

高教自学考试学习丛书

英语 泛读

第 四 册

EXTENSIVE READING

福建人民出版社

高教自学考试学习丛书

(试用本)

英语泛读

第四册

宋顺龄编写 郑锡安审阅

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前 言

学习外语，最基本的一个途径是尽可能大量地接触所学语种的口语和书面语。从我们当前情况来说，缺少外语环境，没有条件多与英美人士交谈，英语影片，英语广播，也还不够普及，唯一简易可行的接触外语的方法就是大量阅读。然而，多年来的外语教学都着重于精读，忽视泛读，甚至只有精读，没有泛读。我们认为成年人学外语，精读是必要的，尤其在起始阶段。但是当掌握了一定的语法语音知识和最基本的词汇之后，就必须开展泛读，因为，精读的量不可能很大，一本精读教材一般只有十几二十篇短文，四本（一般用两年时间学完）也只有七八十篇，一共还不到四万字，语言复盖面十分狭窄有限。任何一种语言，内容都极其丰富多样，决非几十篇文字能包罗得了的。再说，精读课的基础知识也必须通过大量的语言实践，才能加深理解，并通过反复实践得到巩固。通过泛读，还可以增大词汇量，扩大知识面。正因为如此，近年来，泛读逐渐受到重视，有些语言学者及教师还做了一些有益的研究实验，阐明了泛读的重要性。

要进行泛读，必须有一套适用的学习材料，目前不但自学者缺少泛读教材，就是一些全日制高校，也感到教材匮乏。筹备自学考试以来，我们遍寻学习材料。所见教材一则十分零散，二则数量不够，不敷需要。有鉴于此，我们约请福建师大外语系的七位同志，编写了这一套泛读材料。全套共四本，共收约200篇读物，内容涉及政治述评、特写报导、

人物传记、神话、寓言、故事、科普小品、科幻故事、史地常识、英美习俗等方面，每篇读物后配有注释和若干练习，各册自成单元，附有若干自我测试题，书末附有习题参考答案。第一册至第三册，完全适用于专科水平的读者，第四册的一部分课文较深，作为提高部分，用以满足程度较高的读者的要求。由于许多文章没有注明原出处，为统一起见，这套读物的所有文章一律不注明出处。

王庆西、宋顺龄、陈开梭、陈维振、庄陶、林本椿、陈普等七位同志在繁重的教学工作之余，短期内编写了这四册读物，并由郑锡安同志审阅，我们特此致谢。

因时间短促，编写不免有错漏之处，请读者提出意见，以利修订。

福建高等教育自学考试英语专业主考校
福建师范大学外语系英语自学考试指导组

一九八四年九月

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Unit 1

1. The World Is Heating

Up—and Fast

A "greenhouse effect" will raise the earth's temperature enough by the year 2100 to cause dramatic climate changes, increase sea levels and disrupt food production, United States scientists said this week.

The earth's atmosphere is heating at a rate that could mean temperature rises of two degrees centigrade (3.6 deg. Fahrenheit) by the middle of the next century and 5 deg. centigrade (9 deg. Fahrenheit) by the year 2100, according to a report issued by the US government's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"Substantial increases in global warming may occur sooner than most of us would like to believe," the EPA said.

The agency said the first effects might be felt as early as 1990, because temperatures would be rising more than seven times faster each decade between now and the year 2100 than they had been for the past 100 years.

"Temperature increases are likely to be accompanied by dramatic changes in precipitation and storm patterns and a rise in global average sea level," the EPA report said.

As a result, the agency said, "agricultural conditions will be significantly altered, environmental and economic systems potentially disrupted."

The EPA report said the burning of fossil fuels was directly responsible for most of the atmospheric build-up of carbon dioxide, but the current concentration is so great that even a worldwide ban on the use of such fuels would delay the warming effect for only a few years.

A warmer climate will raise sea levels by heating and expanding the world's oceans and causing glaciers to melt, the EPA said.

The agency estimated that sea levels could rise anything between 48 to 380 cm (about 19 inches to 12 feet) in the next 120 years.

"An increase of even 48 cm (19 in) could flood or cause storm damage to many of the major ports of the world, disrupt transportation networks, alter underwater ecology systems and cause major shifts in land development patterns."

One study cited in the report suggested that if the average global temperature rose by 2.5 degrees centigrade, regional climatic conditions might be

similar to those during the last interglacial period 120,000 years ago.

During this period, oceans were five to seven metres (15 to 22 feet) higher than today's, inundating the shores of Europe and western Siberia and making Scandinavia an island.

The agency said that while the warming trend could have some beneficial effects, such as reducing heating costs and improving climate and growing seasons in some parts of the world, there would be difficulty in redirecting national economies to adapt to the new climate patterns.

The EPA said it seemed unlikely the nations of the world would reach a consensus on steps to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Instead, it urged more research on the greenhouse effect and stressed the need for better planning to cope with changes the warming trend is expected to produce.

Notes

1. greenhouse effect, 温室效应
2. Fahrenheit, 华氏(温标)。英美目前尚普遍采用华氏温标, 华氏与摄氏的换算: $F = (\frac{9}{5}C) + 32$ 或 $C = \frac{5}{9}(F - 32)$ 。
3. precipitation and storm patterns, 降水与暴风雨格局
4. fossil fuels, 化石燃料, 指由古生物化石形成的矿物燃料, 如石油、煤等。
5. build-up, 积累
6. sea level could rise anything between...years, 今后120

年内，海平面可能上升48至380厘米（之间的任何高度）。

anything between 48 to 380 在句内作状语，说明rise的程度。

7. interglacial period, 间冰期

Exercises

Choose the best answer to each question.

1. As a result of the rising earth's temperature, by 2100 _____.

- a) a greenhouse effect will happen
- b) world's climate will change dramatically
- c) food production will be disrupted
- d) both b) and c) will happen.

2. According to the report, by 2050 the world's mean temperature could be _____, assuming the present one to be 10°C.

- a) 19°C b) 15°F c) 12°C d) 13.6°F

3. Then by the year of 2100, the world's mean temperature could be _____, assuming the present one to be 50°F.

- a) 52°F b) 59°C c) 55°F d) 59°F

4. Which of the following statements is included in the EPA report?

- a) Most of us do not believe the greenhouse theory.
- b) World temperature will change sooner or later.
- c) Most of us would like to see the globe warming up.
- d) Most of us may still have underestimated the rate of global warming.

5. The greenhouse theory _____.

- a) is a new postulate.

- b) was put forward at the end of the 18th century
 c) was first developed in the 19th century
 d) is being developed by scientists
6. The greenhouse effect might be felt _____.
 a) as early as next century
 b) by the end of the century
 c) in the last decade of the 19th century
 d) by the beginning of next decade
7. The root cause of the greenhouse effect is _____.
 a) solar radiation
 b) warmer climate on earth
 c) carbon dioxide from burning of fossil fuels
 d) sun's ultraviolet rays
8. "Greenhouse" is used in the global warming theory as _____.
 a) a figure of speech b) a hyperbole
 c) a euphemism d) a personification
9. The report says that if the use of fossil fuels were banned _____.
 a) the earth might stop getting warmer
 b) the earth would slow its pace of warming substantially
 c) the process of global warming would be effected only in a small way
 d) the warming trend would be held in check once for all
10. 120,000 years ago, _____.
 a) Europe, west Siberia and Scandinavia were all under water

- b) Europe, west Siberia and Scandinavia were all islands
 - c) the land areas of Europe, west Siberia and Scandinavia were smaller than they are today
 - d) Europe and west Siberia had longer coast-lines
11. Which of the statements below is not given in the news report?
- a) After all, people will benefit from the greenhouse effect.
 - b) There are different views among the nations of the world as how to reduce carbon dioxide emission.
 - c) In order to adapt to the new climate patterns it is necessary to do more research on the problem.
 - d) A warmer climate, though, would not be without some beneficial effects.

2. Acid Rain Plagues Europe

Throughout Europe and North America acid rain, acid snow, acid smog and acid soot are laying waste forests and turning lakes sour. Acid fallout has become a major environmental issue.

The cause of this pollution have brought environmentalists, politicians and scientists into conflict with captains of industry and government administrators in many countries.

The former group insist that too much time is

spent studying the causes of acid precipitation. They want action—now. Their opponents reply that suggested remedies mean the dismantling of some industries and job loss④. They demand further studies before paying out large sums of money for something that they believe may later prove to have another cause.

West Germany, which once refused to recognize acid fallout problems, now knows there is limited time. Trees cover almost half the country; in 1982 it was discovered that 8 per cent of West German forests were dead or dying from acid fallout.

Late last year it was established that 34 per cent of forests were endangered. And the West German magazine Der Spiegel concluded that 639 “cot deaths⑤” were probably linked with infants breathing in sulphur dioxide emissions.

In Scandinavia, the Swedes were the first to emphasise the threat of acid rain 12 years ago. This caused scientists to list sulphur emissions as the worst global pollutant. In the south of Sweden 20,000 lakes have degrees of acidification. There are cases of water so highly concentrated with copper that fair Swedish heads have turned green after washing⑥.

In scenic Norway, tourists often admire crystal-clear lakes. What they don't realize is that the

aquatic ecosystem has altered radically. Fish have died, thick green algae covers rocks, while organic debris massing on the shoreline traps vital nutrients[®]. Five thousand square miles of Norwegian lakeland is barren.

Says Erik Lykke, director-general of the Norwegian Environment Ministry: "Other countries have passed on their problems. About 90 per cent of our pollution comes from abroad, one-third from Central Europe, one-third from Eastern Europe, and less than one-third from the UK. "

This pollution is caused by fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas being burned in power plants and in industrial processes like metal smelting. Scientists believe that it consists of some 65 per cent sulphur acid, 30 per cent nitric acid and 5 per cent hydrochloric acid[®].

Since acid fallout was detected in Europe in the 50's industrial smokestacks have been built higher so that pollution would not harm the local environment. But what goes up must come down.

Some 60-70 million tons of sulphur dioxide spewing out of industrial areas like Upper Silesia in Poland, the Ruhr in West Germany and the British Midlands falls as rain in distant parts of Europe.

Sweden has spread thousands of tons of lime on its acidified lakes to neutralize the acids. This is

no more than a temporary measure. More important is the intention to limit the amount of sulphur and nitrogen oxides pumped into the atmosphere.

At a meeting in Ottawa last March, 10 nations joined the "30 per cent club." Yet the participating countries—Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and West Germany—had already individually adopted 30 per cent reductions of sulphur dioxide to take force by 1993.

Major offending countries like Britain, East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the US have resisted pleas for reductions of their airborne industrial pollution.

One future difficulty is how an international compensation plan can be devised. Who is going to pay for acid fallout and just how much will be involved?

Notes

1. acid fallout; 酸性降落物, 降酸
2. bring sb. into conflict with sb. 使某人与某人发生冲突
3. captains of industry; 工业界头子、决策者
government administrators; 政府部门负责人、掌管者
4. ...suggested remedies mean the dismantling of some industries and job loss; (实行)建议中的解决办法意味着有些工业要撤消, 工人要失业。
5. 639 "cot deaths", 639例婴儿死亡案(cot是婴儿睡的小床)。