

Active English Reading
for
College Students

当代大学英语 阅读教程

◎主编 施发敏

上



高等教育出版社
Higher Education Press

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前言

教育部于2007年颁布了修订后的《大学英语教学要求》,明确了大学英语教学的目标,强调培养学生的英语交际能力,提高综合应用语言的能力。

众所周知,语言文化知识的获取离不开真实的语言学习环境,中国学生在本土学习英语,要想创建真实的语言环境并非易事,而阅读是语言和文化学习的重要手段和途径。通过阅读,学生可获取大量的语言知识,奠定坚实的语言基础,从而提高英语综合应用能力。

在改革后的全国大学英语四、六级考试方案中,阅读理解分为仔细阅读和快速阅读,仔细阅读又分为多项选择和选词填空。阅读能力的测试题型多样,这就对学生的阅读能力提出了更高的要求。

为全面实施《大学英语教学要求》,推行大学英语教学改革,提高学生综合文化素养,我们特地编写了《当代大学英语阅读教程》(Active English Reading for College Students)。该教程的内容经过严格的筛选和科学的设计,不但有利于培养学生的专项语言能力,而且会大幅度提升学生的整体语言水平。具体而言,本书有以下特点。

按主题设计单元,满足个性化需求

本教程分上、下两册。内容新颖、材料真实、题材广泛,涉及工业、农业、文学、医学、艺术、历史、科学、教育、能源、环境、社会等48个主题,融知识性、趣味性和可读性于一体。

本教程按主题设计单元,可满足学生不同的阅读需求,培养并激发其阅读兴趣。学生既可以根据自己的具体学习情况和兴趣爱好进行选择性的阅读,拓展知识的深度和广度;还可以循序渐进,按本教程的内容安排,系统地进行学习。

阅读本教程,学生可感知英语语言的魅力,品味英语国家的文化、历史、地理、风土人情和生活方式等,拓宽知识视野,提高文化素养。本教程可作为一部微型的百科全书,为读者提供不同领域的背景知识,而这种百科全书的知识正是提高交际能力所必需。

与改革后的大学英语四、六级考试要求及形式一致

本教程按照改革后的大学英语四、六级考试阅读理解和完型填空部分的测试内容、题型和时间分配进行编排。

本教程既可由教师在课堂上讲解,也可由学生自学。通过学习,学生可逐步掌握英语阅读



技巧,提高获取信息的能力。同时,文章的难易程度和练习形式的编排,均力求与改革后的四、六级考试的要求保持一致,从而达到《大学英语教学要求》所规定的“一般要求”和“较高要求”的教学目标。

本教程不仅有利于提高大学生的英语阅读能力,对研究生、出国留学学生及广大英语爱好者也同样具有一定的参考价值。

在本教程的编写过程中,我们参阅了大量图书资料和网上资料,特向这些资料的作者、编者表示衷心的感谢。同时,我们还得到了高等教育出版社的大力支持,对此我们深表谢意。

由于编者水平有限,难免有错误与疏漏之处,恳请广大读者及同行专家不吝赐教。

2008年10月

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Unit 1

University Life

UNIVERSITY LIFE is a new starting point for every one, which leads to one's success. Russell once wrote an essay starting with "Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and the unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind". Students in universities should stick to these three passions as Russell did, show great love and respects to others and at the same time have a strong desire to take in much knowledge, which will lay a solid basis for their prosperous future.

Part I Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning) (15 minutes)

Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions. For questions 1 ~ 7, mark

Y(for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N(for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG(for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8 ~ 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

University Life

For many students, this time of the year represents the *transition* (过渡) from high school to college or university. Depending on an individual student, this may also turn out to be the stepping stone to a career path.

At the same time, for some of us, this may be the time to leave *cozy* (舒服的) living under the roofs of our parents' homes and say hello to life in the residence or a rented room. Still, for others, this may be a time to discover new horizons while still in the comforts of home. Whatever the living situation, college campus life serves as a time to add experience to our lives.

College life different from high school life

You will find college life is different from your previous school environment. Many of us can



be easily *overwhelmed* (击败) by the details of running a well-balanced life. While some of us may have the know-how, I suspect there are more of us who can benefit from learning about the experiences of others who have walked the college halls before you.

As important as academic success is, this is the time for building and sharpening other equally important yet *intangible* (难以形容的) skills like the ability to survive. In other words, campus life is going to teach you the basics in one's life and it can work both for you and against you. It is up to the individual to turn it to his or her advantage.

Survival in the real world

These skills are not necessarily inborn. Matt Sinclair, finance vice-president of the Students' Administrative Council, pointed out the first year as a critical time for students to blend into what he referred to as "the melting pot" of the college's community.

"The first year on campus is always absolutely critical. If it clicks, the second and the third year click as well. This does not happen to everyone. You see that all the time. In fact, I was like that the first year I was here. I came to school for my classes, then I went home. I didn't participate in any of the events at the college. I didn't do anything. That first year was just miserable. That was because of my attitude, which was, leave me alone, I just want to focus on my studies," said Sinclair.

While Sinclair understands a new student's need to *take stock of* (鉴定) "the lay of the land", so to speak, he recommends the student not take too long doing that. The key to having fun on campus, he said, lies in a student having an open mind and a willing attitude.

The only regret in life: risks that you don't take

"If you don't take the chance and reach out to others, then you'll never know what you are missing out on. I don't want to look back years later at my time at the college with regrets and thinking, I wish I had done that in college," said Sinclair.

Many students come to him on a daily basis. Among all the issues they bring, stress management appears on the top, he said. He takes note of the fact that many students are away from their homes and familiar network of support and can fall victim to severe depression and stress.

"The main issues among students are love life, family, finances, academics, breaking up with someone, loss of support system, sexuality, alcohol, stress, medical complications and so on. There is no end to what situations students can get themselves into. They need to seek advice for these problems and sort out them while they are still manageable," said Blakley.

There are others, he said, who are resistant to building a support group inside the college community. "Because they have their network of friends, family and relatives outside of the college, new students sometimes forget they have a whole set of new resources, a whole new support group once they blend into the college community. These kinds of students just come for their classes and they leave as soon as they are done," said Blakley.

Blakley's advice to students under stress is to talk it over with someone. It could be your friends, your professors, your roommate, but you have to take the *initiative* (主动).

College life demands a lot of your mind, and you have to make sure your body keeps up. Do your exercises. Keep that fresh supply of oxygen going to your brain. Brisk walks and jogging are two of your cheapest choices. Better still, take advantage of the gym inside the college. You are paying for it, so you might as well spend some time there while you're at it.

As well as the academic courses you have committed yourself to, you will have to commit both time and energy to practicing your new skills. Years after you graduate you want to remember all those good memories of the two or three years of your life at the college.

Beginning college is exciting. New ideas are to explore, new challenges are to be met and many decisions need to be made. Your future begins here.

Tips for survival on campus

1) Plan well: There are so many new things to do at a new college or university, social and academic. Give yourself time to make new friends and become familiar with the campus, but don't forget why you are there. Try to manage your time wisely.

2) If you don't have a "system" for planning your time now (like a day timer, a computer date book, a selection of post-it notes on your wall), get one. Most of all, don't rely on your memory.

3) Don't miss the guidelines, restrictions, rules and regulations of all kinds, which can usually be found in your student handbook. Consider them well-balanced food for thought. What dates are important? What pieces of paper need to be handed in and when? What can/can't you do in class? What can/can't you do in your student residence? Who has authority for what? What do you need to complete to graduate?

4) Write the word STUDY on the walls of your bedroom, bathroom, and maybe it will help to write it on a piece of paper and stick it on the telephone, TV and the kitchen table. Consider this — you are paying thousands of dollars for your courses. You pay every time you have to repeat or replace a course.



Questions:

1. Whatever the living situation in a college, college campus life serves as a time to add experience to our lives.
2. Life on campus can work both for and against you, which depends on you to turn it to your advantage.
3. The first year on campus is not so important for a student to blend into the college's community.
4. The key to having fun on campus lies in a student having an open mind and a willing attitude.

5. Many students fall victim to severe depression and stress in college because they feel less motivated.
6. Blakley's advice to students under stress is to talk it over with someone. Maybe your friends, your professors, your roommate or a stranger, but you have to take the initiative.
7. College life demands a lot of your mind and a lot of study, so you have to make sure your body keeps up.
8. As well as the academic courses you have committed yourself to, you will have to commit _____ to practicing your new skills.
9. Give yourself time to make new friends and _____, but don't forget why you are there.
10. Don't miss _____ of all kinds, which can usually be found in your student handbook.

Part II Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth) (25 minutes)

Section A

Direction: In this section, there is a passage with 10 blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

A College Student as an Idealist

Engineering students are 11 to be examples of practicality and rationality, but when it comes to my college education I am an idealist and a fool. In high school I wanted to be an electrical engineer and, of 12, any sensible student with my aims would have chosen a college with a large engineering department, famous 13 and lots of good labs and research equipment. But that's not what I did.

I chose to study engineering at a small *liberal arts* (文科) university that doesn't even 14 a major in electrical engineering. Obviously, this was not a practical choice; I came here for more noble reasons. I wanted a broad education that would provide me 15 flexibility and a value system to guide me in my career. I wanted to open my eyes and 16 my vision by interacting with people who weren't studying science or engineering. My parents, teachers and other adults praised me for such a sensible choice. They told me I was wise and mature beyond my 18 years, and I believed them.

I 17 off to college sure I was going to have an advantage 18 those students who went to big engineering "factories" where they didn't care if you had values or were flexible. I was going