

《大学英语》辅导丛书 ③

# 《大学英语》阅读理解

张鑫友 王达金 编

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## 前 言

根据全国广播电视大学、电视师范和部分高等院校所选用的《大学英语》教程（北京大学周珊凤、张祥保主编，商务印书馆出版），为了满足广大学员尽快学好该教程的迫切要求，我们组织编写了一套《大学英语》辅导丛书（共三册）。《大学英语》阅读理解便是其中之一。

为了与《大学英语》教程配套，全书分Book One, Book Two, Book Three, Book Four 四个分册。每个分册的篇目与原教程基本相等（考虑第四分册难度较大，其篇目适当减少）。每一课分课文、注释和阅读理解练习三个部分，书末还附有阅读理解练习参考答案。

全书共收录49篇阅读材料，全部文章均选自原著。题材丰富，内容广泛，语言地道，难易适中。在编写过程中，我们尽量保持原教程的体例与编写形式，密切配合电大等教学进度，力求做到知识性与趣味性相统一。通过这一系列的阅读训练，读者能更快地提高阅读理解能力及英语水平。

本书可供电视大学、函授大学学员和大学英语专业学生使用，也可供中学英语教师及具有一定水平的英语自学者参考。

由于水平有限，书中缺点、错误在所难免，敬请广大读者批评、指正。

编 者

## Contents

### BOOK ONE

Lesson One	A Never-to-Be-Forgotten Evening .....	( 1 )
Lesson Two	Christmas .....	( 5 )
Lesson Three	The Left-Footed Thief .....	( 10 )
Lesson Four	Road Safety .....	( 15 )
Lesson Five	A Letter From London .....	( 19 )
Lesson Six	Mail .....	( 25 )
Lesson Seven	Milk .....	( 30 )
Lesson Eight	English—English Everywhere .....	( 35 )
Lesson Nine	The Boy Who Flew Too High .....	( 41 )
Lesson Ten	Traveling in the Jungle .....	( 46 )
Lesson Eleven	London .....	( 51 )
Lesson Twelve	Muhammad Arbab and His Dogs .....	( 56 )
Lesson Thirteen	Why We Walk in Circles .....	( 61 )
Lesson Fourteen	The World Population .....	( 66 )
Lesson Fifteen	Pesos in the Sea .....	( 71 )

### BOOK TWO

Higher Education in Britain .....	( 77 )
-----------------------------------	--------

Lesson Two	The Loving Mother .....	( 83 )
Lesson Three	Man Hunters of the U.S.A. .....	( 90 )
Lesson Four	Arctic Adventure.....	( 96 )
Lesson Five	Television; The Modern Wonder of Electronics.....	( 102 )
Lesson Six	Ace of Aces.....	( 105 )
Lesson Seven	The Vanished City.....	( 111 )
Lesson Eight	Going Fishing.....	( 116 )
Lesson Nine	He Led a Useful Life .....	( 125 )
Lesson Ten	Postmen With Feathers.....	( 131 )
Lesson Eleven	Feast in the Desert .....	( 137 )

### BOOK THREE

Lesson One	How Nice to Be Clean .....	( 146 )
Lesson Two	Education out of School .....	( 153 )
Lesson Three	Mister Imagination.....	( 160 )
Lesson Four	The Mysterious Man-of-War .....	( 166 )
Lesson Five	A Hole-in-the-Ground Hobby .....	( 172 )
Lesson Six	How Stanley Found Livingstone .....	( 179 )
Lesson Seven	Western Manners.....	( 185 )
Lesson Eight	The Pleasures of Eating .....	( 192 )
Lesson Nine	Looking Nice.....	( 200 )
Lesson Ten	The Gift of Fire .....	( 207 )
Lesson Eleven	Your Speech Is Changing .....	( 213 )
Lesson Twelve	Which Was Witch? .....	( 222 )

**Lesson Thirteen** More People and More Products  
..... ( 228 )

**Lesson Fourteen** Mississippi Steamboat Days  
..... ( 235 )

**Lesson Fifteen** Brave Ballerina ..... ( 243 )

## **BOOK FOUR**

**Lesson One** What Do Americans Think ? ..... ( 250 )

**Lesson Two** Danger in Space ..... ( 259 )

**Lesson Three** An Empire and Its Problems  
..... ( 266 )

**Lesson Four** An Empire and Its Problems  
(Continued)..... ( 273 )

**Lesson Five** Freedom From Pain ..... ( 280 )

**Lesson Six** Sons of the Sun ..... ( 287 )

**Lesson Seven** The Telephone and Its Inventor  
..... ( 296 )

**Lesson Eight** A Scientist Looks at Tomorrow  
..... ( 303 )

**阅读理解练习参考答案** ..... ( 312 )

# BOOK ONE

## Lesson One

### A Never-to-Be-Forgotten Evening

This evening was to be a great success. Ted was sure of it. From the very beginning everything went well. There was soft music playing when they entered the restaurant. The waiter showed them to a candle-lit table in the corner.

"What a wonderful place!" said Elizabeth.

"This place used to be a favorite with the college crowd<sup>1</sup> when I was a student," said Ted. "But it is even better now."

The menu was two pages long. There were so many things to choose from that Elizabeth had a hard time making up her mind<sup>2</sup>.

"Did you come here often when you were in college?" she asked after they had finished ordering.

"Oh, no," said Ted, "I couldn't afford it, and besides, I didn't have time. I had to work my way through college."<sup>3</sup>

Elizabeth looked interested. "Tell me about it," she said.

"Well, I won a scholarship<sup>4</sup> to pay my tuition. Then I got a job waiting on tables and washing dishes in a sorority house. That paid for my meals. On Saturday mornings I would get up early and cut grass for my landlady. On weekends<sup>5</sup> I would try getting jobs to do at the Student Center when I wanted extra money."

Elizabeth looked at him with admiration. "How clever you are!" she exclaimed. "With so much work to be done and lessons to study, you must have been very busy."

"At least, I got along," Ted replied. "I am used to hard work."

It was getting late when the waiter brought the check and they started getting ready to leave. This had been a wonderful evening, Ted thought. Elizabeth had enjoyed the dinner; moreover, he thought he had made a good impression on her.<sup>6</sup> He began feeling in his pocket for his billfold, but it was not to be found. Where could it be? He had changed his clothes in a hurry, and could not remember taking it out of the pocket of his other suit.

He thought he would rather die than reveal his predicament. Nevertheless, he had to do it, so there was no use putting it off<sup>7</sup>. Ted turned to Elizabeth.

"A black cat crossed my path<sup>8</sup> this morning, and now

I'm on the spot, " he said.

"What's the matter?" she inquired.

"You don't happen to have a ten-dollar bill, do you?" he asked, "I will pay you back tomorrow."

### Notes

1. college crowd 大学生
2. make up one's mind 作出决定
3. I had to work my way through college. 在大学期间, 我只得自己奋斗。
4. scholarship 奖学金
5. on weekends 在周末 (系美国用法, 英国用at week-ends)
6. ...he had made a good impression on her. 他给她留下了很好的印象。
7. put it off 摆脱 (或回避) 这件事
8. A black cat crossed my path... 我偶然遇见了一件倒霉的事……

### Multiple Choice

1. The place where Ted and Elizabeth went is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a college dining-room.      B. a museum  
C. a restaurant      D. a hotel

2. Ted did not come here very often when he was in college because \_\_\_\_.
- A. he couldn't afford it.
  - B. he was not allowed to come here
  - C. he didn't have time
  - D. he couldn't afford it and he didn't have time, either
3. How did he get money for his meals when he was in college?
- A. He got money for his meals from his family.
  - B. He got money for his meals by cutting the grass for his landlady.
  - C. He got money for his meals from his friends.
  - D. He got money for his meals by waiting on tables and washing dishes in a sorority house.
4. As a student, Ted was very busy because \_\_\_\_.
- A. he had many lessons to study
  - B. he not only wasted on tables and washed dishes but cut the grass for his landlady
  - C. he got jobs to do at the Student Center
  - D. he had not only many lessons to study but a lot of work to do
5. Ted asked Elizabeth to pay for their dinner because \_\_\_\_.
- A. he forgot to bring some money
  - B. he left his billfold in the pocket of his other suit
  - C. he was poor

D. he met a black cat that morning

6. From this passage we can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Elizabeth was his girl friend

B. Elizabeth was his workmate

C. Elizabeth was his wife

D. Elizabeth was his sister

## Lesson Two

### Christmas

December 25 is celebrated as the birthday of Christ<sup>1</sup>. No one is certain why this day was chosen. It was chosen probably because, according to the calendar then in use, December 25 was the time of the year when winter days begin to grow longer in the Northern Hemisphere<sup>2</sup>. The sun-worshippers<sup>3</sup> had celebrated this day as the promise of spring.

Over the years, a number of special customs associated with Christmas have grown up<sup>4</sup>. Many of these have been introduced from Europe, while others have their origin in America.

Christmas music is loved by all who hear and sing it every year. Christmas songs, bells, and merry music have been a part of Christmas for centuries. The Christmas tree is the symbol of the spirit of Christmas

in many homes. Trees were not used in English homes until a German prince married Queen Victoria. The prince had the first decorated Christmas tree set up at Windsor Castle<sup>5</sup> in 1841. The first Christmas trees in the New World<sup>6</sup> were introduced by Hessian soldiers<sup>7</sup> in 1776, during the Revolutionary War. Later German immigrants brought the tradition into wider use in the United States.

The custom of decorating a community tree for outdoor display began in the early 1900's and is a favourite custom all over America today. Since 1933, Rockefeller Plaza<sup>8</sup>, in New York City, has put up a giant tree, beautifully decorated with lights. The trees are about 30 meters tall. Some 7,000 colored lights have been used to light them. Each year at Washington, D.C., there is a national tree lighting ceremony. The President of the United States pulls the switch that lights the brightly decorated new community Christmas tree on the White House<sup>9</sup> lawn.

Some families open their presents on Christmas Eve; others wait for the next morning. Some boys' and girls' presents are placed in stockings and hung at the foot of their beds; others find their gifts under the Christmas tree.

Greeting cards began in England. One of the first artists to design and send a Christmas card in 1843 was John C. Horsley. The cards were printed in black

and white and colored by hand. About 1000 of them were sold in London that year. At about the same time, another English artist, William Egley, designed a card and had it printed. He sent it to his friend with the now familiar message 'A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.'<sup>10</sup>

A German immigrant, Louis Prang, designed and sold colored Christmas cards in 1874. In less than 10 years his shop was turning out 5,000,000 cards a year.

Today greeting cards have become a big industry and billions of cards are sent all over the world every Christmas. Whatever language the greetings are written in, the message is the same—a wish for peace and goodwill among all people.

Notes

1. Christ 基督, 耶稣
2. the Northern Hemisphere 北半球
3. sun-worshippers 崇拜太阳的人
4. grow up 形成
5. Windsor Castle (英国王室的) 温莎宫
6. the New World 新世界 (指美国)
7. Hessian soldiers 黑森士兵 (指英军中的德国雇佣兵)

8. Rockefeller Plaza 洛克菲勒广场  
9. the White House 白宫  
10. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 圣诞快乐, 新年幸福。

### Multiple Choice

1. A number of special customs associated with Christmas have been introduced \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. from Germany      B. from Europe  
C. from America      D. from both Europe and America
2. The Christmas tree first set up in Britain was in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 1776      B. 1841  
C. 1933      D. 1843
3. For hundreds of years, people have enjoyed hearing and singing \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Christmas songs and bells  
B. bells and merry music  
C. Christmas songs, bells and merry music  
D. Christmas songs and merry music
4. In many homes the symbol of the spirit of Christmas is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the Christmas tree      B. the Christmas song  
C. the Christmas card      D. the Christmas present

5. One of the favourite customs of the American people during Christmas season is to \_\_\_\_ .
- A. decorate a community tree for outdoor display
  - B. see friends
  - C. sing Christmas songs
  - D. give each other presents
6. Greeting cards with messages were first designed and printed by \_\_\_\_ .
- A. John C. Horsley
  - B. William Egley
  - C. Louis Prang
  - D. William Egley and Louis Prang
7. December 25 is not only celebrated as the birthday of Christ but also as \_\_\_\_ .
- A. New Year
  - B. the Spring Festival
  - C. the promise of spring
  - D. Thanksgiving Day
8. This passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_ .
- A. the origin of Christmas
  - B. how Americans celebrate the birthday of Christ
  - C. special customs associated with Christmas
  - D. Christmas trees and Christmas cards

## Lesson Three

### The Left-Footed Thief

"Did I ever tell you," my grandfather said, "how I caught the sheep stealer?"

"Well, one day Fred and I went down to the sheep pasture to salt the sheep<sup>1</sup>. When I called them together, my great prize sheep was gone. -

"I know it wasn't a dog that had done it, because the rest of the sheep were calm. It could have been an accident. Or it could have been the Godtreys, Turpins, Harrises, or Freedoms. They were the families that did everything bad in the county. " " "

"Fred and I walked along the fence and looked for a break<sup>2</sup>. When we crossed the fence and started to walk down the road, something about the footprints kept bothering Fred. He turned around and stepped back toward the wall. Then he called to me. The bootprints were all left-footed!

"We hitched up<sup>3</sup> and drove to town to tell the sheriff, and on the way I did something of thinking. 'It couldn't be a Freedom,' I told Fred, 'because all the Freedom boys are in jail. The Harrises are sick, and the doctor told me yesterday that none of them

will get out of bed for a week. So it's a Turpin or a Godfrey.'

'The sheriff listened to us and took notes of what we said. When we were through with him we decided to go to Albert Wrigley's store. In front of the window, Fred stopped still as a shot rabbit'. There were two work boots in the window, both for the right foot.

'We went inside and took the boots out of the window to get a good look at them. There was nothing to keep them from being mates of the boots we were looking for.'

'I asked Albert, 'Who's wearing the mates of those boots in the window?'

'Old Albert nearly jumped out of his skin'. 'What do you know about the left-foot boots?' I told Albert the whole story. 'Doggone!' he said when I'd finished. 'It was just yesterday. I stepped into the back room for half a minute once all day. It must have happened then, but I didn't notice until I was closing up.'

'All we have to do,' I said, 'is lie down on the grass outside and look at feet until we see two left feet taking a walk together.'

'But Albert didn't have much of a sense of humor'. 'Not even a Harris or a Godfrey would be dumb enough to wear them in town,' he snapped.

'For a short while we just stood there without