

英语阅读水平自测

赵静鹏 萧家琛 主编

北 京 出 版 社

说 明

本书由清华大学外语系赵静鹏、萧家琛教授主编，可用作阅读补充教材，也可作为大学英语测试（CET）或其他测试的备考用书。全书侧重阅读理解及相应技能训练，选材多为近期英美书刊原文，语言纯正可靠，题材面宽，文体多样，练习形式新颖，并附有答案。对象为大学英语理、工、文科1—6级应考学生或具有相应水准的自学者。

前 言

本书原意是为清华大学《新英语教程·英语阅读》1—4册编写一本综合阅读练习册，选编过程中在题材涉及面及难易跨度等方面都有所扩展，最后定型为大学英语(College English 简称 CE)通用的阅读参考书。

书中素材精选自几十本近期英美书刊，语言纯正可靠，题材广泛，文体多样。选文包括报刊时文、科技小品、名家原著和文化背景及人物简介等，包容了现代英、美语中大量而丰富的习语、句型和文体格式，内容富有知识性和趣味性，语言上具有针对性和可读性。

语言材料的组织、编排由浅入深，从易到难，兼顾句子水平及语篇水平的训练，着重培养对隐含意义的理解能力，并配有适量的练习材料。

全书选材难易跨度较大，有供大学英语教学大纲 CE 1—4 级水平使用的材料，也有一部分供 CE 5—6 级使用的材料。注释以 CE 4 为参照标准进行部分选注，一般采用英文注释以有助于理解的准确性，并能巩固已掌握的词汇和扩大词汇量。但对那些用英文注解在理解上会造成困难的词则采用双解或汉语注释，力求作到重点突出，简单明了。

本书练习汇总了国内外流行而实用的有代表性的多种练习形式，有一般的文后练习，也有文前、文中或分段编排的练习。除常见的选择、填空、思考问题等之外，还选编有一定量的表格、图解式及供培养各种单项阅读技能的练习。全部练习

突出了阅读精确理解能力和各种阅读技能的训练。除了阅读材料及其练习以外，本书为帮助读者克服在错误识辨、填空及综合填空等练习形式中遇到的困难，特辟专栏，从近期英美教材中收集了一些较为精辟而有针对性的补充练习题，以便加强这方面的训练。

本书既可用作大学英语正式阅读教材的补充，也可作为练习册或准备各级分级测试和其他测试的备考参考书，适用于大学英语 CE 1—6 各级水平的学生及具有一定基础的自学人员。

参加本书单句编写的有清华大学外语系的徐君儒、戴雅民、萧家琛、赵静鹏；参加段落、文章及 Cloze 等部分编写的有：徐君儒、萧家琛、赵静鹏，全书主编及审订工作由萧家琛、赵静鹏负责完成。由于时间和水平所限，难免有疏漏不当之处，敬请批评、指正。

编者

CONTENTS

READING COMPREHENSION

I. Short Statements	1
II. Passages and Essays	21
Part A	
No. 1—37	21
Part B	
No. 38—67	128
Part C	
No. 68—89	241
Part D	
No. 90—104	424

ADDITIONAL EXERCISES

I. Finding Out Mistakes	550
II. Cloze Tests	593
Multiple Choice Cloze	593
No. 1—10	
One Word Cloze	618
No. 1—17	
III. Filling in the Blanks	647
No. 1—17	

READING COMPREHENSION

I. SHORT STATEMENTS

1. If anything can go wrong, it will.
 - A. Things will go wrong, better if you think positive.
 - B. With most things, there's a 50-50 chance that will be well.
 - C. Difficulties will occur, whether we expect them or not.
 - D. We have every reason to be optimistic about the future.
2. Your story of the incident would be incredible if I had not witnessed it myself.
 - A. In this case, seeing was believing.
 - B. I can't believe your story of what happened.
 - C. It's funny how the same incident can seem totally different to two different witnesses.
 - D. I believe you because you have a good reputation.
3. Reading for ideas instead of words will increase reading rate.
 - A. It is more difficult to grasp ideas than to merely recognize words.

- B. How well one understands ideas in reading materials is often related to how well one understands the vocabulary used in the materials.
 - C. Reading rate is increased by reacting to ideas not single words.
 - D. The rate of understanding ideas can be dependent on the rate of reading.
4. A majority of the women in the U.S. who do so because of real economic need, not because they want more spending money for luxuries.
- A. Because of rising inflation economic needs dictate that more women work now than ever before.
 - B. Too many American women neglect their homes and work for luxuries their husbands can't buy them.
 - C. Although it is generally believed that most American women work for extra money, the majority work out of financial need.
 - D. Most wages earned by women are spent for household needs, whereas wages earned by men are spent for largely monthly bills.
5. There is a strong correlation in reading between concentration and comprehension.
- A. Reading rapidly improves both comprehension and concentration.
 - B. Many corporations have encouraged executives

to learn speed reading.

- C. Good readers choose a reading environment without distracting noise and sights.
 - D. Ability to concentrate in reading is closely to understanding what is read.
6. It is not always wise to buy tires at "sale" prices.
- A. You should wait until a special sale before buying your tires.
 - B. Buying tires at special sales can be risky.
 - C. Nobody gets good tire buys at sales.
 - D. Tires "on sale" are guaranteed to be good buys.
7. Fast readers usually understand more than slow readers because fast readers are more alert and aggressive.
- A. Fast reading is better than slow reading because of time saved.
 - B. Readers who plod along half asleep don't get as much out of their reading as fast readers do.
 - C. Read different materials at different speeds.
 - D. Slow readers usually understand more than fast readers because slow readers are more careful.
8. Slow readers often lose the train of thought because of the length of time taken to get through a reading passage.
- A. The longer it takes to read a paragraph, the more discouraged a reader gets.

- B. Fast readers can put ideas together more efficiently because they can get through a passage so quickly they don't lose their thought patterns.
 - C. Few people read as fast as they can because they don't realize that the mind is quicker than the eye.
 - D. It's much easier to read the newspaper fast than it is to read a history text.
9. People who score high on vocabulary tests are usually successful in school and work.
- A. People who know a lot of words can usually express themselves well.
 - B. Knowledge of a large variety of words improves communication.
 - C. It's difficult to understand complex ideas without knowing the words used to express those ideas.
 - D. A large vocabulary often means better grades in school and more money at work.
10. A poor listener will often think about what he will say next instead of listening carefully to what the other person is saying.
- A. Listeners will hear more if they paid attention to the speaker instead of thinking about their turn to speak.
 - B. Not paying attention while someone is talking is impolite.

- C. Poor listening habits are caused by a lack of interest in the subject being discussed.
 - D. If you look as if you are listening, there is less need to actually pay attention to the speaker.
11. There are twenty-six letters in the English alphabet, but these stand for over forty different sounds.
- A. Any letter in the English language, whether it is a vowel or a consonant, will make more than one sound.
 - B. There are almost twice as many sounds in the English language as there are letters.
 - C. Each of the twenty-six letters in our language makes at least two sounds.
 - D. The more than forty different letters in the English alphabet have only twenty-six sounds.
12. Several million Americans don't know their exact date of birth.
- A. Many people throughout the world can't remember when they were born.
 - B. Millions of Americans celebrate their birthday on the wrong date.
 - C. Their date of birth can't be exactly pinpointed by millions of people born in America.
 - D. Unlike Europeans, Americans place less emphasis on birthdays.

13. No man is an island.
- A. Everybody's life affects another person's in some way.
 - B. It's not necessary that I be aware of your existence.
 - C. Still waters run deep.
 - D. We can learn to ignore our surroundings.
14. If you want something done, ask a busy person.
- A. Busy people are often too frantic to accomplish anything.
 - B. People who are busy can't say no.
 - C. Lazy people don't value hard work.
 - D. The person most likely to finish an extra task is the person who is already able to handle a lot of jobs.
15. Our life is frittered away by details.
- A. We should not spend our valuable time regretting past mistakes.
 - B. Insignificant matters take up so much of our time that our lives seem to go by without meaning.
 - C. A man who spends his time wisely achieves more.
 - D. Advance planning saves much wasted time.
16. Both heredity and environment influence students' academic success.
- A. Where students live has more influence on them

than who their parents are.

- B. Genetic characteristics and living conditions are both factors influencing students success in school.
 - C. Students' parentage is more important than environment in scholastic progress.
 - D. Atmospheric conditions affect students' ability to study.
17. Watch your step when your turn comes to have an interview with the general manager.
- A. When you are asked to see the general manager, be sure not to step into his office without his permission.
 - B. Watch the steps when you go upstairs to see the general manager's office for an interview with him.
 - C. Be sure to be careful when it is your turn to go to the general manager at his office.
 - D. Keep in step with your manager, especially when he has an interview with you.
18. Since no additional fund is available, the extension of the building is out of the question.
- A. The extension of the building is impossible because we are unable to get extra fund for the purpose.
 - B. There is some problem about the extension of the building owing to lack of fund.

- C. Since no additional fund is available, we have to solve the problem regarding the extension of the building with our own resources.
 - D. We can undertake the extension of the building even without additional fund. It is no problem at all.
19. All along he has been striving not to fall short of his parents' expectations.
- A. He has been trying hard all the time to live up to what his parents expect of him.
 - B. His parents have been expecting him to work hard.
 - C. All the time he has been trying hard to balance himself so as not to fall down as his parents thought he would.
 - D. All the time, as his parents expect him to do, he has been trying hard to save and not to be short of money.
20. The various canals which drain away the excessive water have turned this piece of land into a highly productive agricultural area.
- A. The canals have been used to water the land.
 - B. The canals have been used to raise agricultural production.
 - C. Excessive water has been helpful to agricultural production.
 - D. Excessive water has prevented this piece of land

from raising its agricultural production.

21. World War II introduced new battles and new boundaries in countries where old battles had raged (猛烈进行) intermittently for centuries. The boundaries between countries in Europe have changed many times, and it is unlikely that they will never change again. History shows that aggressively dangerous political leaders are never in short supply despite efforts of such organizations as the League of Nations and the United Nations which have worked as effectively as they can to maintain peace.

A. Aggressive political leaders are expected to be controlled by such bodies as the United Nations.

B. Further wars in Europe are always possible.

C. The boundaries of Europe have been permanently established.

D. European countries continually fight.

22. Animal populations are governed by food supplies, the number of animals of a particular type that are alive at a given time being just the number that can be supported with the food supply available at that time. Let the food supply increase, and the number of animals increases. Let the food supply decrease, and the number of animals decreases, starvation being

the controlling factor.

- A. Increased food supply will result in more animals.
 - B. Starvation limits the size of animal population.
 - C. Decreased food supply will result in fewer animals.
 - D. The sex of an animal population depends upon the food available.
23. All acts have consequences. Given this fact, we may wish to play it safe by never doing anything.

The speaker implies that

- A. we may prefer to live safely.
 - B. all facts have consequences.
 - C. doing nothing has lesser consequences.
 - D. not doing anything is not an act.
24. We have nothing to fear but fear itself? Nonsense. Even the bravest of us may become terrified in the face of any number of gravely threatening situations.

To accept this author's argument, we must agree that becoming afraid is

- A. an occasional trait of the fearless.
- B. a common and acceptable human quality.
- C. nonsense.
- D. allowable only in gravely threatening situations.

25. The older we get, the less sleep we should desire.
This is because our advanced knowledge and capabilities are most enjoyable when used; therefore, "mindless" sleep becomes a waste of time.
The author of this statement assumes that
- A. less sleep is desirable.
 - B. sleep advances knowledge and capabilities.
 - C. knowledge and capabilities naturally improve with age.
 - D. sleep is only for the young.
26. It must not be forgotten that the willingness with which a person will move from the house where he has lived all his life and settle in an old people's home is an important factor in planning for the aged.
What is an important factor?
- A. The house where he has lived all his life.
 - B. A person.
 - C. The willingness with which a person will move.
 - D. An old people's home.
27. The average home library has a number of old favorite books, many unread books, and a few very useful books. The most useful one of all—besides the dictionary—is likely to be a world almanac. A good almanac includes a wealth of information—biographical, historical, and geographical. Records of all sorts—the highest, the

lowest, the longest, and the biggest—are all included in the almanac.

The main idea is that

- A. everyone should have a home library.
 - B. an almanac includes important information.
 - C. the almanac is a useful reference book.
 - D. the dictionary is not the most useful book.
28. A slide show may bring back pleasant memories of a trip for the overseas traveler, but friends and relatives are often bored with the pictures. Cousin Tillie cannot understand why traveling is so much fun. She has never been more than a hundred miles from home. The colorful costumes of a folk-dance festival are boring to Mr. Haplin because the slide is a blur of red and blue. Mrs. Anderson does not enjoy the slides of foreign national monuments. The slides only remind her that she does not have enough money to go anywhere.

The main idea of this paragraph is that

- A. slide shows are interesting and fun.
 - B. relatives and friends often do not enjoy pictures of a trip even though the traveler does.
 - C. folk-dance festivals are colorful, and the costumes are easy to take pictures of.
 - D. people do not enjoy pictures of buildings.
29. Spiders, those eight-legged bugs that many peo-