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大学英语

自主阅读教程

College English Autonomous Reading 2

College English

第二册

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前　言

《大学英语自主阅读教程》是根据《大学英语课程教学要求》以及当前我国普通高等院校大学英语教学实际编写的一套理念创新、内容实用、体系科学并具时代特色的全新系列公共英语泛读教材。它是一套由纸质教材、配套光盘和网络教学系统组成的立体化教材，旨在通过地道生动的语言、实用丰富的知识、立体互动的技能训练，并充分利用现代多媒体技术，为学生打造完善的自主式学习环境，为教师提供现代化的教学监控手段，从而实现过程性评估与终结性评估相结合的综合教学评估体系。

一、编写原则

1. 注重学生自主学习能力的培养

《大学英语自主阅读教程》的编写注重课堂教学与课外自主学习有机结合，学生通过学习和使用本教材有望获得自主学习能力的提高，从而为终身学习创造条件。

2. 强化学生实际应用能力的培养

《大学英语自主阅读教程》不仅重视语言技能的训练，更注重这些技能的实际运用。无论是阅读训练还是美文欣赏，内容上都选择具有时代气息的最新语料，体裁上适当加大应用文所占比重，努力使英语学习寓于趣味性、实用性之中。

3. 重视学生人文素质的培养

《大学英语自主阅读教程》在不忽视培养学生科学素质的前提下，重视文化教育，重视教材的前瞻性、思想性和文化内涵。选材上，涉及不同国家的经济、政治、科技、文化、生活等方方面面，注意语言材料与文化内容的融合、经典性与时尚性的融合，所选篇章都富含文采，含义隽永，引人入胜。学生在了解相关文化背景的前提下，能够更好地掌握语言；在切实掌握语言的同时，可以充分接触异域风情和外来文化。这样，在语言能力形成的过程中，也就能潜移默化地达成文化认知和建构，培养跨文化交际意识。

4. 帮助学生顺利通过英语四、六级考试

《大学英语自主阅读教程》的编写在总体目标、语言项目、词汇范围和练习方式上，都体现了新大纲的要求，符合国家标准。本教材选择真实、地道和典型的语言素材，注意纵向连贯和横向配合，循序渐进，保证大纲词汇和重要语言现象有足够的再现率，力求在知识和技能上为学生打下宽厚的基础。在教学原则上，强调发挥学生的主动性与积极性，培养其良好的学习习惯和自主学习能力，在大量语言输入的基础上，打下扎实的基本功，从而帮助学生顺利通过英语四、六级考试。

二、编写特色

1. 选材科学，注重难度控制，实现真正意义上的循序渐进

《大学英语自主阅读教程》在选材上除了使用人工难度估测的方法外，还使用先进的语料库软件对每份入选语料进行详细的难度分析，从统计数据上对语料进行精确描述，以确保入选语料在难度上适中，并实现一至四册难度渐进的选材效果。

2. 注重课程监控和阶段检测

《大学英语自主阅读教程》是由纸质教材、配套光盘和网络教学系统组成的立体化教材，可实现形成性考核模式，改变了传统大学英语教学仅采用单一的终结性考核的做法，既能帮助教师监控学生的日常学习过程，及时获取学生学习效果的准确反馈信息，以进一步改进教学，又可对学生整个学习过程中多层面的学习状况做出客观评价，有效降低学生在期末考核中出现的紧张情绪，有利于学生发挥出真实水平。

3. 注重自主学习设计，适用开放式学习

《大学英语自主阅读教程》注重学生自主学习的设计安排，以纸质教材和配套学习软件为依托，以网络学习和管理平台为工具，提供个性化的教学环境和可扩展的教学内容，建立开放式的自主学习框架。学生可根据自己的学习习惯和实际需求进行广泛的语言拓展体验，教师可示范指导，合理有效地引导学生逐步提高英语语言综合能力，以实现传统课堂教学和网络自主学习的优势互补。

4. 题材广泛，体裁多样，与专业学科紧密契合

《大学英语自主阅读教程》编写严谨，坚持大学教育文理渗透、重视素质培养的方向，体现高度的科学性、合理性和实用性。文章短小精悍，易于学习。题材广泛生动，注意文、理、工、农、医等各学科的通用性，涉及英语国家的社会、政治、经济、文化、历史、新闻、宗教、体育、医药、文学、风土人情、科普知识等各个领域。体裁多样，语料内容与各专业学科知识自然衔接，旨在让不同专业有着不同学习需求及志趣爱好的学生对各自学科领域的语言知识有所了解。

5. 具有相当的灵活性和可操作性

《大学英语自主阅读教程》是包括纸质教材、配套光盘和网络教学系统三种不同载体的立体互动式系列教材，通过英语教学的网络化，提供多层次、多渠道的英语教学环境和监控手段，充分保证学生的个性化自主学习效果。

三、教材使用对象、出版形式和学时安排

1. 教材使用对象

本教材可供大学非英语专业学生基础阶段使用，也适合具有一定英语基础的其他英语学习者自学。该教材为广大英语爱好者、自学者提供了一条快速提高英语阅读能力、丰富语言文化知识的捷径。

2. 册数及学时安排

全套教材共分四级（一至四级），每册 15 个单元。每单元由一篇快速阅读、三篇深度阅读和

一篇美文赏析组成，配有包括判断、选择、简短问答、翻译、15 选 10 等题型在内的多种练习，兼顾英语四、六级考试阅读题型，形式灵活。

3. 出版形式

本系列教材同时提供纸质教材、配套光盘和网络教学系统，充分利用现代多媒体及网络教育技术，通过生动的形式、实用的练习和有效的监控来提高学生的英语阅读能力，从而全面培养和提高学生英语语言综合应用能力。

- 纸质教材：共四册，提供教师授课及学生学习所需语言材料。
- 配套光盘：提供与教材完全配套的英语交互学习软件，具有操作性强、内容直观丰富、重点难点突出、讲解清晰等特点，供学生自主学习参考。
- 网络教学系统：根据学生网上自主学习和教师教学监控需求开发，帮助实现在教学计划指导下的非实时自学，为教师和学生提供一个开放的学习、查询、指导和交流平台。通过该系统，学生可进行在线自主学习和测试，即时获取学习效果的相关反馈信息；教师可实时了解学生的学习时间、学习进度与测试成绩。

本教材的编写从内容到形式都有不少新的尝试，加之编者水平有限，不妥之处，敬请读者批评指正。对于本教材所选用的阅读篇章的作者及出版社，编者在此致以深切的谢意。本教材由外籍专家 David John Clarke 审阅，在此一并致谢。

编　者

2009 年 7 月

Contents

Unit One

Part I Skimming and Scanning

Removing Red Eye in Photographs

Pictures are worth a thousand words, but they're worth even more if the shot was taken perfectly—meaning all conditions are perfect: lighting, timing, and the elements in the photograph.

However, you know that it is almost impossible to take a perfect picture. There are always unwanted people in the frame, unwanted reactions in your subject's faces, or a blurry (模糊的) image. Another common flaw in photographs is the red eye effect. It makes your subject's eyes glow like they were possessed by a demonic (恶魔的) spirit.

What is the Red Eye Effect?

The red eye effect is an undesired photographic flaw caused by the reflection of light inside the eyes of the subject. It happens when the flash of the camera is shone directly in front of the eyes of the subject.

The red eye effect produces a scary picture of the person having glowing red eyes. This is caused by the reflection of the light at the back of the eyes bouncing back to the lens of the camera.

This effect also occurs not only in pictures of people, but also other animals, like your pet cat or dog, though it is much easier to prevent this in humans.

Getting Rid of the Red Eye Effect

You don't have to worry if you happen to get a picture that has red eye effect since you can easily get rid of it in.

If you use a digital camera, all you have to do is download the photo to your computer and use image editing software to get rid of it. If you still use a film camera, or you have an old printed photo that has the red eye effect, simply use an image scanner to create a digital copy of it on your computer.

When scanning a photograph, make sure that you set it to the highest resolution (分辨率) possible so that you don't get a small image that won't do much if you have it reprinted and enlarged.

Image Editing: Removing the Red Eye Effect

It is very easy to remove red eye in photographs using even the most basic photo editing software. Most digital cameras come with a very useful image editing program that has this feature. However, if yours didn't come with one, you can easily download software from the Internet.

You don't need commercial software either, since there are many free programs that can do that task very well. GIMP and IrfanView are good examples of such.

How to Remove Red Eye Effect

Removing the red eye effect using image editing software varies. However, there are general rules that you must follow to achieve the best results.

- Before starting, never forget to make a backup copy of the original image. This is to make sure that if anything goes wrong with the picture you are working with, you can simply revert to the original picture. It is very simple to do that: you either make a duplicate copy, or you can use the "Save As" feature.
- Make sure that you zoom (移近，拉近) into the red eye effect before you use the red eye removal function. This ensures that you accurately remove the unwanted effect instead of other details in the eye or face.
- In most cases, you will have to select the area that has the red eye effect. Make sure you only select or highlight the area where the red eye is present. You may want to tweak (调整) some settings but often the default settings already do a good job.
- If you accidentally make a mistake, use the undo function first before you open your backup file. It saves you time, too.
- Try to fix other problems while you are at it. Remove the blemishes (瑕疵) on the face, crop out unwanted parts of the photo, and adjust the color, contrast, and brightness as well.

Avoiding Red Eye in your Photographs

If you really don't want to spend extra time editing and removing red eye from the pictures that you get, the best thing is to avoid it. Here are some tips:

- Avoid using the flash when taking pictures of people. Use ambient (周围的) lighting. If you really need to use the flash, bounce it off the ceiling or wall.
- If your camera has a red eye reduction feature, use it. This feature works by firing the flash several times before taking the picture. It causes the iris (虹膜) of the eye to reduce its size, reducing the possibility of reflecting the flash back to the camera.
- Also, avoid taking shots perpendicular (垂直的) to the eyes of the subject so that the light reflected back by the eyes will not be captured by the camera.

- If your camera supports flash filters, use them so that it will diffuse (使散射) the light coming from the flash of your camera. If you don't have a white filter for your flash, you can improvise by using a piece of cloth like your handkerchief or tissue paper.
- Be aware of your surroundings when taking a picture, too. Determine a location where there will be enough ambient or natural lighting so that there will be no need to use the flash.

Put an end to red eye in your photos with these simple tips!

(898 words)

Directions: *Do the following statements agree with the information given in the passage?*

> For questions 1~7, mark
>
>   Y for YES, if the statement agrees with the information;
>
>   N for NO, if the statement contradicts the information;
>
>   NG for NOT GIVEN, if there is no information on this in the text.

1)_____ The red eye effect makes the eyes of your subject glow and stand out in a photo, which brings more attractiveness to the eyes.

2)_____ The red eye effect in a picture of animals is easier to avoid than that of humans.

3)_____ When editing red eye in photos, we'd better choose commercial software because it is more professional.

4)_____ Before you remove red eye with an image editing program, a backup copy of the photo in a SD memory card is a necessary safety measure.

5)_____ To achieve the best results of a picture, we also need to remove unwanted parts in the frame and make adjustment to the color, contrast and brightness.

6)_____ If you enable the red eye reduction function of your camera, the flash will not be fired at all to prevent red eye.

7)_____ A good piece of advice to prevent red eye is to find a place with enough natural lighting so that there will be no need to use the flash.

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

8) The red eye effect of a photo is caused by _____ at the back of the eyes bouncing back to the lens of the camera.

9) For an old printed picture that has the red eye effect, we could create a digital copy of it with a/an _____.

10) It is very easy to remove red eye in photographs using even the most basic _____ _____.

Part II   Reading in Depth

Section A: Multiple Choice

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice.*

Passage One

Usually we think about material qualities when we think about the pleasure we will get from a product. When something costs a lot, we might think about all the fine work that went into it. But can price alone influence the pleasure we experience?

Researchers from the California Institute of Technology and the Stanford Graduate School of Business say yes.

Hilke Plassmann, John O'Doherty and Antonio Rangel at Caltech and Baba Shiv at Stanford did a study. They had twenty people taste different wines. Wine was chosen because it comes in many different qualities and prices, and because a lot of people enjoy tasting it.

The people were told that they were tasting five different Cabernet Sauvignons. The wines were identified only by price: five, ten, thirty-five, forty-five and ninety dollars.

But in truth there were only three different wines, and two of them were presented twice, at a high price and a low price. For example, the wine that in fact cost ninety dollars a bottle was presented half the time as a ten dollar wine.

There were two important results from the study.

First, the individuals, on average, reported greater pleasure from drinking wine that they were told was higher in price. Brain images taken while the people tasted the wine supported this finding.

Activity, represented by blood-oxygen levels, increased in an area of the brain thought to process "experienced pleasantness". Experiments have shown that the medial orbito-frontal cortex processes the experience of enjoyment from smells, taste and music. The new findings will add to the limited knowledge of how marketing affects brain activity.

The second result has meaning for economists and marketers. The experiment appears to confirm that raising the price can increase how much a product is enjoyed. In other words, when it comes to expectations, it seems you really do get what you pay for.

The study is in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

(322 words)

1) Researchers mentioned in this passage hold the opinion that _____.

   A) material qualities affect the pleasure we get from a product

B) the higher the price of a product is, the more we think about it

C) the more a product costs, the more we fancy it

D) prices of products may have a great effect on how much we enjoy them

2) Which statement is NOT the reason why the scientists choose wine as the object in the experiment?

A) People were fond of drinking it.

B) Wine of higher price may be preferable to the taste of more people.

C) Wine varies in qualities and prices.

D) There are different kinds of wines.

3) We can infer from the experiment that _____.

A) people got the most enjoyment from tasting the wine with the ninety-dollar price

B) people got more enjoyment from tasting the wine with higher quality

C) people reported different amount of pleasure from the same wine marked with different prices

D) people reported less pleasure from tasting wine worth thirty-five dollars than that worth forty dollars

4) When it comes to the contribution of the findings of the experiment, which of the following is NOT true?

A) They help economists a lot.

B) They get us to know more about how marketing influences brain activity.

C) The experience of enjoyment of smells and tastes is processed by the medial orbito-frontal cortex.

D) The marketing agency can raise the price to increase the popularity of a certain product.

5) The best title of the passage might be _____.

A) Price and Pleasure

B) The Pleasure of Drinking Wine

C) Quality and Pleasure

D) Quality Deserves the Price

Words & Expressions

present	v.	to show or describe sb. or sth.　描述，陈述
medial orbito-frontal cortex		前额眼眶皮质层中部
process	v.	to deal with information　分析，处理
the proceedings		the official, written records of a meeting　会议记录

Passage Two

Whoever named the bird turkey—a word that English speakers began mentioning as long ago as 1541—made a big mistake. Although that bird came from Guinea in Africa, the English

apparently first imported it from Turkish merchants. So, naturally, they called it a *turkey*. When English speakers established their first colony in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, they thought they saw turkeys there too. "We found a small island, on which were many turkeys," wrote one. These birds were not from Turkey and were not related to the guinea fowl of Africa. But turkeys they were called and turkeys they remain.

Much of what we know about the Jamestown colony was written by Captain John Smith, whose efforts preserved the colony from collapse and who in turn was preserved by the Indian "princess" Pocahontas. Smith's accounts of the colony frequently mention turkeys as food, gifts, and objects of trade. In 1607, Smith writes, to celebrate the first peace after the first armed clash, the Indians brought "venison, turkeys, wild fowl, bread, and what they had, singing and dancing in sign of friendship till they departed". Elsewhere Smith noted that the Indians made warm and beautiful cloaks from turkey feathers. Further north, as the Plymouth colony neared the end of its first year in 1621, Governor William Bradford likewise observed "great store of wild Turkeys, of which they took many". Undoubtedly turkeys were among the "fowl" served at the first (1621) Thanksgiving dinner.

Despite those significant beginnings and Benjamin Franklin's lobbying, the turkey lost to the bald eagle in the contest for American bird. And it is a loser in modern American slang, too. Since the 1920s, *turkey* has been a term for a play or movie that is a failure; and since the 1950s for a person who is incompetent. But though the turkey never succeeded in becoming the American symbol, it did become the American feast. Thanksgiving is *Turkey Day*, and the turkey has gobbled its way into our language more than other birds. We never "talk eagle", we talk turkey when we speak frankly. Cold turkey also means plain talk.

(352 words)

1) According to Paragraph 1, which of the following statements is true?

A) The local people in Africa call the bird *turkey*.

B) The English named the bird *turkey* because they imported it from Turkish merchants.

C) This kind of bird was introduced to America by the English.

D) Turkeys were found in Africa, Europe and North America.

2) In the first colony Jamestown, people often used turkey _____.

A) as food, like bread and venison

B) in exchange for some other goods

C) both A and B

D) to stop wars between tribes

3) The Plymouth colony was probably established in _____.

    A) 1620   B) 1622   C) 1607   D) 1608

4) In spite of its failure to be the American bird, turkey _____.

    A) remains, like the bald eagle, popular at the feasts of America

    B) has been more widely used in American idioms than other birds

    C) is used to refer to those who are successful

    D) will be the American symbol sooner or later

5) This passage is generally about _____.

    A) a kind of bird turkey which came from Turkey

    B) the importance of the bird turkey in American feasts

    C) the word *turkey* in terms of meaning

    D) the stories of the word *turkey* and the bird turkey

Words & Expressions

Guinea	*n*	几内亚
apparently	*adv.*	obviously; clearly　显然
import	*v.*	to bring in (esp. foreign goods or services) to a country　进口；to introduce sth. new or different in a place where it did not previously exist　引进
fowl	*n.*	a bird that is kept for its meat and eggs　家禽，鸟
guinea fowl		a grey bird that is often eaten as food　珍珠鸡
preserve	*v.*	to keep sth. safe from harm or danger　保护
collapse	*n.*	a sudden failure; the action of a building falling down　倒塌，崩溃
clash	*n.*	a short fight between two groups　冲突
venison	*n.*	the meat from a deer　鹿肉
cloak	*n.*	a type of coat that has no sleeves and hangs loosely from the shoulders　斗篷，披风
lobby	*v.*	to try to influence a politician or the government　游说
bald eagle		白头鹰，秃头鹰
incompetent	*adj.*	not having the skill or ability to do a task　不能胜任的
feast	*n.*	a large or special meal to celebrate sth.　宴会，筵席
gobble	*v.*	(of a turkey-cock) to make a characteristic swallowing sound in the throat　（火鸡）咯咯地叫