大学英语阅读渐进

第四册

朱雪珍　主编

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主　编　朱雪珍
副主编　程锦绣
编　者　朱雪珍　程锦绣　龚献静
　　李　艳
主　审　秦　军

前　言

《大学英语阅读渐进》第四册是根据目前学生的英语学习实际而编写的。目的在于帮助学生扩大词汇量，掌握阅读技巧，培养学生运用语言知识的能力。

本书分为3个部分。第一部分有10个单元，短文以阅读理解练习为主，内容紧扣大纲，词汇与结构题型与四、六级接轨，有利于学生巩固所学的词和短语。第二部分以训练、阅读技巧为主，1～10单元附有阅读技巧的讲解和练习题。第一节练习1～2要求学生看阅读技巧，力求看后及时解题，达到快速阅读之目的。第二节练习3～4，重点在于理解，要求学生运用浏览、查询、推测等技巧快速解题。第三部分有300道词汇与结构的练习题，20篇补充阅读文章，结合四、六级考试新题型，以回答问题的形式，巩固复习前面所涉及的词汇和阅读技巧，提高综合阅读的能力和实际动笔的能力。

本书作为大学生英语的配套教材，在1～3册阅读技巧讲解的基础上，增加阅读技巧的系统性和层次性，题材新颖、内容广泛，既具有一定难度又按照循序渐进的原则，适用于各大专院校及有相当英语知识的学生自学，又可作四、六级应试的强化训练。

本书在编写过程中，得到华中农业大学各级领导的大力支持，并参考了部分国内外教学资料，限于篇幅，恕不一一列出。在此，谨向他们以及有关作者一并致谢！

由于时间有限，错误之处在所难免，欢迎广大读者不吝赐教。

编　者

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Contents

Unit One

Passage 1

Space Shuttle Carries Chinese Experiments

Chinese scientific instruments were aboard the US space shuttle Discovery when it was launched on Tuesday evening from Kennedy Space Centre, Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The shuttle was carrying six crew members and the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer designed and made by scientists from China, the United States and other countries.

During its 10-day trip, the space shuttle will place the spectrometer, a 3.5-ton particle detector, in space to enable it to carry out high-energy physics experiments.

The particle detector consists of five major elements-permanent magnet, the critical part of the detector, made by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS); time-of-flight scintillators; a silicon microstrip tracker; anti-coincidence counters, also made by Chinese scientists; and an aerogel threshold Cerenkov counter.

The spectrometer experiments aim to answer two questions in high-energy physics. First, if equal amounts of matter and antimatter were produced at the beginning of the universe as described by the Big Bang scenario, and the galaxies we now see are made only of matter, where has the antimatter gone?

Second, since the mass of a galaxy seems to be greater than the visible mass of all its stars, gas and dust, is there dark matter of a new kind that has eluded discovery?

The experiments are an international co-operation led by American-Chinese scientist and 1976 Nobel Prize winner Dr. Samuel C C Ting. Also participating in the experiments are scientists from 37 research institutions in China, the United States, Russia, France, Italy and elsewhere.

Discovery will dock with the Russian Mir space station and take back US as-

tronaut Andrew Thomas who has worked there almost six months. This is the ninth and final docking for a US space shuttle with the Mir station.

The shuttle will return to Earth on June 12.

"The explorer aims to find antimatter and missing matter in space, suggested by theoretical physicists 20 years ago, and will help mankind learn more about space," said He Zuoxiu, a leading Chinese expert in particle physics and CAS academician.

"But scientists will not be able to draw any conclusions for one or two years." he said.

The theory of dark matter was first put forward by a scientist from the former Soviet Union. He said, China's research started shortly afterwards, even earlier than that in the United States.

"This is the first time China and the United States have cooperated in a major space science and technology project," said a CAS spokesman in Beijing. "It will promote scientific exchanges and friendship between the two countries."

Notes

US space shuttle Discovery	美国"发现"号航天飞机
Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer	阿尔法磁谱仪
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)	中国科学院
scintillator	闪烁器
Dr. Samuel C C Ting	杨振宁博士
Cerenkov counter	切伦科夫计数器
Big Bang	宇宙大爆炸理论
scenario	（对行为、事件过程的）描述
dock	对接
elude	避免，逃避
Russian Mir Space Station	俄国"和平"号空间站

Reading Comprehension

1. Which of the following statements is False?
   A. Space shuttle Discovery was launched in America.
   B. There were six astronauts in the space shuttle Discovery.
   C. Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer was made in China.
   D. Space shuttle Discovery would stay in the space for ten days.
2. The most important part of Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer was made by _____.

A. American scientists

B. Chinese scientists

C. Russian scientists

D. scientists from other countries

3. From the passage we know that _____.

A. matter and anti-matter existed in the galaxies have been proved by scientists

B. there is a new kind of matter existed in the galaxies

C. anti-matter and missing matter are only thereotical suggestions by now

D. anti-matter and missing matter were put forward in the same theory

4. When did US Astronaut Andrew Thomas begin his work?

A. About January of this year.

B. About February of this year.

C. October of last year.

D. About September of last year.

5. What does the passage imply?

A. Russian Mir Space Station will not dock with any space shuttle.

B. There will be more and more scientific exchanges between China and America.

C. There will be definite conclusion about the anti-matter and dark matter theories in near future.

D. The Space shuttle Discovery can find anti-matter and missing matter for sure.

Passage 2

The Survey of Mars

In November 1996, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) began America's return to Mars after a 20-year absence by launching the Mars Global Survey-or (MGS) spacecraft. This US $ 154 million mission will usher in a new and exciting era of scientific missions to study Mars. Does the mission sound expensive? To put the price in perspective, consider the fact that some recently released American movies have cost over $ 200 million in terms of filming, advertising and distribution.

One of the most important results of the Mars Global Surveyor mission is that a comparison of Mars and Earth will allow scientists to understand Earth's history and possible its future. One of the most intriguing, unanswered scientific questions is why do Earth and Mars appear different today? At the time of their formation

several billion years ago, Mars and Earth shared similar conditions. Both planets harboured vast quantities of surface water, thick atmospheres, and climates warmer than at present.

Today, Earth is a lush world filled with a countless number of animals and plant species. In contrast, data gathered from Mars over the last 30 years shows that the planet lies trapped in conditions reminiscent of a global ice age. The dry and seemingly lifeless Martian surface makes the Sahara Desert look like an ocean in comparison, and average daily temperatures make Antarctica seem balmy. Comparing the history and evolution of the two planets will yield clues into Earth's past and possibly its future.

Despite its forbidding climate, surface temperatures on Mars resemble the Earth's more than any other planet. These similarities in temperature result in part from the fact that Mars orbits the Sun only slightly farther out than the Earth as compared to other planets. For example, the ground at some locations near the equator may warm up to as high as 25 deg. C at noon. However, daytime temperatures still average well below freezing, and night temperatures dip much lower.

Martian temperatures may seem almost inviting to the seasoned outdoors explorer, but the composition of the atmosphere leaves much to be desired from a human perspective. Most of the Martian air consists of carbon dioxide CO_2, similar to conditions on Venus. If breathing carbon dioxide seems uninviting, the density of the air will appear worse. The air at the surface of Mars is thinner than that found on Earth at an altitude 19 times higher than Denver, Colorado.

The extremely thin Martian air contributes to the mystery of whether there is life on Mars, either in the past or present. The reason is that almost all of the water lies trapped in the Martian polar ice caps or frozen beneath the surface. Liquid water cannot exist on the surface because the thin atmosphere will cause melting ice to evaporate directly into water vapour. Scientists call this process "sublimation."

Although liquid water on Mars will quickly evaporate, photographs transmitted back to Earth by previous NASA missions to the planet reveal giant flood channels, dry river beds, and flood plains on the surface. This evidence of past water on Mars leads some scientists to consider Mars as the prime location in the Solar System to search for extraterrestrial life. The speculation is that because Mars once

possessed a thicker atmosphere and vast quantities of surface water billions of years ago, then the planet may have harboured conditions, favourable to the formation of life despite its present forbidding climate.

Notes

in perspective	正确的分析，观察
reminiscent	使人联想的
NASA	美国国家航空和航天局
sublimation	升华
extraterrestrial	地球外的，宇宙的

Reading Comprehension

1. From the first paragraph, we know that _____.
   A. America has never launched spacecraft into Mars before
   B. the mission to the Mars is far too expensive for the public to accept
   C. the last time America began studying Mars was in 1976
   D. to film a movie in America is too expensive
2. What is the most important reason of studying Mars?
   A. Because Mars is the same as Earth.
   B. Because Mars is the closest planet of Earth.
   C. Because there are many resources in Mars.
   D. Because knowing Mars can provide clues to know the past and the possible future of the Earth.
3. What do we know about Mars according to the passage?
   A. Mars has much better climate than other planets.
   B. Mars' surface temperature is much similiar to that of the Earth.
   C. Mars temperature can warm up to as high as 25 degree C on average.
   D. Mars temperature remains the same from before to now.
4. One of the mystery about Mars to humans is _____.
   A. why Mars is much similiar to the Earth
   B. whether there is life on Mars in the past or present
   C. why temperature is better for the explorers
   D. why liquid water can not exist on the surface of Mars
5. From the photograph transmitted back to the earth, scientists can not _____.
   A. conclude that there was surface water very long time ago
   B. speculate that there was life on Mars
   C. conclude that weather condition will become better on Mars in the future
   D. know that there are some marks left by floods on Mars

Reading Attack Skill 1

Skimming for Content

Section 1: Reading

Suppose you are in the following situation. You have to read an article or a chapter in a textbook. You have not read the material before. What do you do first?

(a) Find a quiet seat in the library and begin at page 1.

(b) Read the "abstract" (summary below the title), if the article has one.

(c) Look over the list of references at the end of the chapter or article.

(d) Turn to the last page and look for the paragraph that begins something like "In conclusion, …", "In summary, …", or "This study has shown …".

Of these four possibilities, (a) is the worst choice. It means that you will be reading "blind", that is, without knowing in advance more or less what you are going to learn. It will probably require more time. And when you finish, you will probably feel: "OK. I know what the writer is talking about. Now I need to go back and make notes on the important points." In other words, you will feel you need to read it again! (Think of trying to explore a room in a strange house in total darkness. Think how much easier it would be if you could first look at the whole room for a second before the lights went out.)

The other three choices— (b), (c) and (d) can all be useful for some people in some situations. The second method (b) will give a general idea of what an article is about before you read it, and so help you know which points to look out for. However, not all articles or chapters have abstracts. The third method (c) can do the same if you are very familiar with the subject area, i.e., if you "know the literature." The final method (d) can do the same as (b), but some writers use "concluding" paragraphs to talk about new ideas, implications, directions for future research, etc., and not to review the contents of the previous pages.

What other strategies are there for getting a general idea of the content of new material before beginning to read line by line? One idea is to turn the pages of the article or chapter quickly, just reading the topic sentence of each paragraph (or most of them). The topic sentence is often the first or last sentence in a paragraph (usually the first) and, as the same suggests, it can usually tell you what the topic (main idea, content) of that paragraph is. For most students it is probably the best single way to get a general idea of what you will be learning before beginning to read.

Reading Attack Skill 1 (RAS 1) is, then:

When reading unfamiliar material, start by skimming the topic sentences. Does RAS 1

work? Let us try it out on the following brief (three-paragraph) reading passage. The passage does not even have a title to help you.

***Exercise* I**

Instruction: In as short a time as possible-about fifteen seconds should be sufficient-read the following three sentences, (1), (7) and (13). They are the first sentences from each of the three paragraphs in the passage. Then, without reading the rest of the passage, say which of the topics below them the whole passage is about. (Note: the sentences are indented because they are the first in their paragraphs.)

(1) In 1860, Fishport was a small rural settlement on the west coast of Newland with a population of 204 pioneers …

(7) In the 1940's and early 1950's, exploration companies discovered large deposits of iron ore and other minerals in a region some 500 km inland …

(13) The Fishport town council is now seriously concerned about the size of the community and about its future development …

Topics: On the basis of reading sentences (1), (7), (13), which of the following do you think the full passage is about? Circle (A), (B) or (C).

(A) Mineral wealth in a country called Newland.

(B) The growth of a town called Fishport.

(C) The early settlers of a town called Fishport.

Now do the next exercise.

***Exercise* II**

Instruction : Read the following passage as quickly as possible-about three minutes should be sufficient-and then choose a title from the list below. Do not use a dictionary, and do not worry about understanding every word in the passage.

1. The growth of urban communities.
   ( ) _____
2. Agricultural life in Fishport.
   ( ) _____
3. The history and development of Fishport.
   ( ) _____
4. The contribution of different cultural groups to the Fishport community.
   ( ) _____
5. The observed effect of population growth on a rural village in western Newland.
   ( ) _____

Write the following phrases below the titles:

A. mentioned but not important

B. too general

C. too specific

D. not mentioned

E. correct title

Write the correct title above the passage.

Fishport

(1) In 1960, Fishport was a small rural settlement on the west coast of Newland with a population of 204 pioneers. (2) The inhabitants were small farmers and fishermen. (3) They farmed the land during the summer months and survived the subzero temperatures from November to May by fishing and hunting. (4) The population of Fishport rose steadily. (5) The birth rate and longevity increased, and child mortality decreased due to improvements in medidcal care and greater attention to problems of nutrition. (6) By 1950, there were 2 000 people living in the community.

(7) In the 1940's and early 1950's, exploration companies discovered large deposits of iron ore and other minerals in a region some 500 km inland. (8) There is now a 500 km railroad which carries minerals from Iron City and Fairview to Fishport. (9) There, the minerals are loaded directly onto ships to be transported to the industrial centers in southern Newland or exported to foreign countries. (10) As a result of this development, Fishport's population rose dramatically until, by 1980, there were 110 000 residents. (11) Immigration from other countries was higher than that of other areas of Newland and, consequently, Fishport is now a multilingual urban community. (12) It has a small but busy airport and road, rail and sea links with most important towns in the rest of the country.

(13) The Fishport town council is now seriously concerned about the size of the community and about its future. (14) If the town continues to grow at the same rate as for the last twenty-year period, it will have nearly 200 000 inhabitants by the year 2000. (15) If this happens, hospitals, housing, schools and other important services will all be inadequate.

Section 2: Comprehension

***Exercise* Ⅲ**

Look at these two sentences, (2) and (3) from the passage:

… (2) The inhabitants were small farmers and fishermen. (3) They farmed the land during the summer months…

They in sentence (3) refers to and avoids repetition of *The inhabitants* in sentence (2). Reread the passage and find out what the following words and expression refer to. Circle the

correct answer.

1. In sentence (6), *the community* refers to _____.
   A. Newland
   B. 2, 000 people
   C. Fishport
2. In sentence (9), *there* refers to _____.
   A. Iron City
   B. Fishport
   C. Iron City and Fairview
3. In sentence (10), *this development* refers to _____.
   A. the building of a 500 km railroad
   B. loading minerals onto ships
   C. the discovery of iron ore and other minerals
4. In sentence (11), *that* refers to _____.
   A. Newland
   B. other countries
   C. immigration
5. In sentence (14), *it* refers to _____.
   A. Fishport
   B. the last twenty-year period
   C. the town council of Fishport
6. In sentence (15), *this* refers to _____.
   A. Fishport continuing to grow at the same rate as for the last twenty-year period
   B. Fishport's population growing to nearly 200 000 by the year 2000
   C. social services becoming inadequate

***Exercise* Ⅳ**

Information about the occupations of the early inhabitants of Fishport is found in sentences (2) and (3) in the passage. In which sentence (s) are the following ideas or information contained? Write the number (s) of the sentence (s) in the parentheses on the right.

1. Reasons why the population of Fishport increased from 1860 to 1950. ( )
2. The cause of the rapid increase in Fishport's population started in the 1950s. ( )
3. The fact that more than one language is spoken in Fishport. ( )
4. Specific causes of concern for the town council about Fishport's future. ( )
5. Information about Fishport's present public transportation services. ( )
6. The fact that January temperatures in Fishport are usually below freezing point. ( )
7. Information suggesting that the occupation of the majority of Fishport's inhabitants is no longer farming and fishing. ( )

Unit Two

Passage 1

The Tech Stock Market

Jeff Bezos is a happy man. Three years ago he got the idea for a new company, and today it's valued at US $ 5 billion. His own investment in the company is worth nearly US $ 2 billion. And as far as he's concerned, this is just the beginning.

Bezos started Amazon. Com, which promotes itself as "the earth's largest bookstore" and which sells books only on the Internet. He was among the first to believe that the Internet was going to provide a major opportunity to sell merchandise, and Amazon. Com was the Internet's first retail success story.

If it sounds like a fairy-tale, that's because in a way it is. As are many other high-tech and Internet success stories. The fact is that Amazon. Com has yet to show a profit. Yet not only has the company successfully sold stock to the public, Wall Street has given it a higher valuation than Barnes & Noble and Borders combined, the two largest bookstore chains in the U.S. whose revenues dwarf Amazon's.

In the past five years, nearly 4 000 companies in the U.S. have had initial public stock offerings, raising US $ 245 billion, and over a third of those offerings involved technology companies, like Amazon, many of technology companies are far from making a profit, and some don't even have any real revenues. Yet investors are buying up their stock as fast as they can, and their appetite for technology stocks seems insatiable.

Why are investors chasing after companies with no profit and little or no earnings? There is a growing belief among investors that we're on the verge of something new, and they want to get in on the ground level.

Some call it the "new economy. " Michael Murphy, author of Every Investor's Guide to High-Tech Stocks and Mutual Funds, believes all investors

should diversify, choosing both "old economy" and "new economy " stocks.

What is the "new economy"? According to Steve Guich of Renaissance Capital Partners, a money management firm the world is in the "early stages of a complete rebuild of the communications infrastructure."

Think Internet. Think wireless modems. Think satellites. We have a world-wide communication system that is relying more and more on breakthroughs in high-band-width technologies such as fiber optic cables and software technologies such as Internet Protocol. This communications infrastructure, Guich believes, is going to have a widespread impact on everything: business, commerce, banking, entertainment, art, science.

In short, we're moving away from an industrial economy into an information economy. Investors believe that now is the time to invest in the core businesses that will help drive this new economy. This includes Internet-related business such as Amazon or companies that provide the infrastructure.

Notes

merchandise	商品，产品
Wall Street	（美国）华尔街，以金融服务而出名
valuation	估价
revenue	收入

Reading Comprehension

1. The Amazon Com is NOT _____.
   A. a high technological company
   B. valued at US $ 5 billion
   C. the largest book store in the United State
   D. a book store sells books by Internet
2. From the passage, we know that _____.
   A. many high-tech and Internet companies have made profits
   B. high-tech companies can not sell their stocks successfully
   C. it is illegal to sell the stocks of a company which has no revenues
   D. the valuation of high-tech stocks are even higher than that of non-high-tech stocks
3. The main reason for investors to buy new stocks is _____.
   A. to make much more money
   B. to monopolize the techonology
   C. to enter to the new economy and drive new economy

D. to sponoser scientists' work

4. What is the new economy driven by?

A. Wireless modems.

B. Satellites.

C. Software technology.

D. Communication infrastructure.

5. This passage suggests that _____.

A. industrial economy can not make profit any longer

B. new economy has dominated the world

C. new economy has made great profits

D. we are in the era of economy rebuilding

Passage 2

Expect a New Job Every Two Years

The days when the management in Western companies presented gold watches to long-serving employees to thank them for loyal service are now just a memory, says the Education and Training Support Agency. In the new age of movement by employees to different jobs, recruits to the labour market can expect to change their jobs every two years and to change careers every ten years.

This new development in the shape and movement of the workforce throughout Western business is partly a result of the way that layers of middle management are being removed, leaving more workers responsible for their own development. Having workers take responsibility for their own development might be dramatic, but it is now the norm, says the Education and Training Support Agency.

"Today, not only are workers more mobile, they have to run to keep up with changes," says the Government-funded agency. "It is no longer enough for a worker to acquire a set of skills. Workers need the ability to react and adapt to changes."

This new system is also being pushed along by the way that industry is looking to its workers to update their own skills. In the United States, some companies have contracts which require their employees to show regularly how they have kept their expertise up to date.

The new term in Western business which encapsulates this approach is called Capability. Capability is the title of a collection of articles published by the Educa-