


高等学校大学英语阅读教材

# 大学英语 阅读教程

上册(二年级用)

AN ENGLISH READING COURSE  
FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

主编 谢立新

 世界图书出版公司

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号 M10 字登备(期)

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世界图书出版公司

北京·广州·上海·西安

(陕)新登字 014 号

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上、下册(二年级用)

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责任编辑 唐娟莉

世界图书出版公司出版发行

(西安市西木头市 34 号 邮编 710002)

西北农业大学印刷厂印刷

全国各地新华书店经销

开本:850×1168 1/32 印张:19 620 千字

1997 年 7 月第 1 版 1997 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

1998 年 7 月第 2 次印刷

印数:3001—4000 册

ISBN 7-5062-3387-8/H·140

Wx3387 定价(上下册):27.00 元

陕西·新土·陕西·新土

## 前言

本套教材是按照《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语四级考试大纲》对阅读理解的基本要求编写的,旨在培养、帮助学生迅速提高阅读水平,达到“两纲”对学生阅读能力的规定和要求,顺利通过国家大学英语四级考试。

本套教材分为四个分册,一年级和二年级分别各使用上、下两个分册。每个分册各由 30 个单元组成。参照大学英语四级考试样题阅读理解部分的形式,每个单元设有 4 篇短文。1—20 单元各篇短文后设有 5 个选择类型的阅读理解题;21—30 单元各篇短文后设有简短问题回答(Short Answer Questions),使之更贴近现行全国四级英语考试形式。此外,根据目前题型变化,在每个单元又增设了翻译练习,以划线形式选出大约 5 个句子,要求学生在理解文章的同时翻译成符合汉语习惯的中文。

每篇短文约 200—400 个单词,每个单元总词汇量为 1000—1400 个单词。全套教程共 120 个单元,480 篇短文,生词量一般不超过 3%,对超纲单词在短文后加注汉语释义。

本教程选材广泛,有科普知识、人物传记、英语国家风土人情、日常生活常识、社会、文化、教育等各方面的内容。体裁多样,有叙述文、说明文、议论文等。文章编排由浅入深,循序渐进并融知识性和趣味性于一体,具有较强的可读性。

本套教程由谢立新主编。一年级用书上册由潘俊武担任副主编,撰稿人为谢立新、潘俊武、刘淑颖;下册由林文煌担任副主编,撰稿人为林文煌、张兰、魏晓朴;二年级用书上册由刘蔚铭担任副

主编,撰稿人为刘蔚铭、张耕天、葛亚军;下册由谢立新、范晓玲担任主编,撰稿人为范晓玲、谢立新、穆翠英。

本教程在编写过程中,得到西北政法学院常务副院长陈明华教授和院教务处的支持帮助,陕西省人民政府外事办公室副主任饶笃钧教授和西安外国语学院李惠康副译审在百忙之中审阅了全稿,在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者才疏学浅,舛错疏漏之处在所难免,恳请同行和广大读者批评指正。

一九九七年七月一日于西安

编者

一九九七年七月一日于西安

编者

编者

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编者

编者

编者

编者

*Mendly*

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## Unit 1

### Passage A

The First Lady of the United States, Mrs. Nancy Reagan, brought her battle against drug abuse to the Voice of America in September. She told a group of visiting newspapermen that they "have the power to protect young people from a terrible fate."

"You can save lives," she said, "simply by covering the drug story. I don't mean just the arrests, I mean covering the damage that drugs do to individuals and societies."

7 Mrs. Reagan addressed her comments to 16 newspapermen from developing nations who were attending a special VOA discussion designed to give them a firsthand look at how the United States wages its war on drugs.

In the past six years, Mrs. Reagan has spoken out excitedly and tirelessly against the horrors of drug abuse. She has visited dozens of primary and secondary schools in the United States and talked to thousands of young people, urging them to resist the temptation to use drugs. Her slogan — "Just Say, No!" — has become the battle cry of America's war on drugs.

But Mrs. Reagan's message is not just meant for those who live in the United States. Drugs are not confined by any national boundaries, and neither is the First Lady's campaign. In addition to hosting two international conferences devoted to the problem

of drug abuse, she has travelled to eight countries to warn people in other lands not to fall into the trap that has caught hundreds of thousands of Americans. But as determined as the First Lady is, she understands that if she is going to win this global war, she will need allies (盟友). Perhaps that is the major reason she wanted to address the newspapermen.

**Notes:**

1. cover *v.* 对...进行新闻采访;报道
2. do damage to 损害
3. wage a war on 对...展开斗争
4. cry *n.* 口号;标语
5. host *v.* 主办;主持

**Comprehension:**

1. The passage deals primarily with the global war against drug abuse.
  - a. the seriousness of drug problem America faces
  - b. the First Lady's efforts to spread her war on drugs
  - c. the global war against drug abuse
  - d. what Mrs. Reagan addressed to a group of newspapermen on drug abuse
2. According to Mrs. Reagan, the best way to protect people from drug abuse is "Just Say, No!".
  - a. to cry "Just Say, No!" as a slogan
  - b. to punish the drug takers severely and treat them carefully
  - c. to convince people that drug abuse is a disaster for individuals and societies
  - d. to urge young people to resist the temptation to use drugs

3. Mrs. Reagan addressed her comments to the newspapermen mainly because \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. they had the power to protect young people from a terrible fate
  - b. she was hosting two international conferences devoted to the problem of drug abuse
  - c. they could save lives by writing about medicine
  - d. she wanted them and their countries to join her in the war against drug abuse
4. VOA, as used in the passage, means \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the Voice of America
  - b. the Visiting Organization's Affairs
  - c. the Vice president's Opening Address
  - d. the Victory of America
5. How does the author feel about Mrs. Reagan?
- a. He speaks highly of her.
  - b. He heartily sympathizes with her.
  - c. He is strongly impressed with her address.
  - d. He shares her cares and burdens.

### Passage B

The most important factors conditioning social development during this generation were the growth of cities and the increase in speed of technological changes. The cities were the centers of industry and business, of government, of entertainment, of education, of literature and arts. Urban ideas and ways of life spread out over the countryside. Under the influence of the

(prə'vɪnʃə'lɪzəm) (stəndə'raɪzɪŋ) 7th  
movies, the radio, newspaper, national advertising, and so forth, provincialism (乡土气) gave way to standardization. 30-14

Of many forces making for standardization, the moving picture was one of the most important. Moving pictures date from the early years of the century, but they did not become a big-time business until the First World War or attain their great influence until the arrival of "talking pictures" in 1927. By the end of the decade, between eighty and one hundred million persons went to the movies every week and a very large proportion of these were children. It was from the movies that the rising generation got many of its ideas about life, usually romantic (浪漫的) and often highly misleading. To many the moving pictures offered an escape from dull reality into the world of romance, where all women were beautiful and all men handsome, where riches brought happiness, and where all stories had a happy ending. Directly and indirectly the movies exercised an incalculable influence. They set styles in dress and hairdos (发式), in furniture and interior decoration (装饰), they created popular songs, they taught manners, and created popular heroes and heroines. Their influence spread throughout the world. 18-21

Notes:

1. condition v. 决定, 规定
2. give way to 让步于, 屈服于
3. exercise v. 施加, 使受(影响等)
4. set v. 决定, 确定

**Comprehension :**

6. What most contributed to the changes in ways of life during this generation?

- a. The development of industry and business.
- b. The standardization of the society.

c. The urban development and progress of technology.

d. The growth of cities and the improvement of government.

7. The moving pictures most probably came into being in

a. 1927

b. 1910's

c. 1930's

d. 1905

8. The movies exercised great influence on the young children

a. by painting a rosy picture of modern ideas

b. by offering an escape from their miserable life

c. by bringing them happiness

d. by telling true stories about popular heroes

9. From this passage, we would say that

a. young children's imaginations are often fired by what they

have seen in the pictures

b. it is quite natural that provincialism should give way to standardization

c. moving pictures had no sooner been created than their influence began to spread throughout the world

d. the world of romance is likely to come true

10. The best title for the passage would be

a. The Influence of the Movies upon Education

b. The Short History of the Movies

c. From Provincialism to Standardization

d. The Civilizing Role of the Moving Pictures

Passage C

In 1961, scientists set up enormous, sensitive apparatus (仪器) to collect radio waves from the far reaches of space, hoping to discover in them some mathematical patterns indicating that the waves were sent out by other intelligent beings. The first attempt failed; but someday the experiment may succeed.

What reason is there to think that we may actually detect intelligent life in outer space? To begin with, modern theories of the development of stars suggest that almost every star has some sort of family of planets. So any star like our own sun (and there are billions upon billions of such stars in the universe) is likely to have a planet situated at such a distance that it would receive about the same amount of radiation as the earth.

Moreover, such a planet would probably have the same general composition as our own; so, allowing a billion years or two — or three — there would be a very good chance for life to develop, if current theories of the origin of life are correct.

But intelligent life? Life that has reached the stage of being able to send radio waves out into space in a scientific pattern? Our own planet may have been in existence for five billion years and may have had life on it for two billion, but it is only in the last fifty years that intelligent life capable of sending radio waves into space has lived on earth. From this it might seem that even if there were no technical problems involved, the chance of re-

ceiving signals from any particular earth-type planet would be extremely small. This does not mean that intelligent life at our level does not exist somewhere.

**Notes:**

1. intelligent beings n. 智慧人
2. for two billion = for two billion years

**Comprehension:**

11. The author feels that failure of the 1961 radio-wave experiment was \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. surprising
- b. to be expected
- c. helpful
- d. a technical problem

12. The author states most positively that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. our earth has had life on it for two billion years
- b. other stars were born in the same way as our own sun
- c. any planet like our earth receives about the same amount of radiation
- d. the stars like our own sun are too many to be counted

13. According to the author, intelligent life in outer space is the beings that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. are living on any earth-type planet
- b. have reached the same level as human beings on earth
- c. have been in existence for five billion years
- d. have no technical problems in receiving radio waves

14. Had radio waves from another planet reached the earth one hundred years ago, the earth would have \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. answered a few years ago

- b. sent an immediate answer
  - c. sent no answer
  - d. replied after a few years
15. The author's belief that there may be life in outer space is based on \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the radio signals received from outer space
  - b. what we know of life on earth
  - c. the second experiments that have been proved successful
  - d. what has been proved by current theories of the origin of life

#### Passage D

Because there has always been a universal tendency to consider and guess the weather, we have today an enormous body of weather proverbs. Many of them are nonsense, the product of ignorance and imagination. But a surprisingly large number of 'old wives' tales about the weather have turned out to be remarkably suitable for the time or conditions. A physics professor at Wayne University recently examined more than three hundred proverbs. He found that almost 50 per cent of them were based on factors that we now consider scientific.

The most interesting weather proverbs concern animals. This branch of weather proverbs is of great significance, for it deals with weather's direct influence on living creatures. To early man, animals seemed to be physically aware not only of what the weather was like today but what it would be like tomorrow. They appeared to detect the slightest variations in the air and to

know through a kind of sixth sense that certain weather changes were on the way.

We have seen that an approaching storm makes its mark on a whole population and causes a kind of mass reaction. Dramatic as the human response is, the response of animals is even more striking. Well-trained horses will bolt an run; pigs will fight among themselves; fish will rise to the surface of the water and practically beg to be caught.

"When swallows fly high," runs a familiar weather proverb, "the weather is going to remain beautiful; when they fly low, the weather will change." This is true. Swallows eat various insects which they catch on the wing. In clear, fine weather insects generally fly high — that is, about one to two hundred feet up — and naturally the birds match the height of their food. If the air becomes suddenly cool, as it does before rain, insects "instinctively" (本能的) sink to a lower altitude to avoid the cold air, and the birds follow them.

Another animal saying that deserved its universal fame is that cats with tails up and hair standing on end forecast an approaching wind. This idea happens to be based on sound physics, for a pleasantly cold and strong wind is known to set up an electrical current in the atmosphere that does influence substances like cats' fur. And it can do this before the wind actually arrives, making the peculiar position of the cats' fur an actual warning of the wind that is on the way.

#### Notes:

1. universal a. 普遍的, 一般的

2. striking *a.* 明显的  
3. bolt *v.* 窜出, 跳出  
4. run *v.* 写着, 说着  
5. on the wing 飞着, 飞行中  
6. match *v.* 和...相称

### Comprehension:

16. What is the main purpose of the passage?  
a. To compare weather proverbs and animal sayings.  
b. To prove many weather proverbs grounded on science.  
c. To argue for animal sayings.  
d. To explain the response of animals to weather changes.
17. What is the best evidence that many old sayings about the weather are quite appropriate?  
a. A Wayne University Physicist's finding.  
b. An enormous body of weather proverbs.  
c. A universal tendency to consider and guess the weather.  
d. A large number of 'old wives' tales about the weather.
18. The author informs us that \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. weather changes have more effect on man than on animals  
b. an approaching storm makes its mark only on the animal population  
c. early man could detect the slightest variations in the air  
d. the response of animals to weather changes is more noticeable than the human response
19. Which of the following may be considered as a weather predictor?  
a. Fish floats on water.