煤炭院校公共英语统编教材

# CURRENT EXTENSIVE ENGLISH READING COURSE

主编 刘文 白桂芬

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煤炭工业出版社



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当代大学英语泛读教程

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主编 刘 文 白桂芬

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## 前言

从语言学习规律来看,外语语言应用能力的提高是建立在大量阅读基础之上的。阅读是掌握语言知识、打好语言基础、获取信息的重要渠道。对于外语学习者来说,阅读不仅是目标语语言输入的主要来源,也是听、说、写、译等其他语言技能发展的基础和源头。没有足够的语言输入,其他技能的发展与提高是有限的。《CURRENT EXTENSIVE ENGLISH READING COURSE》系列教材是按照《大学英语课程教学要求》,在兼容大学英语泛读教程和快速阅读教程特点的基础上,针对大学英语四级考试的特点而专门设计编写的。其主旨就是帮助学习者扩大英语词汇量,提高新词新语、常用词汇和语法现象的识读速度,进而增强英语语感,开阔语言文化视野,转变语言思维方式,增强跨文化意识和交际能力,掌握英语阅读策略和阅读技能,最终促进其英语语言综合能力的全面提高。

本套教材选用的语料均为时文,大都选自国内外出版的期刊、报纸、书籍、杂志以及国内外主流网站。内容既有科普、人文社科文章,也有独特人物、异域风情篇章;既有心理学、政治、经济、历史、地理、文学艺术等主体话题,也有人们喜闻乐道的校园生活以及安全、网络、婚姻、家庭、情感、诚信、战争与和平、人际交往等热门话题。

本套教材的主要特点有:

- (1) 构思新颖;
- (2) 内容时尚且不乏经典, 语言鲜活;
- (3) 主题明确、新潮, 话题热点;
- (4) 理论指导,有读有练,效果易见;
- (5) 循序渐进,分级编写,由浅入深,适用面广。

本套教材总主编为河南理工大学赵增虎。本册主编为刘文和白桂芬, 副主编为朱晓丽、王丽君、温俊毅和周长军。

本教材在编写的过程中,得到了河南理工大学校领导、教务处的大力支持, 同时也得到了英语界同仁的倾力相助,在此向他们表示感谢!

本教材所采用的语言文字材料均注明了出处,在此谨向其作者表示衷心的感谢!

由于编者能力有限,本书在编写中可能会出现不足,甚至是错误之处,恳请读者批评指正。

编者

2010年6月



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# Unit 1 Geography

## Background

:://www.commons.com/

If you ever read the National Geography magazine or watch the Discovery channel, you will be amazed by the nature. How come the mountain is so high and the ocean is so deep? How come each mountain or river is so different from the other? There are so many things to explore on the earth that nobody would have enough time to see them all. However, to observe everything you see around you and to experience every adventure in your life, you will find that you learn a lot without even noticing it. Yet if you have any opportunity to go out of your normal world, go ahead and do it. You will see how people learn to live the best of their lives based on what Mother Nature provides to them. You will learn to respect every single creature on the earth. You will learn to appreciate each single moment of life for a butterfly, a flower, or even a leaf. Most importantly, you will learn to appreciate yourself.

## Part I Intensive Reading

Directions: There are four passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished sentences. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter.



If you come to study in the UK, you'll have the whole of Europe on your doorstep. Not only is it easier and quicker to get to the Continent than ever before, it's also cheaper than you might think.

The United Kingdom is now regarded as the gateway to Europe. It has never been easier, or cheaper, to get from Britain to the Continent, and to move from one European country to another.

A short break in Paris, Berlin or Amsterdam may cost you no more than a night on the town in London. Now that it is so easy, you would be foolish not to use the UK as your base to experience what the rest of the Continent has on offer. From the sunny shores of the Mediterranean to the icy slopes of the Alps, Europe has everything. The **cuisine** is rich and diverse. Its cities can offer both the best of modern culture and impressive ancient ruins, while Europe's rural areas can offer beaches and mountains, swimming and skiing-and they have never been more **accessible**.

If you are studying in the UK, you are eligible to purchase an International Student Identity Card (ISIC), which will come in very useful. The ISIC is the most widely accepted form of student identification and can get you discounts on museums, accommodation, travel and much more besides. Most student travel offices, such as STA or Campus Travel, issue the ISIC, and all you need is some valid form of student identification. When you apply for a card, pick up a copy of the ISIC handbook which lists some of the available discounts. Cardholders can also ring a free telephone line, which is open 24 hours a day, for advice and help.

Armed with your ISIC, you are in a better position to take advantage of the special offers available to students. The cheapest, though perhaps not the most comfortable, way to travel is by bus. The best method is to buy a Euro-bus travel pass, which allows unlimited travel for a predetermined length of time.

#### Get on the right track

Another popular way to travel around Europe is by train. If you travel between Monday and Friday, and book your tickets through STA, a return ticket will only set you back £49. You can be in Paris in four hours! Visit the "city of light," wander down the Champs Elysees or climb the Eiffel Tower and look down on the Arc de Triomphe and Notre Dame Cathedral. In around four and a half hours you could be in the heart of Europe, Brussels.

Many British students buy Inter-Rail passes so they can easily travel around the Continent during their holidays. Once you have been resident in the UK for more than six months you can buy one too. The various overseas countries have been grouped together into travel zones, such as Spain, Portugal and Morocco, or Norway, Sweden and Finland, and you pay for your card according to the number of places you plan to visit. Fifteen days in any one zone costs £185, and a month in all zones costs £275. If you buy an all-zones pass, 26 countries lie waiting for you to visit and you could make an epic trip from Copenhagen to Casablanca.

#### Taking to the air

Planes are still the fastest way to get around. STA and Campus Travel offer cut-price fares for students and those under 26. Fare prices drop dramatically between the big holiday rushes. Fly from Heathrow or Gatwick airport in London to Paris for just £48 return, Amsterdam for £69 or Madrid for £99. Prices are slightly higher from Britain's regional airports, but flights to European capitals can still be had for under £100.

#### Travelers' rest

Once you have reached your destination, you have to find somewhere to stay. You might

want to check out some of the youth hostels in Europe's major cities. Hostels are focal points for young budget travelers, and you will have a chance to swap stories and befriend other like-minded tourists. Most guests are in their teens and 20s, although hostels welcome older guests. Prices are low—only camping is cheaper.

Of course, not everyone wants to go it alone and there are many tour companies which specifically target young travelers. Top Deck offers a range of tours around Europe with the emphasis on meeting like-minded travelers and enjoying yourself. Their nine-day mini-Europe tour covers nine countries and starts at £359. Top Deck also offers tours on board yachts where you can combine sunbathing and lazing on deck with sightseeing and swimming. Contiki is another tour company which runs holidays for the 18~35 age group. Contiki runs concept tours where you can stay in a French château, a Swiss Alpine chalet, or in the Mediterranean resort of Mykonos. You could spend Easter in Amsterdam staying in a city-center hotel on a tour which features a bike ride, visits to the tulip bulb fields and a chance to see how cheese and clogs are made.

Alternatively, consider squeezing a week's skiing into your busy schedule, perhaps slipping it into a college reading week (you could take your books with you!). Whatever you choose, whether you are an **intrepid** traveler who wants to discover Europe for yourself, or the type who wants to be looked after by a tour group, there are plenty of good deals to be found.

(898 words,选自《英语沙龙》2006年第3期,世界知识出版社)

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accessible adj. easily obtained 易得到的 accommodation n. 住处,膳宿 befriend v. to behave as a friend to 像朋友一样对待 budget adj. appropriate to a budget; inexpensive 合乎预算的,便宜的 chalet n. 瑞士山中的牧人小屋 château n. 城堡 clog n. 木屐 cuisine n. a characteristic manner or style of preparing food 烹饪 Eiffel Tower 埃菲尔铁塔 eligible adj. qualified or entitled to be chosen 合格的,有资格或有权力被选中的 epic adj. surpassing the usual or ordinary, particularly in scope or size 宏大的 focal adj. of or relating to a focus 焦点的 intrepid adj. resolutely courageous; fearless 勇猛的; 无畏的 laze v. to spend (time) in loafing 懒散地打发(时间) Mykonos 米科诺斯(地名) Notre Dame Cathedral 巴黎圣母院 set back 使花费 swap v. to exchange (one thing) for another 以(一物)换另一物 the Arc de Triomphe 凯旋门 the Champs Elysees 香榭丽舍大街 vacht n. 游艇, 快艇

#### Questions 1 to 5 are based on Passage 1

- 1. Which of the following statements is Not mentioned in the passage?
  - A. Cities in Europe can provide both the best of modern culture and attractive ancient ruins.
  - B. There are many upper-scale stores in cities such as Paris and London.
  - C. European food is rich and diverse.
  - D. The rural areas can offer beaches, mountains, swimming and skiing.
- 2. STA refers to .
  - A. a kind of train ticket
  - B. an accepted form of student identification
  - C. a travel office
  - D. an Euro-bus travel pass
- 3. According to the passage, which city is called "City of Light"?
  - A. Madrid.
  - B. Paris.
  - C. Copenhagen.
  - D. Brussels.
- 4. You can buy one Inter-Rail pass \_\_\_\_\_
  - A. if you are an ISIC cardholder
  - B. if you book it in advance
  - C. if you have stayed in the UK for more than half a year
  - D. if you are an overseas student in the UK
- 5. Concept tours include all the following ones Except \_\_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. skiing in the Alps
  - B. staying in a French castle
  - C. visiting the tulip bulb field
  - D. seeing how cheese and clogs are made



On May 1, 2001, New York's Empire State Building celebrated its 70th birthday. Although it has now been **dwarfed** by several other buildings in the Big Apple, when it was completed in 1931 it was over 61 m (200 ft) taller than its nearest rival, the Chrysler Building, and at 381 m (1,250 ft) remained the tallest building in the world for 41 years, until the World Trade Center was completed in 1972—1973. The story of the Empire State Building begins with two men's race to build the highest man-made structure in the world.

#### The French Challenge

In 1889 the central feature of the World's Fair in Paris was Gustave Eiffel's massive tower, constructed with wrought iron and standing 300 m (980 ft) high. Architects in the United States viewed this as something of a challenge, and by the early 20th century the race was on to erect taller buildings than ever before. Soon skyscrapers were springing up along the New York skyline. In 1928 the founder of the Chrysler Corporation, Walter Chrysler, announced the building of a huge new skyscraper, taller than anything so far constructed in New York. It soon became clear that the new building was part of Chrysler's aim to rival the motoring giant General Motors. So John Jakob Raskob, of General Motors, decided to race Chrysler to the top. The final height of Chrysler's building was kept secret until it was complete, so Raskob instructed his architects to construct the highest tower they could. Their architectural plans had to be modified as the Chrysler Building grew ever higher, but when it topped out at 77 storeys the Empire State team knew that they could beat it.

#### New York in the Depression

This amazing burst of corporate rivalry seems even more extraordinary considering that in October 1929, a few months before construction work began on the Empire State Building, the stock market on Wall Street had crashed, and the US economy began its fall into the "Great Depression". The land, on which the Empire State Building was constructed, on Fifth Avenue, was a high-profile site. Raskob paid US\$16 million for the land, which in the 1920s was a vast sum of money by anyone's standards. Offsetting this was the fact that, owing to the deepening 20 economic crisis, the building costs were relatively low. The eventual cost of the building work was US \$24,718,000, about half of what had been expected.

For those companies and individuals working on the Empire State and Chrysler buildings, they must have seemed like heaven-sent opportunities, since the general climate of work and opportunities was **dire**. During the early years of the Depression, numerous businesses failed and many thousands of people lost their jobs. At the peak of the building operation, there were 3,000 men at work on the Empire State Building at any one time.

#### Breaking the records

No building project has yet surpassed the Empire State Building's record for speed of construction. From the beginning of construction in March 1930 it took 410 days and approximately 7 million man-hours to build. It rose at an astonishing speed of 4.5 storeys per week, thanks to careful planning and quality of work. The building was officially opened on May 1, 1931, by President Hoover.

#### What is the building used for?

Nobody lives in the Empire State Building, but it has many floors of offices and shops. As you might imagine, it is a very popular tourist attraction, visited by 3.8 million people every year. It boasts incredible views from its two observation platforms, on the 86th and 102nd floors (although if you visit on a cloudy day you may well see nothing at all). It is a popular spot for proposals and for marriages: there is a group wedding ceremony each year on St. Valentine's Day.

• 5 •

#### Filming the Empire State Building

The Empire State Building has been the setting for around 90 films. Probably most famous of these is the 1933 film King Kong, in which the giant ape climbed to the top of the tower with the heroine in his grasp, although this was filmed using a **miniature replica** of the skyscraper. More recently it has featured in films such as *Sleepless in Seattle* (1993) and *Independence Day* (1996); the latter was the only film to date in which this great symbol of American power, wealth, and durability has been completely destroyed!

#### Did you know?

The uppermost section of the Empire State Building was originally intended to be a docking mast for airships. However, the plan was abandoned when it was realized that it was too windy to moor airships to the mast, let alone for people to walk down a gangplank to the safety of the building.

Only once has the Empire State Building sustained damage from an aircraft. In 1945 an Air Force B-52 bomber crashed into the 79th floor in dense fog. Fourteen people were killed in the accident.

The Empire State Building takes its name from a phrase **coined** by George Washington, who remarked that the Hudson River was "the key to the new Empire". Thus New York State became known as the "Empire State", hence the building's name.

(865 words,选自《英语学习》2002年第2期,外语教学与研究出版社)

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a docking mast 飞船的入坞栓柱

coin v. to devise (a new word or phrase) 杜撰,设计 (新单词或短语)

dire adj. warning of or having dreadful or terrible consequences 可怕的

dwarf v. to cause to appear small by comparison 使显矮小

gangplank n. a board or ramp used as a removable footway between a ship and a pier (轮船的) 跳板,踏板

General Motors 美国通用汽车公司

high-profile site 极招眼的地点

miniature adj. being on a small or greatly reduced scale 小型的或微小的

moor ν to make fast (a vessel, for example) by means of cables, anchors, or lines 系泊,以缆索、锚或绳进行系固

offsetting v. to counterbalance, counteract, or compensate for 补偿,抵消

replica n. a copy or reproduction, especially one on a scale smaller than the original 复制品,尤指照原物按比例缩小的复制品

skyline n. the line along which the surface of the earth and the sky appear to meet, the horizon 地平线

the World's Fair 世界博览会

wrought iron 熟铁

top out 封顶

#### Questions 6 to 10 are based on Passage 2

- 6. What does "the Big Apple" (para.1) refer to?
  - A. Times Square
  - B. New York
  - C. America
  - D. North America
- 7. Among the following statements about Empire State Building, which is Not true?
  - A. It has 77 storeys.
  - B. It was completed in 1931.
  - C. It cost less than what had been expected.
  - D. It has a height of 381 meters.
- 8. When did Walter Chrysler decide to build a large skyscraper in New York?
  - A. In 1889.
  - B. In 1928.
  - C. In 1930.
  - D. In 1931.
- 9. Which of the following statements is False according to the passage?
  - A. "Great Depression" took place prior to the construction of the Empire State Building.
  - B. The land on which the Empire State Building was built was on Fifth Avenue.
  - C. It didn't cost Raskob a lot to buy the land.
  - D.The final cost of the building work was not very high.
- 10. In which film was the Empire State Building destroyed?
  - A. King Kong
  - B. Sleepless in Seattle
  - C. Independence Day
  - D. Not mentioned



When it comes to traveling, sometimes taking a journey alone can be great. <u>Traveling solo</u> allows for a time of **introspection**, relaxation and self-discovery, when you can take the time to soak in the finer things the world has to offer. The independence gained by going alone allows for the opportunity to experience your choice destination exactly the way you want.

#### Planning your Trip Where to stay

So you've finally decided to take advantage of some well-earned vacation time and visit Prague, the city of your dreams. Because you' be all by yourself, the planning of your trip is automatically different. One of the first questions worth addressing is how you're going to spend your time in the beautiful Czech Republic capital. Are you going on a **shoestring** budget, or would you rather go all-out and book a room in a fancy hotel?

Because traveling alone means your money is funding the trip, a wise choice would be to stay in youth hostels. Cast away the misconception that these places are unaccommodating and dirty, accept the fact that hostels provide safe, clean, comfortable, and most importantly, cheap housing that millions of students and thrifty travelers take advantage of every year. It is relatively easy to book a room at a hostel via the Internet, and plenty of information is available about each one. On the other hand, if you can't wait to take advantage of room service and a Jacuzzi, opt for a hotel.

#### Have a plan

Along with securing your accommodations, prepare an **itinerary** for each day before you leave. This plan should include everything from visiting all the famous landmarks to some relaxation time, which is essential since you'll likely be walking for miles in your comfortable shoes (invest in a good pair, it will pay off).

As great as organization is, however, you may, at times, deviate from your plan so leave room for some spontaneity on your trip. Herein lies the beauty of traveling alone: You are your own master, and while preparation is key, there is always room to go nuts.

#### Important info prior to takeoff

One of the hardest parts of traveling in general is coming up with a list of what you'll need to bring with you (or leave behind). Thinking of these all-important items becomes all the more difficult (and necessary) when you have no one else to rely on.

#### Carry a dictionary

If you're heading for a foreign country, don't leave home without a bilingual dictionary. Although a strong grasp of Czech will prove quite difficult, it is still important to learn phrases like "thank you", "hello", "please", and "I didn't know she charged money for her time." in case you're in a bind.

#### Make copies of documents

Make a copy of all essential travel documents such as your passport and health insurance to leave behind with someone you trust, in the event of an emergency.

#### Bring a credit card

Along with cash, bring a credit card as an emergency method of payment and make sure to take note of your credit card company's customer service line in case of loss or theft. That way, you can cancel your card immediately and have a new one delivered to you while on your trip (if possible).

#### Pack pleasure items

A book to enjoy on a train ride or on the beach, a journal to record your experiences, and

maps to educate yourself on the layout of the land (you can get these from a tourism bureau), can make a world of a difference.

With these things in mind and a positive **mindset**, you are now officially ready to **jet-set** on your own.

#### Finally there

You've taken the big step, said goodbye to family and friends, endured a long plane ride, and are finally in the place you dreamed of visiting... until now. You might be quite overwhelmed by your new surroundings, but there are ways to control these feelings of over-stimulation.

Instead of being an outsider looking in, try to transform yourself into a relaxed traveler who is not deterred by minor setbacks, such as long lines at the train station or delays in visiting hours of certain landmarks. If you planned accordingly, then you can afford to "waste" time at the busy tourist hotspots. Besides, you're on vacation, and have nowhere to be!

Another benefit of traveling alone is the ability to explore museums and engage in other time-consuming activities. There is no pressure to rush through exhibits or cut the visit short; pace yourself and take in the masterpieces, whether you're an art lover or **novice** admirer.

#### Getting around

Make an effort to walk everywhere—within reason, of course. This will help you get in touch with the area (so to speak) and observe the locals in their element. Using your legs also allows you to find quaint shops and cafes more easily than if you were on some cheesy tour bus. Your goal should be to blend in, something a contrived (and perhaps overpriced) tour won't likely offer. Wear loose, light clothing because the more comfortable you feel, the more willing you will be to stay out an extra hour to explore a section you might have overlooked.

Remain gung-ho, relaxed and prepared, and the stories you will have to share upon your return will be priceless.

(893 words, 选自《英语学习》2003 年第 2 期, 外语教学与研究出版社)

Notes -----

cheesy adj. of poor quality 质量低劣的,冒充好货的

contrive v. to plan with cleverness or ingenuity; devise 设计

deviate v. to depart, as from a norm, a purpose, or a subject 偏离

gung-ho adj. 起劲的,热心的

in a bind 处于困境

introspection n. self-examination 反省

itinerary n. a route or proposed route of a journey 旅程,路线

Jacuzzi n. 极可意浴缸,极可意水流按摩浴缸(商标名称)

jet-set v. 乘喷气式飞机旅行

mindset n. a fixed mental attitude or disposition that predetermines a person's responses to and interpretations of situations 精神状态

novice n. a person new to a field or activity; a beginner 生手,新手

. 9 .

nuts adj. crazy; insane 发疯的,发狂的 quaint adj. unfamiliar or unusual in character; strange 古怪的,奇怪的 shoestring n. marked by or consisting of a small amount of money 资金少的 spontaneity n. spontaneous behavior, impulse, or movement 自发行为 thrifty adj. practicing or marked by the practice of thrift; wisely economical 节俭的

#### Questions 11 to 15 are based on Passage 3

- 11. According to Paragraph 1, what's the advantage of traveling solo?
  - A. You can relax yourself when traveling alone.
  - B. It allows you to think more about yourself.
  - C. It provides you with an opportunity to visit the places you want to in a way you like.
  - D. All of the above.
- 12. Among the following statements about youth hostels, which one is Not true?
  - A. They are safe, clean and comfortable.
  - B. The most important reason that the author advises the solo travelers to stay there is that they're very cheap.
  - C. You can obtain a lot of information about hostels via Internet.
  - D. Room service is available there.
- 13. In Paragraph 4 from the bottom, the word "setback" has a meaning close to \_\_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. accident
  - B. bad luck
  - C. mistake
  - D. little trouble
- 14. According to the author, you need to bring all the following items with you Expect
  - A. a bilingual dictionary
  - B. a credit card
  - C. the photos of your family
  - D. a book you enjoy reading
- 15. What's the main idea of the last two paragraphs?
  - A. How to become a relaxed traveler.
  - B. The benefits of exploring a new place on foot.
  - C. The ways to find good shops and cafes.
  - D. The goal a solo traveler wants to achieve.



Neighbors are often strangers in our modern world, and strangers are to be feared. Yet an • 10 •

unidentified person with whom I have no ties is standing by to spend four hours showing me around his or her hometown, a major U.S. city, for free.

What's more, there are 180 volunteers who do this for the Chicago Greeter program. It's an idea copied more than two years ago from New York City. Now two Australian cities — Melbourne and Adelaide — have started matching homegrown volunteers with visitors around the world. The volunteers, I hear, are filled with **civic** pride and just want to help outsiders enjoy the places they love. It's enough to restore a **cynic**'s faith in humanity.

I happen to be in need of a little faith restoration, so I go to the Chicago Greeter Web site and fill out a request form.

A day later, I get an e-mail confirming a match. I am to meet my greeter in the downtown Chicago Cultural Center. From there, we will explore the Lincoln Park neighborhood, including the zoo and the Lincoln Park Conservatory.

The center, I soon discover, should be the first stop for every visitor. Greeter Nancy McDaniel helps me gather **brochures** and says we have to see the building before heading out.

Finished in 1897, it originally served as Chicago's first public library, she tells me. Clearly, people in those days respected books. Fine marble and carved wood in a room called the Preston Bradley Hall reflect light filtering through a 38-foot stained-glass dome thought to be the largest Tiffany dome in the world. The dome is worth an estimated \$35 million, McDaniel says. The building hosts numerous free concerts throughout the year in its elegant rooms, including a café with walls of windows overlooking the city skyline.

A window in the hall looks straight out to Millennium Park, which had its grand opening in July. McDaniel says we have to stop there on the way to Lincoln Park.

"To me, it's Chicago's most spectacular new attraction, and one of its very best," she says. "I and most others are most terribly proud of it. Very gifted people created from something magnificent."

That's a hard billing to live up to, but it would be impossible for even the city's greatest boosters to exaggerate the appeal of Millennium Park. If there is a better public space in the world, I've never seen it. City planners in New York who are stumbling around wondering what to do at the World Trade Center disaster site should come by for inspiration.

Nearly half a billion dollars was spent on the 24.5-acre park along Michigan Avenue. In winter, visitors can ice-skate there. In the other three seasons, they can hear concerts in a Frank Gehry-designed shell that is more like a sculpture that happens to include great acoustics, 4,000 seats and lawn space for 7,000 people. One end of the park is a garden whose lead landscape architect, Kathryn Gustafson, designed the Princess Diana memorial in London.

It's worth a trip to Chicago just to see two of the massive sculptures in the park. One, by Anish Kapoor, is a 110-ton piece of polished steel that is a basically a 33-foot-high 3-D mirror that reflects the skyline and funhouse images of all who come to take a close-up look.

The other is a fountain area that includes two 50-foot glass and brick towers. The sides of the towers are covered with giant **LED screens** that periodically display the face of one of 1,000 Chicago residents. Before freezing weather sets in, water **cascades** down the sides of the towers. At regular intervals, water shoots from the **pursed** lips of the faces shown on the towers, to the delight of kids who play around them.

On the two-block walk to the elevated train that will take us to Lincoln Park, I discover that

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