

新编大学英语 阅读教程

第2册

总 主 编	许道林	
本 册 主 编	李建群	刘东楼
本册副主编	曹凤龙	
本 册 编 者	李建群	刘东楼
	曹凤龙	刘 萍
	郭书法	张瑞娥
	权继振	邢 颖

安徽大学出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新编大学英语阅读教程. 第2册 / 李建群, 刘东楼主编.
—合肥: 安徽大学出版社, 2006. 8
ISBN 7 - 81110 - 131 - 9

I. 新... II. ①李... ②刘... III. 英语
—阅读教学—高等学校—教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2006)第 046600 号

新编大学英语阅读教程 第2册

李建群 刘东楼 主编

出版发行	安徽大学出版社	印 刷	合肥荣华印务有限公司
	(合肥市肥西路3号 邮编230039)	开 本	787×960 1/16
联系电话	编辑室 0551 - 5108498	印 张	30
	发行部 0551 - 5107716	字 数	690 千
责任编辑	李 梅	版 次	2006 年 8 月第 1 版
封面设计	张 波	印 次	2006 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 7 - 81110 - 131 - 9/G · 366

定价 40.00 元(全四册)

如有影响阅读的印装质量问题,请与出版社发行部联系调换

前 言

为很快适应和落实教育部最近颁发的《大学英语课程教学要求》,深化教学改革,培养学生的英语综合应用能力,满足新时期国家对人才的需要,更为了结合我省学生的实际情况,我们依据《全国大学英语四级考试样卷》新题型,组织具有丰富的教学经验、多次参加新题型培训的一线教师编写了这套阅读理解专项教材。希望本套书能在进一步提高我省外语教学质量方面作一点贡献。

本教材旨在培养学生正确的阅读习惯,提高学生的阅读速度和阅读理解能力。在选材时注重内容的可读性、趣味性、知识性、时代性、语言文字的规范性和文体的多样性。课文大多数选自英美原著、正式出版的英文报刊杂志等。

本套教材共分四册,每册十个单元,每单元分两部分:第一部分为快速阅读,含一篇短文,共10题,1-7题为是非判断题,8-10题为句子填空题,即完成句子;第二部分为仔细阅读,含三篇短文,第一篇为选词填空,共10题,从所给的15个词中选10个词填空。后两篇为单项选择,每篇5题,共10题。

使用本教材时,应注意以下几点:

1. 为便于教学,本教材印成活页。
2. 让学生养成先了解问题后读文章的良好习惯,做到有的放矢,以达到提高阅读速度和准确率的效果。
3. 学生阅读时不能查词典,如有生词,可根据上下文和构词法进行猜测以确定词义,或直接跳过那些不影响理解的生词。
4. 学生应注意培养边阅读、边理解、边记忆的良好习惯。读完课文即做练习,做练习时,不再翻阅已读过的课文。
5. 学生应在建议时间内快速读完文章,较准确地完成课后练习。

编 者

2006年8月

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Unit One



Part I

Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning)(15 minutes)

Directions :In this part , you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1-7 , mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage ;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage ;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8-10 , complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Why People Work

Jobs and work do much than most of us realize to provide happiness and contentment. We re all used to think that work provides the material things of life—the goods and services that make possible our modern civilization. But we are much less conscious of the extent to which work provides the more intangible(无形的) ,but more important , psychological well-being that can make the difference between a full and an empty life.

Historically , work had been associated with slavery and sin(罪孽) and punishment. And in our own day we are used to hearing the traditional complaints : “ I can t wait for my vacation , ” “ I wish I could stay home today. ” “ My boss treats me poorly , ” “ I ve got too much work to do and not enough time to do it. ” Against this background , it may well come as a surprise to learn that not only psychologists but also other behavioral scientists

have come to accept the positive contribution of work to the individual's happiness and sense of personal achievement. Work is more than a necessity for most human beings ; it is the focus of their lives , the source of their identity and creativity.

Rather than a punishment or a burden , work is the opportunity to realize one's potential. For large numbers of people , the absence of their work is harmful to their health. Retirement often brings many problems with the “ what do I do with myself ” question , even though there may be no financial cares. Large numbers of people regularly get headaches and other illnesses on weekends when they don't have their jobs to go to , and must fend for themselves. It had been observed that unemployment , quite aside from exerting(施加) financial pressures , brings enormous psychological troubles and that many individuals sink rapidly when jobless.

Why should work be such a significant source of human satisfaction ? A good share of the answer rests in the kind of pride that is stimulated(刺激) by the job , by the activity of completing.

The human being longs for a sense of being accomplished , of being able to do things , with his hand , with his mind , with his will. Everyone wants to feel he or she had the ability to do something that is meaningful and that serves as a tribute(赞誉) to his or her abilities.

It is easier to see this in the craftsman(手艺人) who lovingly shapes some cheap material into an object that may be either useful or beautiful or both. You can see the carpenter or bricklayer stand aside and admire the product of his personal skill.

But even where there is no obvious end product that is solely attributable (归因于) to one person's skill , researchers have found that employees find pride in accomplishment. Our own research in hospital suggests that even the housekeeping and laundry staff takes pride in the fact that in their own ways they are helping to cure sick people—and that accomplishing a good deal.

When we are misled by the complaints about the difficult work , most people regard their own capacity to conquer the tough job as the mark of their

own unique personality. Complaining is part of work. After all , how else do you know who you are , except as you can demonstrate the ability of your mind to control your hands and words ? You are , in significant measure (在很大程度上) , what you can do. Some are deceived into thinking that people like to store up energy , to rest and save themselves as much as possible. Just the opposite. It is energy expense that is satisfying.

Just watch an employee who must deal with countless other persons because his or her job is at some central point in a communications network : a salesman at a busy counter , a stock broker on the phone , a customer representative. They will tell you how much skill and experience it takes to answer countless questions and handle various kinds of personalities every hour of the day. Not everyone can interact with such persistence and over long hours , but those who do , pride themselves on a distinctive ability that contributes mightily to the running of the organization.

1. ()Jobs and work can only provide people with happiness and contentment.
2. ()Without work we can t get what our society needs physically.
3. ()Psychological health makes people a full life.
4. ()Retired people often feel relaxed and at ease.
5. ()People often want to store up energy and reserve it as much as possible.
6. ()People can understand the real meaning of their complaints.
7. ()Demonstrating ability is the only ways to show others what you are.
8. Psychological well-being that can make the difference between full and an empty life implies _____.
9. What people really long for at heart are _____.
10. The theme of this passage is that _____.

Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth) (25 minutes)**Section A**

Directions : In this section , there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Business and government leaders also consider the inflation rate to be an important general indicator. Inflation is a period of increased 11 that causes rapid rises in prices. When your money buys fewer goods so that you get 12 for the same amount of money as before , inflation is the problem. There is a general rise in the price of goods and services. Your money buys less. Sometimes people describe inflation as a(n) 13 when “ a dollar is not worth a dollar anymore. ”

Inflation is a problem for all consumers. People who live on a fixed income are hurt the 14 . Retired people , for instance , cannot 15 on an increase in income as prices rise. Elderly people who do not work face serious problems in stretching their incomes to 16 their needs in time of inflation. Retirement income or any fixed income usually does not rise as fast as prices. Many retired people must cut their spending to keep up with rising prices. In many cases they must stop buying some necessary items , such as food and clothing. Even for working people whose incomes are going up , inflation can be a problem. The 17 of living goes up , too. People who work must have even more money to keep up their standard of living. Just buying the things they need costs more. When incomes do not keep 18 with rising prices , the standard of living goes down. People may be earning the same amount of money , but they are not living as well because they are

not able to buy as many goods and services.

Government units gather information about prices in our economy and publish it as price indexes by which the rate of change can be determined. A price index measures changes in prices using the prices for a 19 year as the base. The base price is set at 100 , and the other prices are reported as a percentage of the base price. A price index makes 20 possible to compare current prices of typical consumer goods , for example , with prices of the same goods in previous years.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| A. count | I. best |
| B. it | J. pace |
| C. demanding | K. most |
| D. time | L. standard |
| E. obtain | M. cost |
| F. less | N. that |
| G. given | O. spending |
| H. meet | |

Section B

Directions :There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A , B , C and D. You should decide on the best choice.

Passage One

In the United States , it is important to be on time , or punctual , for an appointment , a class , a meeting , etc. However , this may not be true in all countries. An American professor discovered this difference while teaching a class in a Brazilian(巴西的)university. The two-hour class was scheduled to begin at 10 A. M. and end at 12. On the first day , when the professor

arrived on time , no one was in the classroom. Many students came after 10 A. M. Several arrived after 10:30 A. M. Two students came after 11 A. M. Although all the students greeted the professor as they arrived , few apologized for their lateness. Were these students being rude ? He decided to study the students behavior.

The professor talked to American and Brazilian students about lateness in both an informal and a formal situation at a lunch with a friend and in a university calls , respectively. He gave them an example and asked them how they would react. If they had a lunch appointment with a friend , the average American student defined lateness as 19 minutes after the agreed time. On the other hand , the average Brazilian student felt the friend was late after 33 minutes.

In an American university , students are expected to arrive at the appointed hour. In contrast , in Brazil , neither the teacher nor the students always arrive at the appointed hour. Classes not only begin at the scheduled time in the United States , but also end at the scheduled time. In the Brazilian class , only a few students left the class at 12:00 ; many remained past 12:30 to discuss the class and ask more questions. While arriving late may not be very important in Brazil , neither is staying late.

21. The word “punctual ” most probably means _____.
 - A. leaving soon after class
 - B. coming early
 - C. arriving a few minutes late
 - D. being on time
22. Why did the professor study the Brazilian students ’ behavior ?
 - A. He felt puzzled at the students being late.
 - B. He felt angry at the students rudeness.
 - C. He wanted to make the students come on time later.
 - D. He wanted to collect data for one of his studies.
23. It can be inferred from the professor’s study of lateness in the informal

situation that _____.

- A. American students will become impatient if their friend is five minutes late
 - B. neither Brazilian nor American students like being late in social gatherings
 - C. being late in one culture may not be considered so in another culture
 - D. Brazilian students will not come thirty-three minutes after the agreed time
24. From the last paragraph we know that in Brazil _____.
- A. it is important to arrive at the appointed time
 - B. it is rude to keep the professor staying after calls
 - C. it is normal for students to leave during lectures
 - D. it is acceptable for professors to be late for class
25. What is the main idea of this passage ?
- A. It is important to be on time for class in the United States.
 - B. The importance of being on time differs among cultures.
 - C. People learn the importance of time from the culture they are in.
 - D. Students being late for class should explain the reason to their teacher.

Passage Two

There are few things that confuse me more than fashion. If I ran the world ,I would be able to get away with wearing the same T-shirt and worn jeans everyday. But it seems , like almost everything , fashion refuses to follow my rules.

When I entered Lehigh as a freshman , it became painfully obvious that I was lagging behind in wardrobe compared to the average student. Thirteen years of Catholic schooling had left me accustomed to walking up and dressing in the same drab dress attire without even the slightest thought of fashion. A few shirts and sweaters got me through weekends and I never worried about what to wear during the week. Once I left the sheltered Catholic school lifestyle , I was confronted with daily reminder how little I knew about fashion.

Eventually it became clear to me that I wanted absolutely nothing to do with the world of fashion. I still dread going to the mall just to buy a common

pair of pants or sweater. I can't stand the small talk of the bothersome sales clerks that move through every retail store like a virus. As a general rule of thumb I won't even enter a store if it is either playing some form of loud techno music or, worse yet, if it has an employee stationed at the entrance. I still can't understand why stores seem to have adopted the policy of positioning a Nazi-like sales soldier armed with headsets and advertisements to intercept with ruthless efficiency anyone who may pass by.

By and large I try to go shopping as little as possible and only when necessary. I go a few times a year, but just when I thought I was making some headway in the world of fashion, I was confronted with an entire new type of beast: the business suit.

Besides being ridiculously overpriced, business and professional attire encompasses everything I've grown to hate in the world of fashion.

26. In Catholic schools, students usually _____.
A. have a lot of clothes in wardrobe
B. concern the fashion a lot
C. pay little attention to dress
D. wear the same T-shirt and worn jeans everyday
27. According to the author, the price of business and professional clothes is _____.
A. unreasonably high
B. very reasonable
C. lower than that of common clothes
D. a little higher than that of common clothes
28. It can be inferred from the whole passage the author _____.
A. succeeds in overcoming fashion
B. succeeds in keeping herself from fashion
C. can do nothing before fashion
D. tries to avoid fashion, but can't

29. The author won't enter the stores _____.
A. with loud music inside and workers at the entrance
B. with Nazi-like soldiers at the entrance
C. with sales clerks that move like a virus
D. all above
30. By "encompass" (Para. 5), the author means _____.
A. have B. include C. conclude D. get



Unit Two



Part I

Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning)(15 minutes)

Directions :In this part , you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1-7 , mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage ;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage ;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8-10 , complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Hercules

Once upon a time there was a great Greek hero ,Hercules. He was taller and stronger than anyone you have ever seen. On his shoulder he carried a club(棍棒) and in his hand he held a bow(弓). He was known as the hero of a hundred adventures.

Hercules served a king. The king was afraid of him. So again and again he sent him on difficult tasks. One morning the king sent for him and told him to fetch three golden apples for him from the garden of the Singing Maidens(歌女). But no one knew where the garden was.

So Hercules went away at once. He walked the whole day without a stop and the next day and the next. He walked for several months before he saw mountains far in the distance on one fine morning. One of the mountains was in the shape of a man , with long , long legs and arms and huge shoulders and

a huge head. He was holding up the sky. Hercules knew it was Atlas , the Mountain God. So he asked him for help.

Atlas answered , “ My head and arms and shoulders all ache. Could you hold up the sky while I fetch the golden apples for you ?”

Hercules climbed the mountain and shouldered the sky. Soon the sky grew very heavy. When finally Atlas came back hurriedly with three golden apples , he said , “ Well , you are going to carry the mountain for ever. I am going to see the king with the three golden apples. ” Hercules knew that he couldn t fight against him because of the sky on his back. So he shouted :

“ Just one minute s help. My shoulders are hurting badly. Hold the sky for a minute while I make a cushion(垫子) for my shoulders. ”

Atlas believed him. He thought he would do him a favor just once for a moment and then he would go to see the king directly with the three golden apples. He felt happy. He threw down the apples and came up to Hercules to hold up the sky.

Hercules picked up the apples satisfactorily and ran back to see the king excitedly.

1. ()Hercules was the tallest and strongest man in the world.
2. ()Hercules worked in the king s garden.
3. ()Hercules was given many difficulties and troubles by the king because the king considered him an able man.
4. ()Atlas was both a mountain god and a giant who held up the sky.
5. ()Atlas ran faster than Hercules.
6. ()Atlas got the golden apples for Hercules because he wanted to be the king himself.
7. ()Hercules finally managed to get the apples by fighting against Atlas.
8. Hercules was known as an _____.
9. Hercules was asked by the king to fetch three golden apples from _____.
10. Hercules couldn t fight against Atlas because of _____.

Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth) (25 minutes)**Section A**

Directions : In this section , there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

US President s speech on Christmas (December 24 2005)

US President George W. Bush

THE PRESIDENT : Good morning. On this Christmas 11 , Laura and I send our best wishes to families across America as you gather in your homes to celebrate the holiday. Christmas is a time of joy and peace , and we hope the holiday season brings all of you happy reunions with families and friends , and time to rest and reflect as you look forward to a new year. At Christmas , we give thanks for the gift of the birth of Christ , and for the blessings that surround us every day of the year. In this great and 12 land , we have so much to be thankful for , and Christmas 13 us of our obligation to share these blessings with others. There are many among us who are hurting and require a helping hand. In the new year , I hope Americans will look for ways to 14 your time and talents where they are needed most. By reaching out to a neighbor in need , we make our nation a more just and compassionate place. This Christmas , we remember our fellow citizens who 15 from the hurricanes and other disasters that struck our nation this past year. We pray for their strength as they continue to recover and rebuild their lives and their communities. During the holiday season and throughout the year , we think with pride of the men and women of our Armed Forces ,

who are keeping our nation safe and 16 freedom around the world. In Iraq , Afghanistan , and elsewhere , they are protecting our liberty by spreading liberty to others , and all Americans are grateful to our troops for their courage and 17 . We re also grateful to their families. Staying behind when a family member goes to war is a heavy burden—and it s particularly hard at Christmas. We pray for our military families ; we ask Almighty God to bestow His protection and care on their loved ones as they protect our nation from grave dangers. We also remember the heroic men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation s freedom. We pray that God will comfort the loved ones they left behind. The sacrifices of these brave troops have 18 millions from lives of tyranny and sorrow , and made America more 19 . We will always cherish the memory of each of our fallen servicemen and women , and count it a privilege to be citizens of the country they served. The times we live in have brought many 20 to our country. And at such times , the story of Christmas brings special comfort and confidence. Christmas reminds us that we can trust in God s promise of peace on Earth and goodwill toward men. On a night more than 2 000 years ago , an angel of the Lord brought good tidings of great joy : the God of Heaven had come to Earth , and He would be with us always. Thank you for listening , and Merry Christmas.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A. complain | I. challenges |
| B. conference | J. approve |
| C. reminds | K. removal |
| D. suffered | L. prosperous |
| E. Eve | M. secure |
| F. defending | N. commitment |
| G. thoughtful | O. volunteer |
| H. rescued | |