



21

世纪英语专业系列教材

北京市高等教育精品教材立项项目

范守义 总主编

第二册

英语时文泛读

张 蕾 吴晓萍 / 主编

Current News Articles
for Extensive Reading



北京大学出版社
PEKING UNIVERSITY PRESS



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总序

北京大学出版社自 2005 年以来已出版《语言与应用语言学知识系列读本》多种,为了配合第十一个五年计划,现又策划陆续出版《21 世纪英语专业系列教材》。这个重大举措势必受到英语专业广大教师和学生的欢迎。

作为英语教师,最让人揪心的莫过于听人说英语不是一个专业,只是一个工具。说这些话的领导和教师的用心是好的,为英语专业的毕业生将来找工作着想,因此要为英语专业的学生多多开设诸如新闻、法律、国际商务、经济、旅游等其他专业的课程。但事与愿违,英语专业的教师们很快发现,学生投入英语学习的时间少了,掌握英语专业课程知识甚微,即使对四个技能的掌握也并不比大学英语学生高明多少,而那个所谓的第二专业在有关专家的眼中只是学到些皮毛而已。

英语专业的路在何方?有没有其他路可走?这是需要我们英语专业教师思索的问题。中央领导关于创新是一个民族的灵魂和要培养创新人才等的指示精神,让我们在层层迷雾中找到了航向。显然,培养学生具有自主学习能力和能进行创造性思维是我们更为重要的战略目标,使英语专业的人才更能适应 21 世纪的需要,迎接 21 世纪的挑战。

如今,北京大学出版社外语部的领导和编辑同志们,也从教材出版的视角探索英语专业的教材问题,从而为贯彻英语专业教学大纲做些有益的工作,为教师们开设大纲中所规定的必修、选修课程提供各种教材。《21 世纪英语专业系列教材》是普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材和国家“十一五”重点出版规划项目《面向新世纪的立体化网络化英语学科建设丛书》的重要组成部分。这套系列教材要体现新世纪英语教学的自主化、协作化、模块化和超文本化,结合外语教材的具体情况,既要解决语言、教学内容、教学方法和教育技术的时代化,也要坚持弘扬以爱国主义为核心的民族精神。因此,今天北京大学出版社在大力提倡专业英语教学改革的基础上,编辑出版各种英语专业技能、英语专业知识和相关专业课程知识的教材,以培养具有创新性思维的和具有实际工作能力的学生,充分体现了时代精神。

北京大学出版社的远见卓识,也反映了英语专业广大师生盼望已久的心愿。由北京大学等全国几十所院校具体组织力量,积极编写相关教材。这就是

说，这套教材是由一些高等院校有水平有经验的第一线教师们制定编写大纲，反复讨论，特别是考虑到在不同层次、不同背景学校之间取得平衡，避免了先前的教材或偏难或偏易的弊病。与此同时，一批知名专家教授参与策划和教材审定工作，保证了教材质量。

当然，这套系列教材出版只是初步实现了出版社和编者们的预期目标。为了获得更大效果，希望使用本系列教材的教师和同学不吝指教，及时将意见反馈给我们，使教材更加完善。

航道已经开通，我们有决心乘风破浪，奋勇前进！

胡壮麟

北京大学蓝旗营

写给本书使用者的话

21世纪的中国是改革向广度和深度进军的世纪，21世纪的世界是全球化走向优化整合和更高水平的世纪。中国与世界各国交往向全方位推进和巩固是历史发展之必然。走在历史发展最前沿的是双语或多语工作者；而在当今的世界上，英语使用之广泛是举世公认的。中国的外语教育中英语是最为重要的外国语言。外交学院作为外语类院校在过去的半个多世纪中为中国外交外事和各个部门培养了大批外语人才，他们在各个领域发挥了巨大作用，做出了杰出的贡献。

外交学院是具有外交特色和外语优势的重点大学，外交学院的英语教学在复校后的30年中，积累了丰富的教学经验。“英语时文泛读”是外交学院英语本科教学的核心课程；该课程为学生提高英语阅读水平，增加词汇量和阅读技巧，丰富文化和国际知识提供了很好的学习平台。学习这门课程以及其他相关课程，可为学生走向职场奠定坚实的基础。外交学院培养出的学生具有国际视野和外交外事专业水准是十分恰当的评价。

2005年以来外交学院英语系将“英语泛读”作为精品项目立项，2007年夏被评为北京市精品课程；目前正在向国家级精品课程努力。该精品课程由两大板块组成，即课堂教学和课外阅读——课堂教学使用了精选的时文作为主要的教学内容；课外阅读使用了精选的英语简易读物、注释读物和英语原著作为主要内容，并为每一部书设计了100个问题，可以在计算机网络上进行在线测试，并立即得到结果，同时教师也能够立即看到全部参加测试者的成绩以及学生学期和学年的累计成绩。我们与北京外国语大学英语学院和首都师范大学外国语学院英语系合作，进行异地登录测试也取得了满意的结果。这种英语泛读课程创新的教学模式为迅速提高学生的英语水平和综合运用能力起到了很好的作用，深受教师和学生的欢迎。

这里我们主要谈一下课堂用书《英语时文泛读》的编辑情况。

我们的编写设计思路如下：

1. 所选文本要语言地道，内容新颖（除个别为略早的文章，其余课文全部为2005年以后英美主要报刊杂志上发表的文章），题材广泛多样（涉及政治、经济、文化、教育、科技、环保、法律、社会等诸方面内容），贴近时代与生活，易激发学生兴趣。
2. 该教材就不同主题设不同单元，知识内容较成体系，既有助于学生系统学习、积累和运用所学知识，又有助于学生分类学习记忆相关词汇。

3. 练习设计合理、实用，既有很强的针对性（针对每个单元具体的阅读技巧及目标），又能考察学生的综合能力，形式比较灵活，易于操作。
4. 为使所选用的文本难度符合学生的英语程度，既不要过易，也不要过难，我们根据美国著名教育家鲁道夫·弗莱什(Rudolf Flesch)博士的研究理论，即“英语文章难易度与单位长度的音节数和词数密切相关”，将其数学模型化，并在其基础上编写的程序，进行《英语时文泛读》文本的选材，剔除了过难和过易的文本。
5. 编写旨在为使用《英语时文泛读》的教师准备的《教师参考书》，提供必要而丰富的备课参考资料和练习答案。
6. 制作课堂使用的PPT文档，供授课使用，教师亦可增添或删节内容，以适应具体需要。
7. 编辑快速阅读文本，以及相关的英国英语和美国英语的知识等内容，供教学参考使用。
8. 使用者可以根据本教学单位学生的英语水平，使用合适的单元和文本长度进行课堂阅读活动。
9. 为了锻炼学生自己查字典和确定词义的能力，在文本A和文本B的词汇表中，只给出没有在练习中出现的词；为照顾部分学生学习的需要，各单元的生词按英语字母表列在全书之后，学生可以查阅、记忆，然后再去做练习。

为保证教材编写的专业水准，我们组成了以范守义教授为负责人的《英语时文泛读》教程编写委员会，人员如下：

范守义：总主编，负责策划统筹、审阅和编辑等工作。

石毅、于倩：共同主编，负责《英语时文泛读》第一册的编写工作；

张蕾、吴晓萍：共同主编，负责《英语时文泛读》第二册的编写工作；

武波、王振玲：共同主编，负责《英语时文泛读》第三册的编写工作；

徐英、魏腊梅：共同主编，负责《英语时文泛读》第四册的编写工作。

我们期待《英语时文泛读》的出版能够为我国大学本科和程度相当的英语学习者提供一套新的泛读教程，以满足与时俱进的教学要求；为此我们期待广大教师和学生提出宝贵意见和要求，以改进我们的编写工作。我们也期待以《英语时文泛读》为主和能进行在线测试的课外阅读为辅的创新英语泛读教学模式为推动和提升全国泛读教学做出贡献。

《英语时文泛读》教程编写委员会

2008年9月26日

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THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION

Target of the Unit

- ☞ To get a glimpse of the impact of globalization on business, nations and ordinary people's lives
- ☞ To practice reading skills
- ☞ To enlarge your vocabulary

1) LEAD IN

Directions: In this unit, you will read 3 passages about the advantages and disadvantages brought about by globalization. Read them critically and see whether you agree with the ideas expressed in them.

2) DISCUSSION

What is globalization? What advantages and disadvantages has it brought to our lives?

Text A



A Year Without "Made in China"

By Sara Bongiorni

Warming-up Exercises

- ☞ How do you feel about the fact that China has virtually become the factory of the world?
- ☞ What is your overall impression of products made in China?

• First reading •

Directions: Now please read the following passage as fast as you can and summarize the main idea.

1 BATON ROUGE, LA. — Last year, two days after Christmas, we kicked China out of the house. Not the country obviously, but bits of plastic, metal, and wood stamped with the words “Made in China.” We kept what we already had, but stopped bringing any more in.

2 The banishment was no fault of China’s. It had coated our lives with a cheerful **veneer** of toys, gadgets, and \$10 children’s shoes. Sometimes I worried about jobs sent overseas, but price trumped virtue at our house. We couldn’t resist what China was selling.

3 But on that dark Monday last year, a creeping unease washed over me as I sat on the sofa and surveyed the gloomy **wreckage** of the holiday. It wasn’t until then that I noticed an irrefutable fact: China was taking over the place.

4 It stared back at me from the empty screen of the television. I spied it in the pile of tennis shoes by the door. It glowed in the lights on the Christmas tree and watched me in the eyes of a doll **splayed** on the floor. I slipped off the couch and did a quick **inventory**, sorting gifts into two stacks: China and non-China. The count came to China, 25, the world, 14. Christmas, I realized, had become a holiday made by the Chinese. Suddenly I’d had enough. I wanted China out.

5 Through tricks and persuasion I got my husband on board, and on Jan. 1 we launched a yearlong household **embargo** on Chinese imports. The idea wasn’t to punish China, which would never feel the **pinprick** of our protest. And we didn’t fool ourselves into thinking we’d bring back a single job to **unplugged** company towns in Ohio and Georgia. We pushed China out of our lives because we wanted to measure how far

veneer *n.* superficial appearance covering/disguising the true nature of sb/sth 虚假的表象

wreckage *n.* remains of sth that has been wrecked or ruined (被毁坏之物的) 残骸

splay *v.* to spread apart widely, or to make things, esp parts of the body, do this (尤指四肢) 伸展开

inventory *n.* detailed list, eg of goods, furniture, jobs to be done 清单

embargo *n.* official order that forbids sth, esp trade, the movement of ships, etc 禁运

pinprick *n.* sth that slightly annoys sb 小烦恼

unplugged (company town) *adj.* A lot of small towns, especially in the more rural parts of the country, have only one major factory/company located nearby. These towns become very dependent on said companies, and when they move out overseas, it can be devastating for the town and surrounding areas. So, it just basically means a town that had “the” factory ripped/jerked/unplugged from the community, and has suffered a great deal. (支柱企业) 彻底搬迁走的(城镇)



it had pushed in. We wanted to know what it would take in time, money, and **aggravation** to kick our China habit.

6 We hit the first **rut** in the road when I discovered our son's toes pressing against the ends of his tennis shoes. I wore myself out hunting for new ones. After two weeks I broke down and spent \$60 on sneakers from Italy. I felt sick over the money; it seemed decadent for a pair of children's shoes. I got used to the feeling. Weeks later I shelled out \$60 for Texas-made shoes for our toddler daughter.

7 We got hung up on lots of little things. I drove to half a dozen grocery stores in search of candles for my husband's birthday cake, eventually settling on a box of dusty leftovers I found in the kitchen. The junk drawer has been stuck shut since January. My husband found the part to fix it at Home Depot but left it on the shelf when he spotted the telltale "Made in China."

8 Mini crises erupted when our **blender** and television broke down. The television **sputtered** back to life without intervention, but it was a long, hot summer without **smoothies**. We killed four mice with old-fashioned snapping traps because the catch-and-release ones we prefer are made in China. Last summer at the beach my husband wore a pair of mismatched **flip-flops** my mother found in her garage. He'd run out of options at the drug store.

9 Navigating the toy aisle has been a **wilting** affair. In the spring, our 4-year-old son launched a countercampaign in support of "China things." He's been a good sport, but he's weary of Danish-made Legos, the only sure bet for birthday gifts for his friends. One morning in October he fell apart during a trip to Target when he developed a sudden lust for an electric purple pumpkin. "It's too long without China," he wailed. He kept at me all day.

10 The next morning I drove him back so he could use his birthday money to buy the pumpkin for himself. I kept my fingers off the bills as he passed them to the checker.

11 My husband bemoans the Christmas gifts he can't buy because they were made in China. He plans to sew sleeping bags for the children himself. He can build wooden boats and guitars, but I fear he will meet his match with thread and needle. "How hard can it

aggravation *n.* annoyance; irritation 激怒, 惹恼

rut *n.* deep track made by a wheel or wheels in soft ground; furrow 车辙

blender *n.* liquidizer 榨汁机

sputter *v.* to make short soft uneven noises like very small explosions 发出噼噼啪啪声

smoothie *n.* a thick drink made of fruit and fruit juices mixed together, sometimes with ice, milk and yoghurt 以水果、果汁及牛奶或酸奶混合而成的浓稠饮品

flip-flops *n.* In footwear and fashion, flip-flops (also known as thongs, jandals, slippers, or pluggers) are a flat, backless, usually rubber sandal consisting of a flat sole held loosely on the foot by a Y-shaped strap, like a thin thong, that passes between the first (big) and second toes and around either side of the foot. They appear to have been developed based on traditional Japanese woven or wooden soled sandals. 夹趾拖鞋

wilt *v.* (informal) to feel weak or tired, esp because one is too hot (因天热而)发蔫, 感觉疲惫

be?” he scoffed.

12 The funny thing about China’s ascent is that we, as a nation, could shut the whole thing down in a week. **Jump-start** a “Just Say No to Chinese Products Week,” and the

scoff *v.* to speak contemptuously (about or to sb/sth); jeer or mock 嘲弄, 嘲笑

jump-start *v.* to help a process or activity to start or become more successful 助推, 发起

cargo *n.* (load of) goods carried in a ship or aircraft (船/飞机运载的)货物(量)

empire will collapse amid the chaos of overloaded **cargo** ships in Long Beach harbor. I doubt we could pull it off. Americans may be famously patriotic, but look closely, and you’ll see who makes the flag magnets on their car bumpers. These days China delivers every major holiday, Fourth of July included.

13 I don’t know what we will do after Dec. 31 when our family’s embargo comes to its official end. China-free living has been a hassle. I have discovered for myself that China doesn’t control every aspect of our daily lives, but if you take a close look at the underside of boxes in the toy department, I promise it will give you pause.

14 Our son knows where he stands on the matter. In the bathtub one evening he told me how happy he was that “the China season” was coming soon. “When we can buy China things again, let’s never stop,” he said.

15 After a year without China I can tell you this: You can still live without it, but it’s getting trickier and costlier by the day. And a decade from now I may not be brave enough to try it again.

(Words: 957)

• Second Reading •

Directions: Read the text again more carefully to find enough information for Exercises I, II & III.

Exercise I True or False

Directions: Please state whether the following statements are true or not (T/F) according to the text.

1. The author’s family had bought a lot of products made in China because of their competitive prices.

2. The author realized one day that China had gained control of her house.
3. Then she decided to refuse to buy goods imported from China for ever.
4. Their household embargo on Chinese imports was aimed to punish China.
5. Children's shoes made elsewhere are usually much more expensive than those made in China.
6. All candles for birthday cakes available at the grocery stores seemed to be made in China.
7. Her husband had to wear a pair of mismatched old flip-flops because there were no shoes of his size available at the store.
8. She bought her son an electric pumpkin which was not made in China.
9. Now Chinese products have become indispensable to all major American holidays including the Independence Day.
10. This yearlong experiment proved that life could get harder without stuff made in China.

Exercise II Word Inference

Directions: Often you can guess the meaning of a word/expression by reading the words around it. Please read the given sentence to see how each word/expression in bold type is used in the text. Then choose the answer that is closest in meaning to the bold-faced word/expression.

1. The **banishment** was no fault of China's.
 - A. exile
 - B. removal
 - C. exclusion
 - D. punishment
2. It wasn't until then that I noticed an **irrefutable** fact: China was taking over the place.
 - A. unlikely
 - B. obvious
 - C. hidden
 - D. indisputable
3. I **spied** it in the pile of tennis shoes by the door.
 - A. saw
 - B. kept watching secretly
 - C. watched closely
 - D. guarded against
4. I felt sick over the money; it seemed **decadent** for a pair of children's shoes.
 - A. meaningless
 - B. having low moral standards
 - C. reasonable
 - D. expensive

5. Weeks later I **shelled out** \$60 for Texas-made shoes for our toddler daughter.
 - A. paid out reluctantly
 - B. spent generously
 - C. used up
 - D. saved
6. My husband found the part to fix it at Home Depot but left it on the shelf when he spotted the **telltale** "Made in China."
 - A. storytelling
 - B. interesting
 - C. indicating
 - D. lying
7. He's been a **good sport**, but he's weary of Danish-made Legos, the only sure bet for birthday gifts for his friends.
 - A. a pleasant, cheerful and helpful person
 - B. a good sportsman
 - C. a sports fan
 - D. a good friend
8. My husband **bemoans** the Christmas gifts he can't buy because they were made in China.
 - A. shows sorrow for
 - B. complains about
 - C. criticizes
 - D. desires
9. The funny thing about China's **ascent** is that we, as a nation, could shut the whole thing down in a week.
 - A. development
 - B. upward path
 - C. climbing up
 - D. rise
10. China-free living has been a **hassle**.
 - A. argument
 - B. goal
 - C. difficulty
 - D. great joy

Exercise III Discussion

Directions: Please discuss the following questions in pairs or groups.

1. What might be the reasons that made products made in China so ubiquitous even in the USA?
2. Do you think the author's worries about China's growing economic influence are justifiable? Why/why not?

Text B

Stay Globally Competitive: Be Like Google

By Peter Georgescu

Warming-up Exercises

- ☞ What do you know about Google?
- ☞ What features or advantages does it require to remain globally competitive in the 21st century?

• First reading •

Directions: Now please read the following passage as fast as you can and summarize the main idea.

- 1 The war between consumers and producers is over. Consumers won. For decades the economic world order was dominated by excess demand. Scarce resources, including capital, were the **differentiators** between winners and losers.
- 2 But by the beginning of this decade consumers began to see, in almost every category, a **plethora** of products and services that looked, felt, and performed alike. Goods that were once hard to get became readily available and affordable, putting the decision-making power firmly in the hands of the consumer.
- 3 A . Commoditization—what I see as the cancer of 21st-century commerce—has fueled **ferocious** price competition, leading to lower prices, **margins**, and profits for businesses. With price as the only real differentiator, producers are left with a challenge: They must find a way to stand out in the crowd.
- 4 Unless you offer consumers something unique, the low-cost producers will win the battle every time. B . As we look at the rise of India and China, or even a **reinvigorated** Europe, we must ask ourselves how America will compete in coming decades against powerful new

differentiator *n.* sth that distinguishes one thing/person from the other 区分者, 差别指数

plethora *n.* quantity greater than what is needed; overabundance 过量, 过剩

ferocious *adj.* fierce, violent or savage 残忍的, 凶猛的, 野蛮的

margin *n.* difference between cost price and selling price 差价, 利润

reinvigorate *v.* to give a boost, revive 振兴, 使重新获得活力

forces, probably bigger than us and capable of producing goods and services at significantly lower prices.

5 There's only one way to avoid the commodity quagmire, and it's not easy: It's through creativity.

widget *n.* an imaginary product that a company might produce 设想中的新装置/产品

adman *n.* (informal) a person who produces commercial advertisements 广告人

rung *n.* cross-piece forming a step in a ladder; level or rank in society, one's career, an organization, etc 梯级, 等级

6 The good news is that at their best, American business

minds excel at putting creativity to work. In the past half-century, Americans created everything from the Post-it note to the artificial heart to the Internet. Today Steve Jobs and nearly everyone employed at Google let their imaginations loose as a matter of course.

7 Something new, it seems, is born at Google (Charts, Fortune 500) every week, making it the creative factory of this century and a model other companies should study carefully. It is a culture where innovation is not only nurtured but also expected and rewarded. (You probably haven't even heard of Google's Gadget Ads, a new option that allows advertisers to create interactive ads within widgets, or Google Shared Stuff, a feature that lets you share your favorite bookmarks with others. Both functions were added in recent weeks.)



8 C. Absolutely. Google need not be the exception; it should become the norm. In my 30-plus years in the advertising business, I witnessed good writers become great, art directors turn into geniuses. I've seen midsized consulting companies teach top CEOs breakthrough management techniques that are in reality courses in creativity.

9 When I was working as an account manager on the United Negro College Fund campaign during the 1970s, I witnessed a young copy supervisor's transition from a decent writer to a brilliant adman. After digesting the research material and developing a strong understanding of the market he was trying to reach, he came up with a slogan that continues to resonate today: "A mind is a terrible thing to waste." D.

10 All these examples show that creativity can be taught or developed in the right environment. E. Creativity is almost never a logical process. Great ideas come from everywhere—from the lowest rungs on the corporate ladder to the chairman of the board. But a company needs to be organized in a manner whereby it can hear, capture, and develop fresh ideas when they are hatched.