

大学英语学习丛书

# 大学英语阅读理解与翻译 I 级

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上海外语教育出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语阅读理解与翻译: I级 / 李跃平主编. —上

海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2001

(大学英语学习丛书)

ISBN 7-81080-068-X

I. 大... II. 李... III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等学校—水平考试—自学参考资料②英语—翻译—高等学校—水平考试—自学参考资料 IV. H310.42

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2001)第00973号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内)

责任编辑: 杨自伍

印刷者:

经 销: 新华书店上海发行所

开 本: 787×1092 1/16 印张 字数 千字

版 次: 2001年3月第1版 2001年3月第1次印刷

印 数: 册

书 号: ISBN 7-81080-068-X/H·034

定 价: . 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题,可向承印(订)厂调换。

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# 前 言

本书是根据 1999 年 9 月新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语考试大纲》的教学和考试要求而编写的。

《大学英语》是高等学校课程中最主要的课程之一。人们常说：“写作常常是从阅读那儿学来的”；也有人说：“听力常常是从阅读那儿学来的”。在《大学英语》的各级考试中，阅读理解所占的分量都是最重的，因此《大学英语》这门课程的学习能否成功，阅读理解起着至关重要的作用。

为了加强学生的阅读理解能力的培养，增加学生的阅读量，扩大学生的知识面；同时，按照《大学英语》各级考试题中的题型要求进行阅读理解练习、阅读理解翻译练习，做到既打好基础又进行适应性训练，我们根据教学的实际情况和要求特地编写了这套大学英语学习丛书《大学英语阅读理解与翻译（Ⅰ级）》是这套丛书的第一册，供大学本、专科第一学期学习使用。

本书中所选的九十篇文章均按照《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语考试大纲》中考试内容的要求设计，每篇文章后有五个问题和两句翻译，并列有生词（组）和疑难词（组）；所选文章具有题材广泛、体裁多样、语言难度适中等特点。全部文章均与大学英语一级考试难度相当或略高于大学英语一级考试的难度。书后附有阅读理解练习答案、阅读理解翻译练习参考答案。

《大学英语》课程只有通过大量的实践练习才能真正掌握一定的英语单词和短语以及相关的阅读技能技巧。愿该书能为学习《大学英语》（Ⅰ级）的读者提供有价值、有意义的帮助，这正是编者的初衷。

本书由李跃平、裴光兰、梁正宇同志担任主编，贾智勇、杨廷君、孙阳同志担任副主编，参加编写工作的还有（以姓氏笔画为序）：杜平、莫凤姣、楚军等同志。上海外语教育出版社汪义群教授、广西师范大学柏敬泽教授认真地审阅了全书并对本书的编写工作提出了宝贵的建议，上海外语教育出版社杨自伍老师为本书的付梓付出了辛勤的劳动，在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于时间仓促和编者水平的局限，书中难免有不足之处，热忱欢迎使用者提出宝贵的意见，以便进一步完善。

编者

2001 年元月于桂林

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# **PART ONE**

## *Reading Comprehension and Translation*

# 1 How to Improve Your Vocabulary

The best way to improve your vocabulary is through reading. The successful person reads a lot.

We learn nearly all of our active vocabulary through context , and usually through context in reading. We learn what a new word means from the words and sentences around it. Only once in a while do we give up and look up the word in a dictionary. But this is not laziness ;it's a good way to learn. Words that we learn through their use in context are much more likely to stay with us than words we memorize by themselves , as in a list or in a dictionary if we are prone to read a dictionary.

The words we learn through reading will improve not just our reading vocabulary but our listening ,speaking and writing vocabulary as well. It is these four types of vocabulary that have a direct impact upon our daily lives. They control how well we understand what we hear and read and how well we speak and write. So we can see that vocabulary is so much more than fancy words you won't use. It represents your thoughts. It gives you social ,economic ,and academic power.

## Comprehension of the Text

1. When reading a passage , we don't usually look up the new words in a dictionary. This is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A ) laziness  
B ) stupid  
C ) a good way to learn words in context in reading  
D ) a method we should not use
2. Which of the following has a direct influence on our daily lives ?  
A ) Reading and listening vocabulary.  
B ) Only reading vocabulary.  
C ) Speaking and writing vocabulary.  
D ) Both A ) and C ).
3. How can we learn new words more easily ?  
A ) Learn words through their use in context.  
B ) Memorize words by themselves in a dictionary.

- C ) Just listen and speak.
  - D ) Not mentioned.
4. What is meant by “ fancy words you won’t use ”(in Para. 3)?
- A ) Special words we seldom use.
  - B ) Words we can imagine.
  - C ) Words we can understand through imagination.
  - D ) Words we don’t know.
5. What is the main idea of this text ?
- A ) It is a good idea to look up unknown words in a dictionary.
  - B ) The four types of vocabulary are very important in our daily lives.
  - C ) The best way to improve your vocabulary is through reading.
  - D ) We can understand some of the special words through imagination.

**Translation**

1. ( Para. 2 )

Words that we learn through their use in context are much more likely to stay with us than words we memorize by themselves , as in a list or in a dictionary if we are prone to read a dictionary.

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2. ( Para. 3 )

The words we learn through reading will improve not just our reading vocabulary but our listening , speaking and writing vocabulary as well.

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**New Words and Expressions**

vocabulary	词汇量	context	上下文
once in a while	偶尔 ,间或	laziness	懒惰
likely	很可能的	to memorize	记住 ,熟记
prone	易于.....的	as well	也 ,又
impact	效果 ,影响	fancy	空想出来的 ,花哨的
fancy words	不常用的词	to represent	代表 ,体现
economic	经济的	academic	学术的

## 2 Time Bomb

I had spent my last day in London visiting friends , taking pictures , and doing some last-minute shopping. Among other things , I had bought some presents ; a shirt for my brother , a woolen blanket for my sister , and a battery-powered alarm clock for my father.

After travelling in a crowded bus and waiting in the noisy airport building , I was glad to be sitting in the plane at last. In a few minutes we would be asked to fasten our seat belts and to stop smoking , and then we would soon be up in the sky on our flight to Berlin.

But I had been mistaken. Ten minutes later , instead of enjoying the beauty of the evening sky from high above the clouds , I was sitting in a smoke-filled room with an airline official and a police officer at my side. On the table in front of me was one of my suitcases.

The officials were very polite. They asked me to show them my passport , my ticket , and my baggage check. Then I was requested to open the suitcase and to spread out its contents on the table.

I did as I was told. The moment I placed the alarm clock on the table , the two officials looked at each other and smiled.

Hearing the clock ticking away merrily , I suddenly understood. Someone must have heard the ticking noise coming from my suitcase and thought there was a time bomb hidden in it.

### Comprehension of the Text

1. The man spent his last day in London \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A ) visiting friends  
B ) taking pictures  
C ) buying some presents for his family  
D ) All of the above

2. He bought \_\_\_\_\_ as a present for his father.
  - A ) a shirt
  - B ) a woolen blanket
  - C ) an alarm clock
  - D ) a suitcase
3. The man went to the airport \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A ) by bus
  - B ) by taxi
  - C ) on foot
  - D ) by underground
4. The man got off the plane ten minutes later because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A ) he forgot one of his suitcases
  - B ) he was asked to get off
  - C ) he wanted to go out to smoke
  - D ) he had lost his passport
5. Which of the following statements is true ?
  - A ) Alarm clocks are not allowed on board a plane.
  - B ) The man had a time bomb in his suitcase.
  - C ) The ticking noise of the alarm clock caused him a little trouble.
  - D ) The airline official and the police officer played a joke on him.

**Translation**

1. ( Para. 2 )  
 After travelling in a crowded bus and waiting in the noisy airport building , I was glad to be sitting in the plane at last.

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2. ( Para. 6 )  
 I suddenly understood. Someone must have heard the ticking noise coming from my suitcase and thought there was a time bomb hidden in it.

---



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**New Words and Expressions**

alarm clock	闹钟	seat belt	安全带
to spread	铺开 , 散布	to tick	滴嗒
bomb	炸弹		

### **3 Have You Got a Nickname?**

Do you know the origin of “nickname”? This word is combined by two words, nick and name. The word, nick, came from the English word “eke” which means “also” and if you say “an eke name” quickly, it sounds like “a nickname”. Then you must have had some idea of what a nickname is.

At first people had only one name, Thoms, John, Richard, etc., and these names were very numerous in English. So to tell one John from another, for instance, an additional name was necessary. Sometimes the other name was a place name. John who lived by the church was called John Church and John who lived on the hill was called John Hill. That is how we get the common English names of Church, Hill, Field, Wood, etc. They are quite common in England and in America. Some men were given their fathers' names. Thomas the son of Richard was called Thomas Richardson. Many English family names end in “son”.

As far as the name Smith is concerned, it is by far the commonest of English names. Smith means a blacksmith, and blacksmiths were very numerous in old times, far more numerous than they are now. Very often the second name was given according to the work or occupation of the person. That's how we get some family names, such as Taylor, Farmer, and Clerk. Sometimes a name was called after some characteristics. For instance, the first John Long was certainly a tall man; just as the first Mr. Small was undoubtedly a short man. And such names were nicknames once. Now the word has changed its meaning: it means a special name, not a real name, that is used by a person's friends and familiar acquaintances. Many nicknames are shortened forms of the real names. General Montgomery's soldiers always called him Monty, for Montgomery is too big a word for everyday use. But there is one peculiar class of nicknames that are generally given to men who have certain family names. If a man's name is Miller, he is nearly always nicknamed Dusty, because a miller is generally covered with dusty flour. Suppose you are called Inky at school, this means you can't keep your fingers clean from ink!

#### **Comprehension of the Text**

1. This passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) The origin of your name

- B ) The meaning of a nickname
  - C ) Names and nicknames
  - D ) Why people all have a name of their own
2. A nickname is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A ) your own name
  - B ) an additional name
  - C ) a family name
  - D ) a real name
3. The word “ numerous ” in Para. 3 means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A ) huge
  - B ) few
  - C ) important
  - D ) none of the above
4. How did some people in England or America in the past get their family names ?
- A ) According to the profession of a person.
  - B ) After one’s hobby.
  - C ) By one’s appearance.
  - D ) Both A and C.
5. Christopher’s parents generally call him Chris , because the word Christopher is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A ) rather peculiar
  - B ) too familiar
  - C ) very big
  - D ) a bit strange

**Translation**

1. ( Para. 2 )  
 So to tell one John from another , for instance , an additional name was necessary.  
 Sometimes the other name was a place name.

---



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2. ( Para. 3 )  
 But there is one peculiar class of nicknames that are generally given to men who  
 have certain family names.

---



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**New Words and Expressions**

origin                      起源                      nickname                      绰号 ,外号

to combine	组合 ,合成	numerous	数量庞大 ,多的
common	普通的	blacksmith	铁匠
occupation	职业	characteristic	特色 ,特点
acquaintance	熟人	peculiar	奇特的
flour	面粉		

## 4 **Elephant**

The elephant is the biggest four-legged animal in the world. It is also , perhaps , the gentlest , but not always !

Elephants are like us in some ways. They live for a long time — fifty or sixty years. They can remember things very well. They never forget great sadness or great happiness. As a female elephant dies , her daughters and her granddaughters will be sad for many months. They never forget a dear friend.

Elephants are like us , but they are also different. They live in families , families of females. There will be a few young males — a few “ baby boys ”. But the females will soon send them away. An elephant family keeps only its daughters , mothers and grandmothers.

The females stay together for fifty , sixty ... a hundred years. The older animals look after the younger ones. The mothers teach their daughters and set a good example.

And what happens to male elephants ? Well , the young males stay with their mothers for a time. Then they must leave the family. A bull elephant does not often have a friend. He lives apart , away from the family , and often away from other bulls.

Sometimes the females call a bull. He can visit them then , and stay for a time. But soon his wives and sisters send him away again. The females have a very happy family life. What do the bulls think about it ? We don't know.

### **Comprehension of the Text**

1. Why do we say the elephant is not always the gentlest ?  
A ) Because it does not like human beings.

- B ) Because it is not kind to all animals.  
 C ) Because male elephants do not take care of the young.  
 D ) Because an elephant family only keeps females.
2. A male elephant lives away from his family \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A ) when he is too old to take care of the females  
 B ) to meet other bull elephants  
 C ) to look for its own father  
 D ) some time after he is born
3. It can be learned from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A ) elephants ,like human beings , have a very good memory  
 B ) only female elephants will feel sad about other elephants' death  
 C ) a dear friend is most important to an elephant family  
 D ) what an elephant can remember is only sadness or happiness
4. The reason that a bull elephant does not often have a friend is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A ) he never forgets the family he used to have  
 B ) he does not think it necessary  
 C ) he hopes to be back to the family later  
 D ) he lives alone most of his lifetime
5. Which of the following is true according to the passage ?  
 A ) Female elephants can usually live longer than males.  
 B ) No elephant can stay in its family till death.  
 C ) A male elephant never cares for family life.  
 D ) Females play a major role in an elephant family.

## Translation

### 1. ( Para. 2 )

They can remember things very well. They never forget great sadness or great happiness. As a female elephant dies , her daughters and her granddaughters will be sad for many months. They never forget a dear friend.

---



---

### 2. ( Para. 6 )

Sometimes the females call a bull. He can visit them then , and stay for a time. But soon his wives and sisters send him away again.

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## New Words and Expressions

gentle                      温柔的 , 温顺的                      female                      女性的 , 雌性的

## 5 Umbrella

To us it seems so natural to put up an umbrella to keep the water off when it rains. But actually the umbrella was not invented as protection against rain. Its first use was as a shade against the sun !

Nobody knows who first invented it , but the umbrella was used in very ancient times. Probably the first to use it were the Chinese , way back in the eleventh century B.C. .

We know that the umbrella was used in ancient Egypt and Babylon as a sunshade. And there was a strange thing connected with its use : it became a symbol of honour and authority. In the Far East in ancient times , the umbrella was allowed to be used only by royalty or by those in high office.

In Europe , the Greek were the first to use the umbrella as a sunshade. And the umbrella was in common use in ancient Greece. But it is believed that the first persons in Europe to use the umbrella as protection against the rain were the ancient Romans.

During the Middle Ages , the use of the umbrella practically disappeared. Then it appeared again in Italy in the late sixteenth century. And again it was considered a symbol of power and authority. By 1680 , the umbrella appeared in France , and later on in England.

By the eighteenth century , the umbrella was used against rain throughout most of Europe. Umbrellas have not changed much in style during all this time , though they have become much lighter in weight. It wasn't until the twentieth century that women's umbrellas began to be made , in a whole variety of colours.

### Comprehension of the Text

1. According to this passage , the umbrella was probably first invented \_\_\_\_\_.  
A ) in ancient China.  
B ) in ancient Egypt