

COLLEGE ENGLISH READING

大学英语阅读

邹建国

朱 昆 编

李泽澄

云南科技出版社

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前 言

高等院校学生学习英语的目的主要是学会把英语作为一种工具去获取大量信息及顺利通过各级考试。目前,不少人认为英语试题中阅读理解题的形式千篇一律,考试只是阅文解题而已,无须准备。他们热衷于钻研语法结构,有的甚至将全部精力都花在英语的某些习惯用法或特殊句型上,这不能不说是一种战略上的错误。

本书是根据《大学英语教学大纲》及《大学英语四级考试大纲》编写的,目的在于帮助高等院校学生迅速提高英语阅读水平和应试能力。所选材料全都来自英美刊物原著,但有少量删改,题材广泛,体裁多样,风格各异,力求具有知识性和趣味性。文章的编排由浅入深、循序渐进。书后附有两套全真四级考试题以供参考。

本书主要供普通高等院校非英语专业学生准备四级和六级考试用,亦可供攻读硕士研究生英语入学考试之用。

云南科技出版社为本书的编辑工作给予了大力支持,我们深表谢意。

本书在打印、排版和印刷过程中,欧阳玉梅和刘朝晖同志给予了热情帮助,我们在此也深表谢意。

如有疏漏之处,请读者批评指正。

编 者

一九九三年五月

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Passage 1

There are several ways to send telegrams and cables. Western Union, International Telephone and Telegraph (I. T. T.), and Radio Corporation of America (R. C. A.) are the largest companies. Both R. C. A. and I. T. T. offer two kinds of telegrams that are charged by the word—"Full Rate Telegrams," (called FR) which are fastest, and Letter Telegrams (LT), which is overnight service. You can find the telephone number for either R. C. A. or I. T. T. in the telephone book, or you can send your message through Western Union with the words "Via I. T. T. " or "Via R. C. A. " after the address.

Telegrams can be most easily sent by telephone, although they can also be sent by going to an R. C. A, I. T. T. or Western Union office. However, unlike some countries, none of these may be sent from local post offices in the United States. If you must send a cable from a public telephone, ask the operator the charges in advance so you can be sure that you have the correct change. Rates are based on the number of words in the message. The names and addresses of the persons sending and receiving the message are not counted as part of the charge within the United States, but are counted in cables going to other countries.

There are several types of telegrams that can be sent lo-

cally within the United States. They include: the "straight" telegram, which is the quickest but most expensive, allowing 15 words for the basic charge; the night letter, which is the least expensive, but also the slowest since it is held for delivery until the morning after it is sent; and the day letter, which takes longer than a straight telegram but less time than a night letter, being delivered during the same day. The day letter allows 50 words (rather than 15) for its basic charge.

(295 words)

Multiple Choice:

1. What's the main idea of this passage?
 - a. It's about how to make a telephone call.
 - b. It's about how to make a telephone call and send a cable.
 - c. It describes that there are several ways to send telegraphs and cables in the United States.
 - d. It tells us about how many large telegraph companies there are in the United States.
2. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
 - a. Radio Corporation of America is one of the largest telegraph companies in the United States.
 - b. Full Rate Telegrams are sent faster than Letter Telegrams.
 - c. Telegrams can be most easily sent by telephone.

- d. Telegrams can also be sent from the post offices in the United States.
3. Where can we send telegrams in the United States?
- a. In the post offices.
 - b. In Western Union, I. T. T. or R. C. A.
 - c. We can also send telegrams by telephone.
 - d. Both b and c.
4. Which of the following statements is incorrect? Within the United States
- a. the night letter is cheaper than straight telegram.
 - b. the straight telegram is more expensive than the day letter.
 - c. the day letter is slower than the straight telegram.
 - d. the day letter is slower than the night letter.
5. If we want to send a telegram to the other part of the United States from a public telephone,
- a. we have to use the public telephone only in the post office.
 - b. we have to ask the operator the correct charges and prepare correct change first.
 - c. the charge will include the name and address of the person sending the message.
 - d. the charge will include the name and address of the person receiving the message.

Passage 2

Crime has its own cycles, a magazine reported some years ago. Police records that were studied for five years from over 2,400 cities and towns show a surprising link between changes in the season and crime patterns.

The pattern of crime has varied very little over a long period of years. Murder reaches its high during July and August, as do rape and other violent attacks. Murder, moreover, is more than seasonal; it is a weekend crime. It is also a nighttime crime: 62 percent of murders are committed between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m.

Unlike the summer high in crimes of bodily harm, burglary has a different cycle. You are most likely to be robbed between 6 p. m. and 2 a. m. on a Saturday night in December, January, or February. The most uncriminal month of all? May—except for one strange statistic. More dog bites are reported in this month than in any other month of the year.

Apparently our intellectual seasonal cycles are completely different from our criminal tendencies. Professor Huntington, of the Foundation for the Study of Cycles, made extensive studies to discover the seasons when people read serious books, attend scientific meetings, make the highest scores on examinations, and propose the most

changes to patents. In all instances, he found a spring peak and an autumn peak separated by a summer low. On the other hand, Professor Huntington's studies indicated that June is the peak month for suicides and admissions to mental hospitals. June is also a peak month for marriages.

Possibly soaring thermometers and high humidity bring on our strange and terrifying summer actions, but police officials are not sure. "There is, of course, no proof of a connection between humidity and murder," they say. "Why murder's high time should come in the summertime we really don't know."

(336 words)

Multiple Choice :

1. The main idea of paragraph 1 is _____
 - a. there is a link between changes in the seasons and crime patterns.
 - b. crime is not linked to the changes in season.
 - c. 2,400 towns were studies for five years.
 - d. both b and c.
2. According to paragraph 2, a murder would most likely occur _____
 - a. on a weekend night in winter.
 - b. on a weekday afternoon in summer.
 - c. on a weekend between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m. in fall.

- d. on a weekend night in summer.
3. In paragraph 4, sentence 2 gives examples of _____
- a. criminal tendencies.
 - b. summer low.
 - c. intellectual activities.
 - d. criminal seasonal cycles.
4. The information in paragraph 5 says _____
- a. There may be a connection between murder and hot weather.
 - b. There is a definite connection between murder and hot weather.
 - c. There is no connection between murder and hot weather.
 - d. None of the above.
5. A good title for this article would be _____.
- a. A Time for Murder
 - b. Crimes in Summer
 - c. Crime Cycles throughout the Year
 - d. Intellectual Cycles in America

Passage 3

Joe, the nightwatchman at Harris's factory, was making himself some tea about half past eleven one night when

he thought he heard footsteps going upstairs. He was immediately suspicious, because no one except himself and Charlie, who patrolled the grounds with his dog, had any right to be on the premises at that hour of night. He came out of the little office where he usually sat, and went to the bottom of the stairs which led directly to the directors' offices. He listened intently. He could hear the footsteps quite distinctly now. Then they stopped and there was the sound of a door opening and closing. Very cautiously Joe crept upstairs. There was a light on. He could see it shining faintly under the door of the Managing Director's office. Joe put his ear against the keyhole. Inside he could hear someone moving about and the rustle of paper.

Seriously alarmed now, Joe ran downstairs and out into the grounds. Charlie was just passing the gate with his dog.

'Charlie,' called Joe, 'I need help. Someone's broken into the Managing Director's office. Bring the dog.'

The two men and the dog lost no time in getting back to the factory. They raced up the stairs, the dog pulling at his lead. They tried the door, but it seemed to be locked. Charlie, who was a big man, put his shoulder against it and, using all his strength, broke it open. The dog bounded into the room, followed by Charlie and Joe.

'Get him!' Charlie ordered the dog.

The man, standing by the desk with some papers in his hand, turned in alarm as the dog rushed at him. It gripped

him by the sleeve with its sharp teeth and the man fell against the desk, cursing.

‘Call that dog off!’ he roared. ‘What on earth do you think you’re playing at? I’m the Managing Director! Am I to be attacked every time I come back to get some urgent documents?’

‘Oh — no, sir — we’re sorry, sir,’ stammered Joe and Charlie, feeling very foolish.

‘You’re sacked,’ bellowed the Managing Director, red in the face with rage.

‘Oh, but sir,’ protested Charlie, ‘we were only trying to protect the factory from intruders.’

‘That’s not why I’m sacking you,’ spluttered the Managing Director, ‘it’s your blasted dog. It’s eaten my documents!’

(388 words)

Multiple Choice:

1. About half past eleven, why did Joe immediately suspect?
 - a. Because he heard someone going upstairs.
 - b. Because he heard someone patrolling the grounds with a dog.
 - c. Because he heard a dog barking furiously.
 - d. Because he heard Charlie going upstairs.
2. Who have the right to be on the premises about half past

eleven at night?

- a. No one.
 - b. Only Joe.
 - c. Only Joe and Charlie.
 - d. Nobody but the Managing Director.
3. How did the Managing Director treat Joe and Charlie?
- a. The Managing Director awarded them a prize.
 - b. The Managing Director fired them.
 - c. The Managing Director praised them.
 - d. The Managing Director criticized them.
4. Who was the intruder?
- a. A thief.
 - b. A robber.
 - c. The Managing Director.
 - d. A dog.
5. What was the Managing Director angry at?
- a. They protected the factory from intruding.
 - b. Charlie broke the door.
 - c. They frightened the Managing Director terribly.
 - d. The dog ate the Managing Director's documents.

Passage 4

A lorry driver who was taking a large consignment of

baked beans to deliver to a chain of supermarkets had reached a quiet stretch of road and was beginning to accelerate when suddenly a very small girl leading a very large dog stepped out into the road in front of him.

The lorry driver braked as hard as he could and stopped with such a jerk that he was almost flung out of his seat and the back doors of his lorry flew open. While the irate driver was climbing down from his cab, the little girl and the dog, looking neither to right nor left, were proceeding calmly across the road.

‘Hey, you!’ shouted the lorry driver. ‘Come here. You weren’t looking where you were going, I almost killed you.’

‘I’m sorry,’ said the little girl, ‘I couldn’t help it. I was thinking of something else.’

‘You were thinking of something else when you were crossing the road,’ spluttered the lorry driver, ‘and you were taking your dog for a walk, too.’

‘I wasn’t taking my dog for a walk,’ the child corrected him, ‘he was taking me.’

‘He almost caused a fatal accident,’ bellowed the lorry driver, shaking his fist at the dog.

‘Well, he didn’t mean to. I expect he was thinking about baked beans.’

‘Baked beans!’ cried the astonished driver.

‘Yes,’ said the little girl, ‘I’d promised to buy my