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ENGLISH**

**大学英语**

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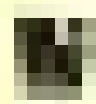
# COLLEGE ENGLISH 大学英语

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# 大学英语

## 快速阅读

### 第一册

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# 前 言

《大学英语》是根据国家教育委员会审定批准的《大学英语教学大纲（文理科本科用）》编写的一套系列教材，分精读、泛读、听力、快速阅读、语法与练习五种教程。

本教材重视英语语言基础，从各方面保证文、理科的通用性，适用于大学英语基础阶段的教学。

本教材的精读、泛读、快速阅读和听力教程各按分级教学的要求编写六册，每级一册；语法与练习编写四册，供1—4级使用。精读与听力教程均配有教师用书和录音磁带。对低于大纲规定入学要求的学生，另编预备级精读、泛读教程各两册。

上述五种教程根据各自的课型特点自成体系，但又相互配合，形成整体，以贯彻大纲所提出的三个层次的要求：“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力、一定的听的能力、初步的写和说的能力。”全套教材由复旦大学、北京大学、华东师范大学、中国人民大学、武汉大学和南京大学合作编写，复旦大学董亚芬教授审订。

大学外语教材编审委员会综合大学英语编审组的全体成员对这套教材的设计与编写自始至终给予关注，分工审阅了全套教材并提出宝贵意见。上海外语教育出版社的编辑同志在付梓前仔细编审，精心设计，给予我们很大帮助和促进。

《大学英语》快速阅读教程由中国人民大学外语系负责编写。湛馨荪教授担任主编、许孟雄教授担任主审，参加编写的有余申燕副教授、王敏同志。

在编写过程中，本教程还承英籍专家 Anthony Ward 审阅，谨此致谢。

本书为快速阅读教程第一册，供大学英语一级学生使用。

由于时间仓促，编者水平与经验有限，教材中不妥之处在所难免，希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1989年2月

# 使用说明

本教程旨在培养学生的正确阅读习惯,提高学生的阅读能力和速度。为保证语言文字的规范化,课文全部选自英、美原著,但有少量删改。选材力求多样化,知识性和趣味性兼顾。

全书共分六册,每册十单元二十课。每篇选文均配有多项选择练习,以测试学生对课文的理解能力。快速阅读主要着眼于培养阅读速度,强调在单位时间内快速获取所需信息,因此每篇材料均略浅于相应的精、泛读课文。篇幅跨度为250—600词左右,生词控制在2%—3%之间。快速阅读的全部教学活动都要求在课内进行。每单元进行一次,每次使用一至两篇,阅读后即做练习,所需时间(包括练习)约十分钟。每次练习后,学生应及时记录阅读和练习所分别占用的时间,供日后进行自我评估。

使用本教程时,应注意下列各点:

1. 为便于教学,本教程印成活页,由教师保管,使用时临时分发。学生不得预习。
2. 阅读时不能查阅词典,如有生词,可根据上下文进行猜测以确定词义。
3. 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。
4. 阅读后,由教师收回快速阅读材料和练习,予以批改并记录成绩。

编者

1989年2月

## FAST READING I

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## 1. The New World

In the eighteenth century young ladies in Italy were taught reading, writing, music and arithmetic. But their knowledge of history and geography was very poor.

Once the French ambassador in Rome was giving a ball to which many important people were invited. The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs came very late. A young lady, who was well acquainted with him, saw him enter the ball-room and asked why he was so late.

"You see," said the Minister, "there has been a little accident at the King's palace."

The curious young lady asked the Minister to tell her what had happened at the King's palace.

"Oh, nothing important," answered the Minister. "The ambassador of Brazil, who was to be presented to the King, forgot to take his credentials with him and was obliged to go back to his hotel to bring them. If he had left them in Brazil we should have had to wait at least six months for them."

"Is Brazil so far from Rome?" asked the lady, who knew very little geography.

"It is in the New World," said the Minister.

"In the New World?" repeated the lady in great astonishment.

"Yes, in the New World," answered the Minister in a sarcastic tone, "which was discovered by Christopher Columbus."

When the young lady heard this, she rushed into the middle of the ball-room and shouted as loud as she could:

"Ladies and gentlemen, have you heard the latest news? A new world has just been discovered by a certain Christopher Columbus."

253 words





## FAST READING I Unit One

### 1. The New World

#### Comprehension Exercise

1. Italian young ladies in the 18th century \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. only learned how to read and write
  - b. knew a lot of history and geography
  - c. had little knowledge of history and geography
  - d. were taught nothing but history and geography
2. Who was giving a grand ball when the story took place?
  - a. The King of Italy.
  - b. The Italian foreign minister.
  - c. The French ambassador to Italy.
  - d. The Brazilian ambassador.
3. The foreign minister came very late because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. he had had something to do at home
  - b. he was delayed by a little accident
  - c. someone was hurt in the King's palace
  - d. he was reluctant to come to the ball
4. What happened at the King's palace?
  - a. The King was late; the Brazilian ambassador had to wait for him.
  - b. The ambassador left his credentials in Brazil.
  - c. For some reason the ambassador had to go back to Brazil.
  - d. The Brazilian ambassador forgot to take his credentials with him.
5. In this passage, the word "credentials" means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a letter of introduction
  - b. papers showing one has a right to exercise official power
  - c. an official invitation
  - d. secret documents
6. Where did the ambassador leave his credentials?
  - a. In the hotel.

- b. In his office.
- c. In Brazil.
- d. In Rome.

7. At that time it would take \_\_\_\_\_ to go from Rome to the New World.

- a. about three months
- b. at least half a year
- c. a couple of months
- d. about six weeks

8. "The New World" refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. Brazil
- b. Latin America
- c. the U.S.A.
- d. the Americas

9. The reason why the young lady shouted her announcement was that \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. she wanted to broadcast the good news
- b. she was the hostess of the ball
- c. she was well acquainted with the Minister
- d. she really knew about Columbus

10. Her announcement showed she was \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. ignorant
- b. clever
- c. thoughtless
- d. knowledgeable

## 2. The Romans and the Arabs

The Romans built great "aqueducts" to carry fresh water from the mountains to the cities. Many of these aqueducts are still standing today. The Romans also built great pipes under the ground to carry away the sewage. In Rome, one of these sewage pipes (sewers) is still used today; it is 2,000 years old. The Roman Emperors even set up a government health service. They built the first great public hospitals in Europe, and they paid doctors to look after poor people.

Then the Roman Empire fell to pieces, these civilised methods of treatment disappeared from most of Europe, for more than a thousand years. People went back to the old ways. They lived in dirty conditions which helped to cause diseases; and they asked God to cure the diseases. They shut up mentally sick people in prisons. Or they burnt them alive because they were supposed to have magic powers.

But the work of the Greek and Roman doctors was not lost. Over a thousand years ago, the Arabs moved into many of the Mediterranean countries. They took big parts of the old Roman lands. They translated the Greek and Roman medical books into Arabic. Arab doctors themselves made many new discoveries.

When civilisation at last came back to Europe, men once again translated the Greek and Roman works on medicine into Latin. Slowly —very slowly —European doctors discovered again the things that the Greeks and Romans had known so long ago. Slowly, they began to make new discoveries. They found out more about the way the body works—the way our blood goes round our bodies, the way our nerves send messages from our brains to our muscles, the way these muscles move our bodies.

387 words



## 2. The Romans and the Arabs

### Comprehension Exercise

1. The word "aqueduct" probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. something which was built long ago
  - b. something invented by a Roman Emperor
  - c. a big pipe under the ground
  - d. something built to supply clean water for the citizens
2. Underground pipes for carrying away dirty water were first built by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. the Greeks
  - b. the Arabs
  - c. the Romans
  - d. European doctors
3. Which of the following is true?
  - a. The sewage pipes built by the Romans are no longer in use now.
  - b. Sewage pipes in Arabia were built by the Romans.
  - c. A sewage pipe still being used today in Rome was built 2,000 years ago.
  - d. The ancient Romans got their drinking water from underground pipes.
4. Which of the following is NOT true?
  - a. A government health service was set up in ancient Rome.
  - b. The first public hospital in Europe was built in Rome.
  - c. In ancient Rome doctors were paid by the government.
  - d. Those who were mentally sick were all burnt alive in the Roman Empire.
5. In this article, "civilised methods of treatment" refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. advanced forms of health care
  - b. the way they burnt the bodies of the dead
  - c. imprisonment of the mentally sick
  - d. what was called magic powers
6. In Europe, people stopped using such civilised treatments \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. after they discovered better methods

- b. because these methods were too old
  - c. when they discovered these treatments helped to cause diseases
  - d. after the fall of the Roman Empire
7. "People went back to the old ways" means \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. "they lived in dirty conditions again"
  - b. "they asked God for help when they were ill"
  - c. "they did not treat mentally sick people properly"
  - d. all of the above
8. How did the work of Greek and Roman doctors come down to the people of later days?
- a. The Roman doctors had translated their medical books into Greek.
  - b. The Greek doctors translated the medical books of the Roman doctors into Arabic.
  - c. The Arabs translated them into Arabic.
  - d. Their books were safely kept in many European countries.
9. From this article we've learned that the Arabs \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. made more discoveries than the Romans
  - b. helped to preserve the Roman medical works
  - c. discovered more about the way the human body works
  - d. occupied big parts of the old Roman lands 2,000 years ago
10. This article is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. the contributions made by the Romans and Arabs to the promotion of public health
  - b. how the Arabs invaded the Roman Empire
  - c. the rise and fall of the Roman Empire
  - d. how Arabian doctors helped to translate the medical books

### 3. An Advertisement

A man once said how useless it was to put advertisements in the newspapers. "Last week," said he, "my umbrella was stolen from a London church. As it was a present, I spent twice its worth in advertising, but didn't get it back."

"How did you write your advertisement?" asked one of the listeners, a merchant.

"Here it is," said the man, taking out of his pocket a slip cut from a newspaper. The other man took it and read, "Lost from the City Church last Sunday evening, a black silk umbrella. The gentleman who finds it will receive ten shillings on leaving it at No. 10 Broad Street."

"Now," said the merchant, "I often advertise, and find that it pays me well. But the way in which an advertisement is expressed is of extreme importance. Let us try for your umbrella again, and if it fails, I'll buy you a new one."

The merchant then took a slip of paper out of his pocket and wrote: "If the man who was seen to take an umbrella from the City Church last Sunday evening doesn't wish to get into trouble, he will return the umbrella to No. 10 Broad Street. He is well known."

This appeared in the paper, and on the following morning, the man was astonished when he opened the front door. In the doorway lay at least twelve umbrellas of all sizes and colours that had been thrown in, and his own was among the number. Many of them had notes fastened to them saying that they had been taken by mistake, and begging the loser not to say anything about the matter.

279 words



