

浙江大学编著《新编大学英语》 配套课外读物（全六册）

新编大学英语

New College English Reading Series (2)

应惠兰 主编

课外系列读物 (二)



浙江大學出版社

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前 言

《新编大学英语》是按“以学生为中心的主题教学模式”编写的教材。《新编大学英语课外系列读物》(共六册)为《新编大学英语》的配套课外读物,旨在帮助学生扩大阅读量、增强阅读能力,从而促进其综合语言能力的提高。

阅读能力的培养是英语学习中非常重要的一个环节。修订版的《大学英语教学大纲》指出:阅读是掌握语文知识、打好语言基础、获取信息的重要渠道。阅读能力是大部分大学生今后工作所需的主要语言技能。在大学英语教学中要始终重视阅读能力的培养。本读物系列以《大学英语教学大纲》为指导,遵循《新编大学英语》选材新颖、题材多样、内容丰富、趣味性强的特点,从近十年来的英、美书报刊中选取了具有时代性、知识性、趣味性、可思性的材料,让学生在学教材的同时能进一步通过课外自主阅读拓宽视野,增进英语阅读的流利度,促进阅读能力的提高。

读物中材料的内容涉及英语国家文化、教育、历史、科技等多个领域,有小说、散文等文体,语言优美、流畅。为了帮助读者理解内容,文章对生词、难点作了详尽的注解,并配有自测阅读选择题以检验理解的准确度,提高解题技巧。此外,每篇文章后还配有词汇用法详解,使读者能掌握文中的一些重要词汇,便于记忆、运用。

本读物适宜于大学生课外阅读,也适宜于有志提高英语水平的各类读者使用。

《新编大学英语课外系列读物》由浙江大学外语学院应惠兰教授主编,许力生、张建理教授主审。参加第二册的编写人员有(按姓氏笔画为序):朱瑞明、沈旭华、吴晓岚、吴谨、闻人行、袁靖。

由于时间仓促,不足之处敬请同行指正。

编 者

2001 年元月

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Passage 1

A New Attitude to Gratitude

Faith Andrews Bedford

当你收到一份朋友或亲戚的礼物,兴奋之余你一定会选择一种方式来表达感谢。当你读完这篇文笔优美、感情细腻的短文之后,对如何表达感谢可能会有一种新的认识。

1 One of the nice things about having grown children is that I no longer have to **bug**^① them about writing thank-you notes. When they were little, all three would dictate thank-yous that I would include with drawings they'd made of their presents. By the time Eleanor, Sarah and Drew were old enough to write their own thank-you notes, however, they would do so only with much **prodding**^②.

2 "Have you written to thank Grandy for the book yet?" I'd ask. "What did you say to Aunt Dorothy about that sweater?" **Invariably**^③, I'd be met with mumbles and shrugs.

3 One year, in the days following Christmas, I'd grown weary of

① bug: v. 使厌烦

② prod: v. 促使

③ invariably: ad. 总是

nagging ④. The children had become mother-deaf^[1]. Frustrated, I declared that no one would be allowed to play with a new toy or wear a new **outfit** ⑤ until the appropriate thank-you notes had been mailed. Still they **procrastinated** ⑥ and grumbled.

4 Something snapped. "Everyone into the car," I said.

5 "Where are we going?" Sarah asked, bewildered.

6 "To buy a Christmas present."

7 "But it's after Christmas," she protested, putting on her coat.

8 "No arguing," I said in a tone that meant exactly that.

9 The kids piled into the car. "You're going to see just how much time those who care about you spend when they give you a present," I told them.

10 Handing Drew a pad of paper and a pencil, I said, "Please mark down the time we left home."

11 When we reached the village, Drew noted our arrival time. The children helped me select presents for my sisters at a local shop. Then we turned around and drove home.

12 Bursting free from the **confines** ⑦ of the car, the children headed for their **sleds** ⑧. "Not so fast," I said. "We've got to wrap the presents." The kids **slouched** ⑨ inside.

13 "Drew," I asked, "did you note the time we got home?" He

④ nag: v. 唠叨

⑤ outfit: n. 套装

⑥ procrastinate: v. 耽搁, 磨蹭

⑦ confines: n. 界限, 范围

⑧ sled: n. 雪橇

⑨ slouch: v. 没精打采

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noded. "Okay, please **time**^⑩ the girls while they wrap the presents."

14 I made the children cocoa as they wrapped the presents. When they'd tied the last bow, they looked up **expectantly**^⑪.

15 "How long did this all take?" I asked Drew.

16 Glancing at his notes, he said, "It took us 28 minutes to get to town and 15 minutes to buy the presents. Then it was 38 minutes to get home 'cause we had to buy gas."

17 "And how long did it take us to wrap the boxes?" Eleanor asked.

18 "Each of you did one present in two minutes," Drew said.

19 "And how many minutes will it take to mail these presents?" I asked.

20 "Fifty-six minutes, round trip," Drew figured. "If we don't need gas."

21 "But you forgot standing-in-line time," said Sarah.

22 "Okay," Drew said. "We need to add about 15 minutes for mailing."

23 "So, what's the total time we'd spend to give someone a present?"

24 Drew did the arithmetic. "Two hours and 34 minutes."

25 I laid a piece of **stationery**^⑫, an envelope and a pen beside each child's cocoa cup. "Now please write a thank-you note. Be sure to mention the present by name and tell what fun you'll have using it."

26 Silence **reigned**^⑬ as the children gathered their thoughts; soft pen

⑩ time: *v.* 给……计时

⑪ expectantly: *ad.* 满怀期望地

⑫ stationery: *n.* 信纸

⑬ reign: *v.* 统治, 支配

scratchings^⑭ followed. “Done,” said Eleanor, pressing her envelope closed.

27 “Me too,” echoed Sarah.

28 “That took us three minutes,” Drew said, sealing his letter.

29 “Is three minutes too much to ask to thank someone for a thoughtful gift that may have taken 2 hours to choose and send to you?” I asked.

30 The children looked down at the table and shook their heads.

31 “It’s a good idea to get in the habit now. In time^⑮ you’ll want to write thank-you notes for many things.”

32 Drew groaned^⑯. “Like what?”

33 “Like dinners or lunches. Or weekends at someone’s home or the time someone takes to give you advice on college applications or careers.”

34 “Did you have to write thank-yous when you were a kid?” Drew asked.

35 “Absolutely.”

36 “What did you say?” he asked. I could tell he was formulating^⑰ the rest of his thank-you notes.

37 “It was a long time ago,” I said.

38 Then I remembered Uncle Arthur, my great-grandfather’s youngest brother. I’d never met him, yet every Christmas he sent me a gift. He was blind and lived in Salem, Mass.^[2] His niece Becca, who lived next door, sat down with him and wrote out \$5 checks to his great-

⑭ scratching: *n.* 沙沙声

⑮ in time: 总有一天

⑯ groan: *v.* 抱怨

⑰ formulate: *v.* 构想

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and great-great-grandnieces and -nephews, I always wrote, telling him what I'd spent his check on.

39 When I went to school in Massachusetts, I had the chance to visit Uncle Arthur. As we chatted, he told me he'd always enjoyed my notes.

40 "You remember them?" I asked.

41 "Yes," he replied. "I've saved some of my favorites." He waved toward a high boy by the window. "Would you get the packet of letters out of the top drawer?" he asked. "It's wrapped in ribbon."

42 I found an old letter with my handwriting and read aloud: "Dear Uncle Arthur, I am writing this to you as I sit under the hair dryer at the **beauty salon**^⑮. Tonight is the Holiday Ball at the high school and I am spending you Christmas check having my hair done for the party. Thank you so very much. I know I'll have a wonderful time, in part because of your thoughtful gift. Love, Faith."

43 "And did you?" he asked.

44 I thought back to that wonderful evening so many years ago. "Definitely," I replied with a smile that I wished Uncle Arthur could see.

45 Sarah's **tug**^⑯ at my sleeve pulled me back to the present. "What are you smiling at?" she asked.

46 I told the children about Uncle Arthur's gifts and how glad I was that I'd written a note each year. They obviously meant a lot to him.

47 "And did you look beautiful?" asked Sarah.

48 "My date thought I did."^[3]

49 "Who did you go to the ball with? What did you wear?" asked Eleanor.

⑮ beauty salon: 美容院

⑯ tug: n. 使劲拉



50 “I think I have a picture of that evening,” I said, going to the bookshelves and pulling down a **scrapbook**²⁰. I opened it to a picture of me standing in front of my parents’ fireplace. I’m wearing a black **velvet**²¹ evening dress, and my hair is arranged in an elaborate French **twist**²². Beside me, a handsome young man beams as he hands me a **corsage**²³.

51 “But that’s Daddy!” Eleanor said with surprise.

52 I nodded and smiled.

53 As the children settled down to finish the rest of their notes, I stroked the faded petals of the dried **gardenia**²⁴ pasted next to the photograph.

54 This Christmas, Bob and I celebrated our 36th wedding anniversary. Thank you, Uncle Arthur.

Notes

- [1] mother-deaf: 对母亲的话充耳不闻
[2] Mass.: Massachusetts(美国马萨诸塞州)的简称
[3] My date thought I did. 跟我约会的男孩觉得我看上去很美。

Reading Comprehension

Directions: Choose the best answer for the following questions. You

- 20 scrapbook: n. 剪贴簿
21 velvet: n. 天鹅绒
22 twist: n. 卷曲
23 corsage: n. 装饰花束
24 gardenia: n. 梔子属植物

A New Attitude to Gratitude

will find the answer either stated directly or indirectly in the reading passage.

1. How were the thank-you notes written when the children were little?
 - A) The mother told them word by word how to write them.
 - B) The mother wrote them on their behalf.
 - C) The mother had to bug them about doing it.
 - D) The mother wrote down their words of thanks for them.
2. It seems that when the children grew older, they _____.
 - A) still couldn't write thank-you notes by themselves
 - B) were reluctant to write thank-you notes
 - C) could make drawings of the presents they liked
 - D) tended to refuse to receive presents
3. When did the mother take the children to the village to buy Christmas presents?
 - A) Before Christmas.
 - B) On Christmas Day.
 - C) After Christmas.
 - D) The day after Christmas.
4. How long did it take the family to get to the post office by car?
 - A) 15 minutes.
 - B) 28 minutes.
 - C) 43 minutes.
 - D) 56 minutes.
5. Why did Drew ask his mother about what she wrote in her thank-you notes?
 - A) He could learn to write his own later.
 - B) He could copy her words of thanks.
 - C) He didn't have to write any more thank-you notes.
 - D) He could know something about his mother's childhood.
6. What is the main intention of the author's writing about her meeting with Uncle Arthur?
 - A) To show that old people also need love and care.
 - B) To tell the reader that a hearty thank-you note may mean a lot to



the receiver.

C) To tell the reader that she appreciated Uncle Arthur's gift very much.

D) To remember her most unforgettable experience.

Usage

snap

- v. 1. break suddenly and sharply off or in two parts (使)突然折断
e.g. The branch snapped under the weight of the snow.
2. speak or say quickly, usually in an annoyed way 急促地说, 厉声说
e.g. "You are late!" she snapped.
3. make a sudden, sharp sound 噼啪地响
e.g. The dry wood snapped and crackled as it burned.

mumble/grumble

mumble

- v. speak or say unclearly 咕哝, 含糊不清地说
e.g. He mumbled a few words that I couldn't understand.
She mumbled something about a letter.

grumble

- v. express discontent or dissatisfaction; complain in a quiet but bad-tempered way 发牢骚; 嘟囔
e.g. He has everything he needs; he has nothing to grumble about.
It's no good grumbling at me about your treatment in hospital.

Key to Exercise

1. D 2. B 3. C 4. B 5. A 6. B

Today's "Real Girls"

Laura Sessions Stepp

爱打扮、爱发嗲、爱吃零食,如果这就是你印象中的十多岁的小女孩,那可太落伍了。社会的飞速发展使得她们与前辈们相比发生了巨大的变化。如今的她们是怎样的一群女孩呢?请看下文。

1 Sarah Roffe is hardly the kind of 16-year-old you would expect to see **acclaimed**^① in a teenage magazine. But there she is in the June issue of *Jump*, a girl in white sweater and tight green skirt who dropped 14 pounds in 16 weeks and still weighs 195 pounds.

2 Sarah is what Lori Berger, *Jump* magazine's editor in chief, calls a "real girl." She is nothing like the thin, **glamorous**^② subjects who still fill most of the pages of teen magazines. But her type can be found with increasing frequency in stories and ads aimed at 12- to 17-year-old girls.

3 According to Magazine Publishers of America, more than 200 magazines now target teenaged girls. Fourteen new ones started up last year, hungry for a piece of the buying power that girls possess. The editors of these new publications will have to stay on their toes, Berger

① acclaim: v. 喝彩

② glamorous: a. 多彩而迷人的

says, because “the teenaged girl isn’t the gum-chewing **teenybopper**^③ commonly portrayed. She is not the girl of 50 years ago. Yes, she cares about boys, beauty and getting a date to the **prom**^④, but she has bigger issues as well.”

4 So who is this “real girl?” An informal study of 12 of the most popular magazines, plus interviews with key editors, suggest that a real girl, like Sarah, works at looking better because it makes her feel good, not to snatch a guy. She will slip on a stylish **tank top**^⑤ even though she’s a bit **pudgy**^⑥ because she is beginning to accept that she may always wear size 12 or 14 clothes when her friends are wearing 2s and 4s.

5 A real girl feels powerful much of the time and regularly seeks out avenues to display her power. The soccer field is one such arena. So is the homeless shelter. But a real girl also plays water polo, **prunes**^⑦ trees and drives a tractor. Sometimes, the teen magazines themselves provide such opportunities. In the current issue of *Seventeen*, for example, three teenagers write about covering the New Hampshire^[1] presidential **primary**^⑧.

6 The real girl is not **immune**^⑨ to the insecurities of early **adolescence**^⑩, according to Nancy Gruver, who started the alternative *New Moon* magazine eight years ago partly to help her own twin

③ teenybopper: *n.* 女流行乐迷

④ prom: *n.* (学校)舞会

⑤ tank top: (紧身的)短背心

⑥ pudgy: *a.* 矮胖的

⑦ prune: *v.* 修剪

⑧ primary: *n.* 初选

⑨ immune: *a.* 不受影响的

⑩ adolescence: *n.* 青春期