

大学英语系列教材

*Active Reading*  
Upper Intermediate

主动  
阅读

中高级本



主编 朱万忠 韩 萍



重庆大学出版社

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## 内容提要

《主动阅读》(中级本和中高级本)是根据教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》编写而成的。该教材以提高学生英语阅读技能为宗旨,配以大学英语四、六级考试题型等材料作为学生阅读能力的训练和检测,旨在逐步培养学生的阅读技能和良好的阅读习惯以及阅读方式,提高学生英语阅读能力。同时,帮助学生通过有效阅读来获取知识、拓宽视野。该教材分为中级和中高级两本,每本由8个单元组成,涉及不同的阅读技能。每单元以阅读技能为主线条,通过对各个微技能的讲解,增强读者的认识,并通过举例来阐述各个微技能在阅读过程中的应用。本教材参照大学英语四、六级考试要求编写了大量的实战练习题,以巩固学生对各个微技能的掌握及运用。本书可作为阅读课程教材使用,也可用作学生的课外补充学习资料,还可作为具有相应水平的学生和英语爱好者提高英语阅读能力的自学课本。

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## 主动阅读 (中高级本)

Active Reading (Upper Intermediate)

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# 前 言

《主动阅读》(中级本和中高级本)是依据教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》编写而成,供大学英语基础阶段的教学使用。该教材分为中级和中高级两本,适用于大学英语阅读课程使用,旨在培育学生的英语阅读能力。在该系列教材编写之前,我们对学生作了广泛的调查,学生普遍反映读了很多英语文章,但阅读能力难以提高,其效果不明显,当被问及阅读技巧时,学生普遍缺乏这方面的知识等。我们在综合了学生的反馈意见并参阅了国内外的一些阅读课本之后,决定该系列教材要有针对性,不单是强调学生的大量阅读,还应注意阅读方式和阅读技巧的培养,使学生具有 Critical Reading 的能力。

在此思路的指导下,本系列教材的特点体现在以下几个方面:1. 采用 skill-oriented 的编写原则,每单元均以各微技能为标题,便于学生查找所需技能,使学生能充分运用有效的阅读技能,更好地理解所读文章。2. 采用大学英语四、六级考试题型训练学生的阅读技巧,使学生能运用所学技巧有效答题,快速掌握阅读技巧,兼顾学生学与考的需求。3. 所选材料均为地道的“原汁原味”的英语文章,语言规范,内容健康。选择的课文多为近期出版和发表的英文原版语料,具有很强的时代感。4. 课文的难易程度和长度均严格遵照全国大学英语四、六级考试的要求,便于学生考查自己的英语水平。

本系列教材分为中级本和中高级本。中级本主要让学生学习一些最基本的阅读技巧,如信息快速查找技巧、生词应对技巧、区分文章细节等技巧。中高级本强调深层阅读技巧,如判断句子之间的关系、理解文章的组成结构、判断作者的态度、区分事实和观点、评判式的阅读等技巧。

本教材各单元由五个部分组成。第一部分均为信息快速查找训练;第二部分是深度阅读;第三部分强调文章上下文意思的理解;第四部分是翻译;第五部分是阅读微技能训练。

本教材的编写得到了许多同仁和专家的关心与悉心指导,重庆大学出版社的领导和外语分社的编辑们为该教材的出版和版式设计等方面均付出了辛勤的劳动,我们借此机会向他们表示感谢。

由于编者水平有限,难免存在不足之处,甚至有错误的地方,恳请使用本教材的广大教师和学生不吝指正。

编写组

2012 年 7 月

# UNIT ONE

## Understanding the Text Structure

### Part 1 Skimming & Scanning

Go over the following passage quickly and then complete Section A and Section B within 15 minutes.

#### Will This Marriage Last?

Wedding season is here again. Your attendance has been requested. Dust off your finest, buy a well-wrapped gift, and slap on an optimistic smile.

One of the great bystander sports at weddings is looking for clues that forecast whether this couple will last, or whether they'll just become another divorce statistic. You'll keep these thoughts to yourself, but the mental guessing is nearly impossible to turn off. You've got your *hunches* (预感). You would have more confidence in the wedding if this couple had moved in together for six months to test-drive this relationship. You might not worry that she was raised in a broken home, but you do worry that he was married before. And the groom hasn't darkened a church door in years, but the bride insisted they get married in a *chapel* (礼拜堂) — you're not sure what to make of that.

The truth is that some of these factors actually matter, and some do not. Every wedding is *haunted* (困扰) by that *axiom* (通则), "Half of all marriages end in divorce." But it's not a random coin flip. At the time of a couple's wedding, there are factors already present that can raise the odds of divorce to as high as 70%, or lower it to nearly 20%.

The first thing to keep in mind is that the divorce rate has stabilized. An average couple now has a 57% chance of seeing their 15th wedding anniversary. If they make it that far, most will reach "till death do us part".

Let's group the risk factors into three. The first grouping is the couple's relationship. The second grouping is financial issues. The third grouping is their family history.

Regarding the couple, their age matters. If they are just out of high school, that's not so good. (No surprise.) The odds improve dramatically if they're at least 25 — but don't assume the older the better. Marrying at age 35 is not any better than age 25.

Most couples today cohabit before they marry. The crucial issue here is whether they moved in together with the full intention to get married, or whether they moved in together just because it was the logical thing to do, since he was always at her place anyway. You might think that living together is a sort of “trial period” that helps prevent bad marriages, since they can break up before taking an *oath* (誓言) to each other. But the odds suggest the opposite; they divorce more. Why doesn't this filter work? Very likely, whatever it was that made them not want to get married in the first place ended up becoming a problem long-term.

If the couple has ever invited you over for dinner, you've got a good clue there. Does the groom substantially help with the housework, cleaning, and cooking? If he does, this may be one of the most important predictors of all. We don't usually think about this when they are standing at the altar, but the bride will definitely be thinking about it in two years if her husband has left all the chores to her. A man who does housework is also going to be involved in childrearing — another major benefit to the couple.

If this is a second marriage, for either bride or groom, their odds of divorce are somewhat higher. Remarried families have more complex issues to confront: exes to deal with, and stepchildren to raise. But this risk is often overstated; a middle-class second marriage has only 3% more risk than a first marriage.

Being religious doesn't make a couple happier with their marriage, but it does mean they might try a little harder to stick it out. But what is really important here is not what religion they are, but how devoted they are to practicing their faith. You're right to worry if the bride insisted that they get married in the chapel, when the groom really wanted a wedding at the beach.

Let's talk money. Money helps, a lot — but a relatively small amount of money goes a long way. If this couple will earn a modest \$50,000 as a family, their odds of seeing their 15th anniversary jump to 68%. By and large, well-off couples divorce over personality conflicts while poorer couples divorce over alcoholism, physical abuse, and money problems. (*Infidelity* 〈外遇〉 is a frequent deal-breaker, rich or poor.)

If you've heard that the bride and groom have been hunting for a house to buy, that's a good sign. Homeowners aren't happier in marriage than renters, but there's a permanence to their life — a connection to a community. The house is also a roadblock to divorce, being hard to divide.

Now for the really fun stuff — their families. Pay close attention to the parents of the bride and groom. Are they divorced? If so, it's been known for some time that their children are at higher risk of divorce when they marry. It's quite significant — it raises their odds of divorce by 14%. But you need to know a little more before applying this handicap. Before the parents divorced, was their conflict loud and visible to the children? Or was their conflict kept hushed behind closed doors? Surprisingly, it's the children of the latter who are getting divorced. Growing up in a home where they thought everything was fine — until their

parents suddenly announced their divorce — leads those children not to trust their relationships.

Watch the bride and her father as they walk down the aisle. Are they tense with each other? If so, that's bad. Women with poor relationships to their fathers are more likely to get divorced from their husband. That's not the case for the groom — the quality of his relationship to his father does not impact his odds.

By now, all these risk factors probably seem overwhelming. Even worse, it seems that there's very little an engaged couple can do to help themselves. They can't reverse their parent's divorce, and they can't elevate their financial status overnight. They might be able to attend church, but if God hasn't spoken to them, faking it doesn't help.

But it's not all an accomplished fact. There are many things a couple can do to improve their odds. Wait until they're 25, for instance. And a young man can learn to wash a toilet and roast a chicken. He can also learn to change a diaper — it's not that hard.

If the bride has a poor relationship with her father, her fate's not sealed either. Among those women, those who've created a strong bond with the groom's family counteract their risk.

The couple's expectations are a huge factor in the longevity of their marriage. Couples who have attended premarital classes or counseling cut their odds of divorce by almost a third. We don't know if the classes actually change the couples, or if those couples are already realistic and well-informed to the dangers (which is why they were smart enough to take the class). But premarital counseling might be the best wedding gift any newlyweds can receive.

Bottom line, the weddings you attend this summer are likely to have much better odds of lasting than a coin flip. That's something to enjoy, when the champagne has run dry and the band covers Kool & The Gang and one of the bridesmaids has run off in tears.

## ⇒ Section A Information Confirmation

*Go over the following questions and choose the best answer from the choices marked A, B, C and D.*

- What is the main idea of this passage?
  - Family history does impact on the couple's relationship.
  - How long a new marriage will last can be forecasted.
  - Certain factors increase or reduce the odds of divorce.
  - Financial problems often spoil the couple's marriage.
- What can we know about the divorce rate?
  - It soars surprisingly.
  - It seems to be steady.
  - It declines gradually.
  - It is always about 50%.
- Couples living together before getting married actually \_\_\_\_\_.
  - raise their odds of divorce

- B. can prevent bad marriage  
C. improve their compatibility  
D. reduce risk factors in marriage
4. The marriage may last longer if the groom \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. treats his bride with good manners  
B. always shares housework with the bride  
C. has the same religious belief as his bride  
D. learns a lesson from his first marriage
5. Which of the following factors helps couples hold their marriage longer?  
A. Identical personality.  
B. Real financial freedom.  
C. Poor financial situation.  
D. A modest family income.
6. The effects of owning a house on the longevity of the couple's marriage are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. neutral              B. negative              C. unclear              D. positive
7. What is the surprising finding about the children whose divorced parents used to keep their conflict behind closed door?  
A. They distrust all relationship.  
B. They prefer to be singled.  
C. They get divorced more.  
D. They are afraid of divorce.

## ⇒ Section B Information Completion

*Complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.*

8. Remarried families are faced with more \_\_\_\_\_ issues, but their odds of divorce are not as they are assumed to be.
9. The odds of divorce can be raised if the bride gets a \_\_\_\_\_ with her father and fails to create \_\_\_\_\_ with her husband's family.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ can certainly help the couples to develop realistic attitudes towards their marriage and thus \_\_\_\_\_ their odds of divorce.

## Part 2 Reading in Depth

*Read the following two passages more carefully and then do the exercises below.*

### Passage 1

Most people think a person's taste in food is so unique and random, that it couldn't



possibly reveal anything about their character.

But other subtle things that people do can help us make up our mind about a person's character. Should we really be so quick to dismiss what a person eats?

Dr. Alan Hirsch is a US *neurologist* (神经科医师) who specialises in the treatment of people who lose their sense of smell or taste. Through the Smell and Taste Treatment and Research Foundation, which he heads up, Hirsch conducts research into the link between food choices and behaviour.

In order to investigate the possible link between people's choices of snack food and personality, Hirsch quizzed a sample of 19,400 people. He made all participants undergo two well-known personality tests.

These tests define each of the volunteers according to widely accepted personality categories. Hirsch could then check his own results against these in order to find correlations between their choice of snack food and personality type.

Hirsch also tested the volunteers on questionnaires designed to assess depression, because depressive illnesses are known to coincide with losses of sensation and preferences for certain foods.

The volunteers were then tested on their preference for snack foods and the pleasure value they assigned to each food. Hirsch also quizzed married partners on their choices to find out how people with different food choices differed in their compatibility for each other. You can take Dr. Hirsch's test here.

The study revealed surprising links between perfectionism and the urges to *munch* (用力咀嚼) *tortilla* (玉米粉饼) chips and even a connection between introversion and the consumption of cream crackers.

Dr. Hirsch used the same technique of testing for associations between different personality types and the flavours of ice cream people prefer.

"We may be the adventurous type and try new flavors, or we may resist change and go back to those we considered tried and true," says Hirsch.

Ultimately, while some will feel this test provides a good assessment of their personality, others will disagree with the assessment. However, it's clear that subtle features such as a person's taste in food may not be as harmless as we may at first think.

Find out how you taste, or see if we can predict which decade you were born in from the smells that remind you of your childhood.

**Choose the best answer.**

1. It is generally assumed that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. what we usually eat does not necessarily expose what we actually are  
 B. random choices of food may mirror the unknown part of our character  
 C. certain food preferences may not be closely linked with our mental health  
 D. tastes in food probably have a significant impact on shaping our personality
2. Which one of the following statements best summarizes the passage?

- A. Psychology tests and their reliability.
  - B. People's flavour and their personality.
  - C. Food preferences and pleasure value.
  - D. Choices of food and mental health.
3. What did Dr. Hirsch find in his study?
- A. Certain types of personality are connected to certain food preferences.
  - B. Food tastes certainly determine the relationship of married partners.
  - C. Conservative people scarcely attempt to try new flavours of ice cream.
  - D. Personality types can be well explained by people's choices of food.
4. What can be inferred about people suffering depression?
- A. They hardly gain a strong sense of satisfaction from eating.
  - B. They obviously have lost their interest in ordinary foods.
  - C. They are generally assumed to be in favour of some foods.
  - D. They always prefer snack food and often refuse a large serving.
5. What can be concluded from the passage?
- A. People tend to be too quick to take things for granted before finding the truth.
  - B. Dr. Hirsch's research failed to assess the personality type of his subjects.
  - C. Adventurous people are supposed to consume different flavours of ice cream.
  - D. Subtle things like taste in food may affect our character to a certain degree.

## Passage 2

Saving for your children's education, purchasing a second home, deciding when and how to retire — these are all topics that people talk about with their friends and their financial advisers. But deciding what happens to whatever is left of your money when you die is often passed over. It shouldn't be, though, because it is crucial to a financial plan. Most Americans will die without the estate tax affecting them. In 2009, a married couple can leave \$7 million to their children tax free.

Those who are affected by the tax are some of the best planners. The problem here, though, is that they do not always make sure that what they wanted to do is laid out properly in their estate documents. Anyone can learn from their slip-ups.

The most common mistake is one of oversight. Anyone who has ever worked at a company that offers benefits has filled out a "beneficiary designation" form. In the stack of papers asking questions, ranging from which health insurance plan is right to how much should go into the company retirement plan each pay period, the beneficiary designation form is remarkably simple: If I die, who gets the corporate benefits package?

Fast forward 25 years, and the lowly assistant who signed that piece of paper is now a top executive. His benefits package has grown substantially over the years. Does he still want to leave it to his mother and brother — or former wife? These forms trump wills when it

comes to distributing assets not held jointly. Check them often.

The same goes for people who have set up trusts. Regardless of what the trusts were for or when they were written, they should be reviewed occasionally — preferably by someone not involved with creating them. This isn't to detect *shenanigans* (诡计), but to check for simple errors that could alter how an estate will be distributed.

As a side note, trusts are no longer the province of the very rich. They have morphed over the years into useful and straightforward vehicles to protect assets in life from creditors and lawsuits and to pass them to heirs on your own terms.

The lesson to be learned from all of this is simple: One day you will die, so while you're alive, plan for it. If you don't have a proper estate plan, the emotional pain of your passing could be compounded by financial chaos.

**Choose the best answer.**

1. The estate tax is assumed to affect some of the best planners if they \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. fail to ensure whether their estate documents are well handled
  - B. are too ignorant to find reliable professionals to distribute their assets
  - C. make mistakes when filling out the “beneficiary designation” forms
  - D. slip up over the choice of who gets all their company benefits package
2. Why does the author suggest checking the “beneficiary designation” forms often?
  - A. Because it has been quite a long time since the forms were signed.
  - B. Because the benefits package has become a surprisingly huge sum.
  - C. Because these forms will determine how the assets are distributed.
  - D. Because any change in life may induce the revision of these forms.
3. The trusts owners are encouraged to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. take a review on what the trusts were for and when they were written frequently
  - B. assign someone to supervise their trusts who did not participate in them initially
  - C. track down those suspects who have intentionally deceived them in the documents
  - D. correct man-made errors that may result in financial crisis among family members
4. What could be inferred about trusts?
  - A. They successfully protect you from lawsuits.
  - B. Their roles have been evolving all the time.
  - C. They are not exclusive to the wealthy today.
  - D. Your children could inherit such trusts tax free.
5. What can be concluded from this passage?
  - A. Our pain is relieved if not coming with financial loss.
  - B. Early financial forms need to be checked regularly.
  - C. Professional financial planners help you reduce taxes.
  - D. Good estate plans can free you from financial chaos.

## Part 3 Reading in the Context

*Read the passage with ten missing words or phrases. Learn to guess the meanings of them from the context and then select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Each word or phrase should be selected only once.*

Fathers can sometimes overlook the importance of being a regular participator in their child's life. Being there for a child is more than physical 1, but helping to meet children's social, emotional, and psychological needs.

Fathers talk about the importance of helping their child solve many of the 2 problems of growing up. These could be the challenges of 3 adulthood such as deciding: what to do for a living, whether to go to college, whether to buy a car; or, they could be everyday tasks such as homework, fixing a bike, or hanging a swing from a tree.

In the problem-solver role, dads are modeling effective problem-solving skills for their child. They have an opportunity to show their child how to make and act on decisions, as well as experience the 4 of their actions and decisions. This process 5 a child's responsibility, independence, and self-reliance. If children are raised without a role model for effective problem-solving, they often adopt poor strategies that lead them to become *ineffectual* (不成功的) and 6 in *problematic* (有问题的) situations. Children and adults with *deficient* (缺乏的) problem-solving skills often become needy and 7 on others to "make things right" in their life. On the positive side, fathers who model healthy problem-solving in relationships have children who are less 8 and who are more popular with their peers and teachers.

While fathers often play a critical role in their child's life by setting an example of problem-solving, fathers sometimes get involved in solving problems when it's nearly too late. In some family situations, a father only gets involved when a child's emotional and behavioral problems have become so serious that they are less responsive to treatment. 9 dad's help for only the "big" problems is a big mistake. Fathers need to be involved in all 10 of their child's problem-solving strategies from serving as an example to serving as a guide who offers possible solutions to their children.

A. consequences	F. ambitious	K. phases
B. helpless	G. parts	L. Limiting
C. dependent	H. aggressive	M. emerging
D. Reserving	I. fosters	N. enhances
E. presence	J. critical	O. reliable

## Part 4 Translation

*Complete the sentences by translating into English the Chinese given in brackets.*

1. But for the wide use of internet, \_\_\_\_\_  
(我们不可能如此快捷方便地获取各种信息资源).
2. When it comes to the indoor activities for rainy days, \_\_\_\_\_  
(没有比读读小说或看看电影更令人放松愉快的了).
3. My friend told me that he had quitted his job, \_\_\_\_\_  
(但他没有进一步解释那样做的原因).
4. Men are more likely to base their judgments on reasoning, \_\_\_\_\_  
(而女人们却倾向于凭直觉作出决定).
5. Loyalty suggests under no circumstances \_\_\_\_\_  
(我们都不会背叛自己的朋友).

## Part 5 Reading Skills

Texts may be divided into sections, each marked by section headings. Texts are usually further divided into paragraphs. When we come to a text, we have expectations about its structure. For example, we may expect the first paragraph to give an introduction and the last to provide a conclusion. A new paragraph may indicate a minor shift of topic and a new section a major shift.

However, these can only be expectations. A new paragraph does not always mean a new topic. A single topic may be developed over several paragraphs. A paragraph may include more than one topic. Identifying text structure helps us to understand how the topics in a text relate to each other. It also helps us to give a structure to our notes and summaries.

Given a specific function and certain information that has to be conveyed, there are many different ways in which this information may be presented and organized. The organization of a text is not always determined by its contents and by the nature of the information to be conveyed. The thematic pattern used is often a choice on the part of the writer and this choice, in its turn, alters the message. The thematic patterns mainly are: chronological sequence, descriptions, analogy and contrast, classification and argumentative and logical organization.

In order to read efficiently, one must be able to recognize the topic sentences of the text, since they carry the main information. One must also be able to recognize the indicators which announce the function of the sentences that are expansions of the topic sentence (e.g. indicators announcing an example, a restriction, a consequence, etc.).

### Example 1

*Read the passage below and answer the questions.*

I don't know why UFOs are never sighted over large cities by hordes of people. But it is consistent with the idea that there are no space vehicles from elsewhere in our skies. I suppose it is also consistent with the idea that space vehicles from elsewhere avoid large cities. However, the primary argument against recent extraterrestrial visitation is the absence of evidence.

Take *leprechauns* (妖精) as an example. Suppose there are frequent reports of leprechauns. Because I myself am emotionally predisposed in favor of leprechauns, I would want to check the evidence especially carefully. Suppose I find that 500 picnickers independently saw a green blur in the forest. Terrific. But so what? This is evidence only for a green blur. Maybe it was a fast hummingbird. Such cases are reliable but not particularly interesting.

Now suppose that someone reports: "I was walking through the forest and came upon a convention of 7,000 leprechauns. We talked for a while and I was taken down into their hole in the ground and shown pots of gold and feathered green hats. I will reply: "Fabulous! Who else went along?" And he will say, "Nobody", or "My fishing partner". This is a case that is interesting but unreliable. In a case of such importance, the uncorroborated testimony of one or two people is almost worthless. What I want is for the 500 picnickers to come upon the 7,000 leprechauns... or vice versa.

The situation is the same with UFOs. The reliable cases are uninteresting and the interesting cases are unreliable. Unfortunately, there are no cases that are both reliable and interesting.

### ➡ Questions

1. If you had to pick out one sentence in the whole passage to sum up the main idea, which one would you choose?
2. Find the topic sentence of each paragraph.
3. Which words of the first paragraph do the second and third paragraphs develop?
4. Find out at least one instance of:
  - an illustration.
  - a restatement of an idea just mentioned.
5. What words are used to introduce the two illustrations given in the text? What words are used to introduce the conclusions drawn from these illustrations?
6. The following points are all mentioned in the text. Which sentences represent the main idea in the passage and which are non-essential, supporting details?
  - Space vehicles from elsewhere avoid large cities.

- The primary argument against recent extraterrestrial visitation is the absence of evidence.
- The author is emotionally predisposed in favor of leprechauns.
- The fact that 500 picnickers saw a green light in the forest is terrific.
- The green blur might have been a hummingbird.
- Cases such as that of the picnickers are not interesting.
- Someone said that the leprechauns took him down their hole.
- The man said his fishing partner was with him.
- The reliable cases are uninteresting and the interesting cases are unreliable.

## ➡ Explanations

1. The passage is well organized: In the first paragraph, the author presents his argument that extraterrestrial visitation lacks evidence. Then in the second and third paragraphs, he used two illustrations to argue for the main idea: one case is that 500 picnickers saw a green blur in the forest; the other is that someone came upon a convention of 7,000 leprechauns. The author concludes in the last paragraph that “*Unfortunately, there are no cases that are both reliable and interesting*”, which could best sum up the main idea of the whole passage.
2. Para 1: In this paragraph, the author intends to present the main theme of the passage, i. e. extraterrestrial visitation lacks evidence. So the sentence “However, the primary argument against recent extraterrestrial visitation is the absence of evidence.” could serve as the topic sentence of this paragraph.  
 Para 2: In this paragraph, the author illustrates the main idea by one instance that 500 picnickers saw a green blur in the forest. But the author points out “Such cases are reliable but not particularly interesting”, which could be regarded as the topic sentence of this paragraph.  
 Para 3: In this paragraph, the author uses another instance to illustrate the main idea: someone came upon a convention of 7,000 leprechauns. However, the author doesn’t think it reliable. So the sentence “This is a case that is interesting but unreliable.” could serve as the topic sentence of this paragraph.  
 Para 4: In the last paragraph, the author refers back to the case of UFOs, which, he thinks, is the same with that of leprechauns. So, the sentence “The situation is the same with UFOs.” is the topic sentence of this paragraph.
3. The words “extraterrestrial visitation” and “absence of evidence” in the first paragraph are developed in the second and third paragraphs.
4. — One illustration is that “500 picnickers independently saw a green blur in the forest”.  
 — The sentence “Unfortunately, there are no cases that are both reliable and interesting.” in the last paragraph is a restatement of the preceding sentence “The reliable cases are uninteresting and the interesting cases are unreliable”.
5. The words “take”, “suppose” are used to introduce the two illustrations. For example, in



Paragraph 2, one can read such sentences as “Take leprechauns as an example”, and “Suppose there are frequent reports of leprechauns”. In Paragraph 3, the author uses the sentence like “Now suppose that someone reports...” to introduce the second illustration. Those words “Such cases...”, “This is a case...”, “In a case of...”, “... there are no cases that...” are employed by the author to introduce the conclusions drawn from these illustrations.

6. Sentences representing the main idea:

- The primary argument against recent extraterrestrial visitation is the absence of evidence.
- The reliable cases are uninteresting and the interesting cases are unreliable.

Sentences which are supporting details:

- Space vehicles from elsewhere avoid large cities.
- The author is emotionally predisposed in favor of leprechauns.
- The fact that 500 picnickers saw a green light in the forest is terrific.
- The green blur might have been a hummingbird.
- Cases such as that of the picnickers are not interesting.
- Someone said that the leprechauns took him down their hole.
- The man said his fishing partner was with him.

## Example 2

**Read the passage below. You will find the topic sentence of each paragraph of the text.**

Even the cheapest and least complicated digitals are minor miracles of modern technology. They replace the traditional hands, springs and cogs with flickering digits and electronic circuits. Some just display hours, minutes and seconds, but many function like baby computers. At the push of a button you can check the time in New York or New Dehli, see exactly how long Mario Andretti takes to lap a race track, set a small but shrill alarm, or even programme the watch, months in advance, to flash out a reminder about birthdays and other special dates. Some digitals have calendars that “know” all about leap years and will remain accurate well into the next century.

Quartz, one of the world’s most common minerals, lies at the heart of every digital watch. Almost a century ago, scientists discovered that quartz crystals vibrate at an absolutely constant frequency when an electric current is passed through them. But quartz digital watches did not become practical until miracles of miniaturization were developed to save weight and room in spacecraft. The typical watch crystal, powered by a battery the size of a fingernail, vibrates 32,768 times every second. The vibrations are fed into a tiny “chip” — little bigger than the end of a match — which is crammed with more than a thousand transistors and other components. This microscopic maze is the watch’s “brain” and can be designed to store a remarkable amount of information. But its most important



single function is to keep dividing the vibrations by two until the quartz is pulsing precisely once every second.

Battery, crystal and chip combine to produce remarkably accurate watches whose timekeeping rarely strays by more than one or two seconds each month. They also tend to be very reliable, thanks to the absence of all the ticking machinery packed into a conventional clockwork watch.

If you fancy a digital watch, ask yourself how many of the tricks it performs are likely to be of genuine value. It makes no sense to spend extra money on what could become gimmicks once the novelty has worn off.

**Write underneath each of the topic sentences:**

a) what expansions appear in the rest of the paragraph?

b) what kind of relation do these expansions have to the topic sentence (TS) (e. g. illustration, cause, consequence, supporting detail, rewording of the same idea, etc.)?

TS 1 Even the cheapest and least complicated digitals are minor miracles of modern technology.

Expansions: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to TS: \_\_\_\_\_

TS 2 many function like baby computers.

Expansions: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to TS: \_\_\_\_\_

TS 3 Quartz, one of the world's most common minerals, lies at the heart of every digital watch.

Expansions: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to TS: \_\_\_\_\_

TS 4 Battery, crystal and chip combine to produce remarkably accurate watches...

Expansions: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to TS: \_\_\_\_\_

TS 5 If you fancy a digital watch, ask yourself how many of the tricks it performs are likely to be of genuine value.

Expansions: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to TS: \_\_\_\_\_