

冯大雄 史蓓琪 主编

■新世纪中学英语学习方略及训练丛书

中级英语阅读300篇
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阅读300篇
(高中卷)

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修订版

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ENGLISH READING COMPREHENSION

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内 容 提 要

本书收集了约 300 篇短文,分文化教育、科普常识、卫生保健、风土人情、风云人物、世界各地、动物植物、兴趣活动、微型故事、应用信息、段落大意共 11 个单元。文章题材广泛,语言规范,难度适中,适合读者扩大知识面、提高阅读水平的要求。单元内短文按字数多少排列,方便读者测定阅读速度,了解学习情况,起到巩固知识、指导学习的目的。书末附有全部练习参考答案。

本书可供广大高中生课外阅读;也可作为参加高考复习的学生及指导教师的阅读材料。

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前 言

本书是根据《全日制高级中学英语教学大纲》(以下简称《大纲》)和普通高校、成人高校入学考试对英语阅读的基本要求而精心编写的。其目的是帮助广大高中学生和具有中级水平的英语自学者迅速提高阅读能力,达到规定的要求,在各类考试中获得好成绩。

《大纲》把“侧重培养阅读能力”作为高中阶段英语教学的主要目的,并且指出,“阅读是理解和吸收书面信息的手段,它有助于扩大词汇量,丰富语言知识,了解英语国家的社会和文化。要指导学生查阅词典、语法等工具书,鼓励学生根据上下文猜测词义,使学生逐渐获得独立阅读的能力。听是理解和吸收口头信息的手段。听和读是输入,只有达到足够的输入量,才能保证学生具有较好的说和写的输出能力。因此,在教学中应尽可能加强听读训练,指导学生进行课外阅读。”《大纲》还明确规定:在高中前两年里,“除课文外,补充阅读量应达到 10 万字左右”;而高中三年,则“除课文外,补充阅读量应达到 20 万字以上。”本书正是为了满足学生课外扩大英语的输入量,进行大量阅读的要求而编写的。

《大纲》对高中学生的英语阅读能力,提了六个“能”的要求,即:1. 能借助词典读懂难度略低于所学语言的材料,生词率不超过 3%;2. 能以每分钟 50~60 个词的速度,阅读生词率不超过 3%的有关人物传记、故事、记叙文、社会文化、文史知识、科普小品等不同题材的材料,能够把握中心思想和主要的事实,理解正确率达到 70%;3. 能读懂简单的应用文,如信件、请柬、通知、便条、图表和常见标志等;4. 能够把握所读材料的主要逻辑线索、时间和空间的顺序;5. 能根据上下文理解作者的态度和观点;6. 能根据已知的事实推断出文中未直接写出的意思。我们希望本书能帮助读者更快地

提高这些能力。

本书选材时,注意了知识性、科学性和趣味性,同时也注意到题材的广泛性。文章由浅入深,循序渐进,难度适当。编排时先以题材为序,分文化教育、科普常识、卫生保健、风土人情、风云人物、世界各地、动物植物、兴趣活动、其他等 10 类;每类中根据词数,篇幅由短及长,逐渐递增,有助于读者提高阅读速度,读得更快,读得更多。全书近 300 篇,读者若能持之以恒,当能在阅读能力方面有快速的提高。

本书由冯大雄、史蓓琪主编,协助收集和整理材料的还有黄教英、游开永、丁自强、俞佩华、尹羽左、毕铭、钟雪盛、薛盈玉、岳独舒等同志。由于作者水平有限,加之时间仓促,谬误疏漏之处在所难免,望广大读者及同行不吝赐教。

编者

1998 年 12 月

再版前言

本书自1998年12月出版以来,累计印数已近10万,在同类书中名列前茅,得到读者广泛好评。由于本书内容及语言难度适合中学生,一些学校将本书指定为学生的课外读物;一些网站还选取本书的部分短文编入该网站的英语阅读版块中。为了全面提高中学生英语水平,继本书后,编者又接连出版了《初中英语阅读300篇》、《初/高中英语听力300题》、《初/高中综合知识300题》、《初/高中完形填空300篇》等书,市场反映热烈,总印数超过30万册,在中学生中形成了一定的影响。

近年来,我国英语教学形势发展很快,国家教育部和上海市教委最近分别编制了新的《英语课程标准》,这些标准对英语阅读能力给出了明确的规定,特别是不约而同地对课外阅读量作了具体要求。国家教育部的课程标准对高中毕业生的阅读要求是累计33万词,而上海市的课程标准中,根据上海将建设成国际大都市的要求,对在校生提出更高的要求:小学生10~12万词,初中生20~23万词,高中生30~45万词,累计达60~80万词。

针对上述要求,在本次修订时对内容做了大幅度的修改:更换了大部分文章,特别是根据新的阅读要求,淘汰了篇幅在100词左右的短文,总篇数及总字数有明显增加,以满足学生增大阅读量的需要;结合考试的新动向,书中增添了应用文单元,体现“学以致用”的目的。另

外,根据近年高考新题型需要,增加了“段落标题”一章,供读者训练自测。

本书出版以来,蒙许多读者来函指正谬误;挚友邵士翹先生对修订提出不少宝贵意见;我的同行纪开亚先生也参与了修订工作。在此一并致谢。

期盼读者能继续喜爱并使用本书,并诚恳地希望对书中不尽如人意之处给予教正。

编者

2006年3月

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At School 文化教育

1

Millions of words have been written about young people in the United States. There are reasons for this great interest in the ideas, feelings, and actions of youth.

Today there are about seven million Americans in colleges and universities. Young persons under 25 make up nearly half of the American population. Many of these will soon be in charge of the nation. Naturally their ideas are important to everyone in the country, and it is necessary for older people to understand what they think and feel.

College students today have strong opinions about right and wrong. They are deeply interested in making a better life for all people, especially for those who have not been given a fair chance before now. They see much that is wrong in the lives of their parents. It is hard for them to see what is trouble in American families. Your country may meet such problems, too. (158 words)

Multiple Choice

- The writer of this article agrees that young Americans today _____.
 - pay more attention to their own interest
 - know little about what their parents think
 - care a great deal about others
 - have a lot of strange ideas
- Young people in the United States _____.
 - are college or university students
 - make up almost fifty percent of the American population

- C. are making up a plan to improve the older people's life
D. only want to go to colleges or universities
3. College students in America today _____, according to the writer.
- A. can tell right from wrong
B. are in charge of important positions of the nation
C. do not care much about social problems
D. cannot tell what is right and what is wrong
4. According to the passage, older people must try _____.
- A. to be very strict with their children
B. to understand their children
C. to teach their children what to do
D. to help their children do everything
5. Which of the following is true according to this passage?
- A. In America the young and the old agree almost about everything.
B. In America all the older people have not been given a fair chance.
C. It seems that not only the United States has such family problems.
D. College students have quite different ideas from all other people.

2

The people in the United States speak the same language as the people in Great Britain. However, American English is different from British English in many ways. There are a few differences in grammar. For example, speakers of British English say "in hospital" and "Have you a pen?" Americans say "in the hospital" and "Do you have a pen?"

Pronunciation is sometimes different, American usually sounds the "r" in words like "bird" and "hurt". Some speakers of British English do not sound the "r" in these words. Some spellings are different. People in Britain write "colour" and "centre", but people in

the United States write “color” and “center”: Some words are different. People in the United States use “gasoline” in their cars, but people in Britain use “petrol”. (160 words)

Multiple Choice

- American English and British English are different in _____.
A. spelling
B. pronunciation
C. grammar
D. all of the above
- “Gasoline” and “petrol” are _____.
A. the same thing
B. different in colour
C. different kinds of cars
D. different things
- Which of the following statements is true?
A. All the people in the United States pronounce the “r” in “bird”.
B. Not all the people in the United States pronounce the “r” in “bird”.
C. None of the British pronounce the “r” in “bird”.
D. If a man pronounces the “r” in “bird”, he must be an American.
- Here are four words: (1) honor (2) petrol (3) theatre (4) center. _____ are American English.
A. (1) (2) (3)
B. (2) (3) (4)
C. (1) (4)
D. (1) (3)
- Which of the following is the main idea of this passage?
A. Words are shorter in American English.
B. America and Great British.
C. Pronunciation is more difficult in American English than in British English.
D. There are some differences between American English and British English.



In order to learn a foreign language well, it is necessary to

overcome the fear of making mistakes. If the primary goal of language use is communication, then mistakes are secondary considerations that may be dealt with gradually as awareness of those mistakes increases. On the other hand, students should not ignore their mistakes. The language learner may observe how native speakers express themselves, and how native expressions differ from the way the learner might say them. For example, a Spanish speaker who has been saying "I'll do it" to express willingness to do something in the immediate future, could, by interacting(交际) with native speakers of English, observe that native speakers actually say "I'll do it". The resulting discrepancy(差异) can serve as a base for the student to modify his way of using the present tense in English. But a student who is unwilling to interact in the first place would lose this opportunity to learn by trial and error. (162 words)

Multiple Choice

1. According to the passage, the present tense in English is _____.
 - A. not used to express a desire to do something in the immediate future
 - B. used with some verbs but not with others to express future intention
 - C. basically the same in English as it is in Spanish
 - D. not the most difficult problem for foreign students
2. According to the passage, language learners can reduce the number of their mistakes by _____.
 - A. asking native speakers for explanations
 - B. reading good books in the foreign language
 - C. comparing their speech with that of native speakers
 - D. speaking without regard to native speakers
3. According to the passage, foreign languages who do not interact with native speakers will NOT _____.
 - A. learn very much about the foreign culture
 - B. learn about the history of the foreign language
 - C. have to worry about making mistakes

- D. take advantage of available language models
4. According to the passage, foreign language students should not worry too much about making mistakes because _____.
- A. native speakers like foreign students who try to learn their language
- B. communication is the primary goal of language learning
- C. native speakers will ignore their mistakes
- D. native speakers always express themselves in a wrong way
5. The author's major conclusion about the function of mistakes in foreign language learning is that _____.
- A. mistakes are not important in the process of learning language
- B. learners are often very afraid of making mistakes
- C. making mistakes can help the learner discover the rules of the language
- D. native speakers often do not tell foreign language learners about their mistakes



Elementary education begins at the age of six. At this stage nearly all the teachers are women, mostly married. The atmosphere is usually very friendly, and the teachers have for a long time now accepted the idea that the important thing is to make the children happy and interested. The old rigid authoritarian(生硬的,独裁式的), methods of education were considered undesirable in America rather a long time ago—so much so that many people now think that they have gone too far in the direction of trying to make children happy and interested rather than giving them actual instruction. The social education of young children tries to make them accept the need for human beings in a society to work together for their common good in all sorts of ways. The emphasis is on cooperation rather than competition throughout most of this process(过程). This may seem curious, in view of the general idea that American society is highly competitive, but the need for making people sociable in this sense has

come to be regarded as the main functions of education. (179 words)

Multiple Choice

1. In American elementary schools the teachers _____.
 - A. are kind to children
 - B. are strict with children
 - C. teach kids a lot of subjects
 - D. set high standards for kids
2. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
 - A. Children are prepared at school for competition in society.
 - B. Children are not prepared at school for competition in society.
 - C. Children do not like to compete in society.
 - D. Children want to compete in society.
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?
 - A. Most primary school teachers are female.
 - B. Children are made happy at elementary schools.
 - C. Many people want to make the children even happier.
 - D. Children used to receive strict education.
4. The chief role of American elementary education is _____.
 - A. to cultivate(培养) the spirit of cooperation
 - B. to cultivate the spirit of competition
 - C. to provide academic instruction
 - D. none of the above

5

In Denmark, parents are allowed to set up a new school if they are dissatisfied with the school in the area where they are living. Although these schools have to follow the national courses, they are allowed a lot of choices in deciding what to teach. Some of these new schools are called "small schools" because usually the number of pupils in them is only sixty, but a school has to have at least twenty-seven pupils.

Cooleenbridge School in Ireland, is a small school similar to the ones in Denmark, it was set up by parents who came from Holland, Germany, Czechoslovakia, England and other parts of Ireland. They

came because they wanted to live in the countryside and to grow their own food. In June 1986, they decided to start a school. They managed to get an old, disused primary-school building and started with twenty-four children aged from four to twelve.

The teachers say, "The important thing in school is doing, not sitting." And so the courses includes yoga, cooking, knitting(编织), kite-making, music, fishing, drama(戏剧) and environmental(环境的) river studies, as well as reading, writing, math and science.

(189 words)

Multiple Choice

1. What are the rules for setting up a new school in Denmark?
 - A. Parents are allowed to set up their own school.
 - B. The school has to follow the national courses.
 - C. The school has to have at least 27 pupils.
 - D. All of the above.
2. The writer tells about the Cooleenbridge School in Ireland because _____.
 - A. it was set up by parents who are not people of Denmark
 - B. it was taken as an example of this kind of "small school"
 - C. there were only twenty-four children
 - D. the pupils there were aged from 4 to 12
3. What makes this kind of school special?
 - A. It is set up by parents not by government.
 - B. It is free to decide what to teach.
 - C. The number of pupils in it is only sixty.
 - D. It has to have at least 27 pupils.
4. "The important thing in school is doing not sitting." What the teachers say actually means _____.
 - A. what they should do is teaching in the classroom, not sitting in the office
 - B. Children should do more homework at home, not just sit in class to listen to the teachers
 - C. Children should learn by themselves not rely on teacher

- D. Children should learn through practice not just from books
5. The courses includes _____.
- A. yoga, cooking, knitting, kite-making, music, fishing, drama and environmental river studies, except reading, writing, math and science
 - B. either yoga, cooking knitting, kite-making, music, fishing, drama and environmental river studies, or reading, writing, math and science
 - C. not only reading, writing, math and science, but also yoga, cooking, knitting, kite-making, music, fishing, drama and environmental river studies
 - D. mainly yoga, cooking, knitting, kite-making, fishing, drama and environmental river studies, and supplemental reading, writing, math and science



People in different lands behave differently. What is polite behavior or “good manner” in one country may not be polite in another.

Take greeting for example. Americans usually greet someone they know by saying “Hi”, “Hello” or “Good morning”, etc. Chinese on the other hand, usually greet each other by saying “How are you?” or sometimes “Have you eaten?” or “Where are you going?” which would be considered impolite by Americans. In Italy or southern France, a man will greet a woman by kissing her on the back of her hand or on both cheeks. The Eskimos of northern North America, however, rub noses when they meet. But in China and some other parts of Asia kissing or touching on meeting someone is often frowned (皱眉头) upon.

To take one other example of national differences, belching (打嗝) during a meal in America is considered very rude behavior while in parts of China, India and the Arab World, belching is a way of telling your host that you are enjoying your meal.

What principles(原则) of polite behavior should we follow then? The best guide to our actions would be: When in Rome, do as the Romans do. (190 words)

Multiple Choice

- Chinese usually greet each other by _____.
 - saying "Hi!" or "Hello!"
 - saying nothing but shaking hands
 - patting shoulders
 - saying "How are you?" or "Have you eaten?"
- An Italian greets an Italian woman by _____.
 - kissing her back
 - kissing her lips
 - kissing her hand or her face
 - shaking her hand
- Belching during a meal in the Arab world is considered _____.
 - as a way showing one's satisfaction with the meal
 - as rude behavior
 - as unacceptable
 - as impolite
- Which of the following does not go with the proverb "When in Rome, do as the Romans do"?
 - When in Rome, behave as the Romans do.
 - When in Rome, do whatever the Romans tell you to do.
 - When you come to a foreign country, you'd better follow the native's behavior.
 - When you come to a new land, you should follow its customs.
- Which title fits the text best?
 - Different Persons, Different Greetings
 - Different Lands, Different Table Manners
 - Guiding Principles for Travel Ears
 - How to Be Polite



In order to learn to be one's true self, it is necessary to obtain a