



新视域普通高等教育
大学英语规划教材



新视域英语 时文阅读

艾格平 © 主编



*A New Taste in
English Reading for
Current Events*



人民邮电出版社
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内 容 提 要

本书以提高英语学习者的阅读技能为核心,以拓展其知识层面为宗旨,以热点时文评论报道为导向,精心设计了12个单元的内容,每个单元均涉及同一个主题,共有“一睹为快”、“品味赏阅”、“时文实用”和“拓展阅读”4个部分。为了让学习者能够及时地检查自己的学习效果,在“一睹为快”后面专门设置有“读后综述”、“阅读检测”、“新词回眸”和“团队联盟”4个训练模块,同时,提供各单元训练习题的参考答案,在网上免费供学习者使用。

本书选材广泛、精细、实用;文章内容新颖、典型;语言质量上乘、真实准确、地道优美,符合现代英语语言趋势;所选材料集知识性、科普性、趣味性于一体,知识含量丰富,所有文章都是近1年来有关社会发展热点问题的报道,贴近大众、贴近现实、贴近生活,能够满足学生学习原汁原味英语的需求,是一本实用性较强的阅读教材。

本书可以作为高等院校非英语专业本科、研究生学生的必修课教材;国家四、六级考试和研究生入学考试参考用书;高校英语专业学生和国际新闻、国际贸易、文秘、科技英语、电子商务英语等涉及英语的各类专业学生的选修课教材;适合准备参加托福、雅思考试的出国留学、进修学习人员和举办此类培训班的教材。

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前言

21世纪最激烈的国际竞争已从物质生产领域和技术领域，转移至教育领域，这就意味着国家的发展将依赖于该国培养人才的实力，而衡量一个国家的教育水平在于能否培养大量的国际化人才。国际人才的标准要求既懂外语又懂专业，因此将学校办成培养高素质、高水平、懂外语的国际化大学已成为时代对一个国家发展的要求。

由于英语时文阅读的时效性和前瞻性很强，英语时文阅读课程的实用周期由原来的5~8年缩短为3~5年，现有的国内外同类教材所收纳的材料内容渐渐成为历史，知识信息滞后，缺少了一定的现代气息，不能满足英语学习者猎取信息和英语学习的需求。本教材综合了国内外同类教材的优点，兼顾了不同层次学生的需求，既体现了新闻报刊的实效性，又满足了实用性英语教学的客观需要。

本教材特点：选材广泛、精细、实用；文章内容新颖、典型；语言质量上乘、真实准确、地道优美，符合现代英语语言趋势；资料的知识含量丰富，所有文章都是近1年来有关社会发展热点问题的报道，贴近大众、贴近现实、贴近生活，是广大英语学习者所关心和感兴趣的各个领域的新闻报道，具有趣味性、实效性、准确性、新闻性等特点。另外，文章内容涉及生活的方方面面，集知识性、科普性、娱乐性于一体，能够满足英语学习者学习原汁原味英语的需求，是一本实用性较强的阅读教材，也是可持续发展的大学英语改革中的语言技能类模块的主打和首选教材。

本教材共设置12个单元，每个单元均涉及同一个主题，共分4个部分：一睹为快、品味赏阅、时文实用和拓展阅读。4个部分各有侧重，其中第1部分、第2部分和第4部分各含有一篇文章，每篇文章的阅读要求各不相同。在第1部分“一睹为快”的前面设有“预热提问”和“抛砖引玉”，后面设有“词库宝典”、“短语平台”、“文化评介”和练习部分等栏目。练习部分主要包括“读后综述”、“阅读检测”、“新词回眸”和“团队联盟”等内容，适合课堂互动集中教学使用。在第2部分“品味赏阅”的前面同样设有“抛砖引玉”栏目，后面设有“词库宝典”、“短语平

台”、“文化评介”和“读后综述”等内容。在第3部分“时文实用”中设有“时文博览”、“阅读秘笈”和“励志名言”等栏目。在第4部分“拓展阅读”里，精心为英语学习者筛选了一篇与本单元内容相关联的文章，供课后拓展阅读使用。品味此书，感悟人生的真谛，了解宇宙万物的奥妙，仿佛畅游于英语语言所演奏的美妙乐章之中，聆听清秀山泉的叮咚，丛林鸟儿的婉转低鸣，小溪的潺潺漫步。

由于英语学习者，特别是高校学生的兴趣和就业去向各有差异，本教材在内容编排上紧扣高等院校学生的需求和兴趣，使英语学习者的阅读视角有一个突破性的扩展。本教材适用于作为高等院校非英语专业本科、研究生学生的必修课；国家四、六级考试和研究生入学考试参考用书；高校英语专业学生和国际新闻、国际贸易、文秘、科技英语、电子商务英语等涉及英语的各类专业学生的选修课教材；适合准备参加托福、雅思考试的出国留学、进修学习人员和举办此类培训班的教材。

本教材的教学参考学时为36~48学时，建议采用课堂引导性讲授与学生自主相结合的综合教学模式，各单元的参考学时见下面的学时分配表。

单元	课程内容	学时分配
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Unit 11	Sports & Recreation 文体娱乐	3~4
Unit 12	Fashion 时尚潮流	3~4
学时总计		36~48

本教材由西安邮电大学外国语学院艾格平副教授主编（501千字），西安邮电大学外国语学院张贞桂、王倩、赵茜和季蓓蓓参编，其中张贞桂编写了第5单元和第7单元（共90千字），王倩编写了第2单元和第8单元（共80千字），赵茜编写了第6单元和第11单元（共83千字），季蓓蓓编写了第3单元和第9单元（共80千字）。此外，在编写过程中，参考了一些国内外的报刊、杂志和网站文章，在此表示谢意；同时，本教材的编写得到了西安邮电大学副校长范九伦教授、西安邮电大学外国语学院副院长陈德教授、人民邮电出版社高等教育出版分社张孟玮副社长的大力支持和帮助，在此深表感谢。

由于时间仓促，编者水平和经验有限，书中难免存在错误和不妥之处，恳请读者批评指正。

艾格平
2013年6月

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Unit 1

Current International News

国际快讯



Warm-up Questions 预热提问

1. Can you mention several pieces of current international news which you are really interested in?
2. What are the gun and tax cliffs to the US President Barack Obama in his second term?
3. Have you ever seen the film *Lost on Journey* and then *Lost in Thailand*? Why does the humor of *Lost in Thailand* make viewers feel happy in a flash?

Section A Read Fast 一睹为快

Passage A

Topic-oriented Lead-in 抛砖引玉

Vast universe is amazing, our titanic earth is marvelous and international situation is globally changeable and unpredictable. The natural world is becoming kaleidoscopic every moment while our human society is becoming more colorful with time passing on, which completely makes people dazzling and dizzying. It will truly make us understand the world around us clearly to read the current international news all around the whole globe, to follow the rhythm of the times, to understand the development of today's society, to keep up with the step of our human being's progress and to deposit the civilization of mankind's history while this world is carefully being looked around!

宇宙博大，神奇莫测；地球宏伟，无奇不有；国际风云，变化莫测。每时每刻，自然界千变万化；斗转星移，人类社会五彩斑斓，林林总总，令人眼花缭乱，目不暇接。纵观天下时事报道，放眼环视世界，触摸时代脉搏，了解社会发展，紧跟人类前进步伐，沉淀文明历程，汲取个人精神食粮，升华自我社会素养，拥有一双独特慧眼，让我把这世间看个清清楚楚、明明白白、真真切切！

(The following passage should be finished within 14 minutes each time.)

US Faces the Gun and Tax Cliffs

- Para 1 The **fiscal cliff**^[1] and the “**gun cliff**” — the two big tasks US President Barack Obama^[2] faces in his second term — are not separate issues. The resolution of both will **speak volumes** about the true **grit** of American civilization^[3].
- Para 2 The trouble with the United States^[4] is simple: Virtually all the problems it faces, from guns to taxes, are **eminently** solvable. But solving them requires a basic sense of right and wrong, and that is precisely what is **in question**.
- Para 3 As its “**moral compass**”, the US relies on an ill-fated, mechanistic concept of **splitting the difference**. That may sound like **pragmatism** but is not given that one side regularly negotiates from **cynical**, extremist positions. Viewed **in a global context**, what is **at stake** is not just a stronger US economy or a tougher gun law. At stake is American civilization itself.
- Para 4 For all the pride that has traditionally been **wound up** in America's greatness, a society that is fundamentally incapable of agreeing on the most basic issues of fairness and decency at home

puts more under threat than just the question of **governability**. That may sound like a **stretch**, but only initially, if one asks where is the evidence that the US, considering its level of economic and political development, is any more peaceable and **governable** than Egypt^[5].

- Para 5** Somehow, the US seems **stuck in** the concepts of **the Old Testament**. The **perverse self-justification** of all those gun buyers who now **sheepishly** argue “why should my freedom be restricted just because some kids got shot?” **attests** not just to a level of **naivety**, but inhumanness that begs disbelief.
- Para 6** It remains to be seen whether, on the gun issue, Obama really achieves more than the customary **default** position of other US presidents **in times of** national tragedy. Serving as the **sermonizer-in-chief** is a **far cry from** providing effective leadership. And yet one can feel with the US president. **Outlawing** and collecting all **assault** weapons would seem to be the most basic measure of civilization in any society.
- Para 7** The **crux** of the issue is that Americans must abandon their childish ideas of how a society works. No person is an island **unto** himself or herself. We all live as part of a much, much larger group. The people must understand that using assault weapons for hunting or shooting is not an expression of freedom, but an expression of human sickness or **perversion**.
- Para 8** The US National Rifle Association ^[6] has 4 million members, and **far from** all favor the essentially unrestricted use of assault weapons. And yet American politicians and society are afraid to **take on** the gun **lobby**.
- Para 9** What the NRA is **peddling** is an incredible **hoax**. Americans can no longer go on accumulating limitless debt but they can still buy weapons at every Walmart ^[7] and plenty of other stores. The offer **on hand to deal with** one’s frustrations is not to consume, but to shoot.
- Para 10** The blindness of American society, which is generally a very fearful one, is **staggering**. Putting that many weapons out there — almost for every American man, woman and child — is not just **bewildering**. It is **plain** dumb.
- Para 11** Republicans ^[8] always **cherish supply-side** economics. They ought to know that the stuff out there will exhibit a tendency to be used. In addition, these are nerve-**wracking** times for many people. They feel extremely insecure economically. Seeing Americans going on a gun-buying spree in the decade when incomes **stagnated** and a quarter of the population was **for all practical purposes** unemployed must be considered **somewhat** suicidal.
- Para 12** It is not unlike the “wisdom” shown by the Reagan ^[9] administration to equip Afghan “freedom fighters” with **stinger** missiles to shoot down Soviet ^[10] helicopters. It sounded good until the day American planes in the skies over Afghanistan ^[11] were being shot down with the same US-made weapons.
- Para 13** The US should fix its problems not for people abroad to continue holding it in high regard. It ought to do so for one reason and one reason alone: self-preservation. Self-preservation of the nation, by the way, was the sole intent of the Second Amendment ^[12], contrary to how some recent court cases have sought to reinterpret the US constitution ^[13] to serve the commercial arguments promoted by the NRA and its **acolytes**.
- Para 14** The only grammatically correct way to read the Second Amendment (“A well regulated **Militia**,

being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be **infringed.**") is not to see it as two independent **clauses**. Rather, the first half clearly qualifies (in fact, conditions) the second.

Para 15 Moreover, the **oppressor** against whom the people need to **militate** today is no longer the state. If anything, it is the NRA and other gun-**toting** people who hold civilized America **hostage** with their gun **fetish**.

Para 16 The people cannot defend themselves against the **proliferation** of assault weapons and other unnecessary weapons, but their "state" — their government — can. Self-preservation is the one and only reason the US should resolve the gun issue. If it fails that test, it will have a hard time staying on the track of **modernity**.

Para 17 As a matter of fact, after the Newtown ^[14] school **massacre**, there cannot be any doubt that a revised Second Amendment to the US constitution is urgently required. And it should read: "A well regulated society, being necessary to the security of a free people, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall be **abridged.**" The very notion of civilization demands no less.

(921 words)

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2013-01/24/content_16167965.htm

Written by Stephan Richter (China Daily), January, 2013.

Bank of New Words 词库宝典

fiscal / 'fiskəl /	adj.	related to public money, taxes, debts, etc. 财政上的
cliff / klɪf /	n.	steep, usu. high, face of rock, esp. at the edge of the sea 悬崖, 峭壁
grit / grɪt /	n.	quality of courage and endurance 刚毅, 勇气
eminently / 'emɪnəntli /	adv.	in an eminent manner 突出地; 显著地
compass / 'kʌmpəs /	n.	device for finding direction, with a needle that points to magnetic north 罗盘, 指南针; 界限
pragmatism / 'prægmətɪzəm /	n.	belief that the truth or value of a theory can only be judged by its practical results 实用主义
cynical / 'sɪnɪkəl /	adj.	having a sneering disbelief in 怀疑的, 愤世嫉俗的
governability / ɡʌvənə'bɪlɪti /	n.	ability to govern 施政能力
stretch / streɪtʃ /	n.	elasticity 弹性
governable / 'ɡʌvənəbl /	adj.	capable of being controlled 可控制的, 可支配的
perverse / pə've:s /	adj.	unreasonable 不合情理的
self-justification / self,dʒʌstɪf'keɪʃən /	n.	a defense of some offensive behavior or some failure to keep a promise 自我辩白(解)
sheepishly / 'ʃi:pɪʃli /	adv.	in a sheepish manner 愚蠢地
attest / ə'test /	v.	be or give clear proof of sth. 证明, 证实
naivety / nə:'i:vti /	n.	lack of sophistication or worldliness 天真, 幼稚

default / di'fɔ:lt /	<i>n.</i>	an option that is selected automatically unless an alternative is specified 默认
sermonizer / 'sə:mənaɪzə /	<i>n.</i>	someone whose occupation is preaching the gospel 布道者, 训诫者
outlaw / 'aʊtlɔ: /	<i>v.</i>	declare (sth.) to be illegal 使成为非法
assault / ə'sɔ:lt /	<i>n.</i>	sudden violent attack 攻击, 袭击
crux / krʌks /	<i>n.</i>	key or core 中心, 核心
unto / 'ʌntə /	<i>prep.</i>	(old use or in the bible) to [旧或圣经] 对, 向
perversion / pə'vɜ:ʃən /	<i>n.</i>	changing sth. from right to wrong; perverting 曲解
lobby / 'lɒbi /	<i>n.</i>	group of people who try to influence politicians, esp. to support or oppose proposed legislation 活动集团
peddle / 'pedl /	<i>v.</i>	offer (ideas, gossip, etc.) to individual people 传播, 散播; 兜售
hoax / həʊks /	<i>n.</i>	mischievous trick played on sb. for a joke 骗局
stagger / 'stæɡə /	<i>v.</i>	walk or move unsteadily as if about to fall 动摇
bewilder / bi'wildə /	<i>v.</i>	puzzle (sb.); confuse 使迷惑; 使手足无措
plain / pleɪn /	<i>adv.</i>	clearly ;absolutely [用以加强语气] 显然; 完全地
cherish / 'tʃerɪʃ /	<i>v.</i>	protect or tend (sb./sth.) lovingly; care for 珍爱; 怀有
supply-side / sə'plai,said /	<i>adj.</i>	通过减税而刺激生产和投资的
wrack / ræk /	<i>v.</i>	cause great pain or anxiety to; torment 使痛苦(焦虑); 折磨
spree / spri: /	<i>n.</i>	lively and enjoyable outing, usu. with much spending of money 无节制的狂热行为
stagnate / 'stæɡneɪt /	<i>v.</i>	be or become dull or unsuccessful because of lack of activity, development, opportunity, etc. 停滞
somewhat / 'sʌmwɔ:t /	<i>adv.</i>	to some degree; rather 稍微; 有点
stinger / 'stɪŋə /	<i>n.</i>	a sharp organ of offense or defense (as of a wasp or stingray or scorpion) often connected with a poison gland 毒刺
militia / mi'liʃə /	<i>n.</i>	民兵
acolyte / 'ækələɪt /	<i>n.</i>	an attendant or follower 随员, 追随者
infringe / in'frɪndʒ /	<i>n.</i>	break (a rule, an agreement, etc.) 侵犯
clause / klɔ:z /	<i>n.</i>	paragraph or section in a legal document (eg. a will, contract or treaty) stating a particular obligation, condition, etc. 条款
oppressor / ə'presə /	<i>n.</i>	a person of authority who subjects others to undue pressures 压迫者
militate / 'mɪlɪteɪt /	<i>v.</i>	have great force or influence to prevent sth. 产生作用或影响
tote / təʊt /	<i>v.</i>	have and use(esp. a gun) habitually 随身携带并经常使用(尤指枪)
hostage / 'hɒstɪdʒ /	<i>n.</i>	person held as a captive by one or more others who threaten to keep, harm or kill him unless certain demands are met 人质