

英语阶梯阅读丛书

英语阶梯阅读

4

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前 言

新世纪需要的是新型人才，因此教育要迎接新的挑战，面向现代化、面向世界、面向未来。英语教学的改革更是刻不容缓。英语语言素质不仅表现在掌握英语语言知识的深度，更表现在灵活运用英语的能力上。听、说、读、写四种技能中，阅读能力的培养一直是英语教学中的重要一环，在各项英语测试中对阅读水平的重视程度也是显而易见的。

如何更快更好地提高学生的阅读水平，从而全面提高其语言应用能力，是值得每一位教学者思考的问题。本着用发展的眼光探索英语教学改革新思路的出发点，我们编写了这套《英语阶梯阅读丛书》。

丛书是根据 2000 年颁布的《英语教学大纲》的要求，结合作者多年的教学经验精心编写完成的。丛书与新教材同步，伴教伴学，其突出的特点是立足课本，夯实基础，注重语境，强化语篇意识，突出能力培养。丛书不仅具有科学性、创新性，更具有很强的针对性和实用性。

本书为《英语阶梯阅读 4》，共设 10 个单元，每单元

选择的文章风格迥异、内容丰富、形式多样；力求贴近生活，与时俱进。书后给出测试题参考答案。

希望该书能成为教师教学的好帮手，学生学习的好伙伴，在减轻学习负担的同时，为全面实施英语素质教育做出贡献。由于时间仓促，水平有限，书中难免有不尽如人意之处，恳请广大读者不吝赐教。

杨 冰

2005 年 5 月

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Unit 11

Scientific Achievements

Passage A

Scientists are developing a new kind of machine to take the place of humans. These machines can do jobs in places that are too dangerous for humans. For example , they are being developed to work in nuclear power center , deep under the oceans and in outer space.

John Marrit , a psychologist in Williamsburg Massachusetts , helped develop the new machine. This is how they work. A machine is placed in an area far away from the person who operates it. The person wears special hard hat with television screens and sound equipment. The screens and sound equipment let the person see and hear exactly what the machine is seeing and hearing. Mr. Marrit says this gives the person the feeling of being in the same place as the machine. The idea , he says , is

“being there without going there”. The person uses an electronic control to make the machine move. The machine copies the person's movements exactly. He can do the dangerous job while staying in the safe place. For example , a person can direct the machine to destroy a bomb without going near the bomb himself.

1. The new kind of machine being introduced in the passage _____.
A. is in existence B. is only an idea
C. is being tried out D. has not yet come into being
2. The machine _____.
A. follows the person 's order
B. is controlled by a computer
C. does exactly what the person does
D. is controlled by a television on the person 's head
3. The difference between such a new machine and a robot is that _____.
A. the new machine is more difficult than a robot
B. the new machine is more difficult than robot
C. a robot is controlled by man directly
D. a robot can 't be used in places too dangerous or faraway
4. This kind of machine is used to do _____.
A. hard work B. harmful work
C. dangerous work D. easy work
5. “Being there without going there” means “_____”.
A. the idea is there but the person isn 't there
B. the idea is there but the machine isn 't there

- C. the machine is there but the person isn't there
- D. the person is there but the machine isn't there

Passage B

In the past few years , telephones in cars have become increasingly popular in the United States. At first they were very costly. And then they cost less , so many people are now buying and using them. The police say people with car phones are reporting crimes they see and helping catch criminals.

In the southern State of Florida , more than 125 000 people have telephones in their cars. Almost one car in every 30 has a telephone. A man in a big city of Florida is one of these car phone owners. One evening as he arrived home , he saw two people he did not know leaving the house next door. He called the police on his car telephone and followed the strangers in his car. The police caught the two men. A woman in another city of Florida saw a man shooting at another man during an attempt of robbery. She called the police on her car phone and followed the gunman as he fled in a car. She told the police where he was driving. With her information , the police stopped the man and caught him.

Many people use their car phones to report other drivers who seem to have drunk too much wine. They also report accidents. This helps doctors and nurses get to an accident sooner to provide medical aid. All those car telephones are like having many more sets of eyes and ears on the road. They help

the police to do their jobs better.

Car phones also help drivers find the best way to get to a place. In some Florida cities , car phone owners can make free calls to radio stations to report when roads become blocked by accidents or too many cars. The stations then broadcast warning to other drivers to find different roads to use.

1. Recently telephones in cars have become more popular because _____.
 - A. the police want people to use them to report crimes
 - B. they are very handy and useful
 - C. they are much cheaper than many years ago
 - D. people in Florida can call others on their car phones
2. Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage ?
 - A. Every person has a car phone in the State of Florida.
 - B. The number of people who own car phones is not known in the State of Florida.
 - C. One in every 30 cars has a phone in the State of Florida.
 - D. A car phone is a necessary part in the State of Florida.
3. The man called the police on his car telephone because _____.
 - A. he wanted to see if it worked properly
 - B. he saw two strangers passing the house next door and thought they were thieves
 - C. he did not know the two men who were driving away
 - D. he saw two strangers coming out of the house next door and going away
4. How did the woman tell the police where the gunman exactly

was as he was fleeing away in a car ?

- A. She drove after him and informed the police on her car telephone.
- B. She telephoned the police on her car phone all the time in her car.
- C. She followed the gunman who had shot at another man until he was caught.
- D. She told the police about the robbery on her car phone after she had stopped her car.

5. Which of the following can be the best title for the passage ?

- A. Car Telephones and Crimes in Florida.
- B. Car Telephones Help People in Many Ways.
- C. Car Telephones Reduce Traffic Accidents.
- D. Do You Know Anything about Car Telephones ?

Passage C

As the society develops , information becomes more important than ever before. Computers will gradually be familiar to more and more people and be used in more and more ways. Internet makes the world integrated as a whole. So , it is important to learn how to make use of Internet.

On one hand , the Internet , an international network of computer networks , has spread out since the early 1990 's. The Internet began as U.S. network of scientific and military computers in the 1960 's. Now it is an international system for sending and receiving electronic mail , software and electronic

document and picture fields all over the world. The Internet has already cut the cost of long-distance communication for many people. In the future , it will completely change the way in which people work. With the Internet , increasing numbers of people can work at home instead of in their office.

On the other hand , Internet enables many people to share a large amount of information with each other. In different countries people can exchange information with one another at the web station of Internet. For example , you no longer send a letter to your friend by post. Internet can help you post a letter by E-mail. Such things couldn 't be believed some years ago. We may make use of Internet chatting with a stranger and looking for our needed information. Because of Internet , the world will become smaller. Many firms have advertised on Internet so that their products can go into the markets of the world. Internet makes our life convenient. So Internet is important to us in modern times. And we can expect a lot more from Internet in the future. It will become part of our life.

1. In the writer 's opinion , _____ people use computers.
A. fewer and fewer B. more and more
C. no D. few
2. Now many people share a large amount of information _____.
A. by web station of Internet
B. through radio and television
C. because the world becomes smaller
D. because the world is integrated as a whole

3. What do you think the letter “E” in the word “E-mail” stands for ?
- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| A. Engineer. | B. Energy. |
| C. Exhibition. | D. Electronic. |
4. Internet may be used _____.
- A. to chat with a stranger
 - B. to look for your needed information
 - C. to advertise your products
 - D. All of the above.
5. Which is NOT true according to the text ?
- A. The computer is used in many ways now.
 - B. People began using computers more often only some years ago.
 - C. Internet will bring lots of convenience to our life.
 - D. The passage is written for computer specialists.

Passage D

A breakthrough in the provision of energy from the sun for the European Union (EU) could be brought forward by up to two decades , if a modest increase could be provided in the EU’s research effort in this field , according to the senior EU scientists engaged in experiments in solar energy at EU’s scientific laboratories at Ispira , near Milan.

The senior German scientist in charge of the EU’s solar energy program , MR. Joachim Gretz , told reporters that at present levels of research spending , it was most unlikely that

solar energy would provide as much as three percent of the EU's energy requirements even after the year 2010. But he said that with a modest increase in the present sums, devoted by the EU to this work, it was possible that the breakthrough could be achieved by the end of the next decade.

Mr. Gretz figures out that if solar energy only provided three percent of the EU's needs, this could still produce a saving of about a billion dollars in the present bill for imported energy each year. And he believes that with the possibility of using more advanced technology in this field it might be possible to satisfy a much bigger share of the EU's future energy needs.

At present the EU spends about \$2.6 million a year on solar research at Ispre, one of the EU's official joint research centers, and another \$3 million a year in indirect research with universities and other independent bodies.

- The phrase “be brought forward” most probably means “_____”.
A. be expected B. be completed
C. be advanced D. be introduced
- Some scientists believe that a breakthrough in the use of solar energy depends on _____.
A. enough funding
B. further experiments
C. advanced technology
D. well-equipped laboratories
- According to Mr. Gretz , the present sum of money will

enable the scientists to provide _____.

- A. more than 3% of the EU needs after the year 2010
- B. only 3% of the EU needs before the year 2010
- C. less than 3% of the EU needs before the year 2010
- D. only 3% of the EU needs even after the year 2010

4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage ?

- A. The EU spends one billion dollars on imported energy each year.
- B. At the present level of research spending , it is difficult to make any great progress in the provision of energy from the sun.
- C. The desired breakthrough could be obtained by the end of the next decade if investments (投资) were increased.
- D. The total yearly spending of the EU on solar energy research came to almost 6 million dollars.

5. The application of advanced technology to research in solar energy _____ .

- A. would lead to a big increase in research funding
- B. would make it unnecessary to import oil
- C. would make it possible to meet the future energy needs of the EU
- D. would provide a much greater proportion of the EU 's future energy needs

Passage E

“China blasted its fourth unmanned spaceship into space on Monday , in what is likely a final test before sending its first astronaut into orbit around earth. ” state media said.

The Shenzhou IV , or “Divine Ship ” took off from its launch center in the northwestern province of Gansu early Monday morning and had already settled into its course around Earth , the official Xinhua news agency and newspapers reported. “The successful launch of the Shenzhou IV has laid a solid foundation for China to send Chinese astronauts into space ,” the *China Daily* quoted an official at the Beijing Aerospace Command and Control Center as saying. Like its predecessors , the craft will circle Earth once 90 minutes. The spaceship , which is proud of having a complete system needed for manned flight , will fly in space for a few days before landing.

China ’s space program is a test of national pride as the country , growing fast after two decades of reforms , seeks a place on the world stage alongside great powers. China aims to become the third nation in the world capable of putting people in space. The former Soviet Union first succeeded in doing so in 1961 , with the United States following the next year. China started its manned flight program in 1992 , the Xinhua reported , adding astronauts had entered the Shenzhou IV to train for missions for the first time. Xinhua quoted Su

Shuangning , a leading official for the manned flight program , as saying Chinese astronauts , all with fighter pilot backgrounds , were absolutely capable of making their first voyage to outer space.

1. In _____, China started its manned flight program.
 - A. 1961
 - B. 1962
 - C. 1992
 - D. 2000
2. Which nations succeeded in carrying people into space ?
 - A. The former Soviet Union and China.
 - B. The United States and China.
 - C. The former Soviet Union and United States.
 - D. Russia.
3. Which is NOT true about “the Shenzhou IV ” according to this report ?
 - A. It 's Chinese fourth unmanned spacecraft launched into space.
 - B. It 's likely to be a final test before launching a manned craft.
 - C. It was successfully launched early Monday morning.
 - D. It was not proud of having a system needed for manned flight.
4. The last sentence implies all of the following but _____.
 - A. The leading official is quite sure that China is capable of sending manned crafts into space.
 - B. The astronauts who will take the first trip into space were picked out among the fighter pilots.
 - C. Chinese astronauts have made several voyages to outer

space before.

D. Xinhua news agency quoted impersonally what Su Shuangning , the leading official for the manned flight program , said.

5. Which is the best title of this passage ?

A. Chinese Fourth Unmanned Spacecraft into Space.

B. A Special Flight.

C. An Unforgettable Flight.

D. The Successful Manned Flight.

Passage F

A few days ago , he was just Colonel (上校) Yang ; few people knew his name or recognized his face. But last Thursday , when he came back to the earth after a 21-hour trip to space , Yang Liwei 's smile was seen across the world above the magic words : "China 's first spaceman".

The 38-year-old astronaut was sent into space at 9 :00 a.m. last Wednesday by China 's Shenzhou V spacecraft , which orbited the earth 14 times. He landed safely at 6 :23 a.m. the next day , making China the third country to successfully send a person into space , after the former Soviet Union and the U.S. .

Yang was satisfied with his job. "I have seen many landing scenes before on video , and I think ours was one of the most successful ," he said on a special plane to Beijing after landing.

Born into an ordinary family in Liaoning Province , he became a pilot in the Chinese Air Force in 1987 , spending 1350