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实用大学英语读写系列教材

总主编 夏锡华 崔东



实用大学英语 读写教程

(第三册)



邓虹 鲍明捷 主编



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前 言

《实用大学英语听说教程》一至四册和《实用大学英语读写教程》一至四册是根据教育部 1999 年公布的《大学英语教学大纲》修订本及 2004 年 3 月网上公布的《大学英语课程要求(试行)》意见编写的,针对地方普通高等院校本科学生在基础阶段使用的一套教材。

本套教材选择的题材和体裁具有多样性,从一般的趣味性文章,到文、史、哲、经等方面的文章,特别注重学生语言基础的训练,从读音、词汇、语法、功能意念等方面对学生进行训练。材料的来源也很广泛,既有从国外原版教材中选择的文章,也有从国内外英文杂志、网络上改编的文章。

大学英语教材建设是大学英语教学改革的重要环节,在全国高等院校中,既有“211 工程”大学,也有国家重点大学、省级重点大学,普通高等院校,同时,由于地域差异,学生入学时的英语水平参差不齐,针对不同的教学对象,使用不同的教学材料、划分不同的教学级别、提出不同的教学要求,因材施教,是大学英语教学理论的“与时俱进”。不同层次的学校,有针对性地编写出适合自己学校学生学习的教材和辅助教材,以及正在发展的网络教材是大学英语教学改革、大学英语教材建设的发展方向。

在这样的背景下,由华中科技大学出版社组织、策划了针对普通高等院校而编写的《实用大学英语听说教程》和《实用大学英语读写教程》系列教材,由新江汉大学、中国人民解放军第四军医大学、四川大学、秦皇岛职业技术学院、广西师范学院、湖北经济学院、湖北鄖阳医学院等院校数十位中青年教师参加,经过认真准备,精心修改,集体协作编写而成。编写集体成员中,大多是年富力强的中青年教师,其中大多数教师具有硕士学位或正在攻读硕士学位,他们大多毕业于 20 世纪 90 年代,学习了新的语言学理论,并掌握了较为扎实的语言功底,为教材的成功编写打下了良好的基础。本套教材由江汉大学外国语学院夏锡华、崔东担任总主编。

本套教材的编写方针是:从实际出发、总结经验、借鉴方法,编写适合

普通高等院校实用的基础阶段大学英语教材。

以学生为教学中心,以教师为教学的主导是本套教材推荐的教学方式。在信息时代的今天,无论是教师还是学生,都受到了这一时代的强烈冲击。快餐文化、浮躁心理、不平衡感觉、网络游戏沉溺、贫富差距、付出与所得不对等,使我们动辄回忆起过去的美好、传统教学环境下学生的自觉、自愿、目标明确的教学环境难以再现。如何有效地开展好大学英语教学活动,不断提高我国的大学英语教学水平,为国家培养外语合格的人才是在大学英语教师面前的一个重大课题,是一个需要方方面面配合方能解决的历史性课题,所幸的是,新一轮的大学英语教学改革已经启动,我们大学英语教师所期盼的不仅仅是教学方式的改变,而是更深层次的改变。

本套教材由江汉大学外国语学院牵头,通过参加单位的通力合作,历时一年多合力编写而成的,邓虹、张冬贵、董春枝、胡德勤、王静、周昕、王相国、李旭等分册主编为此付出了艰辛的劳动。教材建设一向是学校教学改革的重点,本套教材从开始就得到了校领导的高度重视和支持,同时,得到了校教务处及相关部门的支持及具体建议。由于材料来源及学识水平有限,本套书在体例,内容选择,练习取舍,注解完善等方面都存在着这样和那样的缺陷,但第一步必须走出,通过本套书的编写,锻炼了一支队伍,培养了一批骨干,聚集了一群科研人员,打下了一定的研究基础,为今后的工作提供了条件。通过教材的使用,可以为大学英语教学提供教学方法、手段等方面的研究,也可以为研究学生的学习兴趣、注意力等提供素材。

华中科技大学出版社副编审孟筱康为本套书的编写及付梓付出了辛勤的劳动,在此对以上同志的辛勤劳动表示衷心的感谢!

教学改革之路漫漫其修远兮,大学英语教师当不断上下而求索。

夏锡华

2004年5月1日

使用说明

本书为《实用大学英语读写教程》第三册。全书共八个单元,每一单元包括三篇课文。每课由课文(Text)、生词(New Words)、短语和表达法(Phrases and Expressions)、注释(Notes)和练习(Exercises)五部分组成。

课文选材力求题材、体裁多样,内容丰富有趣,具有时代性、知识性、趣味性和可思性。

生词按在文章中出现的先后排序,释义采用英、汉结合的方式,且配有大量的例句,便于学生掌握。

练习包括课文理解(Comprehension of the text)、词汇(Vocabulary)、翻译(Translation)和写作(Writing)等项。课文理解练习要求学生根据课文进行多项选择、判断正(True)误(False)或回答问题,目的是引导学生加深对课文的理解。词汇练习旨在帮助学生掌握英语常用词和词组的用法。翻译练习的目的是通过翻译让学生加强对课文的理解,所选句子均为课文中的难点。写作练习旨在锻炼学生的语言组织能力。

本书最后附有练习答案、总词汇表及参考书目。

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Unit One

Passage 1

The Web Lifestyle¹

If you asked people today why they used telephone to communicate with their friends or why they turned to the television for entertainment, they would look at you as if you were crazy. We don't think about a telephone or a television or a car as being oddities. These things have become such an integral part of life that they are no longer noticed, let alone remarked upon.

In the same way, within a decade no one will notice the Web. It will just be there, an integral part of life. It will be a reflex to turn to the Web for shopping, education and communication, just as it is natural today to pick up the telephone to talk to someone.

There is incredible interest in the Web. Yet it is still in its infancy. The technology and the speed of response are about to leap forward. This will move more and more people to the Web as part of their everyday lives. Eventually, everyone's business card will have an electronic mail address. Every lawyer, every doctor and every businessman—from large to small—will be connected.

In the United States elections, people now turn to the Internet to see real-time results. The Pathfinder mission to Mars and the problems with the Mir Space Station drew millions of people to the Web for more up-to-date details than they were available elsewhere.

A change like this is often generational, where older people have to learn something new outside their everyday experiences; kids who grow up with a new technology simply treat it as given. College campuses in particular are providing the ingredients to generate the critical mass² for a Web ready culture.

Today in the United States, there are over 22 million adults using the Web,

about half of whom access the Internet at least once a day. Meanwhile, the variety of activities on the Web is broadening at an amazing rate. There is almost no topic for which you cannot find fairly interesting material on the Web. Many of these sites are getting excellent traffic flow. Want to buy a dog? Or sell a share? Or order a car? Use the Internet. Where are we going to get the time to live with³ the Web? In some instances, people will actually save time because the Web will make doing things more efficient than in the past. Being able to get information about a major purchase, for example, or finding out how much your used car is worth, or what is your cheapest way of getting to Florida. That is very easy to find on the Web, even today. In other instances, people will trade the time they now spend reading the paper or watching television, for information or entertainment they will find on the computer screen. Americans, particularly young ones, will spend less time in front of a television screen, more on the Web.

One great benefit of the Web is that it allows us to move information online that now resides in paper form. Several states in America are using the Web in a profound way. You can apply for various permits or submit applications for business licenses. Some states are putting up listings of jobs—not just state government jobs, but all the jobs available in the state. I believe, over time, that all the information that governments print, and all those paper forms they now have will be moved on to the Internet. Electronic commerce notches up month by month, too. It is difficult to measure, because a lot of electronic commerce involves existing buyers and sellers who are simply moving paperbased transactions to the Web. That is not new business. Microsoft, for example, purchases millions of dollars of PCS⁴ online instead of by paper. However, that is not a fundamental change; it has just improved the efficiency of an exiting process. The biggest impact has occurred where electronic commerce matches buyers and sellers who would not previously have found each other. When you go to a book site and find an obscure book that you never would have found in a physical bookstore, that is a new type of commerce.

Today, about half of all PCS are still not connected to the Web. Getting communications costs down and making all the software simpler will bring in those people. And that, in turn, will move us closer to the critical mass that will make the Web lifestyle everyone's lifestyle. One element that people underestimate is the degree to which the hardware and software will improve. Just take one aspect: screen technology. I do my e-mail on a 20-inch⁵ liquid crystal display⁶ (LCD) monitor. It is not available at a reasonable price yet, but in two years it will be. In

ten years, a 40-inch LCD with much higher resolution will be commonplace.

The boundary between a television set and a PC will be blurred because even the set-top box that you connect up to your cable or satellite will have a processor more powerful than what we have today in the most expensive PC. This will, in effect, make your television a computer.

Interaction with the Web will also improve, making it much easier for people to be involved. Today the keywords we use to search the Web often return too many articles to sort through⁷, many of them out of context. If you want to learn about the fastest computer chip available, you might end up getting responses instead about potato chips being delivered in fast trucks. In the future, we shall either be speaking or typing sentences into the computer. If you ask about the speed of chips, the result will be about computers, not potatoes. Speech recognition also means that you will be able to call in on a phone and ask if you have any new messages, or check on a flight, or check on the weather.

To predict that it will take over ten years for these changes to happen is probably pessimistic. We usually overestimate what we can do in two years and underestimate what we can do in ten. The Web will be as much a way of life as the car by 2008. Probably before.

(1 049 words)

New Words:

entertainment [ˌentəˈteɪnmənt] *n.* something that amuses, pleases, or diverts, especially a performance or show 娱乐

e. g. A cinema is a place of entertainment.

oddity [ˈɒdɪti] *n.* the state or quality of being odd; strangeness 奇异, 古怪

integral [ˈɪntɪgrəl] *adj.* necessary (to complete something) 不可缺少的

e. g. This is an integral part of the argument.

reflex [ˈrɪfleks] *n.* an unintentional movement that is made in reply to some outside influence 反射, 反应

e. g. I can't help closing my eyes when I see a bright light—it's a reflex action.

incredible [ɪnˈkredəbl̩] *adj.* too strange to believe; wonderful 难以置信的; 极好的

e. g. She has an incredible house.

infancy [ˈɪnfənsi] *n.* early childhood 婴儿期, 幼儿期

leap [li:p] *v.* to jump through the air, often landing in a different place 跳, 跳越

e. g. He leapt the wall and ran away.

ingredient [in'gri:diənt] *n.* one of a mixture of things from which something is made
组成部分, 成分

e. g. There is a list of the ingredients on the side of the packet.

broaden ['brɔ:dn] *v.* to make or become broad or broader 变宽

e. g. We have always tried to broaden our minds.

reside [ri'zaid] *v.* to have one's home, live 居住

profound [prə'faund] *adj.* deep; having or showing through knowledge and deep understanding 深刻的, 渊博的

e. g. There is a profound silence between them.

submit [səb'mit] *v.* to offer for consideration 提交

e. g. I submitted my papers to the examiner.

application [æpli'keifən] *n.* making of a request 申请

e. g. Please fill out this application form.

license ['laisəns] *n.* an official paper, card, etc., showing that permission has been given to do something usu. for a payment 许可证, 执照

e. g. The policeman asked to see his driving license.

obscure [əb'skjʊə] *adj.* hard to understand 晦涩的, 难懂的

e. g. This speech is full of obscure political jokes.

commonplace ['kɒmənpleis] *adj.* common, normal 平常的, 普通的

e. g. Some scientists believe that soon it will be commonplace for people to travel to the moon.

blur [blɜ:] *v.* to make difficult to see clearly 使模糊

e. g. His eyes were blurred with tears.

interaction [intə'rækʃən] *n.* the act or process of interacting 相互作用

predict [pri'dikt] *v.* to see or describe in advance as a result of knowledge, experience, reason, etc. 预测

e. g. She predicted that he would marry a doctor.

pessimistic [pesi'mistik] *adj.* always sad for what will happen 悲观的

e. g. He takes a pessimistic view of his marriage.

Phrases and Expressions:

pick up to take hold of and lift up 捡起, 拿起

e. g. Pick up the box by the handles.

turn to to go to for help 求助于

e. g. He turned to the policeman when he was lost.

apply for to ask for 申请, 请求

e. g. After she graduated, she traveled around Europe instead of applying for jobs.

put up to put in a public place 张贴布告

e. g. The notice put up yesterday said that a party would be held on Friday.

notch up to win or record (a victory or gain) 赢得, 记录

e. g. The team notched up their third victory in a row.

bring in to produce as profit or earnings; earn 获利, 赚钱

e. g. She's bringing in \$180 a week.

in turn rightful chance or order to do something 轮流, 依次

e. g. We visited the old lady in turn.

call in to ask to come to help 召请

e. g. Call the doctor in.

take over to gain control over or responsibility 接管, 接任

e. g. Our chairman has left, so Peter will take over his job.

Notes:

1. The author of this article, Bill Gates, is the chairman and Chief Software Architect of Microsoft Corp. He wrote this article in 1998 to express the outlook of Internet in ten years.
2. critical mass: important users
3. live with: accept
4. PCS: It is short for "personal computers".
5. 1 inch=1/12 feet
6. liquid crystal display: 液晶显示器
7. sort through: look for

Exercises

1. Read the text carefully and find the best answer to each statement from the four choices given below.

- 1) According to the author, which of the following will happen in ten years?
 - A. Web will become an integral part of our life.
 - B. Microsoft will purchase dollars of PCS online instead of by paper.
 - C. All the information that governments print will be moved on to the Internet.
 - D. There will be over 22 million adults using the Web in America.

- 2) What is the meaning of the first sentence?
- A. People don't use the telephone to communicate.
 - B. People don't turn to the television for entertainment at all.
 - C. The telephone and television are too commonplace to be mentioned.
 - D. The telephone and television have not been used at all.
- 3) "Within a decade no one will notice the Web." Which of the following is the incorrect understanding of this sentence?
- A. The Web will disappear in a decade.
 - B. It will be a reflex to turn to the Web for education, shopping and communication.
 - C. The Web will develop at an amazing rate in ten years.
 - D. The Web will become an integral part of our life.
- 4) Compared to the other traditional mass media, what is the advantage of the Internet according to the passage?
- A. Update quickly.
 - B. Narrow-sided.
 - C. Authoritative.
 - D. Cheap.
- 5) We can save time by living with the Web. Which of the following statements is incorrect according to the passage?
- A. The Web will make doing things more efficient than in the past.
 - B. We won't watch TV or read newspaper when the Web becomes integral part of our life.
 - C. We will spend less time in front of a television screen.
 - D. We will reduce the time of reading the newspaper.
- 6) Several states in America are using the Web in a profound way. Which of the following is not true about it?
- A. People can submit various applications for business licences on the Web.
 - B. They are putting up all the jobs available in the state.
 - C. They are putting up state government jobs.
 - D. They are moving all the information that governments print on to the Web.
- 7) According to the author's opinion, which electronic commerce can be called new business?
- A. It matches buyers and sellers who would previously have found each other.
 - B. It improves the efficiency of an existing process.
 - C. It moves the paperbased transactions to the Web.
 - D. It helps us to find an obscure book that would never be found in a physical

bookstore.

- 8) How can we make the Web lifestyle everyone's life?
 - A. To reduce the communications costs.
 - B. To produce more computers.
 - C. To teach people to operate the software.
 - D. To sell LCD at a reasonable price.
- 9) The result is about the potatoes when we ask for the speed of chips. Why?
 - A. Because it is out of context.
 - B. Because something is wrong with the Web.
 - C. Because interaction between the user and the Web is not perfect now.
 - D. Because we use incorrect keywords.
- 10) "To predict that it will take over ten years for these changes to happen is probably pessimistic." Does it mean that the author is really pessimistic about the Web?
 - A. Yes. We always overestimate what we can do in two years.
 - B. No. We always can't estimate what we can do in ten years.
 - C. No. These changes will happen in less than ten years.
 - D. Yes. It is too early to predict what will happen in ten years.

2. Indicate if each statement is true (T) or false (F) according to your understanding of the article.

- 1) You should not ask anything about television or car. You will be considered crazy if you do.
- 2) The Web is still noticeable now.
- 3) There is an electronic mail address on everyone's business card.
- 4) Children who grow up with a new technology simply treat new technology as it is given to them.
- 5) Some teachers from college argue against the development of the Web.
- 6) You can almost find every interesting material on the Web.
- 7) It will be possible for us to order a car on the Web in a decade. But we can not do it now.
- 8) The Web makes us save time by finding out how much your used car is worth.
- 9) Americans, particularly young ones, will spend less time in front of a television screen, more on the Web.
- 10) The Web will make us move all the information in paper form to the Internet.

- 11) In America, every permit for business license can be applied for on the Web.
- 12) Electronic commerce develops quickly. It is called new business.
- 13) New business is a fundamental change compared to the traditional one.
- 14) The improvement of hardware and software is underestimated.
- 15) A television set will be operated like a computer in ten years.

3. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

- 1) The new _____ will require additional staff and equipment.
A. entertainment B. entertain C. enterprise D. enterprising
- 2) Maintaining standards is _____ to our good reputation.
A. necessary B. essential C. integral D. basic
- 3) The doctor hit my knee with a hammer to test my _____.
A. reflexes B. reflects C. reacts D. reflections
- 4) The price of the bread in this shop is _____ because they bake it themselves.
A. high B. expensive C. reasonable D. free
- 5) Flour, milk, butter and yeast are some _____ in bread.
A. parts B. ingredients C. elements D. components
- 6) Finding a cure for cancer involves _____ scientific research.
A. complex B. profound C. obscure D. perplexing
- 7) Employees who refuse to _____ to the authority of the boss are usually dismissed.
A. submit B. present C. obey D. follow
- 8) It is the _____ between people, rather than the events that occur in their lives, that is the main focus of social psychology.
A. interdependence B. interaction C. interchanges D. intercourse
- 9) Do you listen to the weather _____ from the local radio station every morning?
A. predict B. expect C. forecast D. foresee
- 10) The _____ opinion of the economic outlook encouraged people.
A. pessimistic B. pessimism C. optimistic D. optimism
- 11) He picked _____ his sister in the crowd.
A. up B. out C. at D. off
- 12) We were turned _____ from the restaurant because we weren't properly dressed.
A. to B. back C. on D. away
- 13) I can not put _____ your rudeness any more, leave the room.