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College English

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国家教委高等学校第二届优秀教材一等奖

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上海外语教育出版社



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总主编 董亚芬

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快速阅读

Fast Reading

第三册

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修 订 本 前 言

《大学英语》是根据国家教育委员会审定批准的《大学英语教学大纲（文理科本科用）》编写的一套系列教材，分精读、泛读、听力、快速阅读、语法与练习五种教程，于1986年出版试用本，1992年出版正式本。

本教材的精读、泛读、快速阅读和听力教程各按分级教学的要求编写六册，每级一册，供1—6级使用；语法与练习编写四册供1—4级使用。精读与听力教程均配有教师用书和录音磁带；泛读教程1—6级也配有教师用书。对低于大纲规定入学要求的学生，另编预备级精读、泛读教程各两册。全套教材由复旦大学、北京大学、华东师范大学、中国人民大学、武汉大学和南京大学分工编写，复旦大学董亚芬担任总主编。前大学外语教材编审委员会综合大学英语编审组的全体成员对这套教材的设计与编写自始至终给予关注。

这次修订是在广泛听取全国各地使用本系列教材的教师们的意见并通过问卷形式对数以万计的师生征求意见的基础上进行的。大学外语教学指导委员会综合大学英语组对本教材的修订提供了多方面的指导与帮助。修订的宗旨是“面向21世纪，将大学英语教学推上一个新台阶”。修订本根据各教程的具体情况，对课文作适当调整，提高大纲词汇的覆盖率和常用词汇的重现率，进一步完善练习，突出重点词语的操练；同时加强各教程间的横向联系，做到既自成体系又相互补充，形成整体。修订本更加注意文、理、工、农、医等各科的通用性，力求给学生打好“宽、厚、牢”的语言基础。

《大学英语》快速阅读教程由中国人民大学外语系负责编写。湛馨荪担任主编、许孟雄担任主审，参加本册编写的有余申燕和王敏。

在编写过程中，本教程还承英国专家 Anthony J. Ward 审阅，谨此致谢。

本书为快速阅读教程修订本第三册，供大学英语三级学生使用，由湛馨荪修订。上海外语教育出版社的编辑同志在付梓前仔细编审，精心设计，给予我们很大帮助和促进，谨此一并致谢。

由于编者水平与经验有限，教材中难免还有不足之处，希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1997年3月

使用说明

本教程旨在培养学生的正确阅读习惯,提高学生的阅读能力和速度。为保证语言文字的规范化,课文全部选自英、美原著,但有少量删改。选材力求多样化,知识性和趣味性兼顾。

全书共分6册,每册10单元20课。每篇选文均配有多项选择练习,以测试学生对课文的理解能力。快速阅读主要着眼于培养阅读速度,强调在单位时间内快速获取所需信息,因此每篇材料均略浅于相应的精、泛读课文。篇幅跨度在250—600词之间,生词量力求控制在3%左右。快速阅读的全部教学活动都要求在课内进行。每单元进行一次,每次使用一至两篇,阅读后即做练习。为帮助学生培养良好的阅读习惯,控制和检验阅读速度,每篇课文前规定阅读时间(含做题时间),超过规定而未完成阅读者为不合格。

使用本教程时,应注意下列各点:

1. 为便于教学,本教程印成活页,由教师保管,使用时临时分发。学生不得预习。
2. 阅读时不能查阅词典,如有生词,可根据上下文进行猜测以确定词义。
3. 培养边阅读、边理解、边记忆的良好习惯。读完课文即做练习,做练习时,不再翻阅已读过的课文。
4. 严格按照规定时间阅读和做题,时间一到,应立即停止阅读。

编 者

1997年3月

突破传统教学模式,提高大英教学质量

《大学英语》(修订本)多媒体系列教学光盘正式出版

为了繁荣我国的大学外语教育事业,支持我国的大学外语教学改革,上海外语教育出版社开发了《大学英语》(修订本)多媒体系列教学光盘。该系列教学光盘与《大学英语》(修订本)系列教材同步。精读和听力的每册教材各配 2 张光盘。

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听力光盘: 听力素材增加一倍,英美外籍教师朗读

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1. On the Stock Exchange

The London Stock Exchange has always been famous as a place for men only, and women used to be strictly forbidden to enter. But the world is changing day by day, and even the Stock Exchange, which seemed to be a man's castle, is gradually opening its doors to the other sex. On 16th November 1971, a great decision was taken. The Stock Exchange Council (the body of men that administers the Stock Exchange) decided that women should be allowed on to the new trading floor when it opened in 1973. But the "castle" had not been completely conquered. The first girls to work in "The House" were not brokers or jobbers. They were neither allowed to become partners in stockbroking firms, nor to be authorised dealers in stocks and shares. They were simply junior clerks and telephone operators.

Women have been trying to get into the Stock Exchange for many years. Several votes have been taken in "The House" to see whether the members would be willing to allow women to become members, but the answer has always been "No". There have been three refusals of this kind since 1967. Now women are admitted, although in a very junior capacity. Two firms of jobbers made an application to the Stock Exchange Council to be allowed to employ girl clerks. Permission was finally given. A member of the Stock Exchange explained, after this news had been given, "The new floor is going to be different from the old one. All the jobbers will have their own stands, with space for a telephone and typewriters. Therefore there will have to be typists and telephone operators. So women must be allowed in." This decision did not mean a very great victory in the war for equal rights for women. However, it was a step in the right direction. The Chairman of the Stock Exchange said: "I think that the opening of the new building will eventually lead to women being allowed to have full membership of the Stock Exchange. It is only a matter of time; it must happen."

$4\frac{1}{2}$ minutes

347 words

1. On the Stock Exchange

Comprehension Exercise

1. It was not until 16th November, 1971 that _____.
 - a. the London Stock Exchange opened its doors to women
 - b. women began to work in the London Stock Exchange for the first time
 - c. The Council decided to allow women on to the new trading floor when it opened in 1973.
 - d. the "castle" was completely conquered
2. The first girls _____.
 - a. were allowed to enter "The House" in a very junior capacity
 - b. served as brokers or jobbers in "The House"
 - c. were allowed to become partners in stockbroking firms
 - d. were authorised as dealers in stocks and shares
3. Which of the following is true according to this passage?
 - a. Since 1973 women have been allowed to work with the London Stock Exchange.
 - b. Women have recently been allowed to become partners in stockbroking firms.
 - c. Women were never officially allowed to enter the Stock Exchange.
 - d. Only brokers or jobbers can get into the Stock Exchange.
4. Several votes have been taken in "The House" so as _____.
 - a. to see if women were willing to become members
 - b. to decide when women would be allowed into "The house"
 - c. to find out whether the members were willing to allow women to become members
 - d. to decide when to allow women on to the new trading floor
5. Who had the power to decide whether or not to employ girl clerks?
 - a. The Stock Exchange Council.
 - b. Any member of the Council.
 - c. The firms of jobbers.

- d. The chairman of brokers.
6. According to the context, "It is only a matter of time" implies _____.
a. women would very soon have full membership of the Stock Exchange
b. women would eventually have equal rights with men in the stock Exchange
c. more and more women would be willing to work in the Stock Exchange
d. a new building would eventually be built for women
7. What is this article about?
a. Women's place in society.
b. How the London Stock Exchange functioned in 1971.
c. How women have been struggling for full membership of the Stock Exchange.
d. How women were gradually allowed to work in the Stock Exchange.

2. Aging

Aging is the process of growing old. It occurs eventually in every living thing provided, of course, that an illness or accident does not kill it prematurely. The most familiar outward signs of aging may be seen in old people, such as the greying of the hair and the wrinkling of the skin. Signs of aging in a pet dog or cat include loss of playfulness and energy, a decline in hearing and eyesight, or even a slight greying of the coat. Plants age too, but the signs are much harder to detect.

Most body parts grow bigger and stronger, and function more efficiently during childhood. They reach their peak at the time of maturity, or early adulthood. After that, they begin to decline. Bones, for example, gradually become lighter and more brittle. In the aged, the joints between the bones also become rigid and more inflexible. This can make moving very painful.

All the major organs of the body show signs of aging. The brain, for example, works less efficiently, and even gets smaller in size. Thinking processes of all sorts are slowed down. Old people often have trouble in remembering recent events.

One of the most serious changes of old age occurs in the arteries, the blood vessels that lead from the heart. They become thickened and constricted, allowing less blood to flow to the rest of the body. This condition accounts, directly or indirectly, for many of the diseases of the aged. It may, for example, result in heart attack.

Aging is not a uniform process. Different parts of the body wear out at different rates. There are great differences among people in their rate of aging. Even the cells of the body differ in the way they age. The majority of cells are capable of reproducing themselves many times during the course of a lifetime. Nerve cells and muscle fibres can never be replaced once they wear out.

Gerontologists — scientists who study the process of aging — believe the wearing out of the body is controlled by a built-in biological time-clock. They are trying to discover how this clock works so that they can slow down the process. This could give man a longer life and a great number of productive years.

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes

375 words

2. Aging

Comprehension Exercise

1. What is the main idea in the first paragraph?
 - a. Signs of aging are easier to detect in animals than in plants.
 - b. Aging occurs in every living thing after it has reached maturity.
 - c. The outward signs of aging may be seen in old people.
 - d. Not all signs of aging are visible.
2. When the brain begins to age _____.
 - a. eyesight will begin to decline too
 - b. it becomes lighter
 - c. the thinking processes go on just as before
 - d. memorization declines
3. "The arteries" refers to _____.
 - a. the paths along which blood flows to all parts of the body
 - b. the tubes carrying blood back to the heart
 - c. vessels that are thickened and constricted
 - d. such heart diseases as suffered by old people
4. Many of the diseases of old people are the result of _____.
 - a. lack of blood
 - b. low blood pressure
 - c. the thickening of the blood vessels
 - d. poor blood circulation
5. "Aging is not a uniform process" means that _____.
 - a. old people do not have the same outward signs of aging
 - b. not all people age at the same age
 - c. the process of aging is slow
 - d. nerve cells and muscle fibres do not age simultaneously
6. Which of the statements about aging is false?
 - a. People vary in their rate of aging.
 - b. The cells of the body age in different ways.

- c. The various parts of the body do not wear out at the same rate.
 - d. All body cells once worn out can never be replaced.
7. Which piece of information is given in the passage?
- a. Gerontologists can give man a longer life.
 - b. Gerontologists can prevent diseases connected with aging.
 - c. Gerontologists have discovered that aging is controlled by a built-in biological time-clock.
 - d. Gerontologists have found ways to slow down the process of aging.
8. According to the passage, what is responsible for many of the diseases of the old?
- a. Their trouble in remembering recent events.
 - b. The worn-out nerve cells and muscle-fibres.
 - c. The blood vessels that have become thickened and constricted.
 - d. The rigid and inflexible joints between the bones.

3. The Escaped Robber

One evening Mr. Green was driving in his car along a lonely country road. He had been to London where he had drawn £ 50 from the bank, and he was now returning home with the money which he had put in his pocket book. At the loneliest part of the road a man in shabby, badly-fitting clothes stopped him and asked for a lift. Mr. Green told him to get into the car and continued on his way. As he talked to the man he learned that he had been in prison for robbery and had broken out of prison two days ago. Mr. Green was very worried at the thought of the £ 50 that he had put in his pocket book. Suddenly he saw a police-car and had a bright idea. He had just reached a small town where the speed limit was 30 miles an hour. He pressed down the accelerator and drove the car as fast as it would go. He looked back and saw that the police-car had seen him and had begun to chase him. After a mile or so the police-car overtook him and ordered him to stop. A policeman got out and came to Mr. Green's car. Mr Green had hoped that he could tell the policeman about the escaped robber, but the man had taken a gun out of his pocket and had put it to Mr. Green's back. The policeman took out his notebook and pencil and said he wanted Mr. Green's name and address. Mr. Green asked to be taken to the police station but the policeman said, "No, I want your name and address now. You will have to appear at the police court later" So, Mr. Green gave the policeman his name and address. The policeman wrote it down, put his notebook and pencil back in his pocket and gave Mr. Green a talk about dangerous driving. Then Mr. Green started up his car again and drove on. He had given up all hope of his £ 50, but just as he reached the outskirts of London, the passenger said he wanted to get out here. Mr. Green stopped the car, the man got out and said, "Thanks for the lift. You've been good to me. This is the least I can do in return." And he handed Mr. Green the policeman's notebook.

While the policeman had talked to Mr. Green, the thief had stolen the notebook.

4 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes

429 words