

英语略读与寻读

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编 者 的 话

略读 (Skimming) 和寻读 (Scanning) 是英语快速阅读的两种基本方法, 但是在国内尚未受到广大英语自学者的足够重视。无论读什么东西, 不少人都惯于通篇全读, 每句分析, 逐字求解; 有些人甚至还采用传统的“语法翻译法”进行阅读, 以为如果不把每个字、每句话钻通弄懂并用汉语译出就不算读懂。其实, 这样读书事倍功半, 既不能迅速获取信息, 又不能有效地提高英语水平。在信息论日增的社会里, 人们更加急切要求掌握略读和寻读的方法, 加快阅读速度, 赶上形势发展。

笔者在外语院系工作多年, 常有不少急欲提高英语阅读速度的学生登门求教, 还有数量更多的来自各行各业的英语自学者前来索取合适的阅读材料。他们中有的准备参加升学考试的中学生, 有的是准备参加各类成人“自学成材”考试的学员, 有的是准备参加出国人员“英语水平考试”(EPT) 和“托福考试”(TOEFL) 的科技人员和高校师生。我们期望能通过此书向水平不一的读者提供一定份量的练习材料, 帮助他们掌握英语略读和寻读的基本方法。

顾名思义, 略读就是简略地读, 力求在尽可能短的时间内理解文章段落乃至全文的基本内容。一篇文章或

者一本书并非每句每段都与主题有密切的关系。我们要略读，就是要善于找出各个段落的主题句子（Topic sentence）。主题句子往往是段落首句，有时也出现在段末，间或插在段中。找到主题句子后，其它部分就不必逐字细读了。在略读时难免遇到费解的生词和短语，最好的解决办法是绕过去，上下文往往会提供理解词的线索。动辄便查词典，虽然可以弄清一些词义，但是阅读速度却因而减慢，有时边查边忘，就影响了对全文的理解，反而是“捡了芝麻，丢了西瓜”。

寻读的方法是用眼扫视，尽快找出重要的信息内容或急需了解的具体细节，比如翻阅词典、查阅资料、查找电话号码等等都用得上这种方法。寻读时始终要目标明确。欲要找人名，就不要看地名。不相干的地方一跳而过，要寻找的信息却要一字不漏，绝无差错，寻读时要干脆利落、准确无误。在做本书的寻读练习时，不妨先看题目，弄清要求才读正文，找答案，这样做对提高寻读能力定有裨益。

在选材方面，为了照顾各层次读者的不同要求，又要力求长短适中、内容多样、语言地道、编排合理，我们参阅了大量国外出版的参考书，从中筛选出五十篇合用的材料并配以练习。

本书练习材料按难易程度编排，共分略读和寻读两大部分，其中略读材料四十篇，寻读材料十篇。略读部分配有阅读理解和词汇两种练习，寻读部分只配阅读理解练习，全部练习均采用多项选择题的形式。书后附有

全部练习的参考答案和每篇材料的词语注释，供查阅参考。

由于编者的水平和经验有限，疏漏不当之处在所难免，敬希读者批评指出。

编 者

1987年11月

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PART ONE

第一部分

SKIMMING

略 读

PART ONE

THE

Passage 1

先阅读短文，然后从短文下面每小题的A、B、C、D四个答案中，选出一个正确答案，把它前面的字母填入左边的括号内。

Most people who work in offices have a boss. So do I. But my boss is a little unusual. What's unusual about him? It's his dog. Many men have dogs but few men bring their dogs to the office every day. My boss's dog is called Robinson. He is big and brown, and my boss brings him to work every day. He takes the dog to meetings and he takes the dog to lunch. When there is a telephone call for my boss I always know if he's in the office—I simply look under his desk. If I see something brown and hairy under it, I know my boss is somewhere in the office. If there is no dog, I know my boss is out.

Last week, I was typing some letters at my desk and a very well-dressed man came through the door.

"Is the manager in?" he asked.

He looked like a very important customer, so I jumped up.

"Just a minute, sir," I said, "I'll look and see if Robinson is lying under his desk."

The customer left before I had time to explain!

1. () Robinson is a _____.

- A. boss
- B. keeper
- C. dog
- D. manager

2. () Robinson is always under the desk if the boss is

_____.

- A. at a meeting
- B. away
- C. in the office
- D. out of work

3. () I simply look under the desk because it is _____
to tell if the boss is in.

- A. comfortable
- B. easy
- C. lazy
- D. more polite

4. () The customer was wearing _____.

- A. a lot of clothes
- B. heavy clothes
- C. fine clothes
- D. warm clothes

5. () The customer wanted to see _____.

- A. Mr Robinson
- B. a manager
- C. a dog
- D. the boss

在每小题的A、B、C、D四个答案中，选出最接近原意的答案，把它前面的字母填入左边的括号内。

1. () A good boss tries to keep his workers happy.
A. relative
B. employer
C. fellow
D. businessman
2. () The shape of this leaf is unusual.
A. beautiful
B. ordinary
C. common
D. strange
3. () I don't like driving; I do it simply to get to work each day.
A. only
B. easily
C. clearly
D. really
4. () The store has more customers than it can take care of.
A. comers
B. shoppers
C. assistants
D. managers
5. () Many are called but few are chosen.
A. only little
B. hardly any

C. only some

D. only a little

Passage 2

先阅读短文，然后从短文下面每小題的 A、B、C、D 四个答案中，选出一个正确答案，把它前面的字母填入左边的括号内。

Why does pouring hot water over a tight jar lid loosen it?

Hot water makes the metal of the jar lid expand; this makes the cover loose.

Most objects expand when heated because they are made up of molecules that are in constant motion. Heat makes molecules move faster. The hotter the molecules become, the faster they move and the more space they need.

This explains why we hear a click as we travel by train, or a gentle thump as we drive on a concrete highway. The clicks and thumps tell us that we are passing over expansion joints put in to allow room for the metal rails and the concrete to expand. These joints prevent the rails and the road from buckling as they expand under the hot sun. Like the molecules of the metal jar lid, the molecules of these materials need more space when they are hot.

1. () Pouring hot water over a jar lid will _____.

- A. make it fit very tightly
B. loosen it
C. not affect the lid itself in any way
D. make the jar expand
2. () This happens because the hot water _____.
A. heats whatever is inside the jar
B. causes the jar to grow smaller
C. makes the lid slightly larger
D. all of the above
3. () Objects expand when they are hot because hot molecules _____.
A. move faster
B. take up more room
C. move slowly
D. both A and B
4. () Expansion joints prevent rails and roads from _____.
A. expanding in hot weather
B. being affected by heat or cold
C. buckling in the hot sun
D. breaking in cold weather
5. () From the passage we can tell that the molecules in a road _____.
A. are not much like those in a jar lid
B. will not expand even in the hot sun
C. act like the molecules in rails, lids, and other objects
D. are like no other molecules

在每小题的A、B、C、D四个答案中，选出最接近原意的答案，把它前面的字母填入左边的括号内。

1. () A tire expands when you pump air into it.
A. becomes rougher
B. becomes larger
C. becomes harder
D. becomes rounder
2. () Molecules are in constant motion.
A. movement
B. change
C. progress
D. existence
3. () The faster they move, the more space they need.
A. area
B. air
C. gas
D. speed
4. () we hear a gentle thump as we drive on a concrete highway.
A. loud
B. strange
C. horrible
D. soft
5. () Three joints prevent the rails and the road from buckling as they expand under the hot sun.
A. expanding
B. boiling

C. bending

D. pulling

Passage 3

先阅读短文，然后从短文下面每小题的A、B、C、D四个答案中，选出一个正确答案，把它前面的字母填入左边的括号内。

Mr Payne was on holiday. He was staying in a small desert town. One sunny morning he went to the market, and saw a beautiful carpet there. (The town was famous for carpets.) This one was very big, and full of rich colours. He looked at it for a long time, but went away. The next day he passed and saw it again. He asked the price.

"This one, sir? This is a very special carpet," said the man.

"Yes, but how much is it?"

"It's a special carpet, sir. So it's not cheap. It's beautiful, isn't it?"

"Yes, it's very beautiful, but—"

"It's also very old, sir. It belonged to a great man many years ago. So I can't sell it cheaply."

"No, how much is it?" Mr Payne asked again.

"A beautiful, old carpet, sir. And it is also a magic carpet. A magic flying carpet. A man came this morning and offered