

北京大学成人教育系列辅导教材

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修订本

精读

2

自学指导

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COLLEGE
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内 容 简 介

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本书根据上海外语教育出版社出版的《大学英语》(修订本)精读Ⅱ编写而成。内容根据教材分课编排,每课分为背景知识、课文讲解、自测练习、参考译文和练习答案五部分。

本书可供具有高中英语水平的自学者使用,也可供使用《大学英语》(修订本)精读Ⅱ的高等院校师生参考。

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前 言

本参考书主要为具有高中英语水平的自学者而编写。根据新的教材分课编排，补充了不少新词和例句。每课分为背景知识、课文讲解、自测练习、参考译文和练习答案五部分。注释主要帮助自学者正确理解课文的内容，正确应用词汇、词组及短语。本书注意到英语的意形结合，注意到句子的结构、形式，及所借助的各种连接手段，因此注释从长句、难句出发，对结构复杂的句子作了简单的分析，以帮助自学者确定句子的功能及意义。词、词组及短语基本上是根据在课文中的意思同时用英、汉语进行解释。例句都附有译文，便于自学者测试自己是否能应用这些短语。看完句子注释后，自学者便能够确定句子在课文中的意义，并可以通过课文后的自测练习和参考译文，测试自己对词汇用法的掌握和对课文理解的正确性，提高阅读的能力。练习中的难点在课文注释中基本上都已提到，其中的生词附有汉语翻译。在编写过程中，参考了《大学英语》精读教师用书及其他参考书。

编 者

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Unit One

Is There Life on Earth?

一、背景知识

太阳系有九大行星，按离太阳由近及远的顺序排列如下：

水星 (Mercury)、金星 (Venus)、地球和月亮 (Earth and Moon)、火星 (Mars)、木星 (Jupiter)、土星 (Saturn)、天王星 (Uranus)、海王星 (Neptune)、冥王星 (Pluto)。本课文的作者是从金星人的角度来描述地球的，除了太阳和月球外，金星是夜空中最亮的天体，日出时，它出现在天空，称为晨星 (the morning star)，而日落时，称为昏星 (the evening star)。

课文中有关金星的短语为：the Venus Institute of Technology 金星理工学院

The Venus Evening Star 金星晚报

Venus beings 金星人

二、课文讲解

1. On the planet of Venus 在金星上

1) compare the following:

planet 行星

star 恒星，星

satellite 卫星

man-made satellite 人造卫星

2) of 表示同位关系

We live in the city of Beijing. 我们住在北京市。

2. manage (to do sth.): succeed in accomplishing or handling esp. with an effort 能，设法做

He managed to finish his homework in one hour.

他设法一小时内完成家庭作业。

Though my father was busy, he managed to squeeze a Sunday in with us.

我父亲虽然忙，但设法挤出时间和我们一起度过星期日。

3. signal: *n.* movement, message, device, etc. used to convey information 信号，暗号

The driver made a signal with his arm for a left turn.

司机伸出手臂示意要左转弯。

v. send a signal or signals to 向……发信号, 用信号示意

We signaled a passing ship for help.

我们向一艘过往的船发出了求救信号。

4. ... and it has been sending back signals as well as photographs ever since.

1) send back: to cause (something or someone) to return 使返回, 送回

If you're not satisfied with the meal in this restaurant, you should send it back.

如果你不满意餐馆的饭菜, 应该将它退回。

Will you send the book back to me when you've finished reading it?

你看完这本书后, 请送还给我, 行吗?

2) ever since: from then till now (副词短语) 自那以后, 自从(以来)

She fell ill on Monday and has been in bed ever since.

她星期一就病倒了, 自那以后一直卧床不起。

since *conj.* 自……以来

I have been looking forward to meeting you ever since Arthur told me.

自从阿瑟告诉我以来, 我一直盼望着和你见面。

3) as well as *conj.* 同(……一样也), 和, 也, 还

It is important for you as well as for me.

这对你重要, 对我也一样

5. The satellite was directed into an area known as Manhattan (named after the great Venetian astronomer Prof. Manhattan, who first discovered it with his telescope 20,000 light years ago).

1) direct *vt.* aim (movement) (in the stated direction) 把……朝着, 对着

We directed our steps towards the house.

我们迈步朝那栋房屋走去。

2) known as : called, generally recognized as 叫做, 称为, 公认为

known as Manhattan 叫做曼哈顿, known as 为分词短语, 修饰 area

She was well known as an excellent dancer.

她作为优秀舞蹈家而出名。

3) be named after: be given the same name as 以……而命名

The district of Columbia is named after the discoverer of America Columbus.

哥伦比亚特区是以发现美洲的人哥伦布的名字而命名的。

4) light year 光年

6. extremely: very 极其, 非常

It's extremely silly of her to be always repeating what her husband says.

她老是重复她丈夫说的话, 真是太傻了。

7. ... as to the feasibility of a manned flying saucer landing on Earth.

1) as to 引入的介词短语作定语, 修饰 information, 意为“有关……的资料”

as to: about, concerned 有关, 关于, 至于

He has no complaint as to his job.

至于工作，他毫无抱怨。

2) manned flying saucer landing on Earth 是带有逻辑主语的分词短语，作介词 of 的宾语。这句话的意思是有关载人飞碟在地球着陆的可能性。

8. feasibility: possibility of being carried out or done 可行性，可能性

The scientists doubted the feasibility of the project.

科学家对该项目的可行性有所怀疑。

9. conference: meeting (formal usage)

She left office early today because she had to attend a parent-teacher conference at her son's school.

她今天提前离开办公室，因为她得去她儿子的学校参加家长座谈会。

10. We have come to the conclusion, based on last week's satellite landing

1) come to a/the conclusion : reach or draw a /the conclusion 得出结论

I have come to the conclusion that the latest new medicine does not work.

我已经得出结论，这种新药不起作用。

2) base...on : build or found...on, use...as a basis for 以……为基础

The song is based on an old folk tune.

这首歌是以一首古老的民歌曲调为基础的。

Alice always bases her opinions on the facts.

爱丽斯的想法总是以事实为基础的。

11. For one thing, Earth's surface in the area of Manhattan is composed of solid concrete and nothing can grow there.

1) 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") 即汉语的“拿一点来说吧”，“例如说”，“一则（再则）”。

The house was poorly built; for one thing, the roof leaked.

这所房屋盖得不好，比如说，屋顶漏水。

For one thing I don't like the colour, and for another the price is too high.

一则，我不喜欢这颜色，再则，价格太高。

2) be composed of : be made up of 由……组成

Our class is composed of 30 students.

我们班由 30 个学生组成。

Water is composed of oxygen and hydrogen.

水由氢和氧组成。

12. atmosphere:

a) all the gases round the earth 大气，空气

The room has a stuffy atmosphere.

这房间空气闷热。

b) the feeling the mind receives from a place, conditions, etc. 气氛

We all like Tom because he can always create a lively atmosphere wherever he stays.

我们大家都喜欢汤姆，因为无论他在那儿，总是能造成活跃的气氛。

13. deadly: causing death; likely to cause death 致命的，死一般的

I regret to tell you that his mother died of a deadly disease.

我很遗憾地告诉你，他母亲死于一种致命的疾病。

14. survive:

a) remain alive 活下来，幸存下来

Few deer survived the severe winter last year.

去年冬天寒冷异常，活下来的鹿寥寥无几。

b) live longer than 寿命更长

He survived his daughter.

他女儿死了，他却依然活着。

15. as far as ...be concerned: as for, in respect of 就……而言

They can go when they like, as far as I'm concerned.

就我而言，只要他们愿意就可以走。

As far as color is concerned, I prefer this suit.

就颜色而言，我宁愿要这套衣服。

16. originally: formerly 起初，原先

The used bike was originally 100 yuan.

这辆旧车原来的售价是 100 元。

17. hazard: danger 危害

Smoking is a hazard to your health.

吸烟危害你的健康。

18. You see this dark black cloud hovering over the surface of Earth?

1) see + 宾语 (O) + 宾语补语 (OC)

cloud (O) hovering over the surface of Earth (OC)

2) dark 暗色的，深色的

dark black 深黑的

dark grey 深灰的

This paint is too dark; I want a brighter colour.

这张画的颜色太暗，我想要一张鲜艳点的。

3) hover over: keep floating over 盘旋

The big bird, high in the sky, is hovering over a mouse.

这只大鸟，在高空飞翔，正在一只老鼠上方盘旋。

The fear of dismissal has been hovering over me ever since the director's warning.

自董事长警告以来，我一直害怕被解雇。

19. indicate: show 表明，表示

What she said indicated that she was unwilling to do so.

她的话表明她不愿意这样做。

20. pollute: make dirty with man-made waste 污染，弄脏

The plant polluted the air with smoke.

这座工厂排放的烟污染了空气。

21. ... and the water is unfit to drink.

某些形容词，如 fit, difficult, easy, 后面可以跟不定式（作状语）。例如：

The question is difficult to answer.

It is difficult to answer the question. (to answer the question 作主语)

这两个句子，虽然结构不同，但意思基本一致。意思为“这个问题很难回答”。

The book is easy to read.

It is easy to read the book.

这本书容易阅读。

22. be unfit (to do sth. /for sth.) : be not suitable (for sth. / doing sth.) 不适合，不合适

This hat is unfit for winter wear.

这种帽子不适合冬天戴。

23. emit: send out 发出，散发

In order to find E. T. s(外星人), some scientists have been emitting radio signals to outer space for a long time.

为了找到外星人，一些科学家长期一直向太空发射无线电信号。

24. ... and keep crashing into each other.

1) keep doing sth. : continue (doing sth.); do (sth.) repeatedly 使继续处于某种状态

Our parents keep encouraging us to study hard.

家长一直鼓励我们努力学习。

I'm sorry you've been kept waiting.

对不起，让您久等了。

2) "Keep" and "keep on" have almost the same meaning, but "keep on" puts more emphasis on the idea of repetition or determination.

keep 与 keep on 意义基本相同，但 keep on 强调继续（干），坚持（干）

Don't you keep on asking me questions like that ?

难道你一定要问我这样的问题吗？

People kept on coming to the hospital to see him.

人们不断到医院来看望他。

3) crash into: to (cause to) hit (something or someone) with force, usu. accidentally 猛撞

I crashed into a street light and hurt my knee.

我猛然撞上了街灯，伤了膝盖。

The car crushed into a bus on the bridge.

轿车在桥上撞上了公共汽车。

25. smash: (cause to) break into pieces violently 撞碎，打破

The firemen smashed in the door.

消防队员破门而入。

26. stick up: project upwards; stand upright or on end 耸立, 直立

His feet stuck up in the air as he fell over backwards.

当他后仰摔倒在地时, 两脚朝天。

Stick up your hand if you know the answer.

如果你们知道答案, 请举起手。

27. type: *n.* class or group having sth. in common 类型, 种类

I like the new type of dictionary.

我喜欢这种新型的字典。

28. give off: send out, emit (sth. esp. a liquid, gas or smell) (散) 发出

give out: send out (sth. such as sound or light) 散发, 分发

The sun gives out light and heat to the earth.

太阳把光和热撒向大地。

This kind of coal gives off a lot of smoke.

这种煤燃烧时烟很大。

The flowers gave off a pleasant smell.

这些花散发出怡人的香味。

The monitor gave the books out.

班长把书发给了大家。

29. set back: cause to put off or get behind schedule, reverse the progress of 耽误, 延缓, 阻挠

Shortage of the right materials has set us back.

必要材料的短缺耽误了我们。

The bad weather will set back our building plans.

天气不好延误了我们的建筑计划。

30. the Grubstart 格拉布贷款基金会

这个词是作者自己根据英语词“grubstake”创造出来的, grubstake 的意思是贷款。

31. fund:

- a) sum of money set apart for a special purpose 基金, 专款

The primary task of a university president in the USA is to raise funds.

在美国, 大学校长的重要任务是筹集资金。

- b) store or supply (of non-material things) 储备, 贮存

My grandmother has a great fund of stories.

我祖母满脑子装的都是故事。

32. zilch: 美英语口语语言, 意思为零 (zero or nothing)

—— “Can I borrow 10 yuan?” —— “Sorry, I’ve got zilch.”

“能借我十元吗?” “对不起, 我身无分文。”

在课文中, “zilch” 似乎是用作货币单位, 如元, 美元等, billions of zilch 表示 bil-

lions of nothing, 花了亿万个零元, 作者用这两个对立的词表现了一种幽默。

三、自测练习

按括号中英语或汉语的意思完成下列句子, 注意动词形态的变化:

1. A drop of rain just _____ (落到) my nose, so it must be starting to rain.
2. Will you _____ the book _____ (return, 送回, 使返回) to me when you have finished reading it.
3. Tasmania was _____ (give the same name as, 以……而命名) its discoverer A. J. Tasman.
4. He _____ (hit with force, 猛撞) a street light and hurt his knees.
5. Bad weather _____ (delay, 耽误) the construction of the building by a month.
6. This means we shall have to carry our water which will _____ even greater weight _____ (increase, 增加) the saucer.
7. I am sorry I have _____ (给你添了很多麻烦) by doing so.
8. The bird _____ (盘旋) the lawn for a few seconds before landing in the tree.
9. The group was _____ (be made up of, 由……组成) teachers, students and their parents.
10. We _____ (得出结论) that it would be unwise to accept his suggestion.

四、参考译文

这是一篇幽默小品。但你读完以后一定会发现, 作者写这篇文章是极为严肃的。

地球上生命吗?

本周金星上群情激动异常。金星上的科学家首次把一颗卫星成功地送上了地球, 此后卫星便不断地发回信号和照片。

卫星对准发射的地区叫曼哈顿 (是以金星上伟大的天文学家曼哈顿教授的名字命名的, 在两万光年之前该教授用望远镜首次发现了这个地区)。

由于天气条件极为有利, 信号极为清晰, 金星科学家们从而获得了有关载人飞碟能否在地球上着陆的宝贵资料。于是, 在金星理工学院举行了一次记者招待会。

“根据上周发射的卫星所提供的资料,” 佐格教授说, “我们已经得出结论: 地球上没有生命。”

“这您是怎么知道的呢?” 《金星晚报》的科学记者问。

“首先, 曼哈顿地区的地球表面均由坚固的混凝土构成, 那里什么东西也无法生长。另外, 大气层中充满了一氧化碳和其他致命的气体, 任何人呼吸了这种空气都不可能生存。”

“这对我们的飞碟计划来说又意味着什么呢?”

“这意味着我们必须随身携带我们所需要的氧气，这样一来，飞碟就要比我们原先计划的重量多。”

“你们在研究中有没有发现其他什么危险呢？”

“请看这张照片。诸位看到在地球表面上方飘浮的这片深黑色的云彩吗？我们把它叫做爱迪生联合电器公司带。虽然我们还不知道它含有什么成分，但是它很可能会给我们带来许多麻烦，我们还必须做更多的试验，然后才能把金星人送往地球。”

“这边，诸位可以看到像是一条河的东西，不过卫星探测的结果表明它已被污染，河水不宜饮用。这意味着我们必须自己带水，这就会给飞碟增加更多的重量。”

“先生，照片上那些小小的黑点是什么？”

“我们也不清楚。它们好像是一些沿着某些轨道运动的金属微粒。它们排放气体，发出噪音，而且不断地相互碰撞。那儿有很多这样的轨道，很多这样的金属微粒，要使飞碟在那儿着陆而不被某一颗金属物撞毁是很难办到的。”

“那些笔直竖立的石笋状凸出物是什么东西？”

“它们是某种夜间会发光的花岗岩结构。格洛姆教授把它们叫做摩天大楼，因为它们好像已经擦到了天。”

“如果您所说的都是事实，那飞碟计划不就要推迟好多年吗？”

“是的，但一俟格拉布贷款基金会把追加的资金给我们，我们就会立即实施这一计划。”

“佐格教授，既然地球上没有生命，那我们为什么还要花费亿万个零元向那儿发射飞碟呢？”

“因为如果我们金星人能学会在地球的大气层中呼吸的话，那我们可以在任何地方生存了。”

五、练习答案

(一) 自测练习

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. landed on | 2. send back | 3. named after |
| 4. crashed into | 5. set back | 6. add to |
| 7. given you a lot of trouble | 8. hovered over | 9. composed of |
| 10. come to the conclusion | | |

(二) 练习答案

Key to Study & Practice

Comprehension of the Text

II.

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. c | 2. b | 3. a | 4. d |
| 5. d | 6. b | 7. a | 8. c |

III. (Omitted)

Vocabulary

IV.

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. extremely | 2. hazard | 3. pollute | 4. originally |
| 5. indicate | 6. survive | 7. atmosphere | 8. conclusion |
| 9. proceed | 10. conference | | |

V.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. had paid attention to | 2. notice |
| 3. had noticed | 4. Pay attention to |
| 5. noticed | 6. attention has been paid to |

VI.

- | | | | |
|---------|------------------|---------|----------|
| 1. cost | 2. spend | 3. cost | 4. spend |
| 5. paid | 6. had been paid | 7. pay | 8. pay |
| 9. cost | 10. has spent | | |

VII.

- | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. polluted | 2. indicated | 3. conclusion, hazard | 4. known as | 5. giving off |
| 6. type | 7. based on | 8. crashing into | 9. deadly | 10. originally |
| 11. stick up | 12. proceeded | 13. as to | 14. smashed (was/got smashed) | |

VIII.

1. The earth's surface is mostly composed of water.
2. Ice and snow on the roads both create hazards for drivers during the Christmas season.
3. The youngest child survived the earthquake, but the rest of the family died.
4. Crime has made some streets in many American cities unfit to live.
5. Several cars crashed into each other on the highway due to the fog.
6. The rider of the motorbike made a signal with his arm for a left turn.

Word Building

IX.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| acceptance | guide |
| appearance | performance |
| arrive | proposal |
| depend | refuse |
| difference | remove |
| disturb | signal |
| exist | survive |
| conference | insist |

X.

1. dressmaker
2. troublemaker

3. weedkiller
4. recordholder
5. timekeeper
6. a person who owns land
7. a person who sells books
8. a person whose work is building ships
9. a person whose job is to drive a taxicab
10. an instrument for opening cans

Structure

XI.

1. Henry couldn't take part in the sports meet because of his broken leg.
2. We were sorry to hear that Mr. Davidson had to retire at the age of fifty because of his poor health.
3. They didn't go to the concert because of the heavy snow.
4. It was because of the noise that I couldn't fall asleep.

XII.

1. It is rather difficult to pronounce.
2. It is easy to explain as far as I know.
3. It is as difficult to manage as Henry's.
4. It will be fit to wear if you shorten the sleeves.
5. To tell the truth, it is impossible to answer.
6. It is not possible to see in advance.

XIII.

1. as far as I am concerned
2. As far as we students are concerned
3. As far as the method itself is concerned
4. As far as ability is concerned
5. as far as the acting and music are concerned
6. As far as the structure is concerned

Cloze

XIV.

(A)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| (1) feasibility | (2) based on | (3) conclusions | (4) unfit |
| (5) polluted | (6) deadly | (7) atmosphere | (8) extremely |
| (9) For another | (10) survive | (11) set back | (12) proceed |

(B)

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|------------|-------------|
| (1) he | (2) it | (3) danger | (4) problem |
|--------|--------|------------|-------------|

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| (5) different | (6) but | (7) others | (8) changing |
| (9) that | (10) continue | (11) ourselves | (12) future |
| (13) ask | (14) people | (15) world | (16) today |
| (17) necessary | (18) environment | (19) world | (20) in |
| (21) around | (22) prevent | (23) at | (24) protect |
| (25) everyone | (26) save | | |

Translation

IV.

1. Gases such as carbon monoxide, emitted by factories and automobiles, have seriously polluted the atmosphere.
2. The industrial engineer's letter indicates that he doubts the feasibility of the plan.
3. Many parents in the United States set aside a fund for their children's education before they are born.
4. I have made sure that her conclusion is based on facts.
5. The medical team, composed of three doctors and two nurses, set off for the mountain (ous) area a few days ago.
6. The village is named after the high mountain that stands in front of it.
7. He was ill for about a week, which has really set him back in his studies.
8. The war that broke out between the North and the South in 1861 is known in history as the American Civil War.

Key to Reading Practice

Exercise A

1. the mixture of smoke and fog
2. the noun form of "attract" —something that attracts
3. with suspicion
4. the noun form of "sense (v.)" —feeling coming from the senses
5. not comfortable
6. the noun form of "tolerate" —the capacity to endure hardship or pain
7. the adjective form of "surgery" — of or for surgery
8. the noun form of "pollute" — the state of being polluted

Exercise B

1. F (This article is a literary satire in which facts are overstated or exaggerated.)
2. T
3. F (The narrator was there to give lectures.)
4. F (He could not put up with the fresh air in Flagstaff.)

5.T

6.F (The polluted air made his eyes water and caused him to sneeze.)

7.T

8.T

Exercise

新鲜空气会让你送命

(1) 烟雾曾是洛杉矶的一大景观，如今却在全国各地——从蒙大拿州的比尤特到纽约市——随处可见；人们越来越习惯于受污染的空气，现在要他们呼吸点别的什么玩意儿，反倒十分困难了。

前些日子我在做巡回演讲，其中有一站是亚利桑那州的弗拉格斯塔夫，该城地处海拔7 000 英里以上。

我一下飞机就闻到某种特别的怪味。

“那是股什么味儿？”我问那个来机场接我的人。

“我可没闻到什么啊，”他说。

“肯定有股我不熟悉的怪味儿，”我说。

“哦，你准是在说新鲜空气吧。不少来这儿的人以前从没呼吸过新鲜空气。”

“那玩意儿用来干嘛的？”我狐疑地问。

“不干嘛。你就像呼吸任何别的空气那样呼吸好了。据说对肺有好处。”

“这说法我从没听说过，”我说。“如果这也算是空气，那我的眼睛怎么没在淌眼泪呢？”

“新鲜空气不会让你眼睛流眼泪的，它的好处就在于此。可以省掉你不少面巾纸。”

我环顾四周，一切都显得水晶般地清澈。这倒给人一种怪异的感觉，让我觉得浑身不自在。

我的东道主觉察出了这点，便设法拿话来宽慰我。(2) “请不要为此担心。试验业已证明，你尽可日夜呼吸新鲜空气，而不会对身体造成任何伤害。”

“你说这话无非是不想让我离开罢了，”我说，“住惯了大城市的人，要他们长时间呼吸新鲜空气，谁都受不了的。这玩意消受不了。”

“噢，要是新鲜空气真让你烦心的话，你干吗不用手帕捂住鼻子，用嘴来呼吸？”

“对呀，我来试试。(3) 如果早知道我来的地方只有新鲜空气，我就会带一只口罩来了。”

我们开着车，沉默无语。过了刻把钟，他问：“这会儿你觉得怎么样？”

“我想还可以吧，不过我倒是很想能再打个喷嚏。”

“我们这儿的人不常打喷嚏，”那人并不讳言。“你们那儿的人常打喷嚏吗？”

“时时刻刻都在打。有些日子你就是光打喷嚏不干别的。”

“你们很喜欢打喷嚏呀？”

“那倒未必，可要是不打喷嚏你不就没命了嘛。我问你，这一带怎么会没有空气污染的？”

“弗拉格斯塔夫似乎引不起工业界的兴趣。我想我们确实太落伍了。我们只有在印第安人发信号相互传递信息时，才会有点烟雾。可是一阵风似乎就将它吹散了。”

新鲜空气搞得我头昏眼花。“附近难道没有烧柴油的公共汽车，好让我钻进去呼吸一两个小时？”

“这时候可没有公共汽车。也许我可以给你找辆卡车。”

(4) 我们找到一位卡车司机，塞给他一张五美元钞票，于是他便让我把头贴近卡车排气管吸了半小时。我立刻恢复了元气，能够发表演讲了。

我离开弗拉格斯塔夫时的那股快活劲儿，没有谁能同我相比。(5) 我下一站是洛杉矶；我一下飞机，便深深地吸了一大口满是烟雾的空气，我的双眼开始流眼泪，我开始打喷嚏，于是我觉得自己脱胎换骨变了个人似的。

Key to Writing Practice

Part I

1, 2, 8, 6, 7, 4, 5, 3

Part II

Venusian scientists were very excited about a satellite they had landed on the planet Earth. The satellite had been sending back valuable information from a place called Manhattan. After studying the signals and photographs, the scientists have discovered some important facts about the Earth. For one thing, it is impossible for anything to grow on Earth because its surface is made up of solid concrete. For another, the atmosphere is full of deadly gases. Clearly no one can stay alive if he has to breathe this air. Also, a dark black cloud, known as the Consolidated Edison Belt, hovers over the Earth. It threatens all life forms. Finally, the water on Earth is so polluted that no humans or animals could possibly drink it. Based on these discoveries, Venusian scientists have concluded that there is no life on Earth.