

大学英语系列教材

大学英语 阅读新体验(上)

College English New Experience

主编 邹晓玲
张梅

Reading



重庆大学出版社
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内 容 提 要

《大学英语阅读新体验》是根据教育部新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)对《大学英语阅读进阶》(新版)作的一个全新的修改,也是大学英语系列教材之一,旨在逐步培养学生的阅读技能和良好的阅读习惯以及阅读方式,提高学生英语阅读能力,并帮助学生通过有效的阅读,获取知识,拓宽视野。

该教材分为上、下两册,本册为上册。每单元以阅读技能为主线,通过对各个微技能的讲解,增强读者的认识,并通过举例来阐述各个微技能在阅读过程中的应用。本书也提供了实践训练的机会,以便巩固学生对各个微技能的掌握。为了提高学生的综合阅读能力,扩大阅读量,本书在每个单元还编写了快速阅读、细致阅读等。每篇文章长度适中,编写的练习题型与大学英语四、六级考试题型类似,针对性强,有助于学生作充分的应试准备。

本书可作为阅读课程教材使用,也可用作学生的课外补充学习资料,同时也可作为其他英语爱好者的自学课本。

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前言

《大学英语阅读新体验》依据教育部新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)编写,供大学英语基础阶段的教学使用。本教材分为上、下两册,适用于大学英语课程1~2年级教学使用。

该教材用于阅读课程,介绍了近20个阅读微技能、技能的应用以及技能训练。本书在每个单元还编写了快速阅读、细致阅读等。每篇文章长度适中,编写的练习题型与大学英语四、六级考试题型类似,针对性强,有助于学生作充分的应试准备。本教材既可供课堂阅读教学使用,也可供学生课外自学。在该教材编写之前,我们对学生作了广泛的调查,学生普遍反映现有的一些教材中的阅读文章偏长,他们难于长时间地集中精力读下去;课文后的练习过多,无时间去完成,结果是做练习的时间多于阅读的时间;教材缺乏趣味性,版式陈旧,也缺少启发性的内容,等等。我们在综合了学生的反馈意见和参阅了国内外的一些阅读课本之后,决定该系列教材要更新教学理念,以人为本,充分发挥学生的学习自主性和能动性,从“要我读”转变为“我想读”。本系列教材编写的指导思想就是要把快乐(enjoyment)融入到阅读课中,建立一种“快乐阅读”(enjoyable reading)的理念,因为我们坚信这样一条阅读循环规律,即:快乐阅读(enjoys reading)→读得快(reads fast)→读得多(reads more)→理解好(understands better)→快乐阅读(enjoys reading)。要让学生做到“我想读”,其主要因素就是“enjoyment”,因此,该教材的编写思路的切入点就在“快乐阅读”这一点上。在此思路的指导下,本教材的特点体现在以下几个方面:

1. 采用skill-oriented的编写原则编写各单元。每单元均以各微技能为标题,便于学生查找所需技能,并对其有针对性地进行训练,熟练掌握阅读技能,更好地理解所读文章。

2. 所选材料均为地道的“原汁原味”,语言规范,内容新颖。选择的课文多为近期出版和发表的英文原版,有很强的时代感。

3. 学与考相结合。各单元设计了一定量的类似四、六级考试的题型,训练学生的阅读理解能力,以满足学生对参加考试的需要,做到既培养学生应用语言的能力,又训练了学生的应试能力。

4. 所选文章的难度和长度适中。根据相关技能和文章内容所编写的练习少而精,有利于学生在单元时间里完成,能让学生在轻松的学习中体验“快乐阅读”。

本教材的编写得到了许多同仁和专家的关心和悉心指导,重庆大学外国语学院



余渭深教授对本教材的修改提出了宝贵的意见；重庆大学出版社的领导和外语分社的编辑们为该教材的出版和版式设计等方面均付出了辛勤的劳动，我们借此机会向他们表示感谢。由于编者水平有限，难免存在不足之处，甚至有错误的地方，恳请使用本教材的广大教师和学生不吝指正。

编者

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UNIT ONE

Skimming for the Main Idea (1)

Part 1 Introduction to Skills

Skimming is defined as reading quickly to get the main idea of a text. It is a technique used in previewing or for getting an overview of a text. When skimming, your eyes read rapidly over the page, just pick out the main ideas and topics. Scanning also involves rapid movement through a text, but it aims at searching for specific information rather than the main points.

Skimming enables you to quickly go through the text without paying attention to all parts of it. It is a valuable preparation for intensive reading as it allows you to select what is essential to read and to gain an overview of the structure of the material.

Strategies in skimming involve reading:

- title, subtitles, subheading
- the first and last paragraphs
- the first sentence of each paragraph
- words in bold type, italics, digits, or tables

→ Example 1

Skim the following passage and answer the questions in three minutes.

While it is possible for people with great talent or drive to achieve with a bad attitude, it doesn't happen very often, and it takes an incredible amount of effort. And even if they do achieve some degree of success, they aren't happy. (And they make the people around them miserable too.) Most often, people with bad attitude don't get very far in life.



On the other hand, even barely average people can do great things when their attitudes are great. In *The Winner's Edge* (优势), Denis Waitley observed, "The winner's edge is not in a gifted birth, a high IQ, or in talent. The winner's edge is all in the attitude, not aptitude (才能). Attitude is the criterion for success."

► **Choose the best answer.**

1. Which one of the following can be regarded as the key word in the passage?
A. People. B. Attitude. C. Success. D. Talent.
2. Which answer best sum up the passage?
A. People with great talent can always achieve great success.
B. Successful people tend to make those around them unhappy.
C. Good attitude contributes greatly to one's success.
D. Attitude is important.
3. What is the main idea of Paragraph 1?
A. People with bad attitude can still be successful.
B. People with bad attitude are unhappy.
C. People with bad attitude usually will not be very successful.
D. It takes a great deal of effort to succeed.

► **Explanations**

1. The key is B. The topic of the passage is centered around people's attitude, so B is the correct answer.
2. The key is C. The last sentence in Paragraph 2 "*Attitude is the criterion for success*" best summarizes the main idea of the passage.
3. The key is C. The last sentence in Paragraph 1 is the conclusion made on people with bad attitude. Pay attention to organizers like "while, even if, most often" as they can guide you to follow the author's thought.



Example 2

Skim the following passage and answer the questions in four minutes.



Reading is becoming more and more important in the new knowledge economy and remains the most effective human activity for transforming information into knowledge.

If top readers read at speed of above 1,000 words per minute (wpm) with near 85% comprehension, they only represent 1% of readers. Average readers are the majority and only reach around 200 wpm with a typical comprehension of 60%. This seems surprising since most readers, actively reading work documents, newspapers, magazines, books or the contents of a computer display are practicing daily for at least one hour. With such an intense training everyone should be close to top performance.

Unfortunately, this is far from the real situation. The average reader is five times slower than the good reader. Things are even worse if we consider reading efficiency as well as speed. Reading efficiency is reading speed weighted by (加权, 乘以) comprehension rate and it amounts to $200 \times 60\%$ or 120 efficient words per minute (ewpm) for the average reader and to $1,000 \times 85\%$ or 850 ewpm for top readers. Thus, an efficiency ratio of seven divides these two categories.

➤ **Choose the best answer.**

1. Compared to average reader, the accomplished reader reads with _____.
A. higher speed and worse reading comprehension
B. higher speed and better reading comprehension
C. higher speed and same reading comprehension
2. Readers reading above 1,000 wpm _____.
A. are average readers
B. are the majority of readers
C. are the 1% minority
3. The average reader's comprehension is around _____.
A. 50% B. 60% C. 86%

➤ **Explanations**

1. The key is B. You can find the answer from the figures in the first and second sentence in Paragraph 2.



2. The key is C. The first sentence in Paragraph 2 provides the answer.
3. The key is B. The figure appears in both Paragraph 2 and Paragraph 3. Paying attention to figures, words in bold type etc. which can help you grasp the key points.

Part 2 Timed Reading

Go over the following passage quickly and then complete Section A and Section B within 15 minutes.

Does Apple Still Need Steve Jobs?

Apple is known for building excitement over its latest devices, but the company's next closely watched event has nothing to do with a product. Instead, anticipation is growing over the scheduled return of Apple's talented CEO.

It's been almost six months since Steve Jobs — who co-founded Apple and has thrilled the public by launching consumer tech favourites such as the iPhone and the iPod — announced that he was taking a medical leave of absence until the end of June.

As that time quickly approaches, Apple fans, investors and observers have been gripped by questions. Will he come back as promised? If so, in what capacity? And how crucial is he still to the company's success?

Jobs, who is a pancreatic (胰岛的) cancer survivor, revealed at the beginning of this year that a hormone (荷尔蒙) imbalance caused the considerable weight loss that had some speculation whether his cancer had returned.

"The remedy for this nutritional problem is relatively simple and straightforward, and I've already begun treatment," Jobs wrote in a letter addressed to the "Apple community" on January 5.

"But, just like I didn't lose this much weight and body mass in a week or a month, my doctors expect it will take me until late this spring to regain it."

There had been little news since. But that all changed Saturday when The Wall Street Journal reported Jobs, 54, had a liver transplant about two months ago in Tennessee. He has been recovering well, but may work part-time for several weeks when he returns to



work, the newspaper reported.

The fact that the article appeared just hours after Apple began selling its new iPhone 3GS had some bloggers (博客) questioning the timing of the report, with some suggesting that the excitement over the rollout helped draw attention away from the revelations about Jobs' health.

Apple didn't comment on The Wall Street Journal report directly, answering media questions with the same statement.

"Steve continues to look forward to returning to Apple at the end of June, and there is nothing further to say," said Apple spokesman Steve Dowling.

Dowling declined to provide a specific date for Jobs' return or say whether Jobs would be making any public appearances or statements.

'Iconic figure'

"This feels like they're clearing the way for his return. But it wouldn't be out of character for Apple to let the deadline slip a bit," said Philip Elmer-DeWitt, who writes the Apple 2.0 blog for Fortune magazine and has been covering the company since 1982.

"The real issue of Steve's coming back is: How much does the company need him?"

How much, indeed?

Investors have been painfully aware of how much development regarding Jobs' health — real or rumour — can affect Apple's stock price. But experts say Apple has been taking steps to ensure that its fortunes are not linked with Jobs taking an active role in the company.

"He's an iconic figure that everybody wants around, he's the world's greatest salesman and that's irreplaceable," said Gene Munster, a senior research analyst at Piper Jaffray, who has been covering Apple since 2003.

"But as far as the product direction and the product quality, the road map for the next five years is already in place (at Apple)."

Munster described Jobs as a visionary and someone with the ability to figure out what the next big thing is. But he said Piper Jaffray's "Buy" recommendation on the company's stock wouldn't change even if Jobs doesn't come back, based on the strength of products such as the iPhone.



Still, few companies have been so closely associated with their CEOs. Munster compared the situation to Henry Ford and the car company he founded at the beginning of the 20th century. Elmer-DeWitt said it could be compared to Walt Disney and the entertainment giant he created.

Jobs is also much more than just a CEO. His talent for developing must-have products, his signature black sweaters and dramatic delivery during product launches have made him a cultural icon beyond Silicon Valley. He was even imitated for fun on "Saturday Night Live."

Smaller role

Observers say Apple and Jobs himself have made efforts in recent years to "wean" (断奶) the public off his presence, such as including other people onstage with him during events and de-emphasizing his role.

"Last year a lot of scholars were (saying that) if Steve Jobs left the company, the company would just immediately fall into ruin," said Daniel Eran Dilger, a contributing editor for AppleInsider.com.

"And what's interesting is after he went on leave, and he's been away for six months now, the company has had a couple of major announcements and events and has gone on fine."

When he began his leave of absence, Jobs put Apple Chief Operating Officer Tim Cook in charge of the company's day-to-day operations. "If Jobs decides to step down, Cook can take over and probably will," Elmer-DeWitt said.

"There are lots of smart people at Apple and most people have sort of accepted the idea that Jobs trained an executive team to operate the company without him," he added.

"And that his DNA, the thing that makes Apple different from all the other companies, has been baked into the leadership team and that the company will do fine."

What may be lacking years down the road if Jobs retires or leaves is his "X-factor" and his unique stamp on every little piece of design.

"Once you get a bunch of people in a room, none of whom is more powerful than the other, you start to get products that are literally designed by committee and that's what Apple products never were," Elmer-DeWitt said. "They were always designed by very smart people that Steve chose. But in the end there was one guy who had final say on them. It



remains to be seen whether there's someone at Apple who can step up and take over that role."

◆ Section A Information Confirmation ◆

Read the following statements and mark Y (for YES) if they agree with the information given in the passage, or mark N (for NO) if they contradict the information. If the information is not given, mark NG (for NOT GIVEN).

1. The Wall Street Journal reported that Jobs was suffering from hormone imbalance and he could only work part-time for the company.
2. Jobs was taking a medical leave of absence when Apple began selling its new iPhone 3GS.
3. Investors believe that even rumours about Jobs' health can affect the Apple stock.
4. Piper Jaffray would not stop buying the Apple stocks even if Jobs leaves Apple.
5. The Apple Company has been operating quite well, even after Jobs' absence.
6. Jobs has left his own unique signature on every product, just as DNA does.
7. There is already a team of outstanding men at Apple who can take over Jobs' role.

◆ Section B Information Completion ◆

Complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

8. Apple is eager for the return of Jobs who thinks his medical treatment rather .
9. Jobs is not only a CEO but also a in the eyes of the public.
10. After Jobs is retired, another chief officer is to take over the company's .



Part 3 Reading in Depth

Read the following two passages carefully and then do the exercises below.



Passage 1

While homogenization (同质化) has made it easier to grow huge amounts of food on ever larger plots of land, adapting to global warming-induced changes becomes more difficult, particularly if those changes vary from farm to farm and plant to plant.

Agricultural scientists say there are a variety of possible solutions to avoid low crop yields or failures. Lewis Ziska, a USDA plant physiologist based in Beltsville, Maryland, is in the early stages of creating more flexible varieties of food crops by breeding them with certain weeds. "Many weeds seem to do better, in general, under a wide range of environment," he said. "Can we take these genes and exploit these abilities by crossing the weeds with cultivated lines? Absolutely." Ziska notes, for example, that domesticated rice can't produce seed if the temperature grows above about 90° Fahrenheit (32° Celsius) when the plant is trying to fertilize (使受精). Some weeds related to rice avoid the problem, however, by undergoing fertilization in the early morning or at night, when temperatures are generally cooler. That feature could be passed to the domesticated rice, Ziska says.

Scientists are also looking to breed modern crops with ancestral plant lines. Global warming forecasts predict higher concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Ziska has found that under such conditions an early 20th-century strain (品种) of wheat actually performs better than a common modern strain. Jones, of Washington State University, is working on this, as well. His team made test plots of every strain of wheat grown in the Pacific Northwest since the 1850s, looking for features that could be useful under global warming conditions.

The plant geneticist said he is especially interested in characteristics that haven't been selected for since modern farmers started relying heavily on herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers — such as the ability to compete with weeds or grow well in poor soil. Plants with those features could help farmers reduce the need for chemical inputs and lower their