



“十二五”普通高等教育本科国家级规划教材

21世纪

张绍杰 刘永兵 总主审
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大学英语

新阶梯阅读教程 3

新新大学英语系列

21ST CENTURY COLLEGE ENGLISH



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21 世纪大学英语新阶梯阅读教程

第三册

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前言

本教程共 4 册，每学期一册，每册由 10 个单元组成，每个单元包括 4 篇文章。

本教程在内容选择上融入了经济、外贸、体育、教育、历史、地理、日常生活以及社会问题等方面的知识，更加注意文、理、工、农、医等各科的通用性，力求给学生打好语言基础。

选文配有多项选择题、填词题，以测试学生对课文的理解能力。阅读主要着眼于培养学生的阅读速度，强调在单位时间内获取所需信息的能力，因此阅读材料的难度均略浅于相应的综合英语教程的课文。篇幅跨度在 200—1 000 词，生词量力求控制在 2% 左右。阅读的全部教学活动都要求在课内进行。每单元进行两次，每次使用两篇文章，阅读后即做练习。

本教程旨在培养学生正确的阅读习惯，提高学生的阅读能力。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。选材力求多样性，知识性和趣味性。

本教程由东北师范大学张绍杰教授和刘永兵教授任总主审，由吉林大学崔敏教授和长春工程学院唐艳玲教授任总主编。本册第二主编编写 5 万字，第一副主编编写第 7—10 单元，共计 7 万字，其他主编、副主编各编写 2 万字。

在此书的编写过程中，我们参考了有关书籍，得到多方支持，在此一并表示感谢。由于时间有限，在编写过程中难免有疏漏之处，恳请读者批评指教。

编者

2014 年 5 月

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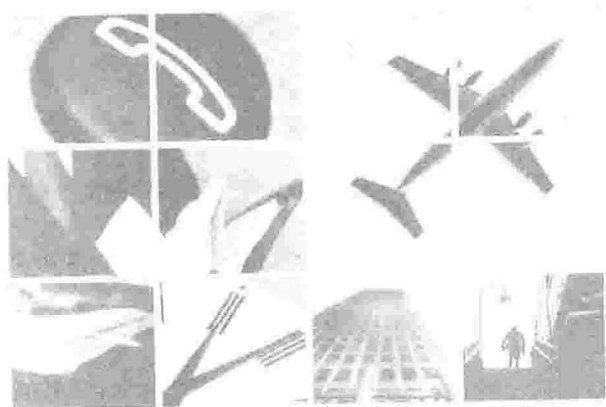
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Unit One



Passage 1

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.

There is a popular belief among parents that schools are no longer interested in spelling. No school I have taught in has ever ____1____ spelling or considered it unimportant as a basic skill. There are, however, vastly different ideas about how to teach it, or how much ____2____ it must be given over general language development and writing ability. The problem is how to encourage a child to express himself freely and ____3____ in writing without holding him back with the complexities of spelling? If spelling becomes the only focal point of his teacher's interest, clearly a ____4____ child will be likely to "play safe". He will tend to write only words within his spelling range, choosing to avoid ____5____ language. That's why teachers often ____6____ the early use of dictionaries and pay attention to content rather than technical ability. I was once shocked to read on the bottom of a sensitive piece of writing about a personal experience; "This work is ____7____! There are far too many spelling errors and your writing is illegible (难以辨认的)." It may have been a share ____8____ of the pupil's technical abilities in writing, but it was also a sad reflection on the teacher who had omitted to read the essay, which ____9____ some beautiful expressions of the child's deep feelings. The teacher was not wrong to draw attention to the errors, but if his priorities had centered on the child's ideas, an expression of his disappointment with the presentation would have given the pupil more ____10____ to seek improvement.



[A] priority	[F] discourage	[K] encourage
[B] criticism	[G] motivation	[L] expressed
[C] contained	[H] terrible	[M] confidently
[D] clearly	[I] ignored	[N] bright
[E] adventurous	[J] difficult	[O] motive

Passage 2

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. You may choose a paragraph more than once.

The US Congress

- A The US congress is the legislative branch of the federal government. It is a bicameral (两院制的) law-making body of more than 500 members. Its two chambers are respectively called the House of Representatives and the Senate. The American two-house legislature, a product of the compromise between big states and small ones, embodies the American principle of balances and checks. All bills must carry both houses before becoming laws.
- B The House of Representatives is the lower house of the bicameral Congress. The membership of the House is distributed among the states according to their different populations. Since 1910, the House has had a permanent membership of 435, with each Representative representing about half a million Americans. Under the principle that each state is guaranteed at least one representative, Nevada, a state with a small population, sends only one Representative to the House. California has more than 40 Representatives in the House because of its large population.
- C The election of Representatives is organized by the state legislature which divides the state into a number of districts known as Congressional districts. Each district, with a population of nearly half a million, elects one Representative to

the House. A Representative's term of office is set at two years, but there is no limit to the number of his terms. A new Representative can hardly feel easy about his position. Hardly has he begun his work in the Congress when he finds it's time for him to seek re-election.

- [D] The Senate is the upper house of the US Congress. Representation in the Senate is based on the principle of state equality. The Senate is comprised of 100 Senators, two from each of the fifty states. Senators have been directly elected by voters of their respective states since 1913. Their term of office is six years. With one-third of the Senate seats up for election every two years. A Senator must be at least thirty years old and a citizen for nine years.
- [E] Generally speaking, Senators are accorded greater prestige than their colleagues in the lower house. Many Representatives aspire to win the election to the Senate. Senators derive their prestige from the following facts. They are less numerous, for there are fewer than one fourth as many Senators as Representatives, or Congressmen. Elected by the whole state instead of a single congressional district, most Senators represent more constituents (选民) than House members do. They are less worried by the problem of seeking re-electives. What's more, the Senate has special powers which it does not share with the House. It has the power to approve or deny proposed treaties, nominations proposed by the President. In line with the tradition of "senatorial courtesy (礼貌)", the Senate always rejects a nominee who is objected to by a Senator of the state from which he comes.
- [F] It won't do to neglect the importance of the Senate in foreign affairs. Without its cooperation and support, the President can hardly take any significant action in foreign relations. A Secretary of State on good terms with the Senators is always important for the President. Foreign countries must try to establish good relations with the US Senate if they intend to make a bargain with the United States.
- [G] The presiding (主持的) officer of the Senate is the Vice President who functions

as a kind chairman when the Senate is in session (开会). The chief spokesman of the House is known as the Speaker who is the leader of the majority party in the House. The Speaker is the most influential figure in the House because he directs his party's forces in legislative battles.

- [H] The Congress is a legislative body, but it relies on its various committees to do preparatory work. The Senate and the House have several dozen standing and special committees to deal with problems of different natures. The seats of the committees are divided between the two parties in proportion to their respective membership in the Congress. But the committee chairman is always a member of the majority party who has been in the Senate or the House without interruption for longer than anybody else on the committee. The custom is known as "seniority rule".
- [I] Most proposed laws in the Congress are known as bills. All bills introduced during a two-year congressional term are designated "HR" in the House and "S" in the Senate, with consecutive (连续的) numbers assigned in order in which they are introduced in each house. After this, the bills are referred to the relevant committees for further study.
- [J] To assess the bill at its true worth, the relevant committee usually organizes its sub-committee to conduct detailed study. There is no doubt that the sub-committee will study the literal sense of the bill. But it also holds meetings with the citizens who want to state their opinions about the bill. These meetings are commonly known as hearings. The purpose of the sub-committee in holding these hearings is to obtain information on the bill before it. The sub-committee may summon people to appear at the hearings and to testify. After finishing study of the bill, the sub-committee will report the result to the full committee. The committee chairman then has a choice between two things. He can send the bill to the house for further consideration. He can also postpone, or kill it by putting it

aside and not reporting it. For this reason, a committee chairman is regarded as an important person in the Congress. It won't do to neglect them.

- _____ 11. The Vice President plays a role as a kind of chairman and the presiding officer in the Senate meetings.
- _____ 12. The seats of the committees are distributed between the two parties based on their respective membership in the Congress.
- _____ 13. Since 1910, the House has had a permanent membership of four hundred and thirty-five.
- _____ 14. In order to obtain information on the potential bills before implementation, the sub-committee holds hearings.
- _____ 15. A new Representative can hardly feel easy about his position in that he has to prepare for re-election at the start of his new job.
- _____ 16. If the President wants to take significant action in foreign relations, it is necessary to gain the Senate's cooperation and support.
- _____ 17. As the Senators are elected by the whole state instead of a single congressional district, they are accorded greater prestige than Representatives.
- _____ 18. The American two-house legislature reflects the American principle of balances and checks.
- _____ 19. According to the principle of state equality, each state is represented by two Senators in the Senate.
- _____ 20. Nominations proposed by the President may be disapproved by the Senate.

Passage 3

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 and mark the corresponding letter.

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage.

In times of economic crisis, Americans turn to their families for support. If the Great Depression is of any guide, we may see a drop in our skyhigh divorce rate. But this won't necessarily represent an increase in happy marriages. In the long run, the Depression weakened American families, and the current crisis will probably do the same.

We tend to think of the Depression as a time when families pulled together to survive huge job losses. By 1932, when nearly one-quarter of the workforce was unemployed, the divorce rate had declined by around 25% from 1929. But this doesn't mean people were suddenly happier with their marriages. Rather, with incomes decreasing and insecure jobs, unhappy couples often couldn't afford to divorce. They feared neither spouse could manage alone.

Today, given the job losses of the past year, fewer unhappy couples will risk starting separate households. Furthermore, the housing market meltdown will make it more difficult for them to finance their separations by selling their homes.

After financial disasters family members also tend to do whatever they can to help each other and their communities. A 1940 book, *The Unemployed Man and His Family*, described a family in which the husband initially reacted to losing his job "with tireless search for work." He was always active, looking for odd jobs to do.

The problem is that such an impulse is hard to sustain. Across the country, many