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CONTEMPORARY COLLEGE ENGLISH
(FOR BANDS 4 and 6)

现代大学英语

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前 言

我院俞德圣教授主编的《现代大学英语》，是为大学英语四、六级统考编写的读本，也适合一般中、高级英语学习者使用。

本书的特点是，所选课文突出了题材的多样性、知识性和趣味性，突出了语言的新颖、规范和实用。全书共 16 课，每课含正课文一篇，副课文一篇，属同一题材，提高了词汇的重现率，有利于巩固所学词汇和句法。每课除有课文理解和词汇复习的练习之外，针对大学英语四、六级统考的特点，还专门设计了语法、构词、同义词辨析、反义词、改错等项练习。这些练习题量大，自成体系，必要时可独立使用。语法练习适合具有中级英语水平以上学员的实际需要。着重非真实条件句、虚拟语气、非谓语动词短语、同位语短语、各类从句及从句和各类短语的相互转换、独立结构和倒装句法。词汇量是提高阅读能力的决定性条件。本书每课选出 5 至 8 个最常用的动词，作为学习重点，同时列出动词与其他词搭配构成的常用短语，都配以相当数量的例句。这是学习和掌握常用动词的有效方法。本书大量的词汇练习也是按照英语词汇构成的基本规律和特点设计的，不但可以帮助学员在较短时间内有效地扩大词汇量，还可以使他们掌握这些规律，不断提高辨认词汇以及阅读的能力。改错是项综合性练习，是提高书面语言能力的有效方法，也是六级统考的重点和难点。本书改错练习所用文章片段均选自近几年的英美报刊和书籍。改错的设计由易及难，循序渐进，而且针对中国学生的特点和他们的常见错误，其中包括他们往往“想不到”的简单错误。书后附有全部练习答案。

本书虽是集体编写，但编写方式采用分项负责的方法，而不采分课负责的方法，避免了前后脱节或重复、编写体例不统一的现象。参加本书编写和文字输入及核对工作的有杨盛林、谢冰冰、袁媛、邓继红、刘希棠、张晓东、吴中平、俞蕾、王效杰。

感谢广大读者使用，欢迎批评指正。

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学术著作编委会
一九九五年八月

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LESSON 1

TWO LOAVES OF BREAD

- 1 Miss Martha Meacham kept the little bakery on the corner (the one where you go up three steps, and the bell tinkles when you open the door).
- 2 Miss Martha was forty, her bankbook showed a credit of two thousand dollars, and she possessed two false teeth and a sympathetic heart. Many people have married whose chances to do so were much inferior to Miss Martha's.
- 3 Two or three times a week she received a customer in whom she began to take an interest. He was a middle-aged man wearing spectacles and a brown beard trimmed to a careful point. He spoke English with a strong German accent. His clothes were worn and darned in places, and wrinkled and baggy in others, but he looked neat and had very good manners. He always bought two loaves of stale bread — fresh bread was five cents a loaf and stale ones were two for five. Never did he call for anything but stale bread.
- 4 On one occasion, Miss Martha noticed a red and brown stain on his fingers and decided that he was a struggling artist. No doubt he lived in a garret, where he painted pictures and ate stale bread and thought of the good things to eat in Miss Martha's bakery. Her sympathetic heart beat faster at the picture. In order to test her theory as to his occupation, Miss Martha brought from her room one day a painting that she had purchased at a sale and set it conspicuously against the shelves behind the bread counter. It was a Venetian scene, with a perfectly splendid marble palazzo and a lady in a gondola trailing her hand in the water. No artist could fail to notice it.
- 5 Two days afterward the customer came in again, and he did notice the picture. "You haf here a fine **bicture**, madame."
- 6 "Yes?" said Miss Martha, reveling in her own cunning while wrapping the stale loaves. "I do so admire art and paintings.....you think it is a good picture?"
- 7 "**Der** balance," said the customer, "is not in good drawing. **Der bairspective** of it is not true. **Goot** morning, madame."
- 8 He took the stale bread, bowed politely, and hurried out. Miss Martha carried the picture back to her room. How gentle and kindly his eyes shone behind his spectacles! To be able to judge perspective at a glance and to live on stale bread! But Miss Martha realized that, unfortunate though it is, genius often has to struggle before it is recognized.
- 9 Following that incident, the gentle-mannered artist (for so she thought of him now) would chat for a while. He continued to order the stale bread—never a cake, never a pie, never one of the other delicious pastries in the showcase. He was beginning to look thinner and very discouraged. Miss Martha became concerned, her sympathetic heart ached to add some delicacy to his meager purchase, but her courage failed. She did not dare af-

front him, for she understood the pride of artists.

- 10 Miss Martha took to wearing her blue-dotted silk waist behind the counter. One day the customer came in as usual, laid his nickel on the showcase, and called for his stale loaves. While Miss Martha was reaching for them there was a great tooting and clanging, and a fire engine came lumbering past.
- 11 The kind customer hurried to the door to look, as anyone will. Struck with sudden inspiration, Miss Martha seized the occasion so opportunely offered. On the bottom shelf behind the counter was a pound of fresh butter left by the dairyman minutes before. With a bread knife Miss Martha quickly made a deep slash in each of the stale loaves, inserted a generous quantity of butter, and pressed the loaves tight again. When the gentleman turned back to the counter, she was tying the paper around them as usual.
- 12 When he had gone, after an unusually pleasant little chat, Miss Martha smiled to herself. She was pleased with her daring and generous impulse, but her heart was fluttering in anxiety. Had she been too bold? Would he take offense? Surely he would not; there was no language of edibles, and butter was no emblem of unmaidenly forwardness.
- 13 For a long time that day her mind dwelt on the imagined scene when he should discover her little deception. Probably he would lay down his brushes and palette and stand by his easel with the picture he was painting — the perspective, of course, would be beyond criticism. Then he would prepare for his luncheon of dry bread and water; he would slice into the loaf — ah! Miss Martha blushed at the thought. Would he think of the hand that placed it there as he ate? Would he.....
- 14 The front door bell jangled viciously, interrupting the delightful speculations. Miss Martha sighed and hurried to the front, because somebody was making a great deal of noise. Two men were standing before the showcase. One was a young man smoking a pipe (she had never seen him before), and the other was the kindly, poverty — stricken artist for whom her sympathetic heart had interceded only this morning.
- 15 He did not look or act like his usual self — his face was very red, his hat was on the back of his head, his hair was wildly ruffled. He clenched his fists tightly and shook them ferociously at Miss Martha!
- 16 “Dummkopf!” he shouted with extreme loudness. He made a bass drum on Miss Martha’s counter. “You haf shpoilt me,” he cried, his blue eyes blazing angrily behind his spectacles. “I vill tell you, you vas von meddingsome old cat!”
- 17 Miss Martha leaned weakly against the showcase, one hand on her best blue-dotted silk shirtwaist as the pipe-smoking stranger gripped the shouting customer by the collar.
- 18 “Come on, you’ve said enough.” He dragged the irate fellow to the door, and then he turned again to Miss Martha.
- 19 “Guess you ought to be told, Ma’am—that’s Blumberger. He’s an architectural draftsman in the office where I work. He’s been working hard for three months drawing a plan for a new city hall. He was going to enter it in a prize competition; he finished ink-

- ing in the lines yesterday. You know, a draftsman always makes his drawing in pencil first, and when it's done he rubs out the pencil lines with stale bread crumbs.
- 20 "Blumberger's been buying the bread here. Well, today—well, you know, ma'am, that butter isn't—well, Blumberger's plan isn't good for anything now."
- 21 Miss Martha Meacham went into the back room, took off the blue-dotted silk waist, and put on the old brown one; then she returned to sit before the counter.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| tinkle n. 叮叮声 | impulse n. 冲动 |
| bankbook n. 银行存折 | flutter vi. 心绪不宁 |
| credit n. 存款 | take offence 生气 |
| trim v. 修剪(整齐) | edible n. 食品 |
| wrinkle v. (使)起皱纹 n. 皱纹 | emblem n. 象征 |
| darn v. 织补 | unmaidenly forwardness 越出未婚女子规矩的大胆行为 |
| stale adj. 不新鲜的 | dwell vi. 凝思 |
| garret n. 阁楼 | palette n. 调色板 |
| Venetian adj. 威尼斯的 | easel n. 画架 |
| palazzo n. 宫殿 | speculation n. 沉思 |
| gondola n. 冈都拉船 | speculate vi. 沉思 |
| revel vi. 扬扬得意 | rumple vi. 弄乱 |
| at a glance 一眼(看出) | intercede vi. 说好话 |
| pastry n. 点心 | clench vt. 握紧 |
| meager adj. 可怜的 | slim waist n. 宽松上衣 |
| affront vt. 有意冒犯 | irate adj. 激怒的 |
| toot vi. 吹喇叭 n. 嘟嘟(声) | not good for anything 毫无用处 |
| clang vi. 发铿锵声 n. 铃声 | |
| opportunely adv. 及时地 | |

NOTES

- Many people have married whose chances to do so were much inferior to Miss Martha's.
(2)
许多结婚条件远不如玛莎的人, 都结了婚。注意定语从句的位置, 并没有紧跟在被修饰的主语之后。
- He was a middle-aged man wearing spectacles and a brown beard trimmed to a careful point. (3)
请解释前后两个分词短语的不同作用。
- Never did he call for anything but stale bread. (3)
这句以副词 never 开头, 句子采用倒装形式, 类似的词还有 scarcely, hardly, seldom 等, 多是否定或半否定的词。
- "You haf here a fine bicture, Madame." (5)

haf = have, picture = picture

Der balance (7) = The balance

bairspective (7) = perspective 透视

Dummkopf (16) = fool (German) 蠢货 (德语)

shpoilt (16) = spoiled

meddingsome (16) = meddling some 多管闲事

5. But Miss Martha realized that, unfortunate though it is, genius often has to struggle before it is recognized. (8)

‘unfortunate though it is……’ 是部分倒装句。

6. ……; there was no language of edibles, and butter was no emblem of unmaidenly forwardness. (12)

吃的东西不会说话, 黄油也不是有失淑女身份的象征。

USEFUL VERBS

1. NOTICE

1) vt. 注意

- a. On one occasion, Miss Martha noticed a red and brown stain on his fingers and decided that he was a struggling artist.
- b. She didn't notice that a young man was following her.
- c. Did you notice him leave the hall?

2) vi. 注意

- ex. The boy slipped off when the teacher wasn't noticing.
- 3) n. 通告, 注意, 事先通知, 解雇通知, 提前 (申请)
 - a. A large notice was stuck up on the wall.
 - b. The students' movement didn't catch the government's notice.
 - c. The manager left without notice.
 - d. The company gave one-week notice to three employees.
 - e. Two-month notice is required for visa application.

4) noticeable adj. 值得注意的, 可以注意到的

5) until further notice 另行通知

- ex. The conference has adjourned until further notice.

2. TRAIL

1) vt. 拖着, 跟踪

- a. It was a Venetian scene, with a perfectly splendid marble palazzo and a lady in a gondola trailing her hand in the water.
- b. The baby trailed a toy duck after him.
- c. The policeman trailed the thief to his hideout.

2) vi. 慢行, 拖在后面

- a. After 12 hours work, he trailed to his home.
- b. Her long dress trailed on the floor.

- 3) trail off 逐渐失去
- Her interest in the work soon trailed off.
 - His influence trailed off with his removal from the position.

3. HURRY

- 1) vi. 匆匆地走, 赶快
- He took the stale bread, bowed politely, and hurried out.
 - The father hurried to get a doctor, for his baby was seriously ill.
- 2) vt. 使...赶快做, 催促, 赶紧送往
- The boss hurried his staff's work.
 - The mother hurried her son to do his homework.
 - The wounded soldiers were hurried to the hospitals.
- 3) n. 匆忙
- In his hurry, he forgot to lock his door.
 - There is no hurry, have a rest.
- 4) hurry on with 匆忙地做
- ex. As the new semester is drawing near, he is hurrying on with his report on the opening ceremony.
- 5) hurry up 赶紧
- ex. Hurry up, or we'll miss the beginning of the play.
- 6) in a hurry 匆忙
- ex. How can you avoid mistakes in a hurry?

4. SEIZE

- 1) vt. 抓住 (机会〈引申意思〉), 理解. 抓住, 占领, 没收, 逮住
- Struck with sudden inspiration, Miss Martha seized the occasion so opportunely offered.
 - The students can't quite seize the teacher's meaning.
 - The cat seized a rat.
 - The army seized the city.
 - The weapons found in his room were seized by the police.
 - The escaped murderer was seized in the train.
- 2) seizure n. 抓住, 没收
- ex. The customs ordered the seizure of all the smuggled cigarettes.
- 3) seize on 扣留, 不顾一切抓住
- The coastal guards seized on the ship and detained the crew.
 - She would seize on any opportunity to poke into others' businesses.
- 4) seize up 轧住, 捆绑起来
- The typewriter has seized up.
 - The thief was seized up and slashed bitterly.

5. OFFER

- 1) vt. 给予, 提出 (要做某事), 表示, 出价

- a. Miss Martha seized the occasion so opportunely offered.
- b. May I offer you a job?
- c. He offered to buy a car for his son.
- d. They had no criticism to offer.
- e. The doctor offered no hope.
- f. She offered me the house for \$ 700.

2) n. 表示 (给予某物), 提出价格

- a. He had received the offer of a honorary citizen.
- b. We must make a better offer to their firm.

3) offerings n. 祭品

4) offer itself 自动到来

ex. Act when the right moment offers itself. 抓住时机, 当机立断

5) offer one's hand 求婚

6. PURCHASE

1) vt. 购买

- a. Miss Martha brought from her room one day a painting that she had purchased at a sale.
- b. My family is going to purchase a piece of land.

2) n. 购买 (物)

- a. She gave the child some money for the purchase of his friend's birthday gift.
- b. That furniture is a good purchase.

3) purchase tax 消费品零售税

4) purchasing power 购买力

7. LEAN

1) vi. 靠, 倾斜

- a. Miss Martha leaned weakly against the showcase.
- b. He leaned back in his chair, reading the newspaper.
- c. The father told his child not to lean out of windows.
- d. The small tree leaned in the strong wind.

2) vt. 把...靠在

- a. We all lean our bicycles against the wall.
- b. Lily leaned her body over the railing.

3) n. 倾斜 (度)

4) lean on 依赖

ex. Many people prefer to lean on the 'big rice pot' than to have any change in the old structuring.

5) lean over backward 极力, 矫枉过正

ex. He leaned over backward to please his immediate superior.

6) lean towards 倾向于

a. At the meeting, the majority leaned toward his opinion.

EXERCISES:

I. CHOOSE the BEST ANSWER to complete the statement.

1. Miss Martha's guess about her customer's occupation was
 - A. natural considering the evidence.
 - B. not based on fact at all.
 - C. purely objective
2. Miss Martha was interested in her customer primarily because
 - A. his poverty aroused her sympathy
 - B. he was a middle-aged man.
 - C. she had a secret love of art.
3. Blumberger became enraged with Miss Martha because she had
 - A. dared to show pity for him.
 - B. ruined his work.
 - C. failed to recognize his genius
4. The customer's comments about the painting showed that he
 - A. was not an artist.
 - B. knew something about drawing.
 - C. was trying to please Miss Martha.
5. The customer never bought Miss Martha's pastries because of
 - A. his poverty.
 - B. his great dislike of Miss Martha
 - C. some reason not explained.
6. The author expects the reader to
 - A. see the events of the story through Miss Martha's eyes.
 - B. make independent guesses about the facts.
 - C. know what the outcome will be.
7. The surprise that the ending holds for the reader is
 - A. the fact that the customer is not an artist.
 - B. the way in which the bread was used.
 - C. Miss Martha's reaction when she learned the facts.
8. The author uses Miss Martha's blue-dotted silk waist as a symbol for
 - A. her wish to draw romantic attention.
 - B. the routine nature of her work.
 - C. the prosperity of her bakery shop.
9. In his normal day-to-day life, Blumberger was probably
 - A. very gentle and kind.
 - B. always bad-tempered and rude.
 - C. quite unremarkable
10. Miss Martha needed to learn that
 - A. good intentions usually backfire.

- B. one cannot judge people by appearances.
- C. one should not twist facts to suit oneself.

II. VOCABULARY

A. FIND THE WORD in the paragraph that means

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. less good (2) | 5. poor; inadequate (9) |
| 2. making great efforts (4) | 6. moving clumsily (10) |
| 3. attic (4) | 7. opportunity (11) |
| 4. cleverness (6) | 8. thoughts; meditation (14) |

B. Choose the CORRECT MEANING that fits the word as it is used in the paragraph.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 9. kept (1) | B. sensitivity |
| A. fulfilled | C. choice food |
| B. managed | 12. bold (12) |
| C. detained | A. fearless |
| 10. true (7) | B. striking; sharp |
| A. accurate | C. shameless |
| B. loyal | 13. extreme (16) |
| C. lawful | A. farthest away |
| 11. delicacy (9) | B. last; final |
| A. weakness | C. very great; excessive |

C. LOOK BACK at the paragraph and FIND THE WORD OR PHRASE that best FITS in the sentence.

14. He always feels _____ to others because he is poor. (2)
15. After studying English for 2 months, she began to _____ in it. (3)
16. Mr. Smith is a good gardener and his apple trees are well-_____. (1)
17. The poor old lady makes a living by _____ clothes for others. (3)
18. I don't want any meat, for it is a _____. (3)
19. The young man was suspected of murdering, for he had a blood _____ on his shirt. (4)
20. The thief was caught when he _____ in his success. (6)
21. He felt very _____ at his failure. (9)
22. Some fishes are not _____, and are poisonous. (12)
23. Dragon is the _____ of feudalistic China. (12)

GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Present and Future Unreal Conditional Sentence; An unreal condition is not expected to be or will unlikely be fulfilled. Present or future supposed meanings are expressed by would/should (or another past-tense modal) plus the infinitive in the main clause, and usually by the past tense in the conditional clause. There are other ways of expressing unreal conditions. They are; were (was) to (do); should (do)

- Examples: a. If I were a millionaire, I would travel over the world. (Present unreal conditional)
- b. Everything would be alright if he really could arrive in Beijing tomorrow. (Future unreal conditional)

Put the verbs into the correct forms.

1. Marry _____ (be) very sorry if her husband _____ (think) like this.
2. Jack _____ (graduate) with his class if he _____ (be able) to pass the exams.
3. If he _____ (have) enough money, he _____ (take) this dangerous job next week.
4. If the middle-aged man _____ (explain) the usage of the stale bread, Martha _____ (give) him a help soon.
5. If only Soapy _____ (admit) the police-man _____ (forgive) him.
6. If people _____ (know) that there are still some Peso under the sea, they _____ (go) to get them.
7. If Martha _____ (know) the man well, she _____ (ask) him about his job.
8. If I _____ (be) in your position, I _____ (work) very hard.
9. If she _____ (get) U. S. Dollars, she _____ (enter) Harard University next fall.
10. Oh, so beautiful, if I _____ (have) cash at hand. I _____ (buy) it immediately.

CORRECT MISTAKES

FIND and CORRECT the mistake in the sentence or phrase preceding each number in brackets in the following passages.

Passage 1

When I firstly saw him on a street corner in New York, (1) he seemed another middle-age man, not very tall, hair tousled (2) and somewhat messy, pinched-up granny glasses help to complete the portrait of anonymity. (3) It struck me that if this man was only bigger, stronger and more handsome, (4) he may look like Harrison Ford, the actor. (5)

I took second look, saw the trademark scar (6) and realized this was Harrison Ford. For a split second our eyes locking, (7) and his expression seemed to say, "No, I'm not him. " Then we went our respective way. (8)

American novelist John Gregory Dunne has a favorite anecdote with his friends: (9) He and Ford and their wives were having dinner together at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, and Ford had appeared incognito: granny glasses again, a threeday beard and clothes so unremarkable that no one would look twice. (10)

When a phone page blw his cover, there was a major chain's reaction. (11) Heads began to turn. Dunne could hear a grow murmur of excitement; "Indiana JonesIndiana Jones....." (12) Soon all waiters and kitchen staff appeared, (13) eager to see and to serve the daredevil who amazed them with his cinematic heroics. (14) Even in Paris, the glamour works. thinks Dunne. (15) Even at the Ritz.