



英语阅读步步高丛书

大学 英语 阅读步步高

第4册

COLLEGE ENGLISH READING ESCALADE

商文 徐笑慧 主编

阅读理解
同步练习

科学理念独特方法

翻译训练
写作指导

让学习变得更轻松



READING BOOK

辽宁师范大学出版社

College English Reading Escalade

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(第四册)

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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

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Unit I

Language and Language Learning

1 Magazines for Fans and Fan Magazines

There are magazines for various kinds of fans in the sports or entertainment worlds. There are magazines for football fans, cricket fans, boxing fans, wrestling fans, speedway fans, film fans, pop music fans and so on.

Naturally their popularity will depend on the popularity of the sport or entertainment dealt with.

The word "fan" is short for "fanatic", and (this means someone who is filled with excessive enthusiasm.) A person in this state wants to see and read and hear everything he can about the sport or entertainment concerned particularly about its stars. He just can't get enough of this material. He can stand having the same thing repeated over and over again.

Besides magazines for fans of a particular type of entertainment or sport, there are of course very special fan magazines about individual entertainers or groups. These are usually published by fan clubs for their members.

Fan magazines of all kinds are chiefly concerned with persons rather than things or ideas. For instance, a football fan magazine will carry far more articles about individual players than about rules, competitions, history, management, finances and so on. Similarly, a magazine for pop music fans will concentrate on individual stars and groups. There will be

very little mention of such technical points as how pop songs are written or recorded, or of such trade details as how much it costs to build up a star's popularity, or how tours are planned and organized, or how publicity is arranged.

↖ This doesn't mean that all articles about individual stars lack good solid information about the sport or entertainment concerned. A great many of them are trivial — mere “sucker-bait” as they are sometimes called. They deal mainly with such non-technical details as what the star likes to eat or drink, how many suits he's got, what a success he is at parties, or how, for all his success, he's never forgotten the old folks back home. But some articles deal seriously with the star's attitude to his work, his methods of training, his opinions about the skill of other performers in the same job. And these can be very useful to people interested in the sport or profession for its own sake, and can also teach them something about the difficulties involved in being a star in any walk of life.

One of the valuable things to be learnt from fan magazine articles of this kind is that to be a star one must concentrate on one's work. A star footballer usually has no time for any other serious study — even of other sports. Occasionally one hears of a world-class footballer who is also a world-class cricketer, but it is very occasionally. Almost as rare is the world-class footballer who is simply a competent professional cricketer good enough for a county but not his country. It is not surprising, therefore, that most of the articles that are supposed to have been written by stars themselves are actually written for them by professional writers.

(506 words)

Notes

cricket fans, boxing fans, speedway fans, etc:

fans 指对某一事物特别着迷的人

cricket 板球, boxing 拳击, speedway 赛车

stand having ...done: 忍受使人做...事
sucker-bait: 可使人上当的圈套
for one's own sake: 出于自身的利益、好处
be very occasionally: 非常偶然; 极其罕见

Comprehension

1. "He just can't get enough of this material"(Paragraph 3) means
 - A. fans will buy as many magazines as he can.
 - B. fan magazines are difficult to buy.
 - C. not enough fan magazines are being published.
 - D. a fan prefers to read about entertainers than entertainment.
2. What phrase could the writer NOT have added to the list beginning "rules..."(Paragraph 5)
 - A. new method of play
 - B. technical details
 - C. favorite hobbies
 - D. change in the rules
3. The word "this"(Line 1, Paragraph 6) refers to
 - A. the arrangement of publicity
 - B. the contents of pop music magazines
 - C. the fact that fan magazines are mainly about footballers
 - D. the fact that football magazines are mainly about people
4. The word "world-class"(Paragraph 7) means
 - A. professional
 - B. concentrated
 - C. valuable
 - D. none of the above
5. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. Some few world-class footballers play world-class cricket.
 - B. World-class footballers usually have time for some serious studies.
 - C. There are more world-class cricketers than world-class footballers.
 - D. World-class cricketers never play world-class football.

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. For instance, a football fan magazine will carry far more articles about individual players than about rules, competitions, history, management, finances and so on.

2. This doesn't mean that all articles about individual stars lack good solid information about the sport or entertainment concerned.

Writing

In not more than 200 words write a composition which deals with the topic of whether a student should spend much time on watching football matches. Use the outline given below. Do not write more than three paragraphs.

Title: A Student's Attitude toward Football Matches

Outline:

1. Too much time on football watching is harmful.
2. A student should spend most of his time on studies.
3. Football watching should be selective.

2 The Language of Social Occasions

People who know one another very well indeed — husband or wife or close friends for instance — may sit or walk together for long periods without feeling it necessary to speak. But otherwise silence between people is distinctly awkward. If for instance we invite people to an evening meal and there are long silences in the conversation, we feel the occasion is not going well and do our best to get the talk going.

Because words can break silence, and thus remove tension, we often use them for this reason and not mainly for what they mean. When two people are introduced one says, "How do you do?" Now this is not really a question, despite its apparent meaning, and the other, person will reply not, "Very well thank you" but "How do you do?" This is the conventional formula. The purpose of the phrase "How do you do?" is not to communicate meaning but to break the tension which would result from silence, and to express, along with the handshakes, a vague goodwill towards the new acquaintance.

Introductions are generally followed by some general conversation, again partly with the purpose of chasing away silence. In the British Isles this is usually about the weather, a preoccupation which people from other countries often find amusing. One of them is reported to have said, with reference to English houses, (he knew no nation which talked so much about the weather and did so little about it.) But other nations also have their conversational small change which we would find equally strange. In some parts of the world it is perfectly in order to discuss each other's incomes or the number and quality of one's wives. To talk about the weather is not to exchange information but to express goodwill. A man going along the street might easily agree with someone he meets that it is "a lovely day" and with someone else that it is "distinctly nippy".

We often call this small change of conversation “small talk” but this description seems to denigrate it unduly. On social occasions, at parties for example, “small talk” is usually a necessary preliminary to deeper human relationships and more serious conversation — if these are desired. They may not always be desired, however; one may entertain a business acquaintance and his wife to dinner without wishing to make them bosom friends for life. And in this case we need a form of language which is not too intimate and does not commit the other party unduly.

Many people become unnecessarily anxious on social occasions because they do not recognize this function of language and feel that they will find themselves out of their depth. As a matter of fact, the topics which the majority of people discuss have a reassuring ordinairiness; their families — particularly their children; their houses — particularly the heating system; traffic problems — particularly their journey to work; shopping — particularly bargains and overcharging; gardens — particularly their roses; and their holidays. Amongst other women, women discuss their husbands; amongst other men, men do not discuss their wives. Conversation is not a discussion in the sense that one has to arrive at a definite conclusion. A topic may be picked up and dropped in favour of another. The only rules are that it should be interesting to the people concerned — and they should be able to contribute something to it; so-called conversationalists are often reciters of a monologue.

(581 words)

Notes

Sign language: 手势语言; 信号语言

Yerkes Primate Research Center: Yerkes 灵长类研究中心

monologue: 独白

Comprehension

1. Are human and animal languages really different?
 - A. Yes, because animals can only use sign language.
 - B. No, because animals can also use sounds and symbols.
 - C. No, because only monkeys can use language, while other animals cannot.
 - D. Yes, because animals can use only a special kind of language.
2. What do we know about the monkeys in this passage?
 - A. Washoe could generalize the signs and combine them to make sentences.
 - B. Viki could use sign language x
 - C. Lana could say a few words x
 - D. Washoe could put the sign language into a computer.
3. Which experiment the author thinks was the most successful?
 - A. The one with Washoe.
 - B. The one with Lana.
 - C. The one with Viki x
 - D. None was successful.
4. Scientists are trying to discover whether animals have a language by _____.
 - A. analyzing their sounds and symbols
 - B. comparing their sounds and symbols with those of humans
 - C. conducting various experiments
 - D. x teaching monkeys how to speak and write English in the correct word order
5. Do animals have a language?
 - A. Bees and dolphins have because they can communicate.
 - B. Monkeys have because they are clever x
 - C. We really can not say.

D. We do not know but scientists do.

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. Because words can break silence, and thus remove tension, we often use them for this reason and not mainly for what they mean.

2. Many people become unnecessarily anxious on social occasions because they do not recognize this function of language and feel that they will find themselves out of their depth.

Writing

In no more than 100 words, write an article in which you should express your own opinions about whether animals really have language. Your composition should be in one paragraph. You may refer to the ideas given below.

Title: Do Animals Really Have Language?

Language—as any system—exchanging information—most animals do possess—use—sounds, signals—their feelings, desires, anger—happiness, hunger—thirst.

3 Animal Language

It seems that bees and dolphins communicate, but that they do not have language. (It is much more difficult to decide whether monkeys have language.) Monkeys are very intelligent and similar to humans. Because of this similarity, some scientists in the late 1940's tried to teach a monkey named Viki to talk. After a year, Viki could only say a few words. Part of the problem with this experiment is that monkeys do not have the same kind of mouth and throat as humans. They are not really able to make human speech sounds. (As a result, the experiment with Viki did not work well.) X

In the mid-1960's, other scientists tried to teach a monkey named Washoe to use a sign language. In a sign language, words are not spoken. Instead, signs are made with hands. Many people who cannot speak or hear use this sign language. It seemed to be a better kind of language to teach a monkey. After two years, Washoe could make thirty-four signs with her hands. For example, she could put three fingers next to her ear as a sign for her name, Washoe. She could also use the sign for "come here," putting her arm out, and bending it back toward herself. She could also do two other things. First, she combined signs to make sentences. Second, she used one sign for all things of one kind, generalizing her use of the sign. The ability to combine and to generalize is important in language use.

A third group of scientists have been working with a monkey named Lana in the past few years. Lana is being studied at the Yerkes Primate Research Center in the United States. The scientists who are working with Lana are (studying her ability to make sentences). She makes sentences by pressing symbols on a computer board. Lana may ask the computer to give her food, water, or toys. She must press the symbols in a correct sentence order to get what she wants. Lana has learned to use the nearly 100