

喻家楼 顾成华 童传富编

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大学英语 阅读理解

中国科学技术大学出版社

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1987·合肥

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中国科学技术大学出版社出版

(安徽省合肥市金寨路24号)

安徽省巢湖地区印刷厂印刷

安徽省新华书店发行 各地新华书店经售

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开本: 787×1092/32 印张: 5.5 字数: 181千

1987年3月第一版 1987年3月第一次印刷

印数: 1—25000册

ISBN 7-312-00027-4/H·15 统一书号: 9474·15 定价: 1.20元

前 言

根据“理工科大学英语教学新大纲”的要求，结合在校学生的实际情况，我们从国内外近年来出版的书刊中挑选了90篇优秀文章（其中不少附有理解性习题），汇编成书。此书内容丰富多彩，文理并重。书中文章，短小精悍，生动有趣，该书既可供读者阅读欣赏，借以提高阅读理解水平，又可从中思考演习文后习题（书后有参考答案），逐渐了解“阅读理解”的命题特点与测试技巧，掌握应考策略与解题方法。

书中的试题，采取多种选择形式，类型大致分为：词义的理解与替换；情节的设想与推断；内容的概括与总结；还有数字的计算，谬误的辨识等。它可作为本科生、研究生的泛读材料，也可供英语爱好者自学使用。

本书由合肥工业大学外语系英语教研室的陈燧宾、李文玠、罗玉兰、徐佩英、陈文秘、朱思问、程国珍、郭成桢等教师搜集提供材料，冯韵芳副教授审定，俞进作文字校对，在我校任教的美籍专家 Loren Fessler 也提出了宝贵意见。在此谨向他们表示衷心的感谢，对于本书所选用的文章与试题的原作者也顺致谢忱。

编 者

1986年11月10日

内 容 简 介

本书是根据英语教学大纲的要求而编写的，全书从近年来国内外出版的书刊中挑选90篇优秀文章，每篇文章之后附有相应的试题，书末附有参考答案。课文内容文理并重，短小精悍，试题形式多样，富于技巧。通过阅读，借以提高阅读理解能力，并从中了解“阅读理解”的命题特点和测试技巧。可供大学本科生、研究生和广大英语爱好者使用。

In the earliest experiments with sound, guns were fired to produce the sound and also a flash, which at night acted as a signal to show that the experiment had started. An observer standing, say, 20 miles away started his stop-watch when he saw the flash, and stopped it when he heard the explosion. The time taken by light to travel a distance as short as this can be ignored, so the time noted was that required by sound to complete its journey. The speed was easily calculated. It was found to be greater with the wind than against it. To overcome this difficulty, guns were fired at an agreed time at both ends of the measured distance, and the average of the two speeds was taken.

1. In the earliest experiments with sound
 - a. guns were used.
 - b. a fire was used.
 - c. a flash light was used
 - d. both b and c.
2. The real speed of sound was calculated
 - a. at an agreed time.
 - b. by taking the average of the two speeds.
 - c. when the experiment was done with the wind.
 - d. when the experiment was done against the wind.

All life on the earth depends on heat from the sun. The sun heats the earth, which makes it possible for plants to grow, and plants, of course, provide food for man. Without the sun's heat the temperature of the earth would

fall almost to absolute zero and neither plant nor animal life could exist.

Not only does the sun heat the earth directly, but all other sources of heat except the heat from nuclear reactions, come to us indirectly from the sun. Burning wood, coal, oil or natural gas is a chemical reaction in which the sun's heat is released, and the heat we get from electricity also comes originally from the sun.

1. _____ the temperature of the earth would fall almost to absolute zero and neither plant nor animal life could exist.

- a. Lack of the sun's heat
- b. But for the sun's heat
- c. Free from the sun's heat
- d. Not having the sun's heat

2. Choose one from the following to substitute the word "except" in the second paragraph.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| a. besides | c. in addition to |
| b. as well as | d. other than |

3

It is customary in America for men to shake hands when they meet for the first time. The handshake should be firm and short, two or three shakings being sufficient. When men are introduced to ladies, the man may shake the lady's hand only if she offers it first. Otherwise, he should just bow slightly.

It is not customary for good friends to shake hands every time they meet, unless it is after a long absence. Generally speaking, it is better to bow when meeting previous acquaintances than to make a nuisance of

yourself by shaking hands.

1. If the lady offers her hand,
 - a. the handshake should be firm.
 - b. the handshake should be short, two or three shakings being sufficient.
 - c. he may shake her hand.
 - d. he should just bow slightly.
2. The "it" underlined in the second paragraph refers to _____.
 - a. to shake hands
 - b. by shaking hands
 - c. to bow...
 - d. to make a nuisance of...

4

Strange things happen to time when you travel, because the earth is divided into twenty-four time zones, one hour apart. You can have days with more or fewer than twenty-four hours, and weeks with more or fewer than seven days.

If you make a five-day trip across the Atlantic Ocean, your ship enters a different time zone every day. As you enter each zone, the time changes one hour. Traveling west, you set your clock back; traveling east, you set it ahead. Each day of your trip has either twenty-five or twenty-three hours.

1. The difference in time between zones is _____.
 - a. seven days
 - b. twenty-four hours
 - c. one hour
 - d. more than seven days
2. If you cross the ocean going east, you set your clock _____.
 - a. ahead one hour in each new time zone
 - b. ahead one hour for the whole trip

- c. back one full day for each time zone
- d. ahead by twenty-three hours

5

The men of the Island of Hispaniola suddenly refused to bring any more food. Columbus needed food and he called the men together. He had studied one of his books, and he knew the date of the next eclipse.

He told the men that God was angry. God was going to make the moon dark to show this. Columbus then pointed to the sky, and the men looked up. They saw the beginning of an eclipse, and the moon got darker and darker. They were afraid, and asked Columbus to help them. So he left them and went to his room in the ship. He waited there alone and then returned. He was smiling now, and he told the men not to be sad. He said that God had forgiven them. Then he pointed to the moon. The eclipse was ending; the earth's shadow was beginning to move away. The light got brighter. Then all the men were glad and they promised to bring some food. They were so afraid of Columbus that they never stopped the supply of food again.

1. An eclipse began. The moon got darker and darker. The men of the Island of Hispaniola _____.
 - a. were afraid, but promised to bring some food
 - b. were not afraid, still refused to bring any more food
 - c. were afraid, and asked Columbus to help them
 - d. were not afraid of Columbus and stopped the supply of food again
2. This is a story about _____.
 - a. Christopher Columbus and an eclipse of the moon

- b. Columbus helping the men of the Island of Hispaniola
- c. the men of the Island of Hispaniola
- d. his being afraid of an eclipse of the sun

6

We live in a physical world. Take water for example. It is made up of two gases—hydrogen and oxygen. If either of these gases is looked at in a big glass bottle, no colour will be seen. Put them together, and still there will be no colour; but if you light a match at the mouth of the bottle, there will be a little explosion. A moment later you may see a few drops of water in the bottle. The fire has made the gases combine in the right way to form water.

Water does not always follow the rule that everything expands when heated and contracts when cooled. When water freezes, it becomes larger in volume instead of smaller. Ice is lighter than water, and floats on water. If ice were heavier than water, lakes would freeze from the bottom up. It is possible to make ice heavier than water by great pressure, several tons of pressure for each square inch.

1. Which one of these statements is true?
 - a. Hydrogen and oxygen are colourless. Put them together, and there will be no colour.
 - b. If you light a match at the mouth of the bottle in which hydrogen and oxygen are placed, there will not be a little explosion.
 - c. When water freezes, it may be smaller in volume.
 - d. Lake freezes from the bottom up because ice is heavier

than water.

2. Which one of these statements is not true?
- a. Everything in the world expands when heated and contracts when cooled.
 - b. The expansion and contraction which most substances undergo on changing temperature are familiar to us all.
 - c. Almost all substances expand when heated and contract when cooled.
 - d. Substance will expand or contract when heated or cooled, but this is not often the case with water.

7

Different countries have different manners. Before entering a house in some Asian countries it is good manners to take off your shoes. In European countries, even though shoes sometimes become very muddy this is not done. A guest in a Chinese house never finishes a drink. He leaves a little to show that he has had enough. In a Malay house, too, a guest always leaves a little food. In England, a guest always finishes a drink to show that he has enjoyed it.

Here are some examples of the things that a well mannered person does or does not do.

He never laughs at people when they are in trouble. Instead, he tries to help them. He is always kind either to people or animals. When people are waiting for a bus, he takes his turn. He does not push to the front of the queue. In the bus, he gives his seat to an old person or a lady who is standing. If he accidentally bumps into someone, or gets in their way, he says "Excuse me" or

started feeding herself and took to smiling and talking with others. The change in her attitude was amazing. Not only did she require less nursing care, but she was also able to help other patients. She was again able to see and with this, seemed to experience some hearing recovery.

1. The regular attendants of the nursing home were most probably_____.

- a. overworked to the point of exhaustion
- b. unaware of Mrs. Harris' real problem
- c. indifferent to the needs of the patients
- d. highly trained medical experts

2. It can be reasonably inferred from this paragraph that _____.

- a. a person's state of health affects his outlook on life
- b. nursing homes are staffed with unqualified attendants
- c. an elderly person should be cared for by his family
- d. state governments should supervise nursing homes closely

3. Evidence suggests that the young doctor was_____.

- a. unusual b. alert c. independent d. casual

Notes: cataract ['kætərækt] n. [医] 白内障

The train I was traveling on was already half an hour late. I had planned to arrive in Chicago at 7:00 in time to catch the 7:50 train to St. Louis_____but there was no hope of that now. I explained the situation to the conductor who advised me to get off at the stop before Union Station and take a taxi. When the time came, he even helped me with my luggage. He wished me a good

luck as I jumped off, and a few minutes later I was going towards Union Station in a taxi. It was almost 7 : 50 when we stopped outside the station. I paid the driver quickly, carried my bags and hurried inside.

"The St. Louis train...?" was all I had time to say to the first porter I saw. You can imagine my disappointment when he pointed to a train that was just moving out of the station.

1. The train he was travelling on arrived in Chicago
 - a. at 7 : 00.
 - b. in time.
 - c. at 7 : 50.
 - d. behind its time.
2. The conductor thought it better for the traveler to
 - a. take a taxi to St. Louis.
 - b. take a bus to St. Louis.
 - c. carry his bags and hurry to the Union Station.
 - d. catch the 7 : 50 train to St. Louis at Union Station.
3. What has become of the writer?
 - a. He managed to catch the train he needed.
 - b. He failed to catch the train to St. Louis.
 - c. As soon as he got on the train it began to leave the station.
 - d. Thanks to the porter's help, he was in time for the train.
4. The best title for this passage is
 - a. Late Again.
 - b. At the Union Station.
 - c. A Helpful Conductor.
 - d. Conductor, Porter and I.

Though Brazil is one of the richest countries in the world, much of it has not yet been developed. It was mainly for this reason that the Brazilian government de-

cided to have a new city built 600 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro. Designed by the great architect Lucio Costa, the new city, Brasilia, replaced Rio de Janeiro as the capital of Brazil in 1960. Brasilia has been carefully planned for modern living. It has quickly established itself as the capital of the country. The idea to have the capital moved so far inland will have a great effect on the future of Brazil.

1. The new capital, Brasilia, was built inland_____.
 - a. because Rio was not suitable any more
 - b. because Lucio Costa suggested it
 - c. to speed up the development of Brazil
 - d. because Brazil is one of the richest countries in the world.
2. Brasilia must be a wonderful city to live in because_____.
 - a. it is new
 - b. it is 600 miles inland
 - c. it will have a great effect on the future of Brazil
 - d. it is designed for modern living

If you are like most people, your intelligence varies from season to season. You are probably a lot sharper in the spring than you are at any other time of the year. A noted scientist concluded that climate and temperature have a definite effect on our mental abilities, and that cool weather is much more favorable for creative thinking than is summer heat. This does not mean that all people are less intelligent in the summer than they are during the rest of the year. It does mean, however, that the mental abilities of large numbers of people tend to be low-

est in the summer.

Spring appears to be the best period of the year for thinking. One reason may be that in the spring man's mental abilities are affected by the same factors that bring about great changes in all nature. Autumn is the next-best season, then winter. As for summer, it seems to be a good time to take a long vacation from thinking!

1. According to the passage, your intelligence probably
 - a. varies from month to month.
 - b. stays the same throughout the year.
 - c. changes with the season.
 - d. varies from day to day.
2. A scientist arrived at the conclusion that climate and temperature have_____.
 - a. nothing to do with man's mental abilities
 - b. some effect on the intelligence of large numbers of people
 - c. a great effect on everyone's intelligence
 - d. no effect on women's intelligence
3. One possible reason why spring is the best season for thinking is that_____.
 - a. all nature, including man, is growing then
 - b. it is followed by summer
 - c. it lasts longer than the other seasons
 - d. both b and c

Dear sir,

After reading some of the letters printed in this newspaper, I'm beginning to believe that the carbon monoxide in the city's air during the past year has already affected

some people's ability to think straight.

The proposal for limiting the use of cars seems fair and reasonable to me. I can't feel that it will produce any real suffering on the part of motorists, who sometimes seem to put their right to drive above the public's right to breathe.

Surely everyone can understand that it would be worse to have to wear gas masks in our city than to ride buses or trains. After all, breathing is necessary, and we might all breathe more easily if we could reduce the amount of pollution in our air.

A citizen

1. The letters referred to in the first paragraph must have
 - a. complained that carbon monoxide had affected their own ability to think.
 - b. complained that carbon monoxide had affected other people's ability to think.
 - c. opposed the limiting of the use of cars.
 - d. proposed the limiting of the use of cars.
2. The citizen considered that
 - a. cars do not pollute the air as some people think.
 - b. carbon monoxide can hardly actually affect people's ability to think.
 - c. motorists have the right to drive as they like.
 - d. mass transportation is less harmful than private cars.
3. To deal with pollution the writer suggests
 - a. wearing gas masks.
 - b. limiting the use of cars.
 - c. limiting the use of buses.
 - d. reducing the number of motorists.
4. In writing this letter the citizen is
 - a. curious about the proposal.