



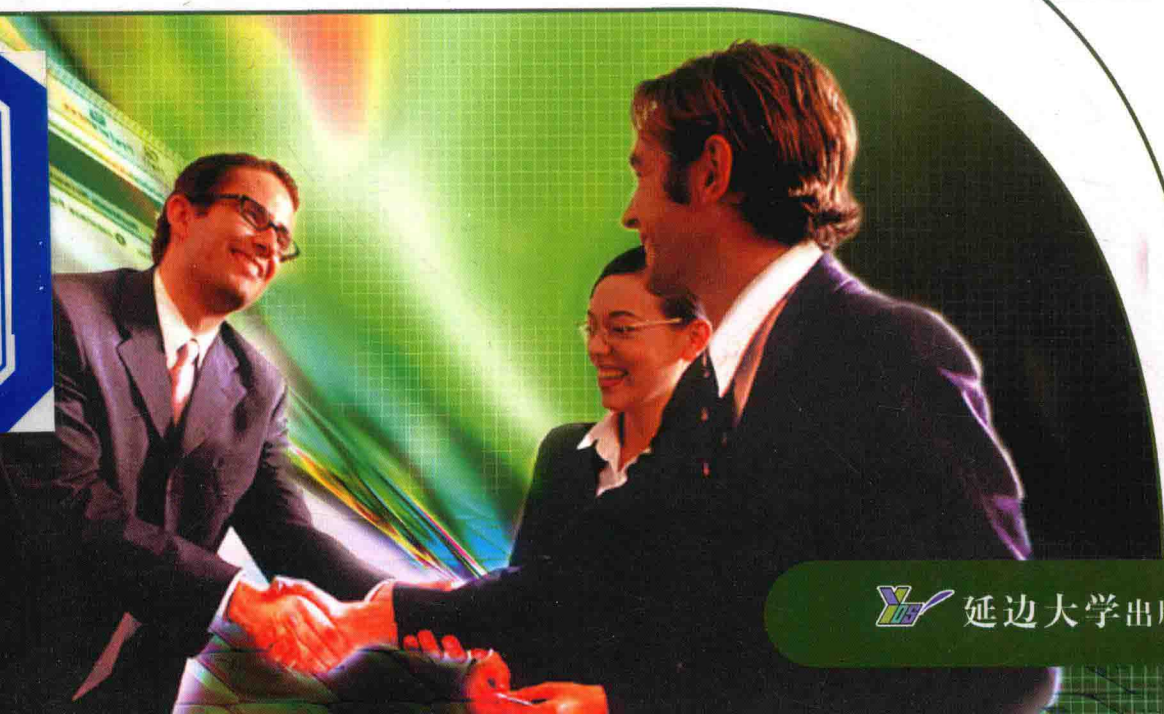
普通高等教育“十三五”规划教材

College English reading & comprehension

大学英语阅读教程

DAXUEYINGYUYUEDUJIAOCHENG

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延边大学出版社

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前 言

Preface

《大学英语阅读教程》可用作大学英语课程的补充阅读教材。

本书编写独特，主要特点为：

1. 本书由具有丰富的教学经验的大学英语教师分工协作、集体编写而成，具有很强的专业性。

2. 在编写过程中充分吸收我国在外语教学方面长期积累起来的行之有效的经验和方法，取各家之长，兼容并蓄，能适应多种英语教学的要求。

3. 设计针对阅读过程。注意培养学生的阅读技巧和能力，专注于在阅读过程中激发学生的动机，培养兴趣。

4. 强调快乐阅读的理念。因此，从文章的篇章安排，文章长短度等各方面都作了较好处理。

5. 阶梯式训练阅读技巧。通过大量的由易到难的阶梯式操练，帮助学生理解并掌握所涉及的具体阅读技巧。

6. 培养学生的思维能力。阅读过程即是思考过程，为了提高理解能力，学生要逐步学会用英语思考，培养学生理解英语句子的能力，帮助学生了解英语思维的逻辑性、连贯性和一致性。

本书得到了大连外国语大学高级翻译学院领导的支持，由大连外国语大学高级翻译学院许丹独自编写并统稿。

本书在编写过程中得到了多方面的支持，在此一并表示衷心的感谢！

由于编者水平所限，编写时间仓促，书中难免有疏漏与不足，欢迎专家、广大教师和学生批评指正。

编 者

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Unit 1 Studying Abroad

One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.

—Henry Miller



Reading One

Top 5 Best and Worst Things about My Time Studying Abroad in America

Richard Morris

1 The US is far better than I ever expected, even if it does have messed up healthcare, money and road systems. A Brit studying abroad across the pond might not sound that adventurous, but it's been an eye-opening year for me at the University of West Georgia in the much stereotyped US south. Here's the best and worst of what I learned about America:

1. Bad: currency

2 I'm not very good with numbers, so maybe this didn't help me, but I still cannot understand American coins after living here for 10 months. One of the coins which is larger actually has a lower value than a coin which is smaller (and of the same colour); go figure. "Dimes" and "nickels," still mean nothing to me.

1. Good: value for money

3 Having said that, you get phenomenal value for money everywhere. Buy a drink which isn't alcoholic (because you're under 21) and you get free unlimited refills at the vast majority of establishments. First few months I was here I kept rejecting refills, presuming they'd show up on the bill, but they never do. You'll also find the portion sizes here are more than generous, taking home meals in "to-go boxes" is commonplace.

4 Beyond meals, shopping is also generally cheaper in America. Even organic foods are basically on sale.

2. Bad: US healthcare



5 I paid \$687.44 per semester for the mandatory international student health insurance that all internationals must take upon enrolling at my institution. It covered me for the student health centre, a couple of practices outside the campus and one hospital. Republicans say that Britain's National Health Services is evil and doesn't work... try private medical insurers.

2. Good: hospitality

6 When you're not embroiled – in a spat with a local hospital as to whether or not your insurance plan covers you for that particular treatment at that particular hospital, the hospitality you receive when visiting American homes is second to none. I have been shown nothing but kindness from Americans, and I've been invited to countless people's homes during the year to spend the weekend with them, rather than being trapped in university dormitories. The TVs are also huge, which makes a day of Netflix after finals a reliable choice.

3. Bad: American media

7 I don't know about you, but there is nothing better than hearing the same Top 40 songs repeated over and over again. I thought the repetition of songs on Capital FM in the UK was bad enough, but here it's just the same playlist, almost hourly. In the south it's either that or country music stations, choose your poison.

8 Also, try and get any informed debate from any major national news network in the US, MSNBC will invite mostly liberals to their shows and come to the conclusion that background checks for gun buyers are a good thing. Fox News will do the exact opposite. CNN doesn't quite have the open debate that I'd like to see. As a result, all politics here is skewed towards spin, not facts. Don't get me started on the one third of every televisual hour being advert breaks, either.

3. Good: place names

9 Yes, intercourse, PA does really exist. There are also some amazing street names, if you fancy living on a student visa in a country in which most streets use any of the following names "Creek", "Lakeview", "Circle", "Way", "Court" and "Drive" then be my guest. I have no issue with the names here, but some of them are a little bizarre, if overly optimistic: "Happy Valley Circle", for instance, in Georgia. The numbering idea for towns and cities is very wise, however, "1st Street", "2nd Street" and so on. I like the system, the names just take a while to adjust to.

4. Bad: road network

10 The interstate highways are a beautiful system, modelled by President Dwight Eisenhower on the autobahns in Germany, but unfortunately that is where my love for American roads ends. Each junction in America is of increasing complexity, it seems to me, with some angles almost making it impossible to make a turn quickly enough. Road networks here also seem to have either too much information, meaning an information overload three miles before an exit is due, or not enough, and without a GPS you'd be completely stuck.

4. Good: weather

11 How can a Brit go abroad and not mention the weather? While Georgia weather is bipolar (it snowed in February, the next day it was 24 celsius, we also had hailstorms during spring break), when it is beautiful, it is stunning. Fortunately, the weather being beautiful accounts for

about 70 – 80% of the year.

5. Bad: that accent and associated pronunciations

12 Asking for oregano in any Subway sandwich causes a minor crisis at every outlet I have been to. For some reason, all the syllables from this word are removed, yet one of my host “moms” complains how the Brits drop the ends of words (Buckingham, Birmingham, Manchester, etc.). Usually, Americans are the ones to extend the vowels, but with oregano, this does not apply at all, clearly. I did once find myself saying to a friend on Skype after three months of being here, “oh, what a beautiful accent you have”, I thought that was something only Americans said.

13 Clumsy sentences also abound, “Gotten sick” and “Keep off of the grass/rocks/enjoyable water feature are” personal favourites.

5. Good: it’s beautiful

14 America is beautiful. I went travelling out west over the Christmas break and took over 1,000 photos in a week. Even the scenery where the houses are set in Georgia is beautiful. A lot of America is truly stunning. The suburbs are peaceful and quiet, with birdsong and the gentle rustle of wind through the trees as you step out of a car. I’ve heard California is even nicer, but I really can’t imagine how that’s possible.

15 I’m so torn: America is far better than I ever expected, but at the same time I must return to the UK to continue my studies. As much as this country has been great to me, and it really has, the people are just fantastic. I must return to the UK, where no one talks on public transport and where we’ll complain when it’s too hot and moan when it’s too cold, despite packing inappropriate clothing for both occasions. I can’t wait, but at the same time I’m leaving a fan of our former colony.



Reading Two

The Benefits of Study Abroad

Mary M. Dwyer, Courtney K. Peters

1 “It will change your life. You’ll come back a new person.” For years, the benefits of study abroad have been described in these words. Everyone in the study abroad field believed it could greatly impact a student’s life, but the exact long – term benefits were unknown—until now.

2 The first large – scale survey to explore the long – term impact of study abroad on a student’s personal, professional, and academic life shows that study abroad positively and unequivocally influences the career path, world view, and self – confidence of students.

3 The Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) surveyed alumni from all IES study abroad programs from 1950 to 1999. Regardless of where students studied and for how long, the data from the more than 3,400 respondents (a 23 percent response rate) shows that



studying abroad is usually a defining moment in a young person's life and continues to impact the participant's life for years after the experience.

Personal Growth

4 “Overall, I learned a lot more about myself in that one semester than I did in the three and a half years in my home school because of the unique space in which I learned, experienced, and explored another culture,” says Carolyn Valtos (IES Adelaide, 1992).

5 An overwhelming majority of respondents echoed Valtos' feeling. When asked about personal growth, 97 percent said studying abroad served as a catalyst for increased maturity, 96 percent reported increased self-confidence, 89 percent said that it enabled them to tolerate ambiguity, and 95 percent stated that it has had a lasting impact on their world view.

6 Findings also show that study abroad leads to long-lasting friendships with other U. S. students and still impacts current relationships. More than half the respondents are still in contact with U. S. friends met while studying abroad, and 73 percent said the experience continues to influence the decisions they make in their family life.

7 Alexa Sand (IES Milan, 1989), who is still very close to U. S. friends she met abroad ten years ago, explains, “I think the shared experience of living fully immersed in another culture made these friendships particularly poignant and enduring.”

Intercultural Development

8 Study abroad educators often assert that one of the goals of study abroad is to train future global leaders to be more effective, respectful of other cultures and political and economic systems, and willing to take a stand for the world's welfare, not just what benefits a specific country. The survey findings indicate that study abroad is succeeding in its mission.

9 When questioned about intercultural development, 98 percent of respondents said that study abroad helped them to better understand their own cultural values and biases, and 82 percent replied that study abroad contributed to their developing a more sophisticated way of looking at the world.

10 “The experience of living and studying in another country was so eye-opening... [it] tested preconceptions and habits I wasn't even aware were so ingrained in me,” says Cynthia Perlas (IES Paris, 1981).

11 It is significant to note that these intercultural benefits are not fleeting but continue to impact participants' lives long after their time abroad. Almost all of the respondents (94 percent) reported that the experience continues to influence interactions with people from different cultures, and 23 percent still maintain contact with host-country friends. Ninety percent said that the experience influenced them to seek out a greater diversity of friends, and 64 percent said that it also influenced them to explore other cultures.

12 “It has been nearly ten years since I was a student in Vienna, but not a single day goes by where its impact is not felt in my life,” says Jason Thornberg (IES Vienna, 1994). My time there fundamentally changed how I view the world and has given me the ability to view the world, and its issues, from several perspectives.

Education and Career Attainment

13 “My semester [abroad] launched me into a personal and professional involvement with Spain that has already lasted 25 years. A political science lecture in Madrid about U. S. and Spanish involvement in an obscure war in Sahara . . . led to a graduate fellowship to Spain and North Africa, which led to work as a foreign correspondent based in Spain,” says Gary Abramson (IES Madrid, 1978).

14 It is noteworthy that the majority of respondents gave academic and professional accounts similar to Abramson’s. When questioned about academic pursuits, 87 percent of respondents said that study abroad influenced subsequent educational experiences, 63 percent said that it influenced their decision to expand or change academic majors, and 64 percent reported that it influenced their decision to attend graduate school. Nearly half of all respondents have engaged in international work or volunteerism since studying abroad.

15 An entire range of professional opportunities have opened up to me in recent years, partly due to the skills and internship experiences I gained, adds Joydeep Sengupta (IES Madrid, 1998).

16 Similar to Sengupta’s experience, three – quarters of respondents asserted that they acquired skill sets abroad that influenced their career path, and 62 percent said that studying abroad ignited an interest in a career direction pursued after the experience.

Longer Stays Mean Greater Benefits

17 Consistent with national study abroad statistics, the survey found that students are generally studying abroad for a shorter duration, with the number of full – year students declining dramatically. In the 1950s and 1960s, 72 percent of respondents studied for a full year, but only 20 percent of respondents did so in the 1990s. The number of students studying for less than 10 weeks tripled from the 1950s and 1960s to the 1990s.

18 For many years, conventional wisdom in the study abroad field has been that “more is better”—the longer students study abroad, the more significant the academic and cultural development and personal growth benefits. According to survey results, the “more is better” idea holds true. However, results of the study also suggest that programs of at least six weeks in duration can also be enormously successful in producing important academic, inter – and intra – personal, career, and intercultural development outcomes. These findings are significant considering the current national increase in students attending shorter programs. Students attending full – year, semester, and summer programs all report the following benefits.

19 Although all students benefit from the study abroad experience, there are a few choices that students can make that have the potential to increase their long – term language and career benefits.

20 Continued language usage was greatest among respondents who lived in a homestay, with 42 percent saying they now use a language other than English on a regular basis. Students who lived in an apartment or a residence hall with local students reported results slightly lower than homestay participants (38 and 32 percent respectively). However, the results of those who lived in an apartment with other U. S. students lagged far behind the rest, with only 18 percent reporting that they use a foreign language on a regular basis.



Importance of Internships

21 For students who hope to gain the most career impact from study abroad, results indicate that they should choose an internship as part of their curriculum. Remarkably, 70 percent of intern respondents reported that study abroad ignited interest in a career direction pursued after the experience, compared to 60 percent of non – intern respondents. In addition, 83 percent said that it allowed them to acquire skill sets that influenced their career path, compared to 75 percent who did not intern.

22 Although there is not always a significant statistical difference between students who attended local university classes and those who did not, it is important to mention that students who attended courses at the local university did experience greater long – term language benefits and were more likely to work or volunteer abroad than their counterparts. The biggest difference between the two groups is in the area of relationships. Of those who attended local university classes, 31 percent still maintain contact with host – country friends, compared to 16 percent of respondents who did not study at the local university.

A Lifetime of Benefits

23 Few other experiences in life have proven to net such a positive and sustainable impact. With study abroad offering so many life – changing and enduring academic, career, intercultural, personal, and social benefits, students should carefully consider studying abroad when searching for a college and during their collegiate career. Students should question potential colleges about the study abroad programs they offer and find out how competitive the application process is and if grades and financial aid transfer. In addition, colleges, parents, and employers should encourage and enable students to study abroad.

24 As Michael Preziosi (IES Madrid, 1978) says, “My wife and I feel so strongly about the value of this experience that we have told our two daughters that a semester abroad while at college is an absolute requirement for each of them. It is not an experience to be missed.”



Reading Three

Study Abroad: Rigorous or Relaxed

—Tactics for a High – or Low – Intensity Semester Abroad

Tom DiChristopher

1 The editorial staff of *USA Today* ran an article in 2007 in which they argued that study abroad programs in the United States are falling short of the mark. Lax university oversight, unscholarly students, and duplicitous tour operators, they say, are muddying international waters. The article brings up some good points, but it also vaguely impugns low – intensity programs. The key is that low – intensity and poor quality are not synonymous. While de rigueur study abroad programs are valuable for endowing career – minded students with international experience, low –

intensity programs have the potential to give direction to students who lack it and may otherwise never find it. Access to study abroad should not be relegated to an exit from the fast track. Nor should it be viewed as a detour. Given a little discretion and forward planning, study abroad can only supplement your college experience, whether personally or professionally. The following are considerations students should take into account while planning a semester abroad.

Location, Location, Location

2 Your study abroad destination will have a big influence on how you live and study. Don't default to Europe. There are plenty of reasons for both A and B personalities to consider nontraditional destinations, more of which are springing up every year.

3 Students engaged in a rigorous course of study should consider a program's academic merits first and foremost. Universities are increasingly devising challenging, specialized foreign programs. The catch: these programs are often the most expensive. However, if you need to conduct a semester abroad on a shoestring, it's still possible to enroll at a foreign school with a strong corresponding program but fewer bells and whistles—your foreign credentials will still stand out on that nascent résumé. And don't assume that programs in more developed nations are more prestigious. Highly-skilled programs exist in underdeveloped regions because the need for practical, hands-on innovation is most prevalent in the third world. Also, the seeds of many non-profits and social entrepreneurship endeavors are planted in study abroad programs.

4 Those whose motives are less academic should still put thought into their choice of destination. Many students use study abroad as a platform for travel, so you'll want to consider the costs of a jet-setting lifestyle. While budget airfare in Europe is in its golden age, the cost of living from day to day in European cities can be expensive, especially with our depreciating dollar. Travel in lesser developed nations is more precarious, but daily costs can be nearly negligible. That said, if you're suffering from wanderlust, avoid a country with disastrous infrastructure or strict re-entry requirements (i.e. you have to purchase a new visa to get back into the country).

How Long is Long Enough (or Too Long)?

5 If your primary reason for studying abroad is to score some foreign credentials on your résumé, you should seriously consider spending an entire year abroad. The reason? There's a huge difference between the MBA applicant who spent a semester in Japan and the MBA applicant who spent a year in Japan and actually speaks Japanese. Staying longer means more opportunity to assimilate, dig in and maximize the skill sets you'll return home with. If you can show an employer experience interning (and surviving) with a foreign company, you'll be in a much better position than other applicants.

6 There's nothing wrong with spending a low-intensity year abroad, but a spring semester abroad is the better bet for students motivated by wanderlust rather than career drive. Travel-related costs, both predictable and unexpected, add up quickly, so it can be difficult to stretch a budget over the course of a year. Studying in the spring will launch you into the summer, when you're free to travel at length, rather than dividing your time between coursework and weekend travel. Doing the bulk of your backpacking during the summer makes further sense because you're more savvy and will have met potential travel mates after a few months overseas.



La Vida Local

7 Many potential study abroad students are nervous about living with a host family. And for good reason. It can be an unpredictable experience, and by the time most students head overseas, they've been on their own for a while. Independence is easy to get used to, but sometimes a little sacrifice can pay off.

8 Especially if you anticipate a career with international dimensions, you should sacrifice some liberty for the benefits of a host family stay. Without access to an immersion atmosphere, your language acquisition will suffer. It's just too easy to fall back on English when you live with English-speakers. That said, there's always a chance you'll get stuck with an impatient host family that is unwilling to indulge your poor language skills. If your host family is truly unbearable, whether because they speak English to you or for other reasons, you can likely request a transfer. This is seldom an easy affair, so inquire about the school's reassignment policy before you agree to a host stay.

9 Americans tend to view Europeans as very liberal, but there are few more socially liberal creatures than the typical American college student. A host family may not appreciate you getting home at 3 a.m. A low-intensity study abroad program will leave you time for an active social life, but a host family's rules can quickly curb your freewheeling ways. Frequent comings and goings can inject your host family's life with chaos as well. So if you plan to travel frequently and frequent the bars, a dorm or student apartment will better suit you.

Is Your Study Abroad Credit Worthy?

10 Obviously you want your credits to transfer when you return to the States. If you choose to study abroad through another American school because your home university doesn't offer a program you like, do not assume your credits will transfer, no matter how prestigious the program sounds. It sounds petty, but some universities are notorious for refusing overseas credits—not because they're inferior, but as a matter of course. It's true; some schools are stingy with credit transfers because it means you won't be paying tuition to the institution while you are temporarily withdrawn.

11 Transferring credits can be a sticky situation for the less studious, as well. A good strategy to secure academic credit if you're basing your study abroad choice on non-academic merits is to fulfill general requirements and electives. However, you should sit down with an academic advisor and make sure each foreign class will actually get you general ed credit. Don't just assume that 20th Century Mexican Art will fulfill your Fine Arts requirement.

12 Some registrars or academic departments will even request supporting materials from a foreign course (i.e. a syllabus, reading list) before they tell you whether the credits will transfer. The solution: plan ahead. If possible, get a course schedule from the overseas school for the semester you plan to study there, make a short list of the classes you want to take, and present them to the appropriate department that will issue the credit at your home university. This will give you time to contact the course instructor overseas to secure a generic syllabus and other evidence of the course's merit if necessary.

Unit 2 College Life

The primary purpose of education is not to teach you to earn your bread,
but to make every mouthful sweet.

—James Angel



Reading One

Freshman Fifteen

Anonymous

1 Well, you're on your own now! Nobody's going to be there when you get home from school to tell you when and where and what to eat. Nobody's going to tell you which clubs and sports to join, or arrange little get-togethers with your friends. No one's going to stop you from doing what you want to do, legal or illegal. You are your own person now, with your own responsibilities.

2 College is a haven for weight gain because some people don't know how to make the right choices on their own. At home, somebody else probably provides food for you and your family. You don't get to choose between the junk food line and the vegan bar. At home, your parents plan a surprise pool party to get you active with your friends. You don't have to make an effort to move around outside.

3 College is different. The new classes are stressing you in ways you've never felt. The new choices are making you finally make decisions for yourself. The new people are making you work in a different way with your peers. All of this can lead up to a whole lot of weight gain, known as the "Freshman Fifteen".

4 Exercise. Hitting the books until the wee hours of the night doesn't burn as many calories as it deserves, unless of course you are physically striking the books with your arms, which I do not recommend. In college, you will need to arrange your time wisely in such a way that you leave room for physical activity.