



阅 读 理 解

第一章 阅读理解概述

在大学英语教学与学习中,阅读是第一层次的要求。这也体现在大学英语四级考试中阅读理解部分所占的分值比重上:占总分的 40%。大学英语四级考试中阅读理解部分要求考生在 35 分钟之内读完每篇字数约在 250-300 词的数篇(一般为四篇)短文,并完成共 20 项的选择题。所选的短文体裁和题材都相当广泛。体裁上可以是记叙文、说明文和议论文;题材上可以包括社会生活、科普知识、历史、地理、政治、经济、文学等。这就要求考生不仅具备一定的语言能力,还要拓宽知识面,熟悉各种体裁和题材的文章。

新近审定通过的《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》对学生的阅读量和阅读速度方面的能力提出了更高的要求,具体规定见下表:

		基础阶段		应用提高阶段	
		Band—4	Band—6	SBE	AE
精读	词 数	9,000	10,000	阅 读 量 250,000	15,000
	累计数	30,000	50,000		65,000
泛读	词 数	40,000	50,000	250,000	75,000
	累计数	130,000	225,000		300,000
阅读速度	一般阅读	70wpm	70wpm	70wpm	100wpm
	快速阅读	100wpm	120wpm	100—120wpm	150wpm
技能要求		能读懂语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章。掌握基本的阅读技能。	能读懂语言难度较高的一般性题材的文章。掌握较高的阅读技能。	能较顺利地阅读相关专业有一定难度的原版教科书、参考书及其他参考资料,掌握较高的阅读技能。	能顺利阅读难度较高、内容广泛、体裁多样的文章,掌握高级阅读技能。
备注		快速阅读材料难度应低于课文,生词不超过总词数的 3%			

就四级考试而言，《大学英语四级考试大纲》对阅读理解部分的选材做出了具体规定：

1. 题材广泛。可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普常识等，但是所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解；
2. 体裁多样。可以包括记叙文、说明文、议论文等；
3. 文章的语言难度中等。无法猜测而又影响理解的关键词，如超出教学大纲词汇表四级的范围，要用汉语注明词义。

另外，《大学英语四级考试大纲》也对阅读理解部分所主要测试的能力做了如下规定：

1. 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意；
2. 了解说明主旨和大意的事实细节；
3. 既理解字面的意思，又能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论；
4. 既理解个别句子的意思，也理解上下文的逻辑关系。阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力，既要求准确，又要求有一定的速度。

第二章 阅读理解的方法与技巧

关于在做阅读理解题时，是应先读题目还是先读文章一直有不同的看法。由于两种做法各有利弊，每个人的阅读习惯又有所不同，因此考生可以针对不同的阅读材料采取相应的步骤：

1. 先文后题。即先读文章后做题，遇到自己没有把握的题目时再回头重读有关文字。这种做法的优点在于能先对文章大意和结构有所了解；但其缺点是阅读的目的性不明确，许多事实和细节往往需要再花时间重新到文中去找。

2. 先题后文，带题读文。即先读问题，再带着问题读文章找答案。这种做法的优点在于目的明确，阅读时能有所侧重；缺点在于可能会因为只注意找题目的答案而忽视对文章总体的理解，这样答案有时就会有偏差。

3. 先文后题，再文后题。首先快速通读全文，对文章有个总体印象，然后读问题，再把全文认真读一遍，最后回答问题。这种方法看似浪费时间，实际上却有效地利用了时间，既能从总体上把握全文，又能了解事实细节。

小结：阅读的过程实质上是读者运用自己的语言知识和背景知识对所读语篇进行能动的诠释的过程。在阅读过程中，如果能先从语篇层面上把握了所读材料，就能较顺利地进行接下来的答题。也就是说，读者应首先了解：

文章的话题即这篇文章是说什么的；

文章的体裁是议论文还是说明文，或者是记叙文（四级考试

中较少出现)，并判断文章是开篇就点明主题然后进行分析，还是先以事实细节开篇而后进行归纳总结；

逻辑关系理清段落之间、句子之间的衔接、逻辑关系。

理清了这些语篇层次上的问题之后，后面的选择题也就迎刃而解了。举例说明：

【CET4 2000/12 Passage4

In 1993, New York State ordered stores to charge a deposit on *beverage* (饮料) containers. Within a year, consumers had returned millions of aluminum cans and glass and plastic bottles. Plenty of companies were eager to accept the aluminum and glass as raw materials for new products, but because few could figure out what to do with the plastic, much of it wound up buried in *landfills* (垃圾填埋场). The problem was not limited to New York. Unfortunately, there were too few uses for second-hand plastic.

Today, one out of five plastic soda bottles is *recycled* (回收利用) in the United States. The reason for the change is that now there are dozens of companies across the country buying discarded plastic soda bottles and turning them into fence posts, paint brushes, etc.

As the New York experience shows, recycling involves more than simply separating valuable materials from the rest of the rubbish. A discard remains a discard until somebody figures out how to give it a second life—and until economic arrangements exist to give that second life value. Without adequate markets to absorb materials collected for recycling, throwaways actually depress prices for used materials.

Shrinking landfill space, and rising costs for burying and burning rubbish are forcing local governments to look more closely at recycling. In many areas, the East Coast especially, recycling is already the least

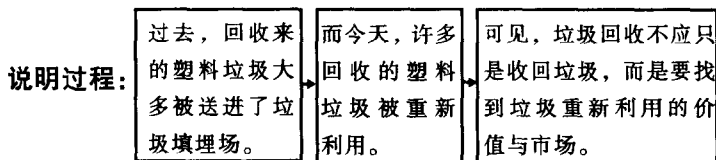
expensive waste-management option.

For every ton of waste recycled, a city avoids paying for its disposal, which, in parts of New York, amounts to savings of more than \$100 per ton. Recycling also stimulates the local economy by creating jobs and trims the pollution control and energy costs of industries that make recycled products by giving them a more refined raw material.

文体：说明文

话题：垃圾的回收与利用

主题：对于以前只能填埋处理的塑料垃圾，现在进行回收利用的好处



结论：无论从经济上，还是在环境保护方面，垃圾的回收利用都有好处

通过这样的分析，整篇文章的结构就清晰了。再看看给出的题目，也就能迎刃而解了。

第三章 阅读理解中的难点、重点和盲点

从语篇上把握文章的话题、主题、体裁及句子之间、段落之间的逻辑关系固然重要，但如果考生对所要求的最基本的词汇、语法结构都没掌握好，又没学会运用一定的阅读方法，再加上对文章中所提及的事物的背景知识知之甚少，阅读理解部分做起来确实会有一定的困难。概括起来看，从所读的材料方面分析，影响学生得分的主要因素是难句、词汇和相应的背景知识。因此，从读者这个角度来说，达到一定的词汇水平，掌握必要的语法知识，有一定的背景知识的储备，并学会使用有效的阅读方法就非常必要。

一、难句与语法

据许多考生反映，阅读中的难句有时会影响他们对整篇文章的理解；而他们所谓的难句往往是指长而结构复杂的句子。针对复杂的长句子，最根本的办法就是利用学过的语法知识，学会分析句子结构，抓出句子的主干。这样，在句子结构清楚之后，再联系上下文看，意思也就容易理解了。例如：There is no denying that students should learn something about how computers work, just as we expect them at least to understand that *the internal-combustion engine* (内燃机) has something to do with burning fuel, expanding gases and *pistons* (活塞) being driven. (CET4 1998/6 Passage2) 本句为整篇文章的第一句话，既复杂又关键。仔细分析，其主干为：there is no denying

that... just as... ; as 后又是一个复杂句，其主干是 we expect them to understand that... 而这个 that 从句中的 burning fuel, expanding gases 和 pistons being driven 又是三个并列的成分，being driven 是修饰 pistons 的。这样，句子结构理清之后，在理解 there is no denying 和 has something to do with 两个习惯用语的基础上，这一句话也就完全弄懂了。

小结：阅读中尤其要注意对段首句的正确理解，因为段首句往往统领全文，有概括性，理解不清常常会影响对下文甚至于整篇文章的理解。而这种理解又主要是通过分析句子结构来达到的，所以，平时的语法常识的积累就显得很重要了。牢固的语法知识能促进阅读的顺利进行，进而提高阅读的速度和效率。

二、词汇

考生首先得具有一定量的词汇储备，否则再简单的文章也会让人不忍卒读。随便打开学生读过的一篇文章，你可以看到这样的情况：

The economy of the **United States** after 1952 was the economy of a **well-fed**, almost fully **employed** people. Despite **occasional alarms**, the country escaped any **postwar depression** and lived in a state of **boom**. An economic survey of the year 1955, a **typical** year of the 1950's, may be typical as **illustrating** the rapid economic growth of the **decade**. The national **output** was valued at 10 percent above that of 1954. The production of **manufacturers** was about 40 percent more than it had averaged in the years immediately following World War II ... As farmers' share of their products **declined**, marketing costs rose ...

在这短短的 100 字中，这位学生很认真地圈出他的所有“生

词”，并且很认真地查出每个词的意思并注在了旁边：**declined** 词他查得的意思是“不肯接受”，**well-fed** 很显然没有查到。可想而知，这样的词汇储备在应付四级考试时是远远不够的。

在阅读中，具体到某一篇文章来说，虽然对某个词（假设不出现在考题中）的理解对整篇文章的理解影响不一定很大，但通过上面这个实例，我们也能看出词汇的学习对于文章的理解是多么重要。有的同学词汇量并不小，但他们仍然把“读不透”归因于自己词汇量不够。原因何在？看过下面的例子，你也许就能找到答案。例如（CET4 2000/12 Passage 4）中的第一句话：In 1993, New York State ordered stores to charge a deposit on beverage containers. 这句话虽然不长，但因为 deposit 一词，理解时不免有些困难。deposit 一般会被理解为“存款，定金，沉积物”，但在此处似乎都讲不通，所以可能会产生理解上的障碍。其实 deposit 在此处表示“押金”，说的是商店在卖出饮料的同时向顾客收取押金，等顾客退回饮料瓶时，再将押金返还顾客。

三、背景知识

除了语言本身所包含的各个方面外，阅读的难点有时还会涉及到背景知识方面的内容。比如下面这个例子：

Rudolf, the Red-Nosed *Reindeer*(驯鹿), has canceled his trip to Britain this Christmas. Instead, Father Christmas will have to rely on horses and *husky*(爱斯基摩的) dogs to pull his sleigh this year in case reindeer spread highly infectious foot-and-mouth disease which has *plagued*(困扰) Britain this year. “Reindeer are *cloven-hoofed* (偶蹄的) and so are capable of catching and carrying foot-and-mouth. For that reason they are subject to the same restrictions as sheep and cattle,” said an Environment Department spokesman. So top London store Ha-

rods will use a horse and carriage this year for Santa Claus. "Rudolf has to stay in Lapland. This is the first time in living memory Harrods has not used a reindeer," a spokesman for the store said. In the southern English port of Southampton, Santa is relying on a team of husky dogs to pull him along. It all came as a bitter blow to the Cairngorm Reindeer Center in Scotland which is home to Britain's only herd of reindeer, numbering some 150. "This has hit us extremely hard," a spokeswoman said.

本例并非来自于 CET4 考试原题，只作为一例来证实背景知识的重要性。对文中 Rudolf, Santa Claus, Lapland 和 foot-and-mouth 的认识程度可能会直接影响到读者对文章内容的理解深度。如果事先就知道 Rudolf 是传说中圣诞老人的一头名叫 Rudolf 的红鼻子驯鹿，Santa Claus 指的是圣诞老人，Lapland 是传说中圣诞老人的家乡，而 foot-and-mouth 指的是“口蹄疫”，那么在阅读中就不会有阅读障碍了。

小结：在日常的学习过程中，要尽可能地了解英语国家的文化；在题材和体裁方面，多读一些社会和科普方面的文章，广泛涉猎天文地理、政治经济各个层面。多储备一些‘背景知识’，有助于阅读理解能力的提高。

四、行之有效的阅读方法

首先，要在平日的学习过程中有意识地培养自己良好的阅读习惯。摒弃逐字逐句地用手或笔‘指读’或在心里‘默读’的不良习惯，逐渐养成按意群、按信息点进行阅读的习惯。

其次，要掌握 skimming(略读)和 scanning(查读)的方法，以提高阅读效率。skimming(略读)就是浏览全文以确定有关文章整体内容的题目的答案；scanning(查读)是带着问题到文中去找具体事

实细节的答案。

再次，要处理好速度与准确度的关系。为了速度而追求速度往往会使人紧张，从而降低准确度；相反，如果为了追求准确而一遍又一遍地阅读同一句话，又会影响速度，挤掉了做其他题的时间。所以，考生应该在平时就养成边读边理解边思考答案的习惯，一遍读完后，应该对文章的梗概和部分细节有所掌握。

最后，遇到生词时不要紧张，能猜的猜一下，猜不出的绕过去，等你把整篇文章读完之后，也许你已经领会了这个生词的意思。

第四章 阅读理解测试剖析

一、阅读材料的题材分析

根据四级考试大纲的规定, 阅读理解的题材应该比较广泛, 可以包括社会生活、科普知识、历史、地理、政治、经济、文学等方面的内容。从历年的考题来看, 学生较为熟悉的社会生活、历史、地理、政治、经济、文学等方面的题材大约占 $3/4$, 而学生较为陌生的涉及到科学知识方面的题材占的比重较小, 约有 $1/4$ 。

二、阅读材料的体裁分析

从历年考题来看, 四级考试中的阅读文章主要是议论文和说明文, 描写、叙述、新闻报道等其他体裁的文章只占极少一部分。掌握不同文体的不同特点有助于考生在做题过程中选择相应的方法和技巧。

1. 议论文体

测试的重点常常是问作者的观点及论证方法是怎样的。这就需要了解议论文的一般论证结构, 以便找到作者的真正论点。一般地说, 议论文的论证方法主要有两种: 演绎法和归纳法。演绎法就是先列出观点, 然后举出事例进行证明; 归纳法就是从具体的事例开始, 通过逐步的论证, 最后得出结论。需要注意的是, 有的议论文夹叙夹议, 两种方法结合使用。尤其要注意那些又像议论文, 又像说明文的阅读材料, 作者的立场观点不是很明显, 这就需要考生更多地把握作者在行文中的细微之处, 以作出正确的判断。请看下面

的例子：

[CET4 2000/6 Passage 2]

While still in its early stages, welfare reform has already been judged a great success in many states—at least in getting people off welfare. It's estimated that more than 2 million people have left the rolls since 1994.

In the past four years, welfare rolls in Athens County have been cut in half. But 70 percent of the people who left in the past two years took jobs that paid less than \$6 an hour. The result: The Athens County poverty rate still remains at more than 30 percent—twice the national average.

For *advocates* (代言人) for the poor, that's an indication much more needs to be done.

"More people are getting jobs, but it's not making their lives any better," says Kathy Lairn, a policy analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington.

A center analysis of US Census data nationwide found that between 1995 and 1996, a greater percentage of single, female-headed households were earning money on their own, but that average income for these households actually went down.

But for many, the fact that poor people are able to support themselves almost as well without government aid as they did with it is in itself a huge victory. "Welfare was a poison. It was a *toxin* (毒素) that was poisoning the family," says Robert Rector, a welfare-reform policy analyst. "The reform is changing the moral climate in low-income communities. It's beginning to rebuild the work *ethic* (道德观), which is much more important."

Mr. Rector and others argued that once “the habit of dependency is cracked,” then the country can make other policy changes aimed at improving living standards.

再看接下来的测试题：

- ◆ From the passage, it can be seen that the author _____.
A) is over enthusiastic about the success of welfare reform
B) believes the reform has reduced the government's burden
C) insists that welfare reform is doing little good for the poor
D) considers welfare reform to be fundamentally successful

分析：这实际上是在问作者的立场观点，需要从总体上考虑。文章开头便亮出了观点：尽管还处于初级阶段，福利改革已被认为在许多州取得了巨大成功。但接下来文中又提到在 Athens 县，刚刚脱离福利救济的人中有 70% 工作报酬极低，而且这儿的贫困率仍是全国平均水平的两倍，以及后文的“更多的人有了工作，但他们的生活并没有丝毫改善”等等，这不禁让读者觉得难道作者是在否定福利改革吗？然而，在接下来的两段里，作者又引用他人的话证实了自己的观点：“穷人能不靠救济养活自己，而且生活得几乎和过去靠政府救济时一样好，这一事实本身就是一个巨大的胜利”；这种依赖性被打破之后，才能制定其他的政策，提高人们的生活水平”。总体上看，作者还是对福利改革持基本肯定的态度。这样，测试题的答案就应该是 D) 而不是 C)。

2. 说明文体

其论述结构常常跟议论文相似，也用演绎和归纳的说明方法。测试的重点在被说明对象的特点等细节上，很少掺杂个人的立场。如：

【CET4 1999/6 Passage 2】

The rise of *multinational corporations* (跨国公司), global marketing, new communications technologies, and shrinking cultural differences have led to an unparalleled increase in global public relations or PR.

Surprisingly, since modern PR was largely an American invention, the U. S. leadership in public relations is being threatened by PR efforts in other countries. Ten years ago, for example, the world's top five public relations agencies were American-owned. In 1991, only one was. The British in particular are becoming more sophisticated and creative. A recent survey found that more than half of all British companies include PR as part of their *corporate* (公司的) planning activities, compared to about one-third of U. S. companies. It may not be long before London replaces New York as the capital of PR.

Why is American lagging behind in the global PR race? First, Americans as a whole tend to be fairly provincial and take more of an interest in local affairs. Knowledge of world geography, for example, has never been strong in this country. Secondly, Americans lag behind their European and Asian *counterparts* (相对应的人) in knowing a second language. Less than 5 percent of Burson-Marshall's U. S. employees know two languages. Ogilvy and Mather has about the same percentage. Conversely, some European firms have half or more of their employees fluent in a second language. Finally, people involved in PR abroad tend to keep a closer eye on international affairs. In the financial PR area, for instance, most Americans read the *Wall Street Journal*. Overseas, their counterparts read the *Journal* as well as the *Financial Times of London* and *The Economist*, publications not often

read in this country .

Perhaps the PR industry might take a lesson from Ted Turner of CNN (Cable News Network). Turner recently announced that the word “foreign” would no longer be used on CNN news broadcasts. According to Turner, global communications have made the nations of the world so interdependent that there is no longer any such thing as foreign .

请看下面的测试题：

- ◆ **According to the passage, U. S. leadership in public relations is being threatened because of ____.**
 - A) an unparalleled increase in the number of public relations companies
 - B) shrinking cultural differences and new communications technologies
 - C) the decreasing number of multinational corporations in the U. S.
 - D) increased efforts of other countries in public relations
- ◆ **London could soon replace New York as the center of PR because ____.**
 - A) British companies are more ambitious than U. S. companies
 - B) British companies place more importance on PR than U. S. companies
 - C) British companies are heavily involved in planning activities
 - D) Four of the world's top public relations agencies are British-owned