

大学英语阅读

主编 刘学云

SELECTED READINGS
for
COLLEGE STUDENTS

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前 言

现行的《大学英语教学大纲》(文理科)明确规定“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力,……使学生能以英语为工具,获取专业所需要的信息”。

实际上,外语教学主要是通过听、说、读、写、译五种语言基本技能的严格训练,培养学生运用外语交际的能力。

阅读可以拓宽学生的知识面,增长语言知识(词汇和语法等),发展语言能力,提高外语水平。

通过对各种语言测试内容的分析,我们发现,不管是国外的 TOEFL, GRE 英语测试,还是国内的 EPT, 硕士研究生入学英语考试, 大学英语四、六级统考, 阅读理解部分(Reading Comprehension)均占整个考试内容的很大比例。因此,培养和提高学生的阅读能力是大学外语教学的首要任务。

本书分一、二、三、四级。每级十五个单元,每个单元包括四篇短文,后面附有二十个阅读理解题,题的类型与大学英语四、六级统考的题型一致。

本书短文全部选自英语原版书籍,内容丰富新颖,选材广泛,集知识性、趣味性和可读性为一体。有科普常识、英语语言国家的风土人情、人物传记、日常知识、社会、文化、政治、经济、教育和法律等。体裁多样,有叙述文、说明文、描写文、议论文和应用文等。文章难度稍浅于相应的精读课文,而且由浅入深,循序渐进。不需要教师在语言上作过多的讲解,学生自己

基本上能看懂短文内容。

本书是为高等学校参加全国四、六级考试的大学生编写的,但报考研究生、参加出国人员考试以及其他具有同等英语水平的读者也可使用。

由于编写时间仓促,编者水平和经验有限,书中错误和不足之处在所难免,敬请广大读者及同行专家不吝赐教。

编 者

1993年6月于青岛

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KEY TO EXERCISES

BAND ONE

Unit One

Passage 1

A tourist comes out of the airport. There are a lot of taxis, but the tourist asks every taxi-driver his name. He takes the third taxi. It costs £5 from the airport to the hotel. "How much does it cost for the whole day?" the tourist asks. "£100," says the taxi-driver. This is very expensive, but the tourist accepts the price.

The taxi-driver takes the tourist everywhere. He shows him all the monuments (纪念馆) and all the museums. In the evening they go back to the hotel. The tourist gives the taxi-driver £100 and says: "What about tomorrow?" The taxi-driver looks at the tourist, "Tomorrow? It's another £100 tomorrow." But the tourist says: "That's O. K. If that's the price, that's the price. See you tomorrow." The taxi-driver is very pleased.

The next day the taxi-driver takes the tourist everywhere again. They visit all the museums and all the monuments again. And in the second evening they go back to the hotel. The tourist gives the taxi-driver another £100 and says: "I'm going home tomor-

row. "The taxi-driver is sorry. He likes the tourist and, above all, £100 a day is good money. "So you're going home. Where do you come from?" he asks.

"I come from New York. "

"New York!" says the taxi-driver, "I have a sister in New York. Her name is Susannah. Do you know her?"

"Of course I know her. She gave me £200 for you. "

Multiple choice :

1. The story takes place in _____.
a. U. S. A. b. England c. France d. Sweden
2. The tourist is _____.
a. an Englishman b. A Frenchman
c. a Swedish d. An American
3. he tourist asks every taxi-driver his name because _____.
a. he is afraid of being cheated
b. he knows one of the taxi-drivers
c. he knows of one of the taxi drivers
d. there is a friend of his among the taxi drivers
4. Why is the taxi-driver very pleased with the tourist?
a. None but the tourist agrees the price given without arguing with him.
b. His sister knows the tourist.
c. His sister has brought so much money to him.
d. He wants to be the guide of the tourist.
5. We can conclude that the tourist is _____.

- a. a cheat
- b. a serious and careful person
- c. a person who can't be believed in
- d. a person who is fond of fun

Passage 2

The world is made up of seven continents and five oceans. The seven continents are; Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Oceania and Antarctica. The five oceans are; the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Arctic Ocean and the Antarctic Ocean.

Asia is the biggest continent, on the east of which is our mo-therland. Another country in East Asia is Japan, an island country in the Pacific Ocean. Korea is also in East Asia. India is in South Asia.

Most of the countries in West Asia are Arab countries. The countries in North Africa are Arab countries too. The Arab countries in West Asia and North Africa are usually called "the Middle East."

Africa is made up of North Africa, South Africa, West Africa, East Africa and Central Africa. It is also a big continent, though not as big as Asia. Egypt is in North Africa. Most people in Africa, except those living in the north, are black people. They speak many different languages.

Europe is smaller than Africa. Belgium, France, Germany and Italy are developing countries on this continent. Britain is in North-

west Europe. It is an island country in the Atlantic Ocean, off the European mainland. Part of the Soviet Union (苏联) is in East Europe and part of it is in North Asia. It is regarded as a European country.

North America and South America are two separate continents between the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. In North America there are three big countries: Canada, the United States and Mexico, with Canada in the north, Mexico in the south and the United States between the two.

Oceania is a small continent. It is a big island between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean. Sometimes people call it Australia.

Antarctica is in the farthest south of the world, a very cold yet very rich continent with no people living there.

Multiple choice:

6. Africa is generally considered to be made up of ____ parts.
a. two b. three c. four d. five
7. Only a small part of African people are white people, living in ____.
a. Egypt
b. Arab countries
c. North Africa
d. South Africa
8. Japan is an island country, lying ____ the east of China.
a. in b. to c. toward d. on
9. The Soviet Union is looked upon as ____.

- a. an island country
 - b. an Asian country
 - c. a European country
 - d. an Arab country
10. How many big countries are there in North America?
- a. One. B. Two. C. Three. d. Four.

Passage 3

Although the Arabian camel can go without drinking for a long while, its hump(驼峰) does not store water as is commonly believed. The real secret of the animal's unusual ability to store water lies in the fact that very little of the camel's water is lost by evaporation(蒸发) through the skin. Instead of sweating out great quantities of water, the camel's body temperature rises, sometimes as much as eleven degrees, to compensate(抵消) for heat outside. When a camel does require water, it replaces only the amount lost since its last drink.

In Egypt, between November and April, the camel can go for three or four months without drinking if it grazes(吃草) in pastures where dew(露水) and showers keep the vegetation green. If only dry feed is available, the camel will get thirsty after several weeks—even during January.

The length of time a camel can go without drinking is greatly determined by time of year, force of wind, heat in the air, intensity(强度) of sunlight, amount of reflected heat, kind of food, weight of the load carried, speed the camel travels, and number of

hours spent daily in travel.

Multiple choice :

11. The real purpose of a camel's hump is _____.
a. to store food instead of water
b. to evaporate water
c. to carry huge loads
d. not mentioned
12. The camel sweats very little because _____.
a. its body temperature rises as temperature outside increases
b. it can reduce the temperature
c. it has no pores(毛孔)in its skin
d. it eats dry vegetation
13. When a camel does drink, it drinks _____.
a. enough to last for three or four months
b. as much as it has lost
c. very little
d. enough to last until the next oasis(绿洲)
14. The maximum(最大的)length of time a camel can go without drinking _____.
a. depends on how much water it has stored in its hump
b. depends only on the season of the year
c. is four months d. varies
15. Which of the following does not affect the length of time a camel can go without drinking?
a. Its diet. b. Its sex. c. Wind. d. Heat.

Passage 4

Why does a male bird have brighter colors than the female? To understand this, we must first understand why birds have colors at all.

Many explanations have been given for the coloring of birds, but science still doesn't understand this subject fully. You see, the reason why it is hard to explain is that some birds are brilliantly colored, others dull. Some birds stand out like bright banners; others are difficult to see.

All we can do is try to find a few rules that hold true for most birds. One rule is that birds with brighter colors spend most of their time in treetops, in the air, or on the water. Birds with duller colors live mostly on or near the ground.

Another rule——with many exceptions——is that the upperparts of birds are darker in color than the underparts.

Facts like these make science believe that the reason birds have colors is for protection, so that they can't easily be seen by their enemies. This is called "protective coloration." A snipe's colors, for instance, blend perfectly with the grasses of marshes where it lives. A woodcock's colors look exactly like fallen leaves.

Now if the colors are meant to protect birds, which bird needs the most protection, the male or the female? The female, because she has to sit on the nest and hatch the eggs. So nature gives her duller colors to keep her better hidden from enemies.

Another reason for the brighter colors of the male bird is that

they help attract the female during the breeding season. This is usually the time when the male bird's colors are brightest of all. Even among birds, you see, there can be love at first sight!

Multiple choice :

16. One of the rules which hold true for most birds is that ____.
- a. the upperparts of birds are brighter in color than the underparts
 - b. birds with brighter colors live longer than those with duller colors
 - c. birds with duller colors are often found on or near the ground
 - d. birds living on the water are duller in color than those living on the ground
17. The colors of male birds are brightest when ____.
- a. they are sitting on the treetops
 - b. they need the most protection
 - c. they try to hide from their enemies
 - d. they want to attract female birds
18. Female birds can be better protected from their enemies because ____.
- a. they often sit on the nest
 - b. they are protected by male birds
 - c. they have duller colors
 - d. they know how to keep themselves from the enemies
19. Which of the following statements is not true according to the

information of this passage?

- a. Scientists give a number of explanations for the coloring of birds.
- b. It is difficult to explain why birds have different colors.
- c. Science can give a satisfactory answer to the question of the coloring of birds.
- d. Scientists have found some rules which explain why male birds are brighter than female birds.

20. One of the conclusions we can draw from this passage is that

_____.

- a. the coloring of birds has something to do with where they live
- b. the coloring of birds depends much on the food they eat
- c. all birds have their colors for protection.
- d. the coloring of birds is not related to natural surroundings

Unit Two

Passage 1

A young man who lived in London was in love with a beautiful girl. Soon she became his fiancée. The man was very poor while the girl was rich. The young man wanted to make her a present on her birthday. He wanted to buy something beautiful for her, but he had no idea how to do it, as he had very little money. The next morning he went to a shop. There were many fine things there: rings, gold watches, diamonds——but all these things were too expensive. There was one thing he could not take his eyes off. It was a beautiful vase. That was a suitable present for his fiancée. He had been looking at the vase for half an hour when the manager of the shop noticed him. The young man looked so pale, sad and unhappy that the manager asked what had happened to him.

The young man told him everything. The manager felt sorry for him and decided to help him. A brilliant idea struck him. The manager pointed to the corner of the shop. To his great surprise the young man saw a vase broken into many pieces. The manager said: "I can help you. I shall order my servant to pack it and take it to your fiancée. When he enters the room, he will drop it."

On the birthday of his fiancée the young man was very excit-