

Reading Comprehension

閻曉天

主編

閱讀理解 雙百篇

下 篇

山西高校聯合出版社

阅读理解双百篇

下 篇

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前 言

《阅读理解双百篇》是为配合中学英语教学而编写的,分为上下两篇,各一百篇文章,系精选古今中外适宜的阅读材料,其中包括风趣故事、幽默短文、知识小品、寓言和童话等,选题广泛,内容丰富、文字由浅入深。上篇的使用对象主要是初中二年级以上的学生及英语初学者,下篇主要适用于高中学生,也可作为英语爱好者提高阅读能力的教材。

在每篇短文后,编写了各种类型的练习题。书后附有参考答案。

练习题题型基本上分为四种:

- A. True or False (是非题)
- B. Question (问答题)
- C. Multiple Choice Question (选择题)
- D. Put in the Missing Words from the Text (填空题)

由于编写时间仓促,书中难免存在缺点和错误,敬请广大师生和英语爱好者不吝赐教。

编 者

1991年9月

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1. Cheers for The Sailor

Jack, an old sailor (水手) who had spent many years in the navy (海军), was walking along a country road. Then he came to a farm house. The farmer was standing at the door and Jack said, 'I have been walking all day looking for work. Will you give me a job?'

'Have you ever done any farm work?' said the farmer.

'No,' said Jack. 'I have been a sailor all my life but I will do any job like to give me.'

'All right,' said the farmer. 'I'll give you a chance. Do you see that flock of sheep (羊群) scattered (分散) over the hillside?' 'Yes,' answered Jack.

'Well,' said the farmer. 'Get them all through that gate and into the yard.'

'Right,' said Jack. 'I'll do that.'

About an hour later, the farmer went to the yard, Jack was leaning (靠) on the gate wiping his forehead.

'Did you get them all in?' said the farmer.

'Yes,' said Jack. The farmer looked and sure enough all the sheep were gathered in the yard and the gate was shut. And then the farmer saw a hare running round among the sheep. The sailor saw what he was looking at.

'Yes,' said Jack. 'That little fellow there gave me more trouble than all the rest put together.'

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Jack had _____ many years in navy.
A. took B. spent C. cost
2. The farmer was standing _____ the door when Jack came to a farm house.
A. at B. in C. inside
3. Jack said to the farmer, 'I have been walking all day looking _____ work. Will you give me a job?'
A. at B. for C. after
4. Jack had been a _____ all his life but he would do any job the farmer liked to give him.
A. farmer B. worker C. sailor
5. The farmer would give him a _____.
A. chance B. sheep C. work
6. The farmer asked Jack to get the scattered sheep all _____ that gate and into the yard.

- A. in B. across C. through
7. About _____ hour later, the farmer went to the yard.
A. the B. a C. an
8. The farmer asked Jack if he had got the sattered sheep all _____.
A. right B. in C. out
9. All the sheep were gathered in the yard and the gate was _____.
A. shutting B. shutted C. shut
10. The farmer saw a hare _____ round among the sheep.
A. run B. runing C. running

2. The Wolf and the Lamb (羊羔)

One hot day, a wolf and a lamb arrived at the same time to drink from a stream (小河) that ran down the side of a mountain. The wolf was on the high ground and the lamb some way farther down the stream.

The wolf, however, felt quarrelsome (好争吵的), and asked the lamb what he meant by disturbing (搅动) the water and making it so turbid (混浊) that he could not drink it. The lamb, frightened by the wolf's angry voice, answered that he did not see how that could be, as the water which he drank ran from the wolf to him, and so could not be disturbed higher up the stream.

"Perhaps so," said the wolf, "but you are an unpleasant (讨厌的) person, and I have been told that you said nasty (使人不愉快的) things about me behind my back about six months ago!"

"That cannot be true," exclaimed (大叫) the lamb, "for I was not born then!"

The wolf could not argue that point (自圆其说), and was furious (狂怒的): snarling (吠, 嗥), and foaming (喷沫) at the mouth, he went towards the lamb.

"Well," he shouted, "if it wasn't you, it was your father, which comes to the same thing!" And he seized (抓住) the poor lamb, and ate him all up.

True or False

- One day a wolf and a lamb went together to drink from a stream at the same time. ()
- The wolf stood higher than the lamb and the lamb some way farther from the wolf. ()
- The wolf quarrelled with the lamb because the lamb had muddied the water. ()
- The lamb was more than six months old. ()
- The wolf was furious and snarling because he could not argue that point. ()
- The wolf ate the poor lamb up because the lamb's father was an unpleasant

person. ()

7. The wolf made excuses for doing bad and cruel thing. ()

3. Not a Fake (冒牌货) at All

There was once a man who used to raise fish in a pond. Every day a kingfisher came and caught fish from the pond. Whenever the man rushed up to the pond, the kingfisher (鱼狗, 食鱼鸟) flew away. As soon as the man left, the kingfisher came back.

The man made a scarecrow (稻草人), dressed it in straw rain-cape (雨披) and a conical (圆顶的) straw hat and put it beside the pond. The kingfisher thought that the scarecrow was a real man and so it sat in a tree, not daring to come near. The kingfisher sat and watched for 3 days. He noticed that the scarecrow hadn't moved once and so very bravely flew over beside it. When the kingfisher saw that the scarecrow still didn't move he got even cockier (趾高气扬). Not only did he start catching fish again, but he also stood on the scarecrow's shoulder singing this song, 'Fake, fake, he's nothing but a fake...'

The man got angry at this. He put on the scarecrow's cape and hat himself and stood unmoving by the side of the pond, pretending to be the scarecrow. The kingfisher came back to catch more fish. When the kingfisher had eaten its fill, it flew over and alighted (停歇) on the scarecrow's shoulder, singing his song, 'Fake, fake, he's nothing but a fake! . . . ' The man grabbed (抓住) the kingfisher and said, 'I'm a man--not a fake at all! 'The kingfisher couldn't get away after that.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. There was once a man _____.
A. who used to catch fish in a pond
B. who used to breed fish in a pond
C. who used to rush up to the pond
2. A scarecrow was _____.
A. a real man who dressed in a straw rain-cape
B. a figure (体形) of a man which set up to scare birds away
C. a man who stood near the pond to drive the birds away
3. The kingfisher sat and watched _____ in a row.
A. day and night B. for 3 days C. for a week
4. The man grabbed the kingfisher and said, '_____ not a fake at all!'
A. I'm a hunter B. I'm a fishman C. I'm a man

4. The Exercise We Need

Give attention to breathing after you exercise. Before you start to run you breathe quietly. Then go with a rush around, or walk up a hill and notice your breathing again. You will find that your lungs (肺脏) are working hard.

The fact is that the harder we use certain muscles (肌肉) of our bodies, the more oxygen the body needs, and the more oxygen the body needs, the harder the lungs try to get it.

Here is another important point. When you came to the foot of the hill and count your pulse (脉搏), you will find it beating quietly. But walk quickly to the top of the hill and count your pulse again, you will notice a great change. Your pulse will now be much quicker.

The experiment shows that exercise increases not only the breathing but also the circulation (循环) of the blood in body.

Besides, exercise increases one's appetite (食欲). A person who is working a great deal will need more food than one who sits still most of the time.

Fill in the Blanks with Proper Words:

Exercise is good for our health. When we run (1) _____ walk quickly, we (2) _____ our lungs work much (3) _____ and the pulse beat much (4) _____. This is because (5) _____ we take exercise, we need more (6) _____. Our (7) _____ and (8) _____ have to work harder to meet our needs. In this way, exercise increases not only our (9) _____ but also the circulation of the (10) _____.

5. Trouble with Police

One day, Jillian was riding home on her motorcycle (摩托车). She was driving quickly because she knew that Martin, her husband, was behind her in his car and she wanted to arrive first. Suddenly she saw a police in front of her. He held up his hand and she stopped.

"I've stopped you," he said slowly, "Because you driving too quickly. You have broken the law. Please give me your name and address." "Oh, dear," Jillian said uncomfortably (不自在地). "Yes, I was going quickly. I know. But I didn't know that I was going too quickly. How do you know that I've broken the law?"

"Ah," said the policeman. "We have some new radar (雷达) equipment (设备). My friend down the road has the radar and when a car goes past him he can easily see its speed. When a car goes too quickly past him, he pushes a switch (开关). That tells me to stop the car. So, when you went past him and when he was

watching his radar, he knew that you were driving too quickly. He pushed the switch and that told me to stop you. So I did."

"Oh dear," Jillian thought sadly, "What is the penalty (罚款) for driving too quickly?"

"FIVE POUNDS!"

Answer the Following Questions:

1. How was Jillian going home one day?
2. Why was she driving so quickly?
3. How did the policeman know that Jillian was driving too quickly?
4. What did the policeman do?
5. What was the penalty for driving too quickly?

6. The Nurse and the Patient

A warm-hearted nurse on her first day's work came up to a patient who had come to London as a tourist (旅游者). She asked him if there was anything she could do for him but he only waved his hands and uttered something she could not understand. With a cheerful smile she asked him again and he just kept saying the same words, but in a very much lower voice, before closing his eyes. She felt his pulse and found out that he was gone. Full with deep sympathy for this man who had died so far away from his native land, she rushed to the doctor and repeated to him the sound she had heard. "My dear girl," said the doctor after listening carefully to what she repeated, "he was saying 'You are standing on my oxygen pipe!'"

Multiple Choice Question:

1. What had the patient come to London for? He had come to London to _____.
A. visit his friends.
B. see the doctor.
C. visit London Town.
2. In the sentence "... but he only waved his hands and uttered something she could not understand.", "uttered" means _____.
A. said B. cried C. held
3. The sentence "... and found out that he was gone." means _____.
A. the patient left the hospital.
B. the patient disappeared.
C. the patient died.

4. In the sentence "She rushed to the doctor and repeated to him the sounds she had heard.", "rushed" should be pronounced as _____.
 A. ['rʌʃid] B. [rʌʃt] C. ['rʌʃd]
5. The nurse could have saved the patient if she _____.
 A. had mastered better skill.
 B. had mastered foreign language.
 C. had not been warm-hearted.

7. A Small Plant

One of the smallest plant in the world is the diatom(硅藻). Diatoms are so small that they can be seen only through a microscope. A drop of water may contain as many as 500 diatoms. These tiny plants live in both freshwater and saltwater(海水、含盐的水).

Many diatoms are brown. You may have seen millions of them attached(依附) to a stone in the water. They show up when they are together. The stone has a brown, shiny coating (表层)---a coating of diatoms.

Diatoms grew in oceans and lakes. They float(浮动) around freely. They are an important food for small animals of the sea. The small animals eat the diatoms. Fish then eat the diatom feeders. If diatoms were to die, most of the fish in the oceans would die.

True or False:

1. We can see diatoms with our eyes. ()
2. A drop of water may contain millions of diatoms. ()
3. Many diatoms are brown. ()
4. Diatoms can't live in saltwater. ()
5. Sometimes you may see millions of diatoms attached to a stone in the water. ()
6. The diatoms are an important food for small animals of the sea. ()
7. All the fish would die without diatoms. ()

8. The Echo

A little boy, whose name was George, knew nothing of the echo. One day, when he was left alone in the valley, he cried out loudly, "O! O!" He was directly answered from the hill close by, "O! O!" Surprised to hear a voice without

seeing any person, he cried out, "Who are you?" The voice replied, "Who are you?" He then screamed (尖叫) out, "You are a silly fellow!"

This made Georgy more angry, and he went on calling the person nicknames (骂那个人), which were all repeated exactly. He then went to look for the boy, in order to strike him, but he could find none. So he ran home, and told his mother that an impudent (无耻的) fellow had hid himself behind the trees on the hill, and called his nicknames. After she heard his explanations, his mother said to him, "My boy, you have heard nothing but the echo of your own words. If you call out civil (有礼貌的) words towards the hill, the civil words will be given back in return."

"Oh", said Georgy, "I will go down tomorrow and say good words, and get good words from the echo."

"So it is," said the mother, "In life, with boys and girls, and men and women. A good word generally produces a good word. If we smile on the world, the world will smile on us. If we are unkind towards others, we can not expect anything better from them."

True or False:

1. George knew something about the echo. ()
2. When George cried out some words in the valley, the voice replied the same words. ()
3. This made George very pleased, and he went on calling the person nicknames. ()
4. George went to look for the boy in order to strike him, but he could not find any body around. ()
5. He told his mother that a bad boy had called his nicknames and he didn't know who he was. ()
6. His mother said to him there was a uncivil boy behind the trees on the hill. ()
7. He would go to say bad words again the next day. ()
8. George's mother gave him a very good lesson. ()

9. Your Passport (护照), Please

Mr and Mrs Cooper arrived at London Airport at the end of a three-week holiday in Italy. It had been hot there, so Mr Cooper had taken off the beard (胡子) that he had always worn. But his passport photograph (照片) show him with his beard.

An officer looked at the photograph for a moment, and said: "Will you excuse me, please sit down. I shall not keep you long." With this, he walked away, showed the photograph to a second officer, and said: "I know that face." The second officer looked at the passport and asked where Mr Cooper had come from. When he heard that the Cooper had just arrived back from Rome (罗马), the second officer's eyes lighted up, and said: "An Englishman with a beard stole a painting in Rome on Friday. And that man looks just the sort of man who..."

Suddenly, it came to the first officer: "Who Mr Cooper is?" He returned to him, and asked, "Do you teach at Feltham High School?" When Mr Cooper answered with some surprise that he did, the first officer smiled, and said: "I think so. I'm Alan Simpson. You have taught me French. You haven't change a bit."

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Mr and Mrs Cooper at the airport _____.
A. simply to show their passports
B. on their way back from their holiday
C. on their way to a holiday abroad
D. to meet Alan Simpson
2. The Coopers _____.
A. had just come back from the airport
B. were on their way to Rome for three weeks
C. spent three weeks in Rome before going to Italy
D. had been in Italy for three weeks
3. Mr Cooper _____.
A. had a beard on his face but not in his photograph
B. grew a beard while he was on holiday
C. had a beard in his photograph but not on his face
D. took his beard off long before he went on holiday
4. The first officer was sure _____.
A. Mr Cooper stole the painting
B. he knew the second officer's face
C. he had seen the face in the photograph before
D. a man without a beard stole the painting
5. The second officer said that _____.
A. Mr. Cooper stole the painting
B. an Italian with a beard stole a painting in England
C. Englishman who had just taken his beard off, stole a painting
D. a man with a beard, from England stole a painting in Rome
6. Mr. Cooper taught _____.

- A. Alan Simpson to be a firm office
- B. Alan Simpson French at Feltham High School
- C. at Feltham High School, in France
- D. French when his name was Simpson, not Cooper

10. The End of a Dream

Tired of sleeping on the floor, a young man in Teheran (德黑兰) saved up for years to buy a real bed. For the first time in his life, he became the proud owner of a bed which had springs (弹簧) and a mattress (垫子) because the weather was very hot, he carried the bed on to the roof of his house. He slept very well for the first two nights, but on the third night, a storm blew up. A gust (阵风) of wind swept the bed off the roof and sent it crashing into the courtyard below. The young man did not wake up until the bed had struck the ground. Although the bed was smashed (碎裂) to pieces, the man was miraculously (奇迹般地) unhurt. When he woke up, he was still on the mattress. Glancing (瞥了一眼) at the bits of wood and metal that lay around him, the man sadly picked up the mattress and carried it into his house. After he had put it on the floor, he promptly (立刻) went to sleep again.

Answer the Following Questions:

1. What did a young man in Teheran buy for the first time in his life?
2. Was the weather hot or cold? Did he sleep on the roof of his house or not?
3. Was the bed swept off the roof during a storm three night later or not?
(Because)
4. Was the man unhurt, or was he seriously injured (伤害)? Was he still on his mattress or not? (not only... but)
5. Was the bed in pieces or not? Did he carry the mattress indoors or not? Where did he put it? Did he go back to sleep or did he stay awake? (As... and)

11. Basketball Marathon

Recently a group of 17-years-old schoolboys decided to beat the world basketball marathon (马拉松) record. They aimed at playing for ninety hours and adding six hours to the record. Each team had nine players, with five playing at a time. How could eighteen boys play for almost four days without stopping? The boys decided that each person would play for two and a half hours and then

rest for two hours. They had to be able to sleep near the basketball hall, and they needed hot food and drink, day and night. Finally they started at six o'clock one evening.

The first night was very hard for the players. When it was their turn to rest, they were too excited to fall asleep at once. After sleeping for a short time, they had to play again. The night were very long, when nobody was watching. The days were better, because plenty of people cheered (使鼓劲) the players efforts. On the second night they fell asleep as soon as they stopped. Some of them had trouble with their hands and feet, but the only serious problem was a psychological (心理上的) one. Each boy was thinking: Why am I doing this? How can I play any longer? After the third night the players knew they could finish the ninety hours. The basketball on the fourth night was very slow, but in the final hours the play got better. For the last few minutes the players looked as fresh as when they started. They were tired, but very happy.

A. True or False:

1. Before the boys played their basketball marathon the world record was eighty-four hours. ()
2. Each team had nine players, but only five played at a time. ()
3. All the eighteen boys played for almost four days without stopping to rest. ()
4. It was winter and the nights were longer than the day. ()
5. Some of the boys had serious problems with their hands and feet. ()
6. They knew they could beat the record when they started. ()

B. Fill in the Blanks with Proper Words:

1. The dream of the boys to break the world basketball marathon record was made not long ago.
2. They wanted to play for six hours longer than the record.
3. It was not easy for the boys to fall asleep the first night because they were very excited.
4. Having played for ten days they were sure that they could finish the ninety hours.
5. Tired as they were, the boys were happy.

12. An Excellent Lumber (木材)

The redwood (红杉) tree is a giant. In fact, it is one of the largest plant