

高等学校试用教材

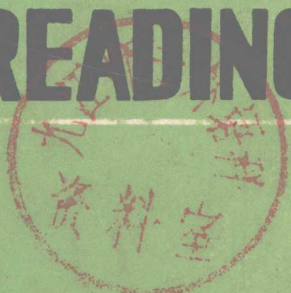
大学英语

(文理科本科用)

精读

INTENSIVE READING

教师用书



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大 学 英 语

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说 明

《大学英语（文理科本科用）》试用教材是根据国家教育委员会审定批准的《大学英语教学大纲（文理科本科用）》编写的一套系列教材。分精读、泛读、听力、快速阅读、语法与练习五种教程。

本书是精读教程第二册的教师用书，共分三个部分：

- 一、教案
- 二、练习答案
- 三、参考译文

各单元教案基本上按以下五部分编写：

(1) 背景材料 (Information Related to the Text) 包括作者生平、人物介绍、相关课文的英美文化教育、社会生活以及风土人情等背景知识。

(2) 导言 (Introduction) 包括说明课文主旨或介绍写作特色的开场白 (Introductory Remarks) 检查学生预习情况的课堂提问 (Introductory Questions) 和帮助学生领会课文以及培养学生语言技能的预备性课堂活动 (Warm-up Activity) 等。

(3) 语言点 (Language Points) 包括课文难点注释以及句型、习语使用的例证等。

(4) 课堂活动 (Suggested Activity) 主要包括对话 (Pair Work)、小组讨论 (Group Discussion)、表演片断 (Role Playing) 等。

(5) 补充练习 (Additional Exercises) 包括听写 (Dictation)、课文复述 (Guided Retelling)、课文摘要 (Guided Summary)、听力理解 (Listening Comprehension) 等。

在具体安排教学活动时，教师可根据自己的教学实际情况删选使用上述内容。

本书第二、三部分由教材编写组成员翟象俊、张增健、王德明、任建国、夏国佐、杨晨等提供；第一部分由本教材试点班教师合作编写。编写时，严格按照教学大纲和本教材的要求，并力求反映近年来文理科英语教材改革的成果。教案内容的编排侧重于学生综合运用语言技能的培养。执笔者有张增健、陈寅章、姚燕瑾、任建国。

在本书编写过程中，承我校陆谷孙教授和美籍专家 (Janet W. Helfand) 修改、润色；完稿后蒙程雨民教授和孙骊教授主审，特此一并致谢。

编 者

一九八七年七月

于复旦大学

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I. INFORMATION RELATED TO THE TEXT

1. About the author

Art Buchwald (1925-) is a well-known American humorist and journalist. He writes a political humor column that appears daily in hundreds of newspapers across the United States. His columns frequently deal with stories about politicians and famous personalities, current events in politics and issues in the news. Some of his well received columns have been collected and re-printed in book form.

2. Venus

Venus is the second planet in distance from the sun and nearest to earth of all the planets in the solar system. Except for the sun and the moon, Venus is the brightest object in the sky. The planet is called "the morning star" when it appears in the east at sunrise, and "the evening star" when it is in the west at sunset.

The surface temperature of Venus averages about 475°C and its atmosphere is about 95% carbon dioxide (CO₂). Oxygen is very rare. The high temperature and near absence of oxygen on Venus make it unlikely that life as we know it could exist there.

It is satirically interesting that Art Buchwald has chosen the planet Venus as the setting for his story. His satire is most deeply felt when he has the Venusian professor say that if the Venusians can learn to breathe in an Earth atmosphere, then they can live anywhere else.

3. Consolidated Edison Belt

It is a fictitious and facetious name coined by Art Buchwald. In fact, it is a blending of two familiar names: Van Allen Belts and Consolidated Edison. Van Allen Belts refer to two radiation zones encircling the earth named after James Van

Allen, an American scientist who first identified such zones. Consolidated Edison is a group of electric power companies consolidated for greater efficiency, the largest of which was originally founded by Thomas Edison. The power plants of these companies, which produce and supply electricity for New York City and much of eastern New York State, burn a lot of coal, causing serious air pollution in the area. By Consolidated Edison Belt, Art Buchwald suggests in playful dismay that if Consolidated Edison – the embodiment of man's total indifference to his environment – should continue to pollute the air, we would eventually have a belt of coal dust and smoke encircling the planet Earth.

II. INTRODUCTION

Warm-up Activity

Procedure:

Step 1: Students are divided into pairs.

Step 2: The teacher writes on the blackboard the following expressions:

(A) the Venus Institute of Technology

the Venus Evening Star

Venus Beings

the Grubstart

zilches

(B) earth's surface in the area of Manhattan

the Consolidated Edison Belt

something that looks like a river

metal particles

stalagmite projections

granite formations

Step 3: Each pair is to figure out the meanings of these expressions, using context clues provided in the text.

Step 4: The teacher is to sum up what the students have suggested. It is advisable to make clear the following two points:

- (A) The author has meant this essay to appear as a piece of science fiction, a story taking place on the planet Venus.
- (B) It is written from the point of view of the "Venusians" who are exploring the possibility of life on Earth.

III. LANGUAGE POINTS

1. manage (to do sth.): succeed in accomplishing or handling, esp. with an effort

Examples:

- He managed to paint the whole room in one hour.
- How did you manage to persuade him to come? I tried, but failed.

2. ever since: from then till now

Examples:

- She caught cold on Saturday and has been in bed ever since.
- I have known them ever since they came here in 1982.

3. known as: generally recognized as; called

Examples:

- He is known as a successful pop music composer.
- The radiation zones around the earth, known as Van Allen Belts, were discovered in 1958.
- The actress likes to be known as "May Diamond," although it is not her real name.

4. be named after: be given the same name (of) as

Examples:

- The Hudson River is named after the English explorer Henry Hudson.
- Our eldest son was named George after his uncle.

5. 20,000 light years ago

A light year is the distance light travels in one year at the speed of 186,282 miles per second. In a non-scientific context "many light years away" is often used as a vogue expression meaning "an immeasurably long time away." (e.g., The realization of such a utopian brotherhood is many light years

away.) It is not considered acceptable to say "20,000 light years ago." The unconventional usage here may be deliberate, however. It might be a way for the author to demonstrate his cleverness in using language for satirical purposes. The intended meaning is only "a very, very long time ago."

6. as to: about; concerning

Examples:

- He has no complaint as to salary.
- There is no doubt as to her honesty.
- As to your final grade, that will depend on your actual performance in the final examination.

7. come to a/the conclusion: reach or draw a/the conclusion

Examples:

- What conclusion did you come to?
- I have come to the conclusion that such a plan will not work.

8. base ... on: build or found ... on; use ... as a basis for

Examples:

- We should always base our opinions on facts.
- The book is based on something that really happened.

9. for one thing: in the first place (used to introduce a reason, often the reason that first comes to the mind; sometimes followed by "for another")

Examples:

- We'd better give up the idea of making a long trip for the coming holiday. For one thing, there isn't time; for another, we don't have enough money.
- I didn't think much of his speech: for one thing, the subject was uninteresting, for another, his delivery was not so good.

10. be composed of: be made up of

Examples:

- The chemistry teacher asked the pupil what water is composed of.
- Our party is composed of three grown-ups and four children.
- A car is mainly composed of a body, an engine, and four wheels.

11. as far as ... be concerned: as for, in respect of

Examples:

- As far as your family is concerned, you won't have to worry about them any more.
- As far as color is concerned, I prefer this suit.

12. hover over: keep floating over

Examples:

- The two birds hovered over their nest.
- The helicopter hovered over the spot where the lost man had been last seen.

13. keep (doing sth.): continue (doing sth.); do (sth.) repeatedly

Examples:

- My parents kept encouraging me to study hard.
- I don't know what's wrong with me today: I keep breaking things.

Note: "Keep" and "keep on" have almost the same meaning, but "keep on" puts more emphasis on the idea of repetition or determination. For example:

- He keeps on phoning me but I really don't want to talk to him.
- Don't give up hope; keep on trying.

14. give off: send out, emit (a smell, etc.)

Examples:

- The liquid gave off a strong smell.
- This chimney gives off a lot of waste gas.

15. set back: cause to put off or get behind schedule; reverse the progress of

Examples:

- Bad weather set back the construction of the building by one month.
- We shall set our clocks back by one hour when summer ends.

16. Grubstart

This is a word coined by the author. It is not difficult to figure out from the context that it must have been some governmental agency on Venus in charge of financial budgeting. Grubstart is a "twisted" form of "grubstake", an American

English word meaning "money or supplies advanced to a person seeking oil, gold or other precious metals in return for a share in his findings or profits."

17. zilch

A colloquial term in American English meaning "zero" or "nothing". For example:

- "Can I borrow \$5?" - "Sorry, I've got zilch."
- I expected to win a hundred dollars in that poker game but I came away with zilch.

Here in our text "zilch" is used as if it were a monetary unit such as yuan or the dollar. A native speaker would immediately see the paradoxical humor of spending "billions" of "nothing".

IV. SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Group Discussion

What Does Our Planet Look Like?

Procedure:

- Step 1: Break the class into groups of 5-6.
- Step 2: Ask the students to depict what our planet looks like, using the information provided in the text, e.g.
 - Earth's surface
 - the atmosphere
 - the water
 - cars & traffic accidents
 - the conclusion
- Step 3: Ask each group to report the result of their discussion.
- Step 4: Sum up the group discussion.

Concluding Remarks:

Art Buchwald has meant this article to appear as a piece of science fiction or to be an amusing nonsense story just for light reading. But in fact it is a very serious article about a grave subject - man's total indifference to his environment. It is written from the point of view not of human beings

living on Earth, but of the Venusians (hypothetical inhabitants of the planet Venus) who are exploring the possibility of life on Earth. The author sketches a horrible picture of what life could probably be like on Earth in the future unless we begin to take better care of our environment.

V. ADDITIONAL EXERCISES

A. Dictation

Air Pollution

What is air pollution? It is dirt in the air. This is a big headache in some parts of the world.

Who causes air pollution? Man causes it by burning fuel in buses, cars, factories, homes, schools, and trains. The smoke from burning fuel carries poisonous gases and dust, which enter the air and make it dirty.

Why is air pollution bad? Polluted air hurts people. It helps to cause more colds, coughs and diseases of the heart and lungs. It also hurts plants and animals and makes clothing and buildings dirty.

B. Listening Comprehension

Oil on Venus?

Venus is often the brightest object in the morning or evening sky. It is also one of the nearest objects to the earth: only the moon and, sometimes, Mars are nearer to us than Venus. Why, then, do we know so little about it?

The reason is that the surface of Venus is always covered by a thick layer of clouds. These clouds brilliantly reflect the light that reaches them from the sun and make the planet seem very bright to us. We are not sure what the clouds contain, and we don't know what the surface of Venus might look like.

One interesting suggestion is that the clouds of Venus may be vapors of oil. Our earth clouds are made of water — because

our temperature is just high enough to turn a little of our seas into vapor. The temperature on Venus, which is four times as hot as boiling water, is quite high enough to turn some kinds of oil into vapors. If Venus has any 'seas,' they cannot be seas of water. The water there would have boiled away millions of years ago. But they may be 'seas' of heavy oil. Some kinds of oil would need to be hotter than Venus before they would boil.

One day, soon perhaps, a spacecraft from earth might bring back a sample of the Venus clouds. If so, we shall know what vapors they contain. If oil vapors are present, how will this discovery affect our studies?

Most scientists believe that oil was formed in the earth many millions of years ago; that it came from the fat of tiny sea creatures and small fish. Others think that the wood from ancient forests slowly changed into oil. But no one can prove these ideas, and some scientists doubt them. They think it is possible for the earth to produce oil by itself, just as it produces water.

Perhaps Venus will, one day, solve the problem for us.

Answer the following questions:

1. Why can't we see the surface of Venus? (Because it is always covered by a thick layer of clouds.)
2. Why does Venus look very bright to us? (Because its clouds reflect a lot of sunlight.)
3. What would have happened to water on the surface of Venus? (The water there would have boiled away millions of years ago.)
4. How can we discover the truth about the clouds around Venus? (A spacecraft should be sent to Venus to bring back a sample of the clouds.)
5. How do we usually explain the presence of oil in the earth? (Most scientists believe that oil came from the fat of tiny sea creatures and small fish. Others think that the wood from ancient forests slowly changed into oil.)

I. INFORMATION RELATED TO THE TEXT

1. India

Britain and other European countries established trading companies and trading posts in India in the early 1700's. Gradually the British influence became dominant over the domestic and foreign affairs of India. In 1772 Britain named its first Governor General to India and formally began to rule the country as a British colony. British administrators or colonial officials held key posts within the government but they were dependent on Indian personnel under them to carry out the daily operations of the government. India underwent a long series of wars between the ruling British colonialists on the one hand and various regional and political groups or religious sects on the other. In 1947 at last, the Indian people, under Gandhi's leadership, won their struggle for independence and British rule in India ended.

2. Cobras

Cobras, found in some parts of Africa and Asia, are poisonous snakes. Most cobras bite their victims and their bite may cause death within a few hours. Spitting cobras of Africa spit poison which causes blindness if it gets in the eyes. A full-grown Indian cobra is nearly six feet long and about five inches around. On the back of its hood it has a mark like a pair of spectacles. That is why it is sometimes called the "spectacled snake," or "spectacled cobra."

Cobras generally eat small animals, such as frogs, fishes and birds. No research on cobras and their diet has ever given evidence to the fact that milk is their favorite food. However, it is widely believed that it is. The teacher may refer the students to a Conan Doyle story "The Speckled Band" for the presence of a bowl of milk likewise.

II. INTRODUCTION

A. Introductory Questions

The following questions are designed to help the students obtain a global understanding of the text.

1. Where and when did the story take place? (It took place in India when India was a British colony.)
2. Who gave the dinner party and what guests were invited to it? (A colonial official and his wife gave the dinner party; officers and their wives, and a visiting American naturalist were invited.)
3. What was the subject of the discussion between the young girl and the major? (They had a heated discussion about how women react to a crisis.)
4. What did the American naturalist do when they were having this discussion? What kind of expression did he see come over the hostess' face? (He watched the other guests and saw a strange expression come over the hostess' face - she was staring straight ahead with her muscles contracting slightly.)
5. What was it that the naturalist came to realize when he saw the native boy place a bowl of milk on the veranda? (He came to realize that there must be a cobra in the room.)
6. Did he jump back and warn the others? What did he do instead, then? (No. Instead, he said that he wanted to know how well they could control themselves and asked them to sit still until he counted up to three hundred.)
7. What happened before he finished the counting? (The cobra emerged and made for the bowl of milk.)
8. How did the hostess know that the cobra was in the room? (Because it had been crawling across her foot.)

B. Introductory Remarks

This is a well-knit story, isn't it? The story may not be true, but is told in a very convincing way. Besides, its message is clear: women are able to face a crisis with perfect calmness and self-control.

III. LANGUAGE POINTS

1. track down: find by determined searching or hunting

Examples:

- She spent weeks in the library tracking down reference information in almost all the books on the subject.
- Did the hunter manage to track down the wounded deer?
- It was almost two weeks before they tracked down the facts they needed.

2. spring up: arise, develop or grow quickly and as if from nowhere

Examples:

- It was rather warm all day. But towards evening a cold wind sprang up.
- Towns have sprung up in what was a desert.
- Suspicion sprang up in her mind.

3. women have outgrown the jumping-on-a-chair-at-the-sight-of-a-mouse era -- women have grown so mature that they do not lose self-control upon such small provocation as seeing a mouse

Women used to be regarded as the weaker sex. Even today such a prejudice has not been eliminated and the argument in the text shows how hard long-standing prejudices die.

4. ... while a man may feel like it, he has that ounce more of control than a woman has. And that last ounce is what really counts: ... though a man may also feel like screaming as a woman does, he has a little bit more self-control than a woman and that makes the difference.

feel like: feel a desire for; be inclined for

Examples:

- What lovely weather! I do feel like a swim.
- He is so sick today that he does not feel like having anything to eat.
- I don't feel like singing today.

count: be of value or importance

Examples:

- It is not how much you read but what you read that really counts.
- These are the men who really count.

5. join in: take part in (an activity); add oneself to sth. taking place

Examples:

- I was invited to join in the exciting game.
- We are going to sing the song again. Would you like to join in?

Note: We can either say "join in a game" or "join a game," but we can only say "join the Party or the Youth League."

6. the native boy: the native man servant

There is nothing in the text indicating the age of the servant, but a white master used to call a native Indian servant "boy" even though the latter might be older than himself.

7. The American comes to with a start. -- The American suddenly realizes what is happening, and this startles him.

The naturalist up till this point in the story has been observing the scene around him in a relaxed and perhaps somewhat indifferent manner. When he sees the bowl of milk being placed on the veranda he immediately realizes that he and the other guests are within the striking distance of a snake.

8. warn: give notice of possible danger to; inform in advance of what may happen

Examples:

- We had warned him of the danger, but he turned a deaf ear to our warning.
- The children were warned not to open the door to a stranger.
- The whistle warned visitors that the ship was ready to sail.

9. frighten sb. into doing sth.: cause sb. to do sth. by frightening him

Examples:

- A snake emerged from behind the rock. This frightened the little girl into screaming.
- They tried every possible means to frighten the old man into signing the paper.

10. make for: go toward; start in the direction of

Examples:

- It was getting dark; they turned and made for home.
- When the class was over, everyone made for the dining-room.