



“十二五”普通高等教育本科国家级规划教材

教育部推荐使用大学外语类教材

总主编 李荫华

全新版大学英语

第二版

New College English

阅读教程 (高级本)

4

Reading Course

学生用书

Student's Book

主编 柯彦玢

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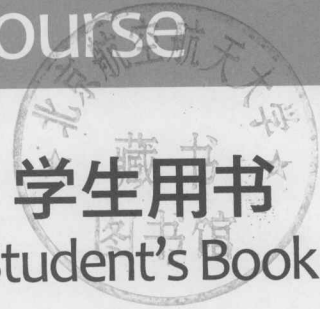
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前言

《全新版大学英语》系列教材酝酿于上世纪末，诞生于新世纪初。

《全新版大学英语》系列教材依据现代外语教学理念，运用多媒体、网络等现代教育技术，立足本国，博采众长，完全自主编写而成，是一套集纸质教材(学生用书、教师手册、教学辅助用书等)、多媒体课件(助学光盘、电子教案、题库等)和网络学习系统之大成的立体化教材。

教材的编写宗旨是：遵循外语教学的客观规律，满足我国当代大学生学习的实际需求，既适用于课堂教学又便于学生上机上网自主学习，既有利于巩固语言基础又能更好地培养学生较强的英语综合应用能力，尤其是听说能力，使他们在今后学习、工作和社会交往中能用地进行口头和书面的信息交流。

教材按照《大学英语课程教学要求》编写，供大学英语课程的一般要求和较高要求层次的教学使用。

教材编写的指导方针是：充分汲取我国在外语教学中长期积累起来的行之有效的经验和方法，详尽分析、研究中国学生在英语学习过程中以及在跨文化交际中经常产生的问题，学习、借鉴国外的教学理论和方法并根据我国的教学需要和现有条件加以消化、改造、吸收，自行规划、设计，自行选材、编写。为此，本教材采用了集中外多种教学法之长的折中主义(eclecticism)教学理念。

教材的编写原则是：

1. 倡导基于课堂教学+计算机/网络的新型教学模式。教学中多媒体和网络技术的引进，既可改善语言教学环境和教学手段，又便于学生个性化学习和语言操练，有助于师生之间的沟通。但这一模式不应一成不变，它应随着各校、各班级的具体情况而有所不同。此外，在利用现代信息技术的同时，应充分发挥传统课堂教学的优势，使之相辅相成。

2. 提倡学生自主学习，同时主张充分发挥教师的主导作用。教师能否组织好教学——包括课堂教学和计算机辅助学习——是教学成败的关键。除了课堂教学，教师更应加强课外辅导，应指导学生掌握正确的学习方法和学习策略。

3. 在加强听、说的同时，充分兼顾对学生读、写、译等应用能力的培养。使学生能较好地掌握英语的书面语，这不仅是大学英语课程本身的性质所使然，更是我国多数大学生今后学习、工作的需要。而学生的外语学习，特别是说、写方面的实践活动，必须以读、听一定量的语言素材输入为前提。因此，必须通过课堂内外、网上网下、大班小班、自学面授等一系列互动互补的教学环节，才能全面提高学生的听、说、读、写、译的应用能力。

4. 选用当代英语的常见语体或文体的典型样本作为素材。选文语言规范、富有文采、引人入胜、给人以启迪；题材广泛，以反映现实生活为主，科普内容亦占有一定比重；体裁多样；语体兼顾书面语和口语。

5. 充分考虑对学生的文化素质培养和国际文化知识的传授。大学英语课程不仅是一门语言基

础课程,也是拓宽知识、了解世界文化的素质教育课程,兼有工具性和人文性。因此,教材在文化背景介绍和知识拓展方面也有相应的板块设计。

6. 主干教程——《综合教程》——采用每一单元设一主题的形式。主题选自当代生活中的重大题材,以便将语言学习贯穿在了解、思考、探讨现实生活中的各种问题的过程中,充分体现交际法的教学原则。其他教程的相应单元与该主题亦有一定的呼应。

7. 练习设计从有利于提高学生语言应用能力出发,针对我国学生的薄弱环节和实际需要,做到有的放矢;形式尽可能采用交互方式,如pair work、group discussion、debate等,或采用“任务”方式(task-based approach)。

8. 考虑到学生参加大学英语四、六级考试的实际需要,除了在各教程中均设有数量一定的类似四、六级考题形式的练习外,还特地在《综合教程》中参照四、六级考卷设计了Test Yourself,以帮助学生熟悉考试题型。

教材框架如下:

《全新版大学英语》系列教材由纸质教材(含多媒体教学课件)和网络学习系统(即新理念大学英语网络教学系统)两部分组成。网络学习系统又包括网络课件、教辅资源、网上测试和管理平台四大部分。

纸质教材由以下教程组成:

综合教程(1—6册)(每册由8个单元组成)

听说教程(1—6册)(每册由14个单元组成)

阅读教程(高级本)(1—6册)(每册由8个单元组成)

阅读教程(通用本)(1—6册)(每册由8个单元组成)

快速阅读(1—6册)(每册由8个单元组成)

上述各教程中,1—4册供修读一般要求的学生使用,5—6册供修读较高要求的学生使用。前三种教程编有供预各级使用的教材各一册。另编有语法手册一本,供学生课外参考使用。

综合、听说教程配有相应的Mp3录音光盘和网络课件。快速阅读各册也配有助学光盘。除快速阅读外,各教程均配有教师手册(综合和听说教程各册还配有电子教案)。

《全新版大学英语》系列教材问世十年以来,受到了全国高校师生的普遍欢迎,先后被列为教育部推荐使用大学外语类教材、普通高等教育“十五”国家级规划教材和普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材,并获得2003年度上海市优秀教材一等奖。

然而,时代在进步,社会需求和人才培养在这十年间也发生了巨大的变化。我国的经济、政治、文化等各项建设事业,正在新的历史起点上全面向前推进;教育改革也在向纵深发展,作为大学基础课程的大学英语教学改革在过去的十年间亦在不断地深入。教育部此前特制订了《大学英语课程教学要求》,作为各高等学校组织非英语专业本科生英语教学的主要依据;目前又颁布了《国家中长期教育改革和发展规划纲要(2010—2020年)》。鉴于当前新形势,我们对《全新版大学英语》系列教材进行了一次认真、彻底、全面的修订,使之更好地满足我国大学英语教学和改革的进一步需要。

本次修订的总体目标是：根据《大学英语课程教学要求》，在坚持并发扬第一版原有特色的基础上，通过全面修订，使新版教材更贴近教学的实际需要、更贴近广大使用者。

本次修订的重点是：梳理全书，改正讹错；适当降低原书难度；坚决删改掉教学效果差或不太符合当前教学实际的课文和练习；替换进一批更精彩的选文和更富有成效的新的练习形式；调整某些单元先后排序，使其更符合循序渐进原则；适当压缩、精简内容，做到便于教、便于学。

本次修订中，各教程编者本着认真、负责的态度，对教材进行了较大幅度的改动。《综合教程》1—4册共64篇课文，此次更新了21篇，更新量超过30%；编者还根据调研中同学们喜欢英语诗歌的反馈，尽可能多地选用了英诗中最脍炙人口的部分增补到各册中去。《听说教程》花大力气将听力材料的长度从原来的500字左右普遍缩短到250—380字，调整了材料的难易度，同时从第一册开始就帮助学生逐渐熟悉四、六级考试题型，口语部分的设计也大大方便了操作。《阅读教程》(高级本)60%以上的文章是重新选用的。《阅读教程》(通用本)也换上了许多更为精彩的文章。《快速阅读》教程考虑到学生参加大学英语四、六级考试的需要，适当增加了部分文章的长度，此外还新增了information transfer 和gap filling等考核学生快速阅读能力的练习形式。《语法手册》删繁就简，提高质量，方便参考、使用。如今修订工作已接近完成，各教程第二版将陆续面世。我们希望通过我们的努力和辛勤劳动，给支持我们的广大使用者献上一套高质量的精品教材。

《全新版大学英语》(第二版)系列教材仍由复旦大学、北京大学、华东师范大学、中国科学技术大学、华南理工大学、南京大学、武汉大学、南开大学、中国人民大学、中山大学、西安交通大学、东南大学、华中科技大学和苏州大学的数十位长期从事大学英语教学的资深教授、英语教学专家分工协作、集体编写而成，董亚芬、杨惠中、杨治中三位教授任顾问。

第二版启动前，上海外语教育出版社曾在全国开展了大规模问卷调查和召开座谈会，收集到大量宝贵的意见和建议，为我们的修订、编写提供了可靠的依据。在此谨向各位参与问卷调查或座谈会的全国各地的读者，向历年通过邮件或口头形式对教材提出批评、建议的读者，向所有使用和关心教材的老师和同学，表示深深的敬意和感谢，欢迎你们今后一如既往地不吝指教。上海外语教育出版社庄智象社长、张宏副社长、严凯和孙玉副总编、高等教育事业部谢宇主任和文编室主任梁泉胜等，多年来为教材的策划、编写、出版、营销做了大量工作，英国专家、也是本人与之合作共事长达20多年的友人Anthony J. Ward博士更是在教材的编审过程中倾注了大量的心血，借此机会也一并向他们表示深切的谢忱。

总主编 李荫华

2010年3月

编者的话

1. 编写宗旨

本教程为学生提供较系统的、丰富多彩的课外阅读材料，旨在培养学生的阅读能力，扩大学生的知识面和词汇量，使学生在理解和欣赏两方面都得到提高。

2. 全书框架

全教程共分6册，每册配有相应的教师手册1册。

每册分8个单元，共24课。每课包括以下几个部分：

- 1) 除个别词语改换、段落删节外，全部课文均采用原文。改动的原则是在最大限度地保持原作的文体与文字的同时，降低学生的阅读难度。修订版第一册的课文是全新的，其他各册也适量更换课文，既保持上一版的质量，又体现满足学生的需求、与时俱进的发展意识。
- 2) 课文前设有Introduction，课文配有脚注，提供简单易懂的Background Information。这部分内容使学生对课文的主要内容和背景知识有一个大概的印象，既解决阅读课文时遇到的部分困难，又能提高阅读兴趣。
- 3) 注解采用边注的形式，列出所有可能对阅读形成障碍的单词和词组，用中文或英文解释。采用边注是为了节省时间、方便阅读、降低难度。应鼓励学生边读边猜词的意思，猜不出再看边注。详细列出单词和词组的目的是使学生把更多的时间和精力转向语言的其他方面，加强对课文的整体意识。
- 4) 课文后设Reading Skills and Practice，内容包括根据上下文猜测词义的练习和根据课文特点设计的、能解决本课阅读难点的阅读技能练习。安排这部分内容是为了使学生对课文的篇章结构及语言特点等有一个比较清醒的认识，把词的学习与词所处的语境紧密联系起来。
- 5) 多项选择是引导学生加深对课文内容的理解。
- 6) 词汇练习和句子结构练习的形式灵活多样，旨在培养学生对语言基本要素的学习意识，提高阅读与写作能力。
- 7) 英译汉练习是通过翻译加强对课文的理解，提高学生的翻译水平。所选句子均为课文中的难点。
- 8) 思考问题是要锻炼学生的分析、归纳、欣赏和口头表达的能力。

阅读是以理解和欣赏为目的的，不宜对语言做深入的探讨，点到即可。

本教程加上教师手册也适合学生自学，教师只需稍加指导、适当检查即可。

每册书最后附有总词汇表，供学生查找和记忆。表中无标记词为一般要求词汇，标(★)号的为较高要求词汇，标(▲)号的为更高要求词汇，标(#)号的为大纲外词汇。

3. 答谢

本教程由北京大学英语系大学英语教研室组织编写，得到了学校各级领导的大力支持。总主编李荫华教授从选篇到整个编写过程给予了悉心的指导，审阅了全书；语言专家Anthony J. Ward帮助改写课文并负责终审；上海外语教育出版社的谢宇老师为本书的编辑和出版做了大量的工作；刘红中老师对本书的总体规划提出了宝贵的建议；参与本书编写的我的同事们为本书付出了艰辛的劳动；刘星云老师承担了本书的打字及技术处理工作，在此一并表达深深的谢意。

主编 柯彦玢

2011年8月

Table of Contents

Unit One

1. The Campers at Kitty Hawk 1
2. Leading Men 12
3. Fighting Fire with Fire 22

Unit Two

4. 100 Miles per Hour, Upside Down and Sideways 30
5. The Car We Had to Push 38
6. "Look Ma, No Hands." 45

Unit Three

7. Succeeding Outside the Ivory Tower
A Former Academic Offers Lessons in Joining the "Real World" 51
8. Be a Politician 60
9. Winning the Job Interview Game 68

Unit Four

10. Global Village — Utopia Revisited? 74
11. Education and the Rise of the Global Economy 83
12. An Age of Optimism 92

Unit Five

13. In Praise of Flattery 100
14. Beauty 110
15. Darkness at Noon 120

Unit Six

16. Super Mom in the Suburbs: A Cautionary Tale About How to Be Neat,
Clean, Cheerful, Organized — and Friendless 126
17. The Cult of Busyness 134
18. The Cautious and Obedient Life 141

Unit Seven

19. Is War Our Biological Destiny? 147
20. The Sniper 155
21. The Telegram 163

Unit Eight

22. Why We Travel 171
23. Sightseer 179
24. Grape Expectations 188

- Glossary 196

1. The Campers at Kitty Hawk

John Dos Passos

Introduction

In this article, John Dos Passos adopts two different literary forms, prose and poetry, to dramatize the world's first controlled powered flight of Wilbur and Orville Wright, one of the most important landmarks in human history, and to depict the lives of the outstanding Wright brothers, who turned out to come to Kitty Hawk not for camping, but to accomplish what had been thought impossible.

On December seventeenth, nineteen hundred and three, Bishop Wright of the United Brethren^① onetime¹ editor of the *Religious Telescope* received in his frame house² on Hawthorn Street in Dayton, Ohio, a telegram from his boys Wilbur and Orville who'd gotten it into their heads to spend their vacations in a little camp out in the sandbanks of the North Carolina³ coast working on a homemade glider⁴ they'd knocked together themselves. The telegram read:

SUCCESS FOUR FLIGHTS THURSDAY MORNING
ALL AGAINST TWENTYONE MILE WIND STARTED FROM
LEVEL WITH ENGINEPOWER ALONE AVERAGE SPEED
THROUGH AIR THIRTYONE MILES LONGEST FIFTY-
SEVEN SECONDS INFORM PRESS HOME CHRISTMAS

The figures were a little wrong because the telegraph operator

1. onetime /'wʌntaɪm/ *adj.* 从前的，一度的
2. frame house: a house built with a frame of wooden posts driven into the ground, joined across by boards or filled in with bricks 木屋
3. North Carolina (美国) 北卡罗来纳州
4. glider /'glɑɪdə/ *n.* 滑翔机

① the United Brethren /'brɛðrɪn/: a Protestant denomination founded in 1800 which nowadays has over 80 churches in 15 countries. 联合兄弟会（基督教的一个男性宗教团体）

5. scrawl /skrɔ:l/ *n.* 潦草的笔迹

6. mechanic /mi'kænik/ *n.* 修理工, 机械工

7. erratic /i'rætik/ *adj.* 不稳定的

8. dart /dɑ:t/ *n.* 猛冲

9. gust /gʌst/ *n.* 一阵

10. hockey /'hɒki/ *n.* 曲棍球

11. parallel bars: 双杠

12. printingpress /'prɪntɪnpres/ *n.* 印刷机

13. odds and ends: 零碎物品

misread Orville's hasty penciled scrawl⁵

but the fact remains

that a couple of young bicycle mechanics⁶ from Dayton, Ohio had designed, constructed and flown for the first time ever a practical airplane.

After running the motor a few minutes to heat it up I released the wire that held the machine to the track and the machine started forward into the wind. Wilbur ran at the side of the machine holding the wing to balance it on the track. Unlike the start on the 14th made in a calm the machine facing a 27 mile wind started very slowly... Wilbur was able to stay with it until it lifted from the track after a forty-foot run. One of the lifesaving men operated the camera for us taking a picture just as it reached the end of the track and the machine had risen to a height of about two feet... The course of the flight up and down was extremely erratic⁷, partly due to the irregularities of the air, partly to lack of experience in handling this machine. A sudden dart⁸ when a little over a hundred and twenty feet from the point at which it rose in the air ended the flight.... This flight lasted only 12 seconds but it was nevertheless the first in the history of the world in which a machine carrying a man had raised itself by its own power into the air in full flight, had sailed forward without reduction of speed and had finally landed at a point as high as that from which it started.

A little later in the day the machine was caught in a gust⁹ of wind and turned over and smashed, almost killing the coastguardsmen who tried to hold it down, it was too bad but the Wright brothers were too happy to care they'd proved that the damn thing flew.

When these points had been definitely established we at once packed our goods and returned home knowing that the age of the flying machine had come at last.

They were home for Christmas in Dayton, Ohio, where they'd been born in the seventies of a family who had been settled west of the Alleghenies^② since eighteen fourteen, in Dayton, Ohio, where they'd been to grammar school and high school and joined their father's church and played baseball and hockey¹⁰ and worked out on the parallel bars¹¹ and the flying swing and sold newspapers and built themselves a printingpress¹² out of odds and ends¹³ from the

② the Alleghenies /,ælə'geɪnis/: a part of the vast Appalachian Mountain Range of the eastern United States and Canada. 阿利根尼山脉

junkheap and flown kites and tinkered with mechanical devices and gone around town as boys doing odd jobs¹⁴ to turn an honest penny.

The folks claimed it was the bishop's bringing home a helicopter, a fiftycent mechanical toy made of two fans worked by elastic bands¹⁵ that was supposed to hover¹⁶ in the air, that had got his two youngest boys hipped on¹⁷ the subject of flight

so that they stayed home instead of marrying the way the other boys did, and pattered all day about¹⁸ the house picking up a living with jobprinting¹⁹,

bicyclerepair work, sitting up late nights reading books on the principles of flight.

Still they were sincere churchmembers, their bicycle business was prosperous, a man could rely on their word²⁰. They were popular in Dayton.

In those days flyingmachines were the big laugh of all the village-store philosophers. Langley's and Chanute's unsuccessful experiments had been jeered²¹ down with an I-told-you-so that rang from coast to coast²². The Wrights' big problem was to find a place out-of-the-way enough to carry on their experiments without being the horselaugh²³ of the countryside. Then they had no money to spend;

they were practical mechanics; when they needed anything they built it themselves.

They hit on²⁴ Kitty Hawk, on the great dunes²⁵ and sandy banks that stretch south towards Hatteras seaward of Albemarle Sound^③,

a vast stretch of seabeach empty except for a coastguard station, a few fishermen's shacks²⁶ and the swarms of mosquitoes in the crabgrass behind the dunes

and overhead the gulls²⁷ and swooping²⁸ terns²⁹, in the evening fishhawks³⁰ and cranes³¹ flapping across the saltmarshes³², occasionally eagles

that the Wright brothers followed soaring with their eyes as Leonardo watched them centuries before straining his sharp eyes to apprehend³³

③ Albemarle Sound: a large estuary on the coast of North Carolina in the United States located at the confluence of a group of rivers. It is separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a long barrier peninsula. 阿尔伯马尔湾

14. odd /ɒd/ *adj.* 临时的

15. elastic band: 橡皮筋

16. hover /'hɒvə/ *vi.* 盘旋, 飞翔

17. hipped on: obsessed with 痴迷于

18. putter /'putə/ *about:* move about slowly, doing small unimportant things

19. jobprinting /dʒɒb'prɪntɪŋ/ *n.* 小件印刷

20. rely on their word: trust them

21. jeer /dʒiə/ *vi.* 嘲笑

22. from coast to coast: all over the United States; from this side of the country to the other side

23. horselaugh /'hɔ:slɑ:f/ *n.* 纵声大笑

24. hit on: discovered unexpectedly

25. dune /dju:n/ *n.* 沙丘

26. shack /ʃæk/ *n.* 棚屋

27. gull /gʌl/ *n.* 海鸥

28. swoop /swu:p/ *vi.* 猝然攻击

29. tern /tɜ:n/ *n.* 燕鸥

30. fishhawk /'fɪʃhɔ:k/ *n.* 鱼鹰

31. crane /kreɪn/ *n.* 鹤

32. saltmarsh /'sɔ:ltmɑ:ʃ/ *n.* 盐沼

33. apprehend /,æprɪ'hend/ *vt.* 领悟, 理解

the laws of flight.

Four miles across the loose sand from the scattering of shacks, the Wright brothers built themselves a camp and a shed for their gliders. It was a long way to pack their groceries, their tools, anything they happened to need; in summer it was hot as blazes, the mosquitoes were hell;

but they were alone there and they'd figured out that the loose sand was as soft as anything they could find to fall in.

There was a glider made of two planes and a tail in which they lay flat on their bellies and controlled the warp³⁴ of the planes by moving their hips, taking off again and again all day from a big dune named Kill Devil Hill, they learned to fly.

Once they'd managed to hover for a few seconds and soar ever so slightly on a rising air-current they decided the time had come to put a motor in their biplane³⁵.

Back in the shop in Dayton, Ohio, they built an airtunnel, which is their first great contribution to the science of flying, and tried out model planes in it.

They couldn't interest any builders of gasoline engines so they had to build their own motor.

It worked; after that Christmas of nineteen three the Wright brothers weren't doing it for fun any more; they gave up their bicycle business, got the use of a big old cowpasture belonging to the local banker for practice flights, spent all the time when they weren't working on their machine in promotion³⁶, worrying about patents³⁷, infringements³⁸, spies, trying to interest government officials, to make sense out of the smooth involved³⁹ heartbreaking remarks of lawyers.

In two years they had a plane that would cover twentyfour miles at a stretch⁴⁰ round and round the cowpasture.

People on the intercity car used to crane their necks out of the windows when they passed along the edge of the field, startled by the clattering pop pop of the old Wright motor and the sight of the white biplane like a pair of ironingboards⁴¹ one on top of the other chugging⁴² along a good fifty feet in the air. The cows soon got used to it.

As the flights got longer

34. warp /wɔ:p/ n. 偏倾

35. biplane /'baɪpleɪn/ n. 双翼飞机

36. In promotion: undergoing the process of being improved

37. patent /'peɪnt/ n. 专利权

38. Infringement /ɪn'frɪndʒmənt/ n. 侵权

39. Involved /ɪn'vɒlvd/ adj. 晦涩的

40. at a stretch: without stopping

41. Ironingboard /'aɪəniŋ,bɔ:rd/ n. 烫衣板

42. chug /tʃʌg/ vi. 嘎嘎嘎嘎地行驶

125 the Wright brother got backers,
engaged in lawsuits,
lay in their beds at night sleepless with the whine of phantom⁴³
millions, worse than the mosquitoes at Kitty Hawk.
In nineteen seven they went to Paris,
130 allowed themselves to be togged⁴⁴ out in dress suits and silk
hats,
learned to tip waiters
talked with government experts, got used to gold braid⁴⁵ and
postponements and Vandyke beards⁴⁶ and the outspread palms of po-
135 liticos⁴⁷. For amusement
they played diablo⁴⁸ in the Tuileries gardens⁴⁹.
They gave publicized flights at Fort Myers⁵⁰, where they had
their first fatal crackup⁴⁹, St. Petersburg, Paris, Berlin; at Pau⁵⁰ they
were all the rage⁵¹,
140 such an attraction that the hotelkeeper
wouldn't charge them for their room.
Alfonso of Spain shook hands with them and was photographed
sitting in the machine,
King Edward watched a flight,
145 the Crown Prince⁵² insisted on being taken up⁵³,
the rain of medals began.
They were congratulated by the Czar⁵⁴
and the King of Italy and the amateurs of sport, and the society
climbers and the papal⁵⁵ titles,
150 and decorated by a society for universal peace.
Aeronautics⁵⁶ became the sport of the day.
The Wrights don't seem to have been very much impressed by
the upholstery⁵⁷ and the braid and the gold medals and the parades of
plush⁵⁸ horses,
155 they remained practical mechanics
and insisted on doing all their own work themselves,
even to filling the gasolinetank.

43. phantom /'fæntəm/ *adj.* 幻想的, 想象的

44. tog /tɒg/ *vt.* 给...穿盛装
be togged out: be dressed for a particular occasion

45. braid /breɪd/ *n.* 穗带

46. Vandyke beards: small pointed beards popular in Europe at the turn of 20th century 凡戴克式尖髯

47. politico /pə'lɪtɪkəʊ/ *n.* 政客

48. diablo /dɪ'æbələʊ/ *n.* 空竹

49. crackup /'krækʌp/ *n.* 撞毁, 坠毁

50. Pau /pəʊ/ (法国) 波城

51. all the rage: very popular

52. Crown Prince: 王储

53. take sb. up: invite sb.

54. Czar /zɑː/ *n.* (俄国) 沙皇

55. papal /'peɪpl/ *adj.* 罗马天主教的

56. aeronautics /,eərə'nɔːtɪks/ *n.* 航空学

57. upholstery /ʌp'həʊlstəri/ *n.* 装饰品

58. plush /plʌʃ/ *adj.* 豪华的

④ the Tuileries /'twɪ:ləriːz/ gardens: These enclose the western end of the Louvre and the formal 17th century gardens that make up the central-most park in Paris, serving as a prototype for public gardens across Europe. 御花园

⑤ Fort Myers: also called "the City of Palms", located on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River in South-west Florida. 迈尔斯堡

59. typhoid /'taɪfoɪd/ *n.* 伤寒症

60. Farman ... Delagrange: all pioneers in flying

61. snorting /'snɔːtɪŋ/ *adj.* 喷响的

62. shrapnel /'ʃræpnl/ *n.* 榴霰弹

63. stutter /'stʌtə/ *n.* 断断续续声

64. cower /'kaʊə/ *vi.* 蜷缩, 抖缩

65. smear /smiə/ *n.* 诽谤, 中伤

66. smokescreen /'sməʊkskriːn/ *n.*
(掩护阵地和活动的) 烟幕

67. chatter /'tʃætə/ *n.* 饶舌, 唠叨

68. broker /'brəʊkə/ *n.* 掮客, 经纪人

69. oratory /'ɒrətəri/ *n.* 演讲

70. brasshat /'brɑːʃæt/ *n.* (俚语)
高级将校, 大官

71. contraption /kən'træpʃən/ *n.* 奇妙的装置

72. whittle /'wɪtl/ *vt.* 削

73. hickory /'hɪkəri/ *n.* 山胡桃树

74. cement /si'ment/ *n.* 胶合剂

75. muslin /'mʌzlm/ *n.* 平纹布

In nineteen eleven they were back on the dunes at Kitty Hawk with a new glider.

Orville stayed up in the air for nine and a half minutes, which remained a long time the record for motorless flight.

The same year Wilbur died of typhoid fever⁵⁹ in Dayton.

In the rush of new names: Farman, Blériot, Curtiss, Ferber, Esnault-Peltrie, Delagrange⁶⁰;

in the snorting⁶¹ impact of bombs and the whine and rattle of shrapnel⁶² and the sudden stutter⁶³ of machineguns after the motor's been shut off overhead,

and we flatten into the mud

and make ourselves small cowering⁶⁴ in the corners of ruined walls,

the Wright brothers passed out of the headlines

but not even headlines or the bitter smear⁶⁵ of newsprint or the choke of smokescreen⁶⁶ and gas or chatter⁶⁷ of brokers⁶⁸ on the stock-market or barking of phantom millions or oratory⁶⁹ of brasshats⁷⁰ laying wreaths on new monuments

can blur the memory

of the chilly December day

two shivering bicycle mechanics from Dayton, Ohio,

first felt their homemade contraption⁷¹

whittled⁷² out of hickory⁷³ sticks,

gummed together with Arnstein's bicycle cement⁷⁴,

stretched with muslin⁷⁵ they'd sewn on their sister's sewing-machine in their own backyard on Hawthorn Street in Dayton, Ohio,

soar into the air

above the dunes and the wide beach

at Kitty Hawk.

From *Types of Literature*, ed. Robert A Bennett, Ginn and Company, 1984.

1639 words

Reading Skills and Practice

1 Point of View

Point of view is the perspective from which a story is told or, in other words, the relationship of the narrator to the story. Generally speaking, point of view in literature can be classified into three types:

- 1) The first-person point of view: The narrator is a participant in the story. The reader sees everything in the story through the character's eyes.
- 2) The limited third-person point of view: In this case, the narrator is not directly involved in the story. It is an outside observer telling the story from the perspective of one character and revealing the thoughts of only that character, referred to as "he/him/his" or "she/her/hers".
- 3) The omniscient third-person point of view: The narrator is outside the story as with the third-person limited point of view. The narrator can know all and see all. It can report to the reader the thoughts and feelings of all characters, can tell about the past, and report happenings from several different settings.

Read the text carefully with the following questions in mind.

- 1) What is the point of view of "The Campers at Kitty Hawk"?
- 2) Is the point of view of this text consistent?
- 3) Is there any sign for a change of point of view?
- 4) If so, what is the significance of such a change?

2 Free Verse Poetry

Free verse poetry is patterned by speech and images rather than by regular metrical schemes. Freedom applies not only to the form, but to visual and sound effects — for surprise, thickening of meaning, symmetry, repetition, or simply for fun. Lines can also be shortened for speed, or segmented into clots of words or syllables to slow down the reading or comprehension. In a free verse line, rhythm is the dominant factor.

Compare the following two lexical pieces.

- 1) The figures were a little wrong because the telegraph operator misread Orville's hasty penciled scrawl
but the fact remains
that a couple of young bicycle mechanics from Dayton, Ohio
had designed constructed and flown
for the first time ever a practical airplane.
- 2) The figures were a little wrong because the telegraph operator misread Orville's hasty penciled scrawl but the fact remains that a couple of young bicycle mechanics from Dayton, Ohio had designed constructed and flown for the first time ever a practical airplane.

The first piece is presented in the free verse poetry style, and the second one is in prose form. Read them again, and answer the following questions.

- 1) Which piece of words listed above is taken from the text?
- 2) Can you find more pieces of free verse poetry in the text?
- 3) What effects does the author intend to achieve by employing the poetry style?

3 Context and Other Clues

Guess the meanings of the following with the help of the context and other clues.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| gotten it into their heads (L. 5) _____ | knocked together (L. 7) _____ |
| calm (L. 23) _____ | turn (L. 52) _____ |
| soar (L. 83) _____ | hell (L. 91) _____ |
| planes (L. 95) _____ | crane (L. 119) _____ |
| good (L. 123) _____ | decorated (L. 150) _____ |

Exercises

1 Reading Comprehension

Read the text again and choose the best answer to each of the following questions or statements.

- 1) According to the author, what kind of people were the Wright brothers?
 - A. Reckless.
 - B. Vain.
 - C. Practical.
 - D. Diffident.
- 2) It can be inferred from the text that when the Wright brothers began to do flying experiments, people _____.
 - A. had high expectations
 - B. didn't want to see them succeed
 - C. had strong doubts about their success
 - D. gave them lots of support
- 3) The Wright brothers passed out of the headlines because of _____.
 - A. the outbreak of the World War I
 - B. Wilbur's death
 - C. more and more pioneers in flying
 - D. all of the above
- 4) Dos Passos's attitude towards the Wright brothers is _____.
 - A. suspicious
 - B. appreciative
 - C. critical
 - D. jeering