COLLEGE ENGLISH GRADED READING

田鹏森 主编

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大学英语分级阅读

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【内容简介】《大学英语分级阅读》根据《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》以及四级考试新题型精神编写,以提高学生阅读量、阅读速度及阅读理解水平为主要目的。

本书紧密配合大学英语一级教学,选材广泛,每篇材料配有 5 个阅读理解题,是大学英语精读课的同步阅读教材。

本书可作为大学英语课辅助教材使用,也可供广大英语爱好者阅读欣赏。

大学英语分级阅读

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序 言

在大学英语教学及测试中,阅读能力的培养占有头等重要的地位,这种观点已为英语教学界所公认。作者根据自己的教学心得,结合当前形势对英语教学的要求,吸收现有同类教材的优点,协力编出《大学英语分级阅读》,以满足教学需要。本书有以下特点:

- 1. 题材广泛,内容丰富,知识性与趣味性兼顾,语言规范,可读性强,既可以增进阅读能力,又可以拓宽知识面。
- 2. 作为阅读教材,不以应试为主要目的,注重学生阅读理解的训练,从而促进听、说、写、译能力的全面发展。
- 3. 紧密配合大学英语教学,可作为读写教程的同步材料,有助于巩固及加深学生对读写教程的掌握。
- 4. 文章难度由浅人深,逐级提高,练习及考查材料的深度也相应地逐步加大,因此本教材也可用于阅读强化训练。
- 5. 考虑到四级考试的新题型,特设置英译汉练习一栏, 为英译汉专项练习提供了可行的方法及丰富的素材。
- "一分耕耘,一分收获"。这部精心设计,精心制作,历时 3 年的教材终于问世了。我相信,它一定会受到广大读者的 欢迎。

陈伯顺

前言

《大学英语分级阅读》是根据高等学校文理工科《大学英语教学大纲》关于阅读理解的要求编写的,旨在向学生提供难易程度相当、总量符合大纲指标的同步阅读材料,使学生通过大量的阅读实践,提高阅读理解能力,增进阅读速度,扩大英语感性认识范围,并为进一步提高听、说、写、译能力奠定雄厚的基础。

外国语学习以其实践性强而区别于其他学科知识的学习。学好外国语,掌握运用语言进行熟练交际的能力,积累大量语言材料是极其重要的,而阅读就是吸收语言文化积累语言材料的最重要途径。无量之积累就不会有质之飞跃。处于世纪之交的我国大学外语教学,大纲在修订,教材在更新,然而培养学生交际能力这个总目标是不会改变的。实现这一目标,阅读量、阅读速度以及阅读理解水平的提高起着举足轻重的作用。多年以来大学英语教学实践以及四、六级考试,使我们深深感到阅读能力的训练与培养,必须从基础阶段抓起,而且要持续抓好。阅读的目的不是为了应试。《大学英语分级阅读》就是在这一认识指导下编写的。

本教材共分 4 册,每册 96 篇阅读文章,按每单元 4 篇分别编入 24 个单元。针对每篇文章,除了设计 5 个标准的阅读理解题外,根据四级考试新题型,在三、四级阅读材料的每篇后增设了长难句(划线)的英译汉练习,书末提供了参考答案

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与译文,对三、四级材料中出现的超纲词汇加注了简明的汉语释义。全套教材近400篇短文,选材广泛,题材新颖,知识性与趣味性兼顾,可读性强,阅读材料及练习难易程度合适,可紧密配合一到四级教学,循序渐进,过渡自然,兼顾了训练读者提取信息、推断、引申、概括、分析、归纳的能力。

本教材可作为大学英语分级教学的同步教材,也适合于 大学生阅读自测或进行阅读理解强化训练。

本教材编写过程中得到西安建筑科技大学教务处教材科、外语系,西北工业大学外语系,西北工业大学出版社的大力支持与协助;西安建筑科学大学外语系陈伯顺教授审阅了全书并为本书撰写了序言。在此一并致谢。

由于编者水平有限,书中疏漏或谬误恐所难免,诚恳希望使用此教材的老师和同学批评指正。

全套教材由田鹏森副教授任主编。第1册由李凌子、肖 飚、李清编写。

> 编 者 1997年10月于西安

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Passage A

"Which language is the most widely spoken — English, Russian or Chinese?" "Which football team won the World Cup in 1978?" "How many kilometers are there in 64 miles?"

2XL knows the answers to all those questions and many more. 2XL isn't an encyclopedia. He's a talking robot, produced by Mego Corporation of New York. Mego describes him as an educational toy for school-age children and adults. This means that you can communicate with him and he asks and answers questions.

2XL asks objective questions which require a yes/no or ture/false or multiple choice type of answer. When you answer the questions, 2XL responds to your answer. For example, when he asks the student about the languages, the student answers by pushing one of four buttons. If he pushes the right button for the answer "Chinese", 2XL says, "Congratulations. That's right." If the student gives the wrong answer, the robot tells him or her the right answer and says, "Better luck next time!"

2XL tells jokes, asks riddles, plays music and sings

songs. A general information tape is part of the package when you buy 2XL. Then you can buy a collection of tapes on different subjects. There's a program of questions about sports, a program of games and puzzles, one on science fiction and an educational introduction to the metric system.

2XL has his own personality. He hardly ever repeats himself. He makes the student who has difficulty in answering feel better with his jokes and songs. And if the student doesn't answer, 2XL shows by loud snoring that he's bored!

Notes:

(I)	encycl	pedia	:百	科全	#
-----	--------	-------	----	----	---

- ② riddle: 谜语
- ③ the metric system: 十进位制,公制,米制
- ① snore: 打鼾

•	ONTT 1		1 111		•		1 1		
١.	ZXL'	S	ability	to	communicate	18	based	On	
				~ ~			~useu	•••	

- A) the student's level of education
- B) an encyclopedia
- C) tapes of different subjects
 - D) an educational toy
- 2. 2XL is designed and produced for
 - A) the children only
 - B) both children and adults
 - C) students who have difficulty in study
 - D) teachers who can use it in class
- 3. If a student gives the wrong answer to a question, 2XL

	WIII
	A) correct and comfort him
	B) laugh at him
	C) ask him to try again
	D) feel bored
4.	Which of the following questions is impossible for 2XL to
	ask?
	A) Do you love to talk with me?
	B) Which of these five sports do you like best?
	C) Please tell me something about this game, will you?
	D) You are a skilled football player, aren't you?
5.	According to the passage, 2XL cannot
	A) speak B) hear C) sing D) snore

Passage B

Life on earth depends on the sun. Day after day we see its light and feel its warmth, but we do not often consider their origin. Yet there are many remarkable things about the sun. One is its distance from the earth, even if it could be made, it would take several hundred years even in the fastest rocket.

The sun is a large star. The planet earth is very small in comparison. One hundred and nine globes the size of the earth would be needed to stretch from one side of the sun to the other. The sun makes us feel hot, even at a distance of

ninety-three million miles. This is not surprising. The temperature on the sun is about ten thousand degrees Fahrenheit. But we receive only a small part of this heat. The total heat of the sun could melt a column of ice two and a quarter miles thick and ninety-three million miles high in one second.

- 6. The sun is _____.
 - A) the largest globe
 - B) the largest star
 - C) a large heavenly body
 - D) a large planet
- 7. The diameter of the sun is ____.
 - A) two hundred and eighteen times as big as that of the
 - B) ninety-three million miles
 - 4 •

- C) one hundred and nine times as large as that of the
- D) 1,575,000,000,000,000,000,000 times as large as that of a candle
- 8. Which of the following is true?
 - A) Man only can get to the sun by the fastest rocket.
 - B) The heat we receive from the sun can melt a column of ice two and a quarter miles thick and ninety-three million miles high in one second.
 - C) Nothing can decribe the brightness of the sun.
 - D) The distance from the sun to the earth is 93 million miles.
- 9. The balance of life on earth would be destroyed if
 - A) the temperature on the sun should be ten thousand degrees Centigrade
 - B) the earth should receive a small part of the sun's heat
 - C) we should receive only a very small part of the sun's light
 - D) the heat and light from the sun should come in just the right quantities for us on earth
- 10. Which sentence best summarizes the main idea of this passage?
 - A) Life on earth depends on the sun.
 - B) Too much heat and light from the sun would destroy

the balance of life.

- C) The heat and light from the sun come in just the right quantities for life on earth.
- D) Compared with the sun, the planet earth is very small.

Passage C

Every culture and every country in the world celebrates New Year, but not everyone does it the same way. The countries of the America and Europe welcome the new year on January first. This practice began with the Romans. Julius Caesar changed the date of the new year from the first day of March to the first day of January. In the Middle East, New Year is when spring begins. People in China and Vietnam celebrate in on Tet, which is the first day of their calendar based on the moon. Tet usually comes between January 21 and February 19. Rosh Hashana, which is the Jewish New Year, comes at the end of summer. The Hindus in India celebrate the first day of each season, so they have four New Years.

In all of these cultures, there is a practice of making noise. People made noise in ancient times to drive away the evil spirits from the home. Today, making noise is more of a custom than a religious ritual. Many people do it with fireworks. In Japan, people go from house to house making

noise with drums and bamboo sticks. Young people in Denmark throw broken pieces of pottery against the sides of friends' houses.

In the United States, many people stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve to watch the clock pass from one year to the next. Friends often gather together at a party on New Year's Eve, and when the new year comes, all ring bells, toot horns, blow whistles, sing and kiss each other. A favorite Scottish song which everyone sings together is "Auld Lang Syne". The words tell of old friends and good times. Black-eyed peas, which are eaten immediately after midnight, are a favorite food. They are supposed to bring good luck to the person who eats them as his or her first food in the new year.

Notes.

- ① Tet: (越南话)新年
- ② religious ritual: 宗教仪式
- ③ fireworks · 麵炮 · 爆竹
- ④ pottery: 陶器
- ③ stay up: 熬夜,迟睡

	⑥ toot horn: 号角	}			
11.	celeb	rate New Y	ear most o	ften.	
	A) Americans		B) Euro	opeans .	
	C) Jewish	No.	D) Hine	dus	
12.	The Europeans	celebrated	their New	Year before	e Julius
	Coccon on				•

A) March the first B) January the first C) when spring begins D) Tet 13. Which of the following is in common in celebrating the New Year among all the cultures mentioned? A) They celebrate their New Year once a year. B) They celebrate their New Year on the same date. C) They make noise in celebrating their New Year. D) They sing a lot of songs. 14. Black-eyed peas are eaten in to bring goods luck to the eaters. A) the United States B) Denmark C) all European countries D) Scotland 15. The reading is mainly about . A) the ways people celebrate New Year B) making noise to celebrate New Year C) eating habit in celebrating New Year D) the songs in use of celebrating New Year

Passage D

As she walked round the huge department store, Edith reflected how difficult it was to choose a suitable Christmas present for her father. She wished that he was as easy to please as her mother, who was always delighted with perfume.

Besides, shopping at this time of the year was a most

disagreeable experience: people trod on your toes, poke you with their elbows and almost knocked you over in their haste to get to a bargain ahead of you.

Partly to have a rest, Edith paused in front of a counter where some attractive ties were on display. "They are real silk," the assistant assured her, trying to tempt her. "Worth double the price." But Edith knew from past experience that her choice of ties hardly ever pleased her father.

She moved on reluctantly and then quite by chance, stopped where a small crowd of men had gathered round a counter. She found some good quality pipes on sale — and the prices were very reasonable. Edith did not hesitate for long: although her father only smoked a pipe occasionally, she knew that this was a present which was bound to please him.

When she got home, with her small but well-chosen present concealed in her handbag, her parents were already at table having supper. Her mother was in an especially cheerful mood. "Your father has at last decided to stop smoking." she informed her daughter.

Notes:

- ① trod: (tread 的过去式)解,路
- ② poke: 戳,刺
- ③ tempt: 引诱,诱惑
- ① to be bound to do sth: 非做某事不可;一定(决心)做某事
- ⑤ conceal: 藏匿

16.	Edith's father			
	A) did not like presents			
	B) never got presents			
	C) preferred perfume			
	D) was difficult to choose a present for			
17.	The assistant spoke to Edith because she seemed			
	· <u></u> .			
	A) attractive B) tired			
	C) interested in ties D) in need of comfort			
18.	Edith decided to buy a pipe instead of a tie because			
	·			
	A) she rarely bought the right tie for her father			
	B) her father preferred a pipe to a tie			
	C) the pipe was cheaper			
	D) she disliked buying ties			
19.	Edith			
	A) put her present on the table			
	B) kept her present out of sight			
	C) opened her handbag			
	D) revealed her present			
20.	Edith's present was			
	A) very suitable for her father			
	B) not good enough for her father			
	C) of no use to her father			
	D) too good for her father			
	-			

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