

大学英语伴读系列

三 级 阅 读

主编 马晓梅

编者 何惠勤 李奇

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内容提要

本书是根据大学英语教学大纲对阅读的要求编写,是大学英语现行教材的辅助阅读,其难易度与《核心英语》、《新英语教程》等教材保持同步。

本书由 45 篇精选短文组成,内容丰富,题材多样。每篇短文后均标明单词数,读者可进行计时阅读;每篇文章中的文化背景、语言难点及超纲生词均加以注释;同时还配有阅读理解与词汇练习各 10 题。书末还附有参考答案、本书在《大纲》范围内的重点词汇和词组表以及速读查询表。

本书适合大学英语三、四级非英语专业学生作课外读物,也适合作课内速读强化训练教材。

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前 言

“大学英语伴读系列”是西安交通大学“面向 21 世纪教学内容和课程体系改革研究项目”资助课题之一。

为了提高学生的阅读效率,扩大阅读量,我们编写了这套“大学英语伴读系列”,这一方面是为了对现行教材特别是速度教学进行补充;另一方面对学生掌握教材中的词汇和阅读技能起到巩固强化的作用。在编写本系列的过程中,我们在教学中进行了阅读效率的对比实验,结果表明,95%的学生经过十周的速读(计时阅读)训练后,阅读速度及理解准确率有显著提高。我们期望通过阅读本系列,读者的阅读能力能迅速提高。

“大学英语伴读系列”是在现行教材《核心英语》和《新英语教程》的难易基础上选编的。本系列共分三册,每册均选编短文约 45 篇,大多选自近几年国内外报刊、国外较新的百科全书和其它阅读书籍。每篇文章均标出计时提示,并编写了相应的注释、阅读理解练习和重点词汇练习。旨在把提高阅读能力、拓宽知识面、巩固扩大词汇量、与增强等级考试能力有机结合在一起。本系列特点如下:

1. 快速提高学生的阅读能力。力求“准确”与“流利”相结合。即,在加强阅读的准确率的同时,也提高阅读速度。本系列在这两方面均做了有益的尝试。其一,每篇阅读后均设有阅读理解题,题型均按照《大纲》对阅读技巧提出的要求编写,包括事实记忆、主旨与细节的区分、中心思想的归纳、引伸含义的推测、上下文猜词等。阅读理解练习均设 10 个,便于读者准确计算出自己阅读理解准确率的百分比。其二,每篇阅读材料之后均标出“First Reading _____ (WPM)”与“Second Reading _____ (WPM)”以提示读

者阅读计时。首次阅读要求读者迅速读完篇章,掌握文章大意。二次或三次阅读时,需要搞清篇章中的每个难点。每篇阅读的速度及每分钟阅读的词数均可通过查阅‘速读查询表’载入记录。

2. 突出篇章重点词汇,注重通过上下文记忆和掌握词汇。通过阅读扩大词汇被公认为扩大词汇量的良策。本系列词汇练习正是本着这一科学方法而编写的。读者在学习词汇时可将注意力集中于文中的斜体重点词部分,通过阅读上下文来掌握重点词汇的确切意义。

3. 选材丰富,内容多样。书中的神话传说,名人轶事、科学知识,历史事件,异域风情不仅有助于拓宽读者的视野,也有助于提高读者学习英语的兴趣。

本系列在编写过程中,得到美籍教师 Judy Jadron 女士的热情帮助。张丽娟、温玉娟、陈丽、徐亚丽等老师参与了《三级阅读》的部分编写工作。本系列在编写中还参阅了大量有关书籍和报刊,对有关作者,在此一并致以诚挚的谢意。

由于我们经验不足,水平有限,书中难免有诸多不当之处,望广大读者和同仁不吝指正。

编者

1998.12.20

Contents

1. Trial and Sentence	1
2. Mysteries of the Stones	7
3. Happy Birthday to You	13
4. In Praise of Trees	18
5. Confessions of a Tax Fraud	23
6. The Best Recommendation	30
7. Liberty and Peace	35
8. Disney World	41
9. Living Together and the English Language	47
10. Gen. Eisenhower 's Narrow Escape	54

1. 审判	1
2. 神秘的石像	7
3. 祝你生日快乐	13
4. 赞美树	18
5. 一个“逃税者”的自白	23
6. 最佳推荐	30
7. 自由与和平	35
8. 迪斯尼世界	41
9. 同居与英语	47
10. 艾森豪威尔将军历险记	54

Contents

11. Children 's Self-esteem	60
12. Echo and Narcissus	66
13. Computer Criminals	72
14. A Good Experience	78
15. Why Smart People Fail ?	83
16. Conservation——or Wasted Effort ?	89
17. The Colours of Peace	95
18. Viruses	101
19. Napoleon 's Waterloo	107
20. Mae Jemison	113
11. 孩子的自尊心	60
12. 山妖与少年的传说	66
13. 计算机罪犯	72
14. 经验之谈	78
15. 聪明人为什么会失败 ?	83
16. 保护——还是徒劳 ?	89
17. 和平色	95
18. 病毒	101
19. 拿破仑与滑铁卢战役	107
20. 首位女宇航员	113

Contents

21. Were You Born under a Good Moon?(I) ...	119
22. Were You Born under a Good Moon?(II) ...	125
23. Black Holes	131
24. Learn How to Keep a Secret	137
25. Can a Computer Think?	143
26. The Smallest Fish in the World	149
27. Theories of the Universe	155
28. The Nobel Prizes	161
29. An Unexpected Drama	167
30. Atomic Energy for the Future	172
21. 十二生肖与个性特点(1)	119
22. 十二生肖与个性特点(2)	125
23. 黑洞之谜	131
24. 学会保守秘密	137
25. 计算机会思考吗?	143
26. 世界上最小的鱼	149
27. 宇宙学说	155
28. 诺贝尔奖	161
29. 一个出人预料的戏剧性事件	167
30. 未来原子能	172

Contents

31. Gibraltar , The Spectacular Rock	178
32. The Psychology of Money	185
33. Is God a Spaceman ?	192
34. The Story of the Typewriter	198
35. Star Wars and Einstein	205
36. Money , Money , Money	211
37. Hard Water	217
38. Cosmic Rays	223
39. Smart Credit Cards	229
40. Australia Today	236
31. 直布罗陀——宏伟壮观的岩石	178
32. 购物心理	185
33. 上帝是太空人吗 ?	192
34. 小议打字机	198
35. 星球大战与爱因斯坦	205
36. 美元的来历	211
37. 硬水的危害	217
38. 宇宙射线	223
39. 智能信用卡	229
40. 今日澳洲	236

Contents

41. A Versatile Beverage	242
42. The Types of Jealousy	248
43. Storms in a Teacup	254
44. The Story about Vincent William Van Gogh	260
45. As Some May One Day See... ..	266
Answer keys	272
Glossary	280
List of Phrases	296
Speed Table	302
41. 花样百出的饮品	242
42. 嫉妒的种类	248
43. 大惊小怪	254
44. 梵高小传	260
45. 公元 23 世纪.....	266
参考答案.....	272
词汇表.....	280
词组表.....	296
速读查询表.....	302

1. Trial and Sentence

审判

Time Started _____

Prince Roman was a Polish nobleman , a captain in the army of Czar Nicholas¹ of Russia. When his young wife died , the prince left the army and returned *in sorrow* to his native Poland.

In time , love for his country and its people *took the place of* his lost love. He joined a Polish *rising* against the Russians. The rising was *crushed* , and Prince Roman was taken prisoner. His relatives and friends begged the military court to *have mercy on* him.

The president of the court received these appeals kindly. He was a good Russian , but he was also a *good-natured* man. Russian hatred of Poles² was not as fierce³ at that time as it became later ; and the Russian felt sympathetic as soon as he saw the prince 's thin , tired , sun-burnt face.

The court of three officers sat in a *bare* room , behind a long black table. Some clerks sat at the two ends , but no one else was there when the guards brought in the prince.

Those four walls shut out from Prince Roman all sights and sounds of freedom , all hopes of the future , all comforting thoughts. How much love for Poland remained in him then ? How much love of life ? He stood before his judges alone , having refused their permission to sit. He answered their first formal questions — his name and so on — clearly and politely although he felt too weary⁴ to talk.

Then the president of the court seemed to suggest how the young man could best help himself. He asked questions in a way that almost put the right answers in the prisoner's mouth.

'Didn't your wife's death drive you to despair? Wasn't your mind unbalanced by that sad event?'

Prince Roman was silent.

'You were not fully responsible for your conduct, were you?'

Prince Roman was silent.

'You made a sudden *blind* decision to join the rising. You didn't realise that your actions were dangerous and dishonourable. Isn't that the truth of this unfortunate matter?'

The judges looked at the prisoner hopefully. In silence the prince *reached for* a pen and some paper. He wrote: 'I joined the rising because I believe it was just.' He pushed the paper towards the president, who took it and read it in silence.

Prince Roman was *sentenced* to hard work for life in the Siberian⁵ salt mines. It was a sentence of delayed death.

When Czar Nicholas read the report and sentence, he added in his own handwriting: 'Make sure that this prisoner walks in chains every step of the way to Siberia.'

Total Words 429

Time Finished _____

First Reading _____ WPM*

Second Reading _____ WPM

Notes :

1. Czar Nicholas [zɑ:(r)'nikələs][俄]沙皇尼古拉斯(1825~

* WPM 即 Words Per Minute 的缩写形式

1855), 1830~1831 镇压波兰起义

- 2. Pole [pəʊl] n. 波兰人
- 3. fierce [fiəs] a. 残酷的 极度的
- 4. weary ['wiəri] a. 疲倦的
- 5. Siberian [saɪ'biərə] a. 西伯利亚的
- 6. salt mine 盐矿(旧时做苦力的地方)

A. Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer according to the passage you have read.

- 1. What does the passage tell us of Poland at the time?
 - a. It was ruled by Russia, and Poles served in the Russian army.
 - b. Russia was at war with Poland, so the Poles were enemies.
 - c. The Russians were very cruel rulers of Poland.
 - d. Polish officers in the Russian army had to return to Poland.
- 2. Prince Roman joined the rising against the Russians. Finally, the movement _____.
 - a. succeeded
 - b. crushed Czar Nicholas
 - c. failed
 - d. conquered the Russians
- 3. At that time. Russian hatred of Poles _____.
 - a. was extremely fierce
 - b. was not as fierce as it became later
 - c. was fading away
 - d. none of the above
- 4. How much love for Poland remained in the prince when he stood trial?
 - a. Not much, probably, after the failure of the rising.
 - b. As much as he had ever felt.
 - c. More than he had ever felt before.

- d. The passage doesn't suggest an answer to the question.
5. Someone is asking you questions. If he puts the answer into your mouth , _____ .
- a. he quietly tells the right answer
 - b. he won't let you answer the question
 - c. you must think hard before answering
 - d. he suggests in some way to answer that he wants
6. The questions which the president asked show that _____ .
- a. he wanted to learn the truth about the Polish rising
 - b. the court wanted the prince to admit his own guilt
 - c. he was trying to find excuse for the prince's conduct
 - d. Prince Roman was a weak person
7. The judges looked at the prisoner " hopefully ". What were they hoping for ?
- a. They hoped the prince answered " Yes ".
 - b. They hoped the prince answered " No ".
 - c. They hoped the prince admitted his own guilt.
 - d. They hoped the prince told them the truth.
8. In the trial , Prince Roman _____ .
- a. was afraid to be responsible for his actions
 - b. blamed others for his actions
 - c. accepted responsibility for his actions
 - d. admitted his guilt
9. Prince Roman was sentenced to _____ .
- a. a huge fine
 - b. walking in chains every day
 - c. hard work for life in Siberia
 - d. death
10. According to the passage , which of the following statements is

true ?

- a. The judges were less sympathetic than Czar Nicholas.
- b. Czar Nicholas was as kind as the judges.
- c. The judges were as cruel as Czar Nicholas.
- d. Czar Nicholas was not as sympathetic as the judges.

Comprehension _____ %

B. Vocabulary

Interpretation of the words and phrases underlined : Choose the best answer .

1. When his young wife died , the prince left the army and returned in sorrow to his native Poland.
 - a. in despair
 - b. in sadness
 - c. in advance
 - d. in brief
2. In time , love for his country and its people took the place of his lost love.
 - a. replaced
 - b. overwhelmed
 - c. occupied
 - d. defeated
3. He joined a Polish rising against the Russians.
 - a. advancing
 - b. uprising
 - c. organization
 - d. movement
4. The rising was crushed , and Prince Roman was taken prisoner.
 - a. put down
 - b. knocked down
 - c. cut down
 - d. set down
5. His relatives and friends begged the military court to have mercy on him.
 - a. care
 - b. cherish
 - c. not punish
 - d. concern
6. He was a good Russian , but he was also a good-natured man.

- Vocabulary _____ %

2. *Mysteries of the Stones*

神秘的石像

Time Started _____

It 's just a *dot* on a map of the Pacific. Just a piece of rock out in the middle of nowhere¹.

It was on Easter² , 1722 , that a Dutch sea captain³ first discovered the island. When he and his men came ashore⁴ , they couldn 't believe what they saw there. *Staring at* them were not only island people , but statues. Great stone faces over nine meters (thirty feet) high lined the edge of the island⁵. Some were still standing. Some lay on the ground , staring into the sky.

Who *carved*⁶ these strange stone *giants* ? The island people didn 't seem to know. The great faces had been there longer than anyone could remember. But those who carved them *did quite a job*. Each statue weighs up to fifty tons. They 're all carved out of hard volcanic rock⁷.

Many faces are still only half-carved in the rock surface of a mountain on the island. It 's as if those who did the carving stopped suddenly. But who ? And why ? And when ?

Could island people of long ago have carved the faces ?

Thor Heyerdahl⁸ thought so. Long after the Dutch sea captain had sailed away , Heyerdahl came to Easter Island⁹. He found hundreds of old stone tools at the foot of the mountain of half-carved faces. He *decided* that island people had carved the stone giants

with stone tools.

To prove it , he set island people to work on the rock surface of the mountain. Using stone tools like those he found , they were to carve a statue like the old ones , out of the same rock from which the old ones had come.

It couldn 't be done. After weeks of hard work with the stone tools , the island people had hardly made a dent¹⁰ in the volcanic rock. Yet the old statues had been cut out of that same rock. How ?

And how were they moved from the rock face where they were carved to their places at the edge of the island ?

Some believe they must have been moved *with the help of* wooden rollers¹¹. But there are no trees on Easter Island from which wooden rollers could be made.

Others believe that thousands of workers must have *pulled* the statues to their places , perhaps with ropes. But Easter Island is large enough for only a few hundred people. It would take 2 ,000 people to move each statue. And there are 600 statues !

Then there are the hats. Each statue used to wear a big red hat carved from red rock. The hats , like the statues , are still lying around the island. They weigh ten tons each. How were ten-ton hats lifted into place on top of the stone giants ?

And if the island people carved the giants , why don 't the stone faces look like the faces of island people ? The statues have narrow faces , low foreheads , and thin lips. The island people don 't look like that at all. Did strangers from the sky *get stuck* on the island ? Did they carve the statues with sky tools , just to pass the time¹² ? Or are the statues from Atlantis ,¹³ of which Easter Island could be a *re-maining* piece ? No one yet has the answers to the strange stone questions of Easter Island.