

总主编：戈玲玲 总主审：刘明东

第二版

大学英语教程 快速阅读

本册主编：涂 靖
郭庭军



2



外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

第二版

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前言

在信息飞速发展和知识爆炸的当今社会，如何在有限的时间内、在浩如烟海的文献资料中快速捕捉最有价值的信息一直是人们颇为关注的热点问题。英语作为国际上最通用的语言，已经成为人们了解世界、走向世界的重要手段。快速阅读，作为一种阅读形式，无疑是人们获取信息和知识的重要途径之一。通过快速阅读，频繁地接触语言材料，可以自觉或不自觉地扩大阅读范围，提高阅读速度，丰富语言知识，增强英语语感，促进听、说、写、译等其他语言综合技能的全面提高。

然而，对大多数英语为非本族语的人而言，要想快速阅读并非易事，阅读者需要克服语言因素与非语言因素对阅读过程产生的不良影响，改正不良的阅读方法和习惯，了解科学的阅读技巧，提高阅读效率。为此，我们特组织一批长期从事大学英语教学及四、六级辅导工作、对快速阅读考试特点比较了解的老师修订了这套教程。

本教程共四册，其中第一册和第四册为 12 个单元，第二册和第三册为 15 个单元，每单元含 Text A, Text B, Text C 三篇快速阅读材料及习题。根据《大学英语课程教学要求》及考生接受能力，由浅入深，严格按照篇幅长短及难度大小编排先后。各册之间篇幅跨度为 100—200 词左右，生词控制在 3%—4% 之间。每单元由三篇文章组成，前一篇为课内阅读，由教师按规定的时间随堂练习，有计划、有步骤地培养学生的阅读技能；后两篇为课后阅读，可作为课后作业和学生自主学习材料，进一步强化和巩固课内所学知识。通过规范的选编和练习设计循序渐进地提高学生的英语快速阅读水平，从而进一步增强其英语综合应用能力。与其他同类四、六级教材相比，本书具有四大特色：

- 1 紧扣大纲，指导性强。严格按照《大学英语课程教学要求》的要求，确定本套教程的难度以及题材的选择。词汇严格控制在考试大纲的词汇表内。对于出现的个别难词和超纲词，在每篇课文后单独给出词汇注释（含词性及在本文的词义），各方面的要求尽可能与考试大纲相一致。题目设计严谨，信度、效度接近于真题，特别注重对快速阅读方法、策略的总结和点拨。
- 2 选材广泛，可读性强。本书选材广泛，内容新颖，既有科普常识、日常知识，又有人物传记等，涵盖教育、科技、文化、经济、金融等领域。文章体裁多样，包括记叙文、说明文和议论文等，素材均选自近年来国内外出版的书籍和英文报纸杂志，难度适中，内容具有前瞻性、启发性、知识性与趣味性。另外，在题型和阅读速度方面都结合了改革后的大学英语四、六级考试要求进行设定，力求达到最科学、最全面、最贴近实际的考试要求。

- 3 题材分类, 针对性强。每个单元均按照相同的题材和真题的难度标准精心选编三篇文章, 以便考生在阅读时把握同类文章的风格、结构和内容, 集中突破同一话题的相关词汇和表达方式, 全面、系统地将每一题材的文章所涉及的疑难和障碍各个击破。
- 4 知识扩展, 趣味性强。单元后围绕一个主题进行相关的知识扩展, 让学生在阅读文章之后, 能开阔视野、丰富课外知识。

本书适用于即将参加四、六级考试的非英语专业学生或具有同等水平的英语爱好者。

由于编者水平有限, 时间仓促, 疏漏谬误在所难免, 敬希广大读者及同行专家不吝指正。

编者
2014年6月

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1

Unit

Directions: *In this part, you are going to read two passages with ten statements attached to each of them. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter in the brackets after the statement.*

Text A

Walking Is Not as Pedestrian as It Looks

(871 words)

- A) After living in England for 20 years, my wife and I decided to move back to the United States. We wanted to live in a town small enough that we could walk to the business district, and settled on Hanover, N.H., a typical New England town—pleasant, *sedate* and compact. It has a broad central green surrounded by the *venerable* buildings of Dartmouth College, an old-fashioned Main Street and leafy residential neighborhoods.
- B) It is, in short, an *agreeable*, easy place to go about one’s business on foot, and yet as far as I can tell, virtually no one does.
- C) Nearly every day, I walk to the post office or library or bookstore; and sometimes, if I am feeling particularly *debonair*, I stop at Rosey Jekes Cafe for a *cappuccino*. Occasionally, in the evenings, my wife and I stroll up to the Nugget Theater for a movie or to Murphy’s on the Green for a beer. I wouldn’t dream of going to any of these places by car. People have gotten used to my *eccentric* behavior, but in the early days acquaintances would often pull up to the *curb* and ask if I wanted a ride.
- D) “I’m going your way,” they would insist when I politely declined. “Really, it’s no bother.”
- E) “Honestly, I enjoy walking.”
- F) “Well, if you’re sure,” they would say and depart reluctantly, even guiltily, as if leaving the scene of an accident without giving their name.
- G) In the United States we have become so *habituated* to using the car for everything that it

doesn't occur to us to *unfurl* our legs and see what those lower limbs can do. We have reached an age where college students expect to drive between classes, where parents will drive three blocks to pick up their children from a friend's house, where the letter carrier takes his van up and down every driveway on a street.

- H) We will go through the most extraordinary *contortions* to save ourselves from walking. Sometimes it's almost *ludicrous*. The other day I was waiting to bring home one of my children from a piano lesson when a car stopped outside a post office, and a man about my age popped out and dashed inside. He was in the post office for about three or four minutes and then came out, got in the car and drove exactly 16 feet (I had nothing better to do, so I paced it off) to the general store next door.
- I) And the thing is, this man looked really fit. I'm sure he jogs *extravagant* distances and plays *squash* and does all kinds of healthful things, but I am just as sure that he drives to each of these undertakings.
- J) An acquaintance of ours was complaining the other day about the difficulty of finding a place to park outside the local gymnasium. She goes there several times a week to walk on a *treadmill*. The gymnasium is, at most, a six-minute walk from her front door.
- K) I asked her why she didn't walk to the gym and do six minutes less on the treadmill.
- L) She looked at me as if I were tragically simple-minded and said, "But I have a program for the treadmill. It records my distance and speed and calorie burn rate, and I can adjust for degree of difficulty." It had not occurred to me how thoughtlessly deficient nature is in this regard.
- M) According to a concerned and faintly horrified 1997 editorial in *Boston Globe*, the United States spent less than one percent of its transportation budget on facilities for pedestrians. Actually, I am surprised it was that much. Go to almost any suburb developed in the last 30 years and you will not find a sidewalk anywhere. Often you won't find a single pedestrian crossing.
- N) I had this brought home to me one summer when we were driving across Maine and stopped for coffee in one of those endless zones of shopping malls, motels, gas stations, and fast food places. I noticed there was a bookstore across the street, so I decided to skip coffee and head over.
- O) Although the bookshop was no more than seventy or eighty feet away, I discovered that there was no way to cross on foot without *dodging* over six lanes of swiftly moving traffic. In the end, I had to get in our car and drive across. At the time it seemed ridiculous and *exasperating*, but afterward I realized that I was possibly the only person ever to have entertained the notion of negotiating that intersection on foot.
- P) The fact is, we not only don't walk anywhere anymore in this country, we won't walk

anywhere, and woe to anyone who tries to make us, as the city of Laconia in New Hampshire discovered. In the early 1970s, Laconia spent millions on a comprehensive urban renewal project, which included building a *pedestrian* mall to make shopping more pleasant. *Esthetically* it was a triumph—urban planners came from all over to *coo* and take photos—but commercially it was a disaster. Forced to walk one whole block from a parking lot, shoppers abandoned downtown Laconia for suburban malls.

- Q) In 1994, Laconia dug up its pretty paving blocks, took away the tubs of *geraniums* and decorative trees, and brought back the cars. Now people can park right in front of the stores again, and downtown Laconia thrives anew.
- R) And if that isn't sad, I don't know what is.

- 1 A 1997 editorial in *Boston Globe* tells that the U.S.A. spent a very small transportation budget on improving facilities for pedestrians. ()
- 2 A pedestrian mall was built to make shopping more interesting and happier. ()
- 3 The author and his wife made the decision of going back to America after they had lived in the Great Britain for twenty years. ()
- 4 In America, people are very dependent on using their cars for everything. ()
- 5 It was ridiculous for the man to drive 16 feet from the post office to the general store the other day. ()
- 6 It was too difficult a task to go to the bookstore on foot even though it was not far away. ()
- 7 It's no easy job for people to find a parking place outside the local gymnasium. ()
- 8 People can go to the Nugget theater to watch a film and to Murphy's on the Green to enjoy a beer. ()
- 9 The year 1994 witnessed the thriving of downtown Laconia. ()
- 10 When people know that the author likes walking to nearby places, they don't offer him a ride any more. ()

(实际阅读时间: _____ 分钟 正确率: _____ %)

Word List

pedestrian *a.* 徒步的, 平凡的

venerable *a.* 庄严的

debonair *a.* 高兴的, 心情愉快的

eccentric *a.* 古怪的

habituate *v.* 使习惯于

contortion *n.* 扭弯, 扭曲

sedate *a.* 安静的, 镇静的

agreeable *a.* 舒适的

cappuccino *n.* 热牛奶咖啡, 卡布其诺

curb *n.* (街道或人行道的) 路沿

unfurl *v.* 展开, 打开

ludicrous *a.* 荒谬的, 可笑的, 滑稽的

extravagant *a.* 过度的, 大量的

treadmill *n.* 跑步机

exasperating *a.* 激怒的

esthetically *ad.* 美术地; 审美地

geraniums *n.* [植] 天竺葵

squash *n.* 壁球

dodge *v.* 避开, 躲避

pedestrian *n.* 行人

coo *v.* 低声细语

Text B

What the Americans Don't Talk About!

(871 words)

A) One of the recurring questions that my students in China often ask is: "What are the things they shouldn't talk about with Americans?" *Taboo* topics tend to make people feel uneasy. Every culture has these *off-limits* subjects. In ours, the following immediately come to mind:

1 Age

- B) Yes, age is a very sensitive subject to many Americans, especially to women over age 30. In this youth obsessed culture, the thought of growing older is a painful one and most of us, if possible, would like to have nothing to do with it. Unfortunately aging is one of the inevitabilities of life and it happens to the best of us. As a result, many Americans work hard to maintain a youthful appearance or at least give the illusion of youth. So the last thing they want is for someone to rub their faces in harsh reality and ask the unthinkable, "How old are you exactly?"
- C) This question may result in replies like: "How old do you think I am?" "30ish, 30 something. I'm in my thirties. Let's just leave it at that." "I can't remember." "Oh, don't ask me that." "I stopped keeping track after I turned 30." "A lot older than what I would like to be."
- D) Anyhow, if you are dying to know someone's age, this is how you could go about finding out. First you estimate their age by their appearance and mannerism. Then you subtract ten years from that estimation. I guarantee you will get a big smile from that person who will also blush and say, "Wow, you are my best friend. I'm 38 already. Can you believe it?" You, of course, reply, "No, I really can't. You're kidding. You don't look a day over 28. This is amazing." Now that's one *surefire* way to boost someone's *ego*!

2 Weight

E) This is one of the touchiest subjects. In America, it is okay, even desirable, to be thin but it is a

sin and a huge embarrassment to be overweight. In fact, the thinner you are, the prettier you are considered. Flip through any American fashion magazines, you'll notice that most models are nothing more than skin and bones. A woman who sports this *emaciated, skeletal* physique is called a *waif*, which is a thin person who appears fragile and needy. Believe it or not, the waif look was the hottest look of the 1990's. Of course, there are obvious health related advantages to having a slender figure but please don't overdiet for the sake of vanity. You could potentially become a victim to horrible eating disorders like *anorexia* and *bulimia*.

- F) Americans are very weight-conscious and rarely disclose how much they weigh... even if they are thin and in great shape. Therefore, you had better not ask. But if you absolutely have to comment on this subject, it's always safer to say, "Oh, you have lost weight" than "Oh, you have put on a few pounds". However, if you would like to be honest but not hurtful, I recommend you choose your words carefully, perhaps by saying: "Hey, you look great. Very healthy looking." And always remember, it's not fat, it's muscular.

3 Income

- G) You should never ask how much someone's salary is. There's no way around this one. However, it's perfectly appropriate to ask about their job title and what they do for a living. This information should give you some idea how much they make a year.

4 Matters of the Heart

- H) This is a tricky one. Sometimes you'll run into people who can't wait to pour their hearts out to you. Then there are those who make sure their personal business stays behind closed doors. The general rule is not to get too personal, too fast. You don't want others to think that you're *prying* into their lives. Therefore, try not to ask too many questions about someone's love life, marriage and family until you have a friendship with this person. Even then, you had better wait for your friend to come to you with the matters of their heart.

5 Is It Real?

- I) Many Americans are *proponents* of the all-natural look. Stick with what Mother Nature gave you and do the best you can with it. But how many truly abide by this principle? With plastic surgery and products like colored contact lens, hair coloring, *acrylic* nails, etc. the answer would be: not many. I suppose some of us either like to experiment with our looks or are simply unhappy with what we're born with.
- J) As artificial as the results of these physical alterations may be, they are done to imitate nature. At the end of the day, people want others to believe they're simply born beautiful. So don't

ruin it by asking, "Hey, I love your eye color. Is it real?"

K) What makes certain topics taboo? These topics may lead to disclosure of information that people don't want others to know about. Regardless, it's difficult to always avoid conversation *landmines*, so be sensible to watch your step and try not to open a can of worms.

- 1 Being very weight-conscious, Americans tend to keep their real weight in secret. ()
- 2 If you ask American people about their age, more often than not, they will offer you ambiguous answers, such as "30ish, 30 something". ()
- 3 If you want to talk with American women who are more than 30 years old, age is certainly not an appropriate topic. ()
- 4 In the 1990's, the waif look was the most fashionable look. ()
- 5 It is wise of you not to ask Americans about how much they earn. ()
- 6 It's improper for you to ask Americans about their love life, marriage and family unless you are very good friends. ()
- 7 Many people in the United States try hard to keep appearing young. ()
- 8 Subtracting ten years from your estimation of one's age is a good way to help you find out his or her real age. ()
- 9 Taboo topics are those which may result in disclosing the information that people hope to keep in secret. ()
- 10 There are some taboo subjects in every culture. ()

(实际阅读时间: _____ 分钟 正确率: _____ %)

Word List

taboo *a.* 禁忌的

surefire *a.* 一定会发生的, 定成功的

emaciated *a.* 瘦弱的, 憔悴的

waif *n.* 无家可归者, 极瘦弱的人

bulimia *n.* 易饥症, 贪食症

proponent *n.* 提倡者, 支持者

landmine *n.* 地雷

off-limits *a.* 禁止进入的, 止步的

ego *n.* 自我, 自负, 自尊心

skeletal *a.* 骨骼的, 骸骨的

anorexia *n.* 厌食症

pry *v.* 打听, 窥探

acrylic *a.* 丙烯酸的

Directions: In this part, you are required to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions that follow. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D. For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Text C

Insight into Today's British Culture—What Is Behind Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings' Global Appeal?

(831 words)

Ever wonder what opponents of globalization used to protest about before there were Coca-Cola and McDonald's? Well, there was that first promotor of globalization, the British Empire—over which, it was said, the sun never sets. While the world map is no longer dotted by British *territorial* possessions—the echoes of the Empire surface in unexpected places.

The Brits are good sportsmen. They feel it's important to *concede* defeat graciously. This is why contemporary discussions of British culture in the United Kingdom often turn to acknowledgment of how the Americans dominate the world.

The American Take-over

An article in the 2002 Christmas issue of *The Economist*, for example, admitted that the English language that is now sweeping the globe is closer to the language spoken in Brooklyn than at Oxford or Cambridge.

Indeed, U.S. movies are everywhere and kids in even the remotest parts of the world are familiar with such essential words of the English language as Big Mac and the Chicago Bulls.

But it would be a mistake to claim that the British Empire—which originally spread English from Singapore to *Zimbabwe* and from *Papua-New Guinea* to Kalamazoo, Michigan—is dead and buried.

Dominating World Culture

Far from it. Just look at world literature. It's not surprising that the Brits invented some of the most popular literary *genres* of the past 150 years. One such example is the detective novel—which sprung from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his famous character "Sherlock Holmes", as well as Dame Agatha Christie and her "Hercule Poirot" and "Miss Marple".

Another example of British literary excellence is with children's literature, where *Alice*

in Wonderland and *Winnie the Pooh* became truly global phenomena long before they were Disneyfied by cartoon movies made in Hollywood.

A History of Literary Achievement

True, those creative achievements still date from the time when Great Britain was the dominant world power. And yet, even though the empire has vanished, both in detective stories and kids' literature, today's British writers do more than hold their own.

In fact, the two global *blockbuster* movies of recent years—*Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings*—underscore the hold that even the post-World War II generation of British writers still have on kids around the world.

Beating America at Its Own Game

J. R. R. Tolkien's series of fantasy-adventure books, *Lord of the Rings*, was written between 1937 and 1948 and has had a tremendous influence on American culture in recent years. *Star Wars*, unquestionably one of the most *lucrative* Hollywood endeavors in memory, owes a huge debt to the *Lord of the Rings* series—which its principle creator George Lucas has admitted.

But even in those literary genres where Americans should be superior, the Brits have managed to get ahead. What about the spy novel? After all, Americans were the main *combatant* in the Cold War with the Soviet Union. American spy novels dealing with that era should be by far the most successful, right?

Wrong. The Cold War novel, in fact, was invented by the Brits. Ian Fleming and his *suave* character "James Bond" *monopolized* the popular end of the literary scale, while Graham Green captured the top, appealing to the more intellectual readers. Later on, two other Brits, Frederick Forsythe and John Le Carre became their successors.

American Tom Clancy, while highly successful, is a Johnny Come Lately, whose novels began appearing only during the Reagan era, when the Cold War was already over.

Harry Potter's Trick

The phenomenally popular *Harry Potter* books have not only *catapulted* their 35-year-old author, J. K. Rowling, from her status as a penniless single mother to her present status as the second richest woman in Britain after the Queen. She also fits into the same pattern of British literary superiority.

The *Harry Potter* books are highly cultured. They have echoes of Charles Dickens, with his *satirical* description of British boarding schools in *Nicholas Nickleby*.

There are references to fairy tales and myths from all over the world and all of history, such as the philosopher's stone that Medieval *alchemists* were trying to discover, as well as magical

creatures such as *basilisks* and dragons.

Meanwhile, the United States has an amazingly extensive youth culture, which is catered to by huge multinational corporations. Enormous segments of the toy, music, movie and fast food industries both sponsor and utilize American youth culture to sell billions of dollars worth of goods and services.

Kids as Consumers

A 1997 study found that kids between the ages of 4 and 12 spent \$12 billion on their own, had a direct influence over \$188 billion of their parents' spending—and indirectly controlled \$300 billion worth of purchases!

And yet, surprisingly, the creative impulse for the latest global movie blockbuster did not spring from this vast and resourceful empire. Instead, it was—once again—a seemingly homemade product, *hailing* all the way from Great Britain, which suddenly captured the imagination of American kids!

- Why do contemporary discussions of British culture acknowledge that Americans dominate the world?
 - Because the Brits are good at sports.
 - Because the Brits are generous.
 - Because the Brits are kind-hearted.
 - Because the Brits feel it's important to concede defeat graciously.
- According to an article in the 2002 Christmas issue of *The Economist*, which of the following is FALSE?
 - The British Empire is dead and buried.
 - Kids all over the world are familiar with American fast food like Big Mac.
 - Kids all over the world are familiar with basketball teams like Chicago Bulls.
 - The English language sweeping the globe is closer to the language spoken in America.
- Which of the following persons is NOT a character from detective novels?

A. Arthur Conan Doyle.	B. Sherlock Holmes.
C. Hercule Poirot.	D. Miss Marple.
- The main combatant in the Cold War with the Soviet Union was the _____.

A. Brits	B. Americans
C. Japanese	D. Chinese
- The Cold War novel written by _____ appeals to the more intellectual readers.

A. Ian Fleming	B. Graham Green
C. Frederick Forsythe	D. John Le Carre