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# 大学英语 ①

## 阅读教程

Coming out of the theatre we found that it was quite impossible to get a taxicab. Though it was raining slightly, we walked down the street. Numbers of hansoms and four-wheelers passed or stood waiting, but every taxi seemed to have its load. At Piccadilly Circus losing patience, we took a four-wheeler. The journey was so long and slow that when, at last, we reached home we were half asleep. The fare was two shillings, and standing in the lamplight to make sure the coin was a half-crown before giving it to the driver we happened to look up. This cabman was a man of about sixty, with a long, thin face, and grey moustaches. Two furrows down his cheeks were so deep that his face seemed to be a collection of bones. He sat quite motionless, gazing at the tail of his horse. And, almost unconsciously, w

# 前 言

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本套教材是由西南师范大学外语部和渝州大学公外教研室、西南农业大学外语系等学校的部分教师根据国家教委提出的大学英语教学再上一个台阶的要求，结合 1995 年国家教委制订的大学英语通用大纲词汇表和 1996 年四级统考出现的新题型而共同设制的阅读教程。这套教材课文选自原文材料，有些略有删改。课文力求内容新颖，题材广泛，注重语言能力的培养和准确的翻译理解，集知识性，趣味性，科学性，可读性于一体，适合大学非英语专业学生使用。

本书为《大学英语阅读教程》第 1 册，供大学英语一级学生和教师使用。

本册共十二个单元，每单元包括三篇文章。第一篇：泛读，旨在提高学生的阅读能力，语言能力和翻译能力；第二篇：快速阅读，重点培养学生的阅读速度和语感，要求学生在课堂内 8 分钟读完；第三篇：深层次理解，重点培养学生的推理判断能力和综合归纳能力，要求学生在课外阅读，教师在课堂内讲解。

学生用书我们未附上泛读参考译文、语言背景知识和答案。

本套教材的总编委负责教材的总体设计，各册间的协调平衡、协助主编教材、修改和审订全套教材，本册由尹明祥协助主编具体负责选材和审订工作。副主编王玉云负责全书的统稿工作。

编 者

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# Unit 1

## Part A Extensive Reading

### Evolution<sup>1</sup>

*by John Glasworthy<sup>2</sup>*

Coming out of the theatre<sup>3</sup> we found that it was quite impossible to get a taxi-cab. Though it was raining slightly, we walked down the street. Numbers of hansom and four-wheelers passed or stood waiting<sup>4</sup>, but every taxi seemed to have its load. At Piccadilly Circus<sup>5</sup> losing patience, we took a four-wheeler.

- 5 The journey was so long and slow that when, at last, we reached home we were half asleep. The fare was two shillings, and standing in the lamplight to make sure the coin was a half-crown before giving it to the driver, we happened to look up. This cabman was a man of about sixty, with a long, thin face, and grey moustaches. Two furrows down his cheeks were so deep that his face seemed to be a collection of bones.
- 10 He sat quite motionless, gazing at the tail of his horse. And, almost unconsciously, we added the rest of our silver to that half-crown. He took the coins without speaking; but, when we were opening the garden gate, we heard him say: "Thank you, you've saved my life."

- Not knowing what to reply to such a curious speech<sup>6</sup>, we closed the gate again
- 15 and came back to the cab.

"Are things so very bad?"

"They are," replied the cabman. "It's done with this job<sup>7</sup>. We are not wanted now." And, taking up his whip, he prepared to drive away. But then he dropped his hand again and went on:

- 20 "Thirty-five years I've been driving a cab. I don't blame the taxis, I don't blame anybody... it's come on us, that's what it has. This morning I left my wife with not a penny in the house. She said to me only yesterday: 'What have you brought home the last four months?' 'About seven shillings a week,' I said. 'No,' she said, 'six'."

"Are you really going short of food?"

- 25 The cabman smiled; and that smile on his long, thin face was very strange.

"You may say that," he said. "Before I picked you up, I had one shilling and a half today; and yesterday I had five shillings. And I must pay for the cab every

day.”

One of us said something about the public.

30 The cabman turned his face and stared down through the darkness.

“The public?” he said, and there was surprise in his voice. “Well, they all want the taxis. It’s natural. Taxis go faster, and time is money. I was seven hours in the street before I picked you up. And you were also looking for a taxi. It’s true that there are a few old ladies who are afraid of the motors, but old ladies are never very  
35 free with their money.”

“Everybody is sorry for you —”

He interrupted quietly, “Sorrow doesn’t buy bread.” And slowly moving his head from side to side, he added: “Besides, what could people do? There are such a lot of us —”

40 We approached the horse. In the darkness it seemed to consist of innumerable ribs. The cabman again took his whip.

“I don’t suppose,” he said without any emotion, “that I can find another job. It’ll be the workhouse, if it’s not the other thing.”<sup>8</sup>

And when we said that it was cruel, he smiled again.

45 “Yes,” he said slowly, “we’ve done nothing to deserve it<sup>9</sup>. One thing comes pushing out another. But things are like that, so far as I can see. I’ve thought about it, sitting up here all day. It’ll soon be the end of us—it can’t last much longer. Our day is over... I’m not complaining, you asked me about it yourself.”

And for the third time he raised his whip. And this time, with a “Thank You,”  
50 he touched his horse with his whip. As if aroused from sleep the poor creature began to move. Very slowly they went down the road among the shadows of the trees. And, after the cab was lost to sight, the wind still brought to us the dying sound of the slow wheels.

## New Words and Expressions

evolution [i:və'lu:ʃn] n. 发展,发育,进化  
论

taxi-cab n. 出租汽车

hansom ['hænsəm] n. 一种双轮二座马车

four-wheeler n. 四轮马车

make sure 肯定,确定

crown n. (英币)旧制五先令硬币

furrow ['fʌrəu] n. (额上的)皱纹

motionless ['məʊʃənlis] adj. 静止的,不动  
的

unconsciously [ʌn'kɒnʃəsli] adv. 无意识  
地

arouse [ə'rauz] vt. 唤醒,唤起,鼓舞,激励

## Notes

1. The theory of evolution was put forward by Charles Darwin (1809—1882), notably in his

famous book of 1859 *The Origin of Species by Natural Selection*, summed up by Herbert Spencer as “the survival of the fittest”(适者生存).

2. John Galsworthy (1867-1933 约翰·高尔斯华绥), one of the most prominent English realistic writers of the 20th century. His novels and plays give a very complete picture of the English bourgeois society. A bourgeois himself, Galsworthy nevertheless clearly saw the decline of his class and truthfully portrayed this in his works. His main works are *The Forsyte Saga*(《福尔赛世家》) and *A Modern Comedy*(《现代喜剧》). He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1932.

3. Coming out of the theatre. . .

这里分词短语作状语。在口语或非正式英语中使用从句

When we came out of the theatre

4. stood waiting: 动词 stand, sit, lie, come 和 go 等常与现在分词连用

5. Piccadilly Circus: a square in London (伦敦) 皮卡迪利广场

6. Not knowing what to reply to such a curious speech. . . : As we did not know what to reply to such a curious speech. . .

7. It's done with this job; This kind of job has run to its end. 这个行当算完蛋了。

8. It'll be the workhouse, if it's not the other thing.

the workhouse; public institution for homeless people 贫民救济院

the other thing; Here it means death euphemistically. When talking about something unhappy, people seldom say it directly. 这里是死亡的委婉表达法。在谈到一些不愉快的事时,人们很少直截了当地说出来。

This sentence means; If I don't want to die early, I'll have to go to the workhouse.

9. We've done nothing to deserve it; We've done nothing wrong to be punished like this.

## Discussion Questions

1. Describe the cabman and his feelings.
2. How much money did the author give to the cabman?
3. Why couldn't the cabman earn enough money? And who do you think was responsible for it?
4. What kind of person was the writer according to this passage?
5. Why did the author use “evolution” as the title?

## Translation through Reading

1. (Lines 2-4)

Numbers of hansoms and four-wheelers passed or stood waiting, but every taxi seemed to have its load.

2. (Lines 8-9)

Two furrows down his cheeks were so deep that his face seemed to be a collection of bones.

3. (Lines 33-35)

It's true that there are a few old ladies who are afraid of the motors, but old ladies are never very free with their money.

4. (Lines 45-46)

One thing comes pushing out another. But things are like that, so far as I can see.

5. (Lines 52-53)

And, after the cab was lost to sight, the wind still brought to us the dying sound of the slow wheels.

## Part B Fast Reading

### Our Most Dangerous Enemy—the Rat

Men are the cleverest and most dangerous animals on earth. Rats come second. Men kill their enemies. They have killed millions of men since ancient times—but rats have killed hundreds of millions of men. Rats carry diseases. Black rats carry fleas, and these fleas give men bubonic plague. Bubonic plague still kills thousands of

5 Asians and Africans today — as it killed millions of Europeans in the past , until

brown rats came to Europe and pushed the black rats out. There is no plague in Europe today, but brown rats carry thirty-five other diseases—typhus, for example. Typhus has killed 200 million people in the last 400 years. Rats are dangerous. They not only carry diseases into men's homes, they also take men's food. They eat 33 million tons of grain every year. That is enough grain to feed 200 million people—so men die of hunger because rats eat their food. Rats are clever, too. They have good leaders. Men try to poison them, but if their leaders tell them that food is dangerous they do not eat it. So our cities and villages are full of rats. We can go to the moon, but we cannot kill this dangerous enemy. Why? Is it because we are not clean?

### Questions Based on the Passage

- The rat is \_\_\_\_\_ animals on earth.  
A. the most clever and dangerous  
B. the least clever and dangerous  
C. the second clever and dangerous  
D. the kindest and friendly
- Rats kill men by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. carrying fleas    B. spreading diseases    C. eating food    D. giving poison
- Different rats carry \_\_\_\_\_ disease.  
A. same    B. similar    C. different    D. familiar
- We can not wipe out rats because they are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. stupid    B. superior    C. confident    D. clever
- The reason that there are many rats in our cities and villages is that they are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. well-organized    B. loose    C. tough    D. well-prepared

### Part C Reading for Deeper Understanding

How men first learned to invent words is unknown. In other words, the origin of language is a mystery. All we really know is that men, unlike animals, somehow invented certain sounds to express thoughts and feelings, actions and things, so that they could communicate with each other; and that later they agree upon certain signs, called letters, which could be combined to represent those sounds, and which could be written down. Those sounds, whether spoken or written in letters, we call words.

The power of words, then, lies in their associations—the things they bring up before our minds. Words become filled with meaning for us by experience; and the longer we live, the more certain words recall to us the glad and sad events of our past; and the more we read and learn, the more the number of words that mean something to us increase.



## Comprehension Exercises

1. The origin of language is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. a legend handed down from the past
  - B. a matter that is hidden and secret
  - C. a problem not yet solved
  - D. a question difficult to answer
2. Why men invented certain sounds to express thoughts and actions was that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. they could communicate with each other
  - B. they could agree upon certain things
  - C. they could write them down
  - D. they could combine them
3. The real power of words lies in their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. properties
  - B. associations
  - C. characteristics
  - D. peculiarity
4. By "association", the author means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. a strange feature
  - B. a special quality
  - C. a joining of ideas in the mind
  - D. an appearance which is puzzling
5. Which of the following statements is true?
  - A. The more we read and learn, the more ignorant we are.
  - B. The more we read and learn, the more sensitive we become.
  - C. The more we read and learn, the more confused we will be.
  - D. The more we read and learn, the more learned we are.

# Unit 2

## Part A Extensive Reading

### Police on Bicycles<sup>1</sup>

*By William Smith*

The image of the American policeman<sup>2</sup> racing to an emergency is one of a fast moving car, skidding around corners, lights flashing, siren sounding, horn blasting. Inside the speeding car the police are armed with guns. But a new image of American police is starting to be seen, according to the Economist magazine.

- 5      Police in New York have started riding bicycles to help beat crime. They are the latest American police to decide that staying in police cars with shotguns behind bullet-proof<sup>3</sup> glass is not the best way to be seen in the community.

The American police feel that in some circumstances the large cars with flashing red lights and noisy sirens are more frightening for the citizens than for the criminals.

- 10     Police who arrive on bicycles give the citizens a feeling that they are safe.

In New York 50 police officers are now using the bicycles in five different police districts. The results of police on bicycles has been so good that other police districts are planning to use bicycles next year. They expect up to 500 police will be on bicycles then.

- 15      Captain Michael Shortfall, the head of New York's community policing, says that the patrol car acts as a barrier between the police and the citizens. The bicycle is more of a friendly connection.

- 20      The bicycle is successful in big American cities with many cars because it can get into corners where cars cannot reach and can go quickly through traffic jams<sup>4</sup>. A bicycle lets the police officer seem as if he is enjoying himself and can talk with the members of the public. He does not have to hurry on like the policeman who is patrolling on foot.

- 25      Bicycles were first used by policeman in modern America in San Jose, California, 14 years ago. Two policemen who rode their bicycles to work decided to set up a squad of police at work and five of them began riding bicycles for their patrols on the streets.

One of the policemen who remembers riding the bicycles says that they could

beat cars and motorbike police to the scene of a crime<sup>5</sup>. Today the bicycle police are being seen as the friendly way to help neighborhoods who have too much crime. Police on bicycles have become easy to talk to and they take an interest in the people they meet more easily than the police in cars.

Seattle<sup>6</sup> in the state of Washington on the west coast of America is also well-known for its bicycles. In 1987, police who rode bicycles for their recreation asked the police chief if they could use them in their work. The police chief agreed. Then he was surprised that the police on bicycles were able to make arrests quicker and get to emergencies faster than cars. The bicycle police moved quickly around the traffic in the city center which had become blocked with too many cars after new high-rise buildings brought increased numbers of cars and people into the city.

Police in England and many countries in Europe have asked Seattle police about their special programme. In Seattle they use bicycles with 18-speed gears<sup>7</sup>, have a special two-week training programme and have a special set of all-weather clothing to protect police from the rain and cold. The Seattle police also have rules that officers riding bicycles must wear gloves. The sunglasses they use to protect their eyes against bright sunshine must not be too dark otherwise it means members of the public will not be able to see them clearly.

Other American cities to have police bicycle patrols are Oakland on San Francisco Bay and Berkeley in San Francisco. One bicycle patrol officer received a special award for riding beside elderly people to make sure they were safe walking home at night after a meeting of their club.

In Washington DC, the federal<sup>8</sup> capital of America, the police officers' organization, the Police Executive Research Forum<sup>9</sup>, says that bicycles are good for police because they are cheap and do the job and the police officers like them. They like the mobility or the chance to move around freely.

## New Words and Expressions

emergency [i'mædʒənsi] n. 紧急情况; 突发事件

skid [skid] n. vt. 刹车

siren ['saɪərɪn] n. 警笛

blast [blɔ:st] vi. 发出尖响的声音

bullet-proof ['bulit pru:f] a. 防弹的, 枪弹打不穿的

circumstance ['sə:kəmstəns] n. [pl.] 情况; 环境; 形势

community [kə'mju:niti] n. 团体; 社会; 同一地区的全体居民

patrol [pə'traʊl] n. vt. vi. 巡逻

barrier ['bæriə] n. 屏障; 障碍

traffic jam ['træfɪk dʒæm] n. 交通堵塞

squad [skwɒd] n. 班; 组; 队

recreation [ˌrekri'eɪʃən] n. 消遣; 娱乐

mobility [məʊ'bɪlɪti] n. 运动性; 流动性

## Notes

1. The English word bicycle comes from the Latin word “bi” meaning “two” and the Greek word “kyklos” meaning “a circle” or “a wheel”. The term “bicycle” thus refers to the two wheels, just as the English word “tricycle” using the Latin “tria” for three refers to a three-wheeled machine. 英语词 bicycle (自行车) 来自拉丁词 “bi” 意思是 “二”, 及希腊 “kyklos” 意思是 “一圈” 或 “一个轮子”。因此, “bicycle” 一词表示有二个轮子, 正如英词 tri-cycle (三轮脚踏车), 使用拉丁词 “tria” 表示有三个轮子的机器。
2. Police has several nicknames but the most frequently used are “copper” and “bobby”. The first name comes from the verb to “cop”, meaning to “take” or “capture”, and the second comes from the first name of Sir Robert (Bobby) Peel (1788-1850) who reorganized the London police force.
3. bullet-proof glass: A kind of glass that can stop bullets from passing through it, “-proof” means protecting against something undesirable so as not to be harmed by. For example: air-proof, fire-proof, water-proof, sound-proof.
4. traffic jam: a mass of people and/or vehicles crowd together so that movement is difficult or impossible. 交通拥挤, 交通阻塞。
5. they could beat cars and motorbike police to the scene of a crime: police riding bicycles reach the spot of a crime more quickly than those driving cars or motorbikes.
6. Seattle: a city and port in the west of Washington State.
7. bicycles with 18-speed gears: bicycles with an apparatus offering users 18 various speeds to choose.
8. the federal: the national central government, in contrast to the government of states or provinces and smaller authorities. 国家中央政府与州政府或省政府和更小的权力机构形成对照。
9. the Police Executive Research Forum: 警务行政研究论坛。

## Discussion Questions

1. How did American police come to ride bicycles?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages for police to ride bicycles?
3. What do you think makes American Police so concerned about their relation with the public?
4. What are the citizens' impression of police on bicycles and police in cars?
5. List out the four cities in which police ride bicycles.

## Translation through Reading

1. (Lines 1-3)

The image of the American policeman racing to an emergency is one of a fast moving car, skidding around corners, lights flashing, siren sounding, horn blasting.

2. (Lines 16-17)

The patrol car acts as a barrier between the police and the citizens. The bicycle is more of a friendly connection.

3. (Lines 18-19)

The bicycle is successful in big American cities with many cars because it can get into corners where cars cannot reach and can go quickly through traffic jams.

4. (Lines 30-32)

Police on bicycles have become easy to talk to and they take an interest in the people they meet more easily than the police in cars.

5. (Lines 44-46)

The sunglasses they use to protect their eyes against bright sunshine must not be too dark otherwise it means members of the public will not be able to see them clearly.

## Part B Fast Reading

### Fire Making

Thousands of years ago, people lived only in hot places. They did not live in cold places because they could not keep warm. Then they learned how to make clothes. When an animal was killed, they cut off its skin. They wrapped the skins around their bodies. The skins kept them warm. Skins which had fur on them were the best.

- 5 Even today some people wear the furs of animals to keep themselves warm.

At first men did not know how to make fire. Sometimes lightning hit a forest and started a fire. Then people took some of this fire to make a fire near their homes. A fire was very important for three reasons. It kept them warm. It also frightened wild animals—they did not attack when they saw a fire. Then another thing was discovered; if you cook food, it tastes much better!

But men still did not know how to make fire. When they had a fire, they did not let it stop burning. If it went out, they could not start it again. They had to wait for lightning to start another fire! Sometimes they had to wait for years.

Later, they discovered how to make a fire. If you rub two pieces of wood together, they become hot and burn. You have to rub very fast! One way of doing it is to make a little hole in a piece of wood. Pieces of wood or dry leaves are put into the hole. You rub the stick between your hands. This makes it turn very quickly. The end in the hole becomes very hot. The small pieces of wood and dry leaves begin to burn.

- 20 Another way of making fire is to knock two pieces of stone together. This makes a spark. You can use this spark to start a fire.

Today we have matches. We can carry them in our pockets and make a fire when we want to. Many people use heaters to keep warm. Oil heaters burn oil. Gas heaters burn gas. Electric heaters use electricity. We also use oil, gas and electricity for cooking.

### Questions Based on the Passage

1. Once people lived only in hot countries because they did not know how to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. kill animals  
B. take fire from forests  
C. keep themselves warm  
D. make matches
2. Animal skins were used \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. for food  
B. to make fire

- C. for burning D. to keep people warm
3. Men later discovered how to use fire to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. cook food B. kill animals  
C. cut off an animal's skin D. burn wood
4. People first learned to make fire by rubbing \_\_\_\_\_ together.  
A. stones B. two pieces of wood  
C. dry leaves D. matches
5. Today most people in the world use \_\_\_\_\_ to make a fire.  
A. heaters B. matches C. stones D. lightning

## Part C Reading for Deeper Understanding

Percy's mysterious disappearance upset everybody a great deal. Percy is a performer in a night-club and before he was due to appear on the stage, it was discovered that he was not in his usual place. There was certainly good cause for worry because Percy is a dangerous snake and he is over six feet long.

- 5 The search for Percy lasted several days and a great number of people joined in. As Percy could not possibly have gone out into the streets, he must still be hiding somewhere in the club. The searchers found that some of the boards in Percy's room had rotted and there was a gap in the floor. It seemed likely that Percy had slipped under the floor and crept behind a wall where there was a nice warm central heating unit.

- The manager of the club suggested that Percy might have found some mice behind the wall and eaten them. Since then he had probably curled round the warm pipes and gone to sleep. As a snake that has had a satisfying meal can sleep for several days continuously, a determined effort had to be made to get him out. The hot water was therefore turned off immediately and the temperature in the room fell to a few degrees above zero. But Percy, who has the reputation of being a lazy creature, made no attempt to come out. The manager then tried something else. He placed a dish full of tasty delicacies near the broken floor-boards. Again Percy failed to appear. With the hot water turned off, it was decided that Percy must be freezing by now, so an electric fire was put into his room to encourage him to come in and warm himself. To help him make up his mind even more quickly, cold air was blown under the floor-boards. Even these measures did not succeed, so there was only one thing left to do. The next morning, the whole wall was carefully knocked down brick by brick so as not to frighten him with too much noise. The hot water pipes were gradually laid bare, but to their astonishment, the searchers found no sign of Percy anywhere.

## Comprehension Exercises

1. Everybody was worried when Percy disappeared because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. he was too young to take care of himself.
  - B. there would be no performance in the club without him.
  - C. he might be a threat to people's safety.
  - D. he was too long to be dealt with.
2. In order to find Percy, people took all the following measures except that
  - A. hot water was turned off for some time.
  - B. some good food was placed near the broken floorboard.
  - C. an electric fire was put into his room.
  - D. some mice were caught behind the wall.
3. Which of the following is not true?
  - A. Snakes are all over six feet long.
  - B. Snakes may sleep for several days continuously.
  - C. Snakes like mice very much.
  - D. Snakes have a reputation of being lazy.
4. Later on, cold air was blown under the floor-board in order to
  - A. frighten the snake away from the club.
  - B. encourage the snake to go into his room.
  - C. drive the snake out of his room.
  - D. make him more determined to stay where he was.
5. All the efforts taken to find the snake turned out to be
  - A. effective
  - B. helpful
  - C. a failure
  - D. a success



# Unit 3

## Part A Extensive Reading

### The Information Age

*By David Leming*

It was the English scientist-philosopher Francis Bacon (1561-1626) who said, "Knowledge itself is power." This is an important dictum, but it has never been so true as to-day, with the arrival of the Information Age.

At the beginning of the Industrial Revolution<sup>1</sup>, a country's comparative advantage depended largely on the natural resources it was endowed by Nature. People had to learn basic skills when they joined manufacturing industries. They were called blue-collar workers, and they formed the majority, directed by a minority of managers.

After World War II, the invention and increasing use of the microchip brought about great changes in the structure of man's social production. While the primary industry (agriculture) and the secondary industry (manufacturing) remain to be important, there have been rapid advances in the tertiary industry<sup>2</sup>(services). And there is now talk of a fourth industry, the information industry.

In the industrialized world, that is, in the United States, Europe and Japan, about two thirds of jobs are now in the service sector, and the number is on the rise. Of course, there are roughly two different groups of job-holders in the service sector itself. The jobs in the first group, such as retail sales, food services, trucking and janitorial services<sup>3</sup>, which are unskilled occupations, are low-wage, while in the second group are high-paid investment bankers, computer programmers, high technicians, etc., who are able to solve complicated problems by applying information. And the second group of service job-holders represent the future in economic development.

It is argued that in future people should no longer be classified as white collar or blue collar, but rather as knowledge workers and non-knowledge workers. The knowledge workers can not only read and write and perform rote tasks<sup>4</sup>, they must meet the basic requirement of computer literacy<sup>5</sup> and constantly think up new ways to meet the changing demands of increasing productivity.

More and more people are learning to be competent in using personal computers,