

现代大学英语泛读

下 册

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前 言

《现代大学英语泛读》是根据国家教委 1993 年颁发的《高校英语教学大纲》编写的,适合大学一、二年级学生使用。

本书吸收现代英语教学成果,选择真新语言材料,采用新颖实用的编写体例,体现了现代英语教学的精讲多练和注重能力培养的新观念。本书有下列特色:

阅读技巧完整系统。本书 25 章分别对 25 项阅读技巧作了科学编排,使其既相互独立又首尾连贯。技巧中除了常见的训练项目外,还增加了代指词(referents)和段落类型等章节,并首次将英语幽默专章讲练。对常用的重要项目(查读、略读、段落大意)都分两章训练,各技巧内容相互渗透,有机结合。

题材广泛,体裁多样。选材文理兼顾,特别注意反映现代科技发展、能源危机、环境保护等时兴话题,使英语具有时代感。同时,选材注意对学生思想道德的影响,培养其求知欲和健康向上的世界观。体裁上以说明文为主,配以议论、叙述、广告等文体,体现知识和趣味性相结合的原则。

体例新颖,编排合理。全书共两册,上册各章分 A、B、C 三部分。Part A 为课前热身,分析课中的难词、难点,为顺利理解扫除障碍。Part B 是课文练习,Part C 为阅读技巧训练,三部分层次分明,联系紧密,有利于组织教学。下册以更大的篇幅对上册中的各项阅读技巧进行强化训练,练习分为速读和细读,全面培养学生的阅读能力。全书编排结构合理、使用方便。

本书是所有参编人员共同努力的结果。每个编者都独立编写了完整的章节,他们是刘洪飞(21,25)、万鹏杰(3,20)、李东芹(16,25)、齐金灿(7,22)、李莉(14,23)、吴金珠(10,24)、段君霞(17,25)、原学梅(2,21)、张秀风(19,20),全书由主编刘洪飞负责组织和统稿审定。此外,李新霖老师也参加了本书的编写工作。大家的精诚合作使此书得以成功问世,在此对他们致以崇高的敬意。

衷心祝愿大家读 25 课书,学 25 个技巧,练就一身本领。

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Unit 1

Understanding English Humor

I. Read the following jokes and do the two tasks.

A. Think of a suitable title for each joke;

B. The ending is not funny enough. Try to improve it so that it is humorous.

1. Title:

One night a hotel caught fire, and the people who were staying in it ran out in their night clothes.

Two men stood outside and looked at the fire.

"Before I came out," said one, "I ran into some of the rooms and found a lot of money. People don't think of money when they're afraid. When anyone leaves paper money in a fire, the fire burns it. So I took all the bills that I could find. No one will be poorer because I took them."

"You don't know my work," said the other.

"What is your work?"

"I'm a policeman."

"Oh!" cried the first man. He thought quickly and said, "And do you know my work?" "No," said the policeman

"I'm just joking. I didn't take the money."

Improved:

2. Title:

Soon after David left college, one of his uncles died and left David a lot of money, so he decided to set up his own real estate agency.

He found a nice office, bought some new furniture and moved in. He had only been there for a few hours when he heard someone coming towards the door of his office.

"It's my first customer!" he thought. He quickly picked up the telephone and pretended to be very busy answering an important call.

The man knocked at the door while this was going on, came in and waited politely for the agent to finish his conversation. Then he said to him, "I'm from the telephone company, I'm here to collect the telephone bill."

Improved:

3. Title:

A certain old gentleman was very unhappy about modern education, and thought that young people nowadays were not being taught the importance of knowing the difference between right and wrong.

One day he was taking a walk in the park near his home when he saw some young boys standing around a small cat. The old gentleman went up to the boys and asked them what was happening. One of the boys said to him, "We're having a contest. We're telling lies, and the one who tells the biggest one gets to keep the cat."

The old gentleman thought that this was a good opportunity to teach the boys a useful lesson, so he said to them, "I've never told a lie in my life."

"You're lying now! We all lie sometimes."

Improved:

4. Title:

A small but venerable (历史悠久的) New England college had invited a great number of scholars from all over the nation to attend its centennial (百年的) celebration. They arrived, of course, with their caps and gowns.

The academic procession (队列) was to march to the chapel, headed by the president of the college. As the procession came to the chapel (小教堂) entrance, the president hesitated, for he realized he would be sitting on the platform for close to three hours. He turned to the two men back of him, then stepped out of line. But the two men back of him misunderstood him. They followed him, the whole academic procession followed them; and they all headed for the dining hall.

Improved:

5. Title:

A famous evangelist(布道士) had come to town and the auditorium was packed. For the better part of an hour he denounced(谴责) the evils of drink, his impassioned (激烈的) denunciations taking in the distillers (造酒商) and sellers, as well as the drinkers.

The vast audience was enthralled (吸引) with the fiery speech, but no one was more fascinated(着迷) than Sammy, who had come into the hall only to get out of the rain, and who was hearing him for the first time.

Now the evangelist was coming to the end of his sermon, and he went into a frenzy of excitement.

“Who has the largest bank account? he thundered. I’ll tell you who — — the liquor store owner. That’s who. And who lives in the finest home and in the most exclusive neighborhood? Again the liquor store owner. Who buys his wife a mink coat and jewels when he returns from travel? The liquor store owner. And who is keeping him in all this luxury? You, the factory worker who spends his hard-earned money for all that whiskey, wine, and beer! If it weren’t for you, the liquor store owner couldn’t live like this!”

At the close of the sermon the audience gave him the most enthusiastic ovation (喝采) he had ever received.

Sammy rushed up to the platform and grasped the evangelist’s hand. “Thank you?! Oh, thank you!” he cried. “You are indeed an inspiring man!”

“Then you are saved? You’re converted(皈依宗教)?” asked the good minister. “You’ve come to realize that drinking is sinful?”

“Yes, it certainly is. I really hate the sellers now.”

Improved:

I. Read the passages and fill in each blank with a suitable word.

Passage 1.

When Tim’s father died, he inherited a great deal of (1). For a long time, he did not know what to spend it on, then one day he saw an advertisement for brains. The advertisement said, “ Get a better brain and lead a (2) successful life.” The advertisement had been put in the newspaper by a doctor. Tim went to see him. “Please explain your (3) to me,” he said. “ Very well,” the doctor answered. “ Have you heard of heart transplants?”

“ Yes,” Tim said. “A heart transplant is when you take a (4) from one person

and put it into the body of another.” “That’s correct,” the doctor said. “ Well, I do brain transplant. Now…” he pointed to a price list, “… we have several brains in stock. You can (5) a sanitation worker’s brain for \$ 5,000.” Tim shook his head. “What about a university professor’s (6)? You can have one of those for \$ 20,000,” the doctor said. This was interesting, Tim thought, but he wanted more (7). “Is that the most expensive brain?” he asked.

“No. You can have a judge’s brain for \$ 50,000,” the doctor (8) him.

“That sounds very interesting,” Tim said. “ And is that the most expensive brain?” The doctor shook his head. “Oh no,” he said. “ The most expensive brain is a politician’s. That will (9) you \$ 100,000.”

Tim was surprised. “Why is a politician’s brain so expensive?” he asked.

“ Because it’s never been (10), ” the doctor said. “ It’s as good as new.”

Passage 2

Jane lived in the country, but one year she decided to visit the capital city to do some shopping and to see the (1). She stayed at a (2) near the central market. She had seldom been to the city before, and was very (3) about what she would find.

On the first morning of her visit, as she walked from the hotel to the market, she (4) a beggar. He was (5) up a notice which said, “ Blind from birth. Please give generously.” Jane felt (6) for the blind beggar and she bent down and put a dollar coin into his bowl. “Thank you,” he said.

On the third day, however, Jane did not have a dollar coin. She had only fifty cents, so she (7) this into the beggar’s bowl. “What have I done wrong?” the beggar said. “Why are you so (8) today?” Jane was very (9) by what the beggar said. “How do you know I haven’t given you a dollar?” she said. “If you’re blind you can’t (10) what coin I put into your bowl.” “Ah,” explained the beggar, “the truth is I’m not blind. I’m just looking after this place for the (11) beggar while he’s on holiday.” “On holiday!” Jane exclaimed. “And what exactly does your blind friend do on holiday?” “He goes into the country,” the man said, “and takes photographs. He’s a very good (12).”

III . Reading comprehension

Passage 1.

The New Principal

Class 5A was the worst class in Hill Valley High School. The students were

badly behaved and had no interest in their lessons.

When a new principal came to work at the school, he decided to do something about Class 5A.

On the second day of school he left his office and walked to 5A's classroom. He did not need to know where it was. He could hear them. They were making a terrible noise.

He stood outside the classroom for a few moments and looked inside through the window. He was disgusted by what he saw.

Some boys were fighting. Other students were throwing things at one another. No one was doing any work.

The principal had experienced badly behaved classes before. He knew what to do. He would go into the classroom, take hold of the biggest boy in the class and punish him. This would be an example to the others.

He took a deep breath and opened the classroom door. The students paid no attention to him.

"Silence!" he shouted at the top of his voice.

This time the students stopped what they were doing and looked at him.

Quickly he walked up to the oldest-looking boy in the room. He was also the noisiest and had been shouting at the others at the top of his voice.

He took hold of him by the ear and pulled him to the front of the class. "I am going to punish you as an example to the others," he said. "Now go to my office and wait for me."

Then he turned to the class and lectured them about how they should behave in school.

When he had finished he said, "Does anyone have any questions?"

One of the students put up her hand. "Yes, sir. I have. When can we have our teacher back?"

Choose the best answer to the these questions about the story.

1. Class 5A

- A. was the most popular class with the teachers.
- B. was remarkably quiet.
- C. liked their lessons.
- D. was the most disobedient class in the school.

2. The principal

- A. followed the sound to find 5A's classroom.
- B. apologized to 5A for the noise.
- C. was disgusting.

- D. had been at the school for several years.
3. The principal was horrified at the scene in the classroom because
- A. the teacher was there. B. it was so noisy.
C. the students were working quietly. D. the boys were so big.
4. He decided to
- A. complain to the board of directors. B. punish everyone in the class.
C. make an example of the boy who looked the oldest.
D. pay attention to their complaints.
5. The boy the principal chose
- A. agreed not to disturb the class again.
B. explained that he was the teacher.
C. thanked him. D. wasn't a student at all.

Passage 2

The Entertainer

Joe was an entertainer on a ship. It was the kind of ship, called a cruise ship, that people travel around the world in, sometimes for weeks or months. Much of their entertainment, therefore, had to take place on the ship. Joe was hired to put on a show for the passengers every evening.

He was a magician and his act consisted of a number of card tricks. They were quite good tricks and Joe did them well. He had been doing them for many years and the passengers on the cruise ship had always enjoyed them in the past.

On this voyage, however, Joe's act was ruined by a parrot.

The bird belonged to one of the passengers, and every evening the passenger came into the room with the bird, and watched Joe's act.

The bird stared at Joe, never taking its eyes off him.

When Joe hid a card up his sleeve, the parrot cried, "It's up his sleeve. It's up his sleeve."

When Joe hid a card down his trousers, the parrot cried, "It's down his trousers. It's down his trousers."

Everyone laughed at the clever bird, and Joe's tricks were completely ruined. He felt like killing the bird. Then one evening, the ship hit an iceberg.

It broke in two, and within three minutes the ship had sunk to the bottom of the sea. Joe found himself in the sea. Nearby, the bird was sitting on a piece of wood. It was staring at him.

Joe did not move for several hours, and neither did the bird. It just stared and stared at him, making no sound.

Finally Joe decided to swim away from the bird. As soon as he moved the bird cried, "All right. I give up. Where's the ship?"

1. What did Joe do for a living?
 - A. He entertained parrots.
 - B. He performed on cruise ships.
 - C. He showed off.
 - D. He gambled at cards.
2. What annoyed Joe on this particular trip?
 - A. a bird
 - B. a passenger
 - C. an iceberg
 - D. some missing cards
3. The parrot
 - A. seldom ruined Joe's tricks.
 - B. died when the ship went down.
 - C. never took his eyes off Joe's trousers.
 - D. watched where Joe hid the cards.
4. Joe and the parrot
 - A. played cards together.
 - B. disliked each other.
 - C. both survived.
 - D. never spoke to each other.
5. What did the parrot believe happened at the end of the story?
 - A. that the magician had hit an iceberg
 - B. that the magician had broken the ship
 - C. that the magician couldn't swim
 - D. that the magician had hidden the ship

Passage 3

With God's Help

One year there was a terrible flood in the countryside. For a week it rained every day. The river rose and burst its banks. The whole countryside was flooded. Most of the people escaped from the flood in boats. One old man, however, refused to go with them. He sat on the roof of his house and waited for the water to go down.

He was very religious.

"I shall stay here," he said. "God will save me."

The rain continued. The flood waters rose higher and higher. Soon the water reached the roof of the man's house.

Two men rowed a boat up to the man's house, trying to save him.

"Come with us," they said. "The water is still rising. You'll drown."

The old man shook his head. "No," he said. "God will save me."

Sadly, the men rowed away. They thought the old man was crazy, but there was nothing they could do.

Soon the water covered the roof of the old man's house.

A helicopter arrived and the pilot lowered a rope.

"Climb up," he shouted to the old man. "The water is still rising. You'll drown." But the old man refused to leave his house. "God will save me," he cried, and the helicopter flew away.

The next day the old man drowned in the rising waters.

He went to heaven. God was waiting at the door, and the old man was very angry with him. "I believe in you," the old man shouted. "I told everybody you would save me. And what happened? You let me down." "I did not. What about the boat I sent?" God replied. "And the helicopter?"

1. The old man believed

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. he would die | B. that it would continue raining |
| C. that the waters would go down | D. that God would speak to him. |

2. During the flood the old man

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A. remained on the roof of his house | B. went crazy |
| C. was desperate for help | D. refused to buy himself a boat. |

3. The old man

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A. agreed to go on the boat | B. lost his belief in God |
| C. shouted at the boat | D. sent the boat and helicopter away |

4. In the end the old man

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| A. accept the offers | B. died |
| C. went to heaven by helicopter | D. flew away |

IV. Reading and appreciating

Patients Needed

Hospitals are getting more efficient(高效的) these days and have cut down the time it takes to get a bed for you. The reason for this is that there is a surplus(过剩) of beds, and in order to survive, a hospital must keep them full. This is good and it's bad.

I went to visit a sick friend at the hospital the other day. I had to go to the information desk, which also handled the admitting procedure(接纳程序). Before I could ask what room my friend was in the lady took down my name, age, occupation, filled out a slip and rang a bell. I was just about to tell her I was only

visiting a friend when two attendants arrived with a wheelchair, placed me in it and started pushing me down the hall.

"I'm not sick," I shouted, "I'm just looking for a friend."

"When he comes," one attendant said, "we'll send him up to your room."

"He's here already," I protested.

"Good. Once we have you in bed he can come up and see you."

I found myself in a small room marked "Private. Check With Nurse Before Knocking." The attendant stripped(剥光) me, gave me a short nightgown(长袍) that tied at the back, a water jug and turned on the television set hanging from the ceiling. "If you need anything, press the button."

"I want my clothes back."

"Oh, you can trust us," the attendant said. "Even if the worst happens we will see that your widow (a woman whose husband is dead) gets everything."

I was trying to figure how to escape by the window when Dr Ward came in with several of his students.

"Thank heavens you finally came," I said.

"It hurts that bad?" he asked.

"It doesn't hurt at all."

Dr. Ward looked worried. "If you don't feel any pain, that means it's much more serious than we thought. Where did it originally hurt?"

"It didn't hurt anywhere."

Dr Ward nodded sympathetically and turned to his students.

"This is the toughest kind of patient to handle because he refuses to admit that he is ill. He will never be well again until he gets over the delusion(幻觉) that he is in perfectly good health. Since he won't tell us where it hurts we'll have to do exploratory(探索的) surgery(外科手术) to find out for ourselves."

"But I don't want an operation."

Dr. Ward nodded. "No one does, but wouldn't it be better to get it out now than later?"

"There's nothing to get out! Everything is in order."

"If it was," said Dr. Ward, writing on a chart, "you wouldn't be here."

The next morning they shaved all the hair off my chest and refused to give me breakfast.

Two attendants arrived and placed me on a rolling stretcher(担架). The head nurse walked along beside me. A minister brought up the rear. I looked for help

from anywhere. There was no one.

Finally, I was wheeled into the operating room. "Wait," I said, "I have something to tell you. I'm deathly sick but I HAVE NO MEDICAL INSURANCE! I can't even pay for the anesthetist." The anesthetist turned off his machine. "And I have no money to pay the doctor." I said. They started to put the instruments away. Then I looked at the head nurse. "I can't even pay for the room."

Before I knew it, I was back in my own clothes and out on the street, thrown there by the two attendants who had first wheeled me in.

I went back to ask what room my friend was in but the admitting clerk looked at me coldly and said, "We don't ever want to see you in this hospital again. You're sick."

A. Mark TRUE or FALSE for the statements.

1. The hospitals are having a hard time because not many patients are staying in them.
2. The writer is visiting a friend and also seeing the doctor for some illness.
3. The nurse mistook him for a sick person.
4. The writer saw his friend in the end.
5. We can see from the story that hospitals are not run efficiently.
6. The nurse, doctor, and attendants were not well-qualified.
7. Dr. Ward knew that the writer was not sick.
8. The operation stopped the moment the writer said that he had no medical insurance.

B. Much of the humorous effect is brought about by misunderstanding, intentionally or innocently. Point out the misunderstandings in the following remarks.

1. --I'm not sick. I'm just looking for a friend.
--When he comes, we will send him up to your room.
2. --I want my clothes back.
--Oh, you can trust us.
3. --Thank heavens you finally came.
--It hurts that bad?
4. --But I don't want an operation.
--No one does, but wouldn't it be better to get it out now than later?

C. Which of the following do you think is the most funny part of the story? Explain your choice.

1. Hospitals are getting more efficient these days and have cut down the time it takes to get a bed for you.
2. Even the worst happens, we will see that your widow gets everything.
3. The name "Dr. Ward. [ward means room in a hospital]
4. The doctor nodded sympathetically and turned to...
5. The minister brought up the rear.
6. The successive actions after the writer said: I have no medical insurance.
7. "We don't want to see you again. You're sick."

Unit 2

Understanding Prefixes

I. Fast reading.

Passage 1

The custom of tattooing (纹身) has a long history in Thailand, a southeast Asian country.

In the northeast parts of the country, every boy should be tattooed when he is 17 or 18 years old. This is the indication of his coming of age. People believe that tattooing is a mysterious amulet (护身符) which has some strange internal power. If a person is tattooed, he is free of any misfortune or disaster or unlucky accident. On the other hand, he will obtain love, wealth and will be fortunate in the future.

There is a uniquely traditional ceremony of one's tattooing. It is usually held in a temple because Buddhism is the national religion in Thailand. Before being tattooed, he can take some 'opium' in order to lighten the pain. A monk will quickly prick (刺) a picture on the skin of the boy who is being tattooed. Soon after that, the monk will paint some colour on the picture to make it everlasting. During the whole process, the boy must endure great pain, keeping quiet and still. It is also a test of one's courage and will power.

Pictures of birds, fierce animals, flowers, and some strange signs are the favourite contents of the tattoo. They are generally the reflection of people's desire or dream. These pictures are usually on one's arms, thighs, shoulders, back and chest. The more skin the boy is tattooed, the braver and stronger he is considered to be. However, people are beginning to be aware that tattooing may lead to skin cancer.

1. Why do boys in Thailand are tattooed?
 - A. Because the boy tattooed can get rid of any disaster or unlucky accident.
 - B. Because the boy tattooed will be lucky all his life.
 - C. Because tattooing is a symbol of a boy being grown-up.
 - D. Because tattooing is a mysterious amulet.
2. We can infer from the passage that
 - A. the more pain the boy can stand, the more power he will have.
 - B. In order to be made everlasting, the patterns tattooed on bodies are pricked as deep as possible.

3. The word 'opium' most probably means
- A. a kind of medicine
 - B. a kind of food
 - C. a kind of vegetable
 - D. a kind of fruit

Passage 2

If you are travelling forwards in a train, the things around you outside seem to be moving backwards. But this is not really true. It is the train which is moving.

It is like this with the earth. The sun seems to rise in the east, move across the sky, and set in the west. In other words, the sun seems to travel round the earth. However, this is not really true. It is the earth which is turning on its axis. The turning of the earth on its own axis is what makes the change from day to night.

The earth also travels round the sun on an unchanging path, known as an orbit. As well as the earth, there are eight other planets of different sizes, which all turn round on their own axes and which all travel round the sun in their own unchanging orbits. These are known as the solar system. The planet nearest the sun is Mercury, and the planet farthest from the sun is Pluto.

The orbits of the earth and the other planets are not perfect circles. They are ovals. The earth's axis is not at an angle of 90 degrees to its orbit; but it is tilted a little. The turning of the earth round the sun at this angle and in an oval-shaped orbit is what makes the change of the seasons.

1. when you are moving forwards in a train,
 - A. the things around you outside are really moving backwards
 - B. the train makes the things around you outside move backwards
 - C. surrounding objects outside appear to be moving backwards
 - D. the things outside move round the train.
2. What causes the change from day to night?
 - A. The rotation of the earth on its own axis.
 - B. The turning of the earth on the sun's axis.
 - C. The travelling of the earth round the sun.
 - D. The rotation of the sun on its own axis.
3. In addition to the earth, there are eight other planets
 - A. all rotating on their own axis and round the sun in their own fixed orbits
 - B. which all turn round the solar system
 - C. all turning round Mercury
 - D. all rotating round Pluto
4. The earth's axis is not
 - A. at acute-angles to its orbit
 - B. at right-angles to its orbit

C. at tilt-angles to its orbit

D. at horizontal-angles to its orbit

Passage 3

Thousands of years before Columbus came to the New World, the American Indians entered North America by crossing a narrow strip of land that once connected Alaska and Siberia. The migrants entered a new world in which there were no people at all. but there were many animals to hunt, and there were forests where nuts, roots, and berries could be gathered.

When the Europeans came to the New World, the Indians, at first, taught the settlers how to plant corn, bake fish, make canoes, and smoke tobacco. In return, the whites introduced horses, guns, gun-powder, alcohol. But at last, there were struggles for land, and the wars were over. All Indians were moved to large tracts of land called reservations. Now, some of them, embittered (激怒) by past mistreatment, are determined to preserve their tribal life; some wish to modernize the reservations. These alternatives, with many variations, are what most Indians have chosen——future in modern technology and education, or the revival (复兴) of ancient tradition and treaties.

1. The Indians entered North America ...

A. with Columbus

B. before Columbus

C. after Columbus

D. in the 18th century

2. The Indians moved to a new world which was...

A. once settled by Europeans

B. dwelled in by American migrants

C. inhabited by primitive men

D. completely uninhabited by other people

3. As soon as the Europeans set foot on the New World. they...

A. were hostile to the Indians

B. kept terms with Indians

C. didn't treat the Indians in a friendly way

D. traded with Indians friendly.

4. The Indians were good at ...

A. struggles for land

B. contemporary tribal life

C. making boats

D. the revival of their tradition

Passage 4

“ We are more than halfway now; it's only two miles farther to the tavern(小旅馆),” said the driver.

“ I'm glad of that.” answered the stranger, in a more sympathetic mood. He meant to say more but the east wind blew clear down a man's throat if he tried to speak. The girl's voice was something quite charming, however, and presently he