

大学英语伴读系列

一 级 阅 读

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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教材,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《大学英语教学大纲》范围内的重点词汇和词组表以及速读查询表。

本书适合大学英语一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,是对大学英语阅读教学内容的补充。

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”,这一方面对现行教材特别是速读教材进行了补充,另一方面可以帮助学生掌握教材中的词汇并提高阅读能力。我们曾将本“系列”的读物引入教学环节,进行对比实验,经过 10 周的计时阅读训练之后,绝大部分学生的阅读速度及对文章理解的准确性都有显著提高。

“大学英语伴读系列”是根据现行教材《核心英语》和《新英语教程》的内容要求和难易程度选编的,共分三册。每册选编短文 45 篇,大多选自近几年国内外报刊、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、巩固词汇量,与增强等级考试能力有机地结合在一起。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。在加强准确阅读的同时,注意提高阅读速度。本“系列”对此做了有益的尝试。其一,每篇阅读课文后设有 10 个阅读理解题,题型是按照《大学英语教学大纲》对阅读技巧提出的要求编写的,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。读者可根据书后的有关附表,掌握自己阅读理解准确率的情况。其二,每篇阅读材料之后都有“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全文,掌握文章大意;

反复阅读时,需要搞清文章中的每个难点。每篇文章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’做出记录。

2. 突出篇章重点词汇,注重通过上下文记忆和掌握词汇。通过阅读来掌握词汇被公认为是一种好的方法。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。书中收录有神话传说、名人轶事、科学知识、历史事件、异域风情等。这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。我们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。

马晓梅老师策划、主编了本‘系列’,参与全书编写工作的还有温玉娟、陈丽、张丽娟、徐亚丽、李奇、何惠勤老师。

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

1999.6.20

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1. The Spacemen

太空人

Time Started _____

Spacemen have to be especially trained for travelling in space. They should be in very good mental and *physical* health. Most of them are *experienced* pilots of very fast aeroplanes.

All spacemen have to do various space exercises before travelling to space. They have to be fit enough to *bear* the great pressures they will feel at launching and landing. When travelling in space or *orbiting* round a planet, the feeling of weight which the force of gravity produces is gone. This condition *is known as* weightlessness¹. Spacemen have to *become used to* the weightless conditions in space and learn how to walk, eat, drink and sleep in a condition of weightlessness. They train for their space travels in dummy spacecraft² which are like the actual spacecraft. The dummy spacecraft can be made to do many things that an actual spacecraft does in space. They can be made to whirl³ quickly in all directions. This *enables* the spacemen inside to get used to the tumbling⁴ that they will *experience* in space. They should be able to repair any part that is *damaged* while travelling.

When Man goes into space he must take air, food and water. He must also be able to *get rid of* stale air⁵ and waste matter. Food is prepared in a paste form⁶ and kept in tubes⁷. Waste is stored in containers and got rid of when the spacecraft reaches earth. These

problems have been solved for short space trips, but not for long trips.

Spacemen have to wear a spacesuit⁸. A cord⁹ from the spacesuit is connected to the life—support unit which *supplies* fresh air to the spacesuit. This unit also supplies air to the spacecraft, and removes stale air and moisture¹⁰.

Total Words 290

Time Finished _____

First Reading _____ WPM*

Second Reading _____ WPM

Notes :

1. weightlessness ['weitlisnis] n. 失重
2. dummy spacecraft 模拟宇宙飞船
3. whirl [h wɜ:l] vi. 旋转
4. tumbling ['tʌmbliŋ] n. 翻转
5. stale air 废气
6. a paste form 软膏状
7. tube [tju:b] n. 管子
8. spacesuit ['speissju:t] n. 宇航服
9. cord [kɔ:d] n. 绳, 索
10. moisture ['məistʃə] n. 潮气

A. Reading Comprehension

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

1. Spacemen have to _____ to bear the great pressures they will feel at launching and landing.
a. be suitable enough

* WPM 即 Words Per Minute 的缩写形式

- b. be ready
 - c. be in good health
 - d. be of the right size
2. Most of spacemen are _____ of very fast areoplanes.
- a. pilots with knowledge and skills
 - b. unskilled pilots
 - c. ordinary people
 - d. educated people
3. The feeling of weight will disappear _____.
- a. when launching
 - b. when landing
 - c. when travelling in space
 - d. when taking off
4. The training in the dummy spacecraft _____.
- a. is quite different from that in an actual spacecraft.
 - b. is exactly the same as that in an actual spacecraft.
 - c. is unnecessary for a spaceman.
 - d. is like that in an actual spacecraft.
5. The implications of the last sentence in paragraph 2 are as follows EXCEPT _____.
- a. The spacemen may be electrical engineers as well.
 - b. The spacemen may be mechanical engineers as well.
 - c. The spacemen are the very men who make the spacecraft.
 - d. The spaceman must be very familiar with the structure of the spacecraft.
6. Food should be prepared in _____.
- a. a liquid form
 - b. a solid form
 - c. a paste form

- d. a powder form
7. "These problems" in line 4, paragraph 3 refers to all the following EXCEPT _____.
- a. taking air, food and water into space
 - b. getting rid of stale air and waste matter
 - c. preparing food suitable for spacemen
 - d. getting used to the weightless conditions
8. The cord connected with the spacesuit _____
- a. is the life-support unit
 - b. supplies fresh air to the life-support unit
 - c. supplies air to the spacecraft
 - d. transports fresh air to the spacesuit
9. The function of the life-support unit is to _____.
- a. provide fresh air for the dummy spacecraft
 - b. remove waste and stale air stored in containers
 - c. supply food and water to the spacesuit
 - d. get rid of stale air and moisture
10. The word "launching" in paragraph 2 probably means _____
- a. flying
 - b. travelling
 - c. starting
 - d. carrying.
- Comprehension _____ %

B. Vocabulary

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

1. When travelling in space or orbiting round a planet, the feeling of weight which the force of gravity produces is gone.
- a. moving
 - b. walking
 - c. running
 - d. shifting
2. This condition is known as weightlessness.
- a. is publicly called

- b. is famous for
 - c. is understood by
 - d. is reported of
3. They have to be fit enough to bear the great pressures that they will feel at launching and landing.
- a. receive
 - b. carry
 - c. keep
 - d. stand
4. Spacemen have to become used to the weightless conditions.
- a. get accustomed to
 - b. become adjusted to
 - c. be adapted to
 - d. be familiar with
5. This enables the spacemen inside to get used to the tumbling that they will experience in space.
- a. makes, act
 - b. causes, feel,
 - c. is capable of, have a skill
 - d. is likely for, have knowledge
6. They should be able to repair any part that is damaged while travelling.
- a. hurt
 - b. wounded
 - c. injured
 - d. destroyed
7. He must also be able to get rid of stale air and waste matter.
- a. get free from
 - b. kill
 - c. overcome
 - d. escape
8. The unit also supplies air to the spacecraft, and removes stale air and moisture.
- a. gives, brings
 - b. supports, returns
 - c. provides, gets rid of
 - d. puts, reaches

9. They should be in very good mental and physical health. In this sentence, the underlined word means :
- a. of the laws of nature
 - b. of the body
 - c. of physics
 - d. of the natural features
10. Most of them are experienced pilots of very fast aeroplanes.
- a. educated
 - b. adapted
 - c. acknowledged
 - d. skilled

Vocabulary _____ %

2. *Why the Elephants Have Long Noses*

大象鼻子的传说

Time Started _____

According to Rudyard Kipling's story, elephants did not have long trunks a long time ago. During that time they had only short bulgy¹ noses which they used for squirming² from left to right. But they considered their noses too short for *picking up* things.

It happened that there was a new baby elephant named Bobby. He was a curious young animal and never stopped asking questions. One time he asked his aunt, the ostrich³, why her tail feathers were very short. But his aunt did not like the question so she spanked⁴ him hard with her heavy foot. Then he asked his uncle the giraffe⁵ why he had a spotty⁶ skin. Like the aunt, he did not like the question, so he, too, spanked him.

Every day, the young elephant continued asking questions but he always received a spanking. Yet he never stopped. He asked about everything that he saw, touched and felt. He received a spanking every time he asked a question because nobody liked his curiosity. Yet this did not stop Bobby.

One day Bobby asked what a crocodile was eating for dinner. After his question, the animal gave him a spanking which lasted many minutes. It was the longest spanking he had ever received.

But Bobby did not *give up* his new question. He asked the same question when he saw a bird up in a tree.

The bird told him to ask the question to himself near the Limpapo River.

So the next morning Bobby got ready to go to Limpapo River. He brought with him a hundred pounds of bananas, a hundred pounds of sugar-cane⁷ and seventeen large melons⁸ to eat on the way.

He bade⁹ goodbye to his friends and *set out* to see what a crocodile eats for dinner. Off he went and kept on eating along the way.

When he reached the Limpapo River he saw a python¹⁰ on the bank. He asked the python if he had seen a crocodile around.

The python said, “There ’s a crocodile around. What is your second question ?”

When Bobby asked what a crocodile eats for dinner, the python uncoiled¹¹ himself and with all his *might* spanked Bobby.

Bobby continued his journey and soon came to the *edge* of the Limpapo River. He saw something that looked like a log but was really the crocodile itself.

“Have you seen a crocodile ?” asked Bobby.

“Why are you interested in one ?” asked the crocodile.

Bobby told him it was the newest of his many questions.

The crocodile asked Bobby to come nearer and whispered, “I think I will have a baby elephant for dinner. ”

The crocodile grabbed¹² Bobby by his thick pudgy¹³ nose. Bobby shouted *in pain* through his now closed nose.

The python *shouted at* Bobby to pull his nose away, Bobby pulled and pulled and the python helped him pull away. But the crocodile also pulled and pulled. Bobby and the python pulled while