



英语阅读步步高丛书

# 大学 英语 阅读步步高

第3册

COLLEGE ENGLISH READING ESCALADE

隋长红 唐世民 主编  
孙勇彬



阅读 理解  
同步 练习

科学 理念 独特方法

翻译 训练  
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# READING BOOK

辽宁师范大学出版社

College English Reading Escalade

# 大学英语阅读步步高

(第三册)

隋长红 唐世民  
孙文抗 孙勇彬

主编  
主审

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# 前 言

《大学英语阅读步步高》是依据原国家教育委员会批准的《大学英语教学大纲》编写而成。按分级教学的要求共分四册,每级一册,可供1~4级阅读、写作和翻译教学使用。大学英语教学的主要目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和初步的写作及翻译能力。多年的教学经验证明,要实现这一目标,单凭有限的课堂教学是不够的,学生还需要花相当的时间、精力搞好课外自我训练。大量阅读难度适当的英文材料,可以有效地复习和巩固学过的知识,发展和提高语言能力,同时还可以开阔视野,扩大知识面,增加英语背景知识,增强语感,加深对英语特点的理解。同样,要提高写作和翻译方面的能力,大量的课外练习更是不可缺少的。基于以上考虑,我们编写了这套教材,供广大学生及英语自学者选用。

本教材由10个单元(Unit)组成,每单元有8~10篇题材相近的阅读材料(如科技、经济、地质、医学等等)。每篇文章后都附有一定量的练习题,包括阅读理解(Comprehension)、翻译(Translation)和写作(Writing)。文章之后还有一些注释(Notes),以帮助学生领会文章的某些背景及难点。

本教材题材广泛,内容新颖,富有浓厚的时代气息。文章多选自最新的外国报刊及书籍,语言流畅准确,有较强的可读性、知识性和趣味性。文章较好地反映了语言的共核,因此,把它作为大学生英语精读的配套教材是非常适宜的。英语自学者也可用它进行阅读、写作和翻译实践,提高学习的兴趣和悟力。

编 者

一九九八年十月

# Contents

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## Unit I

## Education and Language Learning

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. The Equality of Educational Opportunity .....       | 1  |
| 2. Is Our Education System Inadequate? .....           | 5  |
| 3. Factors Contributing to Inventions in America ..... | 10 |
| 4. Exchange Students .....                             | 14 |
| 5. Children's Language Development .....               | 19 |
| 6. Pronunciation Achievement Factors .....             | 23 |
| 7. Reading Takes Practice .....                        | 28 |
| 8. How to Give a Good Speech .....                     | 32 |

## Unit II

## Around the World

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. The American National Parks .....                       | 37 |
| 2. The Persian Gulf .....                                  | 41 |
| 3. The British Seaside .....                               | 45 |
| 4. A Typical Englishman .....                              | 49 |
| 5. Bullfighting .....                                      | 53 |
| 6. Spanish Music and Dancing .....                         | 57 |
| 7. Marriage Advertising in India's Sunday Newspapers ..... | 62 |
| 8. Islamic Customs Limit Kuwaiti Women .....               | 66 |

**Unit III      Computer**

1. Information Age .....	70
2. The Computer in a Cashless Society .....	74
3. The Computer in Executing the Law .....	78
4. Internet: Its History and Its Use .....	82
5. It Takes Some Online Preparations to Surf the Beach .....	87
6. Multimedia Language-Learning CD-ROMs .....	93
7. When Is Your Child Ready? .....	98
8. America Online .....	106

**Unit IV      Psychology**

1. Personal Growth .....	112
2. Money Spending Habits .....	116
3. Memory and Old People .....	120
4. Are These Best Years of Your Life? .....	124
5. Ideas and Actions .....	130
6. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs .....	134
7. They Have Ways of Making You Spend .....	140
8. An Observation and an Explanation .....	144

**Unit V      Sociology**

1. Individuals and Masses .....	149
2. Please, Metro: Make the Trains Run on Time .....	154
3. Doing Something About City Problems .....	158
4. Crimes Caused by Imitation .....	164
5. What Factors Start Smoking? .....	168
6. Blacks in American Military Actions .....	172

College English Reading Escalade

7. What About the Victims? .....	176
8. A Systems Analysis of a Family in Therapy .....	181

**Unit VI****Sociology and Others**

1. The Structure of Society and Human Relationships .....	185
2. Marriage Encounter Weekend .....	190
3. Marriage and Its Definition .....	194
4. Democracy in the Family .....	198
5. From the Other Side of the Generation Gap .....	202
6. Modern Arts in Europe and America .....	208
7. Movie Review .....	212
8. Mark's Dilemma .....	216

**Unit VII****Science and Technology**

1. Applied Research or Basic Research .....	221
2. Looking Back to the Future .....	226
3. The Cause of the El Nino Phenomenon .....	230
4. The Cause of Lightning .....	233
5. Widespread Attack by Alien Species .....	237
6. Whether Life Exists on Other Planets? .....	241
7. Creativity Fuels Scientific Discoveries .....	245
8. Clones: Will There Be "Carbon Copy" People? .....	250

**Unit VIII****Economics and Business**

1. The Debate on Economic Growth .....	257
2. The Private-Enterprise Economy .....	261
3. Rudy to New York: "We Will End Welfare" .....	265
4. Bank .....	270

*College English Reading Escalade*

5. Europe's Common Market—a Dream Unrealized .....	274
6. The Advertising Standard Authority: an Advertising Watchdog .....	278
7. Pepsi Has the Juice .....	283
8. Capital and Labor .....	288

## **Unit IX      Physical Fitness**

1. The Energy Cycle of Humans .....	292
2. What You Don't Know About Exercise .....	296
3. Some Myths About Physical Fitness .....	301
4. The Mystery of Sleep .....	306
5. In Search of a Cure for Cancer .....	311
6. Learning the Difference Between Play and Sport .....	315
7. The Hard Way to Lose Weight .....	321
8. Football Violence .....	325

## **Unit X      Miscellaneous**

1. Radio Address of the President to the Nation .....	329
2. American Peace Corps .....	334
3. Cosmic Calendar .....	340
4. Artificial Intelligence .....	344
5. The Drama of Lightning and Thunderstorm .....	349
6. The Crime of the Month .....	353
7. Who Will Host This Year's Emmy? Nobody! .....	357
8. Just Listen .....	361

<b>Answer Key</b> .....	365
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## Unit I

# *Education and Language Learning*

### 1 The Equality of Educational Opportunity

Exceptional children are different in some significant way from others of the same age. For these children to develop to their full adult potential, their education must be adapted to those differences.

Although we focus on the needs of exceptional children, we find ourselves describing their environment as well. While the leading actor on the stage captures our attention, we are aware of the importance of the supporting players and the scenery (场景) of the play itself. Both the family and the society in which exceptional children live are often the key to their growth and development. And it is in the public schools that we find the full expression of society's understanding—the knowledge, hopes, and fears that are passed on to the next generation.

Education in any society is a mirror of that society. In that mirror we can see the strengths, the weaknesses, the hopes, the prejudices, and the central values of the culture itself. The great interest in exceptional children shown in public education over the past three decades indicates the strong feeling in our society that all citizens, whatever their special conditions, deserve the opportunity to fully develop their capabilities.

"All men are created equal." We've heard it many times, but it still has important meaning for education in a democratic society. Although the phrase was used by this country's founders to denote equality before the

law, it has also been interpreted to mean equality of opportunity. That concept implies educational opportunity for all children—the right of each child to receive help in learning to the limits of his or her capacity, whether that capacity is small or great. Recent court decisions have confirmed (证实) the right of all children—disabled or not—to an appropriate education, and have ordered that public schools take the necessary steps to provide that education. In response, schools are modifying their programs, adapting instruction to children who are exceptional, to those who cannot profit substantially from regular programs.

(347 words)

### Notes

1. for these children to develop to their full adult potential: 为了让这些孩子的潜力得到充分的发展
2. exceptional children: 卓越的孩子
3. deserve the opportunity to fully develop their capabilities: 应该得到充分发展能力的机会
4. denote equality before the law: 在法律面前人人平等
5. disabled or not: 不论是否残疾
6. modifying their programs: 修改他们的教学计划

### Comprehension

1. In paragraph 2, the author cites the example of the leading actor on the stage to show that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. exceptional children are more influenced by their families than normal children are
  - B. the growth of exceptional children has much to do with their family and the society
  - C. exceptional children are the key interest of the family and society

- D. the needs of the society weigh much heavier than the needs of the exceptional children
2. The fact that people have taken great interest in exceptional children indicates that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. every individual should be given the opportunity to develop to his full potential  
B. exceptional children should be given special care in order to develop their capabilities  
C. some people have prejudices against less intelligent  
D. some people want to build some special children schools for these exceptional children
3. When Thomas Jefferson wrote "All men are created equal" in the Declaration of Independence of America, the author probably meant \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. every person is equal before the law, whether he is rich or poor  
B. every person is equal in his abilities  
C. every person should be given the opportunity to be educated  
D. when a child is born, he should be given the same amount of money as other children
4. According to the passage, why are public schools modifying their programs?  
A. Exceptional children are bored with the courses.  
B. The average child does not want to sit in the same class with exceptional child.  
C. The court has ruled that every child has the right to receive appropriate education and has ordered public schools to take actions to provide that education.  
D. The parents of exceptional children asked the school to do that.
5. The word "interpret" in the last paragraph probably means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. hope                      B. anticipate

C. regard

D. understand the likely meaning of

### **Translation**

The sentences given below are underlined in the passage you have just read. You are required to translate these sentences into Chinese. You may refer back to the passage so as to identify their meanings in the context.

1. Exceptional children are different in some significant way from others of the same age. For these children to develop to their full adult potential, their education must be adapted to those differences.

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2. Although the phrase was used by this country's founders to denote equality before the law, it has also been interpreted to mean equality of opportunity.

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### **Writing**

Please write a composition entitled "On teaching" in about 150 words, using the ideas given below.

#### **On Teaching**

1. Why do people want to become teachers?
2. There are some situations that would make a teaching want to change to a different occupation?
3. Considering the advantages and disadvantages of being a teacher, my view is \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 Is Our Educational System Inadequate?

In the United States, it is required that all children attend school, public or private, for twelve years.

There are exceptions to these rules, of course, as the cases of certain religious or ethnic groups were, education is only required until the eighth grade. And there are some groups of people that see no purpose to an education whatsoever <sup>whatever</sup> and ignore this requirement altogether. But for most, and reasonably so, a twelve-year education is the minimum. <sup>8 9</sup>

In view of the complexity of our society and the changes taking place in communication, technology and the economy, one would think that a person would need at least twelve years of education in order to cope. However, in recent years, a great many people have begun to question the purpose of having compulsory education for twelve years.

### “Functional illiterates”? a growing problem

One big reason the question is being raised is the fact that an alarming number of young people who graduate from the school systems are unable to handle (处理) simple, everyday tasks, such as reading a newspaper, filling out a job application or balancing a checkbook. These people are considered “functionally illiterate” by experts on the subject, who estimate that one out of five adults in the United States falls in this category. Without a mastery of everyday skills, it is extremely difficult for these people to comprehend and deal with the demands of society. And as our language becomes more technical and the laws more complex, life in general can only become more frustrating.

Of course, efforts are being made to correct the problem as various agencies and colleges try to reach these people. But they are difficult to reach. Many are embarrassed by the situation and prefer to live with rather

than correct the problem. In many cases, those who were unsuccessful in school are easily discouraged when they try to learn again, and the dropout rate is high.

### **The dilemma...**

It is clear that the public school system has failed to meet the needs of these people. Further more many parents, educators and politicians think that the system still fails to properly educate vast numbers of students. Yet it seems equally clear that the problems the public school system faces are too complex to be handled by increased government control. Each area of the United States has a unique set of requirements for the education of its young that cannot be satisfied by one general policy.

### **Upgrading of the system is helping some students**

Parents and officials have called for an upgrading of present education systems. It has long been a complaint that the public school system is geared to the needs of the slowest learners. Bright students, unchallenged by the material and the pace of teaching, become bored and channel their energies into less productive diversions. Often the most difficult children are the brightest. This has sparked the initiation of programs like TAG (Talented and Gifted) to provide more challenging material and an accelerated learning pace for these children. Also, some schools now have programs allowing advanced students to obtain college credits while still in high school. And some students can complete their graduation credits early and then take jobs or enter college immediately.

### **Alternatives and changes seem to be helping the situation.**

But there are those who argue that the educational system is still inadequate in meeting the demands of society. Perhaps this is true, but until a more adequate system is developed, we must live with the one we have and deal with its problems individually. Despite the many faults of our

system, the fact remains that the opportunity for a basic education is denied to no one. What individuals get out of that education, however, depends a lot on how much they put in.

(635 words)

### Notes

1. there are exceptions to this rule: 这条规则有例外
2. the eighth grade: 八年级
3. see no purpose to an education whatsoever: 认为任何教育都没有意义
4. in view of the complexity of our society: 考虑到社会的复杂性
5. functional illiterate: 实际生活中的文盲
6. fall in this category: 落入这一族
7. complete their graduation credits early: 早些完成毕业需要的学分
8. live with: 容忍, 接受

### Comprehension

1. One reason that many people have begun to doubt the purpose of having compulsory education for 12 years is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the public school system has turned out a large number of people who can not handle everyday takes  
B. the dropout rate is high in many schools  
C. the problems the public school system faces are too complicated  
D. some people believe it's unfair for some students to enter college immediately after high school
2. According to the author, in the present school systems bright students \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. do not get the highest mark  
B. was often criticized by the teacher  
C. cannot find a job after graduation

D. do not put in much effort.

3. The word "category" in the third paragraph means \_\_\_\_\_.

A. lesson                      B. class

C. school                      D. state

4. Some parents and officials complain the public school system \_\_\_\_\_.

A. can only satisfy the needs of the slowest students

B. can need the demands of society

C. does not allow bright students to graduate early

D. has the weak point that the most difficult students can easily get a job after graduation

5. As science and technology advance, and the rules and policies become more complex, \_\_\_\_\_.

A. the American life will become more enjoyable

B. the American life will become more colorful

C. many Americans can find life very hard

D. more Americans will become rich people

## **Translation**

The sentences given below are underlined in the passage you have just read. You are required to translate these sentences into Chinese. You may refer back to the passage so as to identify their meanings in the context.

1. In view of the complexity of our society and the changes taking place in communication, technology and the economy, one would think that a person would need at least twelve years of education in order to cope.

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2. However, in recent years, a great many people have begun to question the purpose of having compulsory education for twelve years.



## **Writing**

Please write a composition entitled “China’s education today” in about 150 words, using the ideas given below.

### **China’s Education Today**

1. one of the problems with today’s education is too much emphasis laid on test score—the most important criterion for college enrollment—one of the crucial factors in finding a job—one criterion for success in school
2. the competition for high scores—intense—students focus on how to achieve high scores rather than on acquiring skills needed for future
3. The completion make us unable to accomplish the goals of education.