

大学英语 阅读教程

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大学英语 阅读教程 3

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前 言

教育部于2004年颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》，取代原来的《大学英语教学大纲》。《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》强调贯彻分类指导、因材施教的原则，对学生运用英语的能力提出三个层次的要求：即“一般要求”、“较高要求”和“更高要求”。

大学英语课程已有多套由教育部推荐使用、由全国著名外语类教材出版社出版的教材，这些教材虽然起点不同，难易不同，各有特色，但都是根据原《大学英语教学大纲》的要求编写的，选材围绕共同的话题。据调查，目前各高校都按分类指导、因材施教的原则，选用两套甚至三套不同难度的大学英语教材。为了适应新的形势，并配合其他教材的使用效果，我们编写了这套大学英语阅读教程系列教材。这套教材贯彻了《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》的指导思想，具有下列特色：

1. 针对现在普遍使用的各套教材的共同或相近的话题遴选各单元的阅读材料，提高所使用教材中语料的复现率，加深学生对所学教材的理解，并更好地掌握和巩固所学的各种语料，从而具有较广泛的适应性。
2. 根据大学教育宽基础、文理渗透、素质培养的原则，选文题材广泛，体裁多样，兼顾社会科学和自然科学知识，达到文、理、工、农、医各科的通用性，适合各级各类院校使用；同时，选文篇幅适度，由浅入深，循序渐进地培养学生的阅读技能，扩大知识面，增强学生运用英语的能力，提高综合素质。同时帮助提高学生 CET-4 的应试能力。使用对象：各类高校非英语专业学生和有一定英语基础的英语学习者。
3. 博采众长，借鉴国内外先进的、可以为我所用的理论、研究成果与方法，摒弃只注重词汇、语法难点注解、课文译文、练习答案的编写套路，而从学习方法入手，对学生进行导读，具体做法如下：
 - 1) 全系列共3册，每册12单元。本册每个单元有：(1) 专题阅读(Reading Practice)从词、句的理解过渡到篇章的理解，从培养学生的辨别能力到培养学生的归纳、判断和推理能力；(2) 快速阅读(Fast Reading)信息量大，难易适中，用以训练、提高学生阅读速度。
 - 2) 阅读理解题的设计把全局性问题与细节性问题结合起来，形式多样。
 - 3) 每个单元所选的4篇文章围绕同一个话题编写，如：“校园生活”、“人与自然”、“计算机与互联网”、“跨文化交际”等，使学生通过阅读这些文章，

能对一个话题从不同的角度理解，从而扩大知识面。

4) 每单元所配的阅读文章，由教师或学生根据具体情况决定使用方法，既可用作快读、泛读，也可供基础较好的学生选为增加的精读课文。用于检测理解能力、巩固学习成果的练习形式多样，数量较多，学生可根据具体情况选择使用。

5) 为了使教材设计生动活泼，本教材中插入了图片，这些图片都与话题相关。版面设计新颖明快、意境深邃，符合年轻人的性格与视觉心理。

本套教材本着“授之以鱼，不如授之以渔”的思想，综合了国外目前流行的教材、教参、教辅的编写思想与方法，精心归纳总结了24种阅读技巧和36个话题，并将之分解到各册各单元，理论与实践相结合，有效地培养学生自主学习英语的能力和接受英语新语料、学以致用英语的综合运用能力。

本套教材由十几所高校几十位长期从事大学英语教学、谙熟各种大学英语教材、具有丰富的大学英语教学经验的教师通力协作，共同编写。教材的编写是一项艰苦复杂的科研工作，既耗时又费力，其结果却常常难尽人意。本套教材能否为广大师生接受，并取得预期的教学效果，还有待教学实践的检验，有待自身的不断完善。在此，我们恳请专家学者和广大师生多提宝贵意见，使之不断充实、完善，并与时俱进，从而更好地为大学英语教学服务。

吴松江
福州大学外国语学院
2006年10月

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Unit 1

Social Problems



- **They Stole Our Childhood**
- **Homeless**
- **Drugs**
- **Domestic Violence: A Crime, Not a Quarrel**

Part I Reading Practice

Passage 1

They Stole Our Childhood

- 1 We're the wonderful generation.
- 2 We are the kids who were "so adult" when our divorced parents readjusted to the **rigors** of being suddenly single. We are the kids who discovered sex so early in our lives and were such overachievers in school.
- 3 We are looked on by our elders with admiration and awe. And yet, if you wipe away the surface **gloss**, you will find that we are actually victim, casualties of our parents' need for us to grow up fast. That which we are praised for is our biggest problem.
- 4 Day-to-day family life for us was a contradiction between what we saw on *The Brady Bunch*[®] and *Courtship of Eddie's Father*[®] and what we were actually living. We were supposed to be thinking about the big dance, playing baseball, getting new handle-bars on our bikes, gossiping about our favorite TV stars and, when our parents weren't around, dressing up in their clothes and looking at ourselves in the mirror.
- 5 Instead we found ourselves not only dressing up in their clothes, but adopting their state of mind as well. We worried about whether mom would receive her child-support check, whether our parent's date for tonight would become a breakfast guest tomorrow, whether our little sister would ever remember what it was like to have two parents under one roof.
- 6 Our parents were always so proud of our capacity to make it[®] on our own, to "be adult". Parents were thinking of us less like children and more like peers. Suddenly we kids weren't being treated like kids anymore.
- 7 Part of being adult was not indulging the child in us that hungered for affection. Our generation, it seems, turned to sex for the affection we lacked at home. As we saw it, needing a hug wasn't very adult. Sleeping with someone was. It was an acceptable way to ask for the physical affirmation of self-worth that we weren't getting from our parents, who we saw doing little hugging and a lot of sleeping around.
- 8 We found that spending more time at school or work was a welcome alternative to going home in the afternoons. The media had taught us that coming home from school meant milk and cookies, TV and playing with friends, mom or a babysitter in the kitchen,

and dad back from work at 6:00 p.m. Suddenly, going home meant confronting dad's new girlfriend, mom's unpaid bills or playing parent to our younger siblings and our parents, too.

9 It's no wonder so many of us, barely into our 20s feel as though we've already been married and raised children. In divorce, parents seem to become teenagers, and the kids become the adults. Many of our younger brothers and sisters see us more as their parents than their real parents. As our parents pursued careers and re-entered the dating scene, we children coped by forming our own little mini-families, with the older kids parenting for the younger siblings. It was common for single mothers to joke about how their eldest son played doting father, checking out her dates and offering sage advice. Or for parents to find their younger kids wouldn't accept candy from them unless an older sister did it first.

10 Our parents expected us to understand their problems and frustrations, to grasp the complex machinations of divorce proceedings and the emotional hazards they faced by dating again. More than understanding, they even solicited our advice and guidance in these delicate matters. Our parents sometimes pressured us into becoming participants in their divorce proceedings, encouraging us to take sides. We found ourselves having to withdraw from them just to protect ourselves from the potential pain that could be caused by mixed parental loyalties in the midst of courtroom warfare.

11 We were rewarded with approval: "my kids are so grown-up", "my kids can handle things", "my kids coped so well", "my kids can make it on their own", or "my kids are so together". What we missed was a chance to be childish, immature and unafraid to admit we didn't have it all together.

12 We pay the price when we need parents to turn to and don't have them—as we toil with our first serious relationships and when our long-suppressed childish side rears its playful head.

13 Divorce didn't just split up our parents. It stole our childhood.

14 Our parents are paying, too. They ache for the closeness with us they never had and may never get. They try to grasp memories of our childhood and come up nearly empty. They find themselves separated from their children and wonder how the gap appeared. Some wake up to realize that they know their gas-station attendant better than their children.

15 The cure is not to curb divorce. We can start by realizing that this generation, which may have it together intellectually, paid with its adolescence. What needs rethinking are the attitudes and expectations of parents. Kids who are mature are fine.

Kids who are “so adult” need help.

Notes

- ① *The Brady Bunch*: 《布雷迪家庭》，从 1969 年开始播出的美国系列家庭电视喜剧。
- ② *Courtship of Eddie's Father*: 《埃迪父亲的求爱》，1963 年上映的美国影片。
- ③ make it: 〈美口〉成功，做好



Exercise I

Choose the best answer to each of the following incomplete statements according to the passage.

1. For the kids with divorced parents the biggest problem is _____.
 - A) the different day-to-day family life
 - B) the praise from their parents
 - C) their having to be “adults”
 - D) the treatment by their younger siblings as parents
2. The word “rigor” (Line 2, Para. 2) most probably means _____.
 - A) vigor
 - B) severe condition
 - C) lonely life
 - D) happiness
3. The word “gloss” (Line 2, Para. 3) most probably means _____.
 - A) deceptive appearance
 - B) glass
 - C) cloth
 - D) real appearance
4. According to the author's point of view, _____.
 - A) divorce should be kept under control
 - B) parents shouldn't praise their kids too often
 - C) the attitudes and expectations of parents towards their kids should be challenged
 - D) parents should know their children's attitudes in their divorce proceedings
5. Divorced parents expect their kids to _____.
 - A) adopt their state of mind
 - B) spend more time at school
 - C) keep mixed parental loyalties
 - D) understand them
6. This article mainly talks about _____.
 - A) the problems and frustrations that divorced parents face
 - B) what divorced parents hope their kids to be

- C) what kids encounter after their parents divorce
- D) the severe condition of being suddenly single

Passage 2

Homeless

1 Her name was Ann, and we met in the Port Authority Bus Terminal several Januarys ago. I was doing a story on homeless people. She said I was wasting my time talking to her; she was just passing through, although she'd been passing through for more than two weeks. To prove to me that this was true, she **rummaged** through a shopping bag and an envelope and finally unfolded a sheet of typing paper and brought out her photographs.

2 They were not pictures of family, or friends, or even a dog or cat, its eyes browned in the flashbulb's light. They were pictures of a house. It was like a thousand houses in a hundred towns, not suburb, not city, but somewhere in between, with aluminum siding and a chain-link fence, a narrow driveway running up to a one-car garage and a patch of backyard. The house was yellow. I looked on the back for a date or a name, but neither was there. There was no need for discussion. I knew what she was trying to tell me, for it was something I had often felt. She was not adrift, alone, or anonymous, although her bags and her raincoat with the **grime** shadowing its creases had made me believe she was. She had a house, or at least once upon a time had had one. Inside were curtains, a couch, a stove, potholders. You are where you live. She was **somebody**.

3 I've never been very good at looking at the big picture, taking the global view, and I've always been a person with an overactive sense of place, the legacy of an Irish grandfather. So it is natural that the thing that seems most wrong with the world to me right now is that there are so many people with no homes. I'm not simply talking about shelter from the elements, or three **square** meals a day or a mailing address to which the welfare people can send the check—although I know that all these are important for survival. I'm talking about a home, about precisely those kinds of feelings that have wound up in cross-stitch and French knots on samplers over the years.

4 Home is where the heart is. There's no place like it. I love my home with a ferocity totally **out of proportion** to its appearance or location. I love dumb things about it: the hot-water heater, the plastic rack you drain dishes in, the roof over my head, which occasionally leaks. And yet it is precisely those dumb things that make it what it is—a place of certainty, stability, predictability, privacy, for me and for my family. It is where I live. What more can you say about a place than that? That is everything.

5 Yet it is something that we have been edging away from gradually during my lifetime and the lifetimes of my parents and grandparents. There was a time when where you lived often was where you worked and where you grew the food you ate and even where you were buried. When that era passed, where you lived at least was where your parents had lived and where you would live with your children when you became enfeebled. Then, suddenly where you lived was where you lived for three years, until you could move on to something else and something else again.

6 And so we have come to something else again, to children who do not understand what it means to go to their rooms because they have never had a room, to men and women whose fantasy is a wall they can paint a color of their own choosing, to old people reduced to sitting on molded plastic chairs, their skin blue-white in the lights of a bus station, who pull pictures of houses out of their bags. Homes have stopped being homes. Now they are real estate.

7 People find it curious that those without homes would rather sleep sitting up on benches or huddled in doorways than go to shelters. Certainly some prefer to do so because they are emotionally ill, because they have been locked in before and they are damned if they will be locked in again. Others are afraid of the violence and trouble they may find there. But some seem to want something that is not available in shelters, and they will not compromise, not for a bed, or oatmeal, or a shower with special soap that kills the bugs. "One room," a woman with a baby who was sleeping on her sister's floor, once told me, "painted blue." That was the **crux** of it: not size or location, but the pride of ownership. Painted blue.

8 This is a difficult problem, and some wise and compassionate people are working hard at it. But in the main, I think we work around it, just as we walk around it when it is lying on the sidewalk or sitting in the bus terminal—the problem, that is. It has been customary to take people's pain and lessen our own participation in it by turning it into an issue, not a collection of human beings. We turn an adjective into a noun: the poor, not poor people; the homeless, not Ann or the man who lives in the box or the woman who sleeps on the subway grate.

9 Sometimes I think we would be better off if we forgot about the broad strokes and concentrated on the details. Here is a woman without a bureau. There is a man with no mirror, no wall to hang it on. They are not the homeless. They are people who have no homes. No drawer that holds the spoons. No window to look out upon the world. My god. That is everything.



Exercise II

A. Decide whether the following statements are **True (T)** or **False (F)** according to the passage.

- _____ 1. Several years ago the author met Ann in a bus terminal.
- _____ 2. To prove that she was just a passerby, Ann showed the author some pictures of a house.
- _____ 3. Ann's bags and her raincoat made the author believe she was somebody.
- _____ 4. To the author home is a place of certainty, stability, predictability, and privacy.
- _____ 5. Pride of ownership cannot be found in shelters. That's why some people without home would rather sleep outdoor than go to the shelters.

B. Decide which of the words listed is closest in meaning to the following words in bold type as used in the passage.

1. She **rummaged** (Line 4, Para. 1) through a shopping bag and an envelope and finally unfolded a sheet of typing paper and brought out her photographs.
 - A) touched B) searched C) looked at D) felt
2. She was not adrift, alone, anonymous, although her bags and her raincoat with the **grime** (Line 8, Para. 2) shadowing its creases had made me believe she was.
 - A) thick black dirt B) oil
 - C) cleanness D) tidiness
3. She was **somebody** (Line 10, Para. 2).
 - A) a person who has a low position B) someone
 - C) a specialist D) an important person
4. I'm not simply talking about shelter from the elements, or three **square** (Line 5, Para. 3) meals a day.
 - A) equal B) old-fashioned
 - C) free D) good and satisfying
5. I love my home with a ferocity totally **out of proportion** (Line 2, Para. 4) to its appearance or location.
 - A) too great as compared with B) out of the question
 - C) according to real importance of D) in the proportion of
6. That was the **crux** (Line 8, Para. 7) of it: not size or location, but the pride of ownership.
 - A) problem B) color C) vital part D) aspect

Passage 3*Drugs*

1 Parents who talk to children about the risks of illicit drugs sometimes despair that their warning goes in one ear and out of the other. But the message just might stick in a young brain if it is repeated enough, according to a study of parental and adolescent attitudes released today.

2 The study by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, a nonprofit coalition, also reported a dramatic disconnection between parents and children in getting the message through. The study is being released at www.drugfreecamerica.org.

3 An overwhelming 98 percent of the parents in the study said they had talked with their children about drugs, but only 65 percent of teenagers recalled having had such a conversation. And 27 percent of teenagers said they learned a lot from their family about the hazards of drugs.

4 Not surprisingly, the study reported that the more adolescents heard from parents about the risks, the less likely they were to use drugs, even though some failed to heed the advice. Of the teenagers in the study who said they had heard nothing at home about the risks of drugs, 45 percent said they had smoked marijuana^① within the last year. One-third of those who said they had learned a little at home used marijuana in the same period. But among teenagers who said they had learned a lot, only 26 percent said they smoked marijuana, the drug of choice after alcohol and tobacco.

5 Comparable reductions were reported in the use of inhalants^②, hallucinogens^③ like LSD^④ and crack cocaine.

6 When parents hesitate to tell their children about drugs, said Stephen Dnistrian, executive vice president of the Partnership, "We can make a pretty safe assumption that there is probably not a lot of communication between parent and child about a lot of things."

7 The latest Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, the 12th such study since 1987, was conducted last year by Audits and Surveys Worldwide, a market research firm based in New York. It sampled 6,852 teenagers, aged 13 to 18; 2,358 children, 9 to 12, and 809 parents across the United States. The margin of error in the responses was 1.8 percentage points for teenagers, 2.8 for children and 3.9 for parents.

8 Though virtually all the parents said they raised the issue of drugs with their teenagers, fewer than half, or 48 percent, said they had done so four or more times in the previous year.

9 Black parents were more likely than Hispanic or white parents to say they discussed the risks of drugs regularly with their children. Fifty-seven percent of black parents in the study said they did so, compared with 45 percent of Hispanic parents and 44 percent of white parents. And 31 percent of the black children in the study recalled having such conversations, compared with 29 percent of Hispanic children but only 19 percent of white children.

10 Many parents cannot seem to bring themselves to believe that their children might experiment with drugs. According to the study, 42 percent of the teenagers said they had tried smoking marijuana, but only 14 percent of the parents thought this was possible. And 53 percent of teenagers said they had been offered marijuana; 37 percent of parents considered it likely.

11 The White House's director of National Drug Control Policy, General Barry R. McCaffrey, said the study made an important point about the disparity between perception and reality in parents' conversations with their children about the dangers of drugs. "Like a good teacher, they must check the feedback," he said.

12 General McCaffrey's Office of National Drug Control Policy defined as its first goal educating and enabling young people to reject illegal drugs, as well as alcohol and tobacco. Congress appropriated \$ 195 million for a national campaign to sway an audience of 9-to-18-year-olds with prime-time commercials and print advertisements. The campaign, which began in July, also tries to persuade parents to confront the problem.

Notes

- ① marijuana: 大麻烟; 大麻毒品
- ② inhalant: 吸入药, 吸入剂
- ③ hallucinogen: (尤指口服) 幻觉剂
- ④ LSD: lysergic acid diethylamide, 【药】 麦角酸酐二乙胺 (一种致幻药物, 略作 LSD)



Exercise III

A. Answer the following questions based on the passage.

1. According to the study by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, what is the effective way to stop teenagers' use of drugs?

2. What would the children do if they heard nothing at home about the risks of drugs according to the study?

3. Why did some parents hesitate to tell their children about drugs according to Stephen Dnistrian?

4. What measures did the Congress take to stop adolescents' use of drugs?

B. Find a definition in Column II which matches the word in Column I.

Column I	Column II
1. illicit	a. making or becoming smaller
2. adolescent	b. illegal
3. heed	c. almost
4. reduction	d. young teenager
5. assumption	e. the action of perceiving
6. virtually	f. influence sb. so that they change their opinion
7. perception	g. consider seriously
8. sway	h. sth. that is taken as a fact

Part II Fast Reading

Domestic Violence: A Crime, Not a Quarrel

1 Imagine a world in which 3 to 4 million people are suddenly struck by a serious, recurring illness. There is chronic pain, trauma, and injury. Authorities fail to draw any connection between individual bouts with the disease and the greater public threat. Many suffer in silence.

2 This is the United States of America in 1993: The disease is violence, and the victims are predominantly women who are beaten in their own homes.

3 For too long, we as a nation have failed to grasp either the scope or the seriousness of domestic violence. If the leading newspapers were to announce tomorrow the discovery of a new disease affecting 3 to 4 million women every year, few would fail to appreciate the seriousness of the illness. Yet, when it comes to the 3 to 4 million women who are victimized by violence in their own homes, the alarms sound faintly.

4 For the past four years, the US surgeons general have warned that domestic violence—not heart attacks or cancer or strokes—poses the single largest threat of injury