



普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材



(修订版)

College English Fast Reading

大学英语快速阅读

朱先明 安红 主编



北京大学出版社
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS

根据教育部《大学英语课程教学要求》编写

College English Fast Reading **大学英语快速阅读 2**

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前言

《大学英语快速阅读》(2)是北京大学出版社出版的大学英语立体化网络化系列教材之一,共收录短文 32 篇。内容涉及人生价值与追求、学习与就业、旅游观光、环境保护、缤纷社会、服务与经济、纵深报道、科学与自然等方面知识。按主题分为 8 个单元。

编写此书时,编者除注意到内容的科学性、文化性、可读性和趣味性外,还突出体现了内容的丰富性、新颖性以及语言的地道性和准确性,同时对其实用性也给予了充分的注意,以满足广大院校学生的需求。

此教材旨在帮助读者扩大英语词汇量,提高快速阅读速度和增强阅读理解能力,从而广泛深入地了解有关历史、文化、经济、风俗、人情以及自然科学和人文科学方面的信息。本教材着重学生英语快速阅读策略和技巧的培养,通过本教材系统、科学的强化训练,学生的英语阅读速度可在短时间内得到大幅度提高。书中阅读练习是依据新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》关于大学英语四六级学生的快速阅读速度要求和《关于试点阶段的大学英语四级考试说明》而设计编写的。在练习设计上编者没有按照以语言为中心的旧模式编写,而是侧重培养学生正确理解文章的大意、抓住主要事实和有关细节的能力,以及快速浏览和查读能力。题型的设计包括是非判断、句子填空和多项选择,练习数量为 7 题。同时编者还给出了每篇文章阅读所需要的时间,以供读者参考。对于篇幅稍长且难度较大的文章可放慢阅读速度。

本教材适合我国高校非英语专业大学一年级第二学期开设快速

阅读课使用,也可作为四六级强化班的培训教材;同时也适合参加托福、GRE、雅思、考研等各种英语考试的广大考生学习使用。

由于编者水平和时间所限,难免还有不足之处,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者



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Unit 1

Passage 1 (Time Required: 6'22")

Memory and the Human Brain

Vocabulary Tips

intelligent *adj.* 聪明的; 有才智的

specific *adj.* 特定的; 特有的

establish *vt.* 确定; 证实

recall *vt.* 回忆起; 回想起

in detail 详细地

grocery *n.* 食品和杂货

function *n.* 功能; 作用

identify *vt.* 发现; 确认

biological *adj.* 生物学的

accurate *adj.* 正确无误的

elementary *adj.* 初级的; 小学的

in light of 鉴于; 考虑到

Starting Time _____ Finishing Time _____

Is it possible to know exactly how memory works in humans and other intelligent animals? Some people believe that it never will be. But some scientists, who are studying the function of the brain and its relationship to memory, do not share this view.

It is now well known that memory, like other brain functions, is located in specific parts of the brain in humans. These parts may be identified and their location in the brain may be established. They work together in both short-term and long-term memory. Although scientists have not yet fully studied the brain, much progress has been made. One day the mind will be described fully both in biological and mental terms.

Some people claim that they can recall things which happened many years ago. Have you ever had the same experience? The fact is, these long-term memories are very accurate in detail and can be compared to a movie in the brain. Once we start the movie going, we experience the entire memory. This movie in the mind (brain) is the reason why we have a sense of self. We know who we are and we know that we exist.

Try to think of something like a long poem, a joke, or a song you learned in early elementary school. If you remember it, you can often repeat the entire poem or song in quite accurate detail. You will often remember the reason why you were asked to learn this poem or song. It may have been for a show to which families were invited, or it may have

been a pleasant holiday meeting where your parents asked you to tell them what you had learned.

However, sometimes you cannot even remember the details of things that are part of your short-term memory. This happens when you are required to remember many things, and especially if you do not feel well, or if you are not well rested.

All of us have “learned” facts which we thought would help us do well on an exam in school. But often, when we tried to recall the facts, we could not, or we could think of only a little of what we thought we had learned.

Have you ever experienced anything like this: you were to call a good friend, but you couldn’t recall the telephone number? You were shopping in the grocery store for your mother, but you couldn’t remember exactly what you were expected to get for her. Even when things have been learned well in our memory, we find that we cannot recall them when we need them. It may be that ten minutes later, or the next day, our memory will tell us what these things were, but it is true that the memory is not always perfect. Of course it is possible to train ourselves to remember things better. This usually involves repeating the facts to ourselves, or even writing them a few times until they are easily remembered.

Memory allows us to remember facts, see them in light of new information, and make decisions that are important to us. It would be nice if it were always perfect, and it will be nice when we know even more about how memory works on a biological and mental basis.

(547 words)

Comprehension Exercises

Without referring back to the reading article, do the following exercises.

I. Decide whether the statements are true or false. Mark them with the letter "T" or "F".

1. We have a sense of self because of our long-term memories. ()
2. The ability to recall a song you learned in elementary school is an example of short-term memory. ()

II. Fill in the blanks with the information you've obtained from the reading.

3. Long-term memories are very accurate in detail and can be compared to _____.
4. It will be nice when we know even more about _____ on a biological and mental basis.

III. According to the information given in the article, select the best answer from the four options to each of the following questions below. Circle the choice.

5. What have scientists already learned about memory?
 - A. Memory is the most important function of the brain.
 - B. Certain parts of the brain are responsible for memory.
 - C. Short-term memory and long-term memory work together.
 - D. Short-term memory and long-term memory are equally accurate.
6. What is the probable reason why long-term memories can be compared to a movie?
 - A. People make movies to record their memories.
 - B. We never forget the movies that we have seen.
 - C. Once the movie in the mind begins, the entire memory is recalled.
 - D. Movies can remind us of some past events.
7. If one wants to remember some facts better, he should _____.
 - A. remember the reason for doing so.
 - B. see them in a new light
 - C. say them to himself several times
 - D. wait until the next day

A good book is a good friend.

好书如挚友。

The Importance of Being Bilingual

Vocabulary Tips

immigrant	<i>n.</i> 移民	census	<i>n.</i> 人口普查
curriculum	<i>n.</i> 课程	ethnic enclaves	少数民族聚居地
metropolitan	<i>adj.</i> 大都会的	preserve	<i>vt.</i> 保持; 保存,
diversity	<i>n.</i> 多样性	legislation	<i>n.</i> 立法; 法律
restrictionism	<i>n.</i> 限制主义	divergent	<i>adj.</i> 有分歧的

Starting Time _____ Finishing Time _____

Actually, though, America, the "land of immigrants", has always had people of many different nationalities and languages. The 1990 census indicates that almost 14% of Americans speak a non-English language at home. Yet only 3% reported that they spoke English "not well" or "not at all". That means that slightly more than one out of 10 Americans could be considered bilingual. Besides that, many high school and college students and even some elementary school students are required to take a foreign language as a part of their curriculum. In addition to old standbys like Spanish, German and French, more and more students are opting Eastern European and Asian languages. Of course, not all students keep up their foreign language abilities. As the old saying goes, "If you don't use it." But a growing number of Americans are coming to appreciate the benefits of being multilingual.

Ethnic enclaves, found particularly in major metropolitan centers, have preserved the language and culture of American immigrants. Some local residents can function quite well in their native language, without having to bother learning English. Regions such as southern Florida and the Southwest have numerous Spanish-speaking neighborhoods. In fact, Spanish speakers numbering over 17 million compose the largest non-English linguistic group in America. But Chinese, Vietnamese, Italian and many other ethnic group add to the linguistic flavor of America. Foreign languages are so commonly used in some ethnic neighborhoods that visitors might think they are in another country!

Although some Americans welcome this linguistic and cultural diversity, other have begun to fear that the English language is being threatened. Since the 1980s, the "English Only" movement has sought to promote legislation which would establish English as the

“official language” and restrict the use of non-English language. However, some groups, including TESOL, the organization for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other language, object to such “language restrictionism”. Their view, known as “English Plus,” suggests that Americans should have respect for people’s native help them fit into the mainstream of society. But so far, 19 states have passed English Only legislation, and the topic is the focus of an ongoing debate.

Whether or not English is the official language of the United States, it remains the “language of wider communication”. Nearly everyone recognizes the need to develop proficiency in English in order to do well in America. To help those who want to brush up on their English skills, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes around. Cities with large numbers of recent immigrants often set up bilingual education programs to teach students content subjects in their native language while they improve their English. Language educators often have strong and divergent views as to which approach helps learners achieve better results: a bilingual approach, an ESL approach or even a pure immersion approach. However, all these teachers share a common commitment: to help students function well in English.

Americans recognize that English is the international language, and people with good English skills can get by in many international settings. On the other hand, in a world growing increasingly smaller, second language skills can be a great favor. They can build cross-cultural bridges and give people an edge in a variety of career field. Indeed, lack of foreign language proficiency can limit one’s chances for advancement. As many people in America are discovering, being monolingual is no laughing matter.

(564 words)

Comprehension Exercises

Without referring back to the reading article, do the following exercises.

I. Decide whether the statements are true or false. Mark them with the letter "T" or "F".

1. More than two out of 10 Americans could be considered bilingual. ()
2. "English Only" movement was launched because English was being threatened. ()

II. Fill in the blanks with the information you've obtained from the reading.

3. In addition to Spanish, German and French, more and more students are opting _____.
4. Nearly everyone recognizes the need to _____ in order to do well in America.

III. According to the information given in the article, select the best answer from the four options to each of the following questions below. Circle the choice.

5. The word "bilingual" (Line 7, para.1) means _____.
 - A. being able to speak two languages
 - B. being able to speak three languages
 - C. being able to speak four languages
 - D. being able to speak five languages
6. Foreign languages are commonly used in some ethnic neighborhoods because _____.
 - A. ethnic groups have preserved their native languages
 - B. ethnic groups are not allowed to speak English
 - C. ethnic groups encourage their natives to learn foreign languages
 - D. ethnic groups allow their natives to go to another country
7. _____ compose the largest linguistic group in America.
 - A. Immigrants from China
 - B. Immigrants from Spain
 - C. Immigrants from Italy
 - D. Immigrants from Vietnam

An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening.

一日之计在于晨。

Words of Advice from Bill Gates

Vocabulary Tips

challenging	adj. 有挑战性的	idealistic	adj. 有理想的; 理想主义的
self-esteem	n. 自尊	uniform	n. 制服
irritable	adj. 易怒的	flipping burgers	在餐馆打零工
minimum	adj. 最低的	whine about	发牢骚
abolish	vt. 废除	nerd	n. 讨厌的人

Starting Time _____ Finishing Time _____

Life is wonderful, but it is also challenging at times. The following advice comes from one of the most successful businessman in history, Bill Gates. He recently told a group of high school students about eleven things they did not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a full generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

Eleven Rules of Life

Rule 1: Life is not fair—get used to it. The average teenager uses the phrase “it is not fair” 8.6 times a day. You got it from your parents, who said it so often that you decided they must be the most idealistic generation ever. When they started hearing it from their kids, they realized how important it is to get used to the unfairness of life.

Rule 2: The real world will not care as much about your self-esteem as your school does. It will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself. This may come as a shock for young graduates. Usually, when empty self-esteem meets reality, kids complain that it is not fair and they again meet Rule No. 1.

Rule 3: Sorry. You will not make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school. And you won't be a vice-president with a car phone either. You may even have to wear a uniform that doesn't have a label.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss, who tends to be more irritable. When you feel nervous, your boss is not going to ask you how you feel about it.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping. They called it opportunity. They were not embarrassed making minimum wage either. They would have been embarrassed to sit around talking about meaningless TV shows all weekend.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it is not your parents' fault, you are responsible. So don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them. Some turn to the other extreme crying "It is my life," and "You are not the boss of me." When you turn 18, it really becomes your own business. Don't whine about it, or you will sound like the beaten after-war generation.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you decide to accomplish something grand, try delousing the closet in your bedroom first.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they will give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off. Not even Easter break. And very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. You could only do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. Your problems will not all be solved in 30 minutes. In real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

(579 words)