

English Extensive Reading for Colleges and Universities

大学英语泛读 (上)

龚晓华 编



北京大学出版社

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编者说明

本教材是根据“高等学校英语专业基础阶段教学大纲”的要求编写的。它是一套循序渐进,具有科学性、知识性、趣味性的阅读课本,主要供高等院校英语专业一年级学生的泛读课使用,也可供高等院校其它专业、教育学院、职大、电大、业大的英语泛读课选用。

本书旨在使学生通过较大量的阅读实践、阅读技能的训练和词汇知识的扩展,提高其阅读理解力,培养其假设判断、分析归纳、推理验证等逻辑思维能力以及快速阅读能力。鉴于词汇在阅读中的重要作用,本书每课的练习除了与四级统考阅读题相一致的多项理解选择题以及根据上、下文猜词义(以培养学生细致观察语言及正确判断词义的能力)的练习外,还独辟一项扩大词汇量的练习,即从词根入手,于每一篇课文中找出一个含有合适的词根的词,然后展开介绍一串与之同词根的常用词,并以填空的形式,要求学生正确选用刚学到的新词。这样既能检测学生是否掌握了新词的词义,还可以从他们所挑选词的词性的正确与否上检测其语法概念(所介绍的词汇一般不超过四级的范围,排除非常用词,以使学生有效地掌握与四级统考有关的基础词汇)。鉴于“大纲”对速读的一定要求,本教材所有的快速阅读材料均标有字数,使学生对自己每分钟的阅读量做到心中有数,并努力使其达到“大纲”的要求。

全书分上、下两册,每册分9个单元,每单元含课文3—4篇,快速阅读材料1—2篇(由于篇幅问题,个别单元例外)。每单元供学生使用两星期,全书可使用一学年。每册书后附有练习答案。

由于根据上、下文猜词义是英语阅读的重要技巧之一,故有些生词我们不作任何形式的注释,只是以猜词义的形式出现在后面的练习中,让学生自己根据上、下文猜出正确的词义;而对于其它的生词,只在每篇课文下面用尽可能简单的英语进行注释,以利于

学生在阅读的整个过程中的英文思维,但对其中术语性较强的词同时给出中文注释,而对那些无法用简单的英语进行注释的生词或地名等专用名词则直接给出中文,故希望达到大学入学水平的学生在阅读过程中尽量不使用词典,以检测自己的猜词能力。为了便于某些英语基础较差的学生,尤其是一些自学者的学习,我们在每书后面给出其余生词的全部中文词义,但建议学生在阅读过程中尽量不翻到后面去,可待全篇练习做完后作为参考之用。

全套教材均经外文系英籍教师 Charles Tyzack 教授审阅;厦门大学外文系周敬华教授曾热情鼓励并审阅书稿,编者在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于时间短促,编者水平有限,错误或不妥之处在所难免,敬请广大读者提出宝贵意见。

编 者

1995 年 9 月

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Unit One

Texts:

Foreign Students in the United States and Canada

1 There are many nonnative speakers of English at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Nonnatives are usually foreign students or resident aliens. Foreign students in the United States are nonresidents with F or J visas^①. Resident aliens are immigrants or refugees^②. In addition, some U. S. and Canadian citizens are nonnative speakers. They do not speak English as their first language.

2 California is the state with the most foreign students. Texas and New York are next. Other states with large numbers of foreign students are Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Students from Europe most often attend school in the northeastern and northwestern states, and students from Asia usually go to school in the midwestern and western states. Latin Americans most often study in the South and Southwest, and Africans usually attend school in the Midwest and South. In Canada, many nonnative speakers study in Quebec and speak French. Some go to school in the provinces of Ontario, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, and Alberta.

3 Engineering is the most popular field of study for visa students. Many study management and business. Most foreign students major in practical subjects.

4 Many visa students in the United States come from the Middle

① visa: an official mark put onto a passport giving a foreigner permission to enter, pass through, or leave a particular country.

② refugee: a person who has been driven from his/her country for political reasons or during a war.

East and Asia, and many are from oil countries. Iran, Taiwan, Nigeria^①, Japan, Hong Kong, Venezuela^②, Saudi Arabia^③, India, and Thailand send large numbers of students to the United States. Foreign students in Canada often come from Hong Kong, Malaysia^④, and the United Kingdom^⑤.

5 We do not have all the facts about visa students, and these students are only a small part of the many nonnative speakers at American colleges and universities. But the facts show that nonnatives are very important in American higher education.

I. Comprehension Questions:

Choose the one which is not true for each of the following five questions:

1. Nonnative speakers of English can be _____.
A. foreign students
B. resident immigrants
C. resident refugees
☒ D. U. S. or Canadian citizens with English as a native language
- ☒ 2. Facts on foreign students show that many _____.
A. attend school in the states of Nevada, Kansas, and Missouri
B. from South America study in the southern and southwestern parts of the United States
C. study practical subjects, like engineering and business
☒ D. European students study in the northeastern and northwestern states
3. Large numbers of foreign students come from _____.
A. oil countries
☒ B. British Columbia

① Nigeria: 尼日利亚

② Venezuela: 委内瑞拉

③ Saudi Arabia: 沙特阿拉伯

④ Malaysia: 马来西亚

⑤ United Kingdom: 联合王国(包括大不列颠和北爱尔兰)

- C. Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Japan
D. the Middle East
4. ~~A.~~ All nonnative speakers of English at American colleges and universities are foreign visa students.
B. The facts in this reading selection are mostly about foreign students. They are not about immigrants and refugees.
C. Many foreign students go to school in Ontario and Quebec, Canada.
D. Most visa students study practical subjects.
5. ~~A.~~ Students from Europe are only a small part of all the visa students.
B. Nonnative speakers at American colleges and universities are mainly visa students.
~~C.~~ The article gives us some facts about foreign students.
~~D.~~ Nonnatives play an important part in American higher education.
6. ~~The~~ The following are topics for each paragraph. Please choose the one which matches each paragraph with its topic.
- * Home countries of foreign students in the United States
 - * Kinds of nonnative speakers
 - * Major subjects of foreign students
 - * States and parts of the United States and Canada
 - * Conclusion or summary
- A. 5-1-3-2-4 B. 4-1-3-2-5
C. 1-2-3-4-5 D. 3-2-5-1-4

I. Guessing Meaning from Context:

You do not need to look up the meanings of all new words in a dictionary. You can guess the meanings of many words from the context.

Sometimes a sentence gives the meaning of a new vocabulary item. The meaning sometimes follows the verb *be*.

Examples:

1. *Foreign students* are nonresidents with F or J visas.

2. Resident aliens are immigrants or refugees.

Sometimes the meaning of a new item is in another sentence or in another part of a sentence.

Examples:

1. Students from Europe most often attend school in the north-eastern and northwestern states, and students from Asia usually go to school in the Midwest.

2. Many foreign students study management and business. Most major in practical subjects.

Now try to guess the meaning for each of the following words (Sometimes a word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning depends on the way it is used.).

1. resident

- B ☒ A. a person who lives in a place, not a visitor
B. living in a place
C. the head of a university or college

C 2. alien

- A. a person on a journey
B ☒ a person who is a member of a particular country by birth
C ☒ a person who has not become a citizen of the country where he/she is living

3. attend

- A ☒ go to
B. give one's attention; listen
C. look after, serve

C 4. major in

- A. to be employed
B ☒ to give (someone) training or lessons in (a particular subject, skill, etc.)
C. to study as the chief subject when completing one's degree

5. practical

- A. concerned with practice, rather than with idea
B. effective in actual use; suited to actual conditions
C. clever at doing things and dealing with difficulties

II. Word Formation: nonnative; nonresident (1)

The following prefixes serve to give a negative meaning to a word or to reverse and undo an action:

dis-: disease, a state of being not at ease; illness 病; 不适

in-: incapable, not capable; not able to 无能力的; 不能的

im-: impersonal, not showing personal feelings 客观的

il-: illegal, not legal, against the law 非法的

ir-: irreplaceable, too special or unusual to be replaced 不能代替的

mal-: malcontent, dissatisfied with a (political) state of affairs 不满的; 反抗(时政)的

mis-: misinform, inform incorrectly; to give wrong information to 误报; 给...错误消息

non-: nonprofit, not run in order to make a profit 非营利的;

un-: unarmed, not carrying arms; without weapons 徒手的; 未带武器的

Exercise:

Match the English words with the Chinese equivalents

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. discontinue E | A. 不存在的 |
| 2. disfavor G | B. 非官方的 |
| 3. inattentive I | C. 不合逻辑的 |
| 4. indecisive J | D. 管理不善的 |
| 5. impractical F | E. 休止 |
| 6. illogical C | F. 不切实际的 |
| 7. irresponsible L | G. 不赞成 |
| 8. maltreat K | H. 消除, 使...失效 |
| 9. mismanage D | I. 不注意的 |
| 10. nonexistent A | J. 犹豫不决的 |
| 11. unofficial B | K. 虐待 |
| 12. undo H | L. 不负责任的 |

The Powerful Influence of Weather

1 Weather has a powerful effect on people. It influences health, intelligence, and feelings.

2 In August, it is very hot and wet in the southern part of the United States. Southerners have many heart attacks or other kinds of health problems during this month. In the Northeast and the Middle West, it is very hot at some times and very cold at other times. Many people in these states have heart attacks after the weather changes in February or March.

3 The weather can influence intelligence. For example, in a 1938 study by scientists, the IQ scores (measures of intelligence) of undergraduate college students were very high during a hurricane, but after the storm, their scores were 10 percent (%) below average. Hurricanes can increase intelligence. Very hot weather, on the other hand, can lower it. Students in the United States often do badly in exams in the hot months of the year.

4 Weather also had a strong influence on people's feelings. Winter may be a bad time for thin people; they usually feel cold during these months. They might feel depressed during cold weather. In hot summer weather, on the other hand, fat people may feel unhappy. At about 65°F, people become stronger.

5 Low air pressure relaxes people. It increases forgetfulness; people leave more packages and umbrellas on buses and in stores on low-pressure days. There is a "perfect weather" for work and health. People feel best at a temperature of about 64°F with 65 percent humidity^①.

6 Are you feeling sick, sad, tired, forgetful, or very intelligent today? The weather may be the cause.

① humidity: the (amount of) water vapor contained in the air 湿度, 湿气

I. Comprehension Questions:

1. _____ may have a bad effect on health.
A. Perfect weather ~~B. Weather changes~~
C. High intelligence D. Forgetfulness
 2. Intelligence may increase because of _____.
~~A. storms~~ B. very hot weather
C. low air pressure D. very wet weather.
 3. Low air pressure _____.
A. depresses fat people
B. makes people feel stronger
C. causes heart attacks
~~D. relaxes people~~
 4. In "perfect" weather of 64° F, _____.
~~A. people are very forgetful~~
B. people are in better health
C. thin people feel cold
D. fat people feel unhappy
 5. Choose the one which is not true:
A. The weather influences people's health and feelings.
~~B. Intelligence (IQ) never changes.~~
C. Some weather influences are temperature, storms, and air pressure.
~~D. There is a perfect kind of weather for people's work and health.~~
 6. The following are topics for each paragraph. Choose the one which matches each paragraph with its topic.
~~1~~ * The influence of weather on people's feelings
2 * The effect of air pressure on people
2 * The effects of heat, cold, and weather changes on people's health
* Conclusion or summary
* Introduction
* The influence of weather on intelligence
- A. 5-4-2-6-1-3 B. 2-5-4-6-1-3

C. 4-5-2-1-6-3

D. 4-5-2-6-1-3

7. Choose the main idea of the reading:

A. Low air pressure relaxes people.

B. Weather has a strong effect on people.

C. After the storm, people's scores were 10 percent below average.

D. There is a "perfect weather" for work and health.

I. Guessing Meaning from Context:

You do not need to look up the meanings of all new words in a dictionary. You can guess the meanings of many new words from the context.

Sometimes a sentence gives the meaning of a new vocabulary item. The meaning or an explanation is sometimes in parentheses().

Example: The *IQ scores* (measures of intelligence) of undergraduate college students were very high during a hurricane. (What are "IQ scores"? They are "measures of intelligence.")

Sometimes the meaning of a new item is in another sentence or in another part of the sentence. Pay attention to the underlined words which may be clues to the meanings of the italics.

1. Weather has a powerful effect on people. It *influences* health and intelligence.
2. Southerners have many *heart attacks* or other kinds of health problems during this month.
3. The *IQ scores* of undergraduate students were very high during a *hurricane*. On the other hand, after the storm their scores were 10 percent below average.
4. Low air pressure *relaxes* people. It increases forgetfulness.
5. Thin people might feel *depressed* during cold weather. Fat people, on the other hand, may feel unhappy in hot summer months.

Now try to guess the meanings of the following words:

1. influence

- A. to divide into 2 or more parts
 - B. to take or keep a firm hold of
 - ~~C. to have an effect on~~
2. heart attack
- A. strong feeling of admiration or interest
 - ~~B. pain in the region of the heart, with irregular beating~~
 - C. person or object very much loved
3. hurricane
- ~~A. violent windstorm~~
 - B. very small rain
 - C. great respect
4. relax
- ~~A. to make less tense or active~~
 - B. to become very energetic
 - C. to be the right size or shape (for)
5. depressed
- A. sad, low in spirits
 - ~~B. full of joy~~
 - C. honest

III. Word Formation; influence (1)

The Latin root flu- or flux- means "to flow."

Influence comes from the Latin prefix in- meaning "in" and flu- meaning "to flow" plus the Latin suffix -ence meaning "the state or condition of." Thus, influence means "a flowing in of one person's thought upon others"; hence, (1) the power to produce effects on others; (2) a person or thing possessing such power. As a verb, it means "to have an effect on; to affect".

A word based on influence is influential, which means "having or using influence".

Fluency comes from the Latin prefix flu- meaning "to flow" and the Latin suffix -ency meaning "the state or condition of." Thus, it means "the state or condition of flowing", or, more precisely, "smoothness, especially smoothness or readi-

ness of speech”.

A word based on fluency is fluent, which means “showing smoothness or effortless ease, especially in speaking or writing”.

Fluid comes from the root flu- meaning “to flow” and the suffix -id meaning “having the quality of”. Literally it means “having the quality of flowing”. Hence, it means “able to flow”.

As a noun, it means “substance that flows; gas or liquid”.

Influenza comes from the Latin prefix in- meaning “in” and flu- meaning “flow” plus the suffix -a meaning “disease”. It literally means “disease that flow into many people at a time”.

Hence, it means “a disease which is like a bad cold but more serious”.

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with what we’ve just learned.

1. Reading aloud can be used to improve tone, rhythm and _____.
2. His friends were a bad _____ on him.
3. The doctor gave him some medicine for his _____.
4. A teacher has great _____ over his pupils.
5. She speaks _____ though not very correct English.
6. The moon _____ the tides.
7. Water is a kind of _____.
8. _____ friends helped John to get a good job.

Our Changing Diet

1 What does the typical American or Canadian usually eat? Most people think that the typical North American diet consists of fast foods—hamburgers and French fries. It also includes convenience foods, usually frozen or canned, “junk food” without much food