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LEARNING TO READ:
A COLLEGE
ENGLISH COURSE

2

大学英语阅读提高教程

总 主 编 葛春萍
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前言

本套《大学英语阅读提高教程》是配合主干教材使用的,重点是培养非英语专业学生的英语阅读能力和理解能力。新一轮的大学英语教学改革特别强调培养学生实际使用英语的能力,尤其是快速、准确地从阅读材料中获取所需信息的能力。教育部《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》(2007版)中对阅读理解能力的一般要求是:“能够基本读懂一般性题材的英文文章,阅读速度达到每分钟70词,在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟100词,能基本读懂国内英文报刊,掌握中心意思,理解主要事实和有关细节。能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料。能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。”因此,为帮助学生适应大学英语考试的阅读题型,帮助学生扩大阅读范围,提高阅读速度,我们组织编写了《大学英语阅读提高教程》系列教材,旨在积极应对大学英语教学改革的要求,使学生在阅读中丰富语言知识,培养独立阅读和广泛阅读的能力。

《大学英语阅读提高教程》的总体设计:

1. 本套教材共分四册,既可与新编的大学英语综合教程配套使用,也可单独使用。
2. 本套教材每册分8个单元。每一单元以“主题”为线索,安排知识内容相近、风格不同的阅读材料4篇,分为A1、A2、B1、B2,其中A1和A2是快速阅读,B1和B2是深度阅读。
3. 本套教材的阅读材料按照语篇长度和难度进行分级,由浅入深、由易到难、循序渐进。每一篇快速阅读材料的长度基本控制在900-1000个词,深度阅读材料的长度控制在500-800个词。
4. 本套教材阅读材料选材新颖,时代感强,所涉话题文、理、工、医、商等内容兼顾;练习题型多样,既有四、六级考试快速阅读题型的“是非判断”和“句子填空”,也设有“多项选择”和“简短问答”等题型,所有练习均附有答案。

由于编者水平有限,如有错误和不当之处,欢迎广大教师同仁和同学们提出宝贵的批评意见和建议,以便今后改进和完善。

编者

2012年5月

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Culture and Cultural Differences

Text A-1

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.

Beijing: Just a Normal “Culture Shock”?

I am from Germany and I came to Beijing to do an internship at *Beijing Review*. I have to admit I had little idea of what to expect.

I did not imagine that Beijing would be bigger than New York City, a major metropolis where I spent three months. Beijing is no small provincial town, but the capital of China, an international metropolis, a booming financial and cultural center.

The only reason I was not shocked or amazed when I saw the tall, modern buildings in Beijing was because I had already seen them in New York. I grew up on a farm in East Westphalia and seeing Beijing for the first time produced the same impression I got on seeing New York.

Prior to my coming to China, all the Chinese I met spoke very good English and they told me that English is widely spoken in China. This supported my preconceived notion that half the Chinese people could speak English. I maintained this illusion because I could not speak a word of Chinese and believed I could survive with only my English skills.

After my first contact with the local “Beijingers”, I had to revise my idea, which was clearly part of my fantasy, about all Chinese speaking English. My uncle, who spent a year with his Chinese wife and two children in Beijing, explained to me that less than one-third of the people could speak English fluently. I then realized that my wish for a “little English in

China” was quite ridiculous. But that is what tourists often expect when they go to a foreign country. They believe that the locals can speak at least English, if not the tourists’ own mother language.

However, a guest in a foreign country should, at least, make an attempt to learn some phrases in the local language. By learning Chinese you can have some really interesting experiences and a Chinese is happy if he feels you are interested in his culture. I decided that I would at least try to acquire a basic vocabulary so I could be polite and say “Hello” and “Thank you”. I also wanted to be able to tell the taxi driver my destination which would increase my chances of getting there.

The Chinese Government, in preparation for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, is solving the language problem by posting signs in English at all public places. Taxi drivers and salespersons are required to learn a basic English vocabulary for which they must pass an exam. These are just a few changes to help create an international environment in the city.

Westerners, especially blond-haired people, should get used to the fact that people will stare at them and even want to take their picture. Despite the fact that several thousand tourists visit Beijing every year, Westerners are treated as something special. It can happen while enjoying the beautiful “Temple of Heaven”, within seconds a little girl is put next to you and a picture is taken before you even know what happened. The people who do this are usually from other parts of the country, from provinces which have not yet been flooded by tourists. Local Beijing residents are totally familiar with foreign visitors. You can easily forgive this sight-seeing-disruption if you admit to yourself that you also love to watch other people and tourists in your home country, even if you do it more discreetly.

In Germany an old wives’ tale exists that says all Chinese restaurants cook dogs and cats and Germans eat them without knowing. This is a common myth but people expect it to be especially true in China that cat, dog, and snake are a common item on the menu.

For non-food adventurers, this poses a problem since the menus are written in Chinese and not every restaurant has a menu with pictures which allows you to point to what you want. A simple solution is to partake and enjoy.

Frog’s legs and chicken feet are not commonly served in every restaurant even though these dishes are regarded as gastronomic specialities in our neighboring countries of Austria, Switzerland, and France. China offers a lot of different meats and vegetables not found in the German kitchen.

Food is not only a part of Chinese culture, it is also a part of the real Chinese experience. You need to be open-minded when you come here. There is no joy in analyzing every single dish you get. Simply try and enjoy it.

All of the people I have met here, not only my colleagues at *Beijing Review*, are really nice, friendly, and helpful. If you have any problem finding your way or locating the right bus station, simply approach someone with a desperate look on your face and immediately a horde of people will come and try to help you. The only situation where even Chinese people forget

their good manners is while waiting in line or trying to get on an already overcrowded bus or subway. But after a little practice you will learn how to use your elbow as a useful tool.

There are many wonderful experiences in Beijing and each day there is more to discover. The Chinese people reinforce this impression even more with their unique nature and way of life. As a European, of course, you need to get used to some things and conditions. These are part of the country and its culture.

Beijing Review, March 26, 2007

1. The only reason the writer was shocked or amazed when he saw the tall, modern buildings in Beijing was because he had never seen them in New York. ☐
2. According to the author, by learning Chinese you can have some really interesting experiences but a Chinese is unhappy if he feels you are interested in his culture. ☐
3. Westerners are treated as something special in spite of the fact that several thousand tourists visit Beijing every year. ☐
4. According to the passage, in Germany an old wives' tale exists that says almost all Chinese restaurants cook dogs and cats and Germans eat them without knowing. ☐
5. The writer suggests that a simple solution to the problem that the menus are written in Chinese and not every restaurant has a menu with pictures which allows you to point to what you want be to partake and enjoy. ☐
6. In the author's opinion, all of the Chinese people including his colleagues at *Beijing Review* are really friendly, but they forget their good manners when they are waiting in line or trying to get on an already overcrowded bus or subway. ☐
7. For the writer, there are many wonderful experiences in Beijing and each day there is more to discover. ☐
8. The author is from Germany and he came to Beijing to _____ at *Beijing Review*.
9. Before his coming to China, all the Chinese the author met spoke very good English and they told him that English is widely spoken in China, which supported his _____ that half the Chinese people could speak English.
10. Frog's legs and chicken feet are not commonly served in every restaurant even though these dishes are regarded as _____ in Austria, Switzerland, and France.

Text A-2

Directions:

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

For questions 1–7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C, and D.

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

Cultural Differences and Similarities in Nonverbal Communication

Cultural Differences in Nonverbal Communication

Nonverbal communication can send messages as loud and clear as anything said in verbal communication. Through watching others' nonverbal communication we can sense whether they are bored, lying, romantically interested or many other emotional states. American culture gives much less weight to the nonverbal aspects of communication than other cultures. Differences in cultural interpretations could lead to possible misunderstanding.

Posture and Proximity

Simple postural differences can miscommunicate cross-culturally. In Turkey, it's rude to put your hands in your pockets or sit with your legs crossed. And it's rude to show the soles of your feet in Thailand. Different cultures also vary in the acceptable distance between people standing next to others; South Americans tend to stand much closer than their North American counterparts, who tend to seek a greater amount of personal space than other cultures. Proximity issues also arise when waiting in line; British citizens and Americans tend to be offended by others cutting in line, whereas the French and Armenians expect it.

Eye Contact

Latin cultures tend to rely more on eye contact in communication than do non-Latin cultures. In the U.S. and in Arabic cultures, direct eye contact is often seen as a sign of honesty, whereas in some Asian, Middle-Eastern and Native-American cultures, it's considered rude.

Gestures

Even a gesture as simple as pointing can lead to cross-cultural miscommunication. Pointing with one figure is considered rude in some Asian countries, as is the common American "come here" gesture. Germans point with their little finger, whereas Japanese residents point with their whole hand.

Paralanguage

Paralanguage refers to all non-linguistic elements of spoken language, such as pitch, rhythm, tone and volume. All these elements are interpreted differently cross-culturally. For instance, increased volume in speaking is interpreted as strength or confidence in Arabic or

German cultures, and as loss of control or rudeness to the Japanese or Thai.

Facial Expressions

All cultures seem to express with the same basic facial expressions the basic emotions of anger, grief, happiness and fear. But the acceptability of such expression varies from culture to culture. Many Asian cultures don't easily express anger or grief on their faces, while Mediterranean Latin and Arabic cultures permit open expressions of grief.

Similarities in Cultures with Non-Verbal Communication

Non-verbal communication signals can offend those from other cultures, since nonverbal forms of communication can have varying meanings. However, there are other forms of communication that are similar across cultures, sometimes resulting from globalization and other times resulting from evolutionary behavioral adaptations. Communication includes both verbal and non-verbal communication. Verbal communication involves words, while non-verbal communication involves everything else, such as shrugs and smiles. Some non-verbal communication is subtle, such as the position of the body, which influences the attitude the person conveys to others.

Gestures

One form of non-verbal communication is an emblem, which conveys a specific message. This includes the thumbs-up sign and the handshake. Cultures often have their own emblems, but emblems can also become shared when cultures receive exposure to other cultures. While some gestures are common in some cultures, people practicing these gestures often stop performing them when they assimilate into another culture.

Nodding and Waving

In most cultures, nodding the head means yes and shaking the head means no. Most cultures also wave to say hello or goodbye. However, the way that cultures wave can differ.

Adapters

Adapters are behaviors that result from the body, such as when someone yawns. These adaptations are almost automatic and are performed across cultures. Cultures vary in the distance that is considered appropriate between different people. Overall, people who like each other tend to stand closer together. In addition, women tend to stand closer together than men do.

Emotions

Emotional cues are behaviors that show feelings, such as crying and laughing. These non-verbal forms of communication are found across cultures, but some cultures try to suppress these expressions more than others do. Darwin concluded that emotions in people and primates are adaptive and biologically innate, making them universal across cultures. Unfortunately, Darwin provided no hard evidence and other studies into the universality of facial expressions did not use sound research methods until the 1970s, when Ekman et al. took pictures of preliterate and literate cultures expressing emotion. Ekman et al. showed facial expressions of preliterate group members to literate group members and repeated this study in reverse. Both

groups could name the emotions that the other group expressed.

Loudness

Most cultures view loudness as indicating power. Arabic cultures view loudness as indicating strength. Germans view loudness as indicating authority. However, there are some cultures, such as the Japanese culture, that do not encourage loudness.

http://www.ehow.com/list_6940465_cultural-differences-nonverbal-communication.html

http://www.ehow.com/info_8583078_similarities-cultures-nonverbal-communication.html

1. American culture _____ the nonverbal aspects of communication than other cultures.
 - A. gives much more weight to
 - B. attaches much less importance to
 - C. gives much more priority to
 - D. puts much more emphasis on
2. From the passage, we know that _____.
 - A. North Americans tend to seek a greater amount of personal space than other cultures
 - B. South Americans tend to seek a greater amount of personal space than other cultures
 - C. North Americans tend to stand much closer than their South American counterparts
 - D. South Americans tend to stand in a more acceptable distance than North Americans
3. Direct eye contact is seen as _____ in some Asian, Middle-Eastern and Native-American cultures.
 - A. being honest
 - B. being advisable
 - C. being impolite
 - D. being proper
4. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?
 - A. Increased volume in speaking is interpreted as loss of rudeness in Japanese or Thai cultures.
 - B. A gesture as simple as pointing can lead to cross-cultural miscommunication.
 - C. Many Asian cultures don't easily express anger or grief on their faces.
 - D. In most cultures, nodding the head means yes and shaking the head means no.
5. According to the passage, we can know that globalization and evolutionary behavioral adaptations can _____.
 - A. result from varying nonverbal forms of communication
 - B. result in varying nonverbal forms of communication
 - C. result from some forms of communication that are similar across cultures
 - D. result in some forms of communication that are similar across cultures
6. The word "emblem" in Line 1, Paragraph 8 most probably means _____.
 - A. something that represents a country, organization
 - B. something that represents proximity
 - C. something that represents facial expressions
 - D. something that represents an idea or situation

7. What can be inferred from the passage?
 - A. Arabic cultures regard loudness as indicating authority.
 - B. German cultures regard loudness as indicating strength.
 - C. Most cultures regard loudness as indicating power.
 - D. Some cultures including Japanese culture encourage loudness.
8. Although some gestures are common in some cultures, people practicing these gestures often stop performing them when they _____ another culture.
9. Adapters are behaviors that result from the body, such as when someone yawns. These adaptations are almost _____.
10. Darwin came to the conclusion that emotions in people and primates are _____, making them universal across cultures.

Text B-1

Directions:

In this part, you will have 10 minutes to go over the passage quickly and choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C, and D for each question.

What Are Dating Rituals Based on Cultures?

Every culture is different and that is what makes a diverse world. Dating is a ritual that many couples participate in to find a partner in marriage or to test compatibility as a mate. Many cultures have specific dating rituals that are unique to their region, their religion and their way of life.

Italian Dating Rituals and Culture

Italians have a reputation for being lovers. Italy is a beautiful country that has a culture embedded in thousands of years of tradition and ritual. Love and romance are as much a part of the culture as the ties to the Catholic Church. How you dress can determine who you attract as a mate or who you may marry. Women dress well to draw the attention of potential suitors, and men dress well to show they can provide for the women they are after. Both men and women's dating rituals are the same in the respect that each gender dates those deemed a suitable partner, but both men and women sometimes do have flippant affairs with others who are attractive but do not meet their economic goals.

German Dating Rituals and Culture

German men may bring flowers to the mother of his date as a courtesy. Germany is known for its beautiful mountains and alpine living. Dating in Germany is a ritual that has certain guidelines. Most Germans do not marry until their mid to late 20s. This leaves plenty

of time for dating and finding the right mate. A German girl would never ask a man out or pick up the check for dinner. That is a man's responsibility.

Thai Dating Rituals and Culture

A Thai woman's reputation is her ticket to a good marriage. Thailand is deeply ingrained in its culture and dating rituals. A Thai woman's reputation is her badge of honor. A Thai woman usually won't have sex when dating and may at least wait until the marriage date is approaching. A Thai man must measure the woman's reputation to match the dowry that he must present to the woman's family when he asks for her hand in marriage. During the dating ritual, a Thai woman may hold the hand of her boyfriend, but touching other parts of the body is considered taboo. The woman's head is considered sacred and cannot be touched by a man unless she gives him permission.

Mexican Dating and Culture

In Mexico, girls are often expected to see their boyfriends at home under the young women's parents and other family members' eyes. Dating rituals in Mexico are held in place by the cultural belief that family comes first. The male plays the dominant role in both dating and as head of a family. A young suitor must ask permission to date from the woman's father and sometimes even the grandfather. The suitor takes on the role of a man during dating by asking for the date and paying for dinner. Though American influences and attitudes have influenced dating in Mexico's urban areas, the rural areas of the country still follow custom. Public affection is not frowned upon in Mexico, though sexual situations won't happen until a long-term commitment is decided upon.

http://www.ehow.com/info_8087256_dating-rituals-based-cultures.html

1. In Italy, both men and women's dating rituals are the same in the respect that _____.
 - A. they date those considered to be a suitable partner, but they still have flippant affairs with others for their wealth
 - B. they sometimes do have flippant affairs with others who are attractive but not wealthy enough to match their goals, but they date those considered suitable
 - C. they date those who are only attractive and meet their economic goals
 - D. they sometimes do have flippant affairs with those who are suitable but not attractive
2. In Germany, most Germans do not marry until their mid to late 20s, which _____.
 - A. leaves plenty of time for them to take responsibility for marriage
 - B. leaves enough time for them to date and find the right mate
 - C. leaves plenty of time for finding the beautiful wife
 - D. leaves enough time for finding the wealthy husband
3. The word "ticket" in Line 1, Paragraph 4 most probably means _____.
 - A. a small piece of paper or card given to someone, usually to show that they have paid for an item or activity

- B. a piece of card or paper which is put on an item to show its size or price
C. something that is very suitable and exactly what is needed
D. an amount of money that has to be paid as a punishment for not obeying a rule or law
4. In Thailand, the woman's head is considered sacred and _____.
A. can be touched by a man only when she gives him permission
B. can be touched by a man if she gives him no permission
C. cannot be touched by a man if she gives him permission
D. cannot be touched by a man until she doesn't give him permission
5. In Mexico, a young wooer must ask _____.
A. permission to date from his father and sometimes even his grandfather
B. permission to date from the woman's father and sometimes even his grandfather
C. permission to date from his mother and sometimes even his grandmother
D. permission to date from the woman's father and sometimes even her grandfather

Text B-2

Directions:

In this part, you will have 10 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1–2, 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 3–5, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

How to Minimize Cross-Cultural Shock

Culture shock often occurs when you integrate into a foreign culture for a significant period of time — for example, if you move to another country for work or school. Symptoms of culture shock include homesickness, loneliness, headaches, stomachaches, distrust of locals, fatigue and being overly paranoid about health issues. Dealing with culture shock can be stressful and upsetting, but if you prepare yourself beforehand and make an effort to integrate into a foreign culture, you can significantly reduce the symptoms and effects.

Instructions

1. Read up beforehand. Learning about a new culture's customs and taboos before you leave can make the adjustment easier when you arrive. If you research beforehand, you will have an idea of what to expect and will be less likely to be offended or offend by accident.

Read travel guides for the country to get an idea of what it's like for foreigners, but also read up on the country's history, culture and current events. The more you know about where you are, the more connected you feel.

2. Keep an open mind. It's important to remember that different cultures have different customs, social guidelines, taboos, practices and views of what is important. In fact, some foreign cultures have a method of thinking that is completely different from anything you may know and that can be a lot to take in upon arrival. Being prepared to step out of your comfort zone and try new things will make the adjustment easier.

3. Try to integrate and make friends. Sign up for a class, join a group or schedule a meet-up with people who share your interests. Participating in the culture not only will help you adjust to your new surroundings but also will help you meet new people. Making friends from your home country or signing up for classes with people who speak your language also can reduce symptoms of culture shock.

4. Stay in touch with friends and family from home. Friends and family can give you much needed support during the beginning of your adjustment period. Keeping a link with your home is essential for minimizing culture shock, but don't overdo it. Schedule a regular weekly phone call or video chat with your family or friends and use the rest of your time to make new friends and integrate.

5. Improve your language proficiency. Learning the language of the country you are visiting is one of the most efficient ways to minimize culture shock. Being able to express yourself and operate autonomously will help you feel more adapted and more integrated. Sign up for a language class once you get there or take classes before leaving.

6. Learn more about the culture through movies, TV programs, magazines and newspapers. Watching TV requires no interaction and can teach you volumes about any culture. Commercials are particularly useful for language learning because they are short, use strong images and tend to repeat words and phrases. Make sure you have access to a TV where you are staying and watch local programs regularly.

http://www.ehow.com/how_7725987_minimize-crosscultural-shock.html

1. Though dealing with culture shock can be stressful and make you worried, you can completely eliminate the symptoms and effects as long as you are prepared beforehand and make an effort to integrate into a foreign culture. ☐
2. In effect, some foreign cultures' method of thinking is so different from anything you may know that there can be a lot to take in upon arrival. ☐
3. It can be learned from the passage that apart from making friends from your home country, _____ classes with people who speak your language can reduce symptoms of culture shock.
4. The author suggests improving your language proficiency to minimize cross-cultural shock,

for being able to express yourself will help you feel _____.

5. In order to learn more about the culture through TV programs and movies, please make sure that you _____ a TV where you are staying and watch local programs regularly.