

大学英语阅读指南

赵庆玉

张 开 编著

蒋学清

冀成会 审定

北京广播学院出版社

(京)新登字 148 号

大学英语阅读指南

赵庆玉

张 开 编著

蒋学清

冀成会 审定

北京广播学院出版社出版发行

(北京朝阳区定福庄南里 7 号 邮编:100024)

各地新华书店经销

中国科学院印刷厂印刷

*

开本:850×1168mm 1/32 印张 9.625 字数:235千字

1997年3月第1版 1997年3月第1次印刷

印数:0001—5000册

ISBN 7-81004-683-7/ G·360

定价:13.20元

前 言

理工科《大学英语教学大纲》规定大学英语的教学目的首先是要培养学生较强的阅读能力。近十年来我国大学英语教学一直沿着这个方向努力。但大量调查表明，现在学生的实际阅读能力还是比较低的。其主要原因，是学生对语言基础知识和语言基本功掌握得不够扎实。培养学生的阅读理解能力不能只从阅读技巧方面去培养，更重要的是要在语言基本功上下功夫。为此，我们编写了这本《大学英语阅读指南》。希望对提高大学公共外语学生及其他科技人员的阅读理解能力有所帮助。

本书共分三个部分：第一部分是阅读指导。从阅读技巧和语言基本知识两个方面指导学生如何阅读。第二部分是阅读理解练习。第三部分是答案与讲解。重点是通过对话语言基本知识和语言点的讲解，以及篇章结构的分析来培养学生的阅读理解能力。

第一部分，阅读指导是冀成会写的；第二部分的1—20篇阅读理解练习和第三部分中相应的答案与讲解由赵庆玉编写，第二部分的21—40篇阅读理解练习和第三部分中相应的答案与讲解由张开编写，第二部分的41—60篇阅读理解练习和第三部分中相应的答案与讲解由蒋学清编写。全书由冀成会审定。

由于时间仓促，编者水平有限，难免有错，欢迎读者提出宝贵意见。

编者

1996年9月

目 录

第 1 部分：阅读指导	1
第 2 部分：阅读理解练习	15
第 3 部分：答案与讲解	215
附 录：阅读理解答案总表	296

第 1 部分 阅读指导

培养学生的阅读理解能力是理工科大学外语教学的主要目的之一,然而它又是一项比较难掌握的技能,学生在阅读外语时存在的一个普遍问题是逐字逐句地读、逐字逐句分析,把主要精力放在生词和句子语法结构分析上,阅读速度太慢,而对文章的中心思想不能形成一个整体概念,也就是捡了芝麻丢了西瓜。

阅读理解涉及多方面的因素,如,词汇量,对本语言的句型结构即语法掌握的熟练程度,一个人的性格,受教育的背景,分析问题、归纳问题的能力以及一个更重要的因素——阅读技巧。

阅读有很多技巧,这里结合对一些具体文章分析,提出一些阅读中应该掌握的技巧,希望能对学生的阅读理解能力的提高有所帮助。

1. 阅读时,首先要抓住文章的中心思想,不要把精力集中在抠个别单词和分析句子的语法结构上。在文章中,每一个段落,每一个句子,以至每一个单词都是为文章的中心思想服务的。所有的句子都是围绕中心思想进行发展、描述或对中心思想进行阐述和说明的,而对每句话和每个词的理解,也都要根据文章的中心思想去进行思考。

一般说来,每段文章都有一个中心思想。在很多情况下,段落的中心思想概括在主题句中。主题句可能是一段的第一句,也可能是一段的最末一句。有时文章的中心并不是明确地概括在某一个句子中,需要阅读者归纳总结。请看下面的例子。

例 1.

Plant can be limited in their growth rates by a variety of factors. Mineral nutrients must diffuse through the soil to the roots, and from there they must be carried through the body of the plant. Carbon dioxide must be taken into the leaves. Sufficient light must fall upon the plant to cause a rate of photosynthesis greater than the rate of consumption of energy by the plant.

本段的第一句就是主题句。其他句子都是说明影响植物生长速度的各种因素。只要抓住了本句的中心思想,段落中的一些生词(如果是的话)如: nutrients, diffuse, photosynthesis 等的词义也很容易猜出来,文章的意思也就容易理解了。

例 2.

It is curious how often sympathy for the old and infirm takes a form which actually humiliates them. Their friends, or mere acquaintances, wishing to show good will, pay them, sometimes leaning forward to rearrange their neckwear, pulling at their shawl, touching their hair or patting their faces——things they would never presume to do, unasked, to one of their contemporaries.

An equally humiliating habit of many people who are quite unconscious of being rude is to talk about old people in front of them, as if they were not there, discussing their health, or making playful remarks on the lines of “ Well, nurse, has she been a good girl today ?”

It is now universally accepted that children should be encouraged to do as much as they can for themselves in order to develop their brains and muscles, but so few people today seem to have time to allow the elderly the same means of keeping their minds and muscles active. With what they believe to be unselfish kindness they perform innumerable services for them that they would be much better left to

do, even with a struggle, for themselves.

Convenient flats, well-run homes, “motherly” visitors, or organised entertainments cannot make up for the fundamental need which must be satisfied—the need to retain to the end of life—human dignity and the respect of one’s fellows.

这篇文章从一开始,作者只提出一些现象和事实及一些人的做法,没有明确的提出作者自己的意见,也就没有明确地点明主题思想。文章最后作者分析这些现象,明确的提出自己的看法。人们必须要满足的最基本需要的是人的尊严,受人尊敬,这就是本文的主题思想。

例 3.

Metro Electric Company

Box 73

North Branch, Iowa

Dear Customer:

We have been pleased to provide you with service for some time now. It has been our policy to allow a significant grace(宽限) period for unpaid debts and payments. Owing to inflationary setbacks(挫折) in our projected real income we have been forced to modify this policy. You fall into the category of customers who are immediately affected by this policy change. This is to notify(通知) you that unless the unpaid balance of your bill is sent to us by June 15, your electric service will be terminated. We regret that we are forced to take these measures and hope you will be able to comply(照办). If you have already mailed your payment, please disregard this notice.

Sincerely,

S. A. Adams

Service Manager

这篇短文从形式上一眼就可以看出是一封信,所以就不能从文章中找出一句话来概括全文的中心意思。但是写信的目的很简单,即你所欠的钱如果在6月15日前不能付清,就停止供电。这一中心思想从字里行间可以看得出来。

在找中心思想时,学生们有时会犯错误。主要有两个方面:一是找出的中心思想只是作者所表达的中心思想的一部分,不全面;二是找出的中心思想太宽、太一般,不确切。请看下面的例子。

例 4.

The risk of premature (过早的) death from all causes is much greater among cigarette smokers than among nonsmokers. This alone should be a good reason to quit smoking. The risk of death from bronchitis (气管炎) is 6 times greater among smokers. The risk of premature death from lung cancer is 10 times greater among smokers. It is clear that smoking affects not only your day-to-day health but your life span as well.

在这篇文章中很多学生会把最后一句话当做主题句。最后一句话只是说明吸烟影响人的健康和寿命,这是一个事实,显然不能成为作者写这篇文章的最终目的。因此最后一句话不能成为主题句。主题句或中心思想必须能准确的描述和概括整篇文章的宗旨,既不能宽,也不能窄,更不能断章取意。这篇文章主要是通过一些事实说明抽烟的坏处,劝人们戒烟。

2. 在阅读议论文时,一定要注意搞清楚哪些是作者的观点,哪些是别人的观点;哪些观点是作者肯定的,哪些是不肯定的;哪些事情是明确的,哪些事情是不明确的。请看下面的例子。

例 1.

I hear many parents complaining that their teen-age children are rebelling. I wish it were so. At your age you ought to be growing

away from your parents. You should be learning to stand on your own two feet. But take a good look at the present rebellion. It seems that teen-agers are all taking the same way of showing that they disagree with their parents. Instead of striking out boldly on their own, most of them are clutching at one another's hands for reassurance.

They claim they want to dress as they please. But they all wear the same clothes. They set off in new directions in music. But somehow they all end up huddled round listening to the same record. Their reason for thinking or acting in thus-and-such a way is that the crowd is doing it. They have come out of their cocoon (蚕茧)-into a larger cocoon.

It has become harder and harder for a teen-ager to stand up against the popularity wave and to go his or her own way. Industry has firmly carved out a teen-age market. These days every teen-ager can learn from the advertisements what a teen-ager can learn from the advertisements what a teen-ager should have and be. And many of today's parents have come to award high marks for the popularity of their children. All this adds up to a great barrier for the teen-ager who wants to find his or her own path.

But the barrier is worth climbing over. The path is worth following. You may want to listen to classical music instead of going to a party. You may want to collect rocks when everyone else is collecting records. You may have some thoughts that you don't care to share at once with your classmates. Well, go to it. Find yourself. Be yourself. Popularity will come—with the people who respect you for who are. That's the only kind of popularity that really counts.

这篇文章中的第一句话,作者列举了别人的观点。第二句 I wish it were so 才是作者的观点。这句话有两点含义:一、作者认为很多父母抱怨 10 几岁的孩子造反不符合事实。二、作者希望小孩真有反潮流的精神。下面作者都是围绕这两点发表议论的。作者指出了哪些行动不是真正的反潮流,这是用来说明第一点的;什么才是真正的个性、什么是有声望,这是说明第二点。只要按照作者这两个观点去思考,文章就比较容易理解了。

例 2.

Geologists have been studying volcanoes for a long time. Though they have learned a great deal, they still have not discovered the causes of volcanic action. They know that the inside of the earth is very hot, but they are not sure exactly what causes the great heat. Some geologists have thought that the heat is caused by the great pressure of the earth's outer layers. Or the heat may be left from the time when the earth was formed. During the last sixty years scientists have learned about radium, uranium, thorium, and other radioactive elements. These give out heat all the time as they change into other elements. Many scientists now believe that much of the heat inside the earth is produced by radio-active elements.

Whatever the cause of the heat may be, we do know that the earth gets hotter the farther down we dig. In deep mines and oil wells the temperature rises about 1° for each 50 feet. At this rate the temperature 40 miles below the earth's surface would be over 4,000°. This is much hotter than necessary to melt rock. However, the pressure of the rock above keeps most materials from melting at their usual melting points. Geologists believe that the rock deep in the earth may be plastic, or putty-like, In other words, the rock yields slowly to pressure but is not liquid. But if some change in the

earth's crust releases the pressure, the rock melts. Then the hot liquid rock can move up toward the surface.

When the melted rock works its way close to the earth's crust, a volcano may be formed. The melted rock often contains steam, and other gases under great pressure. If the rock above gives way, the pressure is released. Then the sudden expansion of the gases causes explosions. These blow the melted rock into pieces of different sizes and shoot them high in the air. Here they cool and harden into volcanic ash and cinders. Some of this material falls around the hole made in the earth's surface. The melted rock may keep on rising and pour out as lava. In this way, volcanic ash, cinders, and lava build up the cone-shaped mountains that we call volcanoes.

文章的第二句和第三句 Thought they have learned a great deal, they still have not discovered the causes of volcanic action. They know that the inside of the earth is very hot, but they are not sure exactly what causes the great heat. 已清楚的说明地质学家对哪些问题是清楚的,对哪些问题还不明确。抓住这一点对下面的理解就容易了。下面作者列举了一些地质学家和科学家对地球产生巨大热量的原因不清楚的事实,接着,下面一段作者又具体说明了地质学家对哪些问题是清楚的。总之,只要按照作者的思想去理解,文章内容就比较清楚了。

3. 说明文主要是对某些事物的具体形状、结构、性质、作用、发生、发展、结果进行描述和说明。因此,往往使用一些概念和定义。所以对于说明文,必须要搞清,并记住其中的定义和概念的确切含义,才能比较容易地理解文章中的各种关系。请看下面的例子。

例.

Another common type of reasoning is the search for causes and

results. We want to know whether cigarettes really do cause lung cancer, what causes malnutrition, the decay of cities, or the decay of teeth. We are equally interested in effects: what is the effect of sulphur or lead in the atmosphere, of oil spills and raw sewage in rivers and the sea, of staying up late on the night before an examination?

Causal reasoning may go from cause to effect or from effect to cause. Either way, we reason from what we know to what we want to find out. Sometimes we reason from an effect to a cause and then on to another effect. Thus, if we reason that because the lights have gone out, the refrigerator won't work, we first relate the effect (lights out) to the cause (power off) and then relate that cause to another effect (refrigerator not working). This kind of reasoning is called, for short, effect to effect. It is quite common to reason through an extensive chain of causal relations. When the lights go out we might reason in the following causal chain: lights out—power off—refrigerator not working—temperature will rise—milk will sour. In other words, we diagnose a succession of effects from the power failure, each becoming the cause of the next.

Causes are classified as necessary, sufficient, or contributory. A necessary cause is one which must be present for the effect to occur, as combustion is necessary to drive a gasoline engine. A sufficient cause: a dead battery is enough to keep a car from starting, but faulty spark plugs or an empty gas tank will have the same effect. A contributory cause is one which helps to produce an effect but cannot do so by itself, as running through a red light may help cause an accident, though other factors—pedestrians or other cars in the intersection—must also be present.

In establishing or refuting a causal relation it is usually necessary to show the process by which the alleged cause produces the effect. Such an explanation is called a causal process.

这篇文章中有很多概念和定义,特别是必要条件、充分条件、辅助条件。这些概念和定义的确切含义必须要理解得十分清楚,否则就会对文章的理解造成混乱,也就会造成做理解题的错误。如本文后面有一道理解题:

Your refrigerator is not working and you have found that the electric power has been cut off. The power failure is a _____.

- A. necessary cause
- B. sufficient cause
- C. contributory cause
- D. none of them

在做这道阅读理解题时,很多学生选 A,也有一些人认为 A 和 B 都对。造成选题错误的原因就是对文章中的定义和概念理解不确切。文章中第三段说得很清楚,必要条件就是必须具备这一条件,才能引起某一效果的产生;充分条件就是只要有这一个条件就能引起某种效果的产生(A necessary cause is one which must be present for the effect to occur.... A sufficient cause is one which can produce an effect unaided)。显然,两者的作用以及概念是不同的。中国有句成语:“万事具备,只欠东风”,东风只是必要条件。因此,要对说明文达到正确的理解,就必须首先对文章中的概念和定义有确切的理解。

4. 有些议论文在写作方法上会采用两种手段:一是论点比较抽象难懂,而举例比较简单易懂。二是论点简单易懂,而举例却比较抽象或者语言专业性较强,不容易理解。阅读时,如果遇到前一种情况,就通过作者所给的例子去总结、理解论点的意义;如果遇

到后种情况,就按照论点的意思去理解文章中的实例和细节。请看下面的例子。

例 1.

But the young scientist should learn to realize and remember now much of real value science has found in this wide, confused wilderness and how often scientific discoveries turned out to be rediscoveries of what had existed in this wilderness long ago. Electroplating was practised in Babylon; the magnetic needle of Gilbert's experiments was used by the Chinese hundreds of years before him; wise old men and wise old women used fungi to cure wounds many centuries before penicillin; men working at steel furnaces or blowing bulbs from molten glass knew that the radiation from the furnace could heal burns, long before the healing properties of infra-red radiation were discovered. Science was not created out of pure thought and starlight——much of it is nothing but systematised experience of humanity.

文章的第一句对某些学生来说,特别对那些没有学过科学发展史的学生来说,可能有点抽象,不能一下子看明白,但是通过下面的例子以及最后一句简单的总结——科学不是出自于冥思苦想和头脑中的闪光——大部分科学不是别的什么东西,只是将人类的经验加以总结,使之系统化,再回过头来读第一句就容易理解了。

例 2.

Another frequent reason for failure in the communication of directions is that explanations are more technical than necessary. Thus a plumber once wrote to a research bureau pointing out that he had used hydrochloric acid to clean out sewer pipes and inquired, "Was there any possible harm?" The first reply was as follows: "The

effectiveness of hydrochloric acid is indisputable, but the corrosive residue is incompatible with metallic permanence. ” The plumber then thanked them for the information approving his procedure. The dismayed research bureau tried again, saying, “ We cannot assume responsibility for the production of toxic and noxious residue with hydrochloric acid and suggest you use an alternative procedure. ” Once more the plumber thanked them for their approval. Finally, the bureau, worried about the New York sewers, called in a third scientist who wrote: “ Don t use hydrochloric acid. It eats hell out of the pipes. ”

本文第一句话的说明,文字比较浅显易懂,但所举例子中的语言却不通俗而且太专业化,一般人不仅不容易懂,而且会造成误解。不过,文章最后一句,第三个科学家写的话‘不要使用盐酸,它会腐蚀管子。’非常通俗易懂。而上面的两次答复就是第一句话指出的“使用没有必要的专业术语”,使这位管道工不明白并产生错误理解。阅读时,如果按照文章最后一句话和第一句话的思路去理解例子中的语言,就能悟出其意思来。

5. 阅读理解的另一个很重要的技巧就是根据上下文猜字。一个孤立的词是不能表达什么意思的,一个词的确切意思必须由具体的文章和句子所表达的思想来确定。文章中的每一个字,每一个句子都是为文章的中心思想服务的。反过来每一个词,每一个句子的意思都要由文章的中心思想来限定。所以根据上下文猜字就是根据文章、段落、句子的中心思想去理解词的意思。请看下面的例子。

例.

When a person uses her peripheral vision, she uses her ability to see to the left and right and above and below the point where her

eyes fix. A driver uses her peripheral vision when she drives. She sees not only directly ahead of her car, but she is aware of cars behind her and on both sides. She sees "out of the corners of her eyes." Similarly, a reader who uses her peripheral vision can read faster by seeing.

本文中的 peripheral 对很多阅读者来说可能是个生词,但在阅读这篇短文时只要稍微动一下脑子就能猜出这个词的意思。peripheral 这个词在这篇短文中出现过三次,即,一个人用 peripheral 目光时,可以看到什么地方;一个汽车司机用 peripheral 目光时,可以看见什么;当人们读书看报时,用 peripheral 目光可以取得什么效果。三种情况联在一起完全可以猜出这个词的确切意思。实际上,读完第一句话就可以猜出这个词的意思了。

6. 在阅读英语文章时一定要按照英文去理解,不要按照汉语去理解,更不要每个单词都译成汉语去理解。实际上,有些单词不必知道其确切的汉语意思,只要知道这些词的大概意思,甚至是属于什么范畴就行了。请看下面的例子。

例.

A subject which seems to have been insufficiently studied by doctors and psychologists is the influence of geography and climate on the psychological and physical health of mankind. There seems no doubt that the general character of the landscape, the relative length of day and night, and the climate must all play a big part in determining what kind of people we are.

It is true that a few studies have been made. Where all the inhabitants of a particular area enjoy exceptionally good or bad health, scientists have identified contributory factors such as the presence or absence of substances like iodine, fluoride, calcium, or

iron in the water supply, or perhaps types of land that provide breeding places for pests like mosquitoes or rats.

本文的最后一句中有几个单词 iodine, fluoride, calcium 可能有些人不认识,但从阅读理解的角度出发,不必非要知道它们的汉语意思,根据上下文知道它们是化学元素就可以了。这一点从“substances like”就可以知道。

7. 阅读的目的主要是为了获取信息,知识,理解作者的意思。因此,阅读时很重要的一点就是不能只理解字面的意思。要从字里行间寻找其含义,要把一些事实归纳起来推论出其实际的意思。请看下面的例子。

例 1.

While the youth stood in the landing-place searching in his pockets for money, the boatman lifted a lantern(提灯), by the aid of which, together with the newly risen moon, he took a very accurate survey of the stranger's figure. He was a young man of barely eighteen years, evidently country bred, and now, as it seemed, on his first visit to town. He was wearing a rough gray coat, which was in good shape, but which had seen many winters before this one.

从这一段的描写我们可以联想到几个问题,如船工借助月光和提灯仔细打量这位陌生人,我们马上就会想到,这时候是晚上,这是小的时间概念;最后一句说这件外衣在这之前已经经历了几个冬天。我们马上会想到这是冬天,这是大的时间概念。只有通过归纳联想,我们才能深刻理解文章的中心意思。

例 2.

We lived on fish, caught with a home-made net of string(we had no hooks), and any fruit and nuts we could pick up out of the water. As we had no fire, we had to eat everything, including the