

陈大宝 段寡卉 主编

新概念英语

阅读 60 篇

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China Today & Tomorrow

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China Today & Tomorrow

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内 容 提 要

本书向学生提供介绍我国国情的英语素材,帮助学生提高运用英语交际的能力。

全书共有 15 个单元,每个单元有 4 篇文章,为一个主题,如:科教兴国、知识经济、网络时代、北京胡同、今日浦东、盖碗茶等。每篇文章后附有注解、简答题、词汇题、讨论题。词汇题和简答题均附有参考答案。

本书可作为文理科各专业学生的英语泛读教材,也可用作英语爱好者自学教材。

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前 言

《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》明确指出大学英语的教学目的是:培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力,使他们能用英语交流信息。这里所说的“交流信息”,不单单是了解、学习西方的经济、文化、科技和管理等,而且还包括向世界介绍我国的改革、开放、经济、文化和历史等,让世界更好地了解中国。

目前国内出版的大学英语教材,不论是精读还是泛读,均选自英、美名著或报刊杂志,反映的都是英、美国家的文化、历史和现状。学生虽然对我国的历史、文化和现状十分了解,但因从未学过这方面的英语文章,而缺乏介绍我国情况的语言能力。例如:一位外宾问一位已通过英语四级的学生:What do you usually have for breakfast? 这位学生的回答却是:I don't know. 因为他学的是 hamburger, hot dog and milk, 而吃的是大饼、油条和豆浆。显然,这是我国当前大学英语教学的一个空白。随着中国改革、开放的深入和加入 WTO 的日益临近,这一问题已在社会需求中突现。《新概念英语阅读 60 篇——China Today & Tomorrow》旨在提供学生介绍我国国情的英语素材,帮助学生提高运用英语交际的能力。

全书共有 15 个单元,每个单元一个主题,含 4 篇文章,如:科教兴国、知识经济、网络时代、北京胡同、今日浦东、盖碗茶等。每篇文章后附有注解、简答题、词汇题、讨论题。词汇题和简答题均附有参考答案。

所有文章均选自《21 世纪》报、《星》报、《今日中国》、《中国画报》、《中国日报》、《北京周报》和英、美报刊中的有关文章。所选的材料语言

规范,具有较强的时代性、趣味性和可读性。

本书可作为文理科各专业学生的英语泛读教材,也可用作英语爱好者自学教材。

由于水平有限,时间仓促,难免有不妥之处,敬请读者批评指正。

编著者

2001 年 5 月

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Lifestyle Revolution

Passage 1

The White Wedding Dress

October 18, 1988 Wang Yuan arises earlier than usual. Today is his wedding day. At 7:30 a. m. , the flowers arrive, and a little while later, the Benz car arrives, ready to go to the bride's home. In an hour or so everything is ready, and Wang Yuan and the best man set off for the bride's home in the Benz followed by seven other cars.

At the bride's home Wang finds the door locked. He knocks at the door several times and his future mother-in-law answers, with her husband standing by. Wang Yuan respectfully says "Mother, Father," and the couple give him a red paper envelope containing a gift of money.

The members of the groom's party enter the house and sit around a table set with fruits and pastries while the groom goes to the bride's room. The bride, Liu Youli, is wearing a snow-white wedding dress, with red roses in her hair. She is lying on the bed because the bridesmaid has hidden her shoes. The groom asks the bridesmaid for the shoes and gives her a red paper envelope containing money. The bridesmaid takes out the shoes and hands them to the groom, and the groom puts the shoes on the bride's feet, showing that they will set foot on the path of a new life together.

The groom then takes Liu Youli back to his home. She knocks at the door, and her future mother-in-law answers, with her husband

standing by. Liu Youli respectfully says “Mother, Father,” and the couple give her a red paper envelope containing money as a gift.

After a simple breakfast of tea and pastries, the bride and groom, accompanied by relatives of both sides, go to a restaurant for the ceremony.

As the music starts, everybody stands to welcome the bridal couple. The host introduces the bride and groom, and invites the chief witness, the most respected among the relatives from both sides, to read out the marriage certificate and deliver a congratulatory speech.

The newlyweds then bow in front of the parents, showing their gratitude toward the parents who have raised them, and they wish their parents a long life.

The newlyweds then bow to each other. The groom wishes the bride lasting beauty and health, and the bride wishes the groom a successful career. They declare that they will love each other and share the rest of their lives with each other no matter what happens. They exchange gifts and drink from the nuptial cup.

The ceremony is over. The attendants begin their lunch, and the bride changes her dress and puts on a qipao, the traditional Chinese woman's dress with a high collar and slit skirt. Then the bride and the groom propose toasts to the guests.

Notes

1. best man *n.* 男傣相
2. pastry *n.* 糕饼
3. bridesmaid *n.* 女傣相, 伴娘
4. set foot on/in *v.* 踏上, 进入
5. bridal couple 新婚夫妇
6. the chief witness 证婚人
7. deliver a congratulatory speech 致贺词
8. newlyweds *n.* 新婚夫妇
9. drink from the nuptial cup 饮交杯酒

Read the article carefully and see how many questions you can answer without looking back at the text. Just give short answers.

- ## Exercise B Word Power

- II. Many English idioms are associated with some parts of the human body, such as “set foot on” mentioned in the article. Do the following exercises and test yourself on English idioms.**

- 3 •

- A) turns a hair B) drags his feet
C) eats his heart out D) lifts a finger
3. The boy's mother almost worshipped him. She could not do enough for him and waited on him _____.
A) hand and foot B) arm and leg
C) body and soul D) heart and hand
4. Ordinary people could enjoy the eminent philosopher's lectures because, although he was at home in the absolute realms of philosophy, he also kept his _____.
A) feet on the ground B) finger in the pie
C) nose to the grindstone D) back to the wall
5. When the girl wanted to get married at the age of seventeen her father put his _____ down and forbade it.
A) fist B) foot
C) hand D) thumb
6. John really _____ at the party last night when he called the boss an "old idiot" to a woman who turned out to be the boss's wife.
A) had a hand in it B) put his should to it
C) put his foot in it D) turned his nose up at it
7. Bill is lucky in business. He takes all sorts of risks but always seems to fall on his _____.
A) neck B) feet
C) back D) stomach
8. Adolescence is a difficult time for young people. It is the time when they are growing up and trying to _____.
A) find their feet B) lose their heads
C) hold their hands D) lose their hearts
9. The boy's father said, "Look here, my boy, in a few years you'll be a man, and then you can't expect me to be helping you all the time. You'll have to _____. "
A) see with your own eyes B) talk with your own tongue
C) walk with your own legs D) stand on you own feet
10. The office boy was going to ask the boss for a rise in wages but

when he heard the boss being angry with his secretary he got _____ and went away quietly.

- A) the cold shoulder B) cold feet
C) a frozen look D) a cold heart

Exercise C Topics for Discussion

1. Have you ever been to a wedding party?
2. What do you think the wedding party described in the article?
3. Could you say something about the traditional wedding you have heard of?

Passage 2

The Bridal Veil and the Wedding Dress

“First offer obeisances to heaven and earth, then to the parents, and then to each other. . . .” These words are familiar to the Chinese people because they have been repeated again and again in traditional Chinese wedding ceremonies.

In Chinese tradition, marriage was the combination not only of two individuals but also of two families, and thus the wedding ceremony was complicated.

On wedding days, the homes of both families would be bright with lanterns and decorations, and the groom’s home was prepared for a big banquet. The articles used and the decorations were all in red, a color of happiness and celebration. The groom wore new clothes and went to the bride’s home carrying a bridal sedan chair, accompanied by his relatives.

In feudal China, girls seldom went out of the house before their marriage because they were shy. In the Han Dynasty (206 B. C. -A. D. 24), a cloth of red silk and satin was used to cover the bride’s face at the wedding ceremony, and this custom still prevails in rural areas.

The bride was usually carried by her father or brother onto the sedan chair so as not to have dust on her shoes. As she descended from the sedan chair, her path would be covered by mats or red felt so that

her feet would not touch the ground.

During the ceremony, the bride and groom would first offer obeisances to heaven and earth because the marriage was to foster the continuation of mankind, then they offered obeisances to both sets of parents because the bride was now a member of the groom's family, and finally they offered obeisances to each other because they would now become as one.

After the wedding ceremony, the groom would guide the bride past the other side of the red satin ribbon to the bridal chamber and they would drink from the nuptial cup made of bitter gourd, signifying that they would share the comforts and hardships of the future. The bride would pay a visit to her parents' home three days after the wedding ceremony.

Today, since the founding of New China, young people enjoy more freedom in their love and marriage. In some places, the wedding ceremony has been simplified: the chief witness reads out the marriage certificate, the bride and the groom bow to the national flag, to each other, and to the guests to extend their gratitude.

In the 20 years of China's reform and opening, the living standard of the Chinese people has been upgraded dramatically, and this change has influenced the wedding ceremony. In rural areas, the sedan chair and the bridal veil are seeing a renewed popularity, and the wedding ceremony is celebrated grandly to the accompaniment of firecrackers. In urban areas, Western features like roses, cars, and white wedding dresses are popular. These are also those who think the wedding ceremony extravagant and complicated.

After obtaining the marriage certificate, the newlyweds inform their friends and relatives by telephone, and some participate in a collective wedding ceremony held on a holiday such as National Day or Spring Festival. Some prefer a simple ceremony in a notary office as soon as they obtain the marriage certificate, and some hold their wedding ceremony in a church. Or, as described above, they hold the ceremony

in a combination of Western and traditional Chinese ways, a new fashion.

Chinese people are reserved and seldom say, "I love you." Nevertheless, marriage has always been taken as one of the most important things in life, and no matter how the wedding ceremonies change, one thing remains the same: Love makes the world go round.

Notes

1. bridal veil 新娘的头盖
2. obeisances *n.* 鞠躬;敬意: first offer obeisances to heaven and earth 一拜天地
3. a bridal sedan chair 花轿
4. in the Han Dynasty 在汉朝
5. foster the continuation of mankind 传宗接代
6. the groom would guide the bride past the other side of the red satin ribbon to the bridal chamber 新郎要牵着红绸带的另一端把新娘引入洞房
7. gourd *n.* 葫芦;南瓜类植物
8. extravagant *a.* 奢侈
9. notary office 公证处
10. reserved *a.* 谨慎的

Exercise A Short Answer Questions

Read the article carefully and see how many questions you can answer without looking back at the text. Just give short answers.

1. Why did Chinese prefer red color on wedding days?
2. Where is the bridal veil still popular in China?
3. Why did the groom and the bride finally offer obeisances to each other?
4. What are the Western features mentioned in the text?
5. What still remains the same, though the wedding ceremonies change a lot?

Exercise B Word Power

I. Now read the article again and find the words or the expressions the writer uses to mean the following.

1. light material to cover face or head
2. transparent case for lamp or candle
3. a closed chair for one person carried on two poles by two men, the one in front and the other behind
4. become common
5. express one's thanks
6. extremely
7. wasteful
8. take part in
9. not showing one's feelings
10. at the same time with

II. The articles used and decorations at the wedding were all in red, a color of happiness and celebration. Supply the missing words in the following sentences using the different names of colors.

1. March the tenth was a _____-letter day for me; I was made office manager.
2. My wife has _____ fingers.
3. I told him that his photographs were very good but it was a _____ lie.
4. Out of the _____ she announced that she was emigration to Canada.
5. The _____ prints of the new extension are confidential and are kept in the safe.
6. I found him sitting at his desk in a _____ study, and he did not hear me when I spoke to him.
7. At that time, good quality clothes and shoes could only be found on the _____ market.
8. A _____-color job is not necessarily better paid than a blue-color one.