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A GUIDE TO NEW COLLEGE ENGLISH

新编大学英语 学习手册

最新修订本

武汉现代外国语言文学研究所

王迈迈 主编 GUASON JASCRAVY (美) 审校

本书九大特色

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激发学习兴趣 做好准备活动

● 听力辅导(Listening-Centered Activities)

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主 编 王 迈 迈 JASON A. CRAVY (美)
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中国致公出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新编大学英语学习手册.第3、4册/王迈迈主编. - 北京:中国致公出版社,2000.12

ISBN 7-80096-576-7

I.新... II.王... III.英语 - 高等学校 - 教学参考资料 IV.H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2000)第 81472 号

新编大学英语学习手册(3)

中国致公出版社出版

新华书店经销

文字六〇三厂印刷

开本 787 × 1092 1/32 印张 42 字数 1280 千字

2002 年 2 月第 3 版 2002 年 2 月第 1 次印刷

印数 1—10000 册

ISBN 7 - 80096 - 576 - 7/G·471

定价:19.00 元

前言

王迈迈英语系列丛书《新编大学英语学习手册》满载着广大读者的希望,在中外英语教学专家的共同努力下,以其全新的风格又一次和读者朋友见面了。本书自问世以来,数年畅销不衰,作为作者,我们衷心地感谢千千万万读者对本书的厚爱。

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编者

2002年2月

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UNIT 1



Myths and Legends

★ 预习辅导 (Preparation)



1. An Argument About the Sun

Sample answers

- 1) Both the children are wrong. The sun gives out almost the same amount of heat at any time of the year. We feel sometimes it is hotter, and sometimes it is cooler only because the angle between the sunlight and the surface of the earth varies constantly.

That the sun seems bigger at daybreak is an optical illusion. When it appears on the horizon, only a small part of the sky is bright enough to be seen against it. This makes the sun seem bigger. But when it's high up in the sky, it seems smaller with the huge bright sky against it.

That it is cooler in the morning than at midday is not because of the change of the distance between the sun and the earth. It is because of the change of the angle between the sunlight and the surface of the earth. We don't feel very hot in the morning because less sunlight is received per unit of area when the angle is smaller. But as time passes, more and more sunlight per unit of area penetrates the atmosphere and reaches us, so we feel hotter at midday.

- 2) Confucius was knowledgeable, but not a genius. We can't expect him to know everything. Everyone has his or her limitations. Another reason is that at that time science was not developed and people didn't have advanced equipment to do research on the sun and the earth. So it was difficult to understand or explain many natural phenomena.
- 3) A. I think Confucius was honest. He didn't pretend to know the answer.

B. No one is perfect. One may be an expert in one field, but a layman in other fields.

C. The children were very curious, a good quality of theirs. But they only saw one side of the phenomenon and then jumped to conclusions. One should consider different aspects before drawing any conclusions.

2. Bedtime Stories

Sample

Long, long ago there lived in Greece a king whose name was Midas. He was a greedy man and loved gold better than anything else in the world.

One day he asked the gods to give him still more gold. The gods decided to punish him and said: "Very well; in the morning everything that you touch will become gold."

Midas was overjoyed when he heard this. "I shall be the richest man in the world," he said to himself.

He got up early next morning. When he touched his bed, it turned to gold. He began to dress, and his clothes became gold. Midas was delighted.

Midas loved flowers and kept a beautiful garden. He went into the garden to look at his flowers. The day was fine, the sun was bright and the roses were lovely. The king picked one of them, but it turned to gold in his hand. He picked another, and the same thing happened. He was sorry that the flowers changed as soon as he touched them, for he loved their rich colours.

The king went to have his breakfast. He took a cup of milk, but it immediately turned to gold. Then he took a piece of bread, and that also changed into gold. Midas now began to feel unhappy. It was good to be the richest man in the world, but he was hungry, and he could not eat or drink gold.

Midas went out into the garden again. His little daughter was there. When she saw her father, she ran up to him. King Midas was very fond of his daughter and he kissed her tenderly. Then and there she turned into a golden statue.

Midas was now very unhappy. He went into his palace. His eyes filled with tears, and he begged the gods to take away the Golden Touch.

"I was very foolish to love gold so much," he said, "take all my gold and give me back my daughter."

"Go," said the gods, "and wash your hands in the river near your garden, and the water will take away the Golden Touch."

Midas went to the river and washed his hands. Then he ran quickly to the golden statue of his little girl. He kissed her again and she changed back into his pretty little daughter.

Midas never forgot this lesson. He knew now that gold did not bring hap-

piness.

—From English by Xu Guozhang

3. Chinese Fables

Three at Dusk and Four at Dawn

In the state of Song there was a man who was very fond of monkeys and kept a large number of them. He could understand the monkeys and they could understand him. In order to satisfy the monkeys' demands, he reduced the food consumption of his family.

After a while his family did not have enough to eat, so he wanted to limit the food for his monkeys. But he was afraid the monkeys would not submit to him. So he played a trick on them.

"If I give you three chestnuts in the morning and four in the evening, would that be enough?" he asked the monkeys.

All the monkeys rose up in a fury.

After a short time he said, "If I give you four chestnuts in the morning and three in the evening, would that be enough?"

All the monkeys lay on the floor, happy and satisfied with this proposal.

His Spear Against His Shield

In the state of Chu there was a man who had a spear and a shield for sale. He was loud in praises of his shield.

"My shield is so strong that nothing can pierce it through."

He also sang praises of his spear.

"My spear is so strong that it can pierce through anything."

"What would happen," he was asked, "if your spear is used to pierce your shield?"

He was unable to give an answer.

It is impossible for an impenetrable shield to coexist with a spear that finds nothing impenetrable.

A Matter of Dignity

There was a great famine in the state of Qi. Qian Ao, a rich man in Qi, prepared food by the roadside for the hungry to come and eat.

Along came a starving man, his sleeves covering his head, his hempen sandals held together by string, walking as if he did not know where he was going. With food in his left hand and drink in his right, Qian Ao shouted at him:

"Hey you! Come and eat!"

The man looked up and stared at Qian.

"I'm reduced to this state just because I refuse to take anything from

loud-mouthed (高谈阔论的, 叽哩呱啦的) people giving away food." he said.

Qian immediately begged his pardon but the man still refused to eat and eventually starved to death.

—From 100 Ancient Chinese Fables by K. L. Kiu

★★ 听力辅导 (Listening - Centered Activities)

Listening

一、语言注解

1. flock 群
2. retriever (经特殊训练)能寻回猎物的猎犬
3. show up 显现
4. Mart Moody (人名)马特·姆迪
5. Tupper Lake (地名)坦帕湖

二、练习答案

Exercise 1

- 1) What did Moody shoot at one day?
Ducks.
- 2) Who went with Moody?
His dog.
- 3) What happened to the dog after she left?
She didn't show up/come back that day.
- 4) Why was Moody worried about her?
It was very unusual for her not to come back./She's heavy with pups./It was late, but she still didn't come back.
- 5) What do you think of the ending?
It's incredible. It's possible for a dog to have seven pups at one birth, but newly-born pups are too weak to carry ducks. And it is unlikely that the dog could carry three ducks in her mouth. But of course the exaggeration is funny.