

大学英语 阅读教程

总主编：吴松江 主编：檀东星

2

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

大学英语 阅读教程 2

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前 言

教育部于 2004 年颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求（试行）》，取代原来的《大学英语教学大纲》。《大学英语课程教学要求（试行）》强调贯彻分类指导、因材施教的原则，对学生运用英语的能力提出三个层次的要求：即“一般要求”、“较高要求”和“更高要求”。

大学英语课程已有多套由教育部推荐使用、由全国著名外语类教材出版社出版的教材，这些教材虽然起点不同，难易不同，各有特色，但都是根据原《大学英语教学大纲》的要求编写的，选材围绕共同的话题。据调查，目前各高校都按分类指导、因材施教的原则，选用两套甚至三套不同难度的大学英语教材。为了适应新的形势，并配合其他教材的使用效果，我们编写了这套大学英语阅读教程系列教材。这套教材贯彻了《大学英语课程教学要求（试行）》的指导思想，具有下列特色：

1. 针对现在普遍使用的各套教材的共同或相近的话题遴选各单元的阅读材料，提高所使用教材中语料的复现率，加深学生对所学教材的理解，并更好地掌握和巩固所学的各种语料，从而具有较广泛的适应性。
2. 根据大学教育宽基础、文理渗透、素质培养的原则，选文题材广泛，体裁多样，兼顾社会科学和自然科学知识，达到文、理、工、农、医各科的通用性，适合各级各类院校使用；同时，选文篇幅适度，由浅入深，循序渐进地培养学生的阅读技能，扩大知识面，增强学生运用英语的能力，提高综合素质。同时帮助提高学生 CET-4 的应试能力。使用对象：各类高校非英语专业学生和有一定英语基础的英语学习者。
3. 博采众长，借鉴国内外先进的、可以为我所用的理论、研究成果与方法，摒弃只注重词汇、语法难点注解、课文译文、练习答案的编写套路，而从学习方法入手，对学生进行导读，具体做法如下：
 - 1) 全系列共 3 册，每册 12 单元。本册每个单元有：（1）阅读技能讲座（Reading Skills），讲座简明扼要，重点突出，例题与讲解相结合，学与练相结合；（2）专题阅读（Reading Practice）从词、句的理解过渡到篇章的理解，从培养学生的辨别能力到培养学生的归纳、判断和推理能力；（3）快速阅读（Fast Reading）信息量大，难易适中，用以训练、提高学生阅读速度。
 - 2) 阅读理解题的设计把全局性问题与细节性问题结合起来，形式多样。
 - 3) 每个单元所选的 4 篇文章围绕同一个话题编写，如：“校园生活”、“人与

自然”、“计算机与互联网”、“跨文化交际”等，使学生通过阅读这些文章，能对一个话题从不同的角度理解，从而扩大知识面。

4) 每单元所配的阅读文章，由教师或学生根据具体情况决定使用方法，既可用作快读、泛读，也可供基础较好的学生选为增加的精读课文。用于检测理解能力、巩固学习成果的练习形式多样，数量较多，学生可根据具体情况选择使用。

5) 为了使教材设计生动活泼，本教材中插入了图片，这些图片都与话题相关。版面设计新颖明快、意境深邃，符合年轻人的性格与视觉心理。

本套教材本着“授之以鱼，不如授之以渔”的思想，综合了国外目前流行的教材、教参、教辅的编写思想与方法，精心归纳总结了 24 种阅读技巧和 36 个话题，并将之分解到各册各单元，理论与实践相结合，有效地培养学生自主学习英语的能力和接受英语新语料、学以致用英语的综合运用能力。

本套教材由十几所高校几十位长期从事大学英语教学、谙熟各种大学英语教材、具有丰富的大学英语教学经验的教师通力协作，共同编写。教材的编写是一项艰苦复杂的科研工作，既耗时又费力，其结果却常常难尽人意。本套教材能否为广大师生接受，并取得预期的教学效果，还有待教学实践的检验，有待自身的不断完善。在此，我们恳请专家学者和广大师生多提宝贵意见，使之不断充实、完善，与时俱进，从而更好地为大学英语教学服务。

吴松江

福州大学外国语学院

2006 年 10 月

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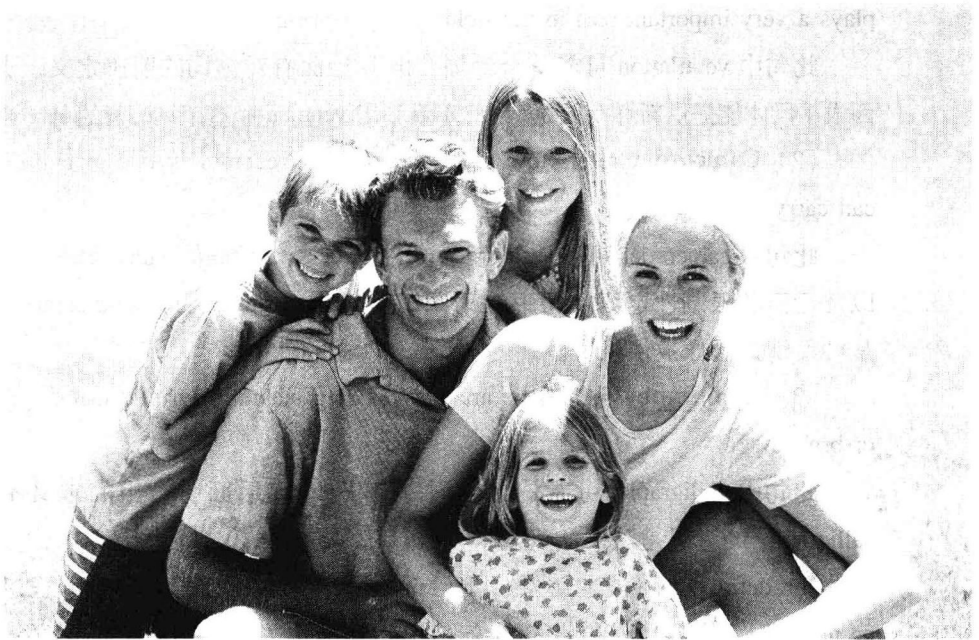
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Unit 1

Family



- *Is an Only Child a Lonely Child?*
- *Changing Roles: Stay-at-Home Dads*
- *A Father's Place Is at Home*
- *Housework or Your Life*

Part I Reading Skills

利用定义猜测词义 (Inference Through Definition)

根据上下文的定义来猜测生词词义是阅读时最常见、最直接的一种猜词方法。

1. 以 to be (是), mean (意指), refer to (指的是) 等标识语为线索猜测词义。如:

(1) **Ventilation**, as you know, is a system or means of providing fresh air. It plays a very important part in the field of engineering.

此句中 ventilation 可能是个生词, 但 is 后面有对该词的明确定义。是什么东西或手段才能提供新鲜空气呢? 因此不难猜出 ventilation 这个词的意思是“通风”。

(2) **Camcorder** refers to a video camera and recorder in one machine, that you can carry around.

此句中 camcorder 可能是个生词, 但从 refers to 后面的 video camera、recorder 以及后面非限制性定语从句中的动词短语 carry around 可以得知 camcorder 指的是“便携式摄像放像机”。

(3) **Calligraphy** means the art of producing beautiful writing using special pens or brushes.

此句中 calligraphy 可能是个生词, 但从 mean 后面所给出的定义不难猜出 calligraphy 的意思是“书法(艺术)”。

2. 以 be defined as (被定义为), be known as (被称为), be called (被称为), be termed (被定义为) 和 i.e. (也就是说) 等结构为线索猜测生词词义。在这些结构中, 主语与主语补足语相互提供生词的词义, 读者可以通过已知部分推断出未知部分的意思来。如:

(1) A person or thing beyond comparison, a model of excellence, is known as a **paragon**.

在此句中, paragon 一词的词义由句子的主语给提供出来了。“无与伦比的人或物”, 即“优秀的典范”, 就是“模范、优秀的人或物”。很明显, be known as 前面的主语给出了后面 paragon 的词义。

(2) A vehicle that a car can pull and in which people can live and sleep when they are on holiday is called **caravan**.

在此句中, caravan 一词的词义由句子的主语及修饰主语的定语从句给提供出来了。谓语 be called 说明了 caravan 与前面主语之间的关系, 从中可以得出 caravan 的词义为“(可供食宿的)旅行拖车”。

(3) The period of **adolescence**, i.e. the period between childhood and adulthood,

may be long or short, depending on social expectations and on society's definition as to what constitutes maturity and adulthood.

在这个句子中, i.e. 后面的短语是对 adolescence 的定义, 从定义不难猜出 adolescence 的意思是“青少年时期”。



Exercise I

Figure out the meaning of the underlined words by using the above reading techniques and then translate them into Chinese.

1. Lounge refers to a small comfortable public room in a hotel or other buildings used by many people.

lounge: _____

2. Self-made person refers to a person who, with neither money nor family influence, fights his or her way to the top of the society.

self-made: _____

3. To conserve is to save and protect, to leave what we ourselves enjoy in such good condition that others may also share the enjoyment.

conserve: _____

4. The force that causes something to fall to the ground or to be attracted to another planet is defined as gravity.

gravity: _____

5. A group of seven singers or musicians who perform together is called septet.

septet: _____

6. Tadpole refers to a small creature that has a long tail and lives in water and finally grows into a frog.

tadpole: _____

7. A pharmacy is a shop or a part of a shop in which medicines are prepared and sold.

pharmacy: _____

Part II Reading Practice

Passage 1

Is an Only Child a Lonely Child?

1 This month in *Family Planning*^① magazine, child psychologist Dr. Ethan Wood answers a question from Andrea Gonzales who writes:

2 **Q: Dear Dr. Wood,**

My husband and I are facing a **dilemma**, namely^② the issue of whether to have a second child—we already have one healthy, happy five-year-old daughter. Both of us have demanding^③ jobs, and limited time and financial resources, but we're also very keen to ensure that our only child does not become a lonely child. So, what are the **pros and cons** of having a second child?

3 **A: Dear Andrea,**

This is one of the most difficult issues that parents nowadays face. As you point out, a concern that is often heard with regard to single children is whether one child necessarily means a lonely child. Many single-child parents feel a stigma^④ associated with their decision to have only one child. There are no other children in the family for the child to associate with, and this may lead to the child feeling lonely at times, especially during vacations.

4 Another common argument against having just one child is that an only child may be more spoiled than one with **siblings**. Many people believe that a single child will not have learned to negotiate with others, and respect the give-and-take involved in many relationships. Some think this may leave the child less capable of interacting well with people his or her own age than one who has been raised with siblings.

5 Despite these arguments, the number of parents choosing to have only one child is increasing in many parts of the world. In the US, for example, 14 percent of women between 18 and 34 plan to have just one child, and this percentage is expected to rise. The same trend can be seen in the UK. According to the Family Policy Studies Center^⑤, the overall number of British children being born each year has declined. In Japan, the average number of children born per family had declined to 1.42 by 1996, while latest statistics cite less than one child. This has led to government concerns about

supporting an increasing population of elderly people in the future; it is predicted that, by 2020, a third of the population in Japan will be aged 65 or over.

6 For some single-child parents, particularly those with busy careers, the pressures of devoting time and energy to a second child can seem too overwhelming, resulting in them electing to^⑥ have no more children. For other parents, the financial burden of having a second child may be the prime consideration. According to government surveys, many couples in Japan choose not to have large families as the cost of supporting a child up to the age of 18 is estimated to be around 20 million yen, equivalent to^⑦ around US \$160,000.

7 **Advocates** of single-child families argue that there are advantages for the child as well as the parents. With just one child, they suggest, there is less potential for family arguments arising from favoritism^⑧ or sibling jealousy. Moreover, with only one child, the parents can give, and the child can receive, more quality time and attention. This often leads to increased self-esteem^⑨ which, combined with increased independence, can lead to the child being more confident.

8 Unfortunately, Andrea, there is no simple answer to the question of whether or not to have a second child. The circumstances affecting each set of parents are unique, and what is appropriate for one family may not be for another. The important thing, in the end, is to make a decision that both you and your husband feel confident about.

Notes

① *Family Planning*: 《计划生育》(杂志名)

② namely: 即, 也就是说

③ demanding: 需要技能的; 要求高的; 费力的; 苛求的

④ stigma: <喻>耻辱; 污名; 瑕疵

⑤ the Family Policy Studies Center: 家庭政策研究中心

⑥ elect to do sth.: [正式用语] 选择或决定做某事

⑦ equivalent: (价值、数量、意义等) 相等的

⑧ favoritism: 偏爱, 偏袒, 徇私

⑨ self-esteem: 自重, 自尊



Exercise II

A. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions or incomplete statements according to the passage.

1. The word “dilemma” in Paragraph 2 means _____.
 - A) a program one decides to get involved in
 - B) a decision one has already made
 - C) a situation in which one has to choose between two things
 - D) a reason for which one has to do something
2. In the last sentence of Paragraph 2, “pros and cons” probably means _____.
 - A) proposals and conditions
 - B) the arguments for and against something
 - C) understandings and misunderstandings
 - D) causes and effects
3. According to the passage, what was the problem of Andrea and his wife?
 - A) They had to raise a second child.
 - B) Their child is a lonely child.
 - C) They are facing money problems.
 - D) They don't know whether to have a second child or not.
4. The word “siblings” in the first sentence of Paragraph 4 probably means _____.
 - A) brothers and sisters
 - B) uncles and aunts
 - C) cousins
 - D) friends and relatives
5. According to the passage, which of the following statements about a single child is NOT true?
 - A) A single child may feel lonely at times, especially during vacations.
 - B) A single child may be more spoiled than one with siblings.
 - C) A single child will not learn to respect others.
 - D) A single child is less capable of interacting with other people.
6. According to Paragraph 5, which of the following statements is TRUE?
 - A) Fourteen percent of women plan to have just one child.
 - B) More and more parents choose to have only one child in many part of the world.
 - C) More children have been born each year in the UK.
 - D) A third of the population in Japan is aged 65 or over.

7. According to the passage, what are the probable reasons for parents to have no more children?
- A) With careers, some parents feel the pressures of raising a second child too overwhelming.
- B) Some parents feel it a financial burden to have a second child.
- C) Many Japanese couples do not like large families.
- D) both A and B
8. The word “advocates” at the beginning of Paragraph 7 probably means _____.
 A) persons who speak in favor of somebody or something
 B) persons who speak against somebody or something
 C) persons who give advice to somebody
 D) persons who make decision for somebody
9. According to the advocates of single-child families, which of the following is NOT the advantages for the single child?
 A) The single child can receive more quality time and attention.
 B) There is less potential for family arguments arising from favoritism.
 C) The child can be more dependent on parents.
 D) The single child can be more independent and confident.

B. Fill in the blanks with the words or phrases chosen from the box. Change the form where necessary.

equivalent to	combine...with	decline	be capable of	result in
associate...with	point out	spoil	interact with	arise from

- Mary felt quite embarrassed when the teacher _____ her mistakes in class.
- Tom believed that his son had been _____ for he lost his temper easily.
- What is 5 dollars _____ in French franc?
- He _____ to discuss his plans with the newspapermen.
- Show your boss what you _____.
- You should try to overcome all the difficulties _____ your study.
- The constant disputes between the two countries _____ a disastrous war.
- Egypt is always _____ the pyramids.
- Some researchers reveal that some children today find it hard to _____ their peers.
- The film is effective in _____ education _____ recreation.

Passage 2

Changing Roles: Stay-at-Home Dads

1 British mechanic Neil Walkingshaw was looking for a way to care for his newborn child when he approached his boss with a proposal in early 2000. Reluctant to hire a babysitter once his wife's maternity leave^① ended and she returned to work, Walkingshaw asked if he could switch to part-time hours in order to spend half of each day at home looking after his son. His employer refused, saying the paperwork would be "too messy" and that it would be difficult to get anyone to share Walkingshaw's job. Knowing that the company he worked for had granted similar requests to female employees, Walkingshaw sued on the grounds of sex discrimination. On November 20, 2001, an industrial tribunal^② ruled^③ that Walkingshaw had been discriminated against and awarded him £3,600. The ruling is believed to be the first of its kind, and demonstrates just how much views on parental roles have changed over the years.

2 As little as thirty years ago, few people questioned the gender roles that had prevailed^④ for centuries. The conventional wisdom was that a woman's place was in the home and that a man's main responsibility to his family was to put food on the table. In the 1970s and 1980s, however, greater numbers of working women meant that men were no longer the sole breadwinner. A father's emotional involvement with his family also became more important. Forty years ago, almost no husbands were present in the delivery^⑤ room when their wives gave birth. Today, it is generally expected for male partners to attend childbirth classes, be there for the delivery and to take more responsibility for child rearing^⑥ than their fathers or grandfathers did.

3 In addition to society's changing views of the role men play in relation to childcare, social scientists are also re-examining the contribution a father makes to his child's welfare and development. Researchers have found evidence to suggest that a father plays a role in child development that is quite different from that of the mother. According to the research, fathers tend to be more playful, thus encouraging children to develop in a different way emotionally and physically than a child might under a mother's exclusive care.

4 Studies have also found that the presence of the father in the home can contribute to lower juvenile^⑦ crime rates, a decrease in child poverty, and lower rates of teenage pregnancy. Differences in parenting styles between men and women are also believed to

contribute to children's ability to understand and communicate emotions in different ways. The research supports claims by some groups that the absence of a father in the family is the single biggest social problem in modern society.

5 In recent years, organizations like the US-based National Fatherhood Initiative have begun to argue that the presence of the father is vital to a child's development. These organizations aim to encourage fathers to take a more active role in their children's lives. The movement also calls for the creation of a new image of fatherhood, one that goes beyond the traditional view of the father solely as provider, and also includes the equally crucial roles of nurturer^⑧, moral example, disciplinarian^⑨ and teacher.

6 Many family experts believe that the ability of a family to raise well-adjusted children has much to do with a society promoting healthy families. If this theory is true, and if the father's role is as important as the mother's in raising children, it's possible to imagine a day when society will value the role of the father more, and when all men will learn to take their paternal duties as seriously as Neil Walkingshaw.

Notes

- ① maternity leave: 产假
- ② industrial tribunal: 劳资仲裁处
- ③ rule: 裁决
- ④ prevail: 普遍存在, 盛行
- ⑤ delivery: 分娩
- ⑥ rear: 养育 (子女)
- ⑦ juvenile: 未成年者; 少年
- ⑧ nurturer: 养育者
- ⑨ disciplinarian: 维持纪律的人



Exercise III

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions or incomplete statements according to the passage.

1. It is implied in the passage that Neil Walkingshaw _____.
 - A) takes his paternal duty seriously
 - B) was present in the delivery room when his wife gave birth
 - C) was dismissed by his boss
 - D) lose the sue

2. Which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A) Thirty years ago, only a few people questioned the gender roles that had prevailed for centuries.
 - B) In the 1970s and 1980s, there were only a number of working women.
 - C) Forty years ago, no husbands were present in delivery room when their wives gave birth.
 - D) Today, it is generally expected that male partners should take more responsibility for child rearing.
3. According to the research, _____.
- A) the contribution a father makes to his child's welfare and development is healthier than that of a mother
 - B) the role a father plays in child development is quite different from that of the mother
 - C) mothers tend to encourage children to develop in quite a different way emotionally and physically
 - D) children develop emotionally and physically well under mothers' exclusive cares
4. The presence of the father in the home can contribute to _____.
- A) lower juvenile crime rates
 - B) a decrease in child poverty
 - C) lower rates of teenage pregnancy
 - D) all of the above
5. According to the passage, differences in parenting styles between men and women contribute to _____.
- A) children's ability to communicate emotions differently
 - B) the single biggest social problem in modern society
 - C) higher juvenile crime rates and higher rates of teenage pregnancy
 - D) an increase in child poverty
6. What does the passage say about the movement by some organizations like the US-based National Fatherhood Initiative? '
- A) The movement aims to encourage fathers to take a more active role in their children's lives.
 - B) The movement calls for the creation of a new image of fatherhood.
 - C) The movement includes the equally crucial roles of nurturer.
 - D) all of the above