

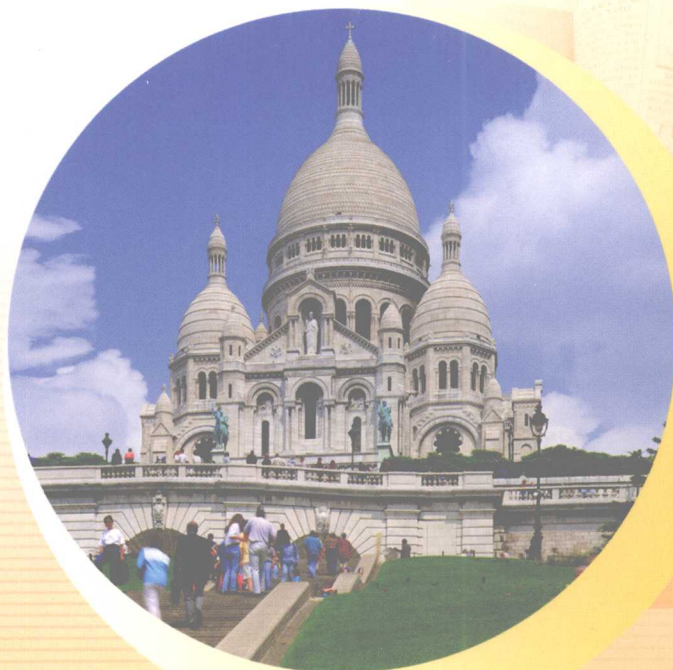


全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材

大学英语阅读教程

第二册

李 磊 主编



中国农业出版社

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序

《大学英语课程教学要求》强调大学英语教学的目的之一是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力,使学生能以英语为工具,获取专业所需要的信息,并进一步提高英语水平打下较好的基础。为了提高学生综合阅读的能力,使其尽快达到大学英语课程教学要求,全国农业院校外语教学研究会组织编写了这一套《大学英语阅读教程》。

《大学英语阅读教程》共分四册,每册十个单元;每单元包括两个部分,第一部分阅读理解;第二部分完形填空或选词填空。本套教材具备以下特点:

1. 文章选材新颖:所有文章的选材均出自美国原版的时事新闻或畅销读物,内容新颖、语言生动、涉及中西文化、语言、教育、生活、人性、哲学、文学等方面,语言清新、活泼,文章有一定的趣味性、知识性和可思性。

2. 阅读跨度适中:针对不同级别的学生选择了不同难度及长度的阅读材料,使学生能够循序渐进地提高阅读能力。文章的篇幅分别为:第一册 300~400 词,第二册 400~600 词,第三册 600~800 词,第四册 800~900 词。

3. 问题设置合理:每篇文章都设置了不同的问题,包含了四级考试中涵盖的主旨题、推理题、细节题、词汇题、指代题等。主旨题是指掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;推理题是指根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;细节题是指对所读材料了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;词汇题是指某一个词或短语在所读材料中的意义;指代题是指它的指代意义或理解上下文的逻辑关系。

4. 解题详细:本教程在每篇文章的后面加注了很多的文化及背景知识介绍,旨在使学生在了解中西方文化的基础上扩大知识面、提高综合阅读能力。在解题技巧上着重强调运用上下文的语境,使学生学会通过句群、意群来提高阅读技巧。

《大学英语阅读教程》是全国农林院校十一五规划教材,由朱乐红教授

总主编并负责文稿的统筹整理和内容审定。本书为第二册，即大学英语阅读二级考试水准要求，可在教师指导下在大学一年级第二学期与教材同步配套使用，也可以作为学生课外自主学习的材料。

由于时间及水平因素所限，文稿虽经反复揣摩修改，可能仍有不妥或错漏处，恳请读者不吝指教。

编者

2008年4月16日

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Unit One

Part I Reading Comprehension

Directions: *There are 3 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice.*

Passage One

Since many students who are in college may not have family or friends from high school nearby, they're looking for other people to study with and hang out. College friends are somewhat different than friends from high school because you bond in different ways. You may bond during late night study sessions, making dinner together, or during long drives home. In a way, they're somewhat like your family away from home. Some friends may make sure that you wake up in time for your midterm or make you soup when you're sick. During college there are a variety of ways to develop these friendships, which have the potential of becoming lifelong friendships.

Sometimes many students make lifelong friendships with their roommates. If you have a good experience with your roommate during your first year of college, you may want to continue living with that roommate. You may also decide to live with other people as well. Sharing a house or an apartment allows you to spend time with people and really get to know who they are. You may learn things that only their families know about them like how long they take in

By joining a club, you may be able to find people who share similar interests. Usually college campuses offer a variety of clubs like those that are associated with academic majors, public interests, politics, music, or careers. There are also fraternities and sororities at different colleges. Clubs provide an opportunity to meet people outside of the classroom, and the opportunity for you to get involved with something that you're passionate about. Being involved in extracurricular activities may also alleviate some of your stress.

Developing lifelong friendships does take some time. Don't be discouraged if the first couple of people you meet don't turn out to be the type of friends you were hoping for. You may need to keep on trying to meet new people. You may make friends with people who you wouldn't have considered being friends with before. If you feel uneasy about the friends you have made, try to remember what you liked about your friends from high school. Keep yourself surrounded by good people who share similar goals to help you stay on track.

hang out 闲逛

extracurricular adj. 正课以外的; 课外的

1. College students tend to make friends to _____.
A) make dinner
B) study with and hang out
C) have a family away from home
D) bond in different ways
2. The author indicates the following except _____.
A) friendships in college may be developed to lifelong ones
B) living with roommates may develop friendships
C) joining a club is another way to develop friendships

- D) developing lifelong friendship may make you feel less intense
3. The underlined "fraternities and sororities" in paragraph 3 means _____.
 A) different kinds of activities
 B) different kinds of friendships
 C) different kinds of people at a college
 D) societies at a university or a college
4. The author's attitude to lifelong friendship is _____.
 A) indifferent B) approval C) disagreeable D) negative
5. The best title of this passage is _____.
 A) Lifelong Friendship
 B) Develop Lifelong Friendship
 C) How to Develop Lifelong Friendship While in College
 D) The Reasons for Developing Lifelong Friendship

Passage Two

For the second year in a row, Angela Merkel, the first woman to become chancellor of Germany, ranks No. 1 on our list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. She continued to impress the world with her cool leadership at two back-to-back summits. First, she stuck to her principles, getting G-8 leaders to agree to significant cuts in carbon emissions, among other things. Merkel later corralled European Union countries into an agreement on a treaty to replace the E. U. constitution.

Meanwhile, China's vice premier, Wu Yi (No. 2), continues to help lead a government that oversees an economy whose gross domestic product may soon eclipse Germany's, making it the third-biggest economy in the world. Wu recently stared down U. S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson when he made myriad demands, including a revaluation of the yuan, in recent strategic economic talks with the U. S.

But China faces enormous challenges in improving its rickety social, legal and economic infrastructure, which now has to contend with an overheated stock market, unsafe and shoddy products and severe pollution.

Women are also making very visible advances in business. In the year since we last ran our ranking, Angela Braly (No. 16) took the helm of insurer WellPoint, providing health care coverage to one in 10 Americans; the world's largest money-transfer company, Western Union, was spun off from First Data under the leadership of Christina Gold (No. 56); and PepsiCo Chief Executive Indra Nooyi (No. 5) added another title, that of chairman.

While there have been plenty of hand-wringing studies arguing that the corporate glass ceiling for women has turned into concrete, we had no difficulty turning up 66 business executives worthy of inclusion on the list. The remaining 34 are mostly in government.

If women aren't being stopped by any ceiling, it still can be argued that they have a tough go on the way to the top. Catalyst, a New York City firm that tracks the progress of women in corporate management positions, reports that women's hold on senior management jobs in the U. S. has stayed essentially flat over the past four years. They account for 15.6% of 10,145 corporate officer positions (chief financial officer, chief information officer or higher) in the 500 largest U. S. corporations.

Our ranking system starts with a list of women who have crossed certain thresholds. Most of them run companies, governments or nonprofits, or are very close to the top. A handful have established power bases in other ways (an entertainment entrepreneur, a judge and an author have been on the list). The power ranking score is based on a composite of visibility (measured by press citations) and economic impact.

The latter, in turn, reflects three things: résumé (career

achievements and titles, so a prime minister counts as more powerful than a senator); the size of the economic sphere over which a leader holds sway; and a multiplier that aims to make different financial yardsticks comparable. For example, a chief executive is assigned the company's sales in the economic impact calculation, while a foundation executive is assigned the foundation's assets. The assets get a higher multiplier than sales.

Notes:

myriad adj. 无数的

shoddy products n. 劣质产品

6. Angela Merkel stands at the first place on the list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women _____.
 - A) because she got G-8 leaders to agree to significant cuts in carbon emissions
 - B) because she corralled European Union countries into an agreement on a treaty to replace the E. U. constitution
 - C) because she stuck to her principles
 - D) because of her cool leadership at two back-to-back summits.
7. It can be inferred from the first four paragraphs that the World's 100 Most Powerful Women are chiefly from _____.
 - A) government
 - B) business
 - C) companies
 - D) government and business
8. It is _____ for women to make advances in corporate management positions.
 - A) rather difficult even without any ceiling
 - B) not difficult without the ceiling
 - C) rather difficult if stopped by any ceiling
 - D) not difficult if not stopped by any ceiling
9. The word "thresholds" underlined in paragraph 7 means _____.
 - A) circumstances
 - B) conditions
 - C) limits
 - D) factors
10. The latter in the last paragraph refers to _____.

- A) press citations B) the power ranking score
C) economic impact D) a composite of visibility

Passage Three

The rise of English is a remarkable success story. When Julius Caesar landed in Britain nearly two thousands years ago, English did not exist. Five hundred years later, English, incomprehensible to modern ears, was probably spoken by about as few people as currently speak Cherokee (an American Indian language) — and with about as little influence. Nearly a thousand years later, at the end of sixteen century, when William Shakespeare was in his prime, English was the native speech of between five and seven million English people and it was, in the words of a contemporary, " of small reach, if stretched no further than this island of ours, never not there over all. "

Four hundred years later, the contrast is extraordinary. Between 1600 and the present, in armies , navies, companies, and expeditions, the speakers of English—including Scots, Irish, Welsh, American, and many more traveled into every corner of the globe, carrying their language and culture with them. Today English is used by at least 750 millions people , and barely half of those speak it as mother tongue. Some estimates have put that figure closer to on billion. Whatever the total, English at the end of the twentieth century is more widely scattered, more widely spoken and written , than any other language has ever been. It has become the language of the planet, the first truly global language.

The statistics of English are astonishing. Of all the world's languages, it is arguably the richest in vocabulary. *The Compendious Oxford English Dictionary* lists about 500,000 words; and a further half million technical and scientific terms remain uncatalogued.

About 350 million people use English as a mother tongue — about one-tenth of the world's population, scattered across every continent and surpassed, in numbers, though not in distribution, only by the speakers of the many varieties of Chinese. Three-quarters of world's mail, and its telexes and cables, are in English. So are more than half the world's technical and scientific periodicals; it is the language of technology from Silicon Valley to Shanghai.

Notes:

incomprehensible adj. 无限的

uncatalogued adj. 未列入目录的

surpassed adj. 超越的

11. When did English appear as a language spoken by few people?

A) Julius Caesar's time

B) Shakespeare's time

C) 2,000 years ago

D) 1,500 years ago

12. The word "contemporary" most likely means _____.

A) person in modern time

B) a person who studies old English

C) a scholar who studies Shakespeare

D) a person in Shakespeare's time

13. By saying "the contrast is extraordinary", the author means _____.

A) English becomes a global language

B) native speakers of English have reached the number of at least 750 million

C) there might be one billion native speakers of English

D) many other nations have accepted the English language as their mother tongue

14. Statistics show that English has a vocabulary of about _____.

A) 500,000 words

B) 350,000 words

C) 750,000 words

D) 1,000,000 words

15. Which of the following statements is not true?

A) English has the largest number of native speakers in the world.

- B) English has the largest number of technical and scientific terms in the world.
 C) English is probably the richest in vocabulary.
 D) English is the most widely spoken and written language in the world.

Part II Cloze

Directions: There are 20 blanks in the following passage. For each blank there are four choices marked A), B), C), D) on the bottom of the passage. You should choose the ONE that best fits into the passage.

A man abandoned the chance of being a civil servant to stay in a reclusive mountain and teach students there for 30 years. He never regrets his 1 even though he lost an arm when doing hard labor for the tiny school.

In 1978, He Meiji was the only 2 person in his village when he came back to his home in the Kuzhu Mountains bordering Hunan and the then Sichuan provinces in 1978 after graduating from high school. He was determined to get out of the big mountains and out of poverty.

His dream came true the day he received a job offer from the finance bureau of the county, 3 when he packed up heading for the bright future, dozens of villagers flocked to his home and tearfully begged him to stay and work as the only teacher for children in a local primary school.

It was a difficult decision but he finally 4 the paper with his job offer and began teaching at the Friendship Primary School, which had been 5 for four years. In the early years, he taught all the 20 6 students in four grades, and made chalk, rulers, parallel bars for gymnastics, and 7 necessary teaching tools himself.

He lit up the windowless classroom by burning firewood, but