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自主学习 第2册

英语阅读教程



苏州大学出版社

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前言

Preface

阅读是学习英语的重要途径。阅读可以提高英语学习者的语言综合能力,同时阅读本身也是英语学习的重要目标之一。

教育部《大学英语课程教学要求》对大学生的英语阅读能力要求分为三个层次:一般要求、较高要求和更高要求。一般要求“能借助词典阅读本专业的英语教材和题材熟悉的英文报刊文章,掌握中心大意,理解主要事实和有关细节。能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料”;较高要求“能基本读懂英语国家大众性报刊杂志上一般性题材的文章。……能阅读所学专业的综述性文献,并能正确理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节”;更高要求“能读懂有一定难度的文章,理解其主旨大意及细节,能阅读国外英语报刊杂志上的文章,能比较顺利地阅读所学专业的英语文献和资料”。另一方面,《大学英语课程教学要求》要求改革教学模式,提高学生的自主学习能力,而教学模式改革成功的一个重要标志就是学生个性化学习方法的形成和学生自主学习能力的提高。为了继续推进大学英语教学改革,更好地实现《大学英语课程教学要求》的目标,结合西部地区普通高校的具体情况,我们组织有多年教学和科研经验的老师编写了《自主学习英语阅读教程》系列教材。

《自主学习英语阅读教程》系列教材的编写是基于西部地区普通二本高校大学生的英语实际水平,倡导发挥学生的学习积极性,帮助学生养成自主学习的习惯和能力,努力提高大学生的英语阅读能力,

以期实现《大学英语课程教学要求》的目标。为了实现本书的编写目标,根据教育部《大学英语课程教学要求》,我们精心安排教材的结构和内容,材料主要从最新的国内外网站仔细筛选并适当改写使其符合本书的要求,题材范围广,涵盖社会、生活、经济、政治、科学技术等各方面。

本系列教材共四册,按照大学英语四级考试模式编写,分别对应大学英语学习第一至第四学期。第一、二册是基础阶段,主要培养学生的自主学习习惯和适应不同的篇章结构,达到《大学英语课程教学要求》的一般要求;第三、四册是提高阶段,达到大学英语四级的水平和《大学英语课程教学要求》的较高要求,接近更高要求。教材每册8个单元,每个单元由4个部分组成,其基本结构是:1. 导读。介绍本单元文章的主要内容,提出本单元学习的主要目标。2. 快速阅读。一篇文章,题型多样化,既有“是非判断”、“句子填空”,又有“多项选择”和“简单回答”。3. 深度阅读:选词填空部分和多项选择阅读部分。其中,选词填空部分有1篇文章,10个空,15个候选词。多项选择阅读部分有2篇文章,每篇文章5个题目,每个题目4个候选答案。4. 学习反思。该部分要求学生在规定时间内完成之前4个部分的学习内容之后,静下心来,总结学习的得与失,并制订下一步的计划。

本系列教材的特色是,强调学生自主学习能力的培养,为此,按照“归纳法”,我们设置了“导读—练习—反思(总结和下一步计划)”英语阅读自主学习模式,学生在进入每个单元学习前,首先在“导读”的帮助下了解本单元的主要内容和学习要求与目标,然后进入单元阅读练习,练习结束后,总结做题的对错和得失,归纳本单元的生词和题型,并制订下一步的计划。编者希望大学生通过这样的学习,在培养自主学习能力的同时,在教师的帮助和指导下,能够较好地掌握英语阅读的基本技能,达到《大学英语课程教学要求》规定的目标。

关于教材的使用,本教材既可以单独作为上课教材,也可以作为

大学英语课程的补充教材使用。在教材使用过程中,教师应作为引导者,把学习的主动权交给学生,帮助学生树立自主学习的信心,培养学生自主学习的能力,同时要督促学生完成学习任务并学会总结。

由于编者水平有限,会有疏漏、不当之处,衷心希望老师、同学们提出宝贵的意见和建议,我们将不断地改进和完善。

编者

2012 年 3 月

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Unit 1

Culture Difference

身

读

一、内容概述

本单元的主题是“文化差异(culture difference)”。文化差异是一种社会现象,它不但体现在人类的行为上,也表现在人类的语言上。语言是文化的载体,通过语言,人们可以了解这种语言所内含的文化现象。了解文化差异,可以更好地进行语言交流,从而达到跨文化交际的目的。本单元主要从三个方面考查大家对文化差异的认识与理解。Part 1 主要是关于日、美日常生活中问候的文化现象及文化差异。Part 2 深度阅读(Reading in Depth)中的 Section A 主要是关于社交活动中的准时性问题。Section B 中的 Passage 1 主要是谈论直升飞机的起源及利用。Passage 2 主要是关于企业如何对员工进行评估。

二、学习目标

1. 学习关于 culture difference 的相关词汇
2. 掌握有关 culture difference 的相关话题
3. 熟悉有关 culture difference 的阅读篇章结构



Part 1

Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning)

(15 minutes)

Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D. For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

The first culture difference that many Japanese find in America is their greeting customs. Although the greeting is one of the simplest human communications, both countries have different methods of greeting each other. Three differences include introduction, self-introduction, and departure. In addition, the main reason for the difference is that Americans use verbal greetings and Japanese use nonverbal greetings.

First, the order of introduction in the US is the reverse of the Japanese way. In America, generally elderly people are introduced first. For example, one of my friends invited me to his house, and he introduced his father first, then his mother, his older brother, and his younger sister. After that he introduced me to his family. In contrast, the traditional rule is the opposite in Japan. In other words, young people have to be introduced first in Japan. This rule is the sort of manner in Japan, and the people who do not follow this regulation are considered rude.

The methodology of self-introduction varies between America and Japan. Americans prefer the inductive method that brings out general idea from concrete; therefore, they are apt to talk about their privacy first.



Almost all American students talk about their family or themselves. For instance, a woman who is a student at St. Cloud State University talked about her Iowa State and her family who are farmers. Then she said that “The crops are mainly potatoes, and my family like potatoes.” Finally, she said that her family was a German line. In contrast, Japanese prefer a deductive method. In other words, Japanese people are likely to talk about where they belong to. For example, the typical Japanese person first talks about his university or his major, then what kind of club they belong to. Finally they usually talk about hobbies or an event that happened recently.

Departures in the American and the Japanese cultures depend on whether people are close or not. Americans just say “bye”. Nevertheless if the conditions differ, this departure changes completely in America. In fact, one of my American friends gives a hug or kiss to her family when they leave. In contrast, unlike Americans, who just say “goodbye”, generally Japanese make a shallow bow and look back two or three times with their waving hands. Due to the different farewell, every Japanese person who is in America is surprised when they get a hug from an American friend, and they feel Americans are emotional or sentimental. On the contrary, they feel empty and passionless when many Americans say “bye” and just walk away.

Many reasons for the differences in greetings are verbal in America and nonverbal in Japan. Generally Americans are apt to use the verbal, so Americans always say “Hi!” or “How are you?”. Even people who are strangers say “How is it going?”. Due to inexperience with this greeting, first, most Japanese people who come to America are confused whether they should respond or not. As a result, they think Americans are friendly, refreshing, or sociable. However, Japanese people tend to use nonverbal language. Many Japanese just make a bow with a smile indicating respect. Usually, young people have to make a deep bow for their superiors. In addition, not only gesture but also voice and countenance are very significant. Consequently, every American who is in Japan feels

uncomfortable at first because they are not used to Japanese customs.

In conclusion, even the simplest communication is quite different because of culture. The first impression of the greeting is very important because some people distinguish whether this person is good or not. In other words, people who live in other countries have to obey a method of greeting in each country.

(<http://cn.bing.com/search?q=Culture+Differences+Between+Countries&FORM=QSR5>)

- Many Japanese first find the culture difference in America is _____.
A. eating habit
B. greeting custom
C. expressing likelihood
D. visiting foreigners
- The greeting method in America and in Japan is _____.
A. American people like the verbal method, while the Japanese people like the nonverbal one
B. the same
C. similar
D. not mentioned in the passage
- In Japan, generally elderly people are introduced _____ to the young people.
A. first
B. the same order as in America
C. last
D. not mentioned
- In America, people like to do the self-introduction in the way of _____.
A. deduction
B. induction
C. reason
D. talking about the weather
- The method of departure in the United States and in Japan is _____.
A. similar
B. fixed
C. the same
D. flexible
- When we are in America and meet the stranger, we can greet him or her in the way of _____.
A. "How are you?"
B. neglect
C. talk something about customs
D. giving a blank stare
- The first impression of greeting is very important as it can provide some

people with _____.

- A. the way of judging a person
 - B. the notion that culture is nothing
 - C. the notion that culture in America is better than that in Japan
 - D. the concept that custom is a kind of culture
8. Many Japanese just make a bow with a smile _____ respect.
9. From the passage we can see that even the simplest conversation is pretty different because of _____.
10. This passage indicates that we should _____ the culture in the area where we live.



Part 2

Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth)

(25 minutes)

Section A

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 the word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

In social activities it is always important to be punctual, to have a strong conception of time. To be or not to be, punctual is a habit. We often fail to 11 the influence of habit in our life. Habits are working for or



___12___ us every minute of the day. They have much to do with our future. So when we are young, we should try to be punctual every time and never be late, for the habits are much easier to ___13___ in youth than when we are older.

Punctuality is an important constituent of good ___14___. A person who is always on time for his appointments shows real ___15___ for others. A person who is always late shows selfishness and thoughtlessness, and he is not a person that most people want for a friend. A few minutes' delay may not be a ___16___ matter, but it may have bad results. Getting up ten minutes later than ___17___ may upset the plan of the day. Calling on a friend five minutes later than the appointed time may cause him some ___18___ trouble. One delay after another makes a man unable to exert himself. It also ___19___ him to be untrustworthy.

Since punctuality is a good habit and a nice ___20___, we should pay a lot of attention to it and make many efforts to cultivate this good habit so that we may have a strong sense of punctuality and do whatever we are supposed to do on time.

(<http://www.chinamcp.com.cn>)

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| A. emotion | B. usual | C. proves | D. unexpected |
| E. acquire | F. serious | G. consideration | H. casual |
| I. character | J. against | K. likely | L. extensive |
| M. virtue | N. appreciate | O. through | |

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage 1

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

For centuries man have been dreamed of achieving vertical height. In 400 AD Chinese children played with a fan-like toy that spun upwards and fell back to earth as rotation ceased. Leonardo da Vinci conceived the first mechanical apparatus, called a “Helix”, which could carry a person straight up, but this was only a design and was never tested.

The ancient dream was finally realized in 1940 when a Russian immigrant, and aeronautical engineer, piloted a strange-looking craft of steel tubing with a rotating fan on top. It rose awkwardly and vertically into the air from a standing start, hovered a few feet above the ground, went sideways and backwards, and then settled back to earth. That vehicle was called a helicopter.

Imaginations were fired. People dreamed of commuting to work in their own personal helicopter. Every person would have one in his backward. People anticipated that vertical flight transports would carry millions of passengers as the airliners of today do. Such fantastic expectations were not fulfilled.

The helicopter has now become an extremely versatile machine. It excels in military missions, carrying troops, guns and strategic instruments where other aircraft cannot go. Corporations use them as airborne offices,

many metropolitan areas use them in police work, construction and logging companies employ them in various advantageous ways, engineers use them for site selection and surveying, and oil companies use them as the best way to make offshore and remote work stations accessible to crews and supplies. Any urgent mission to a hard-to-get-to place is a likely task for a helicopter. Among their other multitude of uses, they deliver people across town, fly to and from airports, assist in rescue work, and aid in the search for missing or wanted persons.

(<http://magazines.ivillage.com/countryliving>)

21. A helicopter is an aircraft that _____.
- A. can go faster than the ordinary airplane
 - B. can fit up into the smallest possible place
 - C. can fly vertically into the air
 - D. is used only for commercial service
22. What is said about the development of the helicopter?
- A. Helicopters have only been worked on by man since 1940.
 - B. An Englishman was the first to achieve flight in a helicopter.
 - C. Helicopters were considered more dangerous than the early airplanes.
 - D. Some people thought helicopter would be widely used by the average individual.
23. Under what conditions are helicopters found to be almost indispensable?
- A. For overseas passenger transportation.
 - B. For extremely high altitude flight.
 - C. For high-speed transportation.
 - D. For urgent missions to inaccessible places.
24. How has the use of helicopters developed?
- A. Each year they have become larger to accommodate greater loads.
 - B. They are taking the place of highflying jets.
 - C. They are often used for rescuing work.
 - D. They are now used exclusively for commercial projects.