exact-word type";第二种是允许用同义词或近义词填空,但一定要表达原文的意思,称为 "acceptable substitute"。本书后的参考答案属第一种方法,教师亦可采用第二种方法。

实施快速阅读的几个技巧问题

逐步提高阅读速度的关键是多读。博览群书,熟能生巧,由量变到质变。当然,提高阅读速度也有一些具体方法和技巧问题:

- 1. 平时要养成泛读(Extensive Reading)的习惯。泛读,就是广泛阅读大量涉及不同领域的书籍,并且要读得快,理解和掌握书中的主要内容即可。确定一个明确的读书定额,如:每天读50页,全年以300天计算,可以读100本中等厚度的书(每本150页)。
- 2. 课余要养成计时阅读(Timed Reading)的习惯。每次进行5-10分钟即可,不宜太长。由于阅读时精力高度集中,时间一长容易疲劳,精力分散,反而乏味。先记下起读时间(starting time),阅读完毕记下"读完时间"(finishing time),即可计算出本次阅读速度,随手记下,长期坚持,必能收到明显的效果。
- 3. 经常去图书馆,养成"掠读"(Skim),(又称"浏览"或"略读")的习惯。掠读,就是很快地阅读,以求抓住文章的梗概。可掠读报纸、杂志、小说等。掠读自己感兴趣的东西,扩大自己的知识面,从中得到语言艺术美的享受。训练有素的略读者(skimmer)的阅读速度可以达到每分钟 3,000 到 4,000 个词。
 - 4. 还要养成"寻读"(Scan)的习惯。寻读, 就是用 眼

扫视,是以最快的速度从一篇文章中被沙拣金,很快地寻找你所期望得到的某项细节。如查找一个人名、地名,某一件事发生的年月或其他类似的材料。比如,一本出售计算器的广告,刊登有多种型号不同、功能不同、价格不同的计算器。假识你要买一台价格合理、适用的计算器,先从价格上寻读,找出几个,你买得起的,然后从功能上比较,选中你想买的那一台。

5. 在课堂上进行"成组视法"(Phrase Reading)训练。为了加快阅读速度,避免逐字阅读,要养成成组视读的习惯。有意义的语法结构被称作"意群"(英语 称 作 sense groups 或 thought groups 或 meaningful mouthfuls),用斜线号——"/"(slash, slant或 solidus)把句中意群隔开。下面摘录本教材第 20 课中的一段,作为按意群隔开的范例:

Many small cultural groups/live in places/far away from modern cities./ Some of these tribes have never had/any communication/outside of their small geographical areas./ When they do contact/the outside world, /their lives usually change./ Learning how to change/ without losing the best/of their own cultures/is a problem for them./ How can primitive cultures/learn to live/in a technological world? / How can they do this/ without becoming lost?

训练学生"扫视"意群的能力,让学生正视上段文章第二个意群中单词"in",根本不转动眼睛就可以很清楚地看清单词"in"两侧的"live"和"places"。用同样方法正视上段最末两个意群中的"they"和"becoming",那末"they"两侧的"How can"与"do this"以及"becoming"两侧的"without"和"lost"也同时映入眼帘了。因此,学生能一眼同时看到三个词或五个词,甚至更多的词,逐渐改变一眼只看一个单词的阅读

习惯。尼拉·史密斯(Nila Smith)说得好:"如果你想读得快,你必须狼吞虎咽,而不是细嚼慢咽。"

训练成组视读的有效方法叫做"默读并背诵"技能(Read-and-look-up,编者自拟中文名称)。首先让学生看篇子,默读一个意群,然后抬头同声念出所看到的同一意群。由老师用"read"(意指默读)和"look-up"(意指抬头出声朗读)来指挥全班一起练,也可让学生单个练,课下让学生组成对子相互练,这种训练能促使眼睛扫视敏锐和大脑反应迅速。

- 6. 通过上下文来猜测词意是提高阅读速度的最重要手段之一。在阅读时,有时会遇到你不认识的单词,有时即使是认识的单词,但有新的意思,联系上下文可以帮助你理解该词的词义。 下面的实例简要说明了如何通过上下文来确定词义。
 - (1)找出经常给出明确定义的连系动词 to be. 实例:

Sociology is the term used to describe the scientific study of human society.

假定 sociology 是一个不认识的词, 系词 Be 后面 就 给出了明确的定义。该词意思为"社会学"。

(2)找出说明词义的定语从句。

实例:

This set of books is for children. The first book of the sequence, which is one of the most popular series of children's stories, is a group of stories about the inhabitants of a village.

定语从句中 series 就与 sequence 同义,也就是"丛书"的意思。

(3)找出不认识的词的同位语。

实例:

The modern age of medicine began with the stethoscope, an instrument for listening to a patient's heartbeat and breathing.

同位语部分就给出了 stethoscope 的确切词义, 即 "听诊器"或 "听筒"的意思。

(4)找出标点符号: 逗号(,)、破折号(--)、 冒号(:)、引号("")和括号(())。

实例:

(a) We are on the <u>night shift</u>—from midnight to 8 a.m.—this week.

两个破折号之间的短语很清楚地表明了 <u>night shift</u> 是 "夜班"的意思。

(b) You would see <u>prunes</u> (which are dried plums) and <u>raisins</u> (which are dried grapes).

作者在括号里对 prunes 和 raisins 分别作了明确的解释。 prunes 的意思是"李脯", raisins 的意思为"葡萄干"。

当然,在文章中作者只能给一些关键词下定义或给出解释。 那么没有下定义的生词怎么办呢?有时不必知道它的确切含义, 只要了解其大概意思即可顺读下去,而不至于影响对整个句子或 段落的理解。怎样知道生词的大概意思呢?掌握下面的规则很有 必要:

- (1.) 利用已学语法知识(特别是词序和词尾)来判断 词 性(名词、动词、形容词等)。
- (2)找出平行术语(通常是相同词性),它们或许是同义 词或近义词。

实例:

Saily liked to concoct all sorts of stories, but her mother always knew when she was lying.

concoct 是个动词, lie 也是个动词, 在这一上下文中它们的词义大体相同, 大概意思是"编造(谎话)"。

(3)找出对同一生词后来出现的参考词,其中包括同义词或其它线索。

实例:

When it comes to manufactured goods there is actually more diversity in this country than Europe has ever known. The variety of goods carried by our stores is the first thing that impresses any v sitor from abroad.

第二句中的 variety 与第一句中的 diversity 同义。大意是"种类"或"品种"。

(4)观察单词本身,构词法(合成、转化、派生)有时能帮助确定词义。

通过观察构词部分,分析辨别单词,是提高阅读速度的技巧之一。一方面,读者不必停下来查词典,继续往下读;另一方面,它大大增加了读者的受动词汇量(passive vocabulary),读者通过已知词缀(包括前缀和后缀)和已知词根就能很好地猜出生词的含义。

实例:

Many cancers have been arrested with the use of chemotherapy.

chemotherapy 是由 chemo(意思是 chemical)和 therapy

(意思是 treat),整个单词意思就是"化学疗法"。

(5)通过逻辑推理,有时自身的生活经验及普通常识能帮.助确定词义。

实例:

, j.

which help them to swim. Most fishes have slimv skins covered with scales, but in fishes such as eels the scales are very small and can hardly be seen.

有些普通常识的人就不难猜出 fins、 slimv 和 scales 的 确切意思分别是"鳍"、"滑溜的"和"鳞", 对于 eels 只要知道是 fish 的一种就行了(鳝鱼类)。

(b) The sweat rolled down his face. His entire body was wet, as if he had falled into a spring.... The heat was terrible.

凭借读者直接或间接的经验,不难想象出 sweat 的含义是"汗"。

懂得了如何进行快速阅读的理论还不够,最重要的是实践、 实践、再实践。打字员打字打得又快又准是多练的结果,钢琴家 演奏出美妙动听的乐曲是勤练的结果,花样滑冰运动员在冰上的 精彩表演同样是苦练的结果。英语快速阅读也是如此,无论是青 年还是老年,无论是大学生还是工程技术人员,只要下定决心, 掌握快速阅读的技巧,排除一切不良的阅读习惯,就一定能把阅 读速度提高一倍、两倍、甚至达到更高的水平。

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1. The Old Man and the Sea

On the coast of Cuba lived an old fisherman. He was thin and had many deep lines in the back of his neck. His skin was very brown, and his hands were marked by pulling heavy fish at the end of ropes. But all these marks were old. Every part of him seemed old except his eyes. These were cheerful and the same colour as the sea.

fish. People said that he was unlucky. But the old man still loved the sea. He was still strong and a good fisherman. On the eighty-fifth day the old man sailed farther out to sea than any of the other boats. He sailed to where the water was very deep. Then he felt his fishing-line being pulled gently by a big fish which was swimming very deep in the water.

The fish was so powerful that it pulled the boat after it. It took the small boat far out to sea. The old man could no longer see the land.

'Fish,' he said softly, aloud, 'I'll stay with you until I am dead.'

The old man pulled the line a little tighter, but he did not dare to pull it suddenly. The fish might jump and escape. Or it might dive down into the sea and

pull the boat after it. But the fish was strong and brave. It pulled the boat on and on.

When the fish rose at last to the top of the water, the old man saw that it was two feet longer than his boat. The old man had seen many great fish, but this one was the greatest fish he had ever seen. It was also the most beautiful.

On the morning of the third day, the end came. Tired and full of pain, the old man threw his harpoon into the heart of the great fish. The fish rose high out of the water, showing all its power and beauty. The next moment it was dead.

Slowly and painfully, the old man tied the fish to the side of the boat. Then he turned back and sailed towards the distant shore. He sailed well and he looked often at the huge fish.

Then the first shark came. The old man killed it, but he lost his harpoon and all his rope. Two hours later two more sharks came. The old man fought them with his oar and his knife. Then he used a stick. Then the tiller. But he knew he was beaten. When he sailed into the little harbour and pulled his boat on shore, no fish was left. Only the giant white backbone.

The next morning the fishermen in the village gathered round the small boat. They measured the big bone of the fish. It was eighteen feet long. 'What a fish it was,' someone said. 'There has never been such a fish.'