

College English Fast Reading
Students' Guide Book

大学英语 ③ 快速阅读 新导学

(第三册)

总主编 蔡碧霞
主 编 赵建玲

副主编 张秋林



ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY PRESS
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前言

大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听说读写译能力,使他们能用英语交流信息。大学英语教学应帮助学生打下扎实的语言基础,掌握良好的语言学习方法,提高文化素养,即具有较强的英语综合应用能力,以适应社会发展和经济发展的需要。教育部颁发的英语教学大纲中,阅读的基本要求(四级)是:能顺利阅读语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章,掌握中心大意以及说明中心大意的事实和细节,并能进行一定的分析、推理和判断,领会作者的观点和态度,阅读速度达到每分钟 70 词。在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低、生词不超过总词数 3% 的材料时,能掌握中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词。

阅读理解始终都是各类测试的最重要内容,所占分数比重大。阅读理解既是英语学习和英语测试的重要手段,又是英语学习的终极目的之一。英语阅读是一种创造性的思维劳动,它不仅涉及语音、语法、词语这些最基本的语言要素,而且还包括许多非语言因素,如文化知识背景、思维习惯等。

现有的大学英语教材虽然种类繁多,但能真正帮助学生、针对性较强地解决学生阅读能力的教材却寥寥无几。在多年的教学实践中,我们深深感到,要有的放矢地提高学生的英语阅读能力,必须有相适应的英语阅读教材。其特点必须是由浅入深、体裁广泛、文体多样、趣味性强,既可作教材,在课堂内使用,更重要的是,可由学生在课外自主阅读。阅读量课内外的比例应是 1:4 左右。而由于课时原因,阅读不可能全部在课堂内进行,还必须在课外加强。这就要求我们必须给学生准备大量的快速阅读及泛读材料。

鉴于以上种种因素,我们在总结几十年教学经验的基础上,并根据学生的实际情况,殚精竭虑编写了这套《大学英语快速阅读新导学》。其目的就是让学生接触到大量以英语国家为背景的社会、人文、政治、经济、娱乐等方方面面的文字材料,创造出一个模拟的英文环境,在老师的帮助下,拓宽学生的视野。我们的编写原则是强调材料的数量及多样性。

《大学英语快速阅读新导学》共有四册,每册分为 8 个单元,每单元由 4

篇阅读文章组成。文章主要选自当代最新的英文报纸和英文著作,题材广泛,涵盖文化、教育、历史、地理、科技、经济、友情、亲情、校园生活等,并与学生的学习、生活密切相关,是大学生提高词汇量、扩展知识面、培养英语学习兴趣的好帮手。所有文章的内容思想健康,具有知识性、时代性和趣味性,既可提高学生的英语素养,又能增强学生的综合运用能力。每篇阅读文章配有针对性强、形式多样的练习,设有选择题、正误判断、翻译和问答题等题型,以增进英语的习得。所有练习均给出了参考答案。

在培养阅读能力的教学过程中,应在密切关注“快速阅读”的基础上,着重关注以下几个方面:理解文章的主旨和要义,理解文章的具体信息,根据上下文推断生词的词义,根据文章做出简单的推断和推理,理解文章的基本结构,理解作者的意图、观点和态度。另外必须注意的是:相应练习总是以文章为根据,这就是说,答案要在文章中找到根据。因此,我们不仅要求学生注意词汇、语法和阅读理解三大语言要素,掌握一定的语言背景知识,掌握阅读技巧,并有一定的分析和理解能力,同时还希望在注重量的同时注重阅读速度。

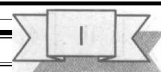
阅读是一个循序渐进、厚积薄发的过程,所以这套丛书分为四册,由浅入深,最后达到大学英语四级所要求的词汇量、阅读量和阅读速度。

本册是《大学生英语快速阅读新导学》的第三册。本册的主旨是把握主题,即快速阅读的整体要求。本书要求学生通过寻找文中关键词、要点、事实和细节,推断、判断、归纳、理解文章大意和主旨。提高阅读速度,掌握阅读技巧,增强在句子水平、段落水平及篇章水平上的理解力,进而了解作者意图,并具有一定的鉴赏能力。

本丛书的相关语言问题由英语专家审阅把关,从而保证了质量。

在编写这套书的过程中,尽管我们从主题设计、文章选择、练习设置等方面花了大量的时间和精力,力求使其达成我们理想的教学目的,但由于种种原因,未必能做到尽善尽美。因此,我们衷心希望广大教师和学生在使用过程中不吝指教,以便我们在重印或再版时修正提高。

编者
2009 春



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Unit 1

Traditional Holidays

To many holidays are not voyages of discovery, but a ritual of reassurance.

—Philip Andrew Adams

ReadMe

Passage 1

Story of Mother's Day

While many people might assume that Mother's Day is a holiday invented by the fine folks, it's not so. The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea (瑞亚), the Mother of the Gods.

1

During the 1600's, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday" (省亲日). Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (四旬斋) (the 40-day period leading up to Easter Day), "Mothering Sunday" honored the mothers of England. 2

During this time many of the England's poor worked as servants for the wealthy. As most jobs were located far from their homes, the servants would live at the houses of their employers. On "Mothering Sunday" the servants would have the day off and were encouraged to return home and spend the day with their mothers. A special cake, called the "mothering cake", was often brought along to provide a festive touch. 3

As Christianity spread throughout Europe, the celebration changed to honor the "Mother Church"—the spiritual power that gave them life and protected them from harm. Over time the church festival blended with the Mothering Sunday celebration. People began honoring their mothers as well as the church. 4

In the United States, Mother's Day was first suggested in 1872 by Ulia Ward Howe, who wrote the words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic (共和国战歌) as a day dedicated to peace. Ms. Howe would hold organized Mother's Day meetings in Boston every year. 5

In 1907 Ana Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms. Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the 2nd Sunday of May. By the next year Mother's Day was also celebrated in Philadelphia. 6

Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to ministers, 7

businessmen, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. It was successful as by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day as a national holiday that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

It is somewhat ironic that after all her efforts, Ana Jarvis ended up growing bitter over the commercialization of the holiday and grew so mad at it that she filed a lawsuit to stop a 1923 Mother's Day festival. Shortly before her death, Jarvis told a reporter she was sorry she had ever started Mother's Day.

8

Ana may be gone, but Mother's Day lives on. While many countries of the world celebrate their own Mother's Day at different times throughout the year, there are some countries such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium which also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

9

(471 words)

How fast do you read?

471 words \div _____ minutes = _____ wpm

Exercises for Passage 1

I. Choose the best answer for each of the following items in accordance with the passage.

1. Based on the knowledge that Easter Day is often observed on the first

Sunday after a full moon on or after 21 March, it is inferred that “Mothering Sunday” might be celebrated in _____.

- A. January B. February C. March D. April
2. As far as the history of English Mother’s Day is concerned, which of the following is least likely to imply?
- A. Mother’s Day in England was originally a day of family reunion of poor people.
- B. Young people were supposed to buy a special cake for their mothers on that day.
- C. With the influence of Christianity, Mother’s Day tended to take on a religious color.
- D. Nowadays, Mother’s Day in England is solely a celebration of church festival.
3. Where did Mother’s Day dedicated to peace first appear in the history of USA?
- A. In the words of a song. B. In a declaration.
- C. In a passage. D. In a requesting letter.
4. Why did Ms. Jarvis choose the 2nd Sunday of May as Mother’s Day?
- A. Because her mother was born on that day.
- B. Because that day was her mother’s wedding anniversary.
- C. Because that day was the second anniversary of the establishment of her mother’s church.
- D. Because her mother died on that day.
5. As mentioned in this passage, how many countries celebrate Mother’s Day on the 2nd Sunday of May?
- A. Five. B. Six.
- C. Seven. D. Eight.

II. Translate the following sentences from the passage into Chinese.

1. The earliest Mother’s Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea (瑞亚), the

Mother of the Gods.

2. A special cake, called the “mothering cake”, was often brought along to provide a festive touch.
- _____
- _____

3. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother’s Day as a national holiday that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.
- _____
- _____

Passage 2

China’s Own Valentine’s Day

On the evening of the seventh day of the seventh month on the Chinese lunar calendar, looking carefully at the summer sky, you’ll find the Cowherd (a bright star in the west of the Milky Way) and the Weaving Maid (the star Vega (织女) in the east of the Milky Way) appear closer together than at any other time of the year. Chinese believe the stars are lovers who are permitted to meet by the Queen of Heaven once a year. That day falls on the double seventh (Qixi in Chinese), which is China’s own Valentine’s Day.

1

In Chinese legends, the Cowherd and the Weaving Maid will meet on a bridge of magpies (鹊) across the Milky Way once a year. It's said that on Chinese Valentine's Day, people would not be able to see any magpies on that evening because all the magpies have left to form a bridge in the heavens with their wings. If it rains heavily on Qixi night, it is because the Weaving Maid is crying from happiness over meeting her husband on the Milky Way.

2

Long long ago, there was an honest and kind-hearted fellow named Niu Lang (Cowherd). His parents died when he was a child. Later he was driven out of his home by his sister-in-law. The Cowherd was lonely, however, with only the company of that faithful old ox. He herded cattle and farmed. One day, a fairy from heaven Zhi Nv (Weaving Maid) fell in love with him and came down secretly to earth and married him. The Cowherd farmed in the field and the Weaver Maid wove at home. They lived a happy life and gave birth to a boy and a girl. Unfortunately, the Queen of Heaven discovered the Weaving Maid's absence. She was so annoyed that she had the Weaving Maid brought back to heaven.

3

The Cowherd was terrified and sad. Then he caught sight of cowhide (牛皮) hanging on a wall. The magical ox had told him before dying of old age, "Keep my cowhide for emergency use." Putting the cowhide on, the Cowherd, with his two children, went after his wife. He was about to reach his wife when the Queen showed up and pulled off her hairpin to draw a line between the two. The line became the Silver River in heaven, or the Milky Way.

4

The Cowherd and the Weaving Maid couldn't meet. The Weaving Maid was so sad and missed her husband so much that the clouds she weaved seemed sad. Finally, the Queen showed a

5

How fast do you read?

465 words \div _____ minutes = _____ wpm

bridge of magpies across the Milky Way once a year.

2. Unfortunately, the Queen of Heaven discovered the Weaving Maid's absence. She was so annoyed that she had the Weaving Maid brought back to heaven.
-

3. Finally, the Queen showed a little mercy, allowing the couple to meet once every year on the Silver River on the double seventh.
-

Passage 3

“Happy Father’s Day, Dad!”

It was Sunday morning. The phone rang. “Is this Gordon Clay?”
the operator asked. “Yes,” I replied. “You have a long-distance call
from your daughter, will you accept?” “Of course,” I replied.

1

“Happy Father’s Day, Dad!” I heard from the other end. “Thanks,
Nat,” I said. “Sounds like you have a cold.” “This is Jenny,” the
voice said. I’m confused. “Is this some kind of joke, Nat,” I replied,
figuring that it was. “No, my name is Jennifer Masters. It’s taken
me a long time to find you,” Jenny continued. “Your name is
Gordon Clay, isn’t it? You lived in Kansas City, didn’t you? You

2

used to go to Barry's Barn dancing, didn't you?" The answers were yes. "Well, do you remember Sharon Masters?" Sharon Masters? I racked my brain, still in somewhat of a fog. "No, I'm sorry I don't," I replied. "You used to dance with her a lot. You even dated her for a while. She's my mother."

What was it saying? I spent a disturbing Sunday working with my dream. The memories started to return. As a teenager, I used to go to the Barry's Barn all the time. There were always a lot of good-looking girls there and, being a good dancer, I got the chance to date many of them.

The pain began to grow within me. "Oh no," I thought. There was a girl I dated for a while. One night she wanted to leave the dance early and talk something to me. I still don't remember much about that evening, but I do remember that she told me she was pregnant. I think I asked if I could help. She said no, that she was going to leave school to have the baby. I remember feeling relieved at the time and subsequently tuned it out of my memory.

In 1994 I decided to give myself a "Father's Day" gift, a plane ticket home to start my search. If she or he didn't want to see me, that's okay. It's just very clear to me how important it was to make the effort to let this person know who his/her natural father is.

I dedicate this story to every man who has ever had sex out of wedlock (婚姻) and to those who didn't get married. And to those who are still willing to create a child by having sex without protection.

I hope you'll join me on this venture and let your child know what kind of a person you've grown up to be! A man in the true sense is

one who is willing to face his own fear and be responsible for all of his actions.

(449 words)

How fast do you read?

449 words \div _____ minutes = _____ wpm

Exercises for Passage 3

I. Choose the best answer for each of the following items in accordance with the passage.

- When the phone rang, _____.
 - the author was talking with his daughter on another phone
 - the author was having breakfast
 - it was Sunday morning, on Father's Day
 - the author was thinking of happenings in his youth
- The sentence "I racked my brain" (Line 9, Para. 2) means "_____".
 - I tried hard to think of something
 - I remembered something
 - I thought out something
 - I forgot something
- The 3rd paragraph mainly suggests when the author was young, _____.
 - he was a good dancer
 - he had many girl friends
 - he was a person lack of responsibility
 - he was very naughty
- The passage mainly tells us _____.