

COLLEGE ENGLISH TIMED
READING

大学英语限时阅读

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马 宇◎主编



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College English Fast Reading

第一分册

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

College

Read the passages and choose the best answer in the time required.

Passage 1

Words 376 Minutes 4

Women nowadays are stronger and smarter than they were 50 years ago, and they can expect to live longer. Japanese women, for example, can expect to live 82 years, which is the longest in the world. Just 50 years ago, Japanese women could expect to live only 54 years.

Many women are working today. In Japan, 75% of women are working now, compared to 37% 50 years ago. The reason why so many women are working is that they're getting more education these days. The rate of Japanese women going to junior college and universities is higher than the rate for men. In

1877, Helen Magill became the first woman in the United States to earn her Ph.D. By 1880, women comprised eighty percent of all elementary school educators, and by 1910 women made up 39 percent of all collegiate undergraduate students and even 20 percent of all college faculty. Finally, in 1920 women suffrage (投票) was achieved, giving women a secure foothold in society. In 1945, the first woman was accepted to Harvard Medical School, and by 1972 Title XI was passed to help end the discrimination based on sex for any educational program that received federal funding. In 1980 women equaled men in numbers enrolled in colleges with 51 percent. Finally, in 1996 Virginia Military Institute was forced by the Supreme Court to become coeducational(Eisenmann appendix). There are many other events along the path to education that helped women achieve the status they enjoy today.

In 1947, the average Japanese woman got married at the age of 23. Today, the average age is 26. At the same time, divorce(离婚) has increased by 50%. As for having babies, today the birth rate is only 1.5 babies for each woman. Fifty years ago, the birth rate was much higher than 4.5 babies.

In a recent survey, Japanese women were asked whether they would choose to be a man or a woman in the future life. 65% said they would prefer to be born again as a woman. In 1960, only 27% said they would want to be a woman again in the future. This suggests that nowadays more Japanese women are happier with their lives.

1. The rate of women who are working now has increased by _____ percent compared with 50 years ago.

- A. 37
- B. 38
- C. 50
- D. 75

2. The age of women who got married nowadays increases by _____ years old than it was in 1947.

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

3. More and more women are working in Japan because _____.

- A. they have to raise their family
- B. they don't have anything else to do
- C. they have more education than before
- D. they want to be independent

4. Which one is not true according to the passage?

- A. Japanese women nowadays live more longer than those women 50 years ago.
- B. The rate of divorce has increased by 50% because women have received well education.
- C. The birth rate is lower than it was 50 years ago.
- D. Most women are willing to be born as a women in the future life.

5. It can be inferred from the survey that _____ .
- A. more Japanese women would like to be a woman
 - B. more Japanese women want to receive more education
 - C. more Japanese women want to be independent
 - D. more Japanese women are satisfied with their present lives

Passage 2

Words 446 Minutes 5

Think of some of your favorite singers. When you listen, they can make you happy or sad, peaceful or angry. They can make you relax or want to get up and dance. Gifted singers have the power to affect us in many ways—emotionally, physically and mentally. But becoming a great singer isn't as easy as listening to one. It takes practice, devotion and strong lungs! Just ask the well-known American opera star Carol Vaness.

At the Metropolitan Opera in New York City where she often sings, Carol's voice must be loud enough to be heard by four thousand people. It must reach every person in the theater, without a microphone, even when she's singing softly. The reason Carol can project her voice that far is the way she breathes.

"When you breathe, it's like a swimmer taking a deep breath before going underwater," Carol explains. "You have to take a lot of air into your lungs."

According to Carol, the main difference between pop singing and opera is "how you breathe, how much air you take in, and how you control it coming out." Regular singing is more like speaking, and it's a lot softer.

“When I sing for children, they’re often surprised by how the vibrations strike their ears—like waves on a beach,” Carol says. “In opera, the air doesn’t just go out of your mouth—it vibrates in your chest, the way a guitar vibrates when it’s played.”

Ever since she started piano lessons at the age of ten, Carol has loved music. As she got older, she decided to become a music teacher. When she went to college, she took singing lessons as part of her studies. Her voice teacher discovered that nineteen-year-old Carol had an exceptionally beautiful soprano voice—the highest singing voice for women.

Carol decided to make opera her goal, not only because she loved to sing but also because she loved the drama. Opera is a play in which the characters sing the words instead of speaking them. The stories of opera can be tragic or comical. They can be personal stories about two people falling in love or grand stories about kings and queens who lived long ago. As the characters in an opera sing, the emotions expressed by words and music come to life.

Today, Carol performs throughout the United States and Europe and she has sung for almost twenty years. But she has never forgotten where she started singing in the first palace.

“Put your heart into your singing and enjoy it,” says Carol, “because singing is a great joy. That’s why I sing. In fact, that’s why everybody sings.”

1. According to the passage, the Metropolitan Opera in New York City _____.

- A. is a five-story building
 - B. can seat 4,000 people
 - C. has no microphone in it
 - D. can project the singer's voice
2. What is the best title for this passage?

- A. Opera Singing and Pop Singing
- B. The Way an Opera Star Sings
- C. An Opera Star
- D. Singing without a Microphone

3. Which statement is true?

- A. A pop singer's lungs are usually stronger than those of an opera singer's.
- B. Opera singing is more like speaking.
- C. A pop singer takes in much more air than an opera singer when singing.
- D. An opera singer breathes differently from a pop singer when singing.

4. From the passage you can conclude all the following EXCEPT that _____.

- A. Carol once learned to play the piano
- B. Carol worked as a music teacher
- C. Carol has been singing opera for 20 years or so
- D. Carol is popular with Americans and Europeans

5. The sentence "Put your heart into your singing" in the

last paragraph means “_____”.

- A. devote yourself to singing
- B. take trouble to sing
- C. sing happily
- D. try your best to sing

Passage 3

Words 320 Minutes 4

I shook hands with my father in the truck, and for a long time he looked straight ahead and didn't say a word. But I knew he was going to say a little to me. "I can't tell anything," he finally said. "I never went to college, and none of your brothers went to college. I can't say don't do this or do that, because everything is different and I don't know what is going to come up. I can't help much with money either, but I think things will work out."

He gave me a new check-book. "If things get pushing, write a small check. But when you write one, send me a letter and let me know how much. There are some things we can always sell." In four years all the checks I wrote were less than a thousand dollars. My part-time jobs such as reading to the blind students and sitting with the teachers' kids filled in the financial gaps.

"You know what you want to be, and they'll tell you what to take," my father went on. "When you get a job, be sure it's honest, and work hard." I knew that soon I would be alone in the big town, and I would be missing the cool winds and a life where your thinking was done for you.

Then my dad reached down beside his seat and brought the old, broken Bible that he had read so often, the one he used when he wanted to look something up in a friendly quarrel with one of the neighbours. I knew he would miss it. I knew, though, that I must take it.

He didn't say "read this every morning". He just said, "This can help you if you will let it." Did it help? I got through college without being a burden on the family. I have been able to make money since.

1. What is the writer's main purpose in writing this passage?

- A. To tell the readers his life story.
- B. To tell people what kind of person his father was.
- C. To let people know how poor he was.
- D. To tell the readers what present he got from his father.

2. Why did the father not ask his son not to do this or do that?

- A. Because he felt quite confident of him.
- B. Because he was born from a poor family.
- C. Because he was a man of few words.
- D. Because he didn't want to be much too strict with him.

3. What would someone learn from this passage?

- A. How to live by oneself.
- B. How to stand on one's own feet.
- C. What a good father should do.
- D. What the self-important is like.