

 大学英语能力进阶阅读系列教材

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# 阅读教程

第三册

张明尧 主编

R E A D I N G



WUHAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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主 编 张明尧

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## 前 言

2018年,《中国英语能力等级量表》正式公布,标志着中国英语教学进入了一个新的阶段。《中国英语能力等级量表》立足于中国国情和现状,从时代发展的新需求出发,旨在为我国英语学习、教学、测评之间架起一座连通的桥梁。《中国英语能力等级量表》分为9个级别,对应于我国从初学到高级各个水平级别的英语学习者,其内容包括语言理解能力描述、语言表达能力描述、语用能力描述、语言知识描述、语言使用策略能力描述和翻译能力描述。各种能力的发展均离不开阅读能力的培养,于是《大学英语能力进阶阅读系列教材》应运而生。

《大学英语能力进阶阅读系列教材》对应于《中国英语能力等级量表》的5~7级,与《大学英语教学指南》基础级别、提高级别和发展级别大致相当,阅读对象为中国高等学校非英语专业的本科生。系列教材一共分为四册,分别对应《中国英语能力等级量表》的4~5级、5级、6级和6~7级。第一册旨在完成从高中英语阅读能力到大学英语阅读能力的过渡,第四册完成从大学英语阅读能力到专业英语高级别阅读能力的过渡。第二册和第三册培养非英语专业大学生的阅读能力。本系列教材具有以下三个特点:

第一,以《中国英语能力等级量表》为基础,发展大学生英语阅读能力。《中国英语能力等级量表》以“能做”作为描述语,准确描述了各个级别阅读材料的体裁和话题。5~7级涵盖不同场合中一般性话题、一般性专业话题的多种话题、学术性材料的多种话题。本系列教材每一册选材都对接《中国英语能力等级量表》对于阅读能力的描述,涵盖了对应级别中所描述

的人/事/物/景、日常生活、社会生活、文化、科技、人文、时事热点等话题。

第二，以阅读量为导向，发展大学生英语速读能力。传统阅读教材一般是以培养“自上而下”或者“自下而上”阅读策略为目标，通过“精读”或者“泛读”培养大学生的阅读能力。本系列教材强调大学生速读能力的培养，从第一册开始，阅读材料一般为 1000 字左右，然后阅读材料长度逐级上升。速读成为首要的阅读能力培养目标，同时也强调发展大学生的多维阅读能力。

第三，以各种阅读题型为手段，发展大学生阅读测试能力。传统阅读教材阅读题型较为单一，一般常用题型为单句判断题、单项选择题和翻译题。本系列教材吸纳雅思和托福阅读测试题型，加入了段落配对题、选词填空题和问答写作题等。丰富的阅读题型的设计，便于学生快速适应雅思、托福等国际化考试。

本系列教材的编写团队是由武汉大学外国语言文学学院大学英语部骨干教师组成。他们不仅具有高度负责的态度，而且还具有多年的教学经验和教材编写经验。编委会特别感谢汪火焰、吴新华、刘四平、余诗龙、阮琳、张青、祝捷、顾颖和张鸿等老师对于教材前期撰写准备工作所做的指导。

由于时间仓促，错误在所难免，欢迎广大师生、广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2018 年 7 月 18 日

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## ***Unit 1 News Reports***

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## **Text A    Increased Threat of a Trade War Is Ramping up Fears of a “ Full-Blown Recession ”**

*Jeff Cox*

- [1] Some economists worry that the escalation of trade tensions could tip the U. S. economy into recession. A pullback would come just as GDP appears set to pull out of its post-financial crisis malaise, with the Federal Reserve projecting growth of 2.8 percent this year.
- [2] Looking at the current data, it would take a heavy shock to send the U. S. into recession, as consumer and business confidence is near record highs and the unemployment rate is at a generational low. Even as growth ramps up to what could be the fastest rate since before the financial crisis, economists are worried that a trade war could tip the U. S. into a significant slowdown or even a recession.
- [3] Fears over a GDP pullback come as President Donald Trump threatens another, more severe round of tariffs aimed both in China and the European Union. Specifically, the worry is that the duties could spark a larger global trade war that triggers inflation and kills U. S. growth just as it appears to be accelerating out of its post-crisis malaise.
- [4] “Our calculations suggest that a major trade war would lead to a significant reduction in growth,” Michelle Meyer, U. S. economist at

Bank of America Merrill Lynch, said in a note. “A decline in confidence and supply chain disruptions could amplify the trade shock, leading to an outright recession. We continue to believe that the probability of a full-blown trade war is low but the risks are rising and it remains a key uncertainty to our outlook.”

[5] On the same day Meyer and her team released the report, Trump amped up the rhetoric another notch by threatening to hit European auto imports with a 20 percent tariff unless the EU relents on duties it imposes on American vehicles. That threat comes on top of a presidential directive to the U. S. trade representative to find another \$ 200 billion of Chinese goods for tariffs following a previous list of \$ 50 billion worth. China has vowed that it will match the U. S. tariffs dollar for dollar.

[6] Economists view the actual damage as limited in dollar terms, since the total proposed tariffs are only a small part of the total trade between the U. S. and its partners and the overall size of the domestic economy.

[7] However, the concern is that the current parrying continues into a perpetual round of threats and retaliations that wrecks consumer and business confidence — both of which are around record highs — and provides a cost shock that could tip the economy into at least a brief recession.

[8] “The good news is that we are still many steps away from a full blown global trade war,” Meyer wrote. “The bad news is that the tail risks are rising and our work and the literature suggest a major global trade confrontation would likely push the US and the rest of the world to the brink of a recession.”

- [9] To be sure, current data suggest that the trade situation would have to get extreme to send the economy into negative growth. The Federal Reserve projects the economy to grow 2.8 percent for all of 2018, though it looks for GDP to slow to 2.4 percent in 2019 and 2 percent the year after before settling into a 1.8 percent longer-run rate. The Atlanta Fed is tracking second-quarter growth at 4.7 percent. Unemployment at 3.8 percent is also running at a generational low.
- [10] A baseline trade-war scenario would shave from GDP 0.3 to 0.4 percentage points in the first year then 0.5 to 0.6 percentage points in the second year — significant, but not recessionary, according to BofAML. Still, the impact would slow much of the momentum the economy has seen during the Trump tenure.
- [11] The trade war scenario “suggests that the boost to growth expected from fiscal stimulus (e.g. tax cuts and greater federal government spending) will essentially be offset by the negative trade shock,” Meyer said.
- [12] In a more extreme scenario, though, an industrial production slowdown and an “uncertainty shock” could take hold and cause more damage. “Combined with a tariff shock, we see a high probability that a major trade war would push the economy towards a full-blown recession,” Meyer wrote.
- [13] BofAML is not the only firm worrying about more substantial impacts from what are now trade skirmishes. Capital Economics said an uncertain future for the U.S. economy is being complicated by the back-and-forth battles.
- [14] “Trade tensions have escalated faster and further than we had originally anticipated,” Michael Pearce, the forecasting firm’s senior

U. S. economist, said in a note. “We still think that protectionism alone is unlikely to kill the economic expansion. But it could worsen the slowdown we anticipate next year, and add to the domestic inflationary pressures that are already building.”

[15] There are other issues at play, particularly when it comes to China. Carried to the extreme, China would be unable to match the U. S. tit-for-tat as it exports much more than it imports in American goods. The nation then could seek a variety of other retaliatory measures, such as actions targeted at U. S. companies operating in China, currency devaluation or by dumping some of the \$ 1.18 trillion in Treasuries it owns. “With the China tariffs set to be introduced in two weeks’ time, we expect the trade rhetoric to remain intense,” Pearce said.

[16] And the World Bank warned this month of the dire consequences of a trade war for the U. S. and global economies. “A broad-based increase in tariffs worldwide would have major adverse consequences for global trade and activity,” the report said. “An escalation of tariffs up to legally-allowed bound rates could translate into a decline in global trade flows amounting to 9 percent, similar to the drop seen during the global financial crisis in 2008-2009.”

(952 words)

► **Task 1 Choose the best answer to each question based on TEXT A.**

1. What’s the main idea of the passage?
  - A. The U. S. GDP appears set to pull out of its post-financial crisis malaise.

*Text A Increased Threat of a Trade War Is Ramping up Fears of a "Full-Blown Recession"*

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- B. A trade war may lead U. S. economy to a GDP pullback or even a recession.
  - C. The U. S. economy is in trouble though consumer and business confidence is near record highs.
  - D. The American Federal Reserve projects rapid economic growth this year.
2. What is President Donald Trump not threatening in the trade war?
- A. To spark a larger global trade war.
  - B. A more severe round of tariffs aimed at the EU.
  - C. To hit European car imports with a 20 percent tariff.
  - D. A more severe round of tariffs aimed at China.
3. Which one of the following is not the reason for the possible U. S. recession put forward by the economists?
- A. A decline in consumer and business confidence.
  - B. The supply chain disruptions.
  - C. An uncertainty shock.
  - D. The overall size of the domestic economy.
4. Which one is out of the possible counter-measures taken by China in the trade war according to the text?
- A. To take actions against U. S. companies in China.
  - B. To devalue its currency of CNY.
  - C. To match the U. S. tariffs tit for tat.
  - D. To dump its Treasuries.
5. What does the world bank warning mainly suggest in the text?
- A. A possible global financial crisis like the one in 2008-2009 is coming.
  - B. The world-wide increase in tariffs could lead to a great decline in global trade flows.

C. The introduction of China tariffs in two weeks' time.

D. The serious consequences of America's trade protectionism.

► **Task 2 Replace the underlined words below with appropriate paraphrases from TEXT A.**

- ( ) 1. The U. S. economy growth appears set to pull the country out of the dissatisfied, unhappy state after the 2008 financial crisis.
- ( ) 2. The GDP reduction is caused by a decline in business and consumer confidence.
- ( ) 3. China and the EU countries are taking revenges against the American trade war.
- ( ) 4. The trade war may bring very serious consequences to the world economy.
- ( ) 5. The minor clashes in the world trade may escalate and be followed by a global recession.

► **Task 3 Complete each sentence with the correct ending.**

- 1) Scan TEXT A to locate the information of the sentence beginnings (1-4).
- 2) Read the relevant part of the passage carefully, then choose the best sentence endings (A-F)
- ( ) 1. As President Donald Trump threatens a more severe round of tariffs
- ( ) 2. If the present parrying develops into threats and retaliations
- ( ) 3. There was a presidential directive to the U. S. trade representative
- ( ) 4. Protectionism could slow down the economy growth next year



- A. the consumer and business confidence will be badly damaged.
- B. as well as bring more serious inflation in America.
- C. and essentially be offset by the negative shock.
- D. to find another \$ 200 billion of Chinese goods for tariffs.
- E. we see a high probability of a full-blown recession.
- F. there are fears over a GDP pullback in a global trade war.