

四川省成人高等教育统编教材

基础英语

肖 澜 唐树成 编著

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

(供本科使用)



世界图书出版公司

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前 言

《基础英语阅读理解教材》是根据四川省教委1996年5月颁发的成人高等教育《基础英语教学大纲》编写的英语泛读教材,供四川省成人本科非英语专业学生使用。

本教材拟通过相当数量知识性趣味性强的英语文章,使学生喜欢英语进而学好英语。考虑到我省成人教育学生学习英语的现状和未来,选文时注意了文章由浅入深的过渡。

本教材为成人教育英语精读的配套教材,课文数量按精读与泛读1比3的比例编写,分为上下两册,共20个单元,供本科生使用一年。每个单元含三篇文章,其中第一篇未配练习,意在“开卷有益”,只需学生读懂大意即可;第二、三篇配有少量练习,引导学生较深入地理解课文。本教材旨在让学生通过大量阅读从而提高英语水平。

唐树成老师编写三级上册1至10单元;肖澜老师编写下册1至10单元并负责全书的统稿工作。

四川省教委成人教育处直接领导并组织本教材的编写。熊德明、陶志富、彭文博、黄治康、廖岷等老师在审稿时提出了许多宝贵意见,在此我们表示衷心的感谢!

由于时间仓促,教材中难免有不妥之处,敬请使用本教材的老师及同行们指正,以便日后定正。

编 者

1998年4月

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Unit One

1 Seeing Is Believing

In 1962, Rosa Kuleshova, a Russian, told her doctor, Dr Iosif M. Goldberg¹, that she could “see” with her fingers. Naturally he didn’t quite believe it until Rosa demonstrated her powers. Dr Goldberg blindfolded her and then put colored papers and newspapers under her hands. She was able to tell one color from another and read the newspapers by running her finger over them. After examining her many times and being satisfied with the results, the doctor sent her to Moscow where she was further examined by scientists, and her unusual powers, in the end, were proved true².

Some people have an even more wonderful ability, the ability to see things under ground. Almost every water company in the world has called upon the help of a dowser to find water, usually with good results.

Some dowsers use sticks to help them with their work. But it is the mind which does the wonders³— the stick only reacts when the mind finds what it is looking for. That would seem to be the only right answer to the question why some people have another wonderful ability — that of map dowsing⁴. They can find missing people or objects under ground simply by running a stick over a map. Here is an example. Thomas Trench, a dowser, was asked to find the missing body of a man who had been killed in Brussel. With a picture of the man before him, Trench moved a stick over a small map of Belgium. The stick stopped at a place near Blankenbenghe. Then, with a large-scale map of this area, Trench was able to find, from 800 kilometers away, the place where the man’s body was later discovered— to within about 40 meters.

The next important question is whether such powers can enable man to see not only beyond the normal range of his vision but also beyond time and into the future.

The early research into these unusual powers has shown that if man relies only on his eyes for vision, he is very near-sighted. If he knew how, man might be able to “extend” his vision to see almost anything.

New Words

demonstrate <i>vt.</i>	演示, 示范	stick <i>n.</i>	细棍
blindfold <i>vt.</i>	罩住眼睛	body <i>n.</i>	尸体
dowser <i>n.</i>	用探杖探测水 (矿)源者	normal <i>adj.</i>	正常的
		range <i>n.</i>	范围

vision *n.* 视野
extend *v.* 扩展

near-sighted *adj.* 近视的

phrases & Expressions

tell ... from ... 区分...与...
be satisfied with 对...感到满意

call upon(up) 征召, 召唤
rely on 依靠...

Notes

1. In 1962, ... Goldbery: "a Russian" 是主语 "Rosa Kuleshova" 的同位语; "Dr Iosif M. Goldberg" 是宾语 "her doctor" 的同位语。
2. ... and her unusual powers, in the end, were proved true: 最后, 她超乎寻常的能力被证实是真的。"proved" 为系动词; "true" 为表语, 说明主语 "powers" 的性质。
3. does the wonders: 做出惊人成就。
4. map dowsing: 借助地图寻物

2 Plastic — Man's Most Useful Material

The history of plastics is longer than you might expect. In fact the first man-made plastic ever to appear on the market was made over a hundred years ago. It was called 'celluloid'. It was discovered both by an Englishman and by an American in the same year. But it was the Americans who first manufactured it on a large scale during the 1860s. Everybody was very excited by this new material which could be moulded into shapes and was so cheap to buy. Poor young men working in smoky cities were able to buy white celluloid collars. These collars were hard and uncomfortable, but they did not have to be sent to the wash. The poor young men could rub them clean every evening with soap and water! Poor mothers, who had not been able to afford toys for their children, were now able to buy them toys made of celluloid. But celluloid had one very serious fault. It caught fire very easily. In fact it burned even more quickly than wood or cloth. There were many terrible accidents, particularly among children

For years scientists worked hard to find a better plastic material than celluloid. They had little success. Then in 1912 an American scientist called Bakeland produced a hard plastic material which did not burn. It became known as 'bakelite'. Other plastic materials like bakelite were also manufactured. They were used to make electrical fittings and plates and cups. Poor people liked them because they were both cheap and safe. But rich people disliked them because they looked cheap and because they could only be made in dark or dull colours.

In 1939 came the Second World War. It was the war more than anything else that quickened the development of plastics. Scientists all over the world worked harder than they had ever worked before. Plastics and plastic fibres were needed by every wartime department. So it was largely thanks to the wartime scientists that we have so many different plastic materials today¹.

But will the spread of plastics mean the end of natural materials? One day, perhaps, this may happen, for artists as well as manufacturers are now working with plastics. But many people still prefer the look and the feel of natural materials. The trouble with plastics is that they are too perfect. Their surfaces are too smooth. Two plastic objects which come from the same mould look exactly the same. But two objects made of wood never look quite the same, even if they have been made by machines in a factory.

It is not likely, either, that plastic fibres will ever completely take the place of natural fibres. Materials made entirely of plastic fibres² are not quite as beautiful to look at as

silk, or quite as soft as wool — at least, not yet³. Besides, clothes made of pure plastic fibres do not 'breathe' like clothes made of natural materials — at least, not yet! They make the wearer feel hot and sticky. Therefore cloth manufacturers now usually mix cotton or wool with plastic fibres.

Perhaps we could call this the Plastic Age. Certainly more and better plastics will be made in the future.

New Words

plastic <i>n.</i>	塑料	collar <i>n.</i>	衣领
celluloid <i>n.</i>	赛璐珞	bakelite <i>n.</i>	胶木
manufacture <i>vt.</i>	制造	fitting <i>n.</i>	零配件
mould <i>v.</i>	铸模, 成型	fibre <i>n.</i>	纤维

Phrases & Expressions

on a large scale	大规模地	take the place of	取代…
mould…into	将…铸型成	mix … with …	把…与…混合
thanks to …	多亏得, 由于…		

Notes

1. So it was largely thanks to … that we have… today. 此为强调句型。
2. … materials made entirely of plastic fibres: "made entirely of …" 为过去分词短语作定语, 修饰主语 "materials".
3. … at least, not yet = at least (they have) not (been as beautiful to look at as…) yet. 至少, 现在还没有。

Exercise

True or False

1. It was more than a century ago that people got things made of plastics.
2. Poor young people cared for white celluloid collars, because they were easy to wash and cheap to buy.
3. Because of its poor appearance and unpleasant colours, bakelite was not popular with the rich.
4. Owing to the World War II, various plastic materials were needed.

5. With the wide spread of plastic materials the end of natural material will certainly come.
- 6 Clothes of pure plastic fibres will take the place of the ones made of natural materials some day.

3 How to Give a Good Speech

1) We are all called upon to make a speech at some point in life, but most of us don't do a very good job. This article gives some suggestions on how to give an effective speech.

2) So, you have to give a speech — and you're terrified. You get so nervous that you forget what you want to say, you stumble over words, you talk too long, and you bore your audience. Later you think, "Thank goodness, it's over. I'm just no good at public speaking. I hope I never have to do that again."

3) Cheer up! It doesn't have to be that bad. Here are some simple steps to take the pain out of speech-making. First of all, it is important to plan. Do your homework. Find out everything you can about your subject. And, at the same time, find out as much as you can about your audience¹. Who are they? What do they know about your subject? Do they have a common interest? Why are they coming to hear you speak? Put yourself in their shoes as you prepare your speech.

4) Ask yourself the purpose of your speech. What is the occasion? Why are you speaking? Are you introducing another speaker? Moderating a discussion? Giving a lecture? Convincing someone? There are many possible speaking roles, and each one has its own special characteristics. Make sure you know into which category you fit². Don't spoil your speech by confusing one speaking role with another.

5) Let us suppose that you have been asked to introduce the main speaker at a conference. First, find out the most important and interesting things about the speaker. Then, summarize this information in a few remarks. It is all right to tell a joke or an anecdote if it is in good taste and will not embarrass the speaker. And, most important, be brief. Remember, *you* are not the main speaker, you are *introducing* the main speaker.

6) If you are a moderator, you should begin by giving a quick introduction of the people on the list. After that, you should try to keep the discussion running smoothly, and you should try to focus on the connections between speakers. Keep yourself in the background. Don't talk too much, and don't interrupt the speakers. Be skillful and be considerate.

7) If you are giving a lecture or explaining an idea, gather as many facts as you can on your subject. Spend plenty of time doing your research. Then spend plenty of time organizing your material so that your speech is clear and easy to follow. Use as many examples as possible, and use pictures and charts if they will help you make your points more clear-

ly. Never forget your audience. Don't talk over their heads, and don't talk down to them. Treat your audience with respect. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

8) If you are trying to sell something, you will need to convince your audience. Do you want them to vote for Candidate A? Are you offering them a new, improved tooth-brush? This kind of speech is usually dramatic, but here too, you must do your research and know your facts.

9) When you are making your speech, try to relax. Speak slowly and clearly and look at people in your audience. Use simple vocabulary and expressions whenever possible. Pause for a few seconds now and then to give your audience a chance to think about what you have said. Make sure that everyone in the room can hear you. If it is a large room or an auditorium, you will probably have to use a microphone.

10) Just remember: *be prepared*. Know your subject, your audience, and the occasion. *Be brief*. Say what you have to say and then stop. And *be yourself*. Let your personality come through so that you make person-to-person contact with your audience.

11) If you follow these simple steps, you'll see that you don't have to be afraid of public speaking. In fact, you may find the experience so enjoyable that you volunteer to make more speeches! You're not convinced yet? Give it a try and see what happens.

New words

nervous <i>adj.</i>	神经紧张的	vote <i>v.</i>	投票
stumble <i>v.</i>	磕碰; 结巴	candidate <i>n.</i>	候选人
bore <i>v.</i>	使...感到腻味	dramatic <i>adj.</i>	夸张的, 戏剧性的
audience <i>n.</i>	听众	relax <i>v.</i>	松懈, 松弛
purpose <i>n.</i>	目的	vocabulary <i>n.</i>	词汇
moderate <i>v.</i>	主持, 仲裁	auditorium <i>n.</i>	礼堂
convince <i>v.</i>	使信服, 说服	microphone <i>n.</i>	扩音器
anecdote <i>n.</i>	轶事, 趣闻	personality <i>n.</i>	个性
embarrass <i>vt.</i>	使尴尬	contact <i>n.</i>	接触
considerate <i>adj.</i>	周到	volunteer <i>v.</i>	自愿
chart <i>n.</i>	图表、图示	characteristic <i>n.</i>	特征
conference <i>n.</i>	会议	category <i>n.</i>	范畴
summarize <i>v.</i>	总结	spoil <i>v.</i>	弄糟
remark <i>n.</i>	评价	brief <i>adj.</i>	简洁的
thoughtfulness <i>n.</i>	周到, 有头脑		

Phrases & Expressions

call upon sb.	召唤,请求(某人)	fit into	适合于
be terrified	感到害怕	over one's head	超过…的理解力
cheer up	鼓起精神	talk down	驳倒;压服
put ... in one's shoes	设身处地	be oneself	从容自在
make sure	弄明确;使保证	come through	发挥;展现
in good taste	得体,文雅	make contact with	与…接触

Notes

1. ...find out as much as you can about your audience: 尽可能地了解你的听众。“...as you can”为定语从句,修饰“much”;“about your audience”也是修饰“much”的定语。
2. Make sure you know into which category you fit. 你务必弄明白什么内容适合自己去讲述。

Exercises

Wh-questions

1. What is the author's purpose in writing this article?
2. What should you do first if you are asked to make a public speech?
3. What are the materials you'd better prepare for your lecture?
4. Why should a speaker pay attention to speaking slowly and using simple vocabulary and expressions?
5. How do you feel of making public speeches?

Reading Comprehension

1. The main idea of this article is that _____.
A) you can improve your speaking ability
B) a poor speaker can never change
C) you always make a short speech
D) You needn't be afraid of making speeches
2. Paragraph 2 does not directly say but implies that _____.
A) many people are afraid of giving a speech
B) many people are happy to give a speech
C) many people make poor speeches

- D) many people talk too long
3. Paragraph 3 _____.
A) gives some suggestions for how to make a better speech
B) says it is difficult to improve
C) does not give any suggestions for improvement
D) gives a summary of the article
4. Paragraph 4 explains that _____.
A) all speeches are similar
B) there are different kinds of speeches
C) a successful speaker is always dramatic
D) we know ways of speaking
5. In paragraph 5, why are the words “you” and “introducing” in *italics*?
A) To make them clearer to see.
B) Because they are not important.
C) To make them easier to read.
D) For emphasis.
6. Paragraph 6 suggests that if you are a moderator _____.
A) you should talk about yourself
B) you should act as a “bridge” between speakers
C) you should tell a joke
D) you should give a very long speech
7. According to paragraph 8, which of the following would be a speech to convince you of something?
A) How to Bake Bread.
B) An Evening to Honor Senator Smith’s Long Career.
C) Why You Should Live in Florida.
D) Introduce a speaker to the audience.
8. If the author of this article were speaking to you instead of writing, what type of speaker would he/she be?
A) Moderator B) Lecturer.
C) Introducer D) Narrator.