



“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 2

新新大学英语系列

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21 世纪大学英语新阶梯阅读教程

第二册

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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。本册第一主编负责编写1—6单元共12万字，其他主编、副主编各负责编写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

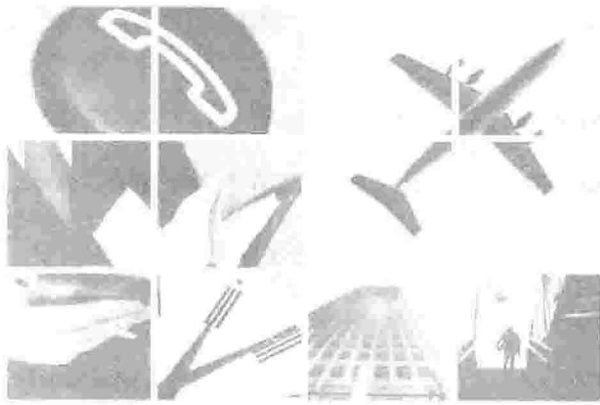
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Unit One



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.

In 1930s, the US stock market collapsed. American people lived a 1 life in the Great Depression. 2 to the magazine, *Fortune*, in September 1932, 3 that 34 million men, women and children, 4 for about 28% of the total population, were unable to 5 livelihood in the United States. Two million people became homeless, and there were two thousand recorded cases of 6 in New York in 1931. Children born during that period grew very small, later known as the “Depression Generation”. As a 7 of nutrition for a long term, when the United States needed a large number of soldiers in World War II, about 40% were 8 because of physical failure. 1932 was the darkest year. An American Friends Service Committee’s secretary said that, in the mine of Ohio, West Virginia, Illinois, Kentucky and Pennsylvania State, the total number of malnourished children reached over 90%. Their 9 were “addiction to sleep, lazy and slow mental development.”

Millions of people lived like animals to survive. The Great Depression brought great pain and shadow to American people, and it also reflects the 10 of capitalism that can not be overcome.

[A] estimated	[F] symptoms	[K] fortunate
[B] contained	[G] flourish	[L] regarding
[C] shortcomings	[H] lack	[M] eliminated
[D] sustain	[I] starvation	[N] accounting
[E] miserable	[J] obviously	[O] According

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.*

How Do You See Diversity?

- A As a manager, Tiffany is responsible for interviewing applicants for some of the positions with her company. During one interview, she noticed that the candidate never made direct eye contact. She was puzzled and somewhat disappointed because she liked the individual otherwise.
- B He had a perfect resume and gave good responses to her questions, but the fact that he never looked her in the eye said “untrustworthy”, so she decided to offer the job to her second choice.
- C “It wasn’t until I attended a diversity workshop that I realized the person we passed over was the perfect person,” Tiffany confesses. What she hadn’t known at the time of the interview was that the candidate’s “different” behavior was simply a cultural misunderstanding. He was an Asian-American raised in a household where respect for those in authority was shown by averting (避开) your eyes.
- D “I was just thrown off by the lack of eye contact, not realizing it was cultural,” Tiffany says. “I missed out, but will not miss that opportunity again.”
- E Many of us have had similar encounters with behaviors we perceive as different. As the world becomes smaller and our workplaces more diverse, it is becoming

essential to expand our understanding of others and to reexamine some of our false assumptions.

Hire Advantage

- [F] At a time when hiring qualified people is becoming more difficult, employers who can eliminate invalid biases (偏见) from the process have a distinct advantage. My company, Mindsets LLC, helps organizations and individuals see their own blind spots. A real estate recruiter we worked with illustrates the positive difference such training can make.
- [G] “During my Mindsets coaching session, I was taught how to recruit a diversified workforce. I recruited people from different cultures and skill sets. The agents were able to contribute their full potential and utilize their experiences to build up the company. When the real estate market began to change, it was because we had a diverse agent pool that we were able to stay in the real estate market much longer than others in the same profession.”

Blinded by Gender

- [H] Dale is an account executive who attended one of my workshops on supervising a diverse workforce. “Through one of the sessions, I discovered my personal bias,” he recalls. “I learned I had not been looking at a person as a whole person, and being open to differences.” In his case, the blindness was not about culture but rather gender.
- [I] “I had a management position open in my department, and the two finalists were a man and a woman. Had I not attended this workshop, I would have automatically assumed the man was the best candidate because the position required quite a bit of extensive travel. My reasoning would have been that even though both candidates were great and could have been successful in the position, I assumed the woman would have wanted to be home with her children and not travel.” Dale’s assumptions are another example of the well-intentioned but

incorrect thinking that limits an organization's ability to tap into the full potential of a diverse workforce.

- J "I learned from the class that instead of imposing my gender biases into the situation, I needed to present the full range of duties, responsibilities, and expectations to all candidates and allow them to make an informed decision." Dale credits the workshop, "because it helped me make decisions based on fairness."

Year of the Know-It-All

- K Doug is another supervisor who attended one of my workshops. He recalls a major lesson learned from his own employee.
- L "One of my most embarrassing moments was when I had a Chinese-American employee put in a request to take time off to celebrate Chinese New Year. In my ignorance, I assumed he had his dates wrong, as the first of January had just passed. When I advised him of this, I gave him a long talk about turning in requests early with the proper dates."
- M "He patiently waited. Then when I was done, he said he would like Chinese New Year off, and that Chinese New Year, which is tied to the lunar cycle, is one of the most celebrated holidays on the Chinese calendar. Needless to say, I felt very embarrassed in assuming he had his dates mixed up. But I learned a great deal about assumptions, and that the timing of holidays varies considerably from culture to culture."
- N "Attending the diversity workshop helped me realize how much I could learn by simply asking questions and creating dialogues with my employees, rather than making assumptions and trying to be a know-it-all," Doug admits. "The biggest thing I took away from the workshop is learning how to be more 'inclusive' to differences."

A Better Bottom Line

- O An open mind about diversity not only improves organizations internally, it is

profitable as well. These comments from a customer service representative show how an inclusive attitude can improve sales.

- [P] “Most of my customers speak English as a second language. One of the best things my company has done is to contract with a language service that offers translations over the phone. It wasn’t until my boss received Mindsets’ training that she was able to understand how important inclusiveness was to customer service. As a result, our customer base has increased.”
- [Q] Once we start to see people as individuals, and discard the misconceptions of stereotypes, we can move positively toward inclusiveness for everyone. Diversity is about coming together and taking advantage of our differences and similarities. It is about building better communities and organizations that enhance us as individuals and reinforce our shared humanity.
- [R] When we begin to question our assumptions and challenge what we think we have learned from our past, from the media, peers, family, friends, etc., we begin to realize that some of our conclusions are flawed (有缺陷的) or contrary to our fundamental values. We need to train ourselves to think differently, shift our mindsets and realize that diversity opens doors for all of us, creating opportunities in organizations and communities that benefit everyone.

11. When he was told about the culture background of Chinese New Year, Doug felt rather awkward.
12. Employers without prejudice have a distinctive advantage over the others when hiring talented people.
13. Tiffany thinks that direct eye contact is necessary when two people are having a conversation.
14. A customer service representative said after his boss had received Mindsets' training, she was able to realize the utmost importance of being inclusive.
15. As long as we begin to challenge our assumptions and thoughts from the past, we may realize that some of our conclusions are faulty or even go against our fundamental beliefs.
16. As our world is turning into a global village, it's vital we should deepen our understanding of different cultures and remove our false perceptions.
17. If Dale had not attended the workshop, he would have thought that the man was more suitable for the management position since it required a lot of business trips.
18. In some countries, avoiding eye contact is a way to show politeness towards people in authority.
19. Doug thinks that the biggest reward he got from the workshop is to learn to be more tolerant to differences.
20. Diversity means getting together and making good use of our differences and similarities.