

COLLEGE ENGLISH TIMED
READING

大学英语限时阅读

3

马 宇◎主编



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College English Fast Reading

第三分册

主编 马 宇

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前 言

《大学英语限时阅读》(1—3 册)是根据教育部高等教育司颁布的《高职高专教育英语课程教学基本要求》编写而成的一套英语阅读教材,专供高职高专院校学生使用,既可作大学英语课堂教学用书,也可作全国高等学校英语应用能力考试辅导用书,还可以作为大学生参加大学英语四级考试训练用书。它是一套训练学生阅读理解能力的由浅入深的英语教学用书。

本套教材共分三册,每册编写十个单元,每个单元有四篇短文,均有规定的时间与词数,供学生阅读时参考。每个单元的主题完全配合学生所学英语精读教材中的各单元的主题内容,尤其是外研社出版的高职高专教材《新视野英语教程》,相互补充,有助于提高学生的英语知识与应用能力的获取效率。其中,第一册内容相当于大学英语预备级水平;第二册内容相当于英语应用能力考试 B 级水平;第三册内容相当于英语应用能力考试 A 级水平。

本套教材的编写团队均是由英语知识丰富、专门从事英语教学的教师组成。了解不同层次学生对英语的需求,因此,本套教材符合高职高专学生对英语知识获得的特点。本套教材由马宇任主编,季晓燕、李文敬、单楠任副主编,王梦颖、袁利宁、赵冬华、刘艳芳、刘莹、岳凤霞等参与编写。

本套教材的编写耗时较长,倾注了编者的大量心血。虽然编者一丝不苟,力求完美,但是不足之处在所难免,敬请读者多提宝贵意见,以便在修订时加以改进。

马宇

2009 年 6 月

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Unit One

Home

Directions: Read the following passages and do the multiple-choice exercises. Record the time you have used and the number of correct answers you have got.

Passage 1

Words 378 Minutes 4

Once while being prepped for a television interview, I was chatting with the host about stay-at-home fathers. I made the point that one reason we're seeing more stay-at-home dads may be that it's no longer a given that a man makes more money than his wife. Many families now take earning power into account when deciding which parent will stay home.

At that point, one of the male crew members commented, almost to himself but loud enough for my benefit, "It should be the better parent who stays home. " A lot of guys say things like

that. Usually it's code for, "My wife(read: any woman) is the better parent."

I was a stay-at-home father for eight years, so his declaration(声明) made me bristle. It implied that our family's choice could only have been correct if I was a "better" parent than my wife.

I think men shoot themselves in the foot with this kind of thinking. I suppose an argument could have been made that when I began staying home my wife was the "better" parent: She had spent more time with Ry, could read him better and calm him more quickly. And given a choice, he'd have picked her over me. But as she was the more employable one, my wife went out to work and I looked after our son.

Know what? I caught up. Because of the increased time I spent with him, I soon knew Ry well, understood what he needed and could look after him more or less as well as my wife could. Actually, the experience helped me unlock one of the world's great secrets: Women are good at looking after children because they do it. It's not because of any innate female aptitude or a mother's instinct—which I think is mostly learned anyway. It's because they put in the time and attention required to become good at the job.

Women obviously get a biological head start from giving birth and nursing, but over the long term experience is more important. When I got the experience myself, I was good, too. As good? I don't know. Who cares? Children are not made of

glass. Other people are capable of looking after them besides Mom.

1. Which of the following does the first paragraph imply?
 - A. Men are no longer given the opportunity to stay at home.
 - B. In more and more families the wife is earning more than the husband.
 - C. The author works at a TV station.
 - D. More and more men choose to stay at home to look after their children.
2. The author decided to stay at home to look after their son eight years ago because _____.
 - A. he thought he was the better parent
 - B. it was easier for his wife to find a job
 - C. their son Ry liked him better
 - D. he was earning less than his wife
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a thing that a good parent should do with his or her child?
 - A. Spending more time with him.
 - B. Taking him to school.
 - C. Reading stories to him.
 - D. Being able to calm him down.
4. Women generally are better than men at taking care of children because _____.
 - A. they were born with the ability
 - B. they just enjoy doing it

- C. they spend more time with them
 - D. they have learned to do it at school
5. Which of the following is the conclusion the author draws at the end of the article?
- A. He is better than his wife at taking care of children.
 - B. He is as good as his wife at taking care of children.
 - C. Anyone can take good care of children as far as he has the experience.
 - D. Children prefer to be taken care of by their mother than by anyone else.

Passage 2

Words 258 Minutes 3

In the late 1920s my mother ran away from home to marry my father. Marriage, if not running away, was expected of seventeen-year-old girls. By the time she was twenty, she had two children and was pregnant with a third. Five children later, I was born. And this is how I came to know my mother: she seemed a large, soft, loving-eyed woman who was rarely impatient in our home. Her quick, violent temper was on view only a few times a year, when she battled with the white landlord who had the misfortune to suggest to her that her children did not need to go to school.

She made all the clothes we wore, even my brothers' overalls. She made all the towels and sheets we used. She spent the summers canning vegetables and fruits. She spent the winter evenings making quilts enough to cover all our beds.

During the “working” day, she labored beside—not behind—my father in the fields. Her day began before sunup, and did not end until late at night. There was never a moment for her to sit down, undisturbed, to unravel her own private thoughts; never a time free from interruption—by work or the noisy inquiries of her many children. And yet, it is to my moth-

er—and all our mothers who were not famous—that I went in search of the secret of what has fed that muzzled and often mutilated, but vibrant, creative spirit that the black woman has inherited, and that pops out in wild and unlikely places to this day.

1. According to the passage, the mother married _____.
 - A. as she was expected
 - B. as she was forced to
 - C. against her own will
 - D. according to her own will
2. The mother appeared to the narrator to be all of the following except _____.

A. soft	B. loving
C. patient	D. violent
3. The white landlord angered the narrator's mother by _____.
 - A. driving her children out of school
 - B. telling her not to let her children go to school
 - C. fighting with her
 - D. being rich
4. It seems to the narrator that it would be really good if _____.
 - A. the mother worked from sunup till night
 - B. the mother worked side by side with her husband
 - C. the mother made all thing that the family needed
 - D. the mother could have some time to think undisturbed

5. The goal the narrator's research was to _____.
- A. praise all the working black mothers
 - B. find reasons for the black women's creativeness
 - C. show how black women's talent has been stifled
 - D. recall her own mother's good qualities

Passage 3

Words 351 Minutes 4

In India, almost all marriages are arranged. Even among the educated middle classes in modern, urban India, marriage is as much a concern of the families as it is of the individuals. So customary is the practice of arranged marriage that there is a special name for a marriage which is not arranged: It is called a "love match".

On my first filed trip to India, I met many young men and women whose parents were in the process of "getting them married". In many cases, the bride and the groom would not meet each other before the marriage. At most they might meet for a brief conversation, and this meeting would take place only after their parents had decided that the match was suitable. Parents do not compel their children to marry a person who either marriage partner finds objectionable. But only after one match is refused will another be sought.

As a young American woman in India for the first time, I found this custom of arranged marriage oppressive. How could any intelligent young person agree to such a marriage without great reluctance? It was contrary to everything I believed about the importance of romantic loves as the only basis of a happy

marriage. It also classed with my strongly held notions that the choice of such an intimate and permanent relationship could be made only by the individual involved. Had anyone tried to arrange my marriage, I would have been defiant and rebellious(叛逆的)!

At the first opportunity, I began, with more curiosity(好奇心) than fact, to question the young people I met on how they felt about the practice. Sita, one of my young informants, was a college graduate with a degree in political science. She had been waiting for over a year while her parents were arranging a match for her. I found it difficult to accept the docile manner in which this well-educated young woman awaited the outcome of a process that would result in her spending the rest of her life with a man she hardly knew, a virtual stranger, picked out by her parents.

1. According to the narrator, most marriages in India

_____.

- A. are love matches
- B. concern individuals only
- C. are a matter of the families concerned
- D. are arranged

2. While arranging a marriage, the parents usually _____.

- A. let the bride and groom know each other well before they marry
- B. decide whether the marriage is suitable
- C. force their children to marry against their will

D. look for many matches for one of their children at the same time

3. The narrator found the arranged marriages to be _____.

A. defiant

B. practical

C. romantic

D. unbearable

4. The word “docile” in Paragraph Four means _____.

A. rebellious

B. painful

C. educated

D. timid

5. A good title for the passage is _____.

A. A Love Match and an Arranged Match

B. My Experience in India

C. Arranging a Marriage in India

D. Why Marriages Are Arranged in India